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INSIDE WLJ

FALL PROPERTIES, SECTION 2

The fall edition of Properties Ranch and Farm magazine is finally here! If your magazine is missing from this issue, call 720-370-8275 for a replacement.

BISON PLAN ON THE HORIZON — Yellowstone National Park is seeking comment on long-awaited management plan for bison in and around the park. Page 13

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

With a year left before World War II would come to an end, the livestock industry in 1944 was prepping for aftereffects that would remain long after the last white flag waved. "The effects of war on livestock economy will continue for a long time after the war is over, and so studies to determine what type of rations will produce the most wartime meat are just as vital today as they were a year ago. Perhaps they are more so, because feed reserves have shrunk. Careful trials will be reviewed and the facts that have been gleaned from them will highlight the second annual Livestock Feeders' Day, to be held at State College of Washington October 6," read the September 1944 issue of WLJ.

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EPA updates WOTUS to align with SCOTUS ruling

— A "sigh of relief" for ag

The long-awaited decision of what to do with the Waters of the U.S.

(WOTUS) rule has arrived in agriculture's favor. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Army announced

on Aug. 29 that it would amend the 2023 definition of WOTUS to be consistent with the Supreme Court's ruling in Sackett v. EPA.

This includes removing the "significant nexus" test as a determinant for identifying tributaries and other waters as federally protected. In addition, the rule revises the adjacency test when identifying protected wetlands, clarifies that interstate wetlands do not fall within the interstate waters category, and clarifies what can be considered under the "additional waters" category.

"While I am disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision in the Sackett case, EPA and Army have an obligation to apply this decision alongside our state co-regulators, Tribes and partners," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan in a statement. "We've moved quickly to finalize amendments to the definition of 'waters of the United States' to provide a clear path forward that adheres to the Supreme Court's ruling."

The Supreme Court issued a decision on May 25 in the case Sackett v. EPA, narrowing EPA's authority to regulate wetlands under the Clean Water Act and killing the significant nexus test. The case stemmed from a years-long battle between Michael and Chantell Sackett of Idaho and the federal government, and the



Krista Lundgren/USFWS

EPA and the Department of Army have finalized a rule for revising the definition of WOTUS. Pictured here, cattle graze native prairie pasture in McIntosh County, ND.

See WOTUS on page 11

Enviros attempt to halt JBS from securing IPO

— Letter sent to SEC

A coalition of environmental groups is asking the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to halt the initial public offering (IPO) of JBS S.A. on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) over concerns about the meatpacker's governance and climate concerns.

JBS applied on July 12 to list the company's shares on both the São Paulo Stock Exchange and the NYSE.

Mighty Earth and Rainforest Action Network (RAN) have filed separate complaints alleging the contesting statements made by JBS on their IPO application are inaccurate regarding the company's impact on deforestation, conflicts with the Indigenous population in the Amazon, greenwashing and previous allegations of bribery and corruption.

See IPO on page 3

"This is probably the single most important IPO for the climate in history," Glenn Hurowitz, CEO of Mighty Earth, said. "There are profound implications for the planet if JBS, the world's worst Amazon deforester, is given the go ahead to seek billions of dollars from Wall Street to continue tearing down rainforest, polluting on a vast scale and driving land-grabbing."

Some concerns brought by both groups include:

- Misleading statements regarding JBS' negative climate impacts, with no mention of methane emissions, which compare to an estimated 55% of U.S. livestock methane emissions.

- JBS will restructure the business to a new entity in the Netherlands, JBS NV, creating a risk for minority shareholders and increasing voting power to the JBS

Feds give Mexican gray wolves more protections

— Stricter set of standards

New guidelines may make it more difficult to fault Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest for livestock depredations.

USDA's Wildlife Services has released a new set of standards for attributing livestock deaths in Arizona and New Mexico to Mexican gray wolves. Conservation groups have rallied for stricter standards to ensure the wolves aren't "unfairly blamed for depredations they didn't commit."

The new guidelines require evidence that livestock were alive during wolf encounters, such as subcutaneous hemorrhaging and underlying tissue damage, and additional indicators of wolf involvement.

"The over-reported incidence of wolf involvement in cattle deaths in

the Southwest has had negative impacts on the wolf recovery program, including the killing and capture of wild wolves," claimed Greta Anderson, deputy director of Western Watersheds Project in a statement. "We're hoping the new standards help prevent that from happening again."

Wildlife Services says subcutaneous hemorrhaging is the best physical evidence available to field investigators to directly associate depredation by a carnivore. A carnivore attack will cause heavy or uncontrolled bleeding from the blood vessels under the skin layer and/or in the muscle tissue, the agency said. The hemorrhaging is found only if the skin and damage tissue occurred while the animal was still alive. Animals that die from other causes typically do not show external or subcutaneous bleeding,

according to Wildlife Services.

Bite mark measurements and other physical evidence can also help distinguish Mexican wolves from other carnivores, as all four canines should be present in a set of bite marks due to the general size of the wolf's mouth.

Other physical observations include chewed and broken large bones, tracks and scat, significant damage to underlying muscle, attacks on the hindquarters and flanks, and multiple kills in one event, among others.

Determination categories

The updated standards have separate requirements in determination

See WOLVES on page 12

Market trades mostly flat ahead of Labor Day

The market traded mostly sideways ahead of the three-day weekend. Boxed beef prices trended lower in advance of the grilling holiday, and slaughter volumes picked up in anticipation.

Live cattle futures traded sideways over the week. The August contract expired on Thursday and lost 13 cents to close at \$179.72, and the October contract gained 10 cents to close at \$180.82.

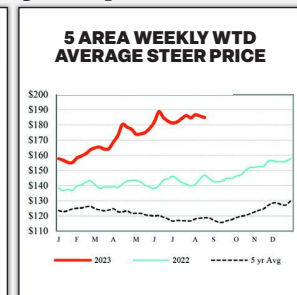
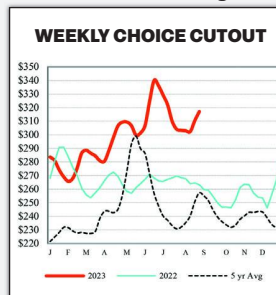
Cash trade through Thursday afternoon totaled about 45,000 head. Live steers sold from \$178-185, averaging \$181. Dressed steers sold from \$288-294, averaging \$290.

"With packers unable to buy a plethora of cattle in last week's negotiated cash cattle trade, it's likely that they'll have to engaged in this week's market more than they'd ideally like to," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade for the week ending Aug. 27 totaled 68,899 head. Live steers averaged \$183.26, and dressed steers averaged \$293.01.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Aug. 21-28 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$183.52.
 - Formula net purchases: \$186.77.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$184.03.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$185.27.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$293.22.
 - Formula net purchases: \$293.90.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$271.83.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$296.92.



Slaughter through Thursday was projected at 499,000 head, compared to the same

See MARKETS on page 9

LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$184.77	\$290.82	\$248.95
WEEK ENDING: 8-31-23		

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Send fresh horses!

Do you ever feel like we are under assault in the rural West? It's pretty clear to me that the Biden administration feels it can do anything they want on public lands, and in some cases, private lands.



CROW

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actually listened to the Supreme Court and put the Waters of the U.S. issue to bed with their Sackett v. EPA decision. The court is trying to set guardrails for the administration and its radical agencies to follow—will they?

The Interior department is run by a Native American, Deb Haaland, who has a radical activist background, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is headed by Tracy Stone-Manning, who certainly has a radical activist environmentalist background. These agencies have the potential to destroy multiple uses on federal lands. Nothing is done in the Biden administration without climate change being its first consideration.

For instance, the multimillion-acre national monuments that have been created to placate Tribes and environmentalists are out of control, especially when you consider the mineral needs of the green energy boom. Those areas may seem small on the map to Washington D.C. bureaucrats, but it's hurting families and counties—but then again it will get him the Native American and enviro votes.

Another is the proposed conservation rule that would give conservation an equal footing under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which the BLM required to manage grazing, timber, mining, wildlife habitat and recreation equally. I have not heard exactly how they are going to use conservation yet. Not having a clear definition is dangerous and all resource users should be concerned. I'm sure you feel as I do: It's hard to trust the government. They don't really want to follow the Administrative Procedure Act, and rule by presidential decree.

Grazing on public lands has been under the gun for a long time, but we have a good story to tell in landscape management. All the enviro groups have been getting involved and suing the agencies for not using the right science, which is always the environmental groups' science, never mind traditional use. The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) seems to be involved in every environmental issue around the world. The CBD recently filed a suit against the U.S. Forest Service to curtail grazing on the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona, saying the agency was protecting cattle grazing over other endangered species. We'll see what the courts say.

Montanans may get some relief from the aggressive American Prairie, which has been buying up ranches in east central Montana and asking the BLM to allow bison grazing on several allotments. There has been a lot of outside money behind American Prairie, and where there is money there are politics behind it.

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, who is the state's chief legal officer, filed an appeal recently calling on the federal appeals board to overturn the BLM's July 28, 2022, notice of final decision authorizing American Prairie a general permit to graze in several allotments in northeastern Montana. The final decision violates several federal laws: the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedures Act.

Knudsen said in a press release, "The BLM's final decision granting a general use permit to graze bison is a direct attack on rural communities—attacks that have become a hallmark of the Biden administration. The BLM has bent over backward to circumvent the law and approve (American Prairie's) plan to turn hundreds of thousands of acres of productive ranch land into a nature preserve for the wealthy."

He continued, "From shutting out Montana ranchers during the comment period, proposing to copy and paste directly from (American Prairie's) website, and ignoring federal law and its own regulations, it's clear Biden's BLM intended to rubber stamp this proposal from the start—no matter the impact on and opposition from local communities. The appeals board should step in, set aside the decision, and force the agency to follow the law." Again, there was little local input, and the Administrative Procedures Act was bypassed.

The list of threats to public land users goes on and on. The Biden administration is attempting to run roughshod over western resource users in the West. If it's a solar farm on public land, it's OK, if it's a grazing issue, the administration doesn't seem to care. If you're in the way of a climate change issue this administration will run over your rights. The political elite are trying to run the country and stepping on a lot of your rights. What we really need are some fresh horses in government. — **PETE CROW**

KAY'S KORNER



The U.S. beef cow herd shows no signs yet of heifer retention or expansion, as analysts have written in recent weeks. The reasons for this are numerous, but key factors include continuing drought and economic drivers such as high input costs, interest rates and financial recovery.

Production costs for livestock producers rose sharply in 2022 compared to 2021, says a new report from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Feed costs were up 18.5% from 2021, other farm service costs rose 10.8%, while livestock, poultry and related other expenses were up 10.1%. Labor costs were up 9.2%. Livestock farms saw expenses increase by 18.5% in 2022 to \$219 billion. The average total expense for a livestock farm was \$200,359, says NASS, as reported by *WLJ*.

This surge in on-farm expenses has undoubtedly made producers wary about expanding their herds. USDA's midyear cattle inventory report confirmed that cattle numbers continue to get smaller and there is no significant indication of herd rebuilding so far, said Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension. Despite sharply higher cattle prices this year, there is no data to suggest heifer retention or enough decrease in beef cow slaughter to initiate herd expansion. The process thus far is considerably slower than the herd expansion after the drought in 2011-13 pushed cattle inventories to a cyclical low in 2014, he said.

