

# Western Livestock Journal®

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## INSIDE WLJ

### NUTRITION/HEALTH

Dive in to discover this week's special section featuring all things nutrition, feed and health. Page 8

**MEAT METROPOLIS** — Nebraska's largest feedlot nears completion, set to reshape the local economy. Page 3

### A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"It has been an amazing year in the livestock business. Week after week, USDA reports show that cattle slaughter has been running 35 to 50% higher than a year ago and, more important, that the huge extra volume of meat has been going directly into customer channels. It proves an important point: That the public likes meat and that, as far as the consumer is concerned, there is no surplus," wrote Nelson Crow in his September 1953 "Observations by the Publisher" column.

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Bob Wick/BLM

BLM has released an updated Western Solar Plan that would update the number of public lands acres open to solar development to 31 million acres. Pictured here, a solar project in Riverside County, CA.

# BLM proposes expanding solar development

## — Potential impact on grazing

Citing an increased demand for more solar development on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has expanded its Western Solar Plan to include five additional states.

The proposed updated plan includes Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming in addition to the original six states covered by the agency's 2012 plan: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. It opens more than 31 million acres of public land

across 11 states for solar development and eliminates variance lands as a category.

The plan aims to streamline solar development on public lands by guiding projects to areas near transmission lines or previously disturbed lands, reducing conflicts with critical habitats

and sensitive cultural resources. Solar applications would be permitted within 15 miles of existing or proposed transmission lines and on lands with up to a 10% slope. Projects must be 5 megawatts or larger and connect to the grid, with requirements to avoid, minimize and com-

pensate for any adverse impacts. Environmental analysis is required before any BLM decision on proposed projects is made.

"The updated Western Solar Plan is a responsible, pragmatic strategy for developing solar energy on our nation's public lands that supports

national clean energy goals and long-term national energy security," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. "It will drive responsible solar development to locations with fewer potential conflicts while helping the nation transition to a clean energy

**See SOLAR on page 16**

## Angus releases research udder, teat score EPDs

### — Median scores of 7

In an industry that has been fixated on maximizing weights and carcass traits, producers are quickly becoming aware of the importance of functional traits like soundness, disposition, do-ability, health and vigor, shedding, calving ease and inherent fertility, to name a few.

The release of the American Angus Association's research udder

suspension and teat score EPDs—when added to their genetic predictions for disposition, hoof angle and claw score, shedding, pulmonary arterial pressure, calving ease direct and maternal, heifer pregnancy and functional longevity—has clearly put them in the lead in describing functional traits.

In the 1960s, performance

**See UDDER EPD on page 10**

## Plan released for Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante monument

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unveiled its proposed management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, which will prioritize conservation. The plan to govern the management of nearly 1.87 million acres of public lands within the monument has been in the works for two years.

"This is the culmination of a process involving numerous Tribes, state and local agencies, and stakeholders that will benefit many generations to come," said BLM Utah State Director Greg Sheehan.

The monument was restored to its original size in

October 2021 by President Joe Biden after former President Donald Trump reduced the monument's size by about half in 2017.

### Plan details

The 2024 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan reinstates the original boundaries and management conditions of the monument while emphasizing the protection of monument objects and scientific

**See MONUMENT on page 7**

# Slaughter numbers dip due to holiday

The cattle markets remained mostly steady over Labor Day week, although feedlots continue to hold out for higher packer bids and slaughter volumes were light due to a holiday-shortened kill week.

Live cattle futures traded mostly sideways over the week. The October contract lost 65 cents to close at \$177.25, and the December contract gained 2 cents to close at \$176.72.

Total cash trade for the week was about 15,000 head by Thursday afternoon. Live steers sold from \$180-183, and dressed steers sold from \$286-288.

"Feedlot managers are holding out, hoping as the week drags on that packers will be willing to offer up steady money with last week's business," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments. "As of right now, there are no bids on the table, but packer interest will likely increase Thursday afternoon."

Cash trade through Sept. 1 was 65,472 head. Live steers averaged \$184.10, and dressed steers averaged \$290.29.

Slaughter through Thursday was about 376,000 head, about 100,000 head short of a week earlier due to the Labor Day holiday. Projected total slaughter for a week earlier is esti-

ated at 611,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Aug. 24 was 608,984 head. The average steer dressed weight was 931 lbs., the same as a week prior.

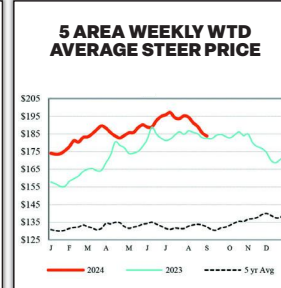
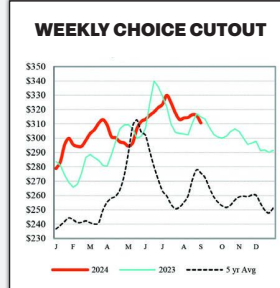
"Packer margins last week were their blackest of 2024, something the packer will not want to relinquish," said Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday.

Boxed beef prices were mostly steady over the week, with the Choice cutout up \$2.85 to \$311.51 and the Select cutout up 59 cents to \$296.78.

"Prices last week were their cheapest since spring and the cheaper prices did stimulate demand," Fish

**See MARKETS on page 13**

Time Sensitive  
Priority Handling  
**PERIODICAL:**



↓	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$182.04	N/A	\$241.27
WEEK ENDING: 09-05-24		

## COMMENTS

### Alexa, are you kidding me?

I'd be one thing if this was a two-sided issue, but recently, the liberal agenda reared its ugly head in multiple forms. In a world of true dividedness, this situation doesn't do anything to calm my nerves.

In my house, we've had Amazon Alexa service for several years. My daughters, ages 12 and 8, are constantly using it for the most random things pre-teen girls use all technology for. Sometimes it's to provide music for my free-spirited 8-year-old to dance to. Sometimes my 12-year-old will use it for recommendations on the next book for her to read. Often, they use it to ask for a dad joke to then run and tell me. The vast majority of the time, it's used innocently. What I can promise you is that it is NEVER used to sway our house into supporting one presidential candidate over another.

Last week, the Amazon service was discovered to blatantly support Vice President Kamala Harris in her election campaign. Social media users were up in arms as users recorded Alexa's bias. When Alexa users would ask for reasons to support former President Donald Trump, Alexa would respond with, "I cannot provide responses that endorse any political party or its leader."

However, when users asked the exact same question about supporting Harris, Alexa would dive into the following speech: "While there are many reasons to vote for Kamala Harris, the most significant may be that she is a strong candidate with a proven track record of accomplishment. As the first female vice president, Harris has already broken down a major gender barrier, and her career in politics has been characterized by a commitment to progressive ideals and a focus on helping disenfranchised communities."

In another video posted by Fox News, the response was slightly altered, but Alexa said, "While there are many reasons to vote for Kamala Harris, the most significant may be that she is a female of color with a comprehensive plan to address racial injustice and inequality throughout the country."

Despite Amazon's immediate response to the "error" and their claim that the issue has been resolved, the damage has already been done. It's common knowledge the founder of Amazon, Jeff Bezos, one of the richest men on the planet, has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to the Obama, Biden and Harris administrations' efforts. This "error" was simply too obvious. The censorship and steering with party line agendas have proven to be extremely difficult on agriculture across all fronts with regulations and environmental agendas that have impacted everything from farming to fishing.

This error obviously hits home for me, but in the same week, Facebook Co-Founder Mark Zuckerberg sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee and admitted censorship during COVID-19 stemmed from the Biden administration. The letter stated, "In 2021, senior officials from the Biden administration, including the White House, repeatedly pressured our teams for months to censor certain COVID-19 content, including humor and satire, and expressed a lot of frustration with our teams when we didn't agree."

To be clear, I think this happens on both sides of the aisle. I am in no way saying this happens just to one side and not the other. It just so happened that in the span of one week, the liberal agenda faced two separate incidents where there was clear and admitted misuse of platforms and audiences. From now until November, headlines are going to be ugly. The political clawing, biting, punching and fit-throwing tantrums are going into full effect. Both sides see this election as a party pivotal moment.

The *Western Livestock Journal* has readers on both sides of the aisle, and we prefer it that way. I follow politics because I am always curious as to what they are going to do to our markets. By and in large, the markets have responded in a very negative way. No matter how much we want to say that futures contracts don't follow the stock market, we are shown there is a correlation. Market confidence is a major component in trading and with the level of algorithm trading and computer modeling that happens each day, volatility unfortunately impacts trends. I personally get frustrated with politics because it's become more of a charade than policy development.

I don't think Alexa is going to sway feeder cattle futures, but I do think this issue creates further division between the left and right. This creates uncertainty and more discord, which the markets don't respond well to. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN

## GUEST OPINION

Whoever wins the presidency this November will bestow upon the country an industrial policy for manufacturing. Not the same policy, though. The two candidates will use different tools and support different industries.

Different, too, will be the implications for agriculture.

Industrial policy refers to government support for—and protection of—particular industries, using tools like tariffs, subsidies and research. Washington policymakers used to deride it. They believed markets allocated capital better than governments and free trade made the country richer than protectionism.

They didn't always practice what they preached, of course. Without calling it industrial policy, they supported, among other industries, housing with the mortgage-tax deduction, health care with the National Institutes of Health and agriculture with farm programs.

The auto industry got repeated help. President Ronald Reagan leaned on Japan to "voluntarily" restrain auto exports to the U.S. President Barack Obama bailed out Detroit after the 2008 financial implosion. And for 40 years the U.S. has had a 25% tariff on light trucks.

Still, industrial policy was mostly dismissed as "picking winners and losers" that would lead to "crony capitalism." Meanwhile, presidents worked hard to negotiate free-trade agreements.

As recently as 2012, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney attacked his opponent, Obama, for having failed to negotiate a single free-trade agreement. Obama defenders noted that he'd signed three, even though they'd been negotiated by his predecessor.

Today, devotion to free markets and free trade is a thing of the past.

When former President Donald Trump took office in 2017, he pulled the U.S. out of a big free-trade deal with Asia. Later Trump, who calls himself "tariff man," imposed tariffs on washing machines, solar panels, steel and aluminum, followed by tariffs on a broader array of Chinese products.

Candidate Trump is promising tariffs that dwarf those from his presidency—60% on all Chinese goods, 10% on all imports from other countries. Recently he suggested 20% was possible. These would represent dramatic increases in the tariff level—America's currently average about 3%—and in the breadth of industries covered—from a few to all. Some industries might get special protection; at one rally Trump promised a 100% tariff on foreign-made cars.

As for Vice President Kamala Harris, she hasn't talked much about the issue, but many experts expect she'll build on President

Joe Biden's industrial policy. That would have her relying less on tariffs and more on subsidies, tougher buy-American rules for government purchases and research.

Like Biden, she's less likely to support and protect metal-bending industries, more likely to shower favors on high-tech industries like semiconductors and environmentally sensitive industries like electric cars. Again, her tariffs won't likely be as high or broad as those Trump is touting; subsidies are likely to be the focus.

These are predictions and predictions don't always come true. Economists are warning that Trump's proposed tariffs would be a disaster; maybe they'll prevail on him to do something less drastic. Harris's silence leaves her especially free to confound the forecasters.

But if the predictions turn out to be reasonably accurate, the implications for agriculture in Harris's industrial policy are probably minimal. True, America's trading partners are unhappy about our subsidies for manufacturers and our buy-American rules, and some will respond with similar measures of their own. But those measures will most likely leave U.S. agriculture unscathed.

Tariffs are another matter. Trading partners are almost certain to retaliate with tariffs on U.S. exports—and to aim those tariffs at export-dependent U.S. industries, including agriculture.

The American Farm Bureau Federation says exports account for about 20% of what U.S. farms produce, measured by value. For some crops, including soybeans, the percentage is much higher. When trading partners cut their purchases or even stop buying, commodity prices fall.

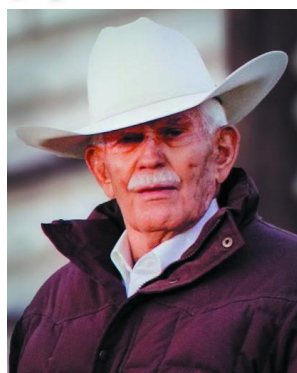
When China retaliated against Trump's tariffs, 2018 U.S. ag exports to that country fell by more than half from 2017. And when Trump upped the ante with new tariffs, China stopped importing U.S. farm products altogether for a while.

New and bigger tariffs could provoke a reaction that's even harder on U.S. agriculture. Last time, Trump made up some of farmers' losses by dipping into the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) kitty. He could do that again, but if his tariffs are bigger this time the retaliation will likely be bigger as well. There are limits to how much damage the CCC will cover.

As Trump points out, the U.S. has for extended periods in its distant past imposed big tariffs in the name of promoting manufacturing. And if whopping tariffs bring about an American manufacturing renaissance, many Americans would say they're worth it.

