Western Livestock Journal®

"The Industry's Largest Weekly Circulation"

The National Livestock Weekly

August 21, 2023 • Vol. 101, No. 38

website: www.wlj.net • email: editorial@wlj.net • advertising@wlj.net • circulation@wlj.net

INSIDE WLJ

POLLUTION STUDY – EPA launching a study of pollution generated by confined animal feeding operations. **Page 3**

DEBT DOWNGRADE – Farm Credit System debt rating downgraded by Fitch Ratings. **Page 10**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"USDA awarded more than $12 million to 19 U.S. colleges and universities, through the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative (NIFSI), for research designed to prevent pathogen contamination of food. 'The selection of these projects supports the Bush Administration's efforts to enhance the protection and safety of agriculture and the food supply,' USDA Secretary Ann Veneman said. 'Targeted research is one of several key initiatives we are implementing to enhance food safety and improve food inspection systems,'" read an article in the Aug. 23, 2004, issue of *WLJ*.

INDEX

Opinion P-2
Markets P-8
Classifieds.....P-14
Sale Calendar.....P-15

Easterday dairy sold after failed efforts to reopen

— Trouble with pollution compliance

The Easterday family has sold its Boardman, OR, dairy to the former landowner after failed attempts to reopen the dairy, and Easterday bringing a lawsuit against the owner, alleging breach of contract.

According to the Tri-City Herald, the parcel was sold back to Canyon Farms, one of the parties named in the lawsuit, for a reported $15.2 million. The sale follows an undisclosed settlement in March between Easterday Dairy LLC and Fall Line Capital LLC, Canyon Farm LLC and Canyon Farms II LLC in a lawsuit by Easterday alleging a breach of contract and trespassing.

According to court records, a motion for an extension of time was filed in May to settle outstanding matters. In the affidavit filed by Amy Edwards, a Fall Line Capital and Canyon Farms lawyer, certain aspects of the settlement filed with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and other government regulators would not be settled by the May 15 deadline and a 30-day extension was requested.

Judge Andrew D. Hallman of the U.S. District Court of Oregon extended the deadline to July 14 to have the order of dismissal set aside and the action reinstated if the settlement was not consummated. No additional court documents were filed after the hearing on May 18.

History

In March 2019, Canyon Farms purchased the Lost Valley Farm from Greg te Velde after he declared bankruptcy. The terms of the bankruptcy agreement were for te Velde to remove all animals and complete remediation efforts to the satisfaction of ODA.

The property was split into two parcels, a 736-acre dairy parcel and a 6,452-acre farm parcel. Easterday purchased the dairy parcel in May 2019 through a $16 million promissory note through Canyon Farms.

Court documents said Easterday Dairy leased the farm parcel and assigned it to Easterday Farms, owned by Cody Easterday and other family members. Cody Easterday pleaded guilty to wire fraud for the ghost cattle scheme that defrauded Tyson Fresh Foods Inc and another company of $244 million, and is serving an 11-year sentence in federal prison. Easterday Dairy LLC was transferred to Cody's son, Cole.

Easterday intended to secure a concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) permit for 28,300 head from ODA. The ODA refused to issue a new CAFO permit until

See DAIRY SOLD on page 10



Lance Cheung/USDA

The Easterday family has sold its Boardman, OR, dairy. Pictured here, cows graze in Lynden, WA, with Mt. Baker in the distance.

Habitat proposed for butterfly in NM mountains

— Seeking comment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is seeking comments on a proposal to set aside critical habitat for the endangered Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly in Otero County, NM.

The proposed critical habitat would span 1,636 acres, comprising 1,094 acres in the Lincoln National Forest, 521 acres of private land and 22 acres owned by the Mescalero Apache Tribe. USFWS is proposing nine habitat areas, two of which are occupied by the butterfly. The agency contends the remaining habitat areas contain the necessary resources to support the checkerspot butterfly and were the species' historical range.

The Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly is native to the region in southcentral New Mexico and inhabits high-altitude meadows at elevations between 7,800-9,000 feet. The butterfly is checkered with dark brown, red, orange, cream and black spots,

See BUTTERFLY on page 13

Grazing overturned in Sonoran Desert National Monument

— Greens prevail

In a victory for conservation groups and a loss for ranchers, a federal judge recently ruled to halt livestock grazing on portions of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona.

Western Watersheds Project and the Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter lauded the decision, claiming in an email, "Despite numerous scientific studies and evidence that it isn't, the Bureau has continued to defend its tradition of allowing hundreds of cattle to trample soils, spread invasive weeds, and degrade the fragile desert ecosystem."

In early August, in the District Court for the District of Arizona, Judge Susan R. Bolton ruled the Bureau of Land Mangement (BLM) failed to take a "hard look" when creating its management plan and grazing standards for the national monument.

The matter was remanded back to the BLM, where they will evaluate the plan for a third time and determine if grazing can be compatible with conservation efforts in the monument.

Background

Former President Bill Clinton designated the national monument area in 2011, restricting livestock grazing on the roughly 586,000 acres. Grazing permits on federal lands within the monument and south of Interstate 8 were not to be renewed, while permits north of Interstate 8 could be continued only after the BLM determined grazing was compatible with the monument's conservation interests.

See SONORAN DESERT on page 7

Reduced slaughter speeds continue; packers strategize

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

The market traded softer over the week: futures were down on the board, slaughter speeds were slow ahead of the upcoming Labor Day holiday and packers continue to hold out for fed cattle.

Live cattle futures were lower, with the August contract down about $3 to $178.05 and the October contract also down about $3 to $178.32.

"The combination of weaker cash cattle trade and some technical pushback has the live cattle complex feeling more bearish than it does bullish for the time being," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

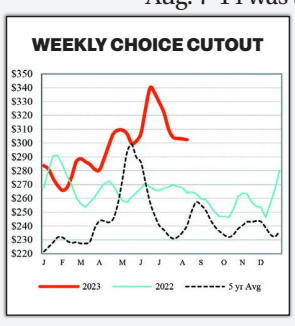
"However, fed cattle supplies will remain tight through the end of the year and so long as beef demand holds strong, these historically high price points should remain as common trading ground even if the market is currently enduring a bit of a lull," she continued.

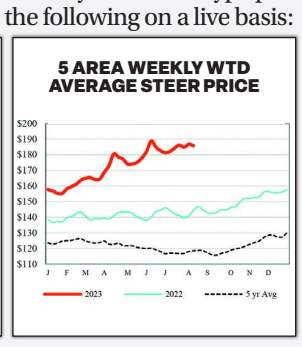
Cash trade through Thursday afternoon totaled about 50,000 head. Live steers averaged $184, and dressed steers averaged $294.

Cash trade for the week ending Aug. 13 totaled 74,147 head. Live steers averaged $186.21, and dressed steers averaged $295.53.

"It was encouraging that feedlots held off trading cattle until late in the week again last week, and largely their patience was rewarded as cattle traded steady in the South and steady to $3 higher in the North," Stewart said on Monday. "The disappointing factor of last week's market was that processing speeds were reduced substantially (603,000 head for the week), which could put some pressure on showlists if packers maintain that pace for very long."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Aug. 7-14 was the following on a live basis:





• Negotiated purchases: $186.08.

See MARKETS on page 9



COMMENTS

All systems green



CROW

We are almost through August and the fed cattle markets have been very strong—August has been the seasonal low for years. Packers slowed production down to 602,000 head the second week of the month and are expected to do about the same for the third week. Labor Day is approaching and is typically a beef-consuming holiday, so packers should be ramping up production very soon—hold on to your hats, they will need more fed cattle.

Cattle traded a little earlier last week for as high as $190 in the Midwest where the cattle are a bit better quality. Cattle grading Choice and Prime have come down a couple points, but still 80% of the week prior's production graded Choice and Prime. Packers were able to get the Choice cutout up to $309 and reduce the red ink, which is around - $50 per head. They have also reduced production hours.

Packers have been playing a cat-and-mouse game and are waiting until after the USDA's daily afternoon fed cattle report to buy cash cattle. The idea is to lower the fed cattle weighted average so they can price formula cattle lower, mostly in the southern Plains. Texas fed cattle are still trading $6-8 lower than the northern Plains feeders; they traded cattle at $179 recently.

With the lower harvest levels some analysts are thinking that fed cattle show lists will be growing about mid-September. The boys at HedgersEdge.com said, "The sharply reduced weekly harvest levels will however slowly add to front-end fed cattle supplies during the fourth quarter. The good news is that seasonally improving beef demand during the fourth quarter could offset the increase in front-end fed cattle supplies. The total harvest (year to date) is 830,000 head below year-ago levels. Approximately 75% of this drop is due to reduced fed steer and heifer harvest."

Feeder cattle markets are on fire and cow-calf producers are making a boatload of money. Lightweight calves are starting to see prices over $400/cwt on a 400-pound calf, $1,600 a head. CattleFax reported that cow costs are between $700-900 per cow. And these yearling steers are running $245/cwt on 800-lb. steers—that's almost $2,000 a head.

The corn market has drifted lower, all futures contracts are under $5 a bushel, which should reduce cattle feeding costs. The Ag Center's Cattle Report has cost of gain on fed cattle at 99 cents a pound, which should please cattle feeders. They have current closeouts making $190 per head and the cost of gain on those cattle was $1.37/lb. With the price of these feeder cattle the fed cattle market is going to need somewhere over $2/lb.

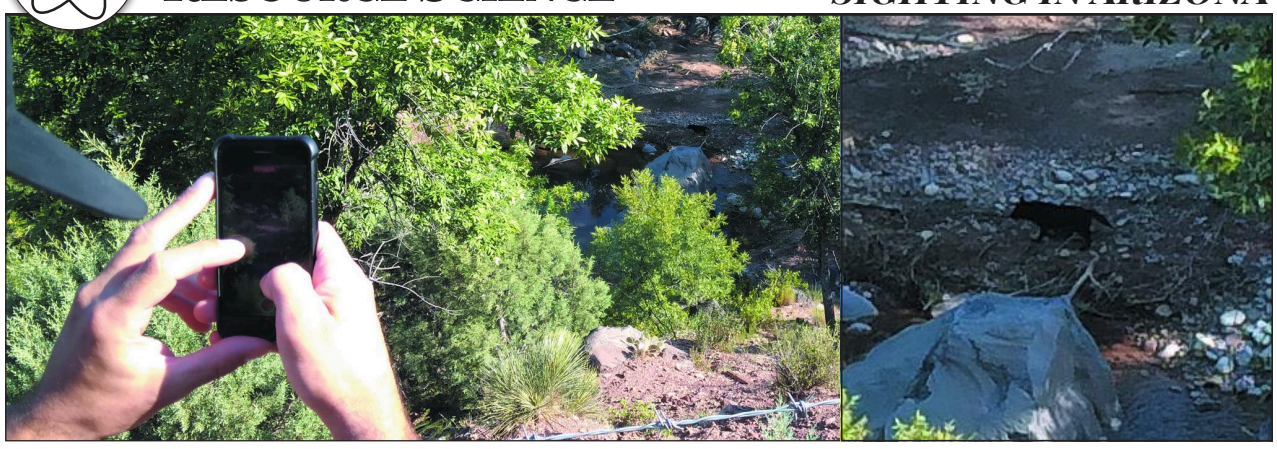
We'll see how consumers react. The July Choice beef average was $8.14/lb., a new record high. The HedgersEdge folks said, "Inflation is still high during spring (the period of the best demand for beef), the declining competitiveness for the price of beef versus pork was obvious. In the weeks since, some competitiveness at the wholesale level has returned, but this has yet to impact retail prices. The economy continues advancement, at a better pace than many headlines suggest. Both employment and wages continue to climb. Despite dramatically higher interest rate levels, some economic forecasts are now promulgating an overall 'soft-landing' for the economy. This would go a long way in firming consumer attitudes and expectations, helping maintain beef demand."

The Cattle on Feed report was expected to show a bit of an increase compared to the past few months, which showed 4.5% lower numbers than the prior year. The average analyst guess was cattle on feed were expected to be 1.6% lower than last year, feeder cattle placed were expected to be 4.5% lower and marketings were expected down 5.2% lower.

Western Video Market had a heck of a good two-day sale in Cheyenne, WY, in mid-August and Superior will have their five-day sale in Sheridan, WY, soon. Corn and feeder cattle are in a good place right now and should stay that way for a while. Calves are a hot commodity, especially the program kind. Some market watchers are starting to think that the cost of producing naturals or "never-ever hormones" will be going by the wayside because of the cost to produce those carcasses. We'll see. Hope you all got some August rains. — **PETE CROW**

RESOURCE SCIENCE

POSSIBLE BLACK WOLF SIGHTING IN ARIZONA



Jack Cronin

A black animal, possibly a wolf, in Arizona.

My son, Jack, and I were driving a U-Haul truck through Arizona on the way to California (he's stationed at Camp Pendleton) and saw the animal in the picture (additional pictures and a video are in the online article). We thought it was a wolf. It was July 26 at 7:56 a.m., near milepost 317 on Route 60 westbound, a few miles east of the small community of Carrizo, AZ, on Fort Apache Indian Reservation lands in Gila County. We saw it walking along the outside of the guardrail, then down into Corduroy Creek to the north. We stopped, got out of the truck, and took pictures about 100 yards from the animal on the north side of the highway. There was no collar, tags or accompanying people or animals visible. We had just seen a cow elk cross the road about 10 miles east of where we saw the animal.

We first saw the animal at close range (approximately 10 yards from the front passenger seat). I could see clearly over the guardrail, and saw that it was all black, had no collar or ear tag, the face and snout looked like a wolf or dog—not a coyote—and its build looked like a wolf or dog, not a coyote. We took pictures with our cell phone cameras.

The area in which we saw the animal is within the range of the Mexican wolf population in Arizona. However, there are no black Mexican wolves. There are black dogs, black northern wolves in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, and rare black coyotes in some parts of the U.S.

Northern wolves dispersed from Wyoming to northern Arizona (one in 2014) and northern New Mexico (one in 2008), and there are dogs and coyotes in Arizona. What is the animal we saw?

Mexican wolves have been studied extensively and are considered a subspecies that is genetically different from other wolves, although this is not definite (see the references at wlj.net). Because Mexican wolf management is based on a lot of research, I'll be scientific in considering what this animal is. I propose these hypotheses and information regarding the identity of the animal.



"I warned Miss Freightliner at least a hunnert times,... ***Fractions give me gas!*** But here we are!"

The animal is:

A) A Mexican wolf. But there are no black Mexican wolves in the current population.

B) A northern wolf dispersing from the Northern Rocky Mountain population (Montana, Wyoming, Idaho) or Colorado where wolves have occurred in the last few years. Wolves have been documented moving from Wyoming to Arizona and New Mexico.

C) A captive northern wolf released by someone. I have no information on this possibility.

D) A coyote. Black coyotes are rare. My observation is the animal does not have the narrow snout or body typical of a coyote.

E) A dog. The animal was alone and within a few miles of a human community.

F) A coyote x dog hybrid. Coyotes and dogs sometimes interbreed.

G) A wolf x dog hybrid. Dogs and wolves sometimes interbreed.

I don't know which hypothesis is correct, but I think it is a wolf, and because it's black I think it came from the northern populations. Maybe you have an opinion of what it is, or you have seen similar animals. Send an email to me or managing editor Anna Miller (anna@wlj.net) with your ideas and observations.

If the animal is a northern wolf, a dog, a wolf-dog hybrid, or a coyote-dog hybrid, it is likely capable of interbreeding with the Mexican wolves in the area in which it was seen. This has implications for the extensive effort to maintain the Mexican wolf as a genetically unique subspecies. Mexican wolves were introduced into the wild in southern Arizona and New Mexico in 1998-2003 with animals from a federal government captive breeding program. There were 196 Mexican wolves in the wild population in Arizona and New Mexico in 2022. Two Mexican wolves dispersed from southern Arizona; one to northern Arizona near Flagstaff in 2021, and one to northern New Mexico near Taos in 2023.