Yet no less than 10 entities or individuals have announced plans to build new beef processing plants in the U.S. I sure hope they are looking at the current and future size of the U.S. beef herd and how much processing capacity the industry currently has.

Should they do so with an open mind, they might decide to shelve their plans and save their investors a lot of money. For the industry has an overcapacity issue, which will only worsen in the next two or three years. The decline in the beef herd that began in 2019 shows no sign of abating. Cattle numbers are unlikely to start increasing until late next year at the earliest. When that begins, the number of cattle in feedlots and going to fed beef processors will get even tighter for a year or more until they expand again.

This likely scenario has beef processors increasingly concerned about their ability to make money for the next two years and the impact on beef demand if they force beef

prices higher. Tyson Foods' beef business eked out a small profit in the second quarter. JBS Beef North America had a similarly small profit in the same quarter. JBS management told analysts that the outlook for beef in the U.S. is "not going to improve soon" and this is likely to leave beef processors with unused capacity.

There is no doubt that cattle supplies will remain tight in 2024 and no doubt that companies will operate using less capacity, said JBS Global President of Operations Wesley Batista Filho. Profit margins at JBS' North American beef operation will remain at "low single-digit" levels, with ranchers expected to withhold females as part of efforts to replenish the herd, he told analysts.

The catastrophic drought from 2010-12 led to the closure of nine processing plants. Industry-wide capacity by 2016 declined to 125,500 head per day from 139,000 head per day in 2010, according to my data. But the capacity total has now increased considerably from that low. I calculate that the largest 71 beef processing plants in the U.S. currently have capacity to process 134,705 head per day. Even using a more conservative estimate of maximum daily capacity of 128,000 head, it is clear the industry is saddled with excess capacity. The 128,000 head total would mean a maximum slaughter total of 640,000 head over five days or 704,000 head over 5.5 days.

Weekly slaughter totals so far this year have been far below the 704,000 total. The second week of January saw the largest total of the year, 660,740 head. In contrast, the first two weeks of August saw estimated totals average only 609,000 head. That is 95% of the five-day capacity or 87% of the 5.5-day capacity. Such numbers make it clear why Saturday slaughter levels are often below 10,000 head.

The current overcapacity in beef processing and little likelihood of any meaningful increase in beef cattle numbers for two years cast a shadow over 10 proposed new beef processing plants. They have an avowed capacity of 18,190 head per day. This includes a plan to build an 8,000-head-per-day mega-plant in South Dakota. It seems likely this plant will not get to the ground-breaking stage. The wider question is how many others will meet the same fate. — **Steve Kay**

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

GUEST OPINION

SUCCESSION IS SIMPLY ANOTHER TRANSITION

Two fundamental transitions in the family business are the succession of management and the transfer of ownership from one generation to the next.

While these two shifts happen once in a generation or even once in a lifetime, many other significant changes happen throughout our lives. We move in and out of organizations and relationships. We change houses, communities, friends, medical conditions, financial situations, political beliefs, family roles and job levels. In short, life is full of transitions.

Bruce Feiler, in his 2020 book "Life is in the Transitions," offers tools for many of the transitions in our lives, and those ideas apply to business succession. The book was born out of Feiler's realization that helping his father tell his life story offered a sense of purpose, reversing his dad's depression and suicidal tendencies brought on by Parkinson's disease. Feiler went on to conduct extensive research around some of life's most important transitions.

What he discovered is that the way you describe your life—who you are, where you came from, how you ascribe meaning to the changes in your life and how you reframe your story when things don't go as planned—matters a great deal in your ability to successfully navigate transitions.

Business succession is a transition that Feiler would call an "autobiographical occasion." It is a chance to write—or rewrite—your story in a way that offers a sense of purpose and meaning for your next chapter.

"Writing," he says, "speeds up meaning-making." The act of writing your story helps you conceive of how your future story will evolve.

Beyond writing your life story, here are a few more of Feiler's ideas to help navigate business transitions and succession.

- Ritualize the change. Rituals help to add meaning and a sense of control over our lives. Feiler suggests using a rit-

ual to mark a transition, like a retirement party, an office change or even a title change (for example, from CEO to chairman). I once had a client create an oversized key, and he then "handed the keys" to the next generation in a fun-filled ceremony.

- Give up old mindsets. Another strategy is to consciously give up mindsets that might prevent a transition. Some common mindsets in agriculture include the idea that finances must be overseen by a family member, or that a long-practiced crop rotation or a particular enterprise is necessary for future success. Or, that a certain task like running a meeting, staying late or early, or directing employees must be done by the most senior family member. Letting go of the idea that "it has to be done this way" ushers in the idea that things in the family business can, even must, change.

- Try new things. When President George W. Bush left office, he turned to painting as a hobby. Closer to home, I've watched senior family business members turn to travel, board service, politics, golf and church mission work to help them transition into their next chapter.

- Seek wisdom from others. You or your parents are not the only people going through a transition of management or ownership from one generation to the next. Based on my experience running peer groups over the last decade, talking with others provides emotional support and good ideas during the transition journey.

Feiler writes that as you go through a transition, "Your day-to-day existence simply cannot be navigated in the same way. Familiar landmarks have been overturned; faithful road maps have become obsolete. You need groundings, new passageways, new constructs." His observation hits home in the handoff of the family business. — **Lance Woodbury, DTN farm business adviser**

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Texas summer drought affecting corn, sorghum crops

Heat and drought have taken a toll on Texas crop production. Limited production of corn and sorghum and the unknown future have caused prices for those crops to spike, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist-grain marketing in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, said 2023 crop production for Texas summer-grown crops such as corn and sorghum is better than compared to 2022. However, dry conditions will still take a small toll on producers in certain areas for this year's harvest.

Although much of the

state had a decent late winter and early spring rainfall, the 2023 crop production has been "a mixed bag depending on location," Welch said. The South Texas and Coastal Bend region experienced more rainfall during the early months of 2023, which allowed farmers to gain a head start in crop production.

Central Texas producers did not get the same rainfall as the southern region, which resulted in extreme heat this summer, stunting the growth of crops through sensitive stages.

Panhandle producers, especially corn producers, started irrigating crops during the early summer months. The ex-

treme heat and high winds have made it difficult and expensive for irrigation systems to keep up. Though much is unknown until the completion of harvest in late September and early October, producers are preparing to experience extreme yield loss.

Change in prices

"This summer has been one of volatile and high variable prices," Welch said.

The basis price, which is the difference between the local cash price and the future market price, for the feed grain markets has held firm throughout the summer, Welch said. And the drought affecting the nation's Corn Belt has allowed Texas producers who were able to plant their crop in the early planting months, which resulted in good yields, to see a significant increase in prices.

Texas and other southern states have also expe-

rienced a spike in forage prices, such as hay and silage, due to the demand for forage from livestock owners and producers.

Welch said it will be late September or October before it is known what impact the continued heat and drought is having on 2023 production.

Also causing prices to spike is the war between Russia and Ukraine.

"We have come back down from last year's pre-war prices, but there is still a big concern of grain

prices and exports," Welch said.

"Since the outbreak of the war, exports have continued with rising prices. The grain trade initiative has allowed some cargo vessels from Ukraine to export produce, but during the last few weeks, Russia has ended the grain trade initiative, and prices have spiked again. The bottom number will depend on what happens from now until the end of harvest," Welch said. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Greens ask for SEC to investigate JBS

IPO
(from page 1)

founders, the Batista family, between 85% and 90.5%.

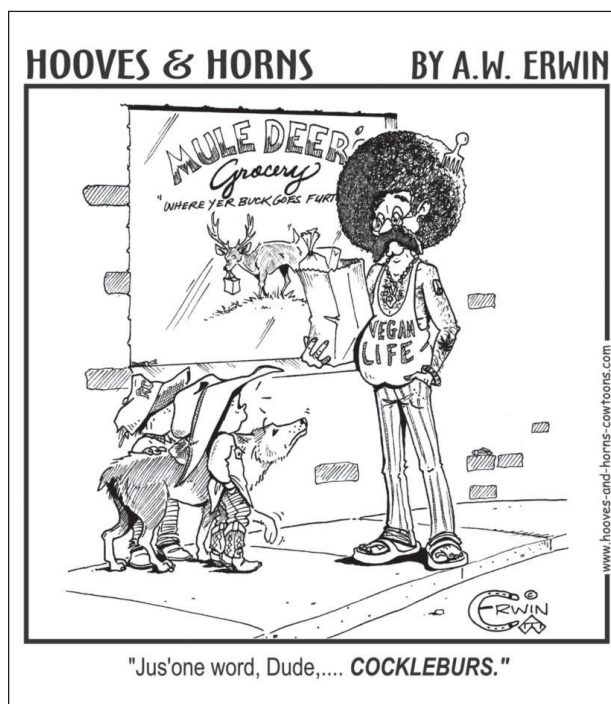
• In 2021, JBS made a net-zero pledge for greenhouse gas emissions and sold \$3.2 billion worth of green bonds to achieve the goal by 2040. However, RAN points to a study by independent researchers stating they did not find "evidence of any planned deep decarbonization measures."

• RAN contends the company has been embroiled in bribery and corruption scandals since 2017, both in the U.S. and Brazil. The company paid settlements in 2020, 2021

and 2022 in the U.S. for accusations of foreign corrupt practices, bribery and price-fixing.

"To fulfill its role of basic due diligence, we request that the SEC conduct a thorough investigation into the pattern of alarming and unacceptable corporate conduct by JBS before granting it an IPO on the NYSE," said Merel van der Mark, spokesperson for RAN.

According to Meat+Poultry, JBS has been working on an IPO for nearly a decade, but the listing was delayed due to corruption charges in 2017 and then again due to COVID-19. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor



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How to manage for anaplasmosis in cattle

Anaplasmosis is a common disease in cattle with worldwide distribution. The disease is regularly found in cattle in the state of Oklahoma. Accordingly, anaplasmosis will occur every year within Oklahoma with some variation of the intensity of this disease usually based on the strain of *Anaplasma marginale*, which is a bacterium that infects red blood cells. Once an animal becomes infected, they are infected for life.

Anaplasmosis is transmitted through the bite of ticks and flies, as well as blood-contaminated instruments like needles, tattoo tools, castration equipment and dehorning instruments. This bacterium does not harm the red blood cells directly, but the cow's immune response recognizes it when it reaches certain levels, which then causes anemia due to the immune system killing the red blood cells that are infected.

This will limit the amount of oxygen that is transported throughout the animal's blood, which can then lead to aggressive behaviors exhibited by normally docile cows or bulls. Other clinical signs that animals are infected with the bacteria are extreme lethargy, yellowing of the mucous membranes, abortions, weight loss and difficulty breathing.

Most producers will not know they have an anaplasmosis problem until they see dead cows or bulls that are older than 2 years old. This disease can be devastating with death losses in some herds approaching 50%.

Best management practices

First, consult with your veterinarian so that they can develop a comprehensive plan to limit the impact of anaplasmosis. This relationship is important

because the most commonly utilized control plan is to administer tetracycline antibiotics through mineral supplements or feed and the only access to this preventative treatment is to obtain a veterinary feed directive.

