

INSIDE WLJ

TRADE WAR — U.S. and China exchange port fees in ongoing trade war. Page 4

LAB-GROWN LABELS — EU Parliament votes to ban common protein labels on plant-based and cell-cultured products. Page 11

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Researchers at Colorado State University's (CSU) College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences recently were awarded \$2.6 million from the Centers for Disease Control to study how interactions between humans and birds may lead to more widespread transmission of avian influenza," read the Oct. 23, 2006, WLJ article.

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EAT-Lancet report reaffirms call to cut red meat intake

— **33% reduction in 2020 levels**

A new international report is once again questioning the role of red meat in global diets.

The 2025 EAT-Lancet Commission report claims one particular diet could not only improve personal health and save the planet billions in healthcare costs, but also slow climate change and prevent more than 15 million premature deaths each year. The report—released in early October by The Lancet—calls for a sweeping transformation of global eating habits, including a significant reduction in red meat consumption, as part of its push toward a "planetary health diet" that supports both people and the planet.

The report updates the 2019 EAT-Lancet Commission report, in which the planetary health diet remains the cornerstone of the commission's recommendations. It emphasizes a diet "predominantly plant-based, with moderate inclusion of animal-sourced foods and minimal consumption of added sugars, saturated fats, and salt." Researchers say that following this pattern could avert 27% of global deaths, or roughly 15 million people per year.

The diet's structure allows for cultural flexibility but calls for profound change in what and how the world eats. Specifically, the report recommends daily averages of:

- 200-600 grams of vegetables (1 gram is 0.035 ounces).
- 100-300 grams of fruit.
- 210 grams of whole grains.
- 0-500 grams of milk or equivalents such as cheese.
- 0-150 grams of legumes and 0-75 grams of nuts.
- 0-60 grams of poultry or 0-100 grams of fish and shellfish.
- 0-30 grams of sugar.

See LANCET REPORT on page 8



Pixabay

The latest EAT-Lancet Commission report calls for a reduction in red meat consumption, with a recommended daily average of only 1 ounce per day.

Report: Beef-on-dairy could transform global supply chains

— **Usage has been increasing**

The use of beef-on-dairy crossbreeding has been climbing in recent years, with many dairy operations now implementing beef genetics into their breeding programs.

Dairy-beef is becoming a strategic opportunity to enhance value, reduce waste and reshape global beef supply chains, RaboResearch says in a new report. The use of the approach is gaining momentum across the globe due to economic, environmental and ethical considerations, which is making the use of beef-on-dairy essential for the future of the industry, the report said.

"By integrating beef genetics into dairy systems, producers worldwide can unlock new revenue streams, improve animal welfare, and meet evolving market and sus-

tainability demands," RaboResearch said.

The rise of beef-on-dairy

Dairy-beef is not a new concept and has long been part of global beef supply chains through cull dairy cows and dairy-origin calves.

"Regardless of maturity, the integration of beef genetics into dairy systems is here to stay," the report said.

Dairy-beef accounted for 3-3.3 million head of the U.S. fed steer and heifer kill throughout the 2000s, RaboResearch said. This number has risen by more than 30% since 2020, now accounting for about 4.4 million head. The increase of more than 1 million head is the result of reduced veal slaughter, breeding strategy evolution and economic incentives, according to the report.

Veal slaughter is expected to fall to just 132,000 head by 2025, compared to 587,100 head in 2019. Calves that might have once been raised for veal are now being retained and finished in feedyards.

Dairy farmers have also shifted their breeding strategies as a result of tighter milk margins and low calf prices over the last decade. This has led to increased usage of targeted breeding strategies such as the use of sexed semen and beef semen. Dairy-beef cross calves carry more of a premium than straight-bred dairy calves.

The shifting beef herd dynamics in the U.S. have also significantly increased the value of week-old crossbred calves. Week-old calves brought \$800 in 2023 and 2024 and are now bringing more than \$1,000

See DAIRY BEEF on page 10

Immediate cuts urged for Colorado River ahead of talks

— **Call for reductions in usage**

As the seven Colorado River Basin States prepare for November's high-stakes negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on post-2026 operating rules, a September analysis warns that time may be running out to prevent a near-term collapse in the system's storage reserves.

The report, authored by a group of water policy experts and researchers, underscores that while policymakers are focused on long-term operating agreements, the Colorado River Basin faces a short-term emergency that cannot wait for 2026.

Shrinking safety net

The authors caution, "If next year is a repeat of this year and uses of water remain the same, we estimate that consumptive use will exceed the natural flow in the Colorado River Basin by at least 3.6-million-acre-feet (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons)."

That shortfall would deplete already-thin reserves in Lakes Mead and Powell, leaving less than 4 million acre-feet available above critical

See RIVER REPORT on page 13

Cattle futures continue strong rally

Cattle futures posted strong gains again this past week, fueled by expectations of stronger cash trade and strengthening boxed beef prices.

Live cattle futures saw several-dollar gains over the week. The October contract gained more than \$8 to close at \$243.95, and the December contract also gained about \$8 to close at \$247.87.

"With the anticipation that fed cash cattle prices will trade higher again this week; traders are continuing to push the live cattle contracts higher into Thursday's noon hour," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 6,000 head. Live steers sold from \$238-240 and dressed steers sold from \$372-373.

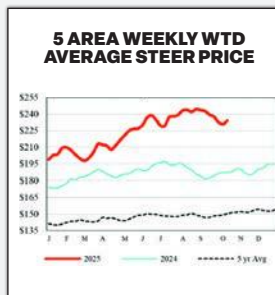
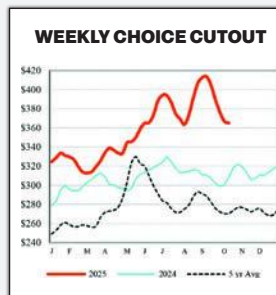
"Packers need inventory and know they'll be paying dollars higher," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "That's just the way it goes in a bull market coming off of a low. It's generally impossible to own enough inventory when a market turns. The level of the trade volume this week will be key because tighter fed cattle supplies are on deck in November, December and beyond."

Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 12 was 54,151 head. Live steers averaged \$234.07, and dressed steers averaged \$362.52.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 466,000 head, compared to 446,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier, as well as actual slaughter for two weeks earlier, is unavailable from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service due to the government shutdown.

"Beef is the biggest bang at the cash register for grocers (besides liquor) and it is their highest priority to make certain beautiful beef items are available

See MARKETS on page 15



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$236.00	N/A	\$374.47
WEEK ENDING: 10-16-25		

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Oh, the irony

According to The Nature Conservancy's own website, "We carry out our work with a deep commitment to accountability and transparency ... We want you and every member of the public to know as much as possible about how The Nature Conservancy (TNC) operates and how carefully and effectively we use your donations."



IPSEN

The irony was at narcissistic levels when news broke earlier in the month on a \$10 million grant from the state of California to TNC long before the settlement was reached that displaced 11 ranching and farming families on the Point Reyes National Seashore. The state's Wildlife Conservation Board is issuing the funding to the group in the name of restoration, fencing and water infrastructure projects. Remember that TNC brokered the closed-door talks at just over \$30 million for the multi-generational families to exit Point Reyes and turn their leases over to TNC management. TNC was awarded the park's current grazing land in a five-year lease with an option to add a 20-year term, with two additional 10-year term options to follow, adding up to 45 years total lease option in the deal.

Details are continuing to come forward, but as of this writing, the state of California committed \$10 million taxpayer dollars to the management of federal parks, but TNC was already lobbying for the funds before a deal with the ranchers was met. According to an article published by The Press Democrat, the money was added to the state budget in June 2024, which happens to be six months before TNC signed the deal with ranchers to shut down their operations and turn over their leases from the state park. TNC also secured an additional \$1 million from the Department of the Interior to "to help with restoration" at Point Reyes.

Kevin Lunny, rancher and past president of the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association, told the publication, "All I know is when they appropriated this money, it was far from being settled ... It's shocking to me." Lunny already vacated his operation and moved to Auburn, CA, last May.

For over a decade, the ranching families on Point Reyes were under attack from several environmental groups through regulation and legislation. By making life so much harder for these families, environmental groups continued to essentially shake down these families and give them the only chance to make it out economically through this brokered deal. By requiring added infrastructure and environmental hoops to jump through, ranching on Point Reyes had become difficult as it was, but now finding out that these tax-paying ranchers had tax-paying dollars set aside to make the deal even stronger for TNC is a slap in the face for all of agriculture.

In an article by American Unwon, they quote Dave Evans, who is the last rancher on Point Reyes because he refused to enter the negotiations and turn over his leases and operation. He says the National Park Service (NPS), which oversees the ground leased by the ranchers, made it difficult to work on his operation. The \$10 million granted to TNC is earmarked to "modernize the fencing and water infrastructure." Evans claims the NPS barred him from making needed updates on their fencing and water systems during the yearslong lawsuits from environmental groups.

"They purposely gave me a future there that was very meager and unsustainable," he said in the article. This is the underlying issue that needs to be brought to light more and more. I remember the morning I received the news that Harris Feeding Co. in Coalinga, CA, had 14 trucks lit on fire in 2012. That wasn't that long ago. At the time, though, it was amid a string of physical attacks on agricultural facilities. That was the way to activism. Protests, undercover videoing, and acts of violence were the main methods. Today, and while some of this still happens, activism has taken on a whole new identity. Under the guise of environmental activism, organizations are attacking agriculture by way of paper and politics. Activism is now a business—a very, very large business.

By paper, I mean legislation, regulation and money. Heavy financing continues to pour millions into activism under the pretenses of climate change, carbon footprinting and rewilding. These groups are placing in office politicians that lean to their interests and are lobbied with millions of dollars to work with. For example, in the case with Point Reyes, Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02) was the politician pushing much of the agenda. Ironically, when The Press Democrat reached out for comment, he was unavailable.