Regardless of what the black animal is, interbreeding of northern wolves and Mexican wolves will probably occur over time because wolves previously dispersed from Wyoming to Arizona and New Mexico, and wolves are colonizing Colorado from northern populations and the state plans to bring wolves into Colorado. From a practical standpoint, it might not matter much. Crosses between Mexican wolves and northern wolves will continue to prey on elk, deer and livestock. However, the federal government has made extensive efforts and expense to preserve the Mexican wolf because of its genetics that justified its Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing as a subspecies. The government will need to decide if it will (or is able to) maintain the Mexican wolf subspecies or allow it to mix with other wolf subspecies. This is an example of the complications caused by the ESA definition of species: species, subspecies and distinct population segments, about which I've written before (see the *WLJ* June 18, 2023, "Resource Science: Wolf ESA populations are too complicated"). — **Dr. Matthew Cronin**

(Matthew A. Cronin is a scientist with Northwest Biology Company LLC in Bozeman, MT. He can be contacted at croninm@aol.com. A full list of references may be found online at wlj.net.)

WLJ

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

The national livestock weekly • Since 1922 • Western Livestock Journal LLC • 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
www.wlj.net • 303-722-7600 • Fax 303-722-0155

PRESIDENT
LOGAN IPSEN
New Plymouth, ID
916-947-2392
logan@wlj.net

EDITORIAL@WLJ.NET
ANNA MILLER
Managing Editor
720-372-2353 • anna@wlj.net
CHARLES WALLACE
Contributing Editor
805-814-2017 • charles@wlj.net

ADVERTISING@WLJ.NET
KIRBY BRINCEFIELD
Operations Manager
720-716-3363 • kirby@wlj.net
MIKE OLDCORN
Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design
720-370-9095 • mike@wlj.net
TRISTAN MARTIN
Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design
720-372-1763 • tristan@wlj.net
TOM WHITE
Real Estate Advertising Specialist
720-370-7977 • tom@wlj.net

FIELD REPS
DEVIN MURNIN
Director of Field Services
Billings, MT
406-696-1502
devin@wlj.net
JARED PATTERSON
Caldwell, ID
208-312-2386
jared@wlj.net
TY GROSHANS
Akron, CO
970-818-6016
ty@wlj.net

CIRCULATION@WLJ.NET
HANNAH JACKSON
Circulation Manager & Copy Editor
720-370-8275 • hannah@wlj.net

CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET
TOM WHITE
Classifieds Manager
720-370-7977 • tom@wlj.net

PUBLISHER EMERITUS
PETE CROW
Publisher Emeritus • pete@wlj.net

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL (ISSN 0094-6710, USPS 678660) is published weekly (52 issues annually, plus special features) by Western Livestock Journal LLC, 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Website: www.wlj.net. Email: advertising@wlj.net or editorial@wlj.net. U.S. subscription rates: 1 year - $55, 2 years - $85, 3 years - $110. Single-copy price: $1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Denver, CO, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western Livestock Journal, P.O. Box 370930, Denver, CO 80237-0930.

1800 Elite Bred Red Angus Females Sell!
Billings, Montana • November 13th
All Zoetis Inherit DNA Tested!
All BVD PI Tested Negative!
Over 85% AI Bred to Elite Red Angus Bulls!
Ultrasounded for Due Date and Sex of Calf!
Selling in Trailer loads and Pot loads to suit buyer!
Ryan Ludvigson (406) 601-9192

EPA launches CAFO regulations review

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a study of pollution generated by confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) after the agency rejected two petitions by environmental groups from 2017 and 2022 to make wholesale changes to CAFO regulations.

The EPA announced plans to form a federal advisory subcommittee to study CAFOs sometime in 2024. The process is expected to take 12 to 18 months, according to a letter sent to the environmental groups that petitioned EPA in 2017.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) issued a statement on Aug. 16 lauding the EPA's decision.

"NCBA appreciates the EPA recognizing that America's farmers and ranchers are committed to ensuring clean water and investing in a sustainable future," NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart said in a statement.

"By rejecting these two petitions that sought to directly attack animal agriculture, the EPA is protecting cattle producers from frivolous distractions and allowing them to return to the important job of stewarding our natural resources and feeding the nation."

The 2022 petition filed by numerous state-level clean water advocacy groups as well as Friends of the Earth, Earthjustice, Humane Society of the United States and others, asked the EPA to adopt a presumption that large CAFOs using wet manure management systems discharge pollutants.

The 2017 petition filed by Food and Water Watch, Center for Food Safety and others asked the agency to change CAFO regulations to assume a number of things.

This includes CAFOs with certain production-area characteristics actually discharge, regulations should assume CAFOs applying manure to land as fertilizer actually discharge, and to revise EPA interpretation of the agricultural stormwater exemption to clarify that it does not include any CAFO-related discharges, among other requests.

Back in April, the EPA committed to answering the 2017 petition. In January 2023, the agency announced a plan to determine ways of strengthening the Clean Water Act (CWA) in its Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) in response to a 2021 lawsuit.

Another lawsuit filed in 2022 was stayed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. The environmental groups agreed to drop that lawsuit by Aug. 29, 2023, if EPA responded by Aug. 15.

Letter to groups

In a letter to Food and Water Watch on Aug. 15, EPA said the 2017 petition asked for a number of CAFO regulation changes that were already rejected by courts.

In 2003, EPA proposed a major revision to its CAFO regulations. Among other provisions, the rule required "all CAFO owners or operators to seek coverage under an NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit," unless they affirmatively demonstrate that they have "no potential to discharge."

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit vacated that aspect of the 2003 rule, holding it unlawfully "imposes obligations on all CAFOs regardless of whether or not they have, in fact, added any pollutants to the navigable waters, i.e., discharged any pollutants."

In 2008, EPA revised its regulations to try to require a permit for any CAFO with a "potential to discharge" and the revised rule called for a "case-by-case evaluation by the CAFO owner or operator as to whether the CAFO discharges or proposes to discharge from its production area or land application area."

EPA's requirement that discharging CAFOs or those that propose to discharge obtain a CAFO permit, was vacated in a challenge to the 2008 rule.

"It is difficult to distinguish between the petition's request that EPA establish a rebuttable presumption that CAFOs with certain characteristics actually discharge—based on factors such as proximity to jurisdictional waters, climatic conditions, whether precipitation exceeds evaporation, production area drainage and others—and the approach EPA used in the 2008 rule," EPA said in the letter to Food and Water Watch.

Food and Water Watch said in a news release the Biden EPA missed an opportunity to tighten CAFO regulations.

"Factory farms pose a significant and mounting threat to clean water, largely because EPA's weak rules have left most of the industry entirely unregulated," Food and Water Watch Legal Director Tarah Heinzen said in a statement.

"EPA's deeply flawed response amounts to yet more delay, and completely misses the moment. For more than 50 years, EPA has knowingly shirked its crystal-clear obligation to regulate factory farms under the Clean Water Act. The lack of urgency displayed in EPA's decision doubles down on the agency's failure to protect our water, and those who rely on it."

In the letter to Food and Water Watch, the EPA said it was trying to balance the needs of CAFO operators while protecting water through regulation.

"EPA shares your commitment to fulfilling the goal of the CWA, to restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters, in this case by addressing discharges from CAFOs," the letter said.

"EPA also shares your concern that CAFOs can be a significant source of pollutants into waters of the United States. The agency recognizes that there may be opportunities to do more to address these pollutants. Indeed, many CAFO owners and operators, as well as federal and state agency staff, have experienced challenges effectively implementing and assuring compliance with the current CWA CAFO regulatory requirements."

The agency said it expects to issue a request for subcommittee nominations this fall, appointing 10 -20 members.

"After conducting the ELG detailed study and engaging with the (federal advisory) subcommittee, and reviewing their conclusions and recommendations, EPA will consider whether to revise its regulations," the agency said in the letter.

"Specifically, EPA will assess whether it can address water quality concerns related to CAFOs through improvements to implementation, enforcement and other non-regulatory initiatives, or whether regulatory revisions are appropriate. The 2017 petition requests that EPA establish a presumption that CAFOs that apply manure to land as fertilizer actually discharge." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Beef exports below record pace of 2022

While well below the record pace established in 2022, June beef exports topped $900 million in value, pushing first-half export value to nearly $5 billion, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

Beef exports totaled 115,107 metric tons (mt) in June, down 12% from a year ago and slightly below the May volume. Export value was $909.5 million, down 13% year over year but the highest since October and 4% above the value posted in May.

First-half beef exports were 10% below last year's record pace at 669,176 mt. Export value was just under $5 billion—down 19% from a year ago but still 8% above the first half of 2021.

June beef exports to Taiwan were the largest in 14 months, while exports to Mexico continued to build momentum and shipments to Canada, Hong Kong, South Africa and the Dominican Republic posted year-over-year gains. June exports to South Korea, China and Japan were below last year's large totals, though shipments to Japan improved notably in value from the previous month.

"It was a challenging first half for beef exports, especially when compared to the blistering pace established a year ago," said Dan Halstrom, USMEF president and CEO. "But we are encouraged to see that exports are still accounting for a consistently high percentage of total beef production, and variety meat exports have held up very well considering the decline in U.S. slaughter. These metrics continue to illustrate the important contribution of exports in maximizing beef carcass value."

After a strong start in 2023, exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts trended sharply lower in the second quarter. June exports were just 109 mt, down 56% from a year ago, while value fell 45% to $843,000. First-half exports were down 5% in volume (1,067 mt) and 6% in value ($6.35 million). Exports trended higher to the Netherlands Antilles, the Bahamas, Guatemala and Canada, and volume increased slightly to Mexico.

A detailed summary of the January-June export results for U.S. beef, pork and lamb, including market-specific highlights, is available from the USMEF website. — **USMEF**

"DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT"
Angus Female & Bull Sale
BYRD CATTLE CO. BCC LLC RED BLUFF, CA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
FRIDAY | 12 PM (PDT) FEMALE SALE
2 PM (PDT) BULL SALE
at the Los Molinos Ranch
SELLING 52 ELITE FEMALES AND PREGNANCIES WITH A $C AVERAGE OF 350, PLUS 120 SERVICE AGE BULLS WITH MORE DATA COLLECTED THAN ANY PROGRAM IN THE WEST!



BYRD FAULT FREE 6276-2531 | 20441889

CED	BW	WW	YW	CW	MARB	RE	$B	$C
+7	+3.7	+94	+163	+92	+1.65	+1.33	+261	+412



BYRD SUPERMAMA FB 6276-2560 | 20436155

CED	BW	WW	YW	CW	MARB	RE	$B	$C
+2	+4.2	+83	+149	+92	+1.64	+1.28	+259	+404



BYRD SUPERMAMA FB 6276-2548 | 20457522

CED	BW	WW	YW	CW	MARB	RE	$B	$C
+12	+1.2	+75	+143	+79	+1.78	+1.21	+252	+391



BYRD BLACKCAP LADY 0172-3009 | 20603760

CED	BW	WW	YW	CW	MARB	RE	$B	$C
+11	+2.0	+98	+166	+86	+1.55	+1.13	+236	+384

CCi LIVE · Parker Friedrich ANGUS Marketing & Consulting · Superior Livestock Auction
www.byrdcattleco.com
Dan Byrd: (530) 736-8470 | Ty Byrd: (530) 200-4054 | P.O. Box 713 · Red Bluff, CA 96080 | byrdcattleco@hotmail.com

Klamath farmers hope to harvest crops before shutoff

Even with a more positive water outlook in early 2023, irrigators of the federal Klamath Water Project who are nearing the end of the growing season say they hope to finish harvest before their water supply is cut off in the coming weeks.

Siskiyou County farmer Scott Seus of Tulelake-based Seus Farms, which grows a variety of crops including horseradish, onions, mint and grain, said the region's farmers face water challenges again this season, despite a plentiful water year.

"It's hard to fathom. They tell you there's not enough water to go around, yet you have 220% of normal precipitation and you should be closer to 300,000 acre-feet or 280,000 (acre-feet) reasonably," Seus said, referring to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that manages the Klamath Water Project, which relies on water from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River.

"There's a strong probability that they are going to shut our water off before the end of the season.

"With irrigated row crops," he added, "we need to get to the other side of Sept. 15. It is pretty reasonable right now to think that we're not going to get there."

For the Klamath Water Project, water from Upper Klamath Lake is dedicated to fish species based on regulatory guidelines put in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

NMFS has authority related to coho salmon, and USFWS has authority related to Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers. To manage for the needs of fish, federal agencies extended the interim operations plan to Oct. 31, 2024, after it expired in September 2022.

Based on the operations plan and the water supply from Upper Klamath Lake, Klamath Water Users Association Executive Director and Counsel Paul Simmons said project irrigators should have received 285,000 acre-feet in 2023. However, this spring, the bureau announced an initial supply of 215,000 acre-feet.

Influencing the water-supply allocation was a request by the Yurok Tribe and other plaintiffs this spring asking the federal court in San Francisco to order a lake elevation of 4,139.2 feet. The court denied the plaintiffs' motion on May 10, Simmons said, yet the bureau responded days later calling for what the plaintiffs asked for—a minimum lake level of 4,139.2 feet.

Simmons called the lake level "an arbitrary number from the clear blue sky," adding that the biological opinion for endangered suckers calls for a minimum lake level of 4,138 feet, a difference equating to 80,000 acre-feet. Annual average demand by the project is between 320,000 acre-feet and 400,000 acre-feet, he said.

Farmers were counting on more water supplies this year after they suffered from severe cutbacks in water deliveries during recent extreme drought years. In 2022, the bureau granted an initial allocation of 50,000 acre-feet. In 2021, the initial allocation was 33,000 acre-feet.

To accommodate for the lower-than-hoped-for water allocation this year, Seus said growers had to cut back on planted acres.

"Nobody gets through this if everybody plants 100%, so we set some acres aside. We used well water early, and we're probably going to have to finish with some well water," said Seus, who is on the board of the Tulelake Irrigation District (TID).

"We believe that we're going to be out of water in the very near future," he added. "That allocation will get used up, and we'll be back on wells to finish things."

As growers plan water budgets to carry them through the end of the season, Seus said crops are in good shape. He said some grain was grown using deficit irrigation, and row crops such as horseradish, onions and mint look good.

"It is nice to drive around and see as many green fields as there are, but our concern is whether or not we can finish them," Seus said.

Fellow Tulelake farmer Marc Staunton of Staunton Farms, which farms row crops and is a member of Cal-Ore Produce, a grower-packer-shipper of fresh potatoes, said he is concerned about finishing the season because much has been invested in planting and growing the crops.

"We've pretty much made all investments at this point except for the cost of harvest," said Staunton, president of Cal-Ore Produce and a TID board member. "Basically, we've almost fully spent our budget on growing the crop, so all we have to do is finish with water, and if it gets cut short, then we would be missing any opportunity of profit."

This far into the growing season, Staunton said he and other growers have spent most of the budget on planting costs, including for seed and preplant fertilizer, and growing costs such as for fertigation, chemigation, labor and other inputs.

"All you've got to do is finish the crop with water and harvest to get paid, so it's definitely concerning to get this far into the crop and be concerned about a shutoff," said Staunton, who farms potatoes, onions, garlic, alfalfa and cereal grains.

In terms of balancing water among the various users in the basin, Staunton suggested there must be a better way.

"Why can't we work together and talk this out instead of ending up in a courtroom?" Staunton said. "If people could stop trying to manage water in the courtroom, you could have conversations about individual needs like tribal needs and tribal concerns, and also farmers' needs and farmers' concerns and come up with a solution."