Clinical signs of infections can be treated with injectable antibiotics via an intramuscular injection of oxytetracycline administered multiple days and should be given under a veterinarian's directions. Successful antibiotic therapy curing the clinical signs of infection results in a carrier animal. Carrier cattle will be immune to further disease from anaplasmosis but will remain a source from which needles, flies and ticks can spread the disease.

A vaccine is available in some states and Oklahoma is approved for this vaccine. This vaccine does not prevent infection, but

anecdotal evidence demonstrates a reduction in clinical signs.

In Oklahoma it is not a matter of "if" but rather a matter of "when" anaplasmosis will impact your cattle herd. Best management practices to prevent and control the transmission of this disease include:

- Feeding tetracycline antibiotics during the fly and tick seasons (essential).

- Rotating pastures (when possible) to avoid pastures with a history of tick issues during tick season.

- Burning pastures in the spring to control ticks.

- Controlling fly and tick populations to the greatest extent possible.

- Changing needles and disinfecting any instruments which may result in transmitting blood from animal to animal when working cattle. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

LEGAL LEDGER

Foothill yellow frog listed under ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has decided to list four distinct population segments (DPS) of the foothill yellow-legged frog under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The frogs found in the range of Oregon to Southern California. USFWS determined to classify the South Sierra DPS and South Coast DPS as endangered, and the North Feather DPS and Central Coast DPS as threatened. The agency said the species faces a multitude of threats, including "altered waterflows related to water infrastructure, including dams and diversions; competition with and predation by non-native species such as bullfrogs and crayfish; disease; precipitation and temperature changes related to climate change; high-severity wildfires; water-related recreation; and habitat conversion and degradation." USFWS is accepting comments on the decision through Sept. 28. To submit a comment, visit [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for docket ID FWS-R8-ES-2021-0108.

USDA increases LIP payment rates

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is updating the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) payment rate amid higher heat and humidity conditions this summer. The 2023 LIP payment rate is being updated for beef calves over 800 pounds from \$1,244/head to \$1,618/head, a \$374 increase. "The recent heat domes plaguing many parts of the country have proven to be unsurvivable for some animals and temperatures are not expected to let up anytime soon," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux in a statement. LIP payments are made at a rate of 75% of the prior year's average fair market value of the livestock, according to USDA. The updated payment rate is effective immediately and will be applied retroactively beginning Jan. 1, 2023, for eligible losses, including excessive heat, tornado, winter storms and other adverse weather. For eligibility info, visit tinyurl.com/bdds5jk.

AK chooses not to list wolf under ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has decided not to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) after strong opposition from Alaska community leaders and experts. The agency was considering listing the wolf, found in southeast Alaska, as threatened or endangered under the ESA. "Such a step by the FWS would be ill-suited and subjective, ignoring the best conclusive scientific data available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which does not support such a listing being necessary," read a March 31 letter from Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) to the agency. Sullivan expressed his opposition to the proposal, saying it would have significant implications for land management in the southeast area of the state. "Had the FWS consulted with the state, you would have found that southeast Alaska is the most densely populated area of wolves in Alaska due to the abundance of food sources available," he wrote. "As a result, the wolf is not a species endangered or threatened with extinction."

\$106M planned for salmon recovery

The Department of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced more than \$106 million in funding for 16 West Coast and Alaska state and Tribal salmon recovery programs. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law supplied \$34.4 million in funding, and the Inflation Reduction Act allocated \$7.5 million. The funds will be used to support the recovery, conservation and resilience of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. "These awards will also provide support to Pacific Coast tribes and Alaska Natives to help sustain their communities and cultural traditions in the face of climate change," said Janet Coit, assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

Woman arrested for cattle thefts in TX

A woman in Texas was arrested for the theft of four head of cattle and two trailers following an investigation by the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) special rangers. Belinda Perez was charged with theft of livestock, a third-degree felony, and interfering with emergency request, a class A misdemeanor, according to TSCRA. "Special rangers received reports of the stolen property and livestock from a victim in Hebronville in February," the association said. "The victim reported that her daughter had stolen livestock and equipment from her property without permission and suspected she was being monitored by a surveillance camera." The special rangers received a confession from Perez and successfully seized the two stolen trailers, although the cattle were already sold through a livestock auction. The rangers also located a surveillance camera on the victim's property.

USFS invests in forest restoration

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is investing \$16.2 million to restore forest across Tribal, state and private lands. The agency selected 64 proposed projects for fiscal year 2023 to help participants restore forests, including \$3 million to restore landscapes on Tribal lands. "Threats to forests like wildfires, insects, and disease do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries, which is why these investments in healthy and resilient forests extend beyond boundary lines," said USFS Chief Randy Moore. "These grants are critical for improving the nation's forests that provide a range of environmental, social, and economic benefits to the American people."

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THE SOURCE FOR HYBRID VIGOR

USFWS to consider ESA listing of pinyon jay

— 12-month status review

After receiving a petition from an environmental group, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is initiating a status review for the pinyon jay to determine if the species warrants listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The pinyon jay is a "crestless, blue jay that travels in large flocks throughout piñon-juniper woodlands, chaparral and scrub-oak woodlands in the western U.S.," according to All About Birds.

Joe Szuszwalak, acting deputy assistant regional director for the USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region, told *WLJ* the agency announced a positive finding on the petition to list the species; a 90-day finding is only a determination that a listing may be warranted.

Szuszwalak said the positive finding was "due to the petitioners identifying multiple credible threats, including climate change, wildfire, woodland management and invasive species among others. The petition also cited the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms intended to circumvent the impacts of those threats which further demonstrates the species may warrant listing."

The 2022 petition by Defenders of Wildlife claimed the population of the pinyon jay has declined by an estimated 80% over the past 50 years. Without an ESA listing, it will

further decline by half due to the loss of its piñon-juniper woodlands habitat, the petition claimed. According to the petition, the most significant population of the jay is in the southern Rockies and the Great Basin, with nearly 60% of the population in New Mexico and Nevada. The pinyon jay also occupies portions of nine other states in the West and Midwest. It is considered a sensitive species by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Idaho, New Mexico and Nevada.

"Despite the well documented importance of piñon-juniper woodlands to the pinyon jay and numerous other species, land managers continue to remove extensive amounts of piñon and juniper in the name of wildfire risk reduction, resilience or sagebrush restoration," the petition read.

The petition noted that information on past and present piñon-juniper woodland reductions is unavailable because federal land management agencies do not have a central database of land management projects. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are the primary agencies responsible for pinyon treatments. BLM has reduction plans totaling over 79,000 acres in six states and USFS has plans over 78,000 acres in five states.

The management of mule deer and greater sage-grouse to preserve sagebrush habitat has contributed to the decline of piñon-juniper woodlands, the petition claimed. Additionally,

the group points to man-made factors such as development and agricultural use. The petition noted mining, oil and gas development, renewable energy and urban encroachment historically contributed to habitat decline and will in the foreseeable future.

"A larger agricultural impact on piñon-juniper habitats has been management for the livestock industry," the petition wrote.

The petition noted that since the 1950s, the practice of chaining and other mechanical means has resulted in the loss of over 3 million acres for grazing and also introduced invasive species such as cheatgrass.

The petition also said predation by crows and ravens, and

West Nile virus, along with the decline of piñon-juniper woodlands through climate change and drought, has also contributed to the decline in the pinyon jay population.

According to Audubon, the jay forgoes nesting without an ample supply of piñon nuts, resulting in a population decline. Audubon pointed out that studies on piñon-juniper woodland habitat have been few, and what has been done shows the woodlands are less diverse and less productive than what they once were.

"What's contributing to the decline of pinyon jays is something about the quality of the habitat, rather than the amount of the habitat," John Boone, research coordinator at Great

Basin Bird Observatory, told Audubon.

Reaction

Defenders of Wildlife applauded USFWS' decision to consider listing the pinyon jay from the evidence the group presented in the petition.

"This decision moves us one step closer to reversing the trend of one of the fastest declining birds in North America," said Peggy Darr, Defenders of Wildlife New Mexico representative. "Without pinyon jays, we stand to lose iconic Southwestern landscapes, cultures and cuisines intimately tied to piñon pine nuts."

Under the ESA, USFWS will conduct a 12-month in-depth

review process to determine the status of the pinyon jay population. A final determination on whether the listing of the pinyon jay is warranted or unwarranted will be released after the 12-month review and a comment period.

Currently, USFWS is accepting comments on the proposal. To view the documents or to comment, visit www.regulations.gov and enter FWS-R6-ES-2022-0177.

Written comments can be sent to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R6-ES-2022-0177, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Take inventory of your fall forage

Summer is flying by, and fall is just around the corner. While it may seem like a weird question to ask already, do you know how much feed or hay you have for this fall or going into winter?

Last year's winter didn't do anyone's bale yard a favor and a dry spring and early summer didn't help alleviate pressure on forage resources. With tight supply and high costs, it's worth asking if you have enough feed this fall or winter for your current cattle numbers.

Consider the best-case and

worst-case scenarios. Count bales, measure silage, calculate remaining pasture and get a real idea of how many calves and feeders you may have. If more forage is needed, there is still a very short window to plant a fall grazing crop, find some extra acres to hay, or decide to chop a bit more silage if the situation calls for it.

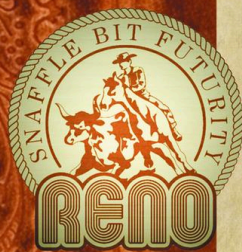
While temperatures are still warm, those wanting to plant some extra forage should skip the warm season species and focus on cool season crops that will really take off in the fall. Right now, your two best choices

are oats for either hay or grazing and turnips for grazing. Winter small grains like cereal rye, wheat, and triticale can be mixed with the oats and turnips. They won't produce much fall growth, but they will provide some early grazing next spring.

If growing your own feed isn't an option, another action plan to consider is buying feeds that are cheaper now and storing them through the winter. We know how to do this with hay and silage, but what about distillers grains? Mixing distillers with low-quality feeds and

packing in a bunker or in a bag, can significantly reduce the cost of protein and energy supplements during the winter months. This is especially helpful if cows are coming off grass thin and need to improve condition before calving.

Planning is indispensable. Having a feed inventory, adding needed forage when able and checking prices and availability of purchased feeds now will go a long way to reducing the anxiety of what we will feed our cows this fall and winter. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**



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SPH Follow The Plan	Shepherd Performance Horses	2022	Sorrel	Stallion	Sigala Rey	Pretty Lil Plan
January Jackson	Daniel Perez	2022	Palomino	Mare	Brother Jackson	Shining Princess Too
Minni Pearl	Susan Stokman	2022	Red Roan	Mare	Stevie Rey Von	Fancy Boons N All
Jackie Ohh	Daniel Perez	2022	Sorrel	Mare	Brother Jackson	Shiners Diamond Cat
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Montana ranch market down from its peak

The Montana ranch market has come down from its peak two years ago, but large ranches continue to sell, including a historic, 134,482-acre ranch that had been listed with brokers in the state for nine years.

The IX Ranch, which dates back to the early 1880s, in north-central Montana was listed at \$66 million for 66,896 deeded acres and another 66,586 acres of federal, state and private leases. Dating back to when Montana was still a territory, the ranch has

only had two sets of owners since that time.