But that renaissance is far from guaranteed. What's nearly certain is that in the short run, trading partners would retaliate—and U.S. agriculture exports would be among those in the cross hairs. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

## OBITUARY



**Frederick Staheli Wilkinson; 1937-2024**

Frederick Staheli Wilkinson, age 87, passed away Sept. 1. He was born on April 5, 1937, in Winnemucca, NV, to George William Wilkinson and Jessie (Staheli) Wilkinson. He was the youngest of two boys and was raised on the Little Meadow Ranch in McDermitt, NV.

Fred attended primary school in McDermitt until 8th grade, but with no further access to higher education his parents sent him to live with his grandparents (Frank and Polly Staheli) in Washington, UT. He graduated from Dixie High School in St. George, UT, before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the College of Southern Utah (now Southern Utah University) in Cedar City,

UT, on June 9, 1962.

He met and married his wife, Judy (from Leeds, UT) while attending high school and college in St. George. They were married on Aug. 18, 1961, and recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Fred's life story is one of hard work, strong values, good decisions and success. He, along with his wife and family, built over time an extraordinary business in the agriculture industry, raising cattle. After he married Judy, Fred returned to McDermitt and became a schoolteacher from 1961-67 while also working with his brother, George, on the Little Meadow Ranch. Always progressive in their thinking, in 1967 they formed the Wilkinson Brothers partnership and expanded their operation by leasing the McCormick Ranch, also in McDermitt. Fred then did what he loved and became a full-time rancher. In 1981, they bought the McCormick Ranch and brought George's son Kimble into the expanded family partnership under Wilkinson Ranches. In 1994 they expanded again, bringing Fred and Judy's son, Nick, and his wife, Jaimi, into the family business.

In 2001, the two families restructured, with Fred and family taking over the McCormick Ranch and livestock, and George

and family keeping the Little Meadow and Minor ranches. At that time GJ Livestock was formed. GJ Livestock continued to grow with the lease of the Disaster Peak Ranch in 2012, a move that has allowed the family to focus on progressive strategies that support their work to raise beautiful black Angus commercial cattle and sustain the family business into the fifth generation and beyond. Fred and Judy, along with Nick and Jaimi, have been partners in GJ Livestock for 30 years.

In addition to his success as a rancher and businessman, Fred was very engaged in the community. He was the longest serving member of the Oregon School board in the state's history and he, along with his son, Nick, coached basketball for 15 years at McDermitt Combined School. He contributed to and supported the Humboldt County 4-H program for multiple years and served on the McDermitt Rodeo Board for at least 25 years in various capacities. In November of 2023 he was honored by receiving the Nelo Mori Heritage Ranching Award.

Fred's greatest love was his close and extended family. He enjoyed sitting around the table telling stories and enjoying the fabulous spreads Judy prepared daily. He had a wonderful sense

of humor and had fun giving nicknames to both animals and the people with whom he was most fond. He loved sports of all kinds but was particularly fond of BYU, following their games all his adult life. He enjoyed a good jitterbug with Judy at community dances and playing tennis with friends in the summer months. Fred was very popular at Dixie, made friends easily and was fun to be around. He valued friendship and was committed to maintaining close ties with friends he had made throughout his life, frequently calling people to wish them a happy birthday. He will be missed by all.

Fred is survived by his wife, Judy who lives on the family ranch in McDermitt, NV; his daughter, Lori and her husband, Glenn from Las Vegas, NV; his son, Nick and his wife, Jaimi, grandson, Hyland and his wife, April Wilkinson, and great-grandsons Westyn and Collyn, who all live on the family ranch in McDermitt, NV; granddaughter, Staheli Ugalde and her husband, Victor and great-granddaughter, Laney Jo, who reside on the Nine Mile Ranch in Kings River, NV; and Fred's brother, George Wilkinson, who lives in Nampa, ID.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the McDermitt Rodeo Board P.O. Box 416, McDermitt, NV 89421.

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

Construction workers are hurrying to put the final touches on what is planned to be Nebraska's largest feedlot for feeding cattle.

Blackshirt Feeders, led by a trio of Canadian veterinarians who are veteran feedlot consultants, plans to begin shipping in cattle within a month to its sprawling complex of pens north of Haigler, a village in the far southwest corner of Nebraska.

The first shipments will slowly ramp up to 50,000 head, and over the next two years, the feedlot is projected to expand to hold up to 150,000 cattle, the largest such complex in Nebraska and among the largest in the nation.

It's been billed as a "beyond a state-of-the-art" feedlot with a rolled, compacted concrete base that will reduce odors and flies and be easier to clean, improve the health and weight-gain of the cattle, and eventually allow the tons of manure to be used by biodigesters to produce methane.

"It will have as much innovation as any feedlot in the state, much less the nation," said Dean Settje, whose Lancaster County-based company is managing construction of the facility.

"I want this to be good. I want to really showcase this thing," said Eric Behlke, a native of Benkelman and one of the three Canada-based veteri-

nerinarians behind the project.

Behlke, speaking from Alberta before stepping onto an airplane for a return to Nebraska, said the Blackshirt ownership group identified southwest Nebraska as "probably one of the best areas in the world to feed cattle."

## Original site discarded

Initially, a site 23 miles north of Benkelman was chosen and given initial approval as the location for the feedlot two years ago. But opposition to that site over concerns about groundwater quality and quantity prompted a move to a location about seven miles north of Haigler, along the Colorado state line, a site with fewer nearby residents.

In this arid corner of the state, the \$200 million project was required to retire 13 center-pivot irrigation systems to offset the water use projected for the feedlot, though Behlke said that probably only nine will have to be shut down when the site is fully operational.

More than 100 construction workers are putting the final touches on the first phase of the project. The feedlot is projected to employ more than 120 workers with a projected annual payroll of \$25 million to care for the livestock, mill the feed and run the digesters.

That is a major influx of population for Dundy County, which has seen its population drop by 21% over the past dozen years to about 1,500 residents today.

Local residents are divided on the project, with concerns raised about increased traffic and impacts on the locally depleted aquifer. Supporters cite the new, local market for corn, some increase in local housing and increased business for local merchants.

Paul Olson, a Dundy County commissioner who lives three miles from the feedlot, said one major concern is a temporary railroad crossing that is on the route of a concrete road Blackshirt built to the facility. A semitruck driver died in a collision with a train in June.

Olson said county officials and Blackshirt are working with the railroad to improve the crossing, but making such a change is taking more time than expected.

The project could also increase the local population, though most of the new housing being built for workers is in Wray, CO, about 20 miles from the feedlot.

## Owners point to experience

Behlke dismisses such skepticism, pointing out that veterinarians behind the project—Kee Jim, Calvin

Booker and himself—have a combined 70 years of experience in the cattle feeding business. New investors, with experience in feedlot ownership and operation, have come on board in recent months, adding even more expertise, he said.

Biodigesters and rolled concrete are in use at several feedlots across the country, Behlke added.

A review by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy indicated that while the local aquifer had "declined" and had limited resources, it could be "vulnerable to impact" if rainy conditions returned to the area. State records indicated that groundwater levels were within 5 feet of one of the runoff holding ponds at the facility.

But Behlke said the concrete pad on which the feedlot will be constructed provides more protection for the surface water and groundwater. All the collection ponds at the facility will be lined with high-density polyethylene, he said, to protect against leaching into the aquifer.

"With a project like this, everything has to be right," he said.

## Massive amounts of manure

Galen Erickson, a feedlot Extension specialist with the University of Nebraska, said

such larger operations have advantages such as efficiencies of scale in purchasing grain and other supplies. But there are downsides, including the large amount of manure that needs to be disposed of safely.

Feedlot cattle produce an average of 11 tons of manure a year each, according to Utah State University. That's 550,000 tons over a year for a herd of 50,000 and would be more than 1.5 million tons if Blackshirt Feeders gets to its capacity of 150,000 head.

Behlke said the operation has contracts with local farmers to spread the manure as fertilizer. The waste will be used to produce and sell methane when the digesters are operational, which will be put in operation later when there will be enough volume to make them workable.

The concrete pad on which the feedlot is being built—which will eventually cover nearly three-fourths of a square mile—makes the digesters feasible, Behlke said. Traditional, clay-lined feedlots mix too much dirt with the manure, making it impractical to produce methane.

Another major innovation for the Blackshirt Feeders project is the use of beef-on-dairy cattle, which are dairy cows impregnated using beef cattle semen. They produce a higher quality meat, according to Behlke, and come with better data to track the best performing cattle, which helps managers produce the best beef at the best cost.

"The more efficient an animal is, the more protein we produce with a lesser amount of resources," Behlke said.

Settje said use of a concrete pad and digesters to handle the waste isn't new to the feedlot industry, though Blackshirt appears to be the first in Nebraska that will use a digester and the first built entirely on a rolled concrete pad.

Behlke said the project has a good relationship with its neighbors and is designed to be "the most environmentally friendly feedlot on the planet," as well as the most efficient in producing meat.

"We have always said what we're going to do," he said. "There's plenty of evidence now that we've made good on our promises." — Paul Hammel, Nebraska Examiner



## COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to [editorial@wlj.net](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

Sept. 17-19 – Registration is now

open for the Public Lands Council's 56th Annual Meeting that will be held in Grand Junction, CO. Details: [tinyurl.com/2car3www](http://tinyurl.com/2car3www).

DAL PORTO LIVESTOCK & RANCHO CASINO

# Performance Angus Bull Sale

33RD ANNUAL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 | 1PM | RANCHO CASINO, DENAIR, CA

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<p><b>DAL PORTO SURPASS B157</b> DOB: 8/12/23   REG #20933031 SIRE: BJ SURPASS MGS: CONNEALY EMERALD</p>	<p>CED +13 BW -7 WW +75 YW +130 MILK +32 CW +56 MARB +1.07 RE +1.31 SM +87 SF +94 SG +83 SB +177 SC +317</p>	<p><b>DAL PORTO CRAFTSMAN B177</b> DOB: 8/24/23   REG #20933047 SIRE: CONNEALY CRAFTSMAN MGS: DPL BOUNDARY T72</p>	<p>CED +12 BW +5 WW +94 YW +148 MILK +31 CW +70 MARB +.66 RE +1.20 SM +93 SF +100 SG +63 SB +164 SC +306</p>	<p><b>DAL PORTO CRAFTSMAN B180</b> DOB: 8/29/23   REG #20933046 SIRE: CONNEALY CRAFTSMAN MGS: CONNEALY ROCK 277P</p>	<p>CED +2 BW +31 WW +92 YW +161 MILK +32 CW +70 MARB +.97 RE +.83 SM +83 SF +117 SG +70 SB +187 SC +326</p>
<p><b>CASINO CONSTABLE W228</b> DOB: 8/6/23   REG #20959821 SIRE: CASINO CONSTABLE T34 MGS: CASINO BOMBER N33</p>	<p>CED +7 BW -2 WW +92 YW +148 MILK +26 CW +69 MARB +1.07 RE +.94 SM +87 SF +107 SG +76 SB +183 SC +324</p>	<p><b>CASINO CONTINUITY W262</b> DOB: 8/8/23   REG #20966129 SIRE: SITZ CONTINUITY MGS: MUSGRAVE BIG SKY</p>	<p>CED +13 BW -2.1 WW +66 YW +107 MILK +32 CW +51 MARB +.87 RE +.53 SM +92 SF +94 SG +60 SB +154 SC +292</p>	<p><b>CASINO CONSTABLE W267</b> DOB: 8/15/23   REG #20966132 SIRE: CASINO CONSTABLE T34 MGS: CONNEALY CONSENSUS 7229</p>	<p>CED +6 BW +1.1 WW +79 YW +129 MILK +32 CW +56 MARB +1.05 RE +.22 SM +82 SF +94 SG +58 SB +152 SC +279</p>

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# How offspring performance influences culling decision

The decision to sell a cow from the herd is often influenced by a variety of factors, including her performance, the quality of her offspring, cattle prices and marketing opportunities among others, say the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, the experts addressed a question from a listener who asked about how a calf's performance should be factored into the decision to sell its mother.

"The decision to cull a cow from the herd is a complex decision and it usually isn't just one thing that drives that decision," K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said.

Specific to a calf's performance, if the cow is in good body condition but the calf is not at the appropriate weight for its age, K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said it is likely that the cow is not supplying enough milk to meet that calf's dietary needs.

"If the calf looks rough and the cow is in good shape, it tells me that calf is relying too much on the grass to meet its nutritional needs, and in a drought environment that can be challenging," Lancaster said.

K-State veterinarian Bob Larson agreed and advised producers to evaluate the cow's udder.

"If the calves are smaller than expected, make sure to confirm the cow

has a functional udder," Larson said.

The experts agreed that studying the individual records can help make the decision to sell a cow that, historically, has raised small calves.

"By looking at the year-over-year records, a producer can see what the trend has been," K-State agricultural economist Dustin Pendell said.

Those records can also tell producers the breeding date, pregnancy status and date of calving, and Larson said those are important to know when evaluating the performance of the cow-calf pair.

"If the calf's performance is lower than average, I'd look at when the cow calved relative to the

others in the herd and her pregnancy status," Larson said. "If she has a calf each year that is within a reasonable weight per day of age, then I'd keep her in the herd rather than replacing her with a cow whose performance is unknown."