Speaking of a basin-wide solution, Simmons said, "We need some sort of negotiated agreement. Otherwise, this conflict will go on forever. In the last three years, I think there's been at least one lawsuit every year." — **Christine Souza, assistant editor of Ag Aler, California Farm Bureau Federation**

Coming Events

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

Aug. 21-25 – Roots of Resilience will host its 12th New Cowgirl Camp at the Lazy R Ranch in Cheney, WA. Attendees will explore the basics of grazing planning, ecosystem monitoring, low-stress livestock handling and veterinary medicine with a celebratory, supportive group of women. Details: rootsofresilience.org/newcowgirlcamp.

Aug. 25-29 – The American Simmental Association's 2023 Annual Fall Focus will be held in Denver, CO. Registration is free but required and a few meals will incur a charge this year. Registration details: tinyurl.com/mpaf8h35

Aug. 31 – Applications are now available for the second South Dakota State University Extension Emerging Sheep Producers Program. The program is for sheep producers who want to develop or improve a full- or part-time sheep operation. Details: tinyurl.com/486jed6z.

Jan. 21-Feb. 2, 2024 – Mark your calendars for the 2024 Cattle Industry Convention & National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show, which is heading to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Additional information is available at convention.ncba.org.

Jorgensen Land & Cattle
31250 265th Street
Ideal, SD 57541
800-548-2855
www.jorgensenfarms.com
American Angus Hall of Fame
(816) 532-0811



2023 MOTHERLODE™ ANGUS FEMALE SALE
1:00 pm (CDT) ♦ Saturday
September 16, 2023
At the ranch, Ideal, South Dakota
DVAuction Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Scan this QR code to see the Video Catalog for the Motherlode™ Sale



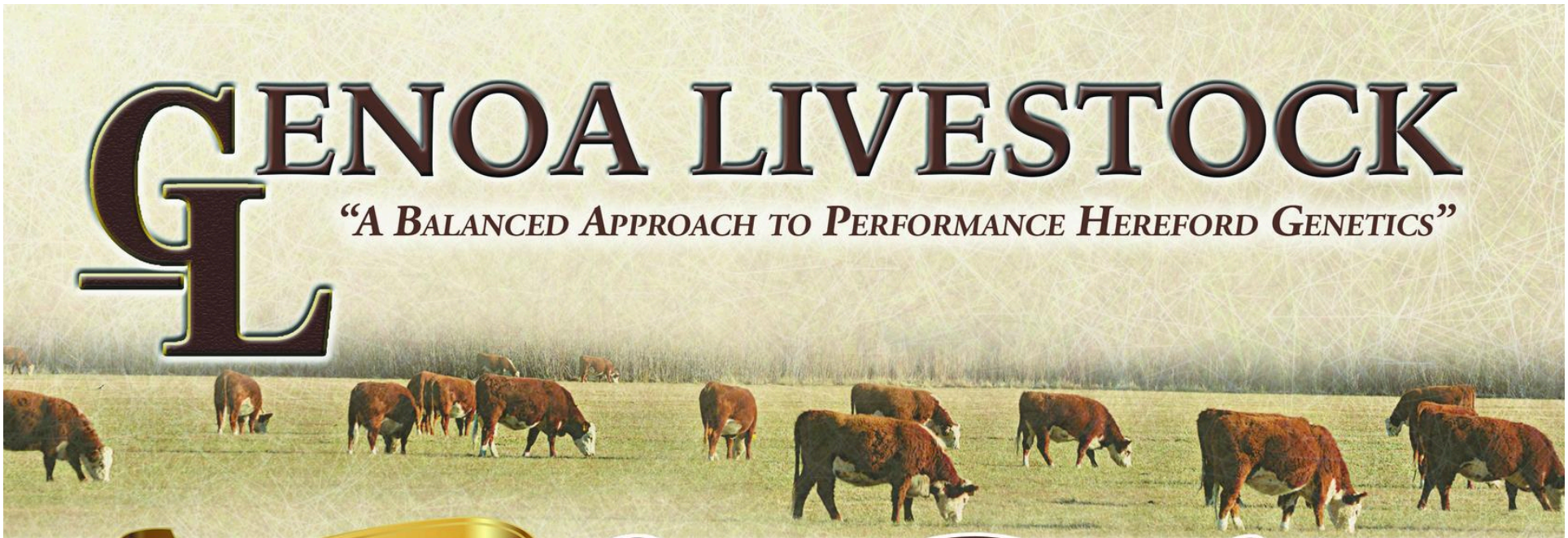
184 Jorgensen Angus Females Sell:
♦ 24 Motherlode™ Donors & Pathfinder Cows
♦ All Varsity Cows Born 2018 or Older
♦ Including 95 Cows Born 2021 or 2022



800-548-2855
Jorgensen Land & Cattle
American Angus Hall of Fame
(816) 532-0811

GENOA LIVESTOCK

"A Balanced Approach to Performance Hereford Genetics"



13th Annual

Bull & Female Sale

SELLING 52 BULLS & 14 FEMALES FROM THE HEART OF OUR HERD

2 P.M. | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

At the ranch in Minden, Nevada



Polled

BW	2.0
WW	72
YW	118
Marb	0.34
REA	0.71
CHB	175

LOT 44

GENOA G16 GENESIS 22178 ET
REG# 44343446

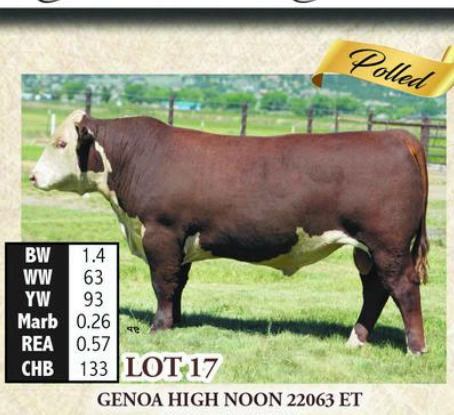


Polled

BW	4.1
WW	76
YW	127
Marb	0.34
REA	1.00
CHB	203

LOT 33

GENOA 173D ENDURE 22117 ET
REG# 44331523

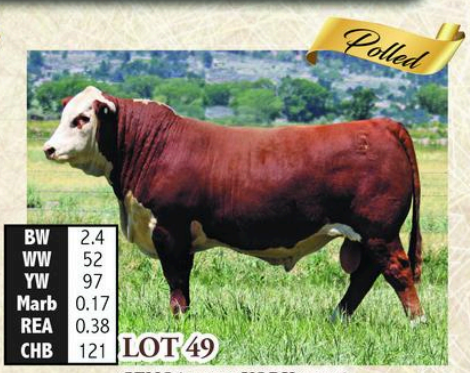


Polled

BW	1.4
WW	63
YW	93
Marb	0.26
REA	0.57
CHB	133

LOT 17

GENOA HIGH NOON 22063 ET
REG# 44331446



Polled

BW	2.4
WW	52
YW	97
Marb	0.17
REA	0.38
CHB	121

LOT 49

GENOA 17013 YORK 22215
REG# 44347019

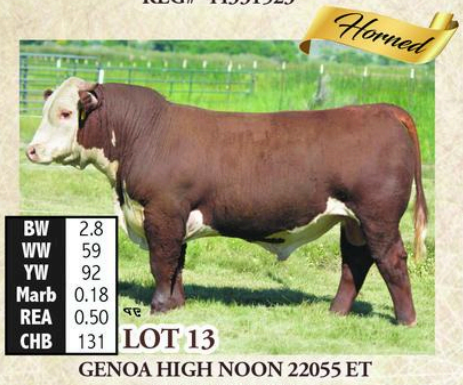


Horned

BW	2.4
WW	69
YW	113
Marb	0.29
REA	0.47
CHB	156

LOT 38

GENOA 8094 BELLE HEIR 22140 ET
REG# 44336161



Horned

BW	2.8
WW	59
YW	92
Marb	0.18
REA	0.50
CHB	131

LOT 13

GENOA HIGH NOON 22055 ET
REG# 44331444

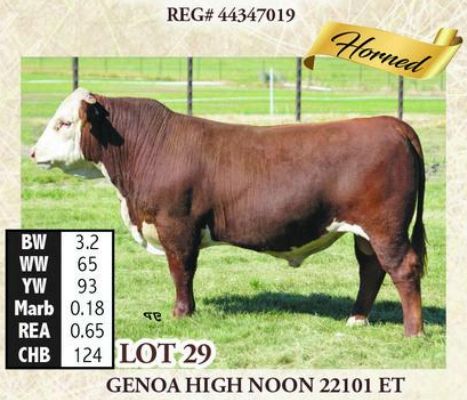


Horned

BW	3.0
WW	68
YW	108
Marb	0.23
REA	0.90
CHB	168

LOT 30

GENOA HIGH NOON 22109 ET
REG# 44331520

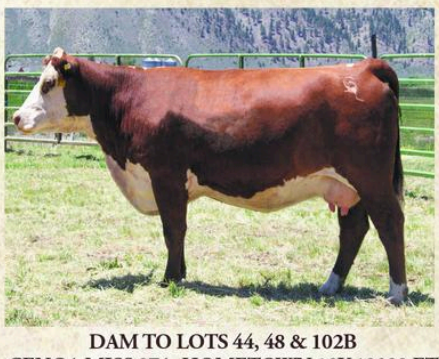


Horned

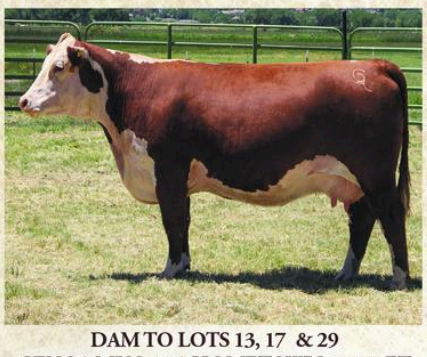
BW	3.2
WW	65
YW	93
Marb	0.18
REA	0.65
CHB	124

LOT 29

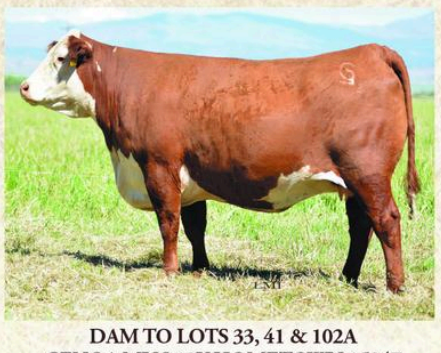
GENOA HIGH NOON 22101 ET
REG# 44331447



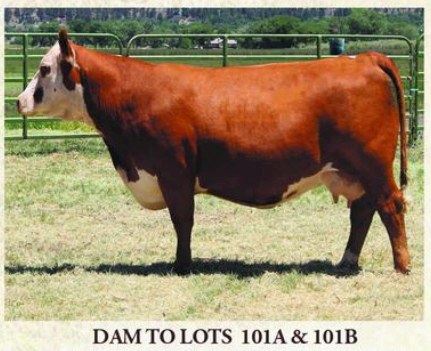
DAM TO LOTS 44, 48 & 102B
GENOA MISS 27A HOMETOWN 10Y 19090 ET
REG# 44012565



DAM TO LOTS 13, 17 & 29
GENOA MISS 27A HOMETOWN 19077 ET
REG# 44012564



DAM TO LOTS 33, 41 & 102A
GENOA MISS 10Y HOMETOWN 15047
REG# 43585109



DAM TO LOTS 101A & 101B
GENOA MISS 10Y HOMETOWN 16085
REG# 43682622

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

Noon: Live viewing of sale cattle and buffet lunch
2 PM: Live Auction Video Sale
Rick Machado, Auctioneer
Online bidding also available via LiveAuctions.TV
5 PM: Dinner & Live Entertainment

Sale cattle delivered within 500 miles
Cattle can remain at GL for 60 days, no charge

GENOA LIVESTOCK
640 Genoa Lane, Minden, NV
Office 775-782-3336
Bob Coker 916-539-1987 | Chris Beck 618-367-5397
info@genoalivestock.com
Find us on Facebook!

WWW.GENOALIVESTOCK.COM

Can MO livestock producers outlast the drought?

It's pretty simple math: Too little grass + too many cows = too little cash.

Missouri livestock producers love their cows and never want to sell them, even when grass and water dry up, said University of Missouri Extension (MU) agricultural business specialist Wesley Tucker. Instead of culling cows, they will go to great lengths to find alternative feed sources, including growing and buying things they've never used before.

Maybe it's time to take a hard look at our operations and ask how many cows our fields can sustain going forward, Tucker said.

Tucker, himself an Ozarks beef producer, and other MU Extension specialists, are speaking to producers across the state at drought meetings about farm economics and surviving until better days arrive. He discusses the emotional attachment producers have to their livestock and the reluctance to let them go even when they are costing them money.

But even before the drought began, we were already facing higher input costs, including fertilizer, fuel, equipment, labor and interest expenses, he said. "With the rapidly changing environment, we simply can't sustain the same number of cows we used to. My recommendation from the start has been to drop one-third of your cows."

Keeping a few less cows is not all bad and may actually increase profitability. "It gives flexibility to graze more and feed less. Two-thirds of the normal cow numbers allows you to keep calves longer—growing them to heavier weights—and capture added value," he said.

"Maybe it means instead of starting to feed hay at Thanksgiving, we make it to Valentine's Day before the tractors have to leave the barn," he said. "It gives you the flexibility to keep a few more heifer calves and let Mother Nature apply a little more selection pressure so we ensure only the profitable ones make it into the herd."

Having fewer cows gives tremendous flexibility to add other profitable enterprises to the operation, he points out.

As early as late 2022, MU Extension specialists began recommending that producers plan to destock if drought continued into 2023. As the drought burned on, they offered drought meetings across the state to suggest ways to stretch forages. They shared science-backed practices such as planting alternative forages, ammoniating wheat straw, seeding annuals into perennial pastures, planting quick-growing annuals and baling green corn unlikely to produce grain. While these have worked for many, they also come with a price and won't work for everyone, said Tucker.

He said the No. 1 recommendation in every meeting is simple: Cut cow numbers. Many producers across the state have responded and livestock auction barns have seen an influx of animals. Getting rid of your least profitable animals is the quickest way to take stress off the remaining pasture and green cash you have left, said Tucker.

MU Extension state beef nutrition specialist Eric Bailey agrees. If you haven't already, begin culling by getting rid of females that don't wean a calf each year and don't rebreed early in the breeding season (80-90 days after calving).

Herd profitability largely depends on how long a cow brings value to the herd. Cull out cows with poor eyes, mouths, legs, feet and udders. Cows with poor dispositions also get one-way tickets to the sale barn. Keep those with superior genetics as long as possible.

Bailey's main advice is to plan downsizing. Management improvements, such as shorter breeding seasons, not year-round calving, also can benefit your operation.

For optimists, drought-induced culls can be beneficial. It forces decisions that can provide rewards for the long haul. — **University of Missouri Extension**

Miss Advance

FEMALE PAGEANT 2023

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

at the ranch 1:00 MST

Selling 65 ELITE LINE ONE FEMALES

15 POWERFUL BRED HEIFERS Bred to HH Advance 0270H, the high seller from our 2022 Sale.

25 YOUNG BRED COWS March and April calving females with several donor prospects included.

8 PROVEN DONORS — 18 FALL YEARLING HEIFERS

SEMEN ON HH ADVANCE 2116K — 4 ELITE EMBRYO PACKAGES



LOT 4 - HH MISS ADVANCE 9016G ET (44008131)

Sire: HH Advance 5019C ET

CE -0.8; BW 5.1; WW 76; YW 124; DMI 0.8; SC 1.6; SCF 13.9; MM 33; MG 71; MCE 3.1; MCW 121; UDDR 1.20; TEAT 1.30; CW 96; FAT 0.050; REA 0.57; MARB 0.03; BMI$ 334; BII$ 419; CHB$ 132

Elite young donor that is one of our favorites. Exceptional length, hip, pigment, eye appeal, and udder quality with big time figures. Top 1% on WW, YW, and CWT, and top 20% on Milk, REA, and $CHB.