The property, which is about 100 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT, supports a cattle operation with about 4,300 head, and the deeded ground for the ranch has nearly 4,400 irrigated acres as well as 4,215 acres of dryland cropland, 55,430 acres of native rangeland and more than 2,000 acres of forest.

The ranch was officially sold on Aug. 1. David Johnson, a real estate partner for Hall & Hall in Bozeman, told

DTN that he and the sellers, the Roth family, are under a confidentiality agreement not to disclose the new owners or the price paid for the IX Ranch.

Montana ranch market cooling

Montana ranch sales have dialed back from a record-breaking 2021 when COVID-19 and the romanticism of the television show "Yellowstone" led to a push of wealthy buyers

looking to buy both homes and ranches in the state. Brokers in 2021 saw the most expensive ranch sales in the state's history along with a large volume of sellers willing to list their properties.

The market has slowed in 2023 in large part because there are fewer ranches on the market, said Andy Rahn, creator of Montana Land Source, a listing service that specifically tracks large farm and ranch sales in the state. Montana is relatively secretive about how much a large tract

of land sells for unless the buyer and seller agree to release that figure. But the volume of listings for properties of 200 acres or more is down 75% from 2021.

"We're correcting now and it's slowing down. There is still a lot of demand. Most brokers will tell you they have got buyers, but there's not much inventory. Our inventory is at a real low," Rahn said.

Hall & Hall's Johnson agreed with Rahn. "For a couple of years, we were selling three times the normal volume, and that sucked up a lot of inventory. So, we're definitely short on inventory right now."

There's also a widening gap between what sellers want and what buyers are offering in the market right now. The median list price Rahn tracks is \$2,318 per acre right now—about 15% higher than 2021 listing prices. But the median sale price in 2023 is \$1,288 an acre, down 33% from the 2021 highs. That's a spread of \$1,030 an acre between the median list price and the final sale price. In 2021, that spread between median list price and final sale was \$239 an acre.

"Right now, we're seeing a lot of price reductions as we're going through the summer," Rahn said. He added, "But these big ranches are still getting top dollar."

That market for large ranches is "exclusive and rare," Rahn said, which often makes it hard to fit them into real-estate trends, he said. "The market seems to be doing one thing on the whole, and then a giant ranch comes along and catches an unbelievable price. That's what's so unique and specialized about that segment of the market."

Asked whether interest rates are playing much of a role, Rahn said he recently had a conversation with a broker who has a well-qualified agricultural buyer who is looking to expand their operation. The buyer is frustrated sellers aren't adjusting prices because of the higher interest rates. The problem is a lot of people buying Montana ranch ground don't need to worry about financing the sale.

"The Montana market is dominated by cash buying, not finance buying," Rahn said. "Even though most land is in agricultural production, the base in value is not in agriculture."

Recreational buyers

The Montana brand goes way beyond the show, "Yellowstone." Visiting with producers in the state in late June, they pointed—grudgingly—to the 1992 movie "A River Runs Through It" as sparking the interest of wealthy buyers wanting ranch land off a stream with mountains in the background.

"It's the brand, the Montana brand, and it comes with a premium," said Colter Devries, a ranch broker in Billings and host of a weekly "Ranch Investor" podcast on Montana's land market. "Today's average buyers are not your typical owner-operator.

We are basically seeing buyers who are well capitalized from other means. That's a trend that's been growing over the past 20 years."

That demand for recreational property is as high as it has ever been, and it's changing the landscape. Ranches are increasingly sold with sellers pricing in the monetization of wild game, and buyers in a lot of cases are more interested in the number of elk on a property than the number of livestock it can support.

"The single biggest influence in the last three years—and it seems to have risen to the level of notoriety—are out-of-state elk hunters," Devries said.

Devries contrasted buying a high-end townhouse in New York City versus a large ranch in Montana. "It's irreplaceable. It's an entire ecosystem. You essentially own a national park."

What happens in that rural gentrification is that a lot of local producers can get priced out of land, Devries said. An owner-operator might not be able to easily expand in Montana. He said he's seen producers who sell their Montana acreage then use Section 1031 to buy a larger ranch in neighboring Wyoming, for instance.

"That run-up in land values has allowed them to get themselves into a more efficient operation, one that secured their legacy," Devries said.

Jess Peterson, a rancher and lobbyist for the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, showed DTN a roughly 12,000-acre tract he picked up on a lease about a half-hour north of Billings. He had about 150 cows and 300 yearlings on the grass and was excited about seeing just what the fields could sustainably support. Asked how a young producer can compete in a market dominated by wealthy out-of-state buyers, Peterson said new owners will still need cattle to effectively graze the land to make it more beneficial for wildlife such as elk.

"But you have to be active to find those leases," he said. "You should be attending conferences, getting ideas, meeting people. There are opportunities, but you better be able to tell them a narrative and get results."

Walter Schweitzer, president of the Montana Farmers Union and a real estate agent as well, noted, "The big places are clearly out of reach for the average producer, but there are still some smaller places for sale."

A few other large ranches for sale in Montana include the Camas Creek Cattle & Sheep Co., with 36,621 acres near White Sulphur Springs, about 76 miles east of Helena. That ranch, which supports about 1,800 cattle, is listed for \$58.75 million.

The Wilks Brothers, among the largest landowners in the state, also have a pending sale on Bull Mountain Ranch near Musselshell, with 13,107 acres, which was listed for \$22.379 million. Wilks Ranch Brokers cited the top feature of its ranch as "Easily one of the best elk hunting ranches on the market!" —Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Lance Honig

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

Lance Honig is chief of the Crops Branch at USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), overseeing all of the crop-related statistics that NASS provides. The agency produces more than 400 reports every year in an effort to provide real and timely data for virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Many of these reports affect producers on a regular basis and all contain valuable and useful information.

"Producers probably don't specifically open up the report that we published and say, 'Let me make some decisions,'" Lance told WLJ. "But indirectly, the information that they're using to make their decisions is in most cases tracking back to the information that we published."

NASS' crop-estimating programs cover acreage, yield, production, price and value for more than 100 crop commodities. The Crops Branch at NASS is responsible for about 225 crop-related reports every year, including the Crop Production and Crop Progress reports.

"Just to put that in perspective: Think about the 365 days in a year, throwing out the weekends and federal holidays, and you realize that's pretty close to a report every day," Lance said. "I think that puts a little perspective around the volume of information that we are putting out there to support everybody across agriculture, almost on a daily basis."

Sharing this information is essential, Lance says, because it is critical for decision making and is produced and provided in an unbiased manner.

Ag connection

Lance grew up on what he said was a modest-sized crop and livestock farm in northeast Kansas, continuing his higher education at Kansas State University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics. As a farm kid with a passion for both agriculture and numbers, it couldn't have been a better fit for Lance to come across NASS, which tied the two together. After more than two decades of serving various roles within the Crops Branch, Lance landed his current position at the top in 2008.

"I have a developing and growing appreciation for how information can benefit all aspects of agriculture and being able to give back to the ag community without being on the farm," Lance shared. "There are so many different ways that you can be a part of agriculture. This is the way that I feel I can contribute back with my background and my skillset."

He added with a laugh, "That doesn't make me the most popular person every day. Sometimes on report

days, I don't call home either."

But as he explained earlier, the role of NASS is to provide accurate numbers, whether they are the numbers people want to see or not. The sooner you find out the report numbers—regardless of how favorable—the sooner you can position yourself the way you need to, and the sooner you can recover if you're not positioned right, he said.

Having a personal connection to agriculture makes it even more important for Lance to support farm and ranch operators across the country with the best possible information.

In addition to Lance, many employees at NASS have a background in agriculture.

"I can tell you there is something special about NASS employees," Lance said. "It's just a different group of people. We care deeply about agriculture, the work we do to support our industry, and getting the numbers right." He added that although there are more folks coming in who don't have a traditional background in agriculture, they are assimilated into the ag way of life at the department.

Report accuracies

NASS releases a calendar in advance every year, setting each report's release date and time. The reports become available to everyone at the same time, with no one—not even other USDA employees or government members—able to catch an early sneak peek.

"We are a statistical organization first, which means we care about the numbers," Lance said. "My goal is for the numbers to be as accurate as possible. It doesn't matter who wants to see what in those numbers, it is about making them as accurate as possible."

To highlight and underscore the security for the more sensitive reports, such as the monthly crop production and annual cattle inventory reports, NASS deploys an entire "Lockup" procedure to ensure no one obtains early access to the reports and scores an advantage in trading on the commodities market. NASS field offices submit encrypted estimates to the headquarters in Washington D.C., which remain encrypted until the Lockup facility area is physically secured. This includes stationing an officer at the entry point, locking and alarming doors, covering windows and turning off phone and internet connections.

Only authorized personnel can enter the Lockup area, and they cannot leave until the Lockup concludes and the report is publicly released. All cell phones and wireless devices must remain outside the area, and the Lockup area is continually monitored for cell phone and wireless transmissions.

Even the secretary of Agriculture sees the report for the first time at the same time as members of the public. Although he (or his designate) signs each report to certify its release and he is briefed on its contents, it is moments after the report is released that he learns what the contents are.

"He's not saying I like them.

He's not saying I agree with them," Lance explained. "He's saying this is what the reports are because they're based on the data. They're not based on anything political or anything of that nature."

In fact, NASS has zero political appointees. Every employee within the agency is a career federal em-

ployee, Lance said. Regardless of the party in charge at the White House, the NASS employees are separated from politics.

Obtaining information

Much of the information provided in the NASS reports comes from producers

across the country answering surveys and sharing data.

"To this point in time, we still find that this is the most accurate information that we have to support these important reports and estimates," Lance said.

Producers can be involved by not only answering surveys but learning about the report process firsthand. Visitors are able to watch the Lockup process in D.C. at about 20 different events throughout the year.

"We have had thousands of folks come through and see the process over the years," Lance said. "I've yet to see one person who didn't leave saying, 'Wow, I had no idea exactly how this worked and how diligent you are about getting these things right.'"

Sometimes report revisions do happen. Producers may recall earlier this summer when NASS released revised estimates for corn and soybean acreage in June, taking many analysts by surprise when soybeans were found to be estimated much lower than expected, and corn higher, than in

earlier reports.

In addition to surveying farmers themselves, NASS also relies on decades of historical data to compare to survey results and incorporates data from other USDA agencies as well as satellite-based information.

"This year was a great example where the data we had led us to publish estimates that were not terribly consistent with what a lot of folks thought," Lance said. Data released over the past few months has stayed fairly consistent with the revised numbers published in June.

"I think this is actually a great example of the value that these reports bring to the marketplace, because we were able to give folks a look at the end of June of an acreage picture that was not what people were expecting but is looking to be very close to what the reality is," he said.