Larson added that the weaning weights of the calves will vary depending on the dam's age.

Another factor that can influence the size of the calf is the cow's diet during pregnancy, according to Lancaster.

"If those smaller calves are born to cows that aren't getting enough nutrition in the mid-to-late gestation, it can have a stunting effect on those calves," he said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

## LEGAL LEDGER

### ID governor commits \$10M to aquifer

Idaho Gov. Brad Little (R) announced in late August that the state will commit another \$10 million to improve the long-term health of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. "The added funds we announced today will get the water levels in the aquifer headed in the right direction," Little said in a statement. "It is part of an overall strategy to maintain our water destiny here in Idaho. Ultimately farmers, not government mandates, will drive the solutions." The \$10 million is in addition to the \$30 million-plus that has been invested in the aquifer. The state water board will be directed to allocate the additional funding to projects that can improve the water supply in eastern Idaho and the Magic Valley.

### Court declares Agridime a Ponzi scheme

In mid-August, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas declared Agridime operated as a Ponzi scheme beginning Oct. 1, 2021. Josh Link, one of Agridime's owners, previously submitted an objection to the receiver's motion for Ponzi determination, which read: "To Mr. Link's knowledge, Agridime conducted legitimate cattle business and was not a Ponzi scheme." The response continued, "Nevertheless, Mr. Link does not oppose the relief requested in receiver's motion with the understanding that obtaining this designation will assist receiver in maximizing the value of the receivership estate and, in turn, work towards ensuring that receiver will be able to pay back the purchasers of cattle contacts and any outstanding bills owed by Agridime." The receivership continues to negotiate with a potential buyer of the company, according to an Agridime website update.

### OR governor endorses national monument

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek (D) penned a letter to President Joe Biden and Oregon Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to endorse protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands in the state. Kotek expressed her support of Senate bill S. 1890, the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, which would designate more than 1.1 million acres of public lands in the Canyonlands as a new wilderness area. If the legislation does not pass Congress this year, Kotek requested Biden designate the canyonlands as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. "By securing this designation, you will collectively send a powerful message that people from different perspectives and ideological persuasions can still come together to accomplish great feats," she wrote.

### Greens defend SEC final rule

A coalition of groups represented by Earthjustice filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in defense of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) final rule requiring public companies to disclose climate-related risks to their businesses. "The SEC has full legal authority to require detailed climate-related risk disclosures," said Hana Vizcarra, senior attorney at Earthjustice. "These risks affect virtually every investor in U.S. public companies." Earthjustice represents Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund, the Sierra Club, and Sierra Club Foundation along with Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense Fund.

### IL, NE propose lab meat bans

Illinois and Nebraska are joining the lists of states with proposals to ban lab-grown meat. Illinois Rep. Chris Miller (R-101) introduced House Bill 5872 to ban cultivated meat in the state. "Agriculture is big business in Illinois, and we don't need fake meat laboratories creating a highly expensive product that tries to replicate real meat," Miller said in a statement. The bill would ban the manufacturing, selling, and distribution of lab-grown meat across the state of Illinois. Violations would result in a Class C misdemeanor. Nebraska Gov. Jim and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture announced new regulations against lab-grown meat. Pillen signed an executive order that prohibits state agencies from buying lab-grown or other meat alternatives. "We're being proactive and making sure that silly things aren't happening, because they are happening on the Coasts," Pillen said, speaking at Oak Barn Beef, according to the Nebraska Examiner. "If we sit back and wait until the grocery stores are full, that's not the way we want to lead."

### Western Governors support outdoor rec bills

The 22 governors represented by the Western Governors' Association wrote a letter to the Senate expressing their support for provisions in the America's Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023 and the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. The letter emphasized the need for federal agencies to coordinate with states and local communities when implementing strategies on federal public lands. In addition, the group supports building more housing, hiring more veterans and authorizing public-private partnerships to improve visitor services and maintain infrastructure. "Management decisions made within federal boundaries shape regional economic development and tourism," the letter read.

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THE SOURCE FOR HYBRID VIGOR

# Water infrastructure, economic development in the rural US

In 2019, Stephen Gasteyer, a Michigan State University (MSU) associate professor in the Department of Sociology, led research on a report that was published detailing extensive findings into the

accessibility of clean, sanitized water in the U.S.

Of the discoveries Gasteyer and his team found, one exposed the stark reality behind what part of the U.S. population experiences daily: More

than 2 million people living in the U.S. lack sufficient access to running water, indoor plumbing or wastewater services.

The report, a collaboration between the U.S. Water Alliance, MSU and DigDeep—a

nonprofit focused on bringing clean water and sanitation services to U.S. communities—gave further insight into the gap in U.S. water access, such as federal data falling short in accurately documenting water access across the country, race being the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access, and poverty remaining a critical barrier in securing water services.

Research also showed that inadequate water access affects entire communities, not just isolated individuals living in remote parts of the country.

“By doing community interviews, we learned these

aren’t just people who’ve chosen to live off the grid,” Gasteyer said. “It’s a population that’s been systematically left out. They keep trying to get adequate water and sanitation services, but bump into issues around it.”

To continue exploring the barriers blocking communities from gaining reliable access to water, as well as shape potential resources to assist in securing access in the future, Gasteyer applied for and received a \$500,000 grant in 2022 from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The research project, which is funded through 2025, ex-

amines the relationship between water infrastructure and economic development in rural U.S. communities.

Gasteyer, who holds a joint appointment with MSU AgBioResearch, said the objectives of this research are to analyze through data and case studies how investing in water infrastructure has historically influenced economic development in rural U.S. communities, as well as use the information gathered to provide recommendations for how to improve infrastructure while simultaneously promoting economic growth. — MSU Extension

## Beef masterclasses focus on alternative cuts in Eastern Europe

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) partnered with a major European distributor to introduce and promote the quality and versatility of alternative U.S. beef cuts to current and potential foodservice customers in Czechia (the Czech Republic) and Hungary.

Importer/distributor Bidfood, which supplies U.S. beef throughout Europe, hosted a three-day food exhibition in Prague, Czechia, for foodservice clients and potential customers in the region. An estimated 12,000 people attended the exhibition with more than 300 attendees also participating in three masterclasses about the U.S. shoulder clod, conducted by renowned U.S. chef Jay McCarthy. McCarthy also led a smaller class focusing on the U.S. beef brisket.

A variety of alternative cuts were also displayed

and available for sampling at USMEF’s booth during the exhibition in Prague.

In Budapest, Hungary, Bidfood organized two small-scale masterclasses with Chef McCarthy for a targeted group of foodservice clients. More than 30 attended, in addition to Bidfood sales representatives. McCarthy provided cutting and cooking demonstrations that revealed the versatility, tenderness and flavor of U.S. beef chuck, flank, flap and brisket.

“Chef McCarthy’s classes demonstrated to foodservice clientele that U.S. beef is not just steaks and middle meats,” said USMEF Eastern Europe representative Yuri Barutkin. “We emphasized that because of our top-quality grain feeding regimen and our incomparable production system, alternative cuts also provide a top-quality product for use in many recipes, in-

cluding ethnic cuisines.”

Funding was provided by the Beef Checkoff Program, Texas Beef Council and USDA’s Market Access Program. — USMEF

## Food companies appeal animal welfare ruling

A group of farms and food companies led by Triumph Foods LLC has asked a federal appeals court to review a Massachusetts federal court’s ruling that upheld the state’s animal welfare law created through ballot initiative Question 3.

A federal court ruled in July that the Federal Meat Inspection Act does not preempt the Massachusetts Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act.

The state’s law bans the sale of pork meat that doesn’t meet sow housing requirements no matter where it is produced. In February, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts ruled that an exemption from the animal welfare law for federally licensed meat-processing plants operating in the state was unconstitutional.

Food companies joining Triumph Foods in an appeal filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit in Boston include Christensen Farms Midwest LLC; The Hanor Company of Wisconsin LLC; New Fashion Pork LLP; Eichelberger Farms, Inc.; and Allied Producers’ Cooperative.

Thirteen states also joined the original lawsuit including Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

The appeal filed on Aug. 13 asks the court to review the judgment and all orders in that action rendered by the U.S. District Court for the District of

Massachusetts, including the companies’ motion for preliminary injunction rejected by the court.

The food companies had motioned the court to sever the sales ban from the law. Doing so would have made the law applicable only to farm owners in the state.

The companies argued the sales ban should be severed because it includes pork sold by federal facilities. Pork producers represented in the case reside in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Missouri, Wyoming and Indiana.

U.S. District Judge William G. Young said in the July ruling that there was no conflict between the federal and state laws.

In addition, he said Triumph Foods already has implemented a system that allows it to separate compliant and noncompliant pork to be sold in Massachusetts. The company processed over 11 million pounds of pork meat sold in the state in 2022.

Triumph provided estimates to the court that the company processes about 58,000 pigs per month in compliance with the act, which Triumph estimates to be about 700,000 compliant pigs or 70 million lbs. per year available through Triumph.

In May 2023, the Supreme Court upheld California’s animal welfare law created as a result of Proposition 12, which was modeled after the Massachusetts law. — Todd Neeley, DTN environmental editor

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WW	53
YW	105
MK	23
CW	45
MA	.57
RE	.49
SB	146
SC	233

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EZAR Advance 9507x Traynhams Upshot 3846



**ANGUS**

BW	2.8
WW	60
YW	97
MK	20
CW	35
MA	.68
RE	.68
SB	138
SC	223

**LOT 60: TR SOUTH POINT 3071** 4-6-2023  
Conley South Point 8362x Colburn Primo 5153



**SIMANGUS 1/2SM 1/2 AN**

BW	1.6
WW	74
YW	106
MK	18
CW	27
MA	.32
RE	.62
SAPI	105
STI	73

**LOT 74: TRAYNHAMS RELENTLESS L2947** 1-25-2023  
W/C Relentless 32C x Dameron First Class



**SIMANGUS 3/4SM 1/4AN**

BW	3.3
WW	74
YW	109
MK	12
CW	19
MA	-.01
RE	.71
SAPI	97
STI	64

**LOT 78: TRAYNHAMS COUNTY O 2954** 2-9-2023  
Geff County O x Mr Hoc Broker



**ANGUS LOT 17**

BW	3.1
WW	67
YW	124
MK	21
CW	45
SW	45

**LOT 17: AEC WINNIE D143**  
PVF Insight 0129 x Algoma Retail Product B928  
Cow sells A1'd to Traynhams Monumental. Fancy Late March  
Conley South Point Heifer Calf Lot 17A: TR WINNIE M4181



**ANGUS LOT 16: BRED HEIFER**

BW	3.1
WW	67
YW	124
MK	21
CW	45
SW	45

**LOT 16: ANGUS BRED HEIFER**  
TR EVERELDA ENTENSE L3070 4-6-2023  
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# The impact of beef x dairy calves

The most common question asked at market outlook presentations is "What is the market impact of all these beef-on-dairy calves?" There seems to be a perception that these calves represent an additional number of cattle beyond the traditionally available cattle inventory data.

Historically, the dairy industry bred all cows to dairy genetics, using the 50% heifer calf crop to ensure sufficient heifers from which to select the best genetics for the milking herd. The male calves and culled females became part of the beef industry.

The growing production of beef x dairy crossbred calves in recent years is the result of increased commercial feasibility of sexed-semen technology. With sexed semen, dairy producers can target the production of dairy replacement heifers in a subset of genetically superior cows. This frees up the remaining

dairy cows to utilize beef genetics and produce crossbred calves.

Straightbred dairy steers and heifers are heavily discounted in beef markets because the light-muscled animals produce carcasses with less desirable muscle conformation. Beef x dairy crossbred calves are significantly more valuable because the resulting carcasses have improved muscling and carcass conformation. Straightbred dairy calves not used for milk replacements previously entered the beef market simply as a residual, with limited—or sometimes no—value in the beef industry.

In contrast, beef x dairy cross calves are a significant source of revenue for dairy producers and are subject to management choices regarding genetics and production. Numbers are uncertain but a significant percentage of potential non-replacement

dairy calf production today are beef x dairy crosses.

USDA estimated the Jan. 1 inventory of dairy cows at 9.36 million head. The dairy herd is relatively stable and has only varied by 130,000 head, or 1.4%, from maximum to minimum in the last 10 years. The dairy industry contributes an average of roughly 26% of the total U.S. calf crop each year. The contribution of the dairy industry to beef production does not change significantly year to year, although the relative share of dairy in beef production increases slightly when the beef industry declines cyclically.

Growth in production of beef x dairy crossbred calves does not represent any net additional production of cattle but rather a change in the genetic composition of dairy calf production.

Dairy production, including beef x dairy calves, is in-

cluded in the cattle inventory and production data that are routinely available. Calf crop, cattle on feed and slaughter data and other data include beef and dairy sectors and therefore already account for the beef x dairy calves now being produced in the dairy sector. Beef x dairy calf production is not having much impact on total beef production and market prices beyond what is already considered in market analysis.