LOT 3 - HH MISS ADVANCE 8339F (43966141)

Sire: HH Advance 3297A ET

CE 1.5; BW 3.1; WW 59; YW 103; DMI 0.6; SC 0.9; SCF 16.1; MM 31; MG 61; MCE 1.5; MCW 88; UDDR 1.30; TEAT 1.30; CW 84; FAT 0.030; REA 0.60; MARB 0.23; BMI$ 364; BII$ 447; CHB$ 142

Powerful made, perfect uddered, well marked, and very fancy. This donor can produce progeny to excel in any venue. Sells with a fall calf at side.



LOT 1 - HH MISS ADVANCE 8099F ET (43896793)

CE 0.5; BW 3.3; WW 50; YW 80; DMI 0.2; SC 1.0; SCF 19.1; MM 24; MG 49; MCE 1.8; MCW 57; UDDR 1.40; TEAT 1.40; CW 64; FAT 0.010; REA 0.17; MARB 0.13; BMI$ 378; BII$ 450; CHB$ 109

Ideal type female that combines functionality, udder quality, phenotype, and cow family. Big time egg producer that has been a donor for us the last 3 years.

Sale offering is 100% parent verified and have GE-EPDs

View videos of the sale offering at www.holdenherefords.com or www.thelivestocklink.com

Sale cattle will be viewable at the ranch anytime and on display sale week.

Follow us on Facebook for more updates @holdenherefords

LiveAuctions.TV

Broadcast Online With SUPERIOR Productions

Holden Herefords

3139 Valier Dupuyer Rd. • Valier, MT 59486 • 406-279-3301 Home

406-450-1029 Jack's cell • 406-450-0129 Jay D. Evans

406-600-3118 Eric Lawver • 406-590-3307 Brad Holden

jtholden@3rivers.net • *www.holdenherefords.com*

STORY SHORTS

New wolf pack found in CA

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced a new wolf pack in Tulare County, making it the state's fourth and southernmost pack. CDFW officials received a reported wolf sighting in the Sequoia National Forest and went to investigate. At the site, they found wolf tracks and other signs of wolf presence and collected 12 scat and hair samples from the immediate area for genetic testing. According to CDFW, the new pack consists of at least five individuals not previously detected in California and consists of an adult female—a descendant of OR7—and two females and two males. In late 2011, OR7 crossed the state line to become the first wolf in nearly a century to make California part of his range before returning to Oregon to form the Rogue Pack. None of the samples came from an adult male, but genetic information from the four pups suggests the breeding male is a descendant of the Lassen Pack.

Cows bred to belch less methane

Semex, a genetics company, is offering semen that will reduce methane emissions by 20-30% by 2050. "Methane is a global enemy," said Drew Sloan, Semex vice president of Corporate Development. "In fact, most developing nations are adopting laws targeting net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This new trait is a game changer." Semex partnered with Canada's milk-recording organization Lactanet, collecting and analyzing over 700,000 first lactation mid-infrared records to predict methane emissions. In April, Lactanet will publish Methane Efficiency breeding values producers can use to reduce methane emissions in their herds significantly. Frank Mitloehner, professor of animal science at the University of California, Davis, told Reuters low-methane breeding could have a "profound impact" on cattle emissions globally and he expects companies to recognize low-emissions breeding too.

Bear euthanized after depredation

Following a cattle depredation, a grizzly bear was euthanized on private land in Paradise Valley's Tom Miner Basin in Montana. The bear—a 20-year-old male—was captured on Aug. 10 by Wildlife Services and USDA officials, and it was determined the bear had previously been relocated due to livestock conflicts. The bear also had significant tooth decay. Bears in that condition will sometimes prey on livestock as a food source, especially if they have a history of conflicts, the agency said. Considering these factors, and in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks euthanized the bear on Aug. 11. This is the third incident of grizzly bear removal in Montana's portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Doctors advocate for beef

The Beef Checkoff found 91% of doctors and health professionals recommend beef to their patients and more than 7 out of 10 have a favorable impression of beef as a high-quality protein. The checkoff recently sent out 3,324 beef toolkits called Strong Minds and Strong Bodies, which focused on school-aged and adolescent nutrition to family practice and pediatric health professionals across 48 states. The toolkit materials included a "Dear Health Professional" letter, a MyPlate teaching tool and beef tips and recipes for parents. A survey was sent to medical professionals and consumers to measure the program's success. The survey also found 74% of consumers stated their health professionals recommended beef as part of a balanced meal, and 76% prepared a meal with beef after receiving the handout for their children.

JBS reports Q2 losses

JBS SA reported a second quarter loss of over $47 million, citing the oversupply of chicken in the global market and tighter margins for its beef business in the U.S. While the company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) was in line with analyst's expectations, it was 57% below the year-ago period. JBS said its beef margins in North America shrank from a year ago. Citing a reduction in the supply of cattle, JBS said cattle prices rose 26% last quarter to $179/cwt while wholesale beef prices grew by 17% in the same period. Also, in the U.S., its Pilgrim's Pride division reported a 49% decline in EBITDA, and the pork division had a 15% annual drop in revenue. This is the second loss in 2023 for the company.

ASF vaccine approved in Vietnam

In July, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam issued a document approving the use of a vaccine against African swine fever (ASF). The two vaccines used will be the first to receive approval and licensed against ASF worldwide. Prior to approval, over 600,000 shots were administered in farms across the country, and the results found more than 95% of the vaccinated pigs showed a high antibody response. A USDA assessment conducted from April to May also confirmed the results of vaccine research and production.

Political dogfight ahead for farm bill

House Agriculture Committee member Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) said Aug. 7 she expects there to be a government shutdown this fall and signaled she doubts that a new farm bill will be enacted this year.

Asked by DTN after a speech to the American Sugar Alliance (ASA) if she expects a government shutdown, Cammack said, "Yes." She added, "I hope not," but repeated that she expects there will be a shutdown.

The federal fiscal year ends Sept. 30, requiring Congress to either rapidly pass a series of funding bills, or pass a continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating.

During her speech to the nation's beet and cane growers at the annual International Sweetener Symposium, Cammack said, "This farm bill is not going to be about the policy, this farm bill is going to be about the politics."

Cammack said she believes the farm bill and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "G.T" Thompson (R-PA-15) "will be successful." But she added, "Will it be this year? I don't know."

Senate may take lead

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA-21), a member of the House Agriculture Committee, told the sugar growers if the House "can't get a bipartisan farm bill off the floor in October or November," the Senate may develop a bill and send it to the House "before the end of the year."

The Senate, Costa said, won't "load up" the bill with objectionable amendments on which the Republicans in the House may insist, Costa said.

Costa said he could not predict when Congress will pass a new farm bill, but, "We will have a new farm bill someday." The current farm bill "may need to be extended until the end of the year," he added.

In a video, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) told the sugar growers she believes the Senate will take the lead on the next farm bill.

The agreement between House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-23) and President Joe Biden on the debt ceiling bill should be "a good sign" that there are members of the House who want to reduce spending below the caps established in that bill, Costa noted.

Costa said, "I don't think it's likely" there will be money to "plus up" provisions in the farm bill, but he said he wants the bill to improve crop insurance.

Farm groups need to educate the public that "food is a national security issue," he noted.

Cammack said she has told Thompson that the farm bill needs to be "managed as a national security package," or it will get picked apart.

"Food security is national security," she said. She also predicted the debate over the farm bill "will be the biggest political dogfight in modern history."

The farm bill "has had a long and storied history of being bipartisan," but it is also controversial in several circles, Cammack said. Outside groups put money into campaigns and the infrastructure that surrounds campaigns and "key" votes makes the farm bill so that legislators "get scared" and don't want to support it, she said.

Members of Congress are participating in "angertainment," she said, which allows them to raise money but results in bad policy.

When the farm bill gets to the House floor, groups on both the Democratic and Republican sides will offer amendments to "take down" the sugar program, she said.

People tell her they are opposed to the sugar program due to the "subsidy," she said, adding that she takes pleasure in telling them it is a no-cost program.

She told the sugar growers that they, too, must confront the sugar program's critics. She also said farm groups must keep the agriculture and nutrition programs in the same bill because they are "dependent" on each other.

"Sugar is unique in that it has a great regional representation—sugarbeets up north to sugarcane in the South," she said.

The sugar program's critics "have been living off the same set of talking points for the last 12 or 15 years," she said. "Push back and their argument falls apart. Stop being afraid of the conversation. Don't be afraid to push back."

Cammack did not mention an industry proposal to raise sugar support prices in the farm bill, but when asked by DTN whether that would happen, she said, "Anything's possible," and noted that input and labor costs have gone up.

In her speech, she said she did not think there would be money to raise the reference prices that trigger subsidy payments for other commodities. The House did not act on the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture appropriations bill before leaving for the August break due to "the price tag," she said.

There are 30 to 40 Republicans and the same number of Democrats who have said they won't vote for the farm bill, she said.

The farm bill will be considered under an open rule, which means there can be an unlimited number of amendments, she added.

Cammack said her ancestors were Germans from Russia who settled in Minnesota and grew sugar beets. She grew up on a ranch in Colorado where her family was in the sandblasting business. Working in the family business she came to detest regulators from "three-letter" agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Labor Department because their officials sit in basements and make up rules for businesses they do not understand.

Cammack said her negative experiences with government regulators led her to sponsor the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, which would require congressional approval of major rules—those with an annual price tag of $100 million or more—before federal agencies could implement them.

The REINS Act passed the House in June, but Cammack said some members of her own Republican Party told her they would oppose the rule just to make a point.

Cammack represents Florida's 3rd District, having succeeded her former boss, Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL). Yoho was a prime backer of the Zero for Zero resolution that says the U.S. government should seek elimination of all direct and indirect subsidies benefiting the production or export of sugar in other countries.

Cammack has introduced that resolution in this Congress. ASA Chairman Ryan Weston thanked Cammack for introducing the resolution and said she has been "a staunch champion for sugar producers on the Hill." — **Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent**

Third time's a charm for BLM plan?

SONORAN DESERT
(from page 1)

The BLM released its management plan in 2012, which broke down the northern monument area into six allotments. BLM found that livestock grazing could be compatible with the goals of the monument across 157,000 acres, but restricted grazing on the remaining 95,300 acres.

Conservation groups brought suit in 2013 against the plan, arguing the plan was arbitrary and capricious under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A district judge remanded the 2012 plan back to BLM and ordered them to complete a new grazing compatibility determination by 2020.

BLM finished the new land health evaluation in September of 2020, which concluded that grazing up to 4,232 animal unit months (AUMs) could be sustained within the northern area of the monument. The agency proposed installing fencing around sensitive areas, moving water sources to less sensitive areas and authorizing fewer AUMs on the monument to mitigate grazing impacts.

Following the release of the new plan, the conservation groups filed suit again, this time in June of 2021. The groups claimed the amended plan violated the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and National Landscape Conservation System Act, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and NEPA.

The suit stated that BLM failed to "consider an adequate range of alternative actions in the (environmental assessment)" and failed to "take a 'hard look' at the environmental effects of 'allowing grazing across all lands on the Monument north of Highway 8.'"

Earlier this year, the groups and BLM both moved for summary judgement, and filed responses to each other's motions later in the summer. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 8/17/2023		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	184.99	▼	187.96	147.46
CME Feeder Index	244.26	▼	244.96	179.86
Boxed Beef Average	314.14	▲	302.03	264.39
Average Dressed Steers	293.96	▼	296.14	233.59
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,350	▲	1,345	1,343
Weekly Slaughter**	603,000	▼	613,000	647,000
Weekly Beef Production***	490.1	▼	498.5	524.5
Hide/Offal Value	13.67	▲	13.56	13.67
Corn Price	4.73	▼	4.83	6.19

*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
August 11	6,683	297.17	176	335.40	1,311	306.83	1,909	299.74	850	276.47	2,437	262.59
August 4	6,335	301.15	180	336.65	1,261	307.35	1,848	302.00	770	283.05	2,276	267.52
July 28	7,120	299.26	198	337.29	1,369	309.36	1,979	302.69	852	277.27	2,723	268.75
July 21	6,706	300.30	165	337.59	1,253	210.37	1,889	304.99	817	277.23	2,582	269.44

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Aug 17	314.14	286.26	236.65	147.66	299.26
Aug 16	308.99	284.77	239.34	146.22	311.13
Aug 15	307.26	283.03	236.87	140.97	299.74
Aug 14	305.50	280.45	237.91	141.87	308.97
Aug 11	302.61	277.23	234.58	N/A	295.63

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	8/11	8/14	8/15	8/16	8/17	High*	Low*
Aug.	18038	17975	17910	17878	17805	18150	14003
Oct.	18133	18068	17998	17928	17833	18290	15388
Dec.	18545	18498	18418	18358	18253	18705	15310
Feb.	18923	18870	18805	18758	18663	19048	16853

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	8/11	8/14	8/15	8/16	8/17	High*	Low*
Aug.	24775	24623	24588	24538	24428	24953	17595
Sep.	25145	25013	24978	24900	24713	25345	18303
Oct.	25288	25185	25155	25098	24933	25543	18755
Nov.	25328	25230	25210	25180	25020	25610	22750

*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	17,591	1,465	184.99
Live FOB Heifer	6,844	1,322	183.85
Dressed Del Steer	3,792	945	293.96
Dressed Del Heifer	729	826	294.14
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	1,929	1,492	187.96
Live FOB Heifer	519	1,330	188.00
Dressed Del Steer	570	919	296.14
Dressed Del Heifer	586	812	295.19
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	13,716	1,460	147.46
Live FOB Heifer	4,925	1,274	143.90
Dressed Del Steer	540	941	233.59
Dressed Del Heifer	87	845	231.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: AUGUST 13

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	14,523	3,213
Formula	264,732	1,542
Negotiated Cash	77,791	195
Negotiated Grid	44,780	609
Packer Owned	10,471	N/A
Total	**412,297**	**5,559**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,835
Aug. '23	81,127	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,004
Sep. '23	102,403	Formula sales	3,645
Oct. '23	95,158	Forward contract sales	199
Nov. '23	124,828	Domestic sales	5,739
Dec. '23	88,052	NAFTA Exports	133

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	175.80	-2.41
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	174.08	-4.40
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	100.29	-4.17

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, August 4, 2023

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	283.58	N/A	241.67
601-700 lbs	255.04	252.70	233.37
701-800 lbs	239.47	240.34	219.52
801-900 lbs	235.92	N/A	230.27
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	266.17	N/A	207.33
501-600 lbs	247.08	234.73	204.60
601-700 lbs	229.21	N/A	191.95
701-800 lbs	223.01	N/A	190.24

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
	8/7/23	7/31/23		
Feeders	19,025	15,333	713,514	513,153

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

August 17, 2023

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: N/A **Week Ago Act: 9,900** **Year Ago Act: 5,890**

All livestock border crossings were closed the week of Aug. 14-18, so reports were not released.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		**Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2**	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A