"That's part of the value of the process, bringing new information to the marketplace, and bringing accurate information to the marketplace," Lance concluded. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor



Lance Honig

Courtesy photo

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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: 8/31/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	184.77 ▼	185.75	142.78
CME Feeder Index	248.95 ▲	245.14	183.04
Boxed Beef Average	313.79 ▼	317.63	258.07
Average Dressed Steers	290.82 ▼	292.00	229.05
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,354 ▲	1,345	1,346
Weekly Slaughter**	626,000 ▲	616,000	678,000
Weekly Beef Production***	510.6 ▲	501.0	551.3
Hide/Offal Value	13.69 ▼	13.92	13.80
Corn Price	4.61 ▼	4.72	6.74

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 25	6,147	310.79	174	347.09	1,158	317.40	1,737	311.40	780	296.64	2,298	267.47
August 18	6,457	301.73	215	338.27	1,245	309.03	1,930	303.59	715	279.63	2,352	267.88
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

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Aug 31	313.79	289.25	242.96		131.26	306.94					
Aug 30	315.11	289.53	243.10		N/A	308.73					
Aug 29	314.36	289.68	244.74		136.43	N/A					
Aug 28	317.04	292.09	244.09		159.83	322.56					
Aug 25	317.90	292.67	240.51		N/A	305.00					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	8/25	8/28	8/29	8/30	8/31	High*	Low*
Aug.	18068	18070	18100	17880	17880	18150	14003
Oct.	18118	18155	18148	18005	18083	18290	15388
Dec.	18513	18565	18588	18423	18480	18705	15310
Feb.	18920	18995	18978	18835	18885	19048	16853

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	8/25	8/28	8/29	8/30	8/31	High*	Low*
Aug.	24763	25025	25070	25005	24910	25070	17595
Sep.	25120	25428	25403	25263	25328	25428	18303
Oct.	25398	25703	25675	25523	25603	25703	18755
Nov.	25540	25805	25813	25673	25765	25805	22750

Selected Auction Week Ending August 31, 2023										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS	
August 25	Blackfoot, ID	N/A			240-291	210-280	195-265	190-240	97-11		
August 31	Burley, ID	163	271	284-306	274-280	150	195-232	187-228	116-131		
February 15	Emmett, ID							229	85-118		
August 26	Eugene, OR	993	170-231	165-200	164-214	160-212	155-198		82-113	485-2,350	
August 28	Madras, OR	341	240-257.50	240-257.50	233-257.50	240-260	232-246	192-230	100-121	750-1,200	
August 30	Vale, OR	399		235-255	230-253	220-238	200-220		115-134		
No report available	Davenport, WA								100-110		
August 25	Toppenish, WA	2,725	260*	250*	285.50*	255-270*	181-247*	191-213.50*	88-109		
August 25	Orland, CA	1,644		200-289	185-288	175-274	160-251	160-222	105-126	2,000-2,600	
August 30	Escalon, CA	N/A		180-270	165-270	155-244	140-236		105-145		
August 28	Famoso, CA	405	250-300	250-290	165-270	150-269	150-240	135-170	75-100		
August 30	Galt, CA	1,208	180-260	180-275	180-275	200-240	170-201		90-130		
No report available	Turlock, CA			250-315	240-310	220-287	200-256	180-238	110-119.50		
August 22	Salina, UT	742	320-337.50	295-370	275-301	185-275	237.50-274	200-252.50	85-125	1,700-2,750	
			220-350	242.50-355	250-260	200-250.50	196-234	185-227.50	70-126	1,500-2,200	

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	3,989	1,506	184.77
Live FOB Heifer	1,038	1,284	183.83
Dressed Del Steer	4,246	945	290.82
Dressed Del Heifer	780	839	291.51
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	2,754	1,469	185.75
Live FOB Heifer	250	1,278	186.28
Dressed Del Steer	771	936	292.00
Dressed Del Heifer	80	823	289.50
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	16,437	1,450	142.78
Live FOB Heifer	8,562	1,326	142.55
Dressed Del Steer	12,467	955	229.05
Dressed Del Heifer	2,467	862	229.52

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: AUGUST 27		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	14,685	3,176
Formula	282,589	1,682
Negotiated Cash	73,525	331
Negotiated Grid	50,202	843
Packer Owned	12,219	N/A
Total	433,220	6,032

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,679
Aug. '23	81,303	Neg. Sales 21+ days	893
Sep. '23	103,524	Formula sales	3,547
Oct. '23	95,959	Forward contract sales	28
Nov. '23	126,175	Domestic sales	5,237
Dec. '23	89,911	NAFTA Exports	119

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		171.99	-2.90
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		170.97	-2.81
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		100.86	-0.12

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, August 18, 2023			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	270.06	261.25	290.89
601-700 lbs	252.69	254.14	270.04
701-800 lbs	246.28	245.80	248.08
801-900 lbs	232.71	233.81	227.14
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	253.78	247.76	231.77
501-600 lbs	231.47	240.74	247.29
601-700 lbs	229.59	228.46	234.29
701-800 lbs	221.95	219.12	215.91

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
	8/21/23	8/14/23		
Feeders	16,479	0	729,993	535,131

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
August 31, 2023			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 8,950	Week Ago Act: 6,050	Year Ago Act: 11,048	
Columbus, NM		Santa Teresa, NM	
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady to 100 higher. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.		Compared to Monday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady to 100 higher. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	248-258	300-400 lbs	248-258
400-500 lbs	238-248	400-500 lbs	238-248
500-600 lbs	228-238	500-600 lbs	228-238
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	300-310	300-400 lbs	300-310
400-500 lbs	280-290	400-500 lbs	280-290
500-600 lbs	260-270	500-600 lbs	260-270

August 25	Orland, CA	1,644		200-289	185-288	175-274	160-251	160-222	105-126	2,000-2,600
August 30	Escalon, CA	N/A		180-270	165-270	155-244	140-236		105-145	
August 28	Famoso, CA	405	250-300	250-290	165-270	150-269	150-240	135-170	110-119.50	
August 30	Galt, CA	1,208	180-260	180-275	180-275	200-240	170-201		120-130	
No report available	Turlock, CA		250-315	240-310	220-287	200-256	180-238		85-125	1,700-2,750
August 22	Salina, UT	742	320-337.50	295-370	275-301	185-275	237.50-274	200-252.50	90-120	1,500-2,200
			220-350	242.50-355	250-260	200-250.50	196-234	185-227.50	110-200	114-147
August 28	Iowa	1,289		250-253	271-297	254-266	240-241	241-256	224.50-253.50	95-116
August 29	Miles City, MT	827	330	301				234-255	214-229.25	112-142
No report available	Bassett, NE		296			257		257-259	231.50-245	96-112.75
August 26	Ericson, NE	3,503			311	294-307	254.50-280	226-264	204-240	88-130
No report available	Imperial, NE									
No report available	Kearney, NE									
No report available	Lexington, NE									
No report available	Ogallala, NE									
No report available	Valentine, NE									
August 26	Herreid, SD	3,481						273	239.75-257.50	
August 30	Torrington, WY	1,189			273			250	213-231	
								248-269	219.50-255.50	
								236-257	223-234	
August 24	Willcox, AZ	1,245	280-287	304-316	270-298.50	238-277	220-248		90-129	1,775-2,250
August 28	Colorado	606	269-299	257-294	227-271	230-259	201-226		120-137	1,100-1,350
August 23	La Junta, CO	876						196-224	170-217	1,525-1,725
August 28	Loma, CO	236								
August 30	Dodge City, KS	1,417								
August 31	Pratt, KS	2,200	285							
No report available	Salina, KS									
August 31	Clovis, NM	2,174	321	300-359	284-341	240-50-288	209-234	106-198	85-109.50	975-2,750
August 30	El Reno, OK	9,574		274-297	245-271	230-245	214-226	195	89-135	800-2,050
August 30	McAlester, OK	1,715		322.50-330	307.50-312.50	270-305	250-280	226.50-253	213-232.50	
August 29	Oklahoma City, OK	5,598		285-300	252.50-300	244-267.50	230-263	225-247	211-228.50	
August 25	Cuero, TX	2,116		323-367	280-328	270-291				

Cattle producers urged to watch for prussic acid poisoning

University of Missouri (MU) Extension specialists urge producers to closely watch cattle grazing pastures with Johnson grass and other sorghum species.

Cattle producers in several drought-stressed parts of Missouri have recently reported cattle deaths from suspected prussic acid or hydrocyanic acid (cyanide) poisoning, said Time Evans, an MU Extension state specialist in animal health and veterinary toxicology.

Prussic acid poisoning results when cattle eat cyanide-producing compounds in immature leaves of sorghum grasses or leaves of cherry and related species of fruit trees. This happens most often after extreme weather conditions such as drought or frost.

Evans said more than 70 adult cattle in southwestern Missouri died shortly after being released into drought-stressed pasture with lush new growth of Johnson grass.

Within a few hours of grazing in this pasture, several cows suddenly laid down and died or staggered briefly before collapsing and dying, said Evans. Few other clinical signs were observed. The remaining cattle were returned to the pasture, after which several more animals died.

Necropsies of 10 of the dead animals showed varying degrees of bright, cherry red blood. Evans said this is commonly observed in prussic acid poisoning

because cyanide inhibits aerobic metabolism and prevents oxygen in the blood from being released to the tissues.

Samples from the necropsied animals were preserved for further testing. So far, Evans and diagnosticians from MU's College of Veterinary Medicine have preliminarily ruled out carbohydrate overload, grass tetany, nitrate/nitrite intoxication, anaplasmosis and toxins from harmful algal blooms.

Though it can be challenging to accurately measure the presence of cyanide in postmortem samples, prussic acid poisoning remains the most likely cause of death, Evans said.

Sorghum forages include sorghum-Sudan hybrids, forage sorghum, Sudan grass and Johnson grass. These forages can accumulate nitrate in their stems—especially in response to drought—and cyanide-producing compounds in their leaves, particularly in rapidly growing immature plants.

Prussic acid poisoning from these annual forages happens most often when abundant rainfall interrupts or immediately follows a drought.

"When there's a drought, these warm-season annuals quit growing but still take up nitrogen from the soil and accumulate nitrates and cyanide-producing compounds," said MU Extension state forage special-

ist Craig Roberts. When rain comes, drought-stunted plants can start to look green and lush, and rapid new growth can occur.

Roberts and Evans agree that there is general awareness of concerns about grazing these forages immediately after frost, but they say producers might not know that what looks like excellent green grass for grazing might have high concentrations of cyanide-producing compounds following rainfall during or after drought.

Consult your veterinarian immediately if cattle collapse suddenly, die or exhibit labored breathing and staggering after being introduced to stunted or immature sorghum grasses, said Evans. Veterinarians can administer intravenous sodium nitrite and sodium thiosulfate to treat prussic acid poisoning, but animals frequently die before treatment begins.

Prevention is likely the best way to address concerns about sorghum-related prussic acid poisoning:

- Take soil samples before applying nitrogen to pastures. Excess nitrogen increases risk of both prussic poisoning and nitrate/nitrite poisoning.

- Wait to graze sorghum varieties until they reach a height of at least 24 inches. Evans strongly recommends quantitative nitrate and cyanogenic potential testing procedures prior to grazing. To allow cyanide to

escape or "gas off" before feeding to livestock, wait at least 14 days after cutting and baling sorghum species for hay. Likewise, wait 60-90 days after beginning ensiling to let cyanide gas off during fermentation before feeding to livestock.

- Do not turn hungry cat-

tle into pasture with sorghum grasses. Fill them up on other grass or hay during the day before gradually introducing them to sorghum pastures. Don't turn the entire herd onto a new pasture at once. Consider using test animals if you have not tested for nitrates

or cyanogenic potential.

- Remove animals immediately from pastures when an animal is found dead. Consult your local veterinarian and extension specialists about the need for animal necropsies and forage testing.