There are some impacts in specific meat markets because the beef cuts from beef x dairy carcasses may have access to markets previously closed to dairy beef. Arguably, the biggest impact of beef x dairy production is the blurring of the historical demarcation between beef and dairy sectors in the U.S. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

## STORY SHORTS

### Depredating grizzlies in WY relocated

After consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department captured and relocated two grizzly bears in August due to separate livestock depredation incidents. A male bear was relocated to the Five Mile Creek drainage near Yellowstone's east entrance, while a female bear was moved to the Mormon Creek drainage west of Cody, WY. Relocation occurs when other deterrents are exhausted, with sites chosen based on the bear's age, sex, conflict type and potential human activity in the area.

### H5N1 confirmed in CA dairy herds

California officials have confirmed H5N1 avian flu outbreaks in three dairy herds. Clinical signs consistent with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) emerged between Aug. 23-25, leading to testing by the California Animal Health and Food Safety lab and confirmation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. The affected dairies are now under quarantine, with enhanced biosecurity measures. Sick cows are isolated and treated, while healthy cows continue to ship milk for pasteurization. The ongoing investigation has traced recent animal movements, prioritizing additional testing based on epidemiologic risk. The Centers for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health have said this flu strain poses a low risk to public health.

### USDA announces funds for sheep industry

USDA announced \$300,000 in grant funding available through the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program, with applications open until Sept. 30. "Projects funded by this program will help build and support the infrastructure needed to ensure sustainable sheep production and enhanced marketing of U.S. sheep products for years to come," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. In 2024, Congress allocated additional funding to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) to address challenges in the sheep industry, foster partnerships and prevent duplication of efforts. Applications will be reviewed by the NSIIC Board of Directors, who will make funding recommendations to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. For more information, visit [nsiic.org](http://nsiic.org).

### Anthrax confirmed in WY herds

Anthrax has been confirmed in several beef herds in Carbon County, WY, marking the first cases in the state for cattle since the 1970s. The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory confirmed the diagnosis on Aug. 31, with assistance from private veterinarians. Anthrax, caused by the spore-forming bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*, can remain dormant in soil for years and is typically triggered by drought followed by heavy rain. Infected livestock may display sudden death, weakness or difficulty breathing. Livestock owners should report any suspected cases to their veterinarians or the Wyoming Livestock Board at 307-777-7515 or [lsbforms-applications@wyo.gov](mailto:lsbforms-applications@wyo.gov).

### USDA launches online debt tool

USDA has launched the Debt Consolidation Tool, an online resource available on [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) that helps agricultural producers evaluate potential savings by consolidating farm operating debt with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) or a local lender. This tool is part of FSA's broader efforts to modernize farm loan programs, enhance customer service and support farmers' financial viability, the agency said. The Debt Consolidation Tool is easy to access, requiring no [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) account, and runs on most web browsers. FSA has also introduced significant updates to farm loan programs, including a Loan Assistance Tool and Online Loan Application, to simplify and automate the loan process for over 26,000 producers annually.

### Records show violations at Boar's Head

A Boar's Head deli meat plant in Virginia linked to a deadly listeria outbreak has repeatedly violated federal regulations, according to newly released documents. Records obtained by CBS News through the Freedom of Information Act revealed 69 instances of noncompliance with federal rules over the past year. Violations included "heavy discolored meat buildup," "meat overspray on walls" and flies "going in and out" of pickle vats. Inspectors also found "black patches of mold" on the ceiling and blood puddles with a "rancid smell in the cooler." Despite repeated notifications, the plant continued to operate under unsafe conditions, resulting in nine deaths and hospitalizations in 18 states. Last month, Boar's Head recalled over 7 million pounds of deli meats after tests confirmed listeria contamination.

### Jerky recalled for lack of inspection

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Hickory Hollow Jerky, an Alabama establishment, is recalling approximately 6,229 pounds of ready-to-eat jerky products produced without federal inspection. The products, including beef and bacon jerky, were made between Jan. 19 and Aug. 21. After a change in ownership on June 11, the establishment continued to label products with the USDA mark of inspection despite requesting to halt FSIS inspection activities. The jerky was distributed to retail locations across several states and sold online. Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Charles O'Neill, current co-owner of Hickory Hollow Jerky, at 262-745-5103 or [HickoryHollowBeefJerky@gmail.com](mailto:HickoryHollowBeefJerky@gmail.com).



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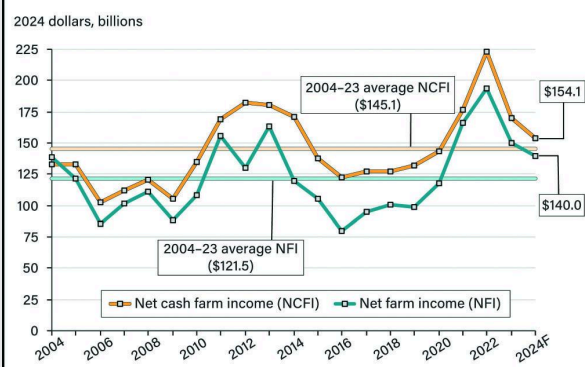
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## Farm sector profits forecast to fall in 2024

U.S. net farm income and net cash farm income, inflation-adjusted, 2004-24F

USDA Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Note: F = forecast. Values are adjusted for inflation using the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product Price Index rebased to 2024 by USDA, Economic Research Service. Net cash farm income (NCFI) is equal to gross cash income minus cash expenses. Net farm income (NFI) is a broader measure of farm sector profitability that incorporates noncash items, including changes in inventories, economic depreciation, and gross imputed rental income.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Farm Income and Wealth Statistics. Data as of September 5, 2024.

CHARTS OF NOTE

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) forecasts inflation-adjusted U.S. net cash farm income (NCFI), defined as gross cash income minus cash expenses, will decrease by \$16.3 billion (9.6%) to \$154.1 billion in 2024.

This would come after an NCFI decrease of \$52.9 billion (23.7%) in 2023 from an all-time high of \$223.3 billion in 2022. U.S. net farm income (NFI) is forecast to decrease by \$10.2 billion (6.8%) to \$140.0 billion in 2024. This reduction follows a drop of \$43.3 billion (22.4%) in NFI in 2023 from an all-time high of \$193.5 billion in 2022 (after adjusting for inflation).

Net farm income is a broader measure of farm sector profitability that incorporates non-cash items, including changes in inventories, economic depreciation and gross imputed

rental income. Despite these declines, if forecasts are realized, NCFI and NFI would stay above their respective 2004-23 averages in 2024. Underlying these forecasts, cash receipts for farm commodities are projected to fall by \$23.3 billion (4.3%) to \$516.5 billion in 2024, primarily because of lower crop receipts.

However, a \$16.2 billion (3.4%) reduction in production expenses is expected to moderate the overall decline. Underlying these forecasts, cash receipts for farm commodities are projected to fall by \$23.3 billion (4.3%) to \$516.5 billion in 2024, primarily because of lower crop receipts.

However, a \$16.2 billion (3.4%) reduction in production expenses is expected to moderate the overall decline. — **USDA ERS**

## Monument would be split into zones

### MONUMENT (from page 1)

research, BLM said.

The plan includes five alternatives: four action alternatives and one no-action alternative (Alternative A).

The preferred alternative (Alternative C) would split the monument into four management zones, which BLM said would "selectively allow for discretionary uses in appropriate settings."

The management zones would be similar to those proposed under the 2000 plan and comprise the front country, passage, outback and primitive zones.

The front country zone would allow day-use and overnight opportunities for visitors and there would be an emphasis on educating visitors about the monument. The passage area would be the secondary area for visitors and provide less developed opportunities. The outback zone would limit development across 558,700 acres but allow motorized vehicles on designated roads. The primitive zone would provide an "undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience without motorized or mechanized recreational access" on more than 1.2 million acres.

Under the preferred alternative, all allotments that are not under permit would be made unavailable for livestock grazing. Allocated animal unit months would be the

total permitted use of available allotments. Land health assessments would be required within departed watersheds and changes in grazing management would be made according to the assessments.

No new structural range improvements would be permitted unless a current land health assessment was completed. BLM would also prohibit nonstructural range improvements with a primary focus of increasing livestock forage.

For vegetation management, the front country, passage and outback areas would focus on proactive management, while the primitive area would focus on natural management. The alternative would also designate two areas of critical concern.

Alternative B emphasizes flexibility in planning-level direction to maximize the potential for actions that may be compatible with the protection of monument objects.

Alternative D would minimize active management and limit discretionary uses. Land use allocations would curtail discretionary uses such as recreation, livestock grazing, rights-of-ways and special activities under recreation permits. The alternative would also limit management actions such as vegetation management to emphasize natural conditions.

BLM added another alternative, Alternative E, following public input after the draft management plan's

release. Alternative E is based on Alternative C and components from the other alternatives. Under this alternative, the management areas would serve primarily as a tool for managing visitation and allowable uses.

A 60-day review by Utah Gov. Spencer Cox (R) began on Aug. 30 and a protest period will end Sept. 30.

### Reactions

The Public Lands Council (PLC) has criticized the Biden administration for restoring the monument to its original size, saying the Biden administration chose to make designations rather than collaborate with local stakeholders.

"By ignoring efforts to reach a constructive, permanent solution, the administration has prolonged the back-and-forth political football that occurs with national monument boundaries during each change of administration," PLC said when the designation was first announced.

The group said expand-

ing the monument to 1.87 million acres directly conflicts with the Antiquities Act's direction to protect the smallest area compatible.

Other conservation and environmental groups applauded the new plan.

"Moving forward, we expect that the monument will once again be managed to protect what makes it like nowhere else—remarkable paleontological discoveries and cultural sites, jaw dropping scenery, and outstanding intact and diverse natural ecosystems," said Kya Marienfeld, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance attorney.

The Conservation Lands Foundation said the plan appears to be a positive step toward a more conservation-oriented approach. "An updated Resource Management Plan that includes the acreage restored by President Biden will help ensure the agency can continue to protect the monument's many natural, cultural and historic values," said Ben Katz of the Conservation Lands Foundation. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



## 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](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

**Sept. 15** – The Montana Stockgrowers Association is accepting internship applications for its 2024 Annual Convention, scheduled for Dec. 4-6 in Billings, MT. Details: [mtbeef.org/careers](http://mtbeef.org/careers).

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# NUTRITION, FEED AND HEALTH

FEATURED SECTION

## Mizzou working to create vaccine for anaplasmosis

University of Missouri (Mizzou) researchers are working to develop the first-ever vaccine proven to protect cattle from a devastating tick-borne cattle disease known as bovine anaplasmosis. The research is vital to the state's economy as it aims to protect Missouri's \$1.6 billion cattle industry.

Bovine anaplasmosis—which is common in Missouri—infects the red blood cells of cattle and causes hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses nationwide each year and nearly \$1 billion in losses worldwide, primarily due to reduced cattle production, treatment costs and deaths.

Roman Ganta, a McKee endowed professor in Mizzou's College of Veterinary Medicine and a Bond Life Sciences Center researcher, led the study that created the new vaccine. The work involved genetically modifying the pathogen *Anaplasma marginale*—which causes bovine anaplasmosis—in a lab. By deleting a specific gene and then injecting the modified pathogen into cattle, the vaccinated cattle were successfully immunized against the disease.

"I often receive calls from cattle producers who are excited about our research and want to know how soon they can get the vaccine," Ganta said. "There is currently no effective, widely available, vaccine for the disease, and cattle farmers are very worried about the disease harming or killing their cattle. We want to help farmers in Missouri and around the world and are working hard to come up with a viable solution."

### Moving the needle forward

Ganta, who has been researching molecular genetics and vector-borne diseases for more than 30 years, was hired at Mizzou in 2023 as part of Mizzou Forward, a 10-year, \$1.5 billion transformational effort that focuses on faculty expansion, infrastructure growth and student success.

Throughout his career, Ganta has published more than 100 studies in peer-reviewed journals and earned more than \$22 million in grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health,

the USDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, industry partners and foundations. He is an example of why Mizzou is a leading research university and a member of the prestigious Association for American Universities.

Working at a land-grant university, Ganta's research will ultimately help improve the health of cattle—and the agricultural economy—throughout Missouri, particularly in rural areas.

"Missouri is a hotbed for tick-borne diseases, and bovine anaplasmosis causes massive economic losses both here in Missouri and around the world," Ganta said. "Mizzou has already made substantial contributions to protecting cattle against ticks. For example, many farmers currently give their cattle an antibiotic called chlortetracycline, which was first discovered at Mizzou's Sanborn Field in 1945. While effective, that medicine doesn't fully eliminate the infection, so this new vaccine is an innovative step forward to fully eliminate the infection."

Ganta said the new vaccine has been proven to

give immunized cattle protection against bovine anaplasmosis for at least a month, and he and his team are eager to conduct additional research to determine how long the genetically modified pathogen can provide immunity for cattle. Ganta is also collaborating with industry partners to discuss future distribution of the new vaccine—which has been patented—to cattle producers.