In the article by American Unwon, an anonymous source told the publication, "These non-profit groups all seem to have a playbook ... They find vulnerable people who can't afford ongoing litigation—ranchers, farmers, developers—and attack them. They sue with the goal of forcing them off the land, knowing the ranchers can't fight back. The ranchers can't do infrastructure repairs. They face extreme pressure. These groups have unlimited money. After they force the victim to settle and leave, they take massive amounts of taxpayer-funded settlement money."

It's going to be our future battles that will take place in the courtroom, and in the voting booth. We've seen it in multiple states in multiple situations; just ask the Hammonds who were called terrorists at one point and served time. As ranchers, we have to be on the lookout for this threat at all times. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

GUEST OPINION

CONSEQUENCES OF LENDING AND BORROWING

Farming is a capital-intensive business. With high land prices, the astronomical cost of equipment and the ever-increasing cost of crop inputs, debt is a necessary evil. During the past few years, high interest rates have made the cost of borrowing a significant burden. Sometimes, the tax consequences of debt are not that clear and farmers can get caught with an unexpected tax burden. Let's take a look at a few tax-related items associated with debt.

When you take on debt, you can deduct interest paid. However, there is a limitation on how much interest expense is allowed. You can deduct interest up to 30% of your adjusted taxable income. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, adjusted taxable income included an expense for depreciation and amortization. As you know, depreciation is often one of the largest expenses. As a result, heavily leveraged farm operations sometimes had disallowed interest expense. This was changed under the new tax bill. Starting in 2025, depreciation and amortization expense are not included in adjusted taxable income—it's now more like earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Although this is a positive change, heavily leveraged farming operations still could face disallowed interest expense.

If debt is canceled, you will have cancellation of debt income. In general, the amount of debt that is deemed canceled is treated as ordinary income. If the debt was secured by property, and the lender takes back the property, you are deemed to have sold the property back to the lender. The tax treatment depends on the type of debt used to secure the property. If the property was subject to recourse debt, the amount realized is the fair market value of the property, and the ordinary income component from cancellation of debt is the amount of debt forgiven in excess of the fair market value of the property. For nonrecourse, the amount

realized is the entire nonrecourse debt plus the amount of cash and/or fair market value of property received.

There are certain exclusions that result in cancellation of debt not treated as gross income. This includes Title 11 bankruptcy, insolvency, cancellation of qualified farm debt and cancellation of qualified real property business debt. If one of these exclusions apply, you still must reduce certain tax attributes by the amount excluded.

I'd like to quickly touch upon the qualified farm debt exclusion, which applies to debt canceled related to farming when the farmer derived 50% or more of gross receipts from the trade or business of farming for a period of three years prior to the cancellation of debt. The debt has to be canceled by a "qualified" person. A qualified person can't be a related party, someone you purchased the property from, or a person who received a fee with respect to the investment in the property.

Although leasing isn't debt, farmers often treat it as a substitute. For example: capital or operating leases. A capital lease is where you lease an asset, but it's essentially treated as a purchase. The lessee (farmer) gets to depreciate the leased asset. An operating lease is where the lessor retains ownership, risk and benefits of the asset. The lessor gets to depreciate the asset, not the farmer (one way to get a lower interest rate). I can write a whole paper on the differences, but essentially, if the asset is transferred at the end of the lease, or the purchase option is such that the lessee almost certainly will buy the asset, it's a capital lease.

As you can see, debt can trigger tax issues. Before you enter a lease or modify debt, talk to your tax professional. It might save you from a nasty surprise come tax time. — **Rod Mauszycki, DTN tax columnist**

OBITUARIES



Blake Nuffer; 1958-2025

Blake Gordon Nuffer passed away suddenly on Oct. 3, doing what he loved, working cows. Though his time was far too short, he leaves behind a legacy that touched countless lives and reached across many miles. Born on Feb. 14, 1958, in Soda Springs, ID, Blake was the beloved son of Jack and Gem Nuffer and the younger brother of Rob Nuffer—his lifelong best friend and role model. Blake graduated from Bear Lake High School in 1976. Even though the doctors told his parents he might not learn to talk because of his cleft palate, Blake attended auctioneering school in Billings, MT, and became an auctioneer, proving them wrong. His natural charisma and voice made him an exceptional auctioneer, and he shared his talent generously—not only through his professional work but also by volunteering at countless community fundraisers and benefits throughout his life.

Blake started working for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Bear Lake Refuge in Bear Lake, ID, in 1976. It was during this time that he met Sandy, and they were married on Nov. 21, 1980, and built a beautiful life together, raising three children: Lacey Gem, Meggie Mae and Cooper Jack. Blake was a supportive husband and a proud father—his family was truly his world. He never missed a chance to cheer on his kids and was always their biggest fan. He loved his grandkids so deeply and he drove many miles to attend anything they were involved in. He never missed an opportunity to brag about them.

His career with the Fish and Wildlife Service spanned three states. He also worked on the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge in Rupert, ID, the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Burns, OR,

and the National Bison Range in Charlo, MT. After 16 years with the Fish and Wildlife, he decided to leave the government and become partners with Terry Warneke in the Worland Livestock Auction in 1992. The family moved to Worland, WY, where they spent 12 wonderful years. During this time, Blake also became a regional manager for Superior Livestock Auction and managed the northwest region of representatives that worked for Superior Livestock, and he later became a rep for Superior Livestock Auction.

In 2009, Blake partnered with Ted Odle to purchase the Montana Livestock Auction, a venture he poured his heart into. In 2020, Blake and Sandy became the sole owners of Montana Livestock Auction, a milestone that reflected years of dedication, hard work and faith in the business they helped build together. Blake was so proud of the team at Montana Livestock Auction that surrounded him and always gave them the credit for the sale barn's success.

Blake was a true cattleman and cowboy! He loved the livestock business, the land and the people who make up the agricultural community. He was a strong advocate for producers, the cattle industry and rural life, always championing those who worked hard to make a living from the land. Blake was also a dreamer, a risk-taker and a businessman—unafraid to chase new ideas or embark on the next big adventure. He lived life with passion and purpose, giving back to every community he called home. Blake loved and rode good horses—and he had some of the best. In his youth, he was a talented calf roper and team roper and loved to rodeo. Blake also loved to compete in ranch rodeos and never missed an opportunity to attend a branding.

Blake is survived by his wife, Sandy; his children, Lacey (Hank) Higley, Meggie (Rett) Cameron, Cooper (Laurie) Nuffer; and his eight wonderful grandchildren, Zane, Max, Jase, Remie, Harley, Pendleton, Truman and Quaylo; his brothers, Rob (Della) Nuffer, Tod (Brenda) Nuffer; and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack Nuffer and Gem Dahlen; his oldest brother, Doug Nuffer; and youngest brother, Quinn Nuffer.



John Owens; 1948-2025

John Burton Owens, 77, of Red Bluff, CA, and Fort Klamath, OR, passed on Oct. 6 after suffering from a stroke. He was born in Red Bluff in 1948 to Jack and Elaine (Alford) Owens and into a family deeply rooted in livestock production, raising sheep and cattle. From an early age, he embraced the ranching lifestyle, dedicating himself to it throughout his lifetime. John attended the Reeds Creek one-room schoolhouse from second through eighth grade before continuing on to Red Bluff High School. There, he played football and was involved in FFA, graduating in 1966. John went on to attend California State University, Chico, where he excelled at football and the livestock judging team. He earned a degree in agribusiness in 1970.

John met the love of his life, Candy Clough, in 1971. Eager to begin their journey together, they were married on his birthday, July 14, 1973, on the front porch of her childhood home. From the first days to the last, John and Candy stood shoulder to shoulder, building a life together through hard work, love and unwavering companionship. John and Candy were anxious to begin a family of their own, and their children were the center of their lives. Their first son, Nathan Owens, was born in 1976. Their second son, Bryan Owens, was born in 1980.

Nathan's marriage to his wife, Nicole Hall, and Bryan's marriage to his wife, Sheena Miller, were both joyfully celebrated at the same ranch where John and Candy had exchanged their vows. John was endlessly proud of his boys and they shared countless hours of meaningful work with their cattle. John cherished every moment spent with his grandchildren, Ally and Macy (Nathan and Nicole's daughters) and Ceinna, Marek and Jack (Bryan and Sheena's children). Whether he was watching them play sports, celebrat-

ing holidays or working cattle together, those moments were among his greatest joys. He took special pride in their abilities on horseback, seeing in them the same love of ranch life that had shaped his own. John spoke often of their talents and accomplishments, and he rarely missed a chance to be present at their activities.

John took the utmost pride in his cattle, dedicating himself to building a herd that reflected his remarkable eye for genetics and quality. Alongside his cattle, John had a deep affection for his horses and dogs, treating each with respect and care, as both loyal companions and essential partners in ranch life. He began helping at the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale as a teenager, served as a director for many years and went on to serve as its president from 2011 to 2019, devoting countless hours of energy to the event. Over the years, he was the volume bull buyer many times, a reflection of his belief in the quality the sale represented.

John was a member of the California Cattlemen's Association, Tehama County Cattlemen's Association, Tehama County Farm Bureau, American Stewards of Liberty and also a lifelong Elk's Club member. In 1999, John was honored as Top Hand by the Red Bluff Round Up Association for his years of volunteer service. He was named the Tehama County Cattlemen's Man of the Year in 2005 and recognized as the Tehama County Farm Bureau's Farmer of the Year in 2007. In 2023 John received the Jack Alford Award from the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale in recognition of his support and dedication.