— MU Extension



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Feeders slow down amid higher temps

MARKETS (from page 1)

time a week earlier at 488,000 head. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 626,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Aug. 19 was 616,735 head. The average dressed steer weight was 905 lbs., 4 lbs. above the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were lower ahead of the Labor Day holiday. The Choice cutout lost about \$4 to close at \$313.79, and the Select cutout lost close to \$3 to close at \$289.25.

"Boxed beef values are \$2 to \$3/cwt cheaper than last week, though packer margins are black and likely improving a bit with steady to softer cattle costs," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "Selling boxes has been a chore as of late and the whole market has a flat feel."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were up a few dollars. The August contract gained \$2.60 to close at \$249.10, and the September contract gained just over \$2.50 to close at \$253.27.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained about \$4 to close at \$248.95.

Corn futures continued their slow decline, with the September contract down 11 cents to \$4.61 and the December contract down 10 cents to \$4.78.

"Heat and humidity are factoring into cattle performance, health and in some instances, death loss. Auction receipts have slowed as some auctions find little demand for opera-

tors to handle cattle in the heat," wrote the Cattle Report on Thursday. "We are nearing the first of September, or the start of fall runs of replacement cattle. The key to next year's prices will be the size of this year's placements during the September through November period."

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 1,268 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers 700-850 lbs. sold unevenly steady. There were not enough steer calves for a market test, but a higher trend was noted. There was no recent data on heifers 400-800 lbs., but a lower trend was noted. Benchmark steers averaging 719 lbs. sold from \$245.50-248, averaging \$246.55.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 3,500 head on Monday. In a preliminary report, there were not enough sales for a market comparison. A group of benchmark steers averaging 738 lbs. sold from \$254-257, averaging \$255.13.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$1 higher, and 600-700 lbs. sold \$4 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$1-3 higher. Steer and heifer calves were lightly tested a week earlier and sales on Monday were up to \$10 higher on some offerings. Benchmark steers averaging 768 lbs. sold from \$242-256, averaging \$248.03.

New Mexico: Clovis Livestock in Clovis sold 1,566 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves 400-500 lbs. sold \$10-12 higher,

and 500-600 lbs. were \$7-20 higher. Feeder steers were sharply lower, with the exception of 650-700 lbs. selling \$8 higher. Heifer calves 300-450 lbs. were \$8-9 lower, 450-500 lbs. sold \$7 higher, and 500-600 lbs. were \$2-4 lower. Feeder heifers 600-650 lbs. sold \$15 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 725 lbs. sold between \$225-234, averaging \$227.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$1 higher and 600-700 lbs. sold \$4 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$1-3 higher. Steer and heifer calves were lightly tested a week earlier and sales on Monday were up to \$10 higher on some offerings. Benchmark steers averaging 768 lbs. sold from \$242-256, averaging \$248.03.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 4,268 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, there were light sales for feeder steers in the last few weeks for an accurate comparison. Feeder heifers 800-950 lbs. sold \$1-3 higher, and 950-1,000 lbs. traded \$3-5 lower. Other weights were not well compared. Benchmark steers averaging 731 lbs. sold between \$261-270, averaging \$264.12.

Wyoming: Torrington Livestock sold 1,189 head on Wednesday. There was no trend as the earlier sale was two weeks prior. It was an active market with several load lots and some package trade. Benchmark steers averaging 728 lbs. sold from \$256-269, averaging \$264.98. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

TURLOCK LIVESTOCK AUCTION YARD

The Central California Livestock Marketing Center

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

ANNUAL FALL FEMALE SALE & CALIFORNIA BREEDERS BULL SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 FEATURING 500 COW CALF PAIRS & BRED FEMALES
9 A.M. FEMALE SALE • 1 P.M. BULL SALE IN-HOUSE VIDEO & THROUGH THE RING

- 40 BLACKBALDY, 1ST-CALF HEIFER PAIRS FROM ART ANDERSON OF SL CATTLE CO.
- 120 HEAD OF 2ND AND 3RD-CALF ANGUS AND SIMANGUS PAIRS SELLING IN 4 LOTS FROM GILLILAND LIVESTOCK
- 25 HEAD OF 1ST-CALF, ANGUS HEIFER PAIRS FROM RONNIE SEEVER.
- 60 HEAD OF COMING 2-YEAR-OLD, FANCY, BLACKBALDY HEIFERS FROM WIEDEMANN RANCH.
- 62 HEAD OF RED ANGUS COWS, CALVING NOVEMBER — JANUARY, SORTED ACCORDING TO AGE/CALVING DATE.
- PLUS MANY MORE CONSIGNMENTS SALE DAY.

JOIN US SEP. 28 ANNUAL BULL & FEMALE SALE PRE-SALE DINNER FEATURING A MARKETING PRESENTATION PRESENTED BY TLAY AND ZOETIS WILL TAKE PLACE THURSDAY, SEPT 28.

TLAY FALL FEEDER SALES

EXPECTING LARGE RUN OF CALVES AND YEARLINGS: 9 A.M.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 □ **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 □ **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24**
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 □ **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

SALE DAY IS PAY DAY

When marketing your calves at TLAY, don't forget how essential the 2nd round of shots is. Make sure to include a Modified Live vaccination.

2023 Upcoming Western Video Sales

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October 26 - Road, CA
December 5 - Reno, NV

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Steve Faria	209-388-7181	John Bourdet	831-801-2343
Justin Ramos	209-844-6377	Celeste Settrini	831-320-1527
John Luiz	209-480-510	Matt Miller	209-914-5116
Jake Bettencourt	209-262-4019	Brandon Baba	209-480-1267
Travis Johnson	209-996-8645	Bud Cozzi	209-652-4480
		Eddie Nunes	209-604-6848

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Plan now for value-added calf marketing this fall

Calves that are preconditioned at weaning are healthier and more resilient to withstand the rigors of shipping and commingling prior to introduction in subsequent production programs. Preconditioning can add significant value to calves but requires planning and management. The Oklahoma Quality Beef Network (OQBN) is one program that allows producers to capture added value for calves.

Table 1 shows the OQBN sales scheduled for the remainder of 2023 and the associated weaning dates. A 45-day weaning period is the minimum required for calves to qualify for OQBN. However, research has confirmed a significant

premium for fall-marketed calves weaned 60 days or more.

Preconditioning adds value to calves due to the weaning, health and other management protocols that are included in the programs. Certification adds additional value by providing assurance to buyers that preconditioning programs have been completely and properly implemented. The value of each of the preconditioning program components has been verified by years of data and research along with the additional value of certification.

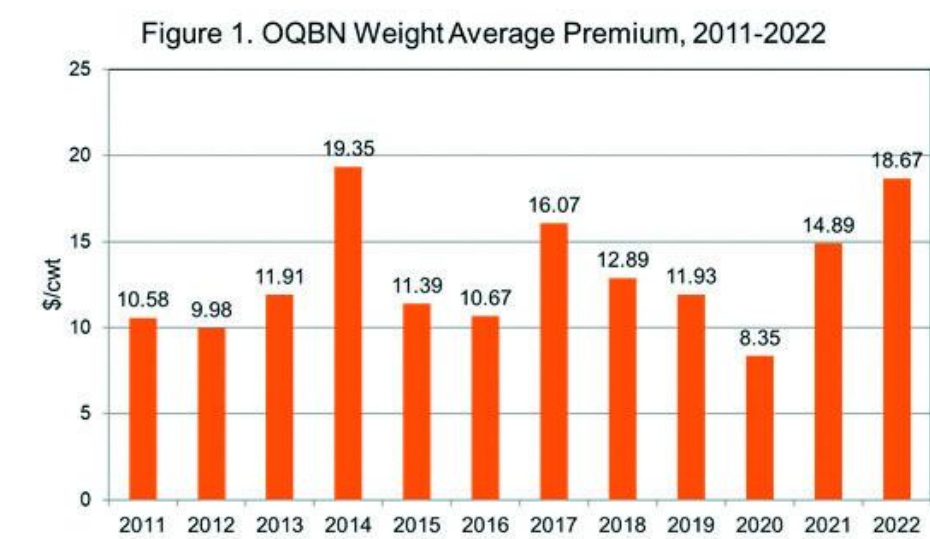
More information about OQBN programs, protocols and sales is available at okstate.edu.

As with any economic decision, producers should evaluate the costs and returns of preconditioning programs. Additional costs of preconditioning vary across operations and situations and, while there is no guarantee of positive returns, the probability of positive returns is higher and more consistent in recent years.

Figure 1 shows the average premiums of OQBN calves compared to calves sold without preconditioning. Over the previous 12 years, OQBN premiums have averaged \$13.05/cwt. It is important to remember that OQBN calves sell at a premium to calves not preconditioned and also at heavier weights compared to the beginning of weaning.

Producers may feel that the current high prices for calves makes the value of preconditioning less, but Figure 1 shows that the highest average premium for OQBN occurred in 2014 at the time of the previous record high cattle prices. For buyers, the reduced risk of animal morbidity and mortality due to preconditioning is more valuable when the cost of the animals is higher.

Marketing calves for added value requires two steps: First, complete the health and management



*OQBN premium calculated as difference in weighted average prices over calves marketed with no preconditioning at same sale (\$/cwt).

requirements of the preconditioning program and second, market the animals in a manner that buyers who demand and value preconditioned calves will

have the best opportunity for purchase. OQBN sales are scheduled with partner auctions to attract the volume of both buyers and certified preconditioned

cattle to result in better markets and value for the calves. — **Derrell S. Peel and Kellie Curry Raper, Oklahoma State University Extension**

COMING EVENTS

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

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.

Sept. 15-16 – The upcoming 2023 Stockmanship and Stewardship event will be held in Ontario, OR. Producers who attend not only receive hands-on training in best management practices to help improve their operation, but also the chance to get BQA or BQA-T certified! Details: www.stockmanshipandstewardship.org.

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.