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

Selected Auction — Week Ending August 17, 2023

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

		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	
August 11 Blackfoot, ID	N/A				227-265	217-256 210-241	207-242 195-239	197-241 190-234	97-18 114-136.5		NORTHWEST
No report available Burley, ID											
No report available Emmett, ID											
August 12 Eugene, OR	874		195-243 166-185	200-233 160-229	170-232 166-200	160-224 140-157	138-168 120-135	130-180	90-115 105-122	780-1,700 500-1,475	
August 14 Madras, OR	316					255-268 235-259	235-255 220-234	230-235 200-220	100-116.50 118-125.50		
August 9 Vale, OR	N/A				242-281	234-241		187-195	92-115.50 134-148		
August 8 Davenport, WA	322	205	162.50 135-208	162.50-209 133-192	167.50-215 179-194	165-219 179-194	186-216 169-194	140-206 169-186	40-132 80-182.50	1,850-1,900	
No report available Toppenish, WA											
August 10 Orland, CA	1,806			200-314 180-300	180-309 160-281	170-295 150-277	160-250 140-219	150-225 140-223	105-120 100-141	1,500-3,550 1,500-2,100	FARWEST
August 16 Escalon, CA	N/A								75-100 90-110		
No report available Famoso, CA											
August 16 Galt, CA	927			280-322 250-300	250-316 240-275	230-285 230-271	200-250		85-131 100-140		
No report available Turlock, CA											
August 8 Salina, UT	424	320-387.50 295-342.50	307.50-342.50 255-337.50	281-310 215-250	232-284 200-260	205-262.50 177.50-240	187.50-249	154-244.50 122-171	97-124 127.25-142.25		
August 14 Iowa	5,228		340 277.50	299-312.50 256-287.50	260-323 250-277	251-285.50 238-267.75	243-266 220-259	215.50-256.85 210-246.25	85-128.50 100-166		NORTH CENTRAL
No report available Miles City, MT											
No report available Bassett, NE											
No report available Ericson, NE											
No report available Imperial, NE											
August 9 Kearney, NE	4,300	500-680		336.50-353 272.50		283-284 920	264.75-269.25 246-725	239.50-254.50 234.25-660	115-127.50 112-133.50		
No report available Lexington, NE											
No report available Ogallala, NE											
No report available Valentine, NE											
August 11 Herreid, SD	3,504						256-275 235-246.75	237.25-258 234.25-244			
August 16 Torrington, WY	1,031				280 249	256-260 241-252	253-268.50 235-240	231-252.50 224-237			
August 10 Willcox, AZ	N/A	290 227-277	318-500 228-257	240-293 232-253	250-281 206-224	232-256 177-194			110-146 120-146	1,625-1,975 1,075-1,540	SOUTH CENTRAL
August 14 Colorado	4,221				247.50	237	265 235	239-257 154	61-124.50 100-137.50	1,925-2,000 1,300-1,425	
August 9 La Junta, CO	553		285-350 257-282		259-283 221-251	259-283	229-263 218-221		101-123 125-143	1,510-1,525	
No report available Loma, CO											
August 16 Dodge City, KS	1,985			269-302 266	252-293 245-274	264-270.50 230-243.75	233-258 230-246.50	213-244.50 179.50-241.85	105-123 111-134	1,250-1,775	
August 17 Pratt, KS	700		295 282	255-265	270-278	256-273 239-250	245-259 222-249.25	211-251.25 218-239	95.50-123.50 102-127.50		
August 10 Salina, KS	4,793		306	319 279-294	292.50-313.50 270-280.50	271-281.50 247-269	253-271.75 235.25-249.50	235-261.75 230-242			
August 16 Clovis, NM	2,773	332-351 267-322	322-367 270-325	300-320 231-269	257-275.50 210-278	237.50-259.75 198-234	229-247.50 212-251	139-213 195	90.50-112 100-140	825-2,800 500-1,650	
August 16 El Reno, OK	8,261	330	337.50-350 292.50	289-337.50 264-286	275-307.50 240-272	246-284.50 227-257	231-261.50 220-243.50	210-246 206.50-228.25			
August 16 McAlester, OK	1,910		309-350 253-277	275-319 245-270	263-300 244-261	236-276 238-260	222-247 198-238	161-185 146-273	98-115 98-134	1,325-2,000 1,010-1,675	
August 15 Oklahoma City, OK	8,114	330-335	289-331 260-318	270-332 249-293	264-317 240-285	245-293 234-262	247-267 231-247.25	208-246 208.50-228			
August 11 Cuero, TX	1,831	261-300 233-302	238-312 217-316	230-274 213-295	224-285 209-265	214-246 201-231	208-226 191-207		94-112 108-125	1,225-1,800 1,200-1,425	
August 11 Dalhart, TX	1,419	298 296	300-330 287	299-306 260	287 242-259	245-262 234-244.50	239-253 232.50-236	233-241.10 195.50-207	70-116 80-137		
August 10 San Angelo, TX	603				252-256 224-233	237			98-117 108-135	1,135-1,925	
August 10 Tulia, TX	875			300 277	250-277 240-256	230 208-228	234-249 200-220	225	100-110 110-130	1,800-2,200 1,500-2,050	
August 11 Alabama	9,407	240-250	286-320 222-260	253-305 216-247	242-282 211-240	224-255 204-232	213-241 185-218		93-121 105-140	1,050-1,850 800-1,675	EAST
August 14 Lexington, KY	1,437	225-295*	257.50-273* 205-263*	250-314* 210-273.50*	247-279* 210-260*	229.50-265* 183-240*	230-260* 172-229*	150-246.50* 156-262.50*	92-124 88-139		
August 14 Joplin, MO	5,838		310 270-295	285-305 255-276	275-310 249-268	262-286 244-265	250-265 224-244.50	237-246 193-210.50			
August 14 Tennessee	8,980	240-300* 212.50-275*	217-305* 210-260*	225-300* 205-256*	206-275* 195-255*	210-263* 185-246.50*	210-252.25* 154-237*	142-242* 145-193.50*	90-136 88-149	1,010-2,510 940-1,825	
August 14 Virginia	3,043	250	137.50-262.50 164-219	211-277 140-229	209-270 175-222	182-253 184-219.50	190-247 172.50-206	181-243.50 120-214			
CANADA											
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta											

Find out how YOUR AUCTION MARKET can become a PREFERRED *WLJ* partner!

At no cost to you, we'll send you weekly copies of the *Western Livestock Journal* that you can share with your customers to keep them informed of what's happening in the beef industry. There is no obligation or downside! Contact Hannah at 720-370-8275 for more information.

Winter wheat forage prospects better in 2023

In Oklahoma, winter wheat is used for three different crops: wheat for grain only, wheat for forage only and dual-purpose wheat for grazing and grain. Producers interested in grazing winter wheat for dual-purpose or forage only will be thinking about planting wheat by late August and into early September.

Much of the state has better soil moisture and soil temperature conditions for early-planted winter wheat than in recent years. The exception is a few counties along the Red River in the south-central part of the state, which have received relatively little rain this summer.

Wheat forage production conditions are only some of the challenges for winter wheat stocker producers. Dynamic cattle and grain market conditions mean that producers will need to carefully and frequently evaluate stocker budget prospects this fall prior to stocker purchase. Calf prices are moving counter-seasonally higher this summer, suggesting that stocker purchase costs will continue to increase this fall.

The Oklahoma combined auction price for 450-500 pound Medium/Large No. 1 steers in the second week of August reached $302.05/cwt, the highest weekly price since June 2015 and just 6.4% below the record high of $322.56/cwt in November 2014.

As cattle numbers continue to tighten this year, the general incentive in the market is to push cattle into feedlots sooner and through the beef production system faster to keep beef production as high as possible. Beef production is down about 4.8% year over year thus far in 2023 but is falling more sharply recently, with July beef production down 6.7% compared to one year ago.

Heifer slaughter decreased more sharply in July, down 5.5% year over year and contributing to a 6.1% year over year decrease in total yearling (steer plus heifer) slaughter for the month. Additionally, beef cow slaughter was down 21.4% year over year in July, contributing to the faster pace of declining beef production.

In this beef production environment, holding cattle in relatively slow-paced stocker production will be less feasible. However, among stocker production systems, high quality wheat forage produces relatively rapid gains that may still be economical. Careful monitoring of rapidly changing market conditions is essential.

After two years of high feedlot cost of gain, corn prices may moderate with the current crop. December corn futures peaked as high as $6.28/bushel in late June but are currently around $4.85/bushel. Grain markets remain very volatile with summer weather conditions, and the feedgrain supply and price for the coming year are uncertain. Still, the prospect of moderating feedlot cost of gain will be a further challenge for stocker producers.

Cheaper cost of gain will give feedlots more ability to compete for limited feeder cattle supplies and further enhance the general need to push cattle through the system faster. A lower feedlot cost of gain generally means feedlots can purchase lighter weight feeder cattle and place them in feedlot earlier.

In an environment of limited feeder cattle supplies and lower feedlot cost of gain, the role of stocker production is squeezed more to the very lightweight end of feeder cattle and an incentive to market sooner rather than later with less weight gain prior to feedlot placement. In the short run this general tendency may be partially offset by the strong uptrend in feeder cattle prices.

In short, cattle and feed markets are extremely dynamic and require constant evaluation and nimble response to changing conditions. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

BUYING
SELLING
TRADING
OFFERING

THE BULL PEN

Your BULL PEN ad will also be added to the Classified Corral online, where we get 7,500 viewers a month. 3 weeks, $95 per insertion • 6 weeks, $85 per insertion • 12 weeks, $75 per insertion for a 3.2"x 2" boxed ad. Call 800-850-2769, email to advertising@wlj.net or fax your copy to 303-722-0155.

BYRD CATTLE CO.
BCC LLC
RED BLUFF, CA

23rd Annual

"DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT"
ANGUS BULL & FEMALE SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
LOS MOLINOS RANCH, LOS MOLINOS, CA

50 Females/110 Bulls

Dan 530-736-8470 • Ty 530-200-4054

Demand continues across countryside

MARKETS
(from page 1)

• Formula net purchases: $187.77.

• Forward contract net purchases: $179.03.

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $187.58.

On a dressed basis:

• Negotiated purchases: $295.43.

• Formula net purchases: $294.38.

• Forward contract net purchases: $273.07.

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $296.94.

"Packers are determined to reduce the slaughter to the point they can successfully reestablish stability in the box prices and build more numbers in the feedyards," the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. "The upcoming weeks will continue smaller slaughter levels but this may possibly be the bottom weekly level."

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 489,000 head, a few thousand short of a week earlier and about 20,000 head short of a year ago. Slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 603,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Aug. 5 was 615,321 head. The average steer dressed weight was 895 lbs., the same as a week earlier.

Boxed beef prices shot higher, with the Choice cutout up about $12 to $314.14 and the Select cutout up about $9 to $286.26.

"This rally in beef prices coupled with softer cattle prices will improve packer margins from last week's level, the worst in years," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "Now that packers have momentum going their way, expect them to do all they can, by thoughtfully planning throughput and monitoring demand."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures lost a few dollars, with the August contract down about $4 to $244.27 and the September contract down about $3 to $247.12.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 70 cents to close at $244.26.

"Feeder cattle enthusiasts continue to point to the long-term fact that feeder cattle supplies are thin and that excellent demand in the countryside is keeping sales strong," Stewart said. "But as traders appraise the futures complex, there's an essence of hesitancy."

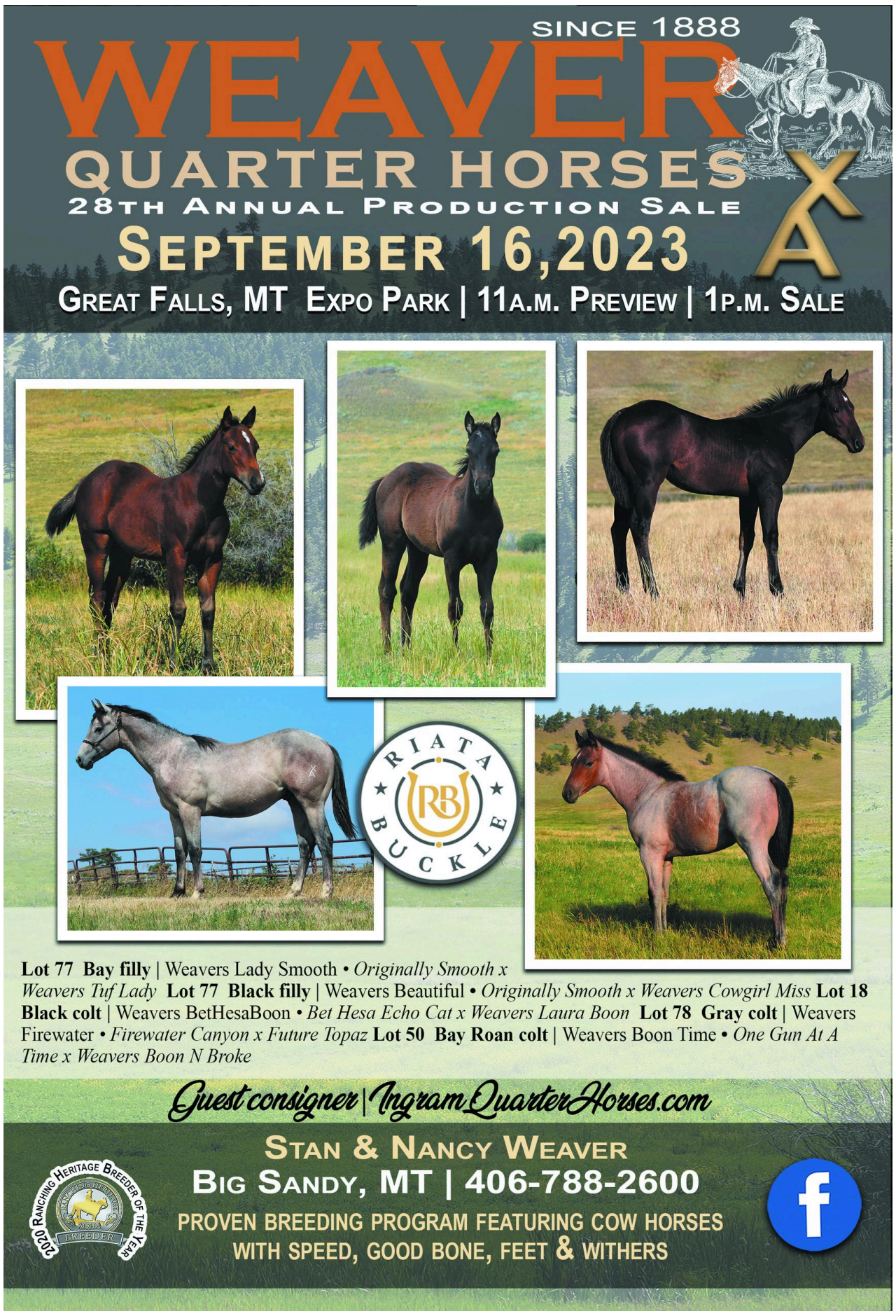
Corn futures continued their downward trajectory, with the September contract down 10 cents to $4.73 and the December contract down 11 cents to $4.85.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 1,726 head Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers 700-950 lbs. sold steady. There were not enough steer calves for a market test, however a higher trend was noted. Feeder heifers 650-850 lbs. sold steady to $4 higher. There were not enough heifer calves for a market test, however a higher trend was noted. Benchmark steers averaging 772 lbs. sold between $243-258 and averaged $255.56.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 4,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 784 lbs. sold from $242-254, averaging $250.71.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold unevenly steady at the mid-session. Steers and heifers were lightly tested, with a higher undertone noted. Benchmark steers averaged 776 lbs., selling from $247-255.50, averaging $248.22.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 1,506 head on Monday. Compared to a week prior, feeder steers sold with higher undertones. Feeder heifers 800-850 lbs. sold $4-7 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 732 lbs. sold from $260-269, averaging $265.72. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



Farm Credit System debt rating downgraded

Following its downgrade of the U.S. government's credit, Fitch Ratings also downgraded the Farm Credit System (FCS) as a government-sponsored entity that is tied to the debt and ratings of the federal government.

The immediate impact of the downgrade in ratings on farmers and agribusinesses that rely on Farm Credit lenders is likely minimal for now. But FCS's four banks and 59 lending associations nationally could see their reserve requirements affected in the future if another rating adjustment is made down the line.

Citing the tie to the U.S. government, Fitch downgraded FCS's long-term issuer default rating from an AAA to an AA+. The ratings outlook is considered stable.

"As a government-sponsored entity (GSE), the FCS benefits from implicit government support. Therefore, the ratings of the FCS are directly linked to the U.S. sovereign rating," Fitch stated.