When John wasn't working on the ranch, he enjoyed traveling, playing pinocle, golfing, reading Western novels and watching classic western movies. He also loved following sports on television and was a devoted San Francisco Giants and 49ers fan through and through. These pastimes reflected his love of both adventure and tradition.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Elaine; his brother, David; and many dear friends. He is survived by his loving wife, Candy; his sons, Nathan (Nicole) and Bryan (Sheena); brother, Kenneth (Sheree); niece, Lacy (Cole) Hook; nephew, Roy (Casey) Owens; and a wide circle of extended family and friends who will carry his memory forward.

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

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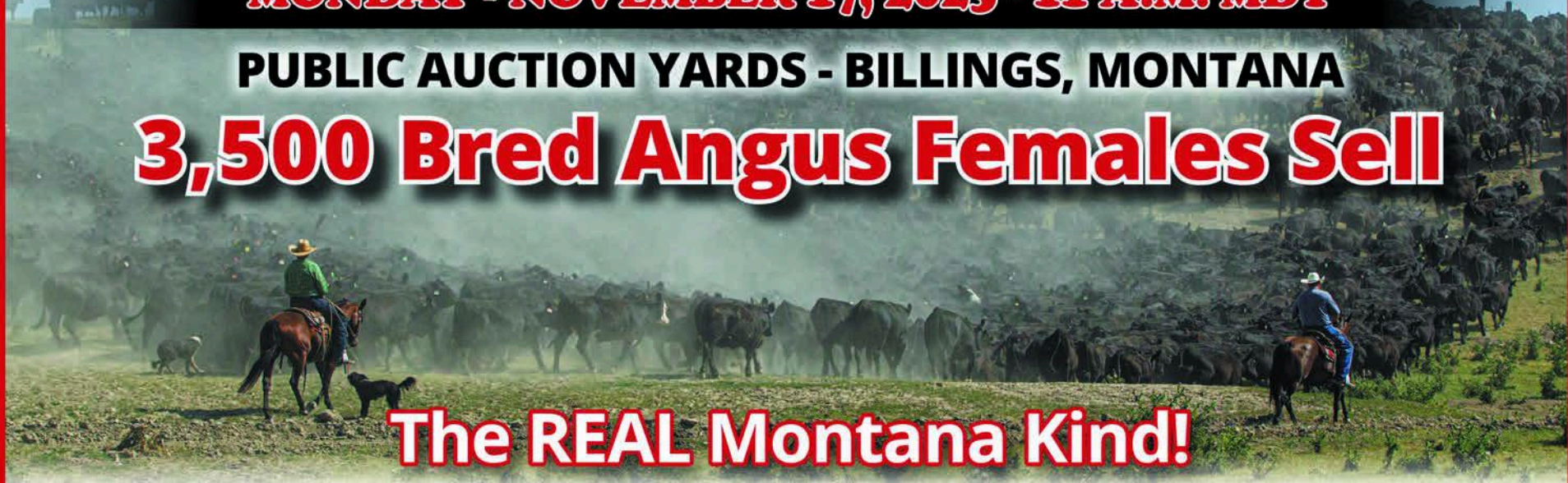
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900+ AI Bred Heifers

- 124 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified..... Calve Feb. 12-15
- 94 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified Calve Feb. 12-15
- 64 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo..... Calve Feb. 18-20
- 50 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo Calve Feb. 18-20
- 67 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified..... Calve Mar. 2-4
- 60 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified Calve Mar. 2-4
- 74 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo..... Calve Mar. 4-6
- 70 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo Calve Mar. 4-6
- 72 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified..... Calve Mar. 1-2
- 73 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified Calve Mar. 1-2
- 62 Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified..... Calve Mar. 1-2
- 46 Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified Calve Mar. 1-2
- 55 Carrying Carrying Mixed Sexes AI Bred to E&B Everette Calve Jan. 30-Feb. 2

850 Pasture Bred Heifers Bred to LBW Vermilion Angus Bulls

- 205 Carrying bull & heifer calves..... Calve Feb 18-March 3
- 310 Carrying bull & heifer calves..... Calve March 1-15
- 160 Carrying bull & heifer calves..... Calve March 16-31
- 175 Carrying bull & heifer calves..... Calve April 1-30

1,735 BRED ANGUS COWS

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1,405 • 2- Coming 3-Year-Old Cows

- 630 Head Calve March 7-31
- 625 Head Calve April 1- 30
- 115 Head Calve May 1-20
- 35 Head..... Calve May 21-June 15

330+ • Angus Bred Cows

- 55 Coming 3- & 4-Year-Olds..... Calve March 14-April 30
- 20 Coming 3- & 4-Year-Olds..... Calve May 1-20
- 8 3- Coming 4-Year-Olds..... Calve June 1-25
- 81 3- to 5- Year-Olds..... Calve March 7-31
- 106 3- to 5- Year-Olds..... Calve April 1-30
- 81 3- to 5- Year-Olds..... Calve May 1-30
- 20 6- to 8- Year-Olds..... Calve April 1-30
- 11 6- to 8- Year-Olds..... Calve May 1-31



SCAN QR CODE with your smart phone for a link to the October catalog.

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* All cows and heifers have been on a sound health and mineral program. Vira-Shield-6-VL5, Ivermectin Pour On and a Multi-Min shot in the spring, Vira-Shield-6-VL5+ Poured In September. Bred heifers have had their first shot of Guardian Scour Guard.

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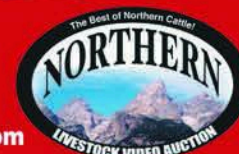
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China hits back with special port fees on US ships

As the Oct. 14 date to begin U.S.-imposed port fees on Chinese-owned or Chinese-built vessels neared, on Oct. 10, China's Ministry of Transport announced the country will charge special port fees on ships owned or operated by U.S. enterprises, organizations and individuals starting Oct. 14.

USTR ship fees

On April 17, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced on their website they were taking targeted action to "restore American shipbuilding and

address China's unreasonable acts, policies, and practices to dominate the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors."

After several public comment periods since the first announcement, USTR announced on Oct. 10, "Considering the public comments and the advice of the Section 301 Committee, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined to change the basis and rate of the service fee on vessel operators of foreign-built vehicle carriers. The U.S. Trade Representative has determined to change the basis of the service fee from a Car Equivalent Unit standard to net

tons."

Regarding the fee rate, USTR in a press release said they determined to set the service fee rate to \$46 (from \$50) per net ton as of Oct. 14, and limit the total collection of this service fee to five times per calendar year, per vessel.

"These modifications will address concerns regarding unfair manipulation of a Car Equivalent Unit and the establishment of a net ton rate that is too low, which would limit the effectiveness of the action, and will provide additional leverage to encourage China to eliminate the investigated acts, policies, and practices," said

USTR in the Oct. 10 press release.

In addition, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on Oct. 3 put out a notice that payments of fees must be made directly through the Department of Treasury's secure, official pay.gov website and not at the Port of Entry. Vessels will need proof of payment, or they may be denied permission to unload and/or load.

China retaliates

On Oct. 10, the Chinese Ministry of Transport announced they will impose special port fees on U.S. linked vessels be-

ginning Oct. 14. In response to the April 17 announcement by USTR to that as of Oct. 14, port service fees will be added to ships owned or operated by Chinese companies, Chinese-flagged ships and Chinese-built ships.

"This seriously violates the relevant principles of international trade and the China-U.S. Maritime Shipping Agreement and causes serious damage to maritime trade between China and the United States," noted the announcement.

The Ministry of Transport said, "In accordance with the 'Regulations of the People's Republic of China on International Maritime Transport' and other laws and regulations and basic principles of international law, and with the approval of the State Council, effective Oct. 14, 2025, special port fees will be collected by the maritime administration of the port where the ship is located for ships owned by U.S. enterprises, other organizations, and individuals; ships operated by U.S. enterprises, other organizations, and individuals; ships owned or operated by enterprises or other organizations in which U.S. enterprises, other organizations, and individuals directly or indirectly hold 25% or more of the equity (voting rights, board seats); ships flying the U.S. flag; and ships built in the United States. The relevant matters are announced as follows:

1. For the above-mentioned vessels, special port fees will be collected on a voyage basis, implemented in stages, with the specific collection standards as follows (voyages less than 1 net ton will be calcu-

lated as 1 net ton).

2. From Oct. 14, 2025, for vessels calling at Chinese ports, a fee of RMB (Chinese Yuan Renminbi) 400 per net ton will be charged.

3. Starting from April 17, 2026, vessels calling at Chinese ports will be charged RMB 640 per net ton.

4. Starting from April 17, 2027, vessels calling at Chinese ports will be charged RMB 880 per net ton.

5. From April 17, 2028, vessels calling at Chinese ports will be charged RMB 1,120 per net ton.

"If a vessel calls at multiple Chinese ports on the same voyage, it shall pay the special port dues only at the first port of call and shall not be charged at subsequent ports of call. Special port dues may not be charged for more than five voyages of the same vessel in a year, according to the statement. The Ministry of Transport department will formulate specific implementation measures."

Here is the conversion of Chinese Yuan RMB to USD as of Oct. 11 from Forbes Currency converter:

- 400 Chinese Yuan equals \$56.14.
- 640 Chinese Yuan equals \$89.82.
- 880 Chinese Yuan equals \$123.50.
- 1,120 Chinese Yuan equals \$157.19.