Table 1. 2023 Oklahoma Quality Beef Network (OQBN) Sales, Locations, and Wean Dates

Sale Date	Location	45-Day Wean Date	60-Day Wean Date
November 7, 2023	OKC West (El Reno)	September 23, 2023	September 9, 2023
November 14, 2023	McAlester	September 30, 2023	September 15, 2023
November 15, 2023	Payne County (Perkins)	October 1, 2023	September 16, 2023
November 20, 2023	Southern Plains (Blackwell)	October 6, 2023	September 21, 2023
November 28, 2023	OKC West (El Reno)	October 14, 2023	September 29, 2023
December 9, 2023	LeFlore County (Wister)	October 25, 2023	October 10, 2023
December 12, 2023	OKC West (El Reno)	October 28, 2023	October 13, 2023

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BW	+13
WW	+92
YW	+170
MILK	+20
CW	+82
MARB	+78
RE	+81
\$W	+72
\$F	+121
\$G	+62
\$B	+183
\$C	+288

DPL CORPORATE A29
REG #20508923
SIRE: GALAXY CORPORATE 0114
MGS: DPL BOULDER T76

CED	+7
BW	+19
WW	+83
YW	+149
MILK	+28
CW	+82
MARB	+59
RE	+88
\$W	+74
\$F	+130
\$G	+53
\$B	+183
\$C	+306

DAL PORTO CRUSHED A47
REG #20514122
SIRE: BJ SURPASS
MGS: DPL DEVELOPER T18

CED	+7
BW	+16
WW	+87
YW	+152
MILK	+39
CW	+81
MARB	+89
RE	+68
\$W	+91
\$F	+118
\$G	+66
\$B	+185
\$C	+324

CASINO CONSTABLE V86
REG #20351071
SIRE: CASINO CONSTABLE T34
MGS: CASINO MORE VALUE F03

CED	+8
BW	+1
WW	+76
YW	+133
MILK	+26
CW	+53
MARB	+67
RE	+75
\$W	+74
\$F	+91
\$G	+57
\$B	+148
\$C	+275

CASINO BOMBER V03
REG #20379421
SIRE: CASINO BOMBER N33
MGS: SITZ POWERBALL 696C

CED	+11
BW	+3
WW	+78
YW	+127
MILK	+22
CW	+61
MARB	+94
RE	+67
\$W	+74
\$F	+97
\$G	+68
\$B	+165
\$C	+275

CASINO STOCK FUND V35
REG #20379426
SIRE: DEER VALLEY GROWTH FUND
MGS: SYDGEN TRUST 6228

CED	+10
BW	+7
WW	+89
YW	+159
MILK	+32
CW	+78
MARB	+89
RE	+72
\$W	+80
\$F	+117
\$G	+65
\$B	+182
\$C	+285

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STORY SHORTS

Mafrig to sell plants to Minerva Foods

Brazilian-based Mafrig Group has agreed to sell 16 processing plants throughout South America to Minerva Foods for \$1.54 billion. The acquisition will increase Minerva's slaughtering and deboning capacity by 44% to 42,439 head a day. According to Minerva, the sale involves 11 plants and a distribution center in Brazil, one beef plant in Argentina, three plants in Uruguay and one lamb unit in Chile. A spokesperson for Mafrig told Reuters the sale involves 40% of the company's sales in South America. They said it would enable the company to focus on higher-value branded processed meat products and premium fresh cuts in the continent. "We are very excited about this move, which is in line with our geographical diversification strategy and which uniquely complements our operation in South America, which is one of the most competitive markets in the world," Fernando Queiroz, CEO of Minerva Foods, said in a statement.

Fire decimates AR sale barn

An Arkansas sale barn suffered a total loss on Aug. 21 after a fire started in the kitchen and destroyed Cleburne County Livestock Auction in Heber Springs, according to local news outlet THV11. Blake Wilf, the barn's co-owner, said they quickly moved the cattle out of the barn and were able to conduct the auction at another sale barn after the cattle had a chance to recover. Brian Harris, Cleburne County Farm Bureau president and local producer, said the loss will result in more shrinking as producers are forced to move their cattle farther, especially in the heat. Harris continued that with prices at a premium, the loss of 30-50 pounds means hundreds of dollars lost. Wilf said he hopes to build a new facility and have a temporary one soon. According to THV11, Wilf became the owner in May, taking over a barn that other families had owned for generations.

Saline River Farms breaks ground

Saline River Farms, a Creal Springs, IL-based meat processor, broke ground on its new 60,000-square-foot meat processing facility, according to a release by Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D-IL). "This groundbreaking brings Creal Springs and its surrounding communities an opportunity to rebuild and revitalize, and I'm grateful to USDA and Williamson County for working together to make today possible," Pritzker said. The plant will create 400 jobs over the next several years and support central and southern Illinois producers. Saline River Farms will invest \$34.5 million towards the \$80 million project. The rest of the funding will be provided by the state's Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit program, along with a \$1.5 million grant through the Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program and a \$6 million grant from USDA.

More funding available for processors

USDA announced it is making more funding available for meat and poultry processors to expand operations. USDA is partnering with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund to make \$123 million in grants available through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program. The grants are from \$250,000 to \$10 million to assist independent businesses in building and modernizing processing facilities and equipment, adopting new technologies and training workers. Details on eligibility and application can be found on grants.gov. The deadline to apply is Nov. 22.

Ground beef recalled due to E. coli

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced the recall of approximately 1,835 pounds of fresh ground beef products from Dean and Peeler Meatworks, LLC that may be contaminated with E. coli. The ground beef products were produced on Aug. 22. The products subject to recall bear the establishment number "EST. 51283" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to greater San Antonio, TX, restaurant locations. A complete list of products can be found at fsis.usda.gov.

Producer Owned Beef announces facility

Producer Owned Beef LLC announced that it has been awarded \$12.2 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund for its forthcoming beef processing facility to be built in Amarillo, TX. The funding comes after \$11.1 million in incentives was pledged by the city council from the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation. The \$670-million facility will process 3,000 head of cattle daily and aims to employ nearly 1,600 people. "Beef and beef production are part of Amarillo's culture and history, with nearly 28 percent of cattle fed in the United States coming from the Texas Panhandle region," said Ginger Nelson, mayor of Amarillo. "Beef is a staple of the Amarillo economy, and the addition of Producer Owned Beef LLC, enhances Amarillo's role in the beef industry on a national scale." According to the press release, the facility expects to break ground sometime this year and begin operation by late 2025.

Farm Bureau: Revised rule doesn't go far enough

WOTUS

(from page 1)

ability for the couple to build a home on their land near a lake.

Earlier in January, the EPA and Department of the Army published a final rule revising WOTUS, which became effective in March. Opponents argued the agencies should have waited until a decision was made on the Sackett v. EPA case before revising the definition.

"The entire cattle industry breathed a sigh of relief when the Supreme Court curtailed the EPA's overreach under the Clean Water Act," National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart said in a statement. "Today's revised WOTUS definition is an important step toward bringing the EPA more in line with the Supreme Court's ruling."

The revised rule does not change the eight exclu-

sions from the definition of WOTUS, which include:

- Prior converted cropland.
- Waste treatment systems.
- Ditches.
- Artificially irrigated areas.
- Artificial lakes or ponds.
- Artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools.
- Waterfilled depressions.
- Swales and erosional features.

The amended definition also does not affect the activity-based permitting exceptions provided to the ag community by the Clean Water Act, EPA said.

Reactions

Although the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) expressed their support for the elimination of the significant nexus test, the group raised other concerns. "EPA had a gold-

en opportunity to write a Waters of the U.S. rule that's fair to farmers and stands the test of time, but instead chose to continue government overreach and revise only a small slice of the rule that was rejected by the Supreme Court," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall in a statement.

He continued that EPA has ignored other concerns raised by Supreme Court justices, 26 states, and farmers across the country about the rule's failure to respect private property rights and the Clean Water Act. "Farmers and ranchers share the goal of protecting the resources they're entrusted with. They deserve a rule that respects farmers as partners in that effort," he said.

Environmental groups condemned EPA's revised rule and called it the largest rollback of water protections in the U.S., saying

it drastically limits the scope of the Clean Water Act.

"The new rule from EPA adjusts its existing regulations to comport with Sackett and reflects our dangerous new reality—one where mining companies, Big Ag fossil fuel developers, and other polluting industries can bulldoze and fill wetlands indiscriminately, harming our public health and ecosystems," said Patrice Simms, vice president of litigation for Healthy Communities, in a statement.

EPA and the Department of the Army will host a public webinar on Sept. 12 to provide updates on the revised WOTUS definition. For more information and to register for the webinar, visit www.epa.gov/wotus/amendments-2023-rule. The agencies also plan to host listening sessions this fall. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

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The hidden cost of cattle shrink

Beef cattle producers selling cattle by the pound prefer to minimize weight loss that animals experience from the farm to the sale facility, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute.

This weight loss is termed shrink.

"Shrink refers to weight loss that occurs when bodily fluids or solids are excreted by the calf between home and the sale location," said K-State veterinarian Brad White on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

White said this is often a hidden cost because cattle producers don't always factor that into their marketing plan.

"From a marketing standpoint, shrink is the difference between the amount of weight I got paid for at sale versus the amount of weight I could have sold if I'd done everything right," K-State veterinarian Bob Larson said.

How the cattle are managed between home and the point of sale can influence how much weight is lost.

"When cattle are stressed, they will increase the frequency of urination and defecation, which increases the amount of shrink," said Phillip Lancaster, K-State beef cattle nutritionist.

He added: "So when moving cattle be sure to remain calm and go slowly."

It is also helpful to have good facilities to move the cattle through, the experts said.

K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers added that even with good facilities, well-trained animal handlers are important in reducing shrink.

"You can have the best facilities in the world and yet the wrong handlers will totally negate what you are trying to keep from happening in respect to weight loss, so be sure that if you use third-party handlers that they are well-trained," Lubbers said.

The goal is to minimize the amount of time the cattle don't have access to familiar feed and water, according to Larson.

"The worst-case scenario is to move the cattle from the pasture to a dry lot with little access to feed and water, and then take them to an auction market where they are not weighed for another day or two," Larson said. "Even if you give them access to feed and water at the new location, it will take time for them to resume eating and drinking."

The bottom line, White said, is that "some shrink is unavoidable, but it is greatly influenced by how we manage the nutrition leading up to that point and then how we handle those cattle in the transportation process." — **K-State Research and Extension**

Managing late summer pasture weeds

Late summer always seems to be a time when weeds can become quite noticeable in pastures. This is especially true this summer because of the abundance of annual weeds like sunflowers, lambsquarters or snow-on-the-mountain that are a result of last year's drought conditions.

Perennial weeds like western ragweed, ironweed and verbena can be plentiful in some pastures as well. In areas of pastures that have relatively thin grass stands, in areas where animals congregate, or if some overgrazing has occurred, they can be very visible.

Spraying weeds now does little good. Many weeds are too large to kill. On both annual and perennial species that pro-

duce seed, herbicides might only reduce some seed production. If the goal is to improve appearance, shredding areas that have an abundance of weeds might be the best option, and may reduce some seed production too, if it's not already too late.

Two other approaches are better for long-term weed control. First, focus on the grazing management of your pastures. This includes using the proper stocking rate and developing a good rotational grazing plan. An important objective is to increase the health, vigor, and density of your grass. Healthy, competitive grass stands are essential to reduce weed populations economically over time.

Second, target herbicide applications for when they will do the most good. Both perennial and annual species can be better targeted with a spring application when plants are smaller and able to be controlled. For perennials, if a second application is needed, waiting closer to a killing frost is best. These fall applications can be more effective as more product is translocated down to the roots of the weeds.

Pasture weeds may look unsightly now; but hold off on spraying. Improve grazing management and time herbicides for the best window of control so herbicides won't be needed as often in the future. — **Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension**

Physical observations cannot confirm wolf kill

WOLVES (from page 1)

categories for large and small livestock, as wolves tend to consume much of the car-

cases of smaller animals. There are four levels of determination categories: confirmed, probable, unknown and other.

A confirmed determina-

tion leaves little doubt that livestock was killed by a Mexican gray wolf. In large livestock, confirmation is found through subcutaneous hemorrhaging and tissue damage, proving the animal was alive when attacked. Other physical observations can help make the determination but are insufficient on their own.

In smaller livestock, confirmation can be reached by either documenting hemorrhage and tissue damage, or comingled blood and wolf tracks indicating the animal was alive when it was killed and moved by wolves. Again, physical observations on their own will not be sufficient to prove a wolf kill.