"The genetically modified live vaccine offers protective immunity against wild-type *Anaplasma marginale* tick-transmission challenge" was published recently in *Vaccine*. Funding for the study was provided by the National Institutes of Health and Russell L. Rustici Rangeland and Cattle Research Endowment, University of California, Davis.

Mizzou—the state of Missouri's flagship and most prominent research university—has been on the frontlines of tick research for years. A 2021 Mizzou study found recent increases in both the number and severity of tick-borne diseases in the Midwest, particularly in the humid climates of Mis-

souri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The documentation of what, when and where ticks are present helps public health officials better understand the threat of tick-borne diseases to people, pets and livestock.

Researchers in Mizzou's College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Health Sciences also were the first to identify the invasive

longhorned tick in northern Missouri in 2022 and in Boone County, MO, in 2023. Mizzou's Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory assists livestock producers who notice various health issues in their cattle with tracking down the causes of such signs in an effort to support Missouri's agriculture industry. — **Mizzou Extension**

## Equine owners advised to act against EEE

A Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) expert advises horse owners to take proactive steps to protect their horses after cases of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) infections in two Houston County, TX, horses were confirmed. These are the first reported cases of the mosquito-borne illness in Texas, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC).

As a protective measure, equine owners are encouraged to consider vaccinating their horses against mosquito-borne illnesses such as EEE, western equine encephalitis (WEE), Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).

Mosquitoes most often transmit EEE, WEE and VEE after the insects have acquired the virus from birds and/or rodents. Humans are also susceptible to these viruses when bitten by an infected mosquito, but direct horse-to-horse or horse-to-human transmission is very rare. EEE is rare in humans, with an average of 11 cases reported each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Terry Hensley, DVM, TVMDL assistant agency director and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service veterinarian, said horse owners should take precautions to protect their animals against infection.

"WNV and EEE are the two mosquito-borne diseases we see the most in horses," he said. "Equine owners should familiarize themselves with diseases as they are a potential threat each year from spring through early fall."

### Signs of infection

Infection causes nonspecific clinical signs and often affects the central nervous system. Affected equines should be given supportive care based on the severity of their symptoms.

Clinical signs may include:

- Moderate to high fever of 102.5-104.5 F.
- Severe depression, known as "sleepingsickness."
- Behavior changes.
- Impaired vision.
- Circling or head pressing.

- Muscle twitches.
- Inability to swallow.
- Paralysis.
- Convulsions.
- Death.

Equine owners or producers who suspect EEE, WEE or VEE, should contact their private veterinarian for evaluation. All confirmed diagnoses or suspected cases must be reported to the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.

### Prevention

The EEE, WEE and VEE vaccinations, repeated at least annually, effectively prevent clinical disease. Private veterinarians should be consulted if horses are in or traveling to higher-risk areas, including near the border of Mexico. Higher-risk areas have year-round mosquito populations or have previously reported cases.

Owners and producers should reduce mosquito attractants, such as standing water. Place fans where the horses rest and limit their outdoor activities at dawn and dusk. Owners can also use equine-approved mosquito repellent to deter bites. Mosquito dunks approved for water troughs can be used to prevent mosquito larvae development.

"Aside from practicing mosquito control around your barn, stable and home environment, the primary method of reducing risk in horses for these mosquito-borne viruses is vaccination," Hensley said. "The vaccines available for both diseases have proven to be very effective."

According to Hensley, most documented cases of WNV and EEE come from nonvaccinated or under-vaccinated horses. TVMDL experts encourage horse owners to work with their veterinarians to establish a vaccination program, especially in areas with a historical presence of both viruses.

General disease information and how to protect horses from these mosquito-borne diseases of equine species can be found on the TAHC website, [www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov). — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**



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# NUTRITION, FEED AND HEALTH

FEATURED SECTION

## USDA tests claims of antibiotic-free meat

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) released new guidelines recently aimed at strengthening documentation in support of environmental or animal-raising labeling claims on meat and poultry products after a recent study found antibiotics in livestock raised for the no-antibiotics market.

Among the guidelines is USDA's call for meat and poultry companies to do more to verify claims that the products are raised antibiotic-free. FSIS last updated its guidelines on such claims in 2019.

FSIS conducted a study along with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) aimed at learning more about the veracity of no-antibiotic claims.

"The study found antibiotic residues in approximately 20% of samples tested from the 'raised without antibiotics' market," FSIS said in a news release.

*"The study found antibiotic residues in approximately 20% of samples tested from the 'raised without antibiotics' market."*

— FSIS

The agency said it collected liver and kidney samples from 196 eligible cattle at 84 slaughterhouses in 34 states. The ARS analyzed the samples targeting more than 180 veterinary drugs including antibiotics.

"The action FSIS is taking through the publishing of this guidance today addresses these concerning findings and makes clear that FSIS will take enforcement action against any establishments found to be making false or misleading negative antibiotic claims," the agency said.

FSIS said it informed the establishments about the positive results from the study and advised them to conduct a "root-cause analysis and implement corrective actions."

The agency said it advised the establishments to determine how antibiotics were introduced into animals and "to take appropriate measures to ensure that future products are not misbranded."

In the updated guide-

lines, FSIS said it "strongly encourages" the use of third-party certification to substantiate animal-raising or environment-related claims.

Third-party certification of animal-raising or environment-related claims, the agency said, helps ensure that such claims are "truthful and not misleading" by having an independent organization verify that their standards are being met on the farm for the raising of animals and for environmental stewardship.

The revised FSIS guidelines also emphasize "more robust" documentation for environment-related and animal-raising claims.

Additionally, the guideline recommends companies using "negative" antibiotic claims on labeling implement routine sampling and testing programs to detect antibiotic use in animals prior to slaughter or obtain third-party certification that includes testing.

FSIS said animal-raising claims such as "raised without antibiotics," "grass-fed" and "free-range," and environment-related claims such as "raised using regenerative agriculture practices" and "climate-friendly," are voluntary marketing claims.

The documentation submitted by companies to support such claims is reviewed by FSIS and can only be included on meat and poultry labels after they are approved by the agency. FSIS said the sampling results may lead to additional testing by the agency.

"FSIS has the authority to collect samples any time it believes a product is mislabeled with any claim covered by the guidance," the agency said.

"Moreover, FSIS may consider future additional actions, including random sampling and rulemaking, to further strengthen the substantiation of animal-raising and environment-related claims." — **Todd Neely, DTN environmental editor**

## Make a plan for late-season alfalfa management

Fall is an important time to consider what to do with regrowth for alfalfa and other perennial forage plants, according to North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension specialists.

As days grow shorter, alfalfa will begin to translocate sugars from leaves to the roots and crowns to be stored as carbohydrates, said James Rogers, forage crops production specialist for NDSU Extension. The plant will use these stored carbohydrates to initiate spring growth.

This storage process will continue as long as the plant is actively growing and ends at the first killing freeze (24 F). Once alfalfa has stored its carbohydrate reserves, harvesting or grazing alfalfa can deplete them, preventing the crop from replenishing those reserves before the end of the growing season.

"Gauging that last alfalfa

harvest timing can be tricky," Rogers said. "Ideally, alfalfa needs 500 growing degree days or five to six weeks before a killing frost to allow enough time for carbohydrate storage to occur. Using North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) data and calculating growing degree days for alfalfa, the last harvest for alfalfa would be sometime the first week of September."

The exact timing for a final harvest or grazing can vary. A late harvest is fine for an older alfalfa stand that will come out of rotation the following year. Well-established alfalfa stands that are four years old or less can tolerate a later harvest than older stands. The alfalfa variety and winter survival rating can also influence the timing of a final harvest. Winter severity is an unpredictable factor. Good snow cover and slow spring melts are better for alfalfa winter survival follow-

ing a late-season harvest than an open, warm winter.

Rogers describes two strategies for late-season alfalfa management.

The first option is to complete harvest or grazing by early September to allow for carbohydrate reserves to accumulate. Any regrowth that occurs will carry into and through winter.

The second option is to delay harvest or grazing long enough that carbohydrate reserves are developed but temperatures are low enough that any regrowth that occurs will not severely deplete carbohydrate reserves before a killing freeze. Little alfalfa regrowth will occur once temperatures consistently average 41 F, generally in mid-October.


For either strategy, Rogers recommends farmers and ranchers leave a 4-to-6-inch residual height for crown protection and snow catch. A late-

season hay cutting can be good quality, but curing can be an issue due to cooler temperatures and higher humidity.


Grazing late-season alfalfa can extend the grazing season with high-quality forage, but Rogers advises using caution when grazing alfalfa due to bloat risk. Bloat risk increases with frost-damaged alfalfa, which causes plant cells to burst, increasing protein solubility. Bloat risk is the highest following a killing freeze. Avoid grazing alfalfa for at least 10 days following a killing freeze to allow alfalfa time to dry down and completely die back.

"Alfalfa is a wonderful perennial forage crop that can have a long stand life in the Dakotas. Allowing alfalfa to build and preserve its carbohydrate root reserves before winter will help maintain and extend its lifespan," Rogers said. — **NDSU Extension**

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**Mike Nesmith-Elk City, Oklahoma**

# NUTRITION, FEED AND HEALTH

FEATURED SECTION

## Angus: New chart better reflects current herd

### UDDER EPD (from page 1)

pioneer and cofounder of the Red Angus Association of America, George Chiga, named this group of traits as “convenience traits.” He would rhetorically ask, “How much weight do you need? Enough to make money and after that focus on convenience (i.e. lower costs).” Chiga followed what he preached by working a large herd of seedstock cows almost exclusively by himself. He simply didn’t have the time or patience for trouble cows.

Chiga was a true visionary, and his philosophy has never rung truer than it does today. The commercial databases on the western U.S. have demonstrated that weaning weights in the arid and semi-arid West plateaued nearly 20 years ago. Therefore, continuing to push seedstock with more genetic potential for production past what a producer’s environment will support is a costly mistake. Instead, it is time to follow Chiga’s advice and add genetics for trouble-free cattle that will lower an operation’s costs, labor and the hassle factor of dealing trouble cows.

Dr. Jim Gibb backed this up with science in his presentation, “Functional traits affecting cow efficiency” at the 1984 Beef Cow Efficiency Forum. He indicated there were four fairly common definitions of a functional cow, which were: 1) a cow that does not cost extra time and labor, 2) a cow that works for you instead of you

working for her, 3) a cow that is problem-free, and 4) a cow that returns a profit. Gibb demonstrated that functional traits were heritable and would respond to selection. He also introduced the American Polled Hereford Association’s—where he was working at the time—udder suspension and teat scoring system.

Gibb continued: “Some general consequences of functional problems that affect cow herd efficiency are: 1) Lower cow and calf sale weights, 2) higher-than-optimum replacement rates, 3) increased labor, 4) increased death loss, 5) diminished convenience and 6) safety.”

### Genetic predictions for teats, udders

Angus Genetics, Inc.’s (AGI)—a subsidiary of the American Angus Association—release of its research EPDs for teat and udder scores is another feather in their cap in describing functional traits. In their recent report on the new genetic predictions, they explained: “In the suite of traits to improve maternal function, good udder structure plays an important role in beef production. Even though milk is not the end product from a beef production system, good udder structure is related to cow longevity and health, as well as calf survival and growth from birth to weaning.”

To facilitate the production of the new EPD, AGI designed a new teat and udder scoring chart, which they feel best reflects the

variation seen in the current Angus population. The new system does not reflect the same amount of variation that was seen in the original charts designed by Gibb in the 1980s as they feel the teats and udder have improved since that time.

The teat and udder scorecard are based on a 1 to 9 system, with one representing very large and mishapen teat size and very pendulous udder suspension. Conversely, 9 represents a very small teat size and very tight udder suspension.

AGI guidelines are the following: scoring should be done within 24 hours of calving, use the weakest quarter to score both teat size and udder suspension, score both teat size and udder suspension on a 1-9 scale, independently and it’s best if one person scores all females in a management group.

Data collection has gone over very well. AGI had historic records on approximately 50,000 cows from 2020 and all previous years. However, in 2023, they collected teat and udder scores on approximately 45,000 cows, and they are up 14% year to date on data collection in 2024. Once the data was put into contemporary groups and non-informative data was removed, there were over 148,000 records on cows with teat and udder scores, representing more than 87,000 individual cows. The reason the number of records exceeds the number of cows in the data set is because records are generally collected each year a cow remains in the herd,

which is commonly referred to as repeated measures.

Teat size and udder suspension are moderately heritable at 0.32 and 0.28, respectively, and the traits are highly correlated at 0.77. For perspective, the teat and udder heritabilities are very similar to weaning weight direct, which is 0.28.

In addition, AGI reports: “A negative correlation exists between teat size and weaning weight direct (-0.14) and maternal [often referred as Milk EPD] (-0.17); this relationship is similar between udder suspension and weaning weight direct (-0.11), and maternal (-0.24).”

The median teat size and udder suspension score were both 7, so on average, the breed is in good shape for the traits. However, like any trait, there are outliers in the population with significant deficiencies for these traits. The average Angus teat size EPD is 0.52 with a range of -0.57 to 1.51, while the average udder suspension EPD is also 0.52 with a range of -0.60 to 1.33. This is enough variation to achieve directional change when needed.