For Farm Credit system banks, Fitch downgraded the long-term ratings for AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, AgriBank Farm Credit Bank, CoBank, the Agricultural Credit Bank (ACB), and Farm Credit Bank of Texas from AA- to A+ as well.

Fitch cited that FCS's ratings will continue to move in tandem with the U.S. sovereign rating. If government support for FCS is reduced, Fitch stated it could delink the government-sponsored agencies from the U.S. government's downgrade.

Small impact

Brady Brewer, a faculty member in agricultural economics at Purdue University, responded to DTN by showing some differences in corporate bonds and the basis adjustments for those rating changes on the highest levels was minimal. The spread between an AAA rating versus a BAA rating on bond yields, for instance, is less than 100 basis points, or 1%, except during the 2008 financial crisis when the spread between those ratings rose dramatically.

"Overall, I think the impact from this event will be fairly minimal," Brewer told DTN. "There is the risk that this increases the cost of capital for the Farm Credit System, but the data shows that this should be fairly insignificant. I do not believe this will impact Farm Credit's access to additional funds if they need them."

Farm Credit response

The Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corp. issued a statement essentially reiterating the Fitch downgrade, but stated Farm Credit continues to provide credit and financial services for rural communities and agriculture.

The Farm Credit Administration, which regulates the FCS, stated to DTN that the system is sound.

"The Farm Credit System remains safe and sound. As a regulator of the System, we supervise and oversee its institutions on a regular and ongoing basis. We are confident that the System remains well positioned to continue meeting the important public mission provided by Congress," an FCA spokesperson stated.

In early August, the Farm Credit System released a quarterly financial statement. FCS reported net income at $3.51 billion for the first six months of 2023, down 1.7% from $3.57 billion for the same period in 2022.

"Despite a challenging external environment, the System recognized solid financial results for the first half of 2023," stated Tracey McCabe, president and CEO of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation. "A strong balance sheet and seasoned underwriting professionals continue to position the System to support the needs of our member-borrowers."

Government downgrade

Fitch earlier cut the U.S. government's credit rating from AAA to AA+. Fitch cited the downgrade for the U.S. rating due to the government's constant battles over the national debt ceiling, last-minute resolutions and "the expected fiscal deterioration over the next three years, a high growing general government debt burden, and the erosion of governance" going back two decades.

There are three major agencies that influence credit ratings, Fitch, Moody's and S&P Global Ratings. Fitch's moves on the federal government follow S&P, which lowered U.S. debt from AAA to AA+ in 2011. Moody's issued a credit opinion on the U.S. government on July 13 rating it as Aaa stable—the highest quality with minimal credit risk.

Fitch's move on the federal government led to a small drop in the 10-year Treasury bonds—though the 10-year note was trending up slightly.

Some financial leaders, such as JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, called the Fitch rating "ridiculous" while Berkshire Hathway's Warren Buffett said on CNBC early Thursday that Berkshire will keep buying U.S. Treasury bonds.

"There are some things people shouldn't worry about," Buffett said. "This is one."

In its quarterly and half-year report, FCS reported gross loans on June 30 were $378 billion, compared with $373.3 billion at the end of 2022.

Credit losses for the first half of the year at $407 million because of "higher specific reserves associated with a limited number of customers and forecasts of deteriorating macroeconomic conditions that may affect the agribusiness and rural infrastructure sectors."

Nonperforming loans—90 days or more past due—were at $2.2 billion, or 0.57% of all loans on June 30, an uptick from the end of 2022 when FCS reported $1.8 billion in nonperforming loans, or about 0.47% of all loans.

Cash and investments for FCS were $92.3 billion on June 30, up from $89.9 billion at the end of 2022.

CoBank—one of the FCS's four banks—cited in its annual report rating changes could negatively impact Farm Credit lenders. For instance, one FCA regulation requires FCS banks to exclude from their equity reserves asset-backed securities "that are no longer rated AAA by at least one major rating agency."

CoBank also noted that credit ratings for GSEs are influenced by the federal government's rating. "Any future ratings downgrades could negatively impact funding costs, earnings and funding flexibility for CoBank and other System institutions." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**



Dairy impetus for Oregon Senate Bill 85

DAIRY SOLD
(from page 1)

the nitrate levels in the groundwater were brought back into compliance and a plan for maintaining safe levels was approved.

Canyon Farms and Easterday Dairy entered into a forbearance agreement after Canyon Farms provided events of Easterday defaulting on the loan agreement. Canyon Farms alleged that Easterday failed to maintain insurance, deliver financial information and comply with the permits issued by ODA.

After repeated attempts to address the nitrate levels, the farm parcel lease was terminated in March 2021, and a new lease was signed with Walther Farms LLC, a Michigan company. Easterday brought suit, seeking $14 million in damages and to either reinstate the easement agreement or be released from the purchase agreement.

After Easterday Dairy's several attempts to comply with the issues brought by ODA, in April 2023, the agency issued a notice of noncompliance documenting 36 times of failure to maintain control of irrigation water and fertilizer applications and numerous other violations. ODA issued required actions to remedy the situation and stated it may issue a notice of civil penalty assessment and possible revocation of the CAFO permit if the dairy did not comply.

Months passed of legal wrangling between the two parties. In that time, a falling out between Easterday and the manager of Walther Farms resulted in a protective order issued in January and a preliminary injunction ordering Easterday Dairy from removing or interfering with a pump on the farm parcel. A hearing was scheduled for March 22 for the motion for a partial summary judgment, but the settlement occurred beforehand.

Reaction

For years, the environmental group Food and Water Watch has advocated against issuing a CAFO permit and reopening the dairy.

According to Oregon Public Broadcasting, Food and Water Watch Legal Director Tarah Heinzen said, "Oregon agencies should have denied the permit outright. This years-long fiasco shows that Oregon's environmental regulations are far too lax."

Environmental organizations have cited Lost Valley Farms and the Easterday purchase as the impetus for stricter regulations and Senate Bill (SB) 85.

Gov. Tina Kotek (D) recently signed SB 85 into law, which applies stricter rules for CAFOs by requiring a multistep process for water-quality permitting, including a water-supply plan for any new large-scale feeding operations, and forbids using drinking water for their livestock without a permit. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

LEGAL LEDGER

Daley testifies to Congress

Dr. Dave Daley, representing the California Cattlemen's Association, Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), testified before a House committee about the benefits of using grazing to control wildfires. In the House Natural Resources Committee's field hearing titled "Conservation in a Crown Jewel: A Discussion About Wildfires and Forest Management," Daley testified on the need for the government to look holistically at land management. "In the wake of historic wildfire seasons in recent years, even this state has taken note of the value livestock bring to wildfire resilience," Daley said. "Wildfire resilience practices such as livestock grazing work and confronted with the very real threat of worsening wildfire conditions, there ought to be bipartisan consensus endorsing these effective tools." He recommended Congress recognize that livestock grazing is an important tool for reducing wildfires, and that Congress utilize legislation to strengthen tools like grazing, prescribed fire, timber thinning and other practices. "Cattle producers are in a unique position to help reduce the threat of wildfire if the federal government only acknowledged their critical role and relied on their land management expertise," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane.

USFWS proposes listing kangaroo rat

After the Center for Biological Diversity filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the agency is proposing to protect the Texas kangaroo rat as an endangered species. The agency proposes to protect nearly 600,000 acres in Childress, Cottle, Hardeman, Wichita and Wilbarger counties in North Texas for critical habitat. The conservation group said the animals' habitat is threatened by agriculture, extermination of bison, large-scale eradication of prairie dogs and elimination of natural fires. "It shouldn't take 40 years for the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect an animal that's been losing habitat for more than a century," said Michael Robinson, a senior conservation advocate at the Center.

Lawsuit in favor of wolves stands

A federal judge will not dismiss a lawsuit brought against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), ruling the agency has failed to meet federal requirements for a nationwide gray wolf recovery plan. The Center for Biological Diversity filed suit against USFWS, claiming the agency does not meet the Endangered Species Act's requirements for a national recovery plan. "I hope this finally ends the Service's decades-long gerrymandering of wolf ranges in its attempt to prematurely remove wolves from the endangered species list," said Sophia Ressler, a staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The agency must live up to the reality of what science and the law demand. That means a comprehensive plan that addresses gray wolf recovery across the country." The judge's ruling does not impact wolves in Alaska, or the Northern Rocky Mountain population, along with certain populations in Oregon, Washington and Utah. The conservation group said they will "vigorously pursuing the remainder of this lawsuit."

UT monument designations upheld

A federal judge in Utah dismissed two lawsuits led by the state of Utah that attempted to overturn President Joe Biden's designation of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. District Judge David Nuffer ruled that the Antiquities Act gives the president broad authority to designate monuments, and the court cannot overrule the judgement. "We are thrilled with today's decision, which aligns with more than 100 years of similar court rulings that have rejected every challenge to presidential authority under the Antiquities Act to protect cultural, scientific, ecological and paleontological resources on public lands," said Steve Bloch, legal director with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

More aid for loan borrowers

USDA has announced it will provide additional assistance for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk. The funding is part of the $3.1 billion to help farm loan borrowers that was provided through the Inflation Reduction Act. "The financial assistance included in today's announcement will provide a fresh start for distressed borrowers with guaranteed farm loans and will give them the opportunity to generate long-term stability and success," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. A FLP borrower is considered eligible if they qualify for any of the following: outstanding delinquency on all loans as of Oct. 18, 2022; loan restructure that modified the guaranteed loan maturity date between March 2020 and Aug. 11, 2023; or deferral or other type of payment extension for 45 days or more. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/du4wmrme.

Understanding cow inventory to build a marketing strategy

Making a profit in the cattle business requires a long-term approach, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State)University's Beef Cattle Institue on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"Having a strategy to deal with fluctuating prices is much better than reacting; it is much like the stock market in that you don't want to buy in or buy out on a whim," said K-State veterinarian Brad White.

White's observation is related to the July USDA report that showed beef cow numbers at 29.4 million head, which is down 2.6% compared to the same time last year, and the cattle and calves total inventory at 95.9 million head, which is down 2.7% from the previous year.

"What I take from this report is that we haven't bottomed out yet with the inventory numbers because people are still liquidating the herd," said Dustin Pendell, K-State agricultural economist. "As the herds continue to shrink, cattle prices are going to stay high a little longer and possibly go a little bit higher."

From a cattle producer's perspective, there are choices to make. K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said, "As a producer, I may want to retain the four- to eight-year-old cows that are going to produce the best calves that I can sell into a market with high calf prices."

White agreed and added that heifers retained can contribute to the financial success of the herd, but it will take a longer period of time compared to cows

"Once we start saving heifers, it is a long-term investment because it takes months before they can contribute offspring to the herd," White said.

One factor that influences the liquidity of the cattle market is drought, Lancaster said.

"If you are in an area that has been getting rain, you may be able to keep extra heifers and cows that can add to the herd, but if you are experiencing drought then there will be feed costs that need to be accounted for in the decision to keep or sell," Lancaster said.

White called that knowing the "resource availability."

"If I have the resources available, I can be more selective about which females I keep and I can sell the ones I don't want at a reasonable price," White said.

Along with the production cycle, Pendell said the consumer demand also can influence cattle prices.

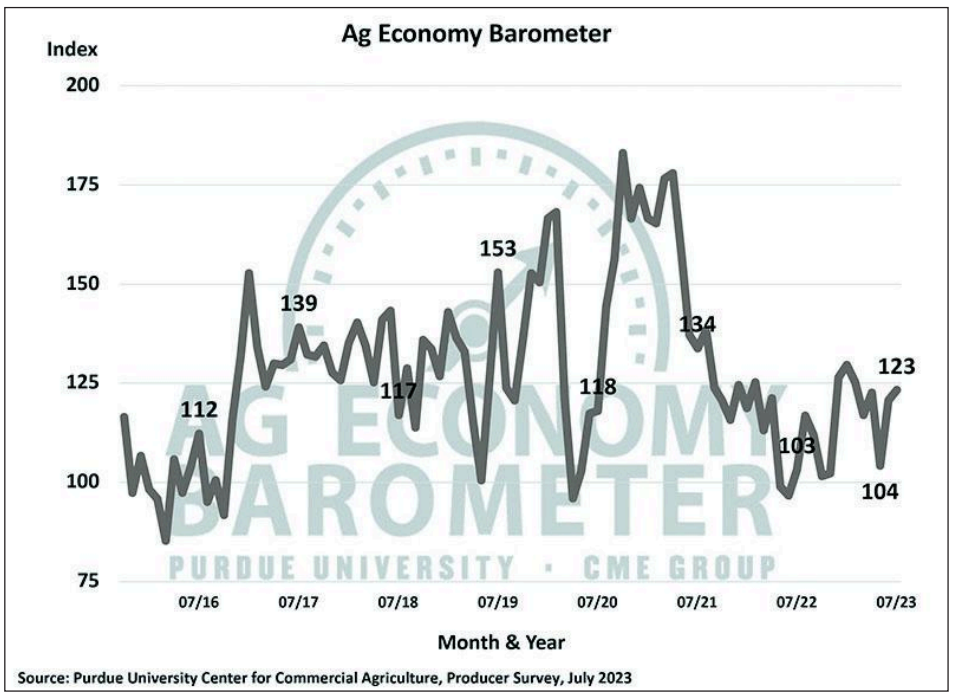
"We are starting to see that the consumer beef demand is softening as consumers were not willing to pay as much for their beef in June as they did in May," Pendell said. "Eventually that will translate down to cattle prices along with the influences of international trade."

The K-State experts agreed that producers need to think about the marketing opportunities for the long term.

"Every operation is going to be different depending on where you are located in respect to drought; prices are going to be high for the foreseeable future, so you need to figure out where those marketing opportunities are and then run with them," Pendell said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



Farmers remain cautiously optimistic about ag economy



Agricultural producer sentiment improved slightly in July as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index rose 2 points to a reading of 123. Farmers were also more optimistic about their perception of current conditions and future expectations on their farms. The Index of Current Conditions rose 5 points to a reading of 121, while the Index of Future Expectations was up one point to 124. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted July 10-14.

"Producers were slightly more confident about the farming economy in July, despite recent crop price volatility and continued concerns about rising interest rates," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The improvement in farmers' perspective on current conditions spilled over into a modest rise in July's Farm Capital Investment Index, up 3 points to a reading of 45. However, the index has greatly improved, up 14 points, since bottoming out in November 2022. Comparing July's responses to last fall's low point, the percentage of producers saying now is a good time for large investments has improved from 10% who felt that way in November to 17% in July. Additionally, the percentage of farmers who feel it's a bad time to invest was down from 79% who felt that way in November to 72% in July.

Surprisingly, the improvement in this month's investment index occurred despite a rise in the percentage of producers who expect interest rates to rise over the next year. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of producers in July said they expect interest rates to increase, up from 57% in June. Among those who indicated that now is a bad time to make large investments, their top reason was concern about rising interest rates.

Given the volatility in commodity prices, especially crop prices, this spring and early summer, it's notable that more producers expressed concern about rising interest rates than declining output prices. Producers' top concern for their farming operations in the upcoming year is still higher input costs (37% of respondents), followed by rising interest rates (24% of respondents) and lower output prices (19% of respondents).

Confidence among farmers regarding the future direction of farmland values continues, even as nearly two-thirds of survey respondents expect interest rates to rise over the next year. The Long-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index remained unchanged in July at a reading of 151 while the Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index declined just one point to 125. This month, corn and soybean producers were once again asked about their farmland cash rental rate expectations for 2024. Similar to last month, nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents expect rental rates to rise, compared to 2023, while just over 7 out of 10 (71%) of producers look for no change in rental rates.