According to the China Daily in an article on Oct. 10, the ministry added, "China urges the United States to immediately correct its wrongdoings and cease its unwarranted suppression of China's maritime industry." — **Mary Kennedy, DTN basis analyst**

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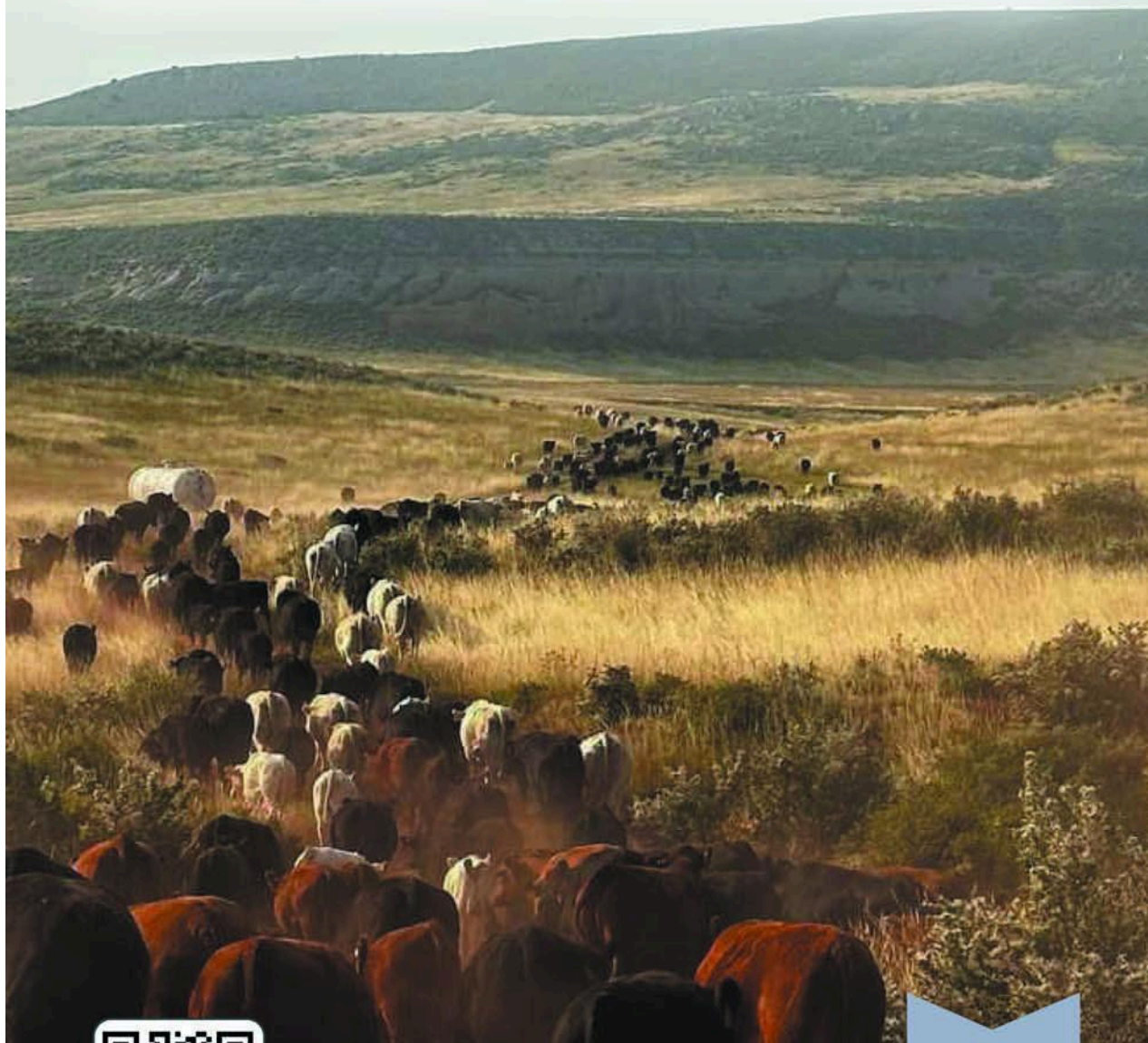
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Factors influencing herd expansion decisions

As cattle producers across the country evaluate opportunities for herd expansion, Kansas State (K-State) University beef experts say careful management and long-term planning remain essential for making sound business decisions, even while market signals are shifting.

On a recent episode of the Beef Cattle Institute's "Cattle Chat" podcast, experts discussed the challenges and considerations surrounding herd expansion in today's market.

Jason Warner, K-State cow-calf specialist, said that despite stronger cattle prices, national trends show limited herd growth. "Relative to cattle on feed numbers, we are not seeing a lot of herd expansion at this point," Warner said.

Veterinarian Scott Fritz noted that for some producers, the current market conditions make expansion less appealing. "It doesn't sound like a good business deal to buy high and sell low," Fritz said.

Market fluctuations are part of the industry's natural cycle, veterinarian Brad White said.

"It balances out," White said. "A long-term perspective is essential when evaluating opportunities like herd expansion."

Veterinarian Bob Larson echoed that sentiment, saying

producers should avoid short-term reactions to market changes. "Five years from now, the current prices may not seem too bad—you just never know," Larson said.

When considering expansion, White posed the question many producers are asking: "If you were a cow-calf producer, what would you do?"

Larson advised producers to start with the basics—understanding the ranch's carrying capacity and ensuring herd productivity. "Marry forage well and stock appropriately," Larson said. "Make sure your cows get bred. Check bull fertility and body condition before breeding, because it never goes out of style to have a highly reproductive herd."

Warner encouraged producers to carefully evaluate their financial position and land resources. "Know what your production costs are and consider what you expect feeder calf prices might be in the future," he said. "Also, consider your current cow-to-land ratio to ensure your resources can support herd expansion."

The experts agreed that while herd expansion may be tempting in a strong market, sustainable growth depends on reproductive efficiency, forage management and economic planning. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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Long-term effects of management during weaning, post-weaning

How we manage calves at weaning and during backgrounding doesn't just affect gain in the short term—it can carry over into how those calves perform all the way through the feedyard. A two-year study from Auburn University was conducted to increase the understanding of management options to add value to calves and the carryover effects through finishing.

Calves were weaned by one of three methods:

- Fence-line weaning.
- Nose-flap weaning.
- Abrupt weaning.

After 14 days, all calves were brought together and placed on one of three 60-day backgrounding systems:

- Bermudagrass hay plus supplemental dried distiller's grains (DDGS) fed at 1% of bodyweight.

- Cool-season baleage plus DDGS.
- Warm-season annual grazing plus DDGS.

Growth rate was monitored from weaning through the 60-day backgrounding period and then during finishing at a commercial feedyard through harvest.

Backgrounding performance

Fence-line weaned calves hit the ground running with the highest average daily gain (ADG) in the first 30 days, regardless of diet. Use of the nose-flap held no advantage over abrupt weaning. Diet also mattered—calves on the bermudagrass hay plus DDGS diet gained the most early in backgrounding. However, in the last 30 days, calves on the baleage

or warm-season annual grazing diets had greater performance.

Transition to the feedyard

Shrink losses during transport were similar across all treatments, despite a long haul typical of southeastern calves going to Midwestern feedyards. Once in the feedyard, there were no major differences in body weight or ADG due to weaning or backgrounding strategy through the finishing period.

Health outcomes

Health performance during backgrounding and finishing was consistent across treatments. Morbidity averaged 20% and death loss due to bovine respiratory disease was 2.2%—similar to indus-

try norms for preconditioned calves.

This research has big implications on the effect of marketing plans on management decisions by producers. Low-stress, fenceline weaning has advantages in performance early in the post-weaning period over using nose-flaps or abrupt weaning. Producers selling shortly after weaning should consider using this technique.

Strategic weaning and backgrounding practices can improve early postweaning gain, but most of those differences disappear by the end of the backgrounding period. This gives flexibility to producers keeping calves through at least 60-days post-weaning or retaining ownership through finishing. — **Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist**

LEGAL LEDGER

CA passes livestock composting bill

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) on Oct. 11 signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 411, which legalizes on-ranch composting of routine livestock mortalities and butcher waste. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Diane Papan (D-CA-21) and supported by the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). "AB 411 provides ranchers a disposal option that is proven to reduce predator interactions—though, importantly, the bill does not require ranchers to cease bone piling or begin composting," CCA said. The bill allows up to 100 cubic yards of on-ranch compost at any given time, which is about six to 10 animals. The California Department of Food & Agriculture will now develop best management practices for on-ranch composting.

Tyson to pay \$85M in pork price-fixing suit

Tyson Foods agreed to pay \$85 million in a pork price-fixing settlement reached with consumers who claim the company inflated pork prices by limiting supplies. The latest settlement brings the total recovery to \$208 million, including the settlements previously reached with JBS, Hormel Foods and others. Plaintiffs said the price-fixing took place from 2009 to 2018 and was an attempt to boost company profits and pork prices. "If the Court approves Plaintiffs' request to defer notice, the settlement agreement requires that within 75 days, Plaintiffs will propose a detailed notice plan in a subsequent motion that will be filed at a point reasonably calculated to maximize the funds available for distribution to the Class," court documents read. Triumph Foods and Agri Stats remain defendants in the case.

The Nature Conservancy to receive \$10M grant

The Nature Conservancy will receive a \$10 million grant from the state of California to make improvements to land on the Point Reyes National Seashore that originally belonged to family ranchers. Earlier this year, a dozen livestock producers agreed to a settlement with The Nature Conservancy to end beef and dairy cattle ranching at the seashore. In return, the group planned to work with the National Park Service on "natural resource restoration projects" on the former ranchlands. The settlement came to fruition following years of conflict with environmental groups about ranching operations and the management of tule elk. Now, a recent report by The Press Democrat details that The Nature Conservancy is to receive \$10 million from the state for fencing and water infrastructure improvements. However, the appropriations were added to the state budget in June 2024, six months prior to any signed settlement. Ranchers told The Press Democrat that they were unaware of any discussions about grant funds from the state. Senate Bill 108, signed June 29, 2024, by Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), reads that of \$10,200,000 appropriated to the Wildlife Conservation Board, \$200,000 was targeted for studying wildlife corridors, and "Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$10,000,000 shall be available for Point Reyes."