For injured livestock, bite marks or rake marks that have the appropriate canine spacing for Mexican wolves will be adequate to confirm wolf injuries.

A probable determination is based on the suggestion that the livestock were more likely than not killed by the wolves, but there is insufficient physical evidence to support a confirmed determination.

An unknown determination is made if physical evidence is inadequate to suggest the wolf predation is more likely than not. Physical

evidence of wolf presence could be found near or on the carcass, but this is inadequate evidence. In addition, Wildlife Services will not determine wolf depredation in the case of missing livestock without the presence of any other physical evidence.

An "other" determination is made if physical evidence suggests the cause of death was from something other than wolves. This could include depredation from other species, lightning strike, shooting, etc.

"It's appalling that the U.S. Department of Agriculture blames endangered Mexican gray wolves for killing cows that died of something completely different," said Michael Robinson, a senior conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity. "I'm glad they're tightening standards for determining causes of cattle mortality, but the government should go further and require that ranchers properly dispose of dead cattle to protect both wolves and livestock."

The new standards in the Southwest are already followed in other states, such as Montana, Wisconsin, Oregon and Idaho, according to the groups. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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MILK +31 CW +53 Marb +1.14

REA +1.14 SM +87 SB +185 SC +327

RSA RITA 2251

Reg: *20523482 DOB: 02-27-2022

Sire: *K C F Bennett Exponential

MGS: #*G A R Prophet

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MILK +26 CW +78 Marb +.17

REA +.78 SM +60 SB +146 SC +249

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Reg: *19902806 DOB: 01-30-2020

Sire: *G A R Ashland

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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.

Oct. 10 – Internship applications are open for the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association Convention happening Nov. 29–Dec. 1 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV. Apply here: calcattlemen.org.

Yellowstone presents alternative bison strategies in draft plan

Yellowstone National Park is soliciting feedback on a proposal outlining three potential strategies for managing bison in and around the park, a long-awaited document that will guide how the park manages the animals in coordination with state and Tribal wildlife officials.

Once adopted, the plan will set the park's policy as it works with other agencies through a workgroup created by the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). That plan was adopted in 2000 in response to concerns that bison could infect Yellowstone-area cattle herds with brucellosis, a bacterial disease that can cause cattle to abort their young.

Broadly speaking, the 149-page draft environmental impact statement outlines three options, one of which the park will adopt:

- A status-quo option in which park managers would aim for a population of 3,500 to 5,000 animals and continue allowing existing hunting, hazing, quarantine and slaughter operations when bison stray outside the park.

- An option that would prioritize treaty hunting by Tribal members to manage herd size and continue with the quarantine-and-transfer-to-Tribes program that's expanded in recent years. Under this option, the park would manage for a larger population, between 3,500 and 6,000 animals after calving.

- A comparatively hands-off approach in which bison would be managed more like other wildlife, i.e., elk. Under that framework, higher numbers of bison would be tolerated and slaughter operations would cease, though the park would continue bolstering Tribal herds in other places with animals from the park.

Even under the most laissez-faire approach, the park would maintain the ability to work with other stakeholders to "take more aggressive management actions" such as capture and hazing operations if the risk of bison mingling with livestock increases.

"Montana uses these techniques to manage brucellosis transmission risk from elk mingling with livestock in the Paradise Valley, and, for over two decades, the IBMP partners have demonstrated these same techniques work for bison," according to the plan.

There's a bottleneck of bison at brucellosis quarantine facilities outside of Yellowstone National Park. Two bills introduced by a Montana lawmaker could alleviate that, helping Tribes across the U.S. restore viable wild herds. Will the Montana Legislature back them?

The draft proposal highlights recent research that found that wildlife-to-livestock transmissions of brucellosis are more likely attributed to elk than bison. Elk have transmitted brucellosis to cattle more than two dozen times since 2000, and there are no records of trans-

mission to cattle directly attributed to bison, the plan says, although "they frequently mingle with elk and likely transmit brucellosis to them at times, and vice versa."

Federal law requires park officials to use the "best available science" when crafting environmental impact statements and to manage wildlife to "sustain them in their natural condition."

The new plan comes on the heels of a tumultuous year for bison and those who hunt them. More than 1,100 bison were shot by hunters this spring, a record number that park officials attribute to increasing participation in treaty-authorized hunting and a snowy winter that drove animals out of the park en masse. In January, an errant shot from a non-Tribal hunter wounded a Nez Perce hunter. The prior month, 13 bison were killed in an accident involving a semi truck near the park's west entrance, an incident that drew national attention.

The plan's release is also punctuated by tension between the federal government and Gov. Greg Gianforte's (R) administration over bison management. The U.S. Interior Department in March pledged to invest \$25 million in bison restoration efforts, citing their ecological, historical and Tribal importance.

Last August, Gianforte joined the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen in opposing an effort to expand bison grazing on Bureau of Land Management-administered land in central Montana. In 2021, the state agreed not to explore bison introduction on state-managed land for at least a decade as part of a lawsuit settlement.

Additionally, there's a petition before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect Yellowstone bison under the Endangered Species Act that's based largely on concerns about the diversity of the herd's gene pool. The 12-month timer for the agency to decide if protections are warranted ran out in June, though it has not yet issued a decision.

The federal listing effort was spearheaded by Buffalo Field Campaign, Western Watersheds Project and Friends of Animals. In an email, Buffalo Field Campaign said the park's plan "fails wild bison" and involves "intense human selection to artificially suppress wild populations."

"The Park's plan represents a piecemeal approach to wild bison management that entrenches the status quo, at a time when we must be acting in a holistic manner," Buffalo Field Campaign Executive Director James Holt said in the email. "Moving from a policy of slaughter to a policy of domestication doesn't protect their long-term viability. Intensified human handling and removal called for in the alternatives will have a continued negative impact on their

wild characteristics."

MSGA did not respond to Montana Free Press' request for comment on the plan.

As of last summer, there were about 5,900 bison in the park distributed between two primary herds.

The park is taking comments on the draft plan through Sept. 25 and hosted two webinars on the draft. It

will then produce a final plan sometime in 2024. — **Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press**

McPhee Red Angus

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5082 Santa Rosa Creek Road

Rhoades Rhino *** 20289661 by Poss Deadwood

Rhoades Whitewater 201 *** 20315475

Rhoades Alternative 1 *** 20489563

Rhoades Versatile 2230 *** 20447010

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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. 18 — Baldridge/Tiedeman & Frank Cattle, Female Sale, Chappell, NE
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. 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 Beach, 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. 16 — Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Female Sale, Ideal, SD
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. 25 — Gardiner Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Ashland, KS
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, Lone, CA
Sep. 29 — Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ideal, SD
Sep. 29-30 — NextGen Cattle Co., Production Sale, Paxico, KS
Oct. 5 — RS Angus, Female Sale, Brownell, 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. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Female Sale, McCook, NE
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, NE
Nov. 11 — HD Dunn Angus, Bull Sale, Tetonia, ID
Nov. 14 — Huwa Cattle, Female 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
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 27, 2024 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
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
Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
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, Lone, CA
Oct. 14 — Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Nov. 18 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 2 — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO

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



VIDEO AUCTION

Big Horn Classic video auction Aug. 21-25, Sheridan, WY

Superior Livestock Auction hosted their Big Horn Classic video auction live on Aug. 21-25 from the Sheridan County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall in Sheridan, WY. Cattle producers offered over 221,510 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 32 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through May 2024. Region 5 Florida weaned calves were fully steady with the last auction. Calves on cows were well received by a strong buyer base. Regions 3 and 6 were close to market prices equal to the last auction. Some weakness was noted in calves on cows that were set to deliver immediately. Regions 3/4 northern Oklahoma and Kansas calves 500 pounds and up were fully steady on weaned calves, while \$5-7 lower on calves on cows. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers and heifers saw some weakness due to extreme heat in the South on immediate deliveries while deferred deliveries late September through November were fully

steady. Regions 1/2 feeder steers and heifers were both in strong demand and were fully steady from the last auction. Demand remained high for weights that would make the February and April slaughter, moving out at \$7-10 higher than the previous auction. South Dakota calves were met with an eager buyer base and saw record prices on all classes of weaned calves and calves on cows at \$150-200/cwt over last year's prices. North Dakota calves saw advances also at record levels year over year. Montana's eastern plains witnessed record price levels not ever seen in the cattle industry. Northern Wyoming weaned calves and calves on cows started at a rapid pace with lightweight calves consistently breaking into the \$400/cwt range. All classes were advancing at levels of \$150-220/cwt over last year. Western Wyoming calves were again at levels not seen in the industry. Nebraska weaned calves and calves on cows were well received with a strong buyer base. Colorado calves also moved out at fully steady with the last test two weeks earlier.



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99-22

AAA *20647021 E&B Plus One son

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC	CLAW	ANGLE
+7	+4	+70	+124	+22	+13	+34	+37
MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
+1.04	+74	+72	+65	+91	+74	+165	+286



970-22

AAA *20666220 Tehama Tahoe B767 son

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC	CLAW	ANGLE
+10	-2	+80	+140	+25	+13	+58	+51
MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
+1.06	+77	+73	+76	+78	+75	+153	+271



K237

ASA 4230826 CCR Boulder 1339A son

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MCE
+13.5	-1	+71.7	+116.3	+63.8	+8.3
DOC	MARB	RE	SAPI	\$TI	
+12.1	+46	+65	+138.2	+81.8	



11631

AHA 44319910 GB L1 Domino 762E son

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G
+2.2	+3.1	+61	+99	+39	+70
MARB	RE	\$BMI	\$BII	\$CHB	
+29	+61	+312	+399	+150	

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California Bull Sale

September 26, 2023 | 1:00 PM
Cattlemen's Livestock Market | Galt, CA
Selling 70 Angus Bulls

Annual Production Sale

October 19, 2023 | 12:00 PM
At the Ranch | Baker City, OR
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CALIFORNIA SALE OFFERING



\$B 192 • \$C 310

Lot 1 • 2212 • AAA# 20624069
Sire. Poss Rawhide
MGS. Spur Franchise 7070

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
11	.8	75	129	24	.90	.73	65	192	310



\$B 185 • \$C 299

Lot 7 • 2317 • AAA# 20613203
Sire. HCC Whitewater 9010
MGS. Thomas Navigator 5771

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
11	.5	71	136	32	1.131	.21	82	185	299



\$B 187 • \$C 302

Lot 64 • 2130 • AAA# 20509100
Sire. Connealy Clarity
MGS. SydGen Enhance

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
10	1.3	79	143	30	.87	.99	74	187	302



\$B 184 • \$C 288

Lot 53 • 2082 • AAA# 20509076
Sire. HCC Whitewater 9010
MGS. G A R Sure Fire

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
13	-.1	66	123	30	1.08	.99	76	184	288



\$B 214 • \$C 325

Lot 51 • 2024 • AAA# 20509065
Sire. HCC Whitewater 9010
MGS. Thomas Navigator 5771

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
11	.8	81	151	27	1.131	.47	90	214	325



\$B 198 • \$C 308

Lot 69 • 2126 • AAA# 20531997
Sire. Baldrige Alternative E125
MGS. SydGen Enhance

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$G	\$B	\$C
9	1.7	74	136	22	1.081	.07	82	198	308



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