Farmers' rating of financial conditions on their farms was virtually unchanged in July, as the Farm Financial Conditions Index rose just one point to a reading of 87. When asked to look ahead one year, there was a 1 percentage point increase in farmers expecting farm financial conditions to improve over the previous month and a 1-point decline in the percentage of farmers expecting conditions to worsen. Farmers' longer-term perspective on the U.S. agricultural economy did improve somewhat in July. The percentage of respondents expecting bad times in the upcoming five years fell 2 percentage points to 39% in July.

This month's survey included several questions about crop farmers' perspectives on cover crop usage. Nearly half (45%) of corn/soybean farmers in this month's survey indicated they currently use cover crops. This compares with responses from 2021 and 2022 barometer surveys, where a range between 41-57% of respondents reported planting cover crops. Among cover crop users, the two most commonly cited reasons for using cover crops were to improve soil health and erosion control (65% of July respondents), which is in line with prior barometer surveys in 2021 and 2022 when 58-70% of respondents said they chose soil health and erosion control as their motivation for using cover crops.

Those who indicated using cover crops were also asked to describe their experience. Four out of five (80%) farmers said it improved soil health and yields, while 15% of respondents said cover crops improved soil health but did not improve yields. In prior barometer surveys, a range of 74-84% of respondents said cover crops improved soil health and yields, while 9-18% of respondents said it improved soil health but did not improve yields. — **Purdue University Extension**



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. 28 – The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council 2024 public policy internship applications are now open. Applicants must be junior or senior undergraduate students, or graduate students, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be available for the duration of the internship in Washington, D.C. (January 2024-May 2024). A background in agriculture or the beef industry is preferred. Apply here: jobs.keldair.com/ncba/jobs/58192/public-policy-internship-spring-2024.

Aug. 31 – Those aspiring to start their own small-scale farm can now apply for a one-year apprenticeship through the Nevada Farm Apprenticeship Program being offered by the University of Nevada, Reno. The program is not just for university students, anyone can apply. Details: tinyurl.com/mry5bx3h.

Sept. 14-15 – The Red Angus Association of America has established the Elevate Collegiate Leadership Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the National Red Angus Convention in Denver, CO. Registration: redangus.org.

Sept. 22 – The National Cattlemen's Foundation is accepting applications for the annual W.D. Farr Scholarship program. Two $15,000 grants are awarded to graduate students who demonstrate superior achievement in academics and leadership and are committed to the advancement of the beef industry. Details: www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

Oct. 1 – Applications for the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) scholarships are being accepted now. Current CCA members that are currently enrolled at a university or college are eligible to apply. Details: calcattlemen.org/scholarships.

Oct. 6 – The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association Allied Industry Committee will be hosting college interns at the upcoming 2023 Joint Stockmen's Convention. To apply, visit www.nmagriculture.org, call 505-247-0584 or email nmcga20@gmail.com.

Should you retain ownership on your calf crop?

The Aug. 1 Oklahoma Market Report indicates 525-pound steer calves are currently worth $1,475/head, 861-lb. yearling steers are worth $2,040/head and with fed cattle worth $185/cwt, a 1,400-lb. finished steer has a live value of $2,600.

I have seen headlines recently of "Historically strong profit opportunities" and "Strong cattle prices." Recently, my colleague, Dr. Derrell Peel, predicted $4/lb. weaned calves, $3/lb. yearlings and $2/lb. fed cattle in the future. Overall, 2023 looks to be a very profitable year for all segments of the beef industry (cow-calf producers, stockers and feeders).

Low cattle inventories indicate high value of cattle of all classes for the next several years. Wow! This is great news, and it leads to the question: Is retained ownership right for your operation?

To a commercial cow-calf operation, retained ownership simply means holding onto your weaned calves and turning them into yearlings and/or fed cattle that will be marketed at a later date.

When all industry segments are profitable (which is rare), it makes economic sense to capture more value and profit potential from your calf crop through retained ownership. As is so often the case, your answer to this question should be based on answering several other questions and financial analysis of what's going on in your operation.

Consider the following:

• Can you afford to move a portion of your income into the next calendar year? Does your financial situation permit you to withstand the change in cash flow?

• Are you comfortable managing stocker calves? Does your schedule permit you the time to check on and treat calves during the high-risk time post-weaning?

• Does your operation have the potential for planting and establishing a cool season forage base to be used for grazing calves and turning them into yearlings to be marketed next spring? Is daily feeding of a growing ration an option?

• Does your inventory permit you to put together semi-load lots (approximately 50,000 lbs.) to economize the transportation cost to feedlots?

• Are you comfortable turning over management responsibility of your calves or yearlings to someone else? Cattle finishing is a highly specialized business. Even if you are capable of turning your weaned calf crop into yearlings, it is not practical for most cow-calf operations to run a finishing operation.

• What do you know about the post-weaning genetic potential of your calves? Have you collected the cost of gain, health, carcass weight, carcass quality or yield grade data from past calf crops needed to assess the profit potential of retained ownership? Are you willing to make the commitment to collecting this type of information to base your decisions on in the future?

— **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Proposal claims grazing threatens habitat

BUTTERFLY
(from page 1)

punctuated with dark lines.

According to the proposal, since 1998, the butterfly has been extirpated from 10 meadows due to development, and in 2020, only eight butterflies were detected in two of the meadows. The butterfly was listed as endangered on Jan. 31.

"The features essential to the conservation of this species may require special management considerations or protection to reduce the following threats: incompatible grazing by large ungulates, recreation, invasive and nonnative plants, climate change (i.e., drought, altered precipitation regime), and altered fire regime," the proposal states.

USFWS proposes erecting fencing, growing and transplanting nectar sources, managing invasive species, minimizing recreational use, and instituting fire management practices to protect the species and the habitat areas. Additionally, the agency proposes establishing new populations in suitable habitats through captive rearing and reintroduction or translocation.

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) praised USFWS' decision to designate critical habitat. The group petitioned USFWS to list the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly as endangered in 1999, 2007 and most recently, in 2021.

"These beautiful and irreplaceable butterflies are barely clinging to existence because of bad decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," said Michael Robinson, senior conservation advocate at CBD. "I'm so glad they're finally getting protection for their habitat. I hope it's not too late."

Comments can be made through Oct. 10 either electronically through www.regulations.gov by searching for FWS-R2-ES-2023-0023, or hard copy to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2023-0023, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

RODEO STANDINGS

PRCA August 2023 world standings

The top five contestants and earnings are listed as provided on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) website, www.prorodeo.com, as of Aug. 17.

All Around

1. Stetson Wright, $318,605.62, Milford, UT. **2.** Nelson Wyatt, $130,291.76, Clanton, AL. **3.** Brushton Minton, $122,210.76, Witter Springs, CA. **4.** Paden Bray, $96,573.85, Stephenville, TX. **5.** Paul David Tierney, $94,268.19, Oklahoma City, OK.

Bareback Riding

1. Keenan Hayes, $207,329.45, Hayden, CO. **2.** Leighton Berry, $144,965.23, Weatherford, TX. **3.** Kade Sonnier, $133,137.23, Carencro, LA. **4.** Tim O'Connell, $129,864.69, Zwingle, IA. **5.** Cole Reiner, $127,010.46, Buffalo, WY.

Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Sage Newman, $194,964.07, Melstone, MT. **2.** Zeke Thurston, $180,417.43, Big Valley, AB. **3.** Stetson Wright, $171,174.21, Milford, UT. **4.** Kade Bruno, $154,110.74, Challis, ID. **5.** Ben Andersen, $143,737.88, Eckville, AB.

Bull Riding

1. Stetson Wright, $223,861.05, Milford, UT. **2.** Josh Frost, $192,702.70, Randlett, UT. **3.** Ky Hamilton, $192,106.13, Mackay, QL. **4.** Tristen Hutchings, $147,864.06, Monteview, ID. **5.** Sage Kimzey, $142,738.74, Salado, TX.

Steer Wrestling

1. Dalton Masse, $158,955.54, Hermiston, OR. **2.** Jesse Brown, $121,090.38, Baker City, OR. **3.** Tyler Waguespack, $112,252.00, Gonzales, LA. **4.** Will Lummus, $100,763.57, Byhalia, MS. **5.** Ty Erickson, $97,295.50, Helena, MT.

Team Roping (Headers)

1. Dustin Egusquiza, $127,823.96, Marianna, FL. **2.** Kaleb Driggers, $127,023.17, Hoboken, GA. **3.** Nelson Wyatt, $126,013.60, Clanton, AL. **4.** Rhen Richard, $111,767.79, Roosevelt, UT. **5.** Andrew Ward, $102,937.55, Edmond, OK.

Team Roping (Heelers)

1. Levi Lord, $127,823.96, Sturgis, SD. **2.** Junior Nunes Nogueira, $127,023.17, Presidente Prudente, SP. **3.** Jeremy Buhler, $111,767.79, Arrowwood, AB. **4.** Buddy Hawkins, $102,937.55, Stephenville, TX. **5.** Wesley Thorp, $97,499.63, Throckmorton, TX.

Tie-Down Roping

1. Riley Webb, $218,399.91, Denton, TX. **2.** Haven Meged, $148,303.81, Miles City, MT. **3.** Shad Mayfield, $126,113.12, Clovis, NM. **4.** Ty Harris, $125,529.15, San Angelo, TX. **5.** Shane Hanchey, $122,558.37, Sulphur, LA.

Steer Roping

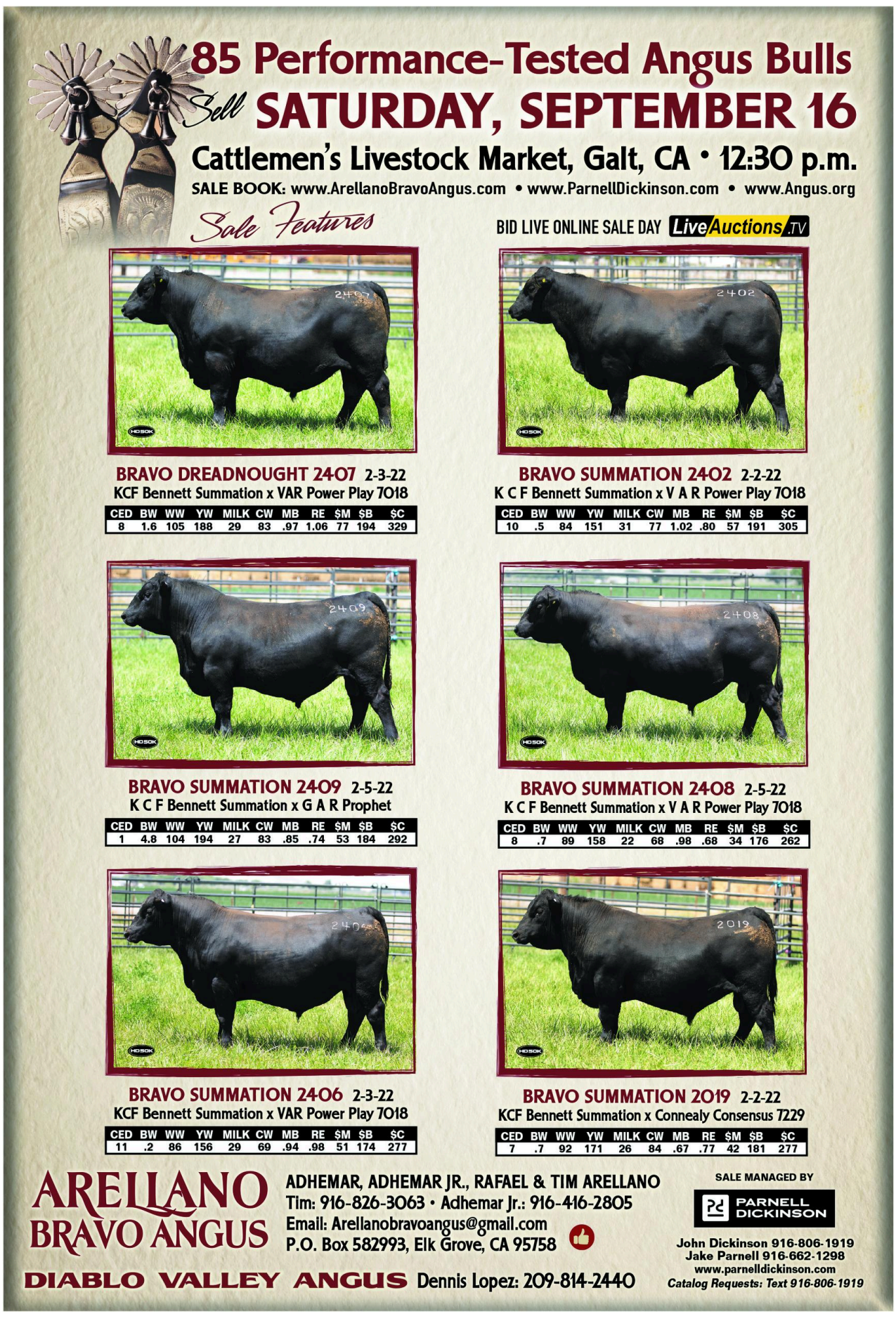
1. Cole Patterson, $98,410.65, Pratt, KS. **2.** Cody Lee, $76,680.96, Gatesville, TX. **3.** Scott Snedecor, $74,951.71, Fredericksburg, TX. **4.** Slade Wood, $61,499.22, New Ulm, TX. **5.** Jess Tierney, $61,159.43, Hermosa, SD.

Barrel Racing

1. Brittany Pozzi Tonozzi, $192,749.56, Lampasas, TX. **2.** Jordon Briggs, $141,353.67, Tolar, TX. **3.** Kassie Mowry, $130,029.01, Dublin, TX. **4.** Lisa Lockhart, $115,844.53, Oelrichs, SD. **5.** Taycie Matthews, $101,790.90, Wynne, AR.

Breakaway Roping

1. Hali Williams, $121,803.63, Comanche, TX. **2.** Shelby Boisjoli, $114,179.51, Stephenville, TX. **3.** Martha Angelone, $92,928.40, Stephenville, TX. **4.** Sarah Angelone, $91,729.42, Lipan, TX. **5.** Taylor Munsell, $91,349.47, Alva, OK.



CLASSIFIED CORRAL

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

WWW.WLJ.NET 303-722-7600 1-303-722-0155 CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVERTISING RATES

BY THE WORD: 90 cents per word for each insertion.

MINIMUM WORD RATE: 17 words or fewer, $15.30 one time.

MAD RATES: (Bold headline) $2 more per insertion for your phone number, email and/or website, plus first 2 or 3 words in bold print. (Applies to word ads only)

BOXED AND BOLD: (Boxed with bold text) $5 more per insertion. (Applies to word ads only)

BLIND BOX AD: We will assign your confidential number and forward replies to you. **Cost is $12 per 3 issues** for mail and handling service.

BOXED DISPLAY ADS: $30 per column inch for each insertion.

MINIMAL ARTWORK: No additional charge.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO: $10, LIMIT OF ONE.

COLOR PHOTO: $35 EACH.

DISCOUNTS: 5% for running your ad 3 to 5 times; 10% for 6 times or more; up to 35% for 52 times.

SUGGESTION FOR CORRECT WORD COUNT: Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in the count, as well as all initials and abbreviations. Hyphenated words count as two.

TEARSHEETS: Available upon request only. Can be faxed or mailed.

CONDITIONS

EMPLOYMENT WANTED ADS: Must be paid in advance.

DEADLINE: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. MT, the week prior to publication date. Newspaper is published on Mondays.

LIABILITY: Advertiser is liable for content of advertisement and any claims arising therefrom made against the publication.

Publisher is not responsible for errors in phoned-in copy. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with the publication standards.