Bayer to pay \$600M in Roundup case

The Missouri Supreme Court on Sept. 30 declined to hear an appeal regarding a May decision by the Western District Court of Appeals ordering Bayer to pay a \$600 million Missouri court judgment that found Roundup causes cancer. The jury award was reduced from the original lawsuit that awarded four plaintiffs \$1.56 billion. "We continue to believe that significant and reversible errors were committed during trial and the appellate phase and warrant review by a higher court," the company told The Missouri Independent. Bayer has paid out about \$11 billion to settle almost 100,000 lawsuits with approximately 61,000 pending, according to the Lawsuit Information Center.

R-CALF calls for strong antitrust enforcement

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA (R-CALF) signed onto the Main Street Competition Coalition's letter to President Donald Trump, calling for strict antitrust enforcement. "We respectfully urge your Administration to reaffirm its commitment to aggressive antitrust enforcement and to press forward with the full slate of pending cases currently being advanced by the (Federal Trade Commission) and (Department of Justice)," the groups wrote. Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF, said the only way to reverse the contraction of the cattle and sheep industries is to restore competition to markets. "Rigorous enforcement of our antitrust laws and the fair competition laws incorporated in the Packers and Stockyards Act is essential for achieving that goal," Bullard said.

CA passes law to ban ultra-processed lunches

On Oct. 8, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1264 into law, which bans ultra-processed foods from California schools. The law provides a statutory definition of ultra-processed foods and requires the State Department of Public Health to adopt regulations by June 2028 to define "ultraprocessed foods of concern" and "restricted school foods." Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-46), bill sponsor, said, "Here in the Golden State, Democrats and Republicans are joining forces to ensure that students are receiving healthy, nutritious meals that are made from real foods, not harmful chemical additives."

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Industry refutes Lancet report's claims

LANCET REPORT (from page 1)

• 0-30 grams of red meat (about 1 ounce).

Criticism of red meat

The small portion of red meat, the report says, represents the level that avoids "statistically significant increases in risk" for major diseases like Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and colorectal cancer.

Researchers said the relationship between red meat intake and diabetes risk to be "approximately linear," meaning every additional serving raises risk. "Where little or no red meat is consumed, diabetes risk is lowest," the authors wrote.

Red meat, they noted, "is high in protein, haem iron, and other minerals, but is also high in saturated fat and cholesterol and low in essential polyunsaturated fatty acids." The report continued that while small amounts can provide nutrients in carbohydrate-heavy diets, the overall health impact is negative at higher intakes.

Environmental and economic costs

Beyond health, the commission underscores that food systems drive five planetary-boundary transgressions, including land-system change, biosphere integrity and greenhouse gas emissions. Food production alone accounts for about 30% of all global emissions, the authors said.

Even if fossil-fuel use stopped tomorrow, they argue, "food systems will cause the world to breach the Paris Climate Agreement limit." The report continues, achieving a safe and just food system will require "urgent and meaningful changes in our culture of unhealthy, unjust, and unsustainable food production and consumption."

To feed the world within planetary limits, the report envisions a 33% reduction in ruminant-meat production and a 63% increase in fruits, vegetables and nuts compared with 2020 levels.

Financially, the commission estimates that transforming global food systems could cost between \$200 billion and \$500 billion per year.

Industry pushes back

John Robinson, senior vice president of membership, communications and events for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, pushed back on the EAT-Lancet Commission's claims about livestock and climate impact.

"Agriculture as a whole accounts for just 9-10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions," Robinson told *WLJ* in an email. "In total, red meat production contributes just 2% of the national total, while energy production, transportation, and industry account for more than 80%."

He added that eliminating red meat "would have almost no measurable impact on the climate, while gutting a vital food source and rural economies." Robinson emphasized that U.S. livestock producers are "global leaders in efficiency," producing beef with "one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world—nearly three times lower than the global average." Decades of innovation in feed efficiency, land management and animal health, he said, have reduced emissions per pound of red

meat by more than 40% since the 1970s.

"If the goal is real climate progress," he concluded, "solutions must come from sectors other than agriculture—not by scapegoating red meat."

In response to the release of the second EAT-Lancet Commission report, the Animal Agriculture Alliance rejected the report's renewed call for limiting animal-sourced foods.

"The EAT-Lancet Commission rehashing the same narrow vegan diet it has been promoting for more than six years doesn't change the facts about the many proven contributions of animal-source foods to nutrient-dense diets," said Hannah Thompson-Weeman, the organization's president and CEO. "Today's animal protein is produced more efficiently than ever, delivering unmatched nutritional benefits while protecting the natural resources we all share."

Thompson-Weeman added that the EAT-Lancet diet "admits this diet is not based on environmental criteria," and warned that its restrictions on meat, dairy, and eggs "would put people at risk of serious nutrient deficiencies."

Support for report

The Plant Based Foods Association (PBFA) applauded the report, saying, "It is clear: predominantly plant-based dietary patterns are key to a healthier, more sustainable future." The group emphasized that "plant-based foods represent an immediate, practical solution," adding that PBFA is "proud to support the agricultural expansion needed to secure this vision and the innovative companies making it delicious and accessible."

Rising U.S. demand for plant-based foods, the group said, is driving economic growth and creating thousands of jobs while offering farmers new opportunities to diversify with protein-rich crops such as soy, peas, oats,

chickpeas and lentils.

Compassion in World Farming also welcomed the report, calling it "a bold and hopeful roadmap for transforming our global food systems to benefit the health of people, animals and our planet."

Compassion in World Farming Global CEO Philip Lymbery said the new report shows that "our everyday food choices could help restore nature, protect our health, and secure a better future for generations to come." He added, "Whether you're shaping policy, producing food, or making choices at the checkout, it's time to rethink how we grow, eat, and value food—and to act with urgency and compassion." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

Major WA solar farm on cusp of approval

A large solar farm proposed in eastern Washington appears on course to clear a critical regulatory hurdle this month, despite opposition from the Yakama Nation. After that, it would go for approval to Gov. Bob Ferguson (D), who has indicated a desire to see it proceed.

In August, Ferguson rejected a recommendation to approve the Carriger Solar project from the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

While he found the project "consistent with state policies," he wanted the council to talk further with Yakama Nation leaders about their concerns for protecting cultural resources on and around the proposed location.

Ferguson gave the council 60 days to report back, but did not direct any specific changes to a site certification agreement between the developer and the state. This resulted in a revised agreement that the council will consider in a special meeting Oct. 21. If it is approved, it will go to the governor.

There's one substantive change. Cypress Creek Renewables, the firm behind the energy project, will provide \$100,000 in grant funding to the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program for continued documentation of the archaeological and historical properties "in the vicinity" of the project. The money must be paid within the first 10 years of the project's operation.

The company supports the revised agreement and providing the grant funds, said Angeli Chandler, the firm's director of communications. She said there'd been "years of careful planning and siting to avoid impacts to environmental or cultural resources."

Cypress Creek Renewables, based in Santa Monica, CA, wants to build the solar farm north of State Route 142 along Knight Road, about two miles west of Goldendale in unincorporated Klickitat County.

As envisioned, it will have 160 megawatts of solar generating potential, enough to power up to 32,500 homes, according to the company website. The project, which also includes a 63 megawatt battery energy storage system, will tie into the Bonneville Power Administration trans-

mission system. It would occupy 1,326 acres within a 2,108-acre development site that is mostly agricultural and rural residential lands. That footprint includes all solar arrays, battery storage facilities, operations and maintenance building, employee parking and access roads.

The revised agreement requires fencing and solar panels be pushed farther from the state route, Knight Road and parcels managed by the state Department of Natural Resources adjacent to the project. There also must be additional natural screening, such as earthen berms, rock piles, or native vegetation, on the north side of those state-owned parcels.

It also requires that Tribal access to traditional and cultural properties is maintained during construction.

In conversations since late August, Yakama Nation leaders reiterated their concerns about the project and sought significant changes in mitigation measures that did not get included in the proposed revised agreement.

For example, the Tribe said the council should not allow installation of solar panels in the northern portion of the project area, rather than rely on setbacks and natural screening to minimize the visibility of the panels. If the council allowed panels in that area, it should first conduct a full environmental impact study, the Tribe said.

Tribal leaders also insist there will be disruptions to traditional cultural properties.

Ferguson, in August, found little fault with much of the siting council's handiwork and stressed the importance of acting rapidly enough for project developers to secure federal clean energy tax credits before they are ended by the Trump administration. Solar and wind projects must begin construction by July 4, 2026, to fully qualify for the credits, he wrote.

"These tax credits are critical to ensure not only that the project remains financially viable, but that the energy it generates will remain affordable for Washingtonians," he wrote the council in August. — **Jerry Cornfield, *Washington State Standard***

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NWS is affecting both sides of border

The movement of New World screwworm (NWS) northward in Mexico shut down the U.S.-Mexico border to live cattle trade in July 2025. The closure has greatly affected some feedyards in Texas that rely on Mexican cattle to fill their lots.

Mark Rogers, owner of Rogers and Sons Custom Cattle Feeders in Dimmitt, TX, has fed Mexican cattle for over 25 years. For the past 15 years, the imported cattle have taken up 90% to 95% of his feedyard.

"The border closure affects us tremendously. It has always made sense for us to feed Mexican cattle because we are one of the first feedlots they pass after going through Santa Teresa (port of entry) at the border," Rogers said.

The border closure has lowered his cattle number to 70% of the feedyard's capacity compared to a year ago. Rogers said he's not the only feedyard suffering, as many neighboring cattle feeders are dealing with the same issue.

Omar Gonzalez, Rogers' cattle broker across the border in Mexico, said they are suffering as well. "Screwworm isn't a

problem up here in the northern Plains of Mexico and now we are having to find a place to put these cattle that normally go to the U.S.," he said.

According to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Mexican cattle imports to the U.S. in 2025 totaled 230,638 head compared to 998,763 head year to date in 2024. Gonzalez said the excess cattle in Mexico have created challenges of where to send them because of limited facilities.