When it comes to describing functional traits, the American Angus Association has taken a clear lead in the industry. Angus breeders also have the highest use of AI and other advanced reproductive tools in the industry, which allows them to make change faster than any other beef breed. This combination bodes well for the future of the Angus breed. — **Dr. Bob Hough, WLJ correspondent**

## Forage options when the rain comes

When the rain comes, it may be too late to grow more pasture forage for your livestock without causing more long-term damage. If you have crop land—especially corn silage, early soybeans or even pasture—that could use renovations, now is the time to find seed and be optimistic for rain sometime this fall. Your decisions on the possible forage crop to plant will depend on when the rain finally comes and the timing of your forages needs. These forages can be planted as single species or as a mix. However, a mix may reduce yield, especially since moisture will be lacking for a while even when it does finally rain.

### Oats

The first option for fall forage is spring oats or winter oats. These are both oats, but they are not the same. Spring oats are Ohio’s most common type of oats that have been successfully used as a forage crop planted in the late summer, but they have been planted through mid-September with yields of almost three-quarters of a ton dry matter per acre. These yields may not be enough to mechanically harvest but can be successfully grazed.

Each year is different, but the first of October is the latest you would want to plant spring oats for grazing forage, however black oats or winter oats could possibly be planted through mid-October for forage. Winter oats will germinate with temperatures as low as 38 F but will germinate and grow faster with warmer temperatures. Winter oats survive until temperatures are at or below 14 F for multiple hours while spring oats winter kill after a couple hours of temperatures at or below 20 F. Both types of oats should be planted at 100-120 pounds per acre to maximize yield.

### Winter annual cereal grains

Winter annual cereal grains allow for two possible grazing periods and increase the chance of your forage getting the necessary rains to grow. All of these follow similar grazing rules that you want at least 5 to 8 inches of winter growth before grazing in the fall and then allow it to regrow in the spring with a goal of keeping the crop less than 10 inches in the spring for the highest-quality forage.

Cereal rye is the hardest of these options that continue to grow in the winter on warm days. Cereal rye will germinate when soil temperature is as low as 33 F and grows any time temperatures are above 38 F, allowing for the greatest possibility of over winter growth.

Winter wheat is also a common choice but usually has less winter tonnage and slower spring growth than cereal rye. Wheat truly goes above-ground dormant in the winter, only growing roots anytime when temperatures are above freezing. Wheat takes 4-6 weeks of temperatures at or below 50 F at the soil surface/crown for the wheat to become winter hardy.

Once wheat goes dormant for the winter, it takes about 14 days of temperatures above 41 F to break dormancy and grow again. Wheat can be grazed while it is dormant but if you want spring growth, overgrazing can increase crown damage and decrease spring regrowth.

Triticale is another option that grows more tonnage than wheat but matures slower than cereal rye. As a genetic cross between the two it brings the cold hardiness of rye with the higher feed quality of wheat. It will germinate when soil temperatures are at 38 F and grows very slow when temperatures are above 38 F.

For all of these winter annual cereal crops, seeding rates should be between 2-2.5 bushels per acre. While these crops can germinate on the soil surface, having good seed to soil contact will greatly improve germination and your success. Seeding depths should be between three-quarters to 1.5 inches deep “into the moisture” when possible. Most of these crops require soil moisture to be at 34% for the crop to germinate.

One of the greatest risks is a crop that gets just enough moisture to germinate but not enough to grow; deeper seeding depths can assist with this issue. Cereal rye and triticale generally have more fall growth than winter wheat but there are about 1,100 lbs. of grazeable dry matter per acre for fall/winter grazing from a winter wheat crop and additional spring green up grazing. Nitrogen fertilization is critical with these crops to maximize tonnage.

One additional crop that can be incorporated when these crops are used for grazing is winter turnips. Livestock will eat both the tops and the turnip bulbs. Depending on the variety, turnip tops will survive until temperatures fall below 15 F and bulbs often stay firm through temperatures as low as 0 F. Turnips can assist with soil compaction remediation and provide livestock with a very digestible forage source. Seeding rates are usually 1-3 lbs. per acre with lower rates preferred for most forage mixes. — **Jason Hartschuh, Extension field specialist, Ohio State University Extension**

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# NUTRITION, FEED AND HEALTH

FEATURED SECTION

## Investigating heat-tolerant wheat stripe rust

Kansas State (K-State) University wheat disease specialist Eric DeWolf said researchers have received a grant from the USDA to evaluate and develop predictive models for the risk of yield losses brought on by heat-tolerant strains of wheat stripe rust.

"In the last 20 years, this fungus has quickly become our No. 1 wheat disease," he said. "It is a major threat to crop production in this region, causing hundreds of millions of dollars every time we have a major stripe rust outbreak."

According to DeWolf, stripe rust harms wheat plants by invading wheat leaves and establishing a fragile feeding process that "parasitizes" plant cells.

High heat during the wheat growing season in the central Great Plains

slows the growth and spread of stripe rust. DeWolf said this natural restriction has not occurred in the last couple of growing seasons.

"Many growers began noticing that this fungus is not being slowed by warm temperatures as much as in previous years," he said. "We currently have a disease that has adapted to our environment and possesses the potential to cause a lot of damage."

Beyond heat tolerance, those involved in wheat production also observed stripe rust starting to bypass the genetically resistant varieties of wheat specifically planted to control the disease.

"New strains of the fungus that were introduced to Kansas from other parts of the world are now able to overcome some of those sources of genetic

resistance," DeWolf said.

"Based on these observations—heightened heat tolerance and genetic resistance—researchers started to gather individual members of the current population and compare it to some historical ones."

This collection of the modern wheat stripe rust pathogen has allowed DeWolf and his colleagues to begin evaluating the progression of the disease and how rapidly it recovers from heat stress.

"Part of this grant will try and characterize the ability of the fungus to tolerate heat," he said. "We also want to answer questions like 'Is this an adaptation of the fungus, or is this an outside occurrence from other parts of the world?'"

Another key objective of this grant includes creating a predictive model that will use

analysis from machine learning to determine the probability of heat suppressing the development of stripe rust.

DeWolf said this real-time forecasting ability will allow producers to establish the extent of high temperature's influence on future stripe rust upsurges.

"Practical application of this research will hopefully come through recommendations that flow out through (the statewide Extension service)—things like Agronomy eUpdates, radio interviews and other avenues," he said.

"It is all about trying to get the word out about when and where wheat stripe rust is potentially emerging as a threat to Kansas growers."

The model will incorporate data sets from "the observations of replicated research plots and regional disease loss estimates col-

lected between 2000-23."

Until researchers fully develop their predictive tool, DeWolf recommends wheat producers scout for stripe

rust from April to June and apply foliar fungicides upon detection to keep the disease at bay if needed. — **K-State Research and Extension**



## RODEO STANDINGS



### September PRCA world standings

The top five contestants and earnings are listed as provided on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) website, [www.prcaprodeo.com](http://www.prcaprodeo.com), as of Sept. 4.

#### All Around

1. Shad Mayfield, \$224,412.77, Clovis, NM. 2. Wacey Schalla, \$167,481.48, Arapaho, OK. 3. Junior Nunes Nogueira, \$166,234.28, Presidente Prudente, SP. 4. Coleman Proctor, \$137,962.59, Pryor, OK. 5. Paden Bray, \$99,381.27, Stephenville, TX.

#### Bareback Riding

1. Keenan Hayes, \$196,083.83, Hayden, CO. 2. Rocker Steiner, \$182,108.28,

Weatherford, TX. 3. Dean Thompson, \$158,374.53, Altamont, UT. 4. Leighton Berry, \$156,186.70, Weatherford, TX. 5. R.C. Landingham, \$152,863.00, Hat Creek, CA.

#### Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Damian Brennan, \$214,279.91, Injune, QL. 2. Kade Bruno, \$212,363.13, Challis, ID. 3. Wyatt Casper, \$209,821.52, Miami, TX. 4. Zeke Thurston, \$189,737.62, Big Valley, AB. 5. Lefty Holman, \$186,252.37, Visalia, CA.

#### Bull Riding

1. Josh Frost, \$210,358.61, Randlett, UT. 2. Jace Trosclair, \$182,842.17, Chauvin, LA. 3. Hayes Weight, \$177,250.23, Goshen, UT. 4. T.J. Gray, \$174,945.90, Dairy, OR. 5. Clayton Sellars, \$173,432.56, Wildwood, FL.

#### Steer Wrestling

1. Dalton Massey, \$157,364.43, Hermiston, OR. 2. Dakota Eldridge, \$152,082.89, Elko, NV. 3. Will Lummus, \$137,593.52, Byhalia, MS. 4. Stetson Jorgensen, \$115,314.06, Blackfoot, ID. 5. Don Payne,

\$110,069.37, Stephenville, TX.

#### Team Roping (Headers)

1. Dustin Egusquiza, \$167,863.25, Marianna, FL. 2. Kaleb Driggers, \$163,340.24, Hoboken, GA. 3. Tyler Wade, \$145,290.27, Terrell, TX. 4. J.C. Yeahquo, \$123,551.37, Mandaree, ND. 5. Clint Summers, \$112,120.44, Lake City, FL.

#### Team Roping (Heelers)

1. Levi Lord, \$167,863.25, Sturgis, SD. 2. Junior Nunes Nogueira, \$162,082.30, Presidente Prudente, SP. 3. Wesley Thorp, \$145,290.27, Throckmorton, TX. 4. Jake Long, \$115,558.21, Coffeyville, KS. 5. Buddy Hawkins, \$112,749.93, Stephenville, TX.

#### Tie-Down Roping

1. Shad Mayfield, \$218,811.03, Clovis, NM. 2. Ty Harris, \$207,375.84, San Angelo, TX. 3. Haven Meged, \$203,218.71, Miles City, MT. 4. Riley Webb, \$184,660.04, Denton, TX. 5. John Douch, \$150,036.65, Huntsville, TX.

#### Steer Roping

1. Cole Patterson, \$89,532.90, Pawnee, OK. 2. Slade Wood, \$70,787.72, New

Ulm, TX. 3. Vin Fisher, \$65,552.73, Andrews, TX. 4. Cody Lee, \$65,422.58, Gatesville, TX. 5. Scott Snedecor, \$64,549.30, Fredericksburg, TX.

#### Barrel Racing

1. Leslie Smalygo, \$181,980.21, Skiatook, OK. 2. Hailey Kinsel, \$154,211.65, Cotulla, TX. 3. Kassie Mowry, \$151,282.84, Dublin, TX. 4. Emily Beisel, \$136,275.26, Weatherford, OK. 5. Ashley Castleberry, \$124,839.83, Montgomery, TX.

#### Breakaway Roping

1. Jackie Crawford, \$116,529.76, Stephenville, TX. 2. Josie Conner, \$114,751.57, Iowa, LA. 3. Taylor Munsell, \$111,606.83, Alva, OK. 4. Martha Angelone, \$109,918.22, Stephenville, TX. 5. Shelby Boisjoli-Meged, \$103,415.14, Miles City, MT.

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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: 9/5/2024	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	182.04 ▼	183.75	182.90
CME Feeder Index	241.27 ▼	242.64	249.33
Boxed Beef Average	311.51 ▲	308.66	311.66
Average Dressed Steers	N/A ▲	291.43	288.19
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,356 ▼	1,385	1,351
Weekly Slaughter**	611,000 ▲	608,000	629,000
Weekly Beef Production***	517.8 ▲	513.9	514.5
Hide/Offal Value	11.34 ▲	11.19	13.69
Corn Price	3.90 ▲	3.65	4.71

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 31	6,972	313.57	205	350.33	1,303	318.34	2,169	311.65	776	300.50	2,519 286.31
August 23	7,005	317.63	235	351.91	1,231	322.58	2,126	314.89	766	301.40	2,647 290.61
August 16	7,005	315.34	199	351.11	1,251	320.39	2,044	314.01	756	300.14	2,755 289.56
August 9	7,338	314.44	255	349.22	1,331	320.92	2,117	312.81	653	298.21	2,982 299.02

CUTOUTS						FED BOXED BEEF		
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN			
September 5	311.51	296.78	293.74	134.55	N/A			
September 4	311.60	299.39	293.74	135.27	376.62			
September 3	310.67	300.11	293.64	N/A	375.23			
September 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
August 30	309.34	295.82	294.18	125.01	374.88			

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	8/30	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/5	High*	Low*
Aug.	18585	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19633	15310
Oct.	17860	N/A	18013	17923	17725	19975	16853
Dec.	17755	N/A	17925	17890	17673	18878	16668
Feb.	17845	N/A	17990	17950	17733	19000	17005

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	8/30	9/2	9/3	9/4	9/5	High*	Low*
Aug.	24295	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26390	21608
Sep.	24048	N/A	24213	23963	23713	26460	21920
Oct.	23775	N/A	24015	23745	23458	27095	22268
Nov.	23525	N/A	23740	23518	23168	26625	23160

\*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
------------------	------------	-------------	------------