COMMISSIONS: Classified advertising is NOT agency commissionable.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

1 ..... Employment Wanted
2 ..... Help Wanted
3 ..... Situations Wanted
4 ..... Distributors Wanted
5 ..... Appraisers
6 ..... Auctions
7 ..... Auctioneers
8 ..... Feedlots
9 ..... Lost Cattle
10 ..... Cattle for Sale
11 ..... Cattle Wanted
12 ..... AI/Semen/Embryos
13 ..... Brands
14 ..... Dogs for Sale
15 ..... Horses/Mules
16 ..... Bison/Buffalo
17 ..... Sheep/Goats/Hogs
18 ..... Livestock Supplies
19 ..... Ranch/Livestock Services
20 ..... Real Estate Opportunities
20A ..... Pacific Real Estate For Sale
20B . Intermountain Real Estate For Sale
20C ..... Mountain Real Estate For Sale
20D .... Southwest Real Estate For Sale
20E ..... Plains Real Estate For Sale
20F ..... Midwest Real Estate For Sale
20G ..... Southeast Real Estate For Sale
20H ..... Northeast Real Estate For Sale
20I ..... Foreign Real Estate For Sale
21 ..... Real Estate Wanted
22 ... Real Estate Rent/Lease/Trade
23 ..... Pasture Available
24 ..... Pasture Wanted
25 ..... Mineral Rights
26 ..... Hay/Feed/Seed
27 ..... Irrigation
28 ..... Ag/Industrial Supplies
29 ..... Fencing/Corrals
30 ..... Equipment For Sale
31 ..... Equipment Wanted
32 ..... Building Materials
33 ..... Trucks/Trailers
34 ..... Tractors/Implements
35 ..... Business Opportunity
36 ..... Loans
37 ..... Insurance
38 ..... Financial Assistance
39 ..... Tech/Books/Art/Etc.
40 ..... Miscellaneous
41 ..... Lost/Found
42 ..... Personal
43 ..... Schools
44 ..... Auctioneering Schools

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

1-800-850-2769 • Fax: 303-722-0155
www.wlj.net • classified@wlj.net

DO NOT PHONE IN RESPONSES TO BLIND BOX ADS. ADVERTISERS' NAMES AND LOCATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. INCLUDE THE AD DEPARTMENT NUMBER IN YOUR EMAIL RESPONSE OR ON YOUR ENVELOPE AND YOUR REPLY WILL BE PROMPTLY FORWARDED.

VISA DISCOVER NOVUS American Express Cards MasterCard

2 FOR 1 PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, SEE IT IN PRINT & ONLINE

CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!
www.wlj.net

Call & schedule your classified ad today!
800-850-2769

classified@wlj.net
303-722-0155 Fax

Help Wanted 2

Serving Ag Personnel for 63 Years
GET TOP DOLLAR!!!
Hansen Agri-PLACEMENT
RANCH DIRECTOR (UT)..... $130K±
FEEDYARD CATTLE FOREMAN (TX)..... $120K±
COWHERD ASSISTANT (NE)..... $60K±
Call Eric 308/382-7351
www.hansenagriplacement.com

Cattle For Sale 10

FOR SALE
120 FI BWF 18-24 month old, ready to breed heifers.
See: wiedemannranch.com or call 925-980-2684



PRATT FARMS
GRAY BRAHMANS
GENTLE AMERICAN BEEF TYPE GRAY BRAHMANS
Loren Pratt
520-709-1554
44996 W. Papago Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139

Livestock Supplies 18

POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.
Best prices with delivery available.
Conlin Supply Co., Inc.
Oakdale, CA
Ask for Larry or Albert
209/847-8977

Real Estate Pacific 20A

KNIPE LAND COMPANY EST 1944
BIG PRICE REDUCTION!
Elkhorn Timber Ranch - OR
1,569± acres in the Elkhorn Mountains with several year-round springs, Pine Creek traversing for 2 1/2 miles, public lands on 3 sides, and excellent hunting. 12± miles to Baker City, just over 2 hours to Boise. Was ~~$3,947,000~~. **Now $2,495,000**
Buying or Selling? Call today!
(208) 345-3163 • knipeland.com

Irrigation 27



Equipment For Sale 30

Central Boiler Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE.
Easy to operate and maintain.
Call today (307) 223-2046.
LODGEPOLE OUTDOOR FURNACES.

NEED EXTRA INCOME?
Advertise a hunting or fishing lease!
CALL NOW!
800-850-2769

Real Estate Opportunities 20

HALL AND HALL®
SALES | AUCTIONS
FINANCE | MANAGEMENT
Dedicated to Land and Landowners Since 1946

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RANCH
SIDNEY, MONTANA
Located five miles from Sidney, this 2,685± acre ranch features quality grazing and hunting with limited improvements to maintain. The bulk of this ranch is native range and brushy coulees. Convenient to livestock markets, fishing, and waterfowl hunting.
OFFERED AT $2,200,000
Contact: Wes Oja | wes@hallandhall.com
WWW.HALLANDHALL.COM | INFO@HALLANDHALL.COM | 406.656.7500


720-379-8275

Subscribe to WLJ today!
Phone in your order

Real Estate Southwest 20D

Scott Land Company, LLC
RANCH & FARM REAL ESTATE
We need your listings on any types of ag properties in TX, NM, OK & CO.

NEW LISTING! GUADALUPE CO., NM – Enjoy ranch life on this 401.38 ac. ranch, 12 mi. W of Santa Rosa. Good location and access. One windmill, pipeline to four drinking troughs, comfortable rustic home, good fences, etc.

DUMAS, TX. – Commercial building currently set up as fitness facility w/large workout area, two bathrooms/showers and an office. The property is a newer building with an excellent location on busy First Street in Dumas, Texas. Lease: $13.00/sq ft as of June 1, 2023 for a total of $4,881.50 per month / Triple Net Lease - Term: 5 year lease with 3 remaining years and option for an additional 5 years.

PECOS CO., TX. – 637 ac., Big water, State Classified Minerals.

www.scottlandcompany.com · 800-933-9698 day/eve
Ben G. Scott – Broker · Krystal M. Nelson – NM QB

RANCH HORSE FOR SALE?
EQUIPMENT?
LOOKING FOR A HIRED HAND?
JUST HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

Place a classified!

Listed online and in the weekly issue of *WLJ*, your ad is sure to get results!

Call 720-370-7977
or visit *wlj.net/classifieds*



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

Sep. 8 — Montana Livestock Auction, Cream of the Crop Sale, Ramsay, MT
Sep. 11 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Regular & Small Animal Sale, Madras, OR
Sep. 12 — Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Feeder Sale, Turlock, CA
Sep. 17 — Visalia Livestock, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
Sep. 18 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Sep. 22 — Montana Livestock Auction, Cream of the Crop II Sale, Ramsay, MT
Sep. 26 — Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Feeder Sale, Turlock, CA
Sep. 30 — Turlock Livestock, All Breeds Bull Sale, Turlock, CA
Oct. 1 — Cal Poly Bull Test Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA
Oct. 2 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Feeder Sale, Madras, OR
Oct. 7 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Aromas, CA
Oct. 14 — FAMOSO All Breeds Bull Sale, Famoso, CA
Nov. 4 — World of Bulls Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Nov. 11 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Nov. 20 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Female Sale, Madras, OR
Jan. 11, 2024— Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS

Sep. 1 — Byrd Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Los Molinos, CA
Sep. 7 — Vintage Angus, Bull Sale, LaGrange, CA
Sep. 8 — Dixie Valley Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Sep. 9 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Farmington, CA
Sep. 10 — Heritage Bull Sale, Wilton, CA
Sep. 12 — O'Neal Ranch, Bull Sale, Madera, CA
Sep. 13 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Pismo, CA
Sep. 14 — Donati Ranch Bull Sale with O'Connell Ranch, Oroville, CA
Sep. 15 — Tehama Angus, Bull Sale, Gerber, CA
Sep. 16 — Arellano Bravo Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Sep. 17 — Bar KJ Angus, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
Sep. 18 — Rhoades Angus, Bull Sale, Cambria, CA
Sep. 20 — Bulls Eye Breeders Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
Sep. 21 — Rancho Casino/ Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Denair, CA
Sep. 24 — Traynham Ranches, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Klamath, OR
Sep. 26 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Sep. 27 — Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Sep. 28 — Beef Solutions Bull Sale, Ione, CA
Sep. 29 — Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ideal, SD
Sep. 29-30 — NextGen Cattle Co., Production Sale, Paxico, KS
Oct. 7 — Colyer Herefords & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 7 — EZ Angus, Female Sale, Porterville, CA
Oct. 8 — Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA
Oct. 10 — 9 Peaks Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Rock, OR
Oct. 19 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Baker City, OR
Oct. 21 — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Randolph, KS
Oct. 21 — Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Oct. 27 — Birch Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Ruby Valley, NV
Oct. 28 — 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Oct. 28 — California Angus Days Female Sale, Modesto, CA
Nov. 2 — Stokrose Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Moses Lake, WA
Nov. 10 — TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, ND
Nov. 11 — HD Dunn Angus, Bull Sale, Tetonia, ID
Nov. 14 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Nov. 14 — Skinner Ranch, Female Sale, Ramsay, MT
Nov. 16 — JR Ranch, Female Sale, Othello, WA
Nov. 18 — TLC Ranch & Sugar Top Angus, Bull Sale, Jerome, ID
Nov. 27 — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Dec. 2 — Hollow Top Angus, Angus Bull Sale, Ramsay, MT
Dec. 2 — Reverse Rocking R, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 5 — Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Feb. 17, 2024 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Feb. 19, 2024 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Mar. 14, 2024 — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 21, 2024 — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID

BEEFMASTER

Sep. 29-30 — NextGen Cattle Co., Production Sale, Paxico, KS

CHAROLAIS

Sep. 29-30 — NextGen Cattle Co., Production Sale, Paxico, KS
Oct. 21 — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Randolph, KS
Mar. 12, 2024 — Romans Ranches Charolais, Production Sale, Westfall, OR

HEREFORD

Sep. 7 — Sierra Ranches, Bull Sale at Vintage Angus Ranch, La Grange, CA
Sep. 11 — Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV
Sep. 14 — Holden Herefords, Female Sale, Valier, MT
Sep. 16 — Ehlke Herefords, Female Sale, Townsend, MT
Sep. 20 — Bulls Eye Breeders Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
Oct. 7 — Colyer Herefords & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 21 — Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Dec. 1 — Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

RED ANGUS

Sep. 23 — McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA
Sep. 24 — Stegall Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Colusa, CA
Sep. 27 — Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Nov. 4 — Bet on Red Sale, Reno, NV
Nov. 13 — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bred Heifer Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

SIMANGUS

Sep. 20 — Bulls Eye Breeders Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
Sep. 24 — Traynham Ranches, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Klamath, OR
Sep. 24 — Stegall Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Colusa, CA
Sep. 27 — Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Sep. 28 — Beef Solutions Bull Sale, Ione, CA
Oct. 14 — Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Nov. 18 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT

STABILIZER

Oct. 14 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Ozark, AR
Oct. 28 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Dinuba, CA
Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Wytheville, VA
Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Gering, NE
Dec. 2 — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 17 — Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 27 — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID

HORSE

Sep. 16 — Weaver Quarter Horses, Great Falls, MT
Oct. 5 — Jamison Ranch Quarter Horse Sale, Quinter, KS
Oct. 13-14 — Fall Round Up Horse Sale, Heber City, UT
Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA

DOG

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA



Fill the seats BY REACHING MORE POTENTIAL BUYERS!

WORK WITH A *WLJ* FIELD REP & LEARN HOW TO UTILIZE PRINT & DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO REACH MORE BUYERS!


LOGAN IPSEN
PRESIDENT
TX, AZ, NATIONAL
916-947-2392
logan@wlj.net


DEVIN MURNIN
DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICES
MT, N. WY, MN, ND
406-696-1502
devin@wlj.net


JARED PATTERSON
FIELD REP
CA, NV, UT, OR, WA, ID
208-312-2386
jared@wlj.net


TY GROSHANS
FIELD REP
CO, NM, NE, KS, S. WY
970-818-6016
ty@wlj.net

Western Livestock Journal
WWW.WLJ.NET

World Class
FEMALE SALE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023



OFFERING OVER 125
WORLD CLASS LOTS
INCLUDING 1 BULL, 20 OPENS, 50 BREDS,
55 COWS, 3 FLUSHES + EMBRYOS & SEMEN!

FIVE IMPRESSIVE 7098 DAUGHTERS SELL!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM OR VISIT
CHURCHILLCATTLE.COM

DALE & NANCY VENHUIZEN • CELL: 406-580-6421 • HOME: 406-284-6421
CHURCHILLCATTLE@GMAIL.COM • 1862 YADON RD. MANHATTAN, MT 59741

VINTAGE ANGUS RANCH

30th Annual 'Carcass Maker' Bull Sale

200+ MULTI-TRAIT EXCELLENCE BULLS



V A R All Power 2107 • Reg 20294816
Sire - Baldridge Alternative E125 •
MGS - V A R Power Play 7018

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA
8	3	93	166	0.61	12.6	98	0.94	1.3

$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
39	63	156	78	233	341



V A R Day One 2001 • Reg 20295670
Sire - T/D Doc Ryan 049 • MGS - V A R Power Play 7018

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA
4	2.2	90	148	0.96	11.7	75	1.49	0.86

$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
86	86	113	98	211	360



200+ Real World Bulls Sell

Look for Sierra Ranches Quest Consignment of 20 Hereford Bulls

SAMPLE OF 50+ FALL YEARLINGS SELLING

V A R Dynamic 2667 • Lot 202 • Reg 20518405
Sire - GB Fireball 672 • MGS - Vintage Commander 4152

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
15	0.1	89	157	2.23	12.7	76	1.75	1.03	67	82	115	114	230	365

V A R Remarkable 2617• Lot 204 • Reg 20434271
Sire - Beal Breakthrough • MGS - Connealy Onward

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
10	1.6	88	150	1.71	14.6	84	1.05	1.21	93	87	118	80	199	351

V A R Veracious 2589 • Lot 233 • Reg 20435186
Sire - HPCA Veracious • MGS - BUBS Southern Charm AA31

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
10	-0.8	69	123	1.24	17.8	69	1.37	1.32	90	78	113	97	210	362

V A R Iconic 2679 • Lot 243 • Reg 20524912
Sire - DB Iconic G95 • MGS - Connealy Confidence Plus

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
7	0.5	90	160	0.53	10.2	82	1.55	0.58	68	85	121	94	215	347

V A R Fireball 2643• Lot 203 • Reg 20433086
Sire - GB Fireball 672 • MGS - V A R Signal 7244

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW	Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
9	1.9	86	151	2	14.6	77	1.52	1.13	67	69	123	104	227	361



V A R Doc Ryan 2384 • Reg 20334799
Sire - T/D Doc Ryan 049
MGS - Connealy Confidence Plus

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW
11	-0.2	83	145	1.03	11.6	70

Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
1.05	1.21	83	80	119	81	200	342



V A R Huckleberry 2118 • Reg 20294824
Sire -DV A R Huckleberry 871
MGS - V A R Discovery 2240

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW
5	2.7	80	140	0.73	15.8	67

Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
1.22	1.08	81	65	114	89	203	344



V A R Glide 2356 • Reg 20320342
Sire - DB Iconic G95 • MGS
Connealy All Around

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW
6	0.6	91	156	0.41	12.8	75

Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
1.22	0.69	51	83	119	83	202	313



V A R Harvest 2494 • Reg 20348165
Sire - T/D Doc Ryan 049
MGS - Bar R Jet Black 5063

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	CW
7	1.8	85	158	0.43	13.5	89

Marb	REA	$M	$W	$F	$G	$B	$C
1.11	0.89	69	81	132	79	211	343

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 LA GRANGE, CA — NOON

SUPERIOR Productions

Join us September 1st as we offer a real-world set of bulls that will add volume & muscle!

Call, email, or visit us online to receive a Sale Book!

Vintage Angus Ranch VAR

Jim Coleman, Owner
Doug Worthington, Manager
Brad Worthington, Operations
Mike Hall, Bull Services: 805-748-4717

2702 Scenic Bend, Modesto, CA 96355
Office: 209-521-0537
www.vintageangusranch.com
office@vintageangusranch.com