"It's a real problem. Farmers here are having to sell their cattle at half the price they typically would because there's just nowhere to go with them," he said. "They are keeping cattle as long as they can in hopes that some spots will open at feedyards."

He said the only ones benefiting from the overflow of cattle in Mexico are the packers; they have higher-quality meat to market to countries like Japan and China, and are even sending meat to the U.S.

The detection of NWS on Sept. 21 in Nuevo Leon was confirmed by Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety, and

Quality to be less than 70 miles from the U.S. border. Gonzalez said most of the cattle that move from Mexico to the U.S. are farther to the north and west in the states of Chihuahua and Sonora. Where NWS has been a problem in Mexico, he said, is hotter and more tropical. Gonzalez added, not all Mexican states can send cattle to the U.S., and the areas dealing with NWS don't move cattle that far north.

"We've been using Ivomec on the cattle in northern Mexico for a long time to treat the flies, plus we will usually freeze (temperature) by the middle to end of October and then the flies are gone, and we don't have to worry about them again until May," he added.

There is a fear among Texas and Mexican cattle producers that the border may never open. If that occurs, Gonzalez expects his country's government to help build facilities to increase packing capacity. "It's expensive for us to feed cattle in Chihuahua. We do see some corn grown there, but not enough for this many more cattle," he explained.

Frank Welch has cared for

the cattle that have come across the border headed to Rogers' feedyard for many years. Typically, he will look after nearly 3,000 head of grass-fed cattle at a time that are sent to the West Texas range to grow before going back to the feedyard. "This year I've only had a few hundred. Mark (Rogers) has had to find other cattle to run out here," Welch said.

Rogers and Welch agree the Mexican cattle are hearty and acclimate well to the Texas environment. They have few health problems, even in the small calves that were sent across when the border was open for a short time earlier in the year.

The decrease in cattle coming to the U.S. not only affects

the feedyards but many others in the industry. Those who find themselves out of a job include truckers, employees at the ports of entry and those who help expedite getting the cattle to the border on the Mexican side and to the feedyards on the U.S. side.

"I really don't know if we will ever get back to normal business down here in the Southern Plains feedlots. And I'm not sure what I will do or my neighbors (will do) if the border doesn't reopen," Rogers added.

"We have sent cattle across the border for over 200 years. There are generations and generations that have been doing this. We dealt with screwworm years ago and fought it, and we can again," Gonzalez said. "It

seems to have gotten political this time. They (both governments) are just playing games."

He said fly traps were set at his feedyards in northwest Mexico and all the flies that were captured tested negative for NWS. "The border closes, opens, closes, opens and then closes again. Every time it has moved the market," he added.

Rogers hopes it doesn't last too long because the Texas Panhandle is already suffering. "In the Hereford (Texas) area, beef is king. We need more cattle in the feedyards to help the grain companies and the packers, too. This will affect everyone and will end up costing the consumer," he concluded. — Jennifer Carrico, DTN senior livestock editor

Insights on the invasive pasture mealybug

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has released a new fact sheet to help forage producers and ranchers identify and monitor the pasture mealybug, an invasive pest recently confirmed in multiple Texas counties.

This pest is associated with a syndrome termed "pasture dieback," a condition that kills patches of pasture grasses. It is identified by reddening or yellowing leaves, stunted growth and root reduction.

First confirmed in Texas this summer, the pest has now been identified in almost two dozen counties, stretching from the Rio Grande Valley to areas south of Hearne and east to Texas City. Infestations have devastated some Bermuda grass hay fields and other improved pastures.

"In one case, a 10-acre Bermuda grass hay field went completely brown and never came back," said Stephen Biles, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management entomologist in the Texas A&M Department of Entomology, Port Lavaca. "That level of damage represents a real threat of losses for producers."

Producers are encouraged to contact their local AgriLife Extension office for updates

and guidance on monitoring and management.

New fact sheet

To help forage producers and ranchers prepare, AgriLife Extension's new pasture mealybug fact sheet provides identification guidance, biological background and monitoring recommendations to support protection of their forage resources.

Native to South Asia, pasture mealybug was first detected in Australia in 1928 and became a serious pasture pest there beginning in 2015.

The pasture mealybug's full impact in Texas is still being determined. However, experts say the pest has the potential to threaten forage production critical to Texas' cattle industry, which leads the nation in inventory and economic value.

"This has been a tough insect to manage in Australia, and mealybugs are a difficult pest in general," Biles said. "We're able to look at the scientific information they have, but the challenge is how the mealybug's activity and impact may be different in Texas grasses and conditions."

To view the fact sheet, visit tinyurl.com/yrdduh5m.

Found in multiple forages

Biles said pasture mealybugs have been found to damage a range of forage grass species, including Bermuda grass, Bahia and bluestem, as well as turfgrasses like St. Augustine.

Current insecticides labeled for pastures have shown little to no effectiveness against pasture mealybug, leaving producers with limited management options while research continues. Experts suspect the pest has spread via contaminated haying equipment and possibly hay bales, raising concerns for a broader distribution.

Research underway

AgriLife Extension specialists are working closely with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and local producers to evaluate management strategies, study potential biological controls and provide updated recommendations.

"Right now, this is about awareness and monitoring," Biles said. "Producers need to know what's out there and to be watching for this new pest." — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Central Oregon Livestock Auction
Centraloregonlivestock@gmail.com

Fall Sale Schedule

October

20th - Feeder Sale, 10am
27th - Black Angus Feeder Sale, 10am

November

3rd - Feeder Sale, 10am
10th - Feeder Sale, 10am
17th - Feeder Sale, 10am
Zoetis Pre-Conditioned Sale
22nd - 21st Century Female Sale
Bred cows start around noon
24th - Regular Sale, 10am

December

1st - Third Party Verified Feeder Sale, 10am
8th - Bred Cow Sale
15th - Feeder Sale, 10am
22nd - NO SALE
29th - NO SALE

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Amy McNamee 541-325-2121

Dual-purpose breeding strategy to continue

DAIRY BEEF (from page 1)

per head in 2025. This has led dairy farmers to reduce culling to preserve milk output and maximize calf income. Dairy cow slaughter has been in decline for three consecutive years.

These shifts in strategies have improved per-cow returns for U.S. dairy operations, with RaboResearch estimating livestock income at close to 10% of total revenue in 2025.

Facing shorter supplies of traditional beef feeder calves, feedlots have turned more to dairy-beef crossbreeds to maintain capacity.

"A key driver of the shift toward dairy-beef cross calves in the U.S. is the potential for performance advantages over traditional Holstein fed cattle," the report said. Holstein carcass traits can be seen as less desirable than traditional beef traits, leading to discounted pricing and consumer disinterest. In comparison, dairy-beef calves have stronger muscle conformation and carcass quality traits that could rival tradition-

al beef breeds, the report said.

"The dairy-beef animals also finish more quickly than in feedlots than straight dairy calves and are therefore sometimes considered a more sustainable and profitable option for producers, feedyards and processors alike," RaboResearch said.

The use of a dual-purpose breeding strategy is expected to continue indefinitely, boosted by low beef cattle numbers and strong demand for cross-bred calves. More than half of the dairy calves entering the U.S. beef supply chain are sired by beef bulls.

However, the report notes, once herd rebuilding begins, calf values could soften, and breeding strategies could shift again.

Global use of dairy-beef

RaboResearch highlighted the potential of dairy-beef to reshape beef supply chains in Ireland, New Zealand and Australia in particular.

Ireland's dairy-beef sector

has expanded significantly, driven by growth in the country's dairy herd and a deliberate strategy to integrate beef production into dairy systems, RaboResearch said.

The number of dairy cows in Ireland increased by 47% between 2010 and 2024, largely driven by the removal of European Union (EU) milk production quotas. Irish dairy farmers have increased their integration of beef genetics, particularly since 2023. The number of dairy-origin calves entering the country's beef supply chain grew from about 365,000 head in 2010 to about 864,000 head in 2024.

The country's dairy-beef remains weighted toward domestic and EU markets. In 2024, Ireland exported just under 450,000 metric tons of beef, with the United Kingdom accounting for nearly half of total volumes.

Ireland is projected to raise about 900,000 dairy-beef calves each year by 2032. "With nearly all calves retained domestically and a fully genotyped herd in development, Ireland is emerging as a global

leader in strategic, policy-driven dairy-beef integration," RaboResearch said.

New Zealand's dairy industry produces more than 4 million calves annually, with about 1.8 million deemed surplus to dairy or beef requirements. Dairy cows have traditionally been smaller framed to account for grass-based efficiency rather than beef traits. The use of dairy-beef is growing, but lacks urgency, the report said.

Several challenges remain for the increased usage of beef-on-dairy. This includes economic risk for calves due to the country's pasture-based, seasonal calving systems, which results in a concentrated calving period that can create logistical and welfare challenges for calf management and growth, the report said. In addition, limited genetic traceability and fragmented value chains also hinder full integration.

New Zealand's beef industry primarily relies on exports, with the U.S. as the top export destination. Shipments to the U.S. in 2024-25 accounted for

41% of the country's total export volume. More than 90% of the exported beef is lean trim.

"To unlock the full potential of dairy-beef, New Zealand must align production with high-value export markets," the report said. "Lean trim has underpinned the profitability of New Zealand's beef export value in 2025 due to the strong U.S. demand for this product."

Australia's cattle industry is mostly beef focused, with about 90% of the herd made up of beef cattle. The sector is geared toward traditional beef animals that prioritize carcass yield and muscle cuts. In dairy-heavy states like Victoria and Tasmania, beef cattle still account for 60-70% of the herd.

"The nuance for Australia is that for broader market acceptance, dairy-beef must resemble conventional beef carcasses, not culled dairy cows," RaboResearch said.

About 40% of dairy calves are retained as heifer replacements, leaving a significant surplus, the report said. Many of the surplus calves enter the four-to-five-day-old calf mar-

ket for slaughter, which may raise ethical concerns for consumers. To address this, the industry is leaning into sexed semen and beef genetics to reduce surplus dairy calf numbers.