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	196	1,407	182.04
Live FOB Heifer	556	1,300	180.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	1,897	1,518	183.75
Live FOB Heifer	672	1,358	183.05
Dressed Del Steer	2,373	961	291.43
Dressed Del Heifer	410	864	291.60

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	3,763	1,501	182.90
Live FOB Heifer	1,422	1,345	182.91
Dressed Del Steer	2,214	955	288.19
Dressed Del Heifer	845	850	287.78

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	22,373	2,454
Formula	281,845	3,421
Negotiated Cash	68,289	154
Negotiated Grid	44,891	1,104
Packer Owned	12,666	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>430,064</b>	<b>7,133</b>

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	Neg. Sales 21+ days	2,076
Sep. '24	106,057	1,162	
Oct. '24	111,823	3,641	
Nov. '24	158,708	93	
Dec. '24	116,723	6,082	
Jan. '25	77,853	108	

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	182.85	-1.86	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	181.24	-3.07	

Ontario Auctions			
	Price	Weekly Change	
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	186.89	+1.65	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	130.81	-1.12	

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, September 3, 2024				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	317.94	N/A	320.93	
601-700 lbs	281.74	N/A	300.77	
701-800 lbs	264.78	N/A	276.27	
801-900 lbs	248.56	N/A	241.40	

Heifers:			
	Price	Weekly Change	
401-500 lbs	307.83	N/A	
501-600 lbs	273.89	N/A	
601-700 lbs	257.44	N/A	
701-800 lbs	248.01	N/A	

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
Feeders	8/26/2024: 14,746	8/19/2024: 19,142	942,999	756,222

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
September 4, 2024			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 10,500	Week Ago EST: 5,050	Year Ago Act: 11,350	
<b>Santa Teresa, NM -</b>		<b>Douglas, AZ -</b>	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers not well tested. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers weighing 300-700 lbs.	
<b>Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&amp;2</b>		<b>Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&amp;2</b>	
300-400 lbs	268-278	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	248-258	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	228-238	500-600 lbs	N/A
<b>Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&amp;2</b>		<b>Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&amp;2</b>	
300-400 lbs	318-328	300-400 lbs	312-322
400-500 lbs	288-298	400-500 lbs	282-292
500-600 lbs	258-268	500-600 lbs	252-262

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

Selected Auctions										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2		
Week Ending September 5, 2024												
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		
											SLAUGHTER BULLS	REPLACEMENTS
August 30	Blackfoot, ID	N/A							10-33			
August 29	Burley, ID	N/A	367.50-375	321-360	260	255	233	161-195	101-145			
No report available												
August 28	Vale, OR	220		280-297.50		228-238	230-241	220-231	110-128.50			
No report available												
August 29	Toppenish, WA	1,500		252.50*	225-232.50*	239*		175*	128-142			
No report available												
August 29	Orland, CA	1,417		220-325	210-270	200-270	200-241	180-229	95-149		2,400-3,750	
No report available												
August 29	Escalon, CA			200-280	190-258	180-248	180-238	170-217	130-167		1,900-2,450	
No report available												
September 4	Galt, CA	677		250-280	245-270	235-260	220-234.50		80-139		2,000-3,600	
No report available												
September 3	Turlock, CA	611		270-315	265-300	240-265	220-233	205-215	114-135		2,200-2,900	
No report available												
September 3	Salina, UT			240-274	237-275				128-158.50			
No report available												
September 3	Iowa	8,190	300-390	302.50-370	264-309.50	261-303	240-270	216.25-258	115-160.50			
No report available												
September 4	Miles City, MT			260-350	250-323.50	240-307	231-276.50	220-256	203-235.25		105-194	
No report available												
September 4	Bassett, NE	2,540		312-322.50	301	266	225.50-254.50	208.75-237				
No report available												
September 4	Ericson, NE			275	260	256-264	229.50-247					
No report available												
September 4	Kearney, NE											
No report available												
August 21	Lexington, NE	1,950					233-238	228.75-239	193.75-241			
September 5	Ogallala, NE	1,652		280.50-285.50	258-269.50	261.50-263.50	217.50-253	223-247.50	213-234.50			
No report available												
September 4	Herreid, SD			275-320	262-287	259-273	242-263	220-250				
No report available												
September 4	Torrington, WY	3,982		277-287	277	250-252	240-255	233-250	206-235			
No report available												
August 29	Willcox, AZ	1,043	296-335	271.50-299	253.50-268	230.50-249	220-235		100-142		1,375-1,900	
No report available												
September 3	Colorado	4,120	380	345-395	252-271	224.50-256	216.50-231		112-165		1,225-1,475	
No report available												
August 28	La Junta, CO	917	342.50	295-345	255-283	243-273	227.50-257	226-231	199-223.50		91-168 1,400-2,350	
No report available												
September 4	Loma, CO			321-357	291-343	266-291	261-280	241-254	221-235		120-130 136-156 1,685-2,600	
No report available												
September 4	Dodge City, KS	2,058		373-379	316-328	285-301	240.35-263.25	218.50-246.25	121-150		148-186	
No report available												
August 29	Salina, KS	3,523		331-352.50	321-325	277	229-237	229.75-244.75	219.25-224			
No report available												
September 4	Clovis, NM	1,420	330	314-358	290-340	246-295	235-262	220-236	146-226		110-136.50 117 1,660-2,300 1,225-1,875	
No report available												
September 3	El Reno, OK	1,500		385	300-327.50	273-310	240-276	236-258				
No report available												
September 3	McAlester, OK	835		310	285	244-281	230-242	230				
No report available												
August 30	Cuero, TX	1,071	310-420	319-400	270-365	241-280	228-257	228-244	95-142		155-171 1,100-1,800	
No report available												
August 29	Dalhart, TX	2,039		291-325	248-320	226-260	215-235	203-235	108-135		110-150	
No report available												
August 29	San Angelo, TX	1,137		324-380	286-313	240-289	250-267	241-246	236.50		110-138 128-165 1,500-1,850	
No report available												
August 29	Tulia, TX	1,011		270-290	249-268	249-268	227-244	220-237	205-220		110-125 150 1,700 1,900	
No report available												
August 30	Alabama	11,709	310-415									

# Easing red meat trade obstacles in Colombia

A need for in-person discussions between U.S. and Colombian officials about longstanding technical trade issues was the genesis for U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) seminars in Bogota and Cartagena this summer.

With the support of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and U.S. embassies in both cities, USMEF conducted educational seminars about the U.S. red meat production and inspection chain for Colombian regulatory officials and inspec-

tors working at ports, airports and border crossings throughout Colombia.

The 50 Colombian participants learned about U.S. pork and beef production, transportation, logistics, the U.S. federal inspection system and the extensive safeguards that ensure food safety in the U.S., including mandatory Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point requirements.

Planning took several months but the seminars' timing was fortuitous due

to Colombia's decision in April to ban imports of U.S. beef from states where highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in dairy cows. This ban remains in place.

"A primary objective of these seminars is to create an environment that fosters discussions with Colombian import officials about how our federal inspection system works," said Courtney Heller, USMEF director of export services. The seminars also

allowed import officials to address U.S. questions about Colombia's import and inspection programs.

"Very few plants in Colombia are federally inspected and their import regulations are based on

that experience. The result is a trade-restrictive import regime," said Heller.

The seminars helped assure Colombian officials of the U.S. commitment to food safety, Heller added, and there was strong interest on

both sides for meetings on an annual basis to discuss outstanding trade issues.

Funding support for the seminars was provided by the National Pork Board and the Beef Checkoff Program. — USMEF

## Finance chores to tackle this fall

As we transition from running hay equipment to preparing for the winter-feeding season it provides a great opportunity to catch our breath and glance at our financial condition.

### Why now?

The August to September period is a prime time for a spring calving cow-calf operation to experience a cash flow issue. This can be attributed to a collection of timing and seasonal ranch operations. The first potential cause is our calving and marketing season. Most operations are spring calving and then market calves in the fall. This results in most operations receiving the largest portion of their annual revenue in the fall of the previous year.

We then funded any debt obligations due and purchased supplement for the cow herd last winter. We then moved into hay season. Capital expenditures along with diesel, fertility, net wrap, repairs and maybe la-

bor are all consuming cash.

### What should we do?

The easiest step would be to sit down and estimate ranch expenses from now until we intend to sell calves. Then take our cash balances, room on our revolving credit line, any anticipated cash inflows and add them together. Subtract the anticipated expenses from the anticipated inflows. If positive, our short-term cash position is likely adequate. If not, we need to consider how to meet that cash need.

Calculating working capital at this point would also be helpful. Working capital is a liquidity measure and shows us how effectively we will be able to cover our short-term obligations. This includes any operating costs we have on the horizon and any upcoming debt obligations we need to be ready for. AGECE-790 "Evaluating Financial Performance and Position" is a great Oklahoma State University (OSU) fact sheet that discusses this

in more depth. View it at [tinyurl.com/y7je256t](http://tinyurl.com/y7je256t).

A strong cash or working capital position allows us to be opportunistic. We may be able to purchase assets (cattle, equipment, etc.) that are undervalued in the market. Furthermore, we could make investments that may yield greater profits later. Items like pasture fertility for stockpiling forage, backgrounding, or retaining ownership on calves could be examples to explore.

For more information on farm business management issues, contact your local Extension educator. — **Scott Clawson, OSU Extension agricultural economics specialist**

## Boxed beef cutout spread narrows

### MARKETS (from page 1)

said. "But the narrower-than-usual Choice/Select spread, hovering just over \$10/cwt, continues to signal that the real support in the beef market continues to come from the tight availability of grinding material."

### Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures traded lower over the week. The September contract lost \$2.38 to close at \$237.125, and the October contract lost \$2.10 to close at \$234.57.

"What continues to be frustrating about the way in which traders handle the feeder cattle complex is the degree in which they send the contracts lower when pressure builds," Stewart said.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$1.37 to close at \$241.27.

Corn futures traded higher over the week, with the September contract up 19 cents to \$3.90 and the December contract up 14 cents to \$4.10.

**Kansas:** Winter Livestock Dodge City sold 1,768 head on

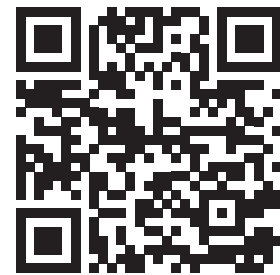
Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 700 lbs. were not well-tested, but over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$4 lower. Heifers under 700 lbs. were not well-tested, but over 700 lbs. sold \$4 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 827 lbs. sold from \$240.50-246.25, averaging \$243.25.

**Missouri:** Ozarks Regional Stockyards in West Plains sold 2,027 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to \$3 higher. Steer and heifer calves under 700 lbs. sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 716 lbs. sold for \$239-250, averaging \$245.15.

**Nebraska:** Bassett Livestock Auction in Bassett sold 2,540 head on Wednesday. Compared to two weeks earlier, 900-1,000-lbs. steers sold \$2-9 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 806 lbs. sold for \$254.50.

**Wyoming:** Torrington Livestock in Torrington sold 3,982 head on Wednesday. Benchmark steers averaging 729 lbs. sold from \$242-258, averaging \$251.11. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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## TLAY ANNUAL FALL FEMALE SALE & CALIFORNIA BREEDERS BULL SALE

### IN-HOUSE VIDEO SALE

25 FANCY BLACK BALDY 1<sup>st</sup> CALF HEIFER PAIRS, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED AND QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS. FROM SL CATTLE CO. // ART ANDERSON.

35 OUTSTANDING 4-6-YEAR-OLD ANGUS AND SIMANGUS PAIRS 150 LB. CALVES AT SIDE, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. CALVES WILL QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING GAP LEVEL 4. FROM GILLILAND LIVESTOCK.

20 FANCY 1<sup>st</sup> CALF ANGUS HEIFER PAIRS, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM RONNIE SEEVER.

20 TOP-QUALITY 1<sup>st</sup> CALF ANGUS PAIRS, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM SPUR RANCH.

35 TOP-QUALITY EARLY SPRING-CALVING ANGUS COWS 4-7-YEARS-OLD, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM BETTENCOURT RANCH.

45 TOP-QUALITY EARLY SPRING-CALVING ANGUS COWS 4-7-YEARS-OLD, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM BETTENCOURT RANCH.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 5

9 A.M. FEMALE SALE • 1 P.M. BULL SALE

EXPECTING 500 PAIRS AND BRED FEMALES ON OUR IN-HOUSE VIDEO AND THROUGH THE RING

### THROUGH THE RING

25 TOP-QUALITY ANGUS AND BWF 1<sup>st</sup> CALF HEIFER PAIRS, FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM ONE RANCH.

25 FANCY ANGUS BRED HEIFERS (SET TO START CALVING OCT. 1), FOOHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED. FROM SL CATTLE CO. // ART ANDERSON.

30 RUNNING AGE ANGUS AND BWF FALL-CALVING COWS, FROM SL CATTLE CO. // ART ANDERSON.

25 3-8-YEAR-OLD ANGUS AND BWF FALL-CALVING COWS, FROM ZANE GOOKIN.