About 20% of calves are entering the adult beef supply chain, a signal that dairy-beef integration is gaining traction, the report said. The growing feedlot sector also represents an opportunity, with cattle on feed numbers increasing from 900,000 head to more than 1.5 million head over the past decade.

Australia's biggest bottleneck remains calf rearing, with a clear disconnect between dairy farms and grow-out operations. Infrastructure for calf rearing is limited, and seasonal dairy calving adds complexity.

"Ultimately, a new supply chain segment must emerge—one that can compete with traditional beef systems without relying on premiums or incentives," the report said. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

Researchers aim to reduce gluten in wheat

Kansas State (K-State) University researchers and the state's farmers are putting their collective support behind a project to reduce the allergenicity of gluten in wheat, while maintaining the grain's ability for bread and other products.

Eduard Akhunov, a University Distinguished Professor in K-State's Department of Plant Pathology, said his team is identifying proteins in the wheat genome that trigger allergic reactions in people with celiac disease. The autoimmune disorder causes the immune system to react abnormally to gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley.

Once they find the problematic proteins, the researchers will use a gene-editing technique known as CRISPR-Cas9 to target changes in the genome, which they hope will reduce or eliminate the allergic response in future varieties grown by U.S. wheat producers.

According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, the disorder affects 1 in 100 people worldwide, including about 2 million Americans. The Foundation notes that when people with the disease eat gluten, their immune system attacks the small intestine, damaging the villi that help absorb nutrients.

"Our dilemma in doing this work," Akhunov said, "is that in the past we have successfully reduced immunotoxicity in wheat by suppressing the expression of gluten-encoding genes. But, in most cases, this inevitably leads to the reduction of bread-making quality of that wheat."

"We are working to develop wheat varieties that have a lower abundance of gluten proteins that cause allergic reactions, while at the same time maintaining bread-making quality."

The three-year project began earlier this year and is funded by a \$990,000 grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. Project partners include K-

State, University of California, Davis, the California Wheat Commission, the Celiac Disease Foundation and Kansas Wheat.

"Globally, the world is now consuming more than 800 million metric tons of wheat, and the United States mills almost 1 billion bushels of wheat annually into flour that produces wheat products," said Justin Gilpin, chief executive officer of Kansas Wheat, which is funded by Kansas farmers through a checkoff program.

"I think it's pretty exciting to see this work being done, especially with so much focus right now on wheat and health and consumers wanting to know more about their food."

Aaron Harries, Kansas Wheat's vice president of research and operations, said the organization has been working for many years to identify proteins most reactive for those with celiac disease.

"I give tours of our Wheat Innovation Center (in Manhattan) to farmers who have kids with celiac disease," Harries said. "So, they're growing wheat for a living, but at the same time they can't have it on their dinner table."

In 2023, K-State reported a breakthrough in developing wheat-based foods that contain lower amounts of gluten, while maintaining the quality of flour for baking. The current study will build on that work, further investigating the precise proteins that trigger gluten allergies.

Akhunov said gluten likely will never be completely removed from wheat since it is important for bread-making. Gluten provides the texture, flavor and moisture in such products as bread, bagels, pastries, noodles and more.

"We all know the benefits that whole grains play in a balanced diet, and yet there is a segment of the population that is trying to avoid those due to risk of an allergic reaction," Gilpin said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



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STORY SHORTS

CO expands wolf attack reimbursements

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission voted unanimously to expand reimbursements for livestock injured by wolves, allowing ranchers to claim their own labor costs when treating wounded animals under a veterinarian's direction, local news outlet Denver7 reported. "This change would benefit both producers by allowing them to receive reimbursement, and the division by incentivizing producers to choose the most cost-effective means to care for wounded animals," said CPW Regulations Manager Hilary Hernandez. The update follows Jackson County rancher Don Gittleton's 2024 claim, which spotlighted challenges of vet care in rural areas. The new rule also removes a written prescription requirement. Ranchers can now be reimbursed for up to \$15,000 for veterinary expenses.

WDFW authorizes wolf removal; order paused

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Deputy Director Amy Windrope on Oct. 9 authorized the lethal removal of one wolf from the Sherman Pack in Ferry County following repeated livestock depredations. However, just a few days later, the order was temporarily halted by a King County Superior Court. The court will hold a preliminary injunction hearing on Oct. 28. Windrope's authorization was effective through Oct. 15 and followed two confirmed wolf attacks on calves in late September and early October, marking six depredation events in 10 months. Despite prior removal in August, conflicts persisted. WDFW found that the producer used multiple nonlethal deterrents, including range riding and carcass removal, and that another removal would not jeopardize statewide wolf recovery. However, Washington Wildlife First and other parties filed a petition for injunction and motion for a temporary restraining order, which the court granted.

Asian longhorned tick found in KS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture have confirmed the state's first detection of the invasive Asian longhorned tick. KDHE identified the tick on a dog in Franklin County through its passive tick surveillance network, a 2024 program involving veterinary clinics that submit tick samples for analysis. "Now that it has been identified in Kansas, we've contacted veterinarians statewide to ensure they understand the risks," said Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Justin Smith. The tick, capable of reproducing without a male, poses both human and animal health concerns. Prevention remains key, as some Asian longhorned ticks have carried diseases like Bourbon virus and ehrlichiosis.

RAAA launches GridMaster Challenge program

The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) launched the GridMaster Challenge, an educational contest that gives producers firsthand experience in the fed-cattle sector while evaluating herd genetics. Open to Red Angus members and commercial producers, the program partners with the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity at Nilan Feedyard in Iowa. "Even a single steer can provide transformative data," said RAAA specialist Taylor Ohlde. Participants maintain ownership and receive detailed reports on growth, carcass merit and genomic results. Enrollment closes Nov. 15, with delivery Dec. 1-7 and a field day in spring 2026. For more information or to enroll, visit redangus.org or contact Taylor Ohlde at 913-626-2715 or Cory Peters at 402-418-2351.

CDFA opens Climate Resilience Strategy

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released its draft Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture for public comment submissions through Nov. 7. The plan outlines how farmers, ranchers and agricultural communities can prepare for climate impacts under three pillars: supporting a resilient food sector, protecting natural systems and encouraging climate-smart practices. It identifies gaps, recommends actions and aligns with statewide goals to enhance technical assistance and innovation. Stakeholders can review the strategy online at tinyurl.com/4h9b96x4 or email comments to climate@cdfa.ca.gov.

ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick to retire

After more than 25 years of leadership, American Sheep Industry (ASI) Association Executive Director Peter Orwick announced his intent to retire in November, according to Western Ag Network. Hired in the late 1990s, Orwick helped rebuild the nation's lamb and wool programs, advance disease eradication efforts and strengthen livestock protection. Raised on a South Dakota sheep and cattle ranch, he earned degrees in animal science and business from South Dakota State University. "Peter has been a champion for the lamb and wool industry," said ASI President Ben Lehfeldt. A search for his successor is now underway.

Arby's introduces steak nuggets on menu

Arby's is expanding its lineup with the limited-time launch of steak nuggets, available nationwide. "Two of America's favorite foods—nuggets and steak—combined to create Arby's Steak Nuggets. No knife needed, fork optional," said Jeff Baker, Arby's chief marketing officer. The garlic-and-pepper seasoned, seared and smoked nuggets come in five- or nine-piece servings with hickory barbecue sauce and are also featured in a sandwich or Steak Nugget Bowl.

EU Parliament makes moves on protein labels

In a move that could make American livestock producers envious, the European Union (EU) Parliament is moving to ban labeling plant-based and cell-cultured products with common terms such as "burger," "sausage," or "steak."

The EU Parliament voted 355 to 247 for a tighter definition of meat as coming from "edible parts of animals" and specified that names such as steak, sausage, burger and escalope must be reserved for products containing meat and must exclude cell-cultured products.

The move comes as more Europeans are moving away from meat, and livestock producers see growing competition from such processed alternatives. Still, the EU Parliament's vote is just the first step because the EU's member states and the EU Commission also weigh in on parliament votes.

"A steak, an escalope, or a sausage are products from our livestock farms, period.

No laboratory substitutes, no plant-based products," said France's Celine Imart, the member of parliament who introduced the measure, according to Euractiv news website.

The EU vote naturally got a lot of pushback from companies selling protein products and others who maintain consumers know the difference between a vegetarian or non-meat product and an actual meat product.

In the U.S., the battle over meat labels has largely played out at the state level. National Agricultural Law Center (NALC) highlights that an increasing number of states have passed laws preventing cell-cultured food products from being labeled as meat. Florida passed a law preventing plant-based products from being marketed as "meat," though the law has caveats that it does not go into effect until at least 11 states have passed similar laws. Right now, seven other states, Arkansas, Georgia,

Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia have similar laws, the NALC stated.

Oklahoma has a law set to go into effect on Nov. 1, that

also requires companies to specifically label terms such as cell-cultivated or plant-based on food labels as well. — Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor

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Dry spell weighs on Texas' cool-season forage planting

Weather trends toward drought have Texas cattle producers considering their options as cool-season forage planting gets underway.

Much of the state has experienced an extended dry period in recent months. The lack of moisture has left many pastures and fields typically planted with cool-season forages for winter grazing sitting idle as producers wait for rain.

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Overton, said many East Texas producers are delaying or may not plant cool-season forages due to adequate hay stocks and dry weather.

Corriher-Olson said good spring and summer moisture left many operations with ample hay supplies. As a result, some pro-

ducers may rely on baled hay rather than risk planting into dry soils.

"I worry that many producers may wait until December or January and then realize their hay quality is low or they could run short," she said. "At that point, it's too late for small grains, and their only option would be annual ryegrass."