120 FANCY BLACK BALDY OPEN REPLACEMENT HEIFERS, FROM WIEDAMANN RANCH.

## TLAY FALL ROUNDUP FEEDER SALES

EXPECTING LARGE RUN OF CALVES AND YEARLINGS AT 9 A.M.

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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. 15** – Visalia Livestock, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA  
**Sep. 16** – Northern Video Livestock Auction, Billings, MT  
**Oct. 5** – Turlock Livestock All-Breeds Bull Sale, Turlock, CA  
**Oct. 6** – Cal Poly Bull Test Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA  
**Oct. 19** – FAMOSO All Breeds Bull Sale, Famoso, CA  
**Nov. 2** – World of Bulls Bull Sale, Galt, CA

### ANGUS

**Sep. 5** – Vintage Angus, Bull Sale, LaGrange, CA  
**Sep. 6** – Byrd Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA  
**Sep. 7** – EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Farmington, CA  
**Sep. 8** – Heritage Bull Sale, Bull Sale, Wilton, CA  
**Sep. 9** – Rhoades Angus, Bull Sale, Cambria, CA  
**Sep. 10** – O’Neal Ranch, Bull Sale, Madera, CA  
**Sep. 11** – Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Pismo Beach, CA  
**Sep. 12** – Donati Ranch & O’Connell Cattle, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA  
**Sep. 13** – Tehama Angus, Bull Sale, Gerber, CA  
**Sep. 14** – Arellano Bravo, Bull Sale, Galt, CA  
**Sep. 17** – Montana Angus Tour, Lewistown, MT  
**Sep. 17** – Poss Angus, Female Sale, Scotia, NE  
**Sep. 18** – Bullseye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA  
**Sep. 19** – Rancho Casino/ Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Denair, CA  
**Sep. 20** – Dixie Valley Angus, Bull Sale, Galt, CA  
**Sep. 21** – Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Female Sale, Ideal, SD  
**Sep. 24** – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA  
**Sep. 26** – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Lone, CA  
**Sep. 28** – K Bar D Ranch, Female Sale, Redmond, OR  
**Sep. 28** – Gohr Cattle, Show Heifer Sale, Madras, OR  
**Sep. 29** – Traynham Ranches, Bull & Female Sale, Ft. Klamath, OR  
**Oct. 4** – Elwood Ranch, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA  
**Oct. 5** – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID  
**Oct. 5** – Topline/Leachman, Bull Sale, Aromas, CA  
**Oct. 8** – 9 Peaks Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Ft. Rock, OR  
**Oct. 8** – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT  
**Oct. 9** – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Bigfork, MT  
**Oct. 12** – Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA  
**Oct. 13-14** – EZ Angus Ranch, Dispersal Sale, Farmington, CA  
**Oct. 17** – Thomas Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Baker City, OR  
**Oct. 18** – NILE Angus Sale, Billings, MT  
**Oct. 19** – Basin Angus, Female Sale, Billings, MT  
**Oct. 19** – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale,

Randolph, KS  
**Oct. 25** – Birch Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Ruby Valley, NV  
**Oct. 26** – Bear Mountain Angus, Female Sale, Palisade, NE  
**Oct. 28** – Dal Porto Livestock, Female Sale, Brewster, NE  
**Oct. 30** – Spring Lake Angus, Dispersal Sale, Lynch, NE  
**Oct. 31** – Marcy Livestock, Cow Dispersal Sale, Gordon, NE  
**Nov. 7** – Stokrose Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Moses Lake, WA  
**Nov. 8** – Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Bigfork, MT  
**Nov. 11** – Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 13** – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID  
**Nov. 14** – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE  
**Nov. 15** – Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL  
**Nov. 16** – TLC Ranch & Sugar Top Angus, Bull Sale, Jerome, ID  
**Nov. 18** – J&L Livestock, Bred Females Sale, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 21** – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA  
**Nov. 22** – TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE  
**Nov. 23** – Baldrige/Tiedeman & Frank Cattle and Genetics, Female Sale, Chappell, NE  
**Nov. 23** – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO  
**Nov. 23** – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Nov. 23** – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID  
**Nov. 26** – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY  
**Nov. 29** – Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Dec. 2** – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT  
**Dec. 2** – Stevenson’s Diamond Dot, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT  
**Dec. 3** – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT  
**Dec. 3** – ZumBrunnen Angus, Production Sale, Lusk, WY  
**Dec. 4** – Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT  
**Dec. 5** – Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT  
**Dec. 6** – KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT  
**Dec. 9** – Hollow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Pony, MT  
**Dec. 11** – Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinkook, MT  
**Dec. 12** – Heart of the Hi Line Commercial Female Sale, Box Elder, MT  
**Dec. 14** – Gaugler Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT  
**Dec. 16** – TK Angus, Bull Sale, Valentine, NE

### CHAROLAIS

**Oct. 19** – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

### HEREFORD

**Sep. 5** – Sierra Ranches, Bull Sale, LaGrange, CA  
**Sep. 9** – Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV  
**Sep. 20** – Churchill Cattle Co., Female Sale, Manhattan, MT  
**Sep. 21** – Ehlike Herefords, Bull Sale, Townsend, MT

**Sep. 22** – Mohican Herefords, Dispersal Sale, Laurel, MT  
**Sep. 28** – Gohr Cattle, Show Heifer Sale, Madras, OR  
**Oct. 5** – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID  
**Oct. 19** – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA  
**Dec. 6** – Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV

### RED ANGUS

**Sep. 22** – Stegall Cattle, Bull Sale, Colusa, CA  
**Sep. 28** – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA  
**Oct. 18** – NILE Red Angus Sale, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 2** – Bet on Red Sale,

Reno, NV  
**Nov. 11** – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT  
**Nov. 18** – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Female Sale, Othello, WA

### SALERS

**Dec. 2** – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

### SIMANGUS

**Sep. 18** – Bullseye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA  
**Sep. 25** – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA  
**Sep. 26** – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Lone, CA  
**Sep. 29** – Traynham Ranches, Bull & Female

Sale, Ft. Klamath, OR  
**Oct. 16** – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT

### SIMMENTAL

**Dec. 7** – Montana Simmental, Female Sale, Billings, MT

### STABILIZER

**Oct. 12** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Ozark, AR  
**Oct. 26** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Dinuba, CA  
**Nov. 9** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO  
**Nov. 16** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE  
**Dec. 7** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO  
**Dec. 14** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Gering, NE

**Dec. 19** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

### COMMERCIAL

**Sep. 16** – NLVA Fall Premier Special, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 15** – Rollin’ Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR  
**Nov. 18** – COLA’s 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR  
**Nov. 23** – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID

### HORSE

**Sep. 21** – Snaffle Bit Futurity Sale, Reno, NV  
**Sep. 21** – Weaver Quarter Horses, Horse Sale, Great Falls, MT

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# H5N1 vaccine tested for dairy cows

Following Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's announcement of USDA's approval of vaccine testing for H5N1 for cattle, South Dakota-based animal health vaccine manufacturer Medgene has responded to the notice.

"We have a number of companies that have been working on vaccines, and one company has presented sufficient information to the USDA to allow me to authorize the first field trial for a vaccine for

cattle for H5N1 for safety purposes," Vilsack said. The field trial will be done in hopes of moving forward for safe and effective use of the vaccine.

This also occurred as California announced its first H5N1 cases at three dairies in the Central Valley. This makes for 14 states affected by the outbreak and 197 confirmed cases as of Sept. 4.

"We have been preparing for this possibility since earlier this year when HPAI

(highly pathogenic avian influenza) detections were confirmed at dairy farms in other states," said California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross. "Our extensive experience with HPAI in poultry has given us ample preparation and expertise to address this incident, with workers' health and public health as our top priorities."

She continued, "This is a tough time for our dairy farmers given the eco-

nomics challenges they're facing in a dynamic market, so I want to assure them that we are approaching this incident with the utmost urgency."

Medgene has been successful in prescription platform vaccine production in the swine, cattle, rabbit and deer industries, both in the U.S. and internationally. Chief Operating Officer Tom Halbur said in a news release, "This is great news for us, for the CVB (USDA Center

for Veterinary Biologics) and more importantly, the dairy industry. Our technology is founded on being able to respond to disease challenges faster. Our protocol satisfies the states requirements and we're looking forward to doing our part in supporting both the necessary regulatory policies and the needs of the dairy industry."

The CVB notice allows for vaccine studies to be conducted outside of containment facilities and has

the potential to accelerate agency licensure of H5N1 vaccines in dairy cows.

Medgene's proprietary model of production was developed using modern advances in vaccine science. The expected result of this work will be conditional or full licensure by the CVB to produce and distribute an H5N1 vaccine after it has been proven safe and effective in dairy cattle. — **Jennifer Carrico, DTN senior livestock editor**

# PLC concerned with grazing restrictions

## SOLAR (from page 1)

economy, furthering the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

The BLM outlined a reasonably foreseeable development scenario (RFDS) to estimate the land area and electricity-generating capacity required for potential utility-scale solar energy development in the 11-state planning area through 2045. Based on Department of Energy modeling, the environmental impact

report found that 697,833 acres would be needed for solar development.

Josh Axelrod, a senior program advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said while the amount of acreage needed is less than 2% of the 31 million acres proposed, it allows BLM flexibility for siting and the potential to develop more than 136 gigawatts, or enough to power 100 million homes.

Axelrod continued BLM seeks to narrow available acreage to areas with strong development potential and fewer ecological or land-use conflicts. He said the final proposed plan in-

roduces a set of updated "programmatic design features" to refine how projects are sited, built, operated, decommissioned and reclaimed, categorized into three groups: those applicable to all projects, those specific to certain resources and those evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

These design features are intended to help developers avoid environmental and cultural impacts, giving conservation groups the tools to collaborate with the BLM and solar companies to ensure low-conflict project sites, he said.

With the development comes the potential to

eliminate grazing allotments. According to the report, areas developed for utility-scale solar energy production would likely exclude grazing activities, leading the BLM to reduce the acreage and authorized animal unit months associated with livestock grazing permits overlapping with solar projects.

Under the proposed plan, approximately 29.9 million acres of grazing allotments overlap with lands available for utility-scale solar applications, representing 90% of the total available lands. If development follows the projections outlined in the

RFDS, it is expected to occur on roughly 2% of those 29.9 million acres. Solar energy development would directly impact only a small portion of the total grazing allotments, according to the agency. However, BLM said ongoing research is exploring ways to make solar energy facilities compatible with cattle grazing.

## Reactions

Kaitlynn Glover, executive director at the Public Lands Council (PLC), expressed significant concern with the Western Solar Plan. Glover pointed out that grazing lands are essential for livestock and other land-use activities, and their inclusion in solar development zones threatens the multiple-use mandate.

"What we have seen with scale solar development over the last 10 or 12 years and since the BLM has met their goal of siting 25 gigawatts of solar by 2025 is you convert these landscapes from a potential multiple-use to a single-use environment," Glover told *WLJ*. "You can't have grazing, you can't have recreation, you can't have wildlife habitat."

Additionally, she warned the plan could lead to increased calls for restrictive land designations, such as monuments or areas of critical environmental concern, which could further limit grazing and other land uses. Glover remains skeptical about the feasibility of agrivoltaics, particularly on public lands, citing the challenges of balancing large-scale solar installations with grazing activities.

"Agrivoltaics has been successful for private land, but I remain skeptical—a one-to-one comparison for cattle is just entirely unfeasible," Glover said. "We looked at it and tried having conversations with folks trying to make it feasible to have cattle grazing, but it is a more challenging management scenario. I have a tough time believing it could be done on a utility scale on public lands."

Glover emphasized PLC continues to advocate excluding grazing lands from the BLM's solar development plans, successfully securing a rider in the House of Representative's Department of Interior

appropriations bill to block implementation. She anticipates a challenging funding discussion when Congress returns and doubts that anything new will be included in a continuing resolution beyond what was in previous funding bills.

"We'll need to revisit fiscal year 2025 appropriations, likely after the election or mid-next year," Glover said. "At that time, we'll address all of our policy riders and important provisions, such as the prohibition of the BLM's public lands rule, to ensure there's no widespread change to federal lands."

Environmental and outdoor groups expressed optimism and reservations regarding the plan, hoping the agency would consider the impact on wildlife.

"As the country grapples with the need to meet energy demands, it's crucial to approach the development of solar energy with the perspective that wildlife and solar can coexist on the landscape," said Joel Webster, interim chief conservation officer for Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). "TRCP appreciates refinements made by the BLM to the Western Solar Plan that will help maintain seasonal habitats that are crucially important for the West's big game herds."

Randi Spivak, public lands policy director at the Center for Biological Diversity, expressed disappointment BLM is prioritizing energy development over wildlife and protected public lands. Spivak emphasized that while there is space for thoughtfully sited solar projects, this plan risks widespread habitat destruction by allowing industrial development across sensitive public lands in the West.

Ben Norris, vice president of regulatory affairs at the Solar Energy Industries Association, said that while they are still reviewing the plan, it is a "step in the right direction." However, Norris noted, "Fossil fuels have access to over 80 million acres of public land, 2.5 times the amount of public land available for solar." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

# McPhee Red Angus

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