Jourdan Bell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and associate professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Amarillo, said native rangeland looked good for the most part following good summer rains in the Texas High Plains, but conditions are drying in some areas.

Bell said much of the small grains planted in the region are dual-purpose, though more acres are being cut for silage. Producers in the region put up very little perennial hay during the summer. Corn

and sorghum silage is cut during the summer for dairies and feedlots, and cool-season forages provide grazing as well as silage that bridges the dietary demands of those livestock.

She recommends producers with decent moisture take advantage and plant as soon as possible.

In South Texas, Josh McGinty, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and associate professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Corpus Christi, said good summer conditions have also given way to drought. Producers typically plant cool-season forages for grazing or as a rotation crop for cotton.

McGinty said the fields were ready to be planted, but most producers were waiting for rain. The region did not receive any late summer rainfall from the tropical storm season.

"One good region-wide

rain could set things off," McGinty said. "It's still early for us, so there is no need to dry plant yet, but it is a little concerning that we didn't catch any significant tropical moisture going into fall and winter."

John Nielsen-Gammon, Ph.D., Texas state climatologist and Regents Fellow in the Texas A&M College of Arts and Sciences Department of Atmospheric Sciences, said conditions for much of the state turned dry in recent months, especially in September. Parts of the state, especially in far West Texas up into the Panhandle, received spotty showers, but that moisture has been declining statewide.

The U.S. Drought Monitor showed summer rains reversed dry conditions across much of the state. On July 1, around 62% of the state reported no level of drought, while the Sept. 30 report showed 63% of

the state was experiencing drought. One bright spot is that areas reporting extreme and exceptional levels of drought on July 1 declined during that time.

In the short-term, Nielsen-Gammon said the first half of October looks dry.

His extended forecast predicts a weak La Niña system will persist through the fall and winter months. That means a higher probability of warmer temperatures and fewer chances of rainfall, especially the southern half of Texas.

"A weak La Niña just means the odds of precipitation will tend toward the dry side," he said. "But it's really only 3-2 odds, so it looks like a normal winter, a normal recent winter—relatively dry and relatively warm."

The window for planting is closing rapidly in some areas, but there are still options for producers hoping to establish forages for winter and early spring.

Corriher-Olson recommends planting cool-season forages about six weeks before the average frost

date—typically Nov. 15 in East Texas. While early plantings risk drought stress, later seedings limit forage production potential. Annual ryegrass could be a more flexible option for late plantings, particularly east of Interstate 35, but producers should weigh the costs of seed and fertilizer against expected benefits.

Bell said some areas in the Panhandle still have soil moisture to plant into, but drier areas not planted in the next two weeks will likely be dusted in if rain does not materialize.

Corriher-Olson also urged producers to scout fields for fall armyworms, especially if conditions improve and seedlings emerge. Newly planted annuals are far more vulnerable to damage than established perennial grasses.

"Planting is always a risk," she said. "But for those who need the forage, getting it in mid- to late October gives the best chance for early growth when it's needed most." — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	SC	REA	IMF	TERM	FERT
5.8	-0.5	46	79	5	28	0.81	0.66	0.65	5.11	3.82

ARBF BIG TOWN 60M R10553589
BWCC BIG TOWN 192B16 x CB MS BUSINESS LINE 40643




CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	SC	REA	IMF	TERM	FERT
7.9	-1.5	31	61	6	21	1.13	0.6	0.29	3.57	4.93

CB BIG TOWN 60M5 R10555130
BWCC BIG TOWN 192B16 x CB MS BUSINESS LINE 40643




CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	SC	REA	IMF	TERM	FERT
8.1	-1.5	31	61	6	21	1.18	0.64	0.29	3.58	4.85

CB NEW STANDARD 406M4 UB10549141
CB NEW STANDARD 817J3 x CB MS GROWTH FUND 406J17




CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	SC	REA	IMF	TERM	FERT
5.1	-1	42	82	8	30	0.72	0.5	0.04	3.76	5.48



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Have you scheduled your bull BSE?

Have you scheduled your bull breeding soundness exam (BSE)? Patrick Davis, University of Missouri (MU) Extension livestock field specialist, suggests your bulls have a BSE prior to each breeding season.

"The bull BSE helps make sure bulls are ready to be successful during the breeding season," Davis said. The BSE evaluates structure and fertility to make sure the bull is adequate for a successful breeding season. Furthermore, during the evaluation, it's a good time to check for health issues and provide vaccinations to promote adequate health for the bull and the rest of the herd.

Components of the BSE

Body condition score. Body condition score (BCS) evaluates fat cover on a scale of 1 (emaciated) to 9 (obese). Davis suggests bulls enter the breeding pasture at a BCS of 6, which is a smooth appearance throughout. This provides the bull adequate energy reserves to successfully breed females.

Structural soundness. "Since bulls will be covering a lot of pasture and cows during the breeding season, structural soundness is important," Davis said. One way to evaluate structural soundness is through foot scoring. Foot scoring evaluates the hoof through claw set and the pastern and heel length

through foot angle. Both foot scoring parameters are evaluated on a 1 to 9 scale with an ideal range of 3 to 7.

Bull fertility. During the BSE, the veterinarian will evaluate sperm motility and morphology and make sure semen quality is adequate for optimum pregnancy rates.

Bull health. "Since bulls are in the chute during the BSE, it's a good time to update vaccinations," Davis said. It's also a good time to test and make sure newly acquired non-virgin bulls are negative for trichomoniasis. Davis suggests doing these things to promote optimum health in your cattle operation.

"Contact your veterinarian to schedule your bull's BSE 30 to 60 days prior to the breeding season," Davis said. This helps identify bulls with poor fertility and structure so you can cull them and replace them with sound bulls. This further helps your cow herd achieve optimum pregnancy rates, which helps operation productivity and profitability. Furthermore, some veterinary clinics will partner with pharmaceutical companies to provide rebates on vaccinations and dewormer if you schedule your bull's BSE during their specific BSE day.

For more information on bull management in preparation for the breeding season, contact Davis at the MU Extension Center in Cedar County at 417-276-3313. — MU Extension

Corner-crossing petition employs successful past strategies

As Supreme Court justices were set to meet Oct. 17 to consider hearing the Wyoming corner-crossing case, attorneys for ranch owner Fred Eshelman were citing reasons that others have successfully employed to get their cases accepted for review.

The Supreme Court should accept Eshelman's petition and hear the case because, his attorneys say, the 10th Circuit

Court of Appeals' decision on corner crossing "contravenes" Supreme Court precedent. The case also has "profound legal and practical importance," Eshelman argues.

Eshelman is appealing the 10th Circuit Court's decision that he cannot block the public from corner crossing to reach public land surrounded by his Carbon County ranch. He sued four Missouri hunters

who stepped from one piece of public property to another adjacent one where the two met at a checkerboard corner with two parcels of Eshelman's Elk Mountain Ranch. The hunters did not touch the ranch owner's land.

Eshelman, through his ranch-owning company Iron Bar Holdings, maintains the hunters trespassed when they passed through the airspace above his property, a violation of Wyoming law. In seeking a Supreme Court hearing, Eshelman's attorneys use two of the most successful approaches, expert Dan Schweitzer wrote in a guide, that petitioners have employed to convince the court to hear their cases.

Eshelman's petition, however, is not based on the first reason the court lists for taking up petitions for a writ of certiorari, or review. That's when there are conflicting decisions on the same matter between two of the 13 federal circuit courts of appeal. That's fodder for the hunters who say they don't want the court to consider the case, but are willing to fight if it does.

"This petition does not

meet this Court's criteria for granting review," one of the hunters' attorneys, Ryan Semerad, wrote in a Supreme Court filing. "Iron Bar doesn't claim that the decision below implicates a circuit split." Because the 10th Circuit Court is the only one to address corner crossing, "No split exists," the hunters contend.

The 10th Circuit agreed with the hunters that the 1885 Unlawful Inclosures Act prevents Eshelman from blocking corner crossers. Obtaining a review of federal appeals court decisions is rare. In 2024, the Supreme Court agreed to hear 5.2% of 1,344 petitions (not counting petitions from indigent appellants, of which there are many), according to an analysis that Empirical SCOTUS writer Adam Feldman published on SCOTUSblog.

Eshelman's attorneys explain their reasoning that the appeal should be among those rare cases the court considers. Iron Bar claims the 10th Circuit Court contravened the Supreme Court's own 1979 decision known as Leo Sheep. (Leo is a rural Carbon County settlement; Leo Sheep was a

company named after the place.) In that case, the court ruled that the government did not have an implied easement to build a road across a common checkerboard corner to reach a reservoir used for recreation.

But Leo Sheep doesn't apply to the Iron Bar case, the hunters, and the 10th Circuit, contend. Among other things, Leo Sheep dealt with a road constructed on private land, and there also was another way to reach the reservoir.

The 10th Circuit's decision, written by Judge Timothy Tymkovich and agreed to by two other appellate judges, said that "the Supreme Court can also reconsider the scope of Leo Sheep, as it applies to this case."

Hunters say Eshelman has done an about-face. When resisting the hunters' request to move the case from state to federal court, Eshelman and Iron Bar "denied that this case implicates 'an important question of federal law,'" the hunters state. Instead, the ranch owner described any federal issues as "not substantial."

Eshelman argued in Wyo-

oming's civil court that the case concerned "only two sections" of his property and that the controversy involved "well under \$75,000," in value, a hunters' brief states. Eshelman argued unsuccessfully in 2022 that those limited impacts should allow the ranch owner to pursue his suit in the state court system and not the federal one.

The hunters, however, convinced a federal judge to move the case to the federal court system.

The hunters' attorneys chose neither to enlist an "elite" and practiced Supreme Court lawyer nor ask for briefs from groups that support their public-access case. Doing either could have signaled to the Supreme Court that the case is indeed nationally significant, contrary to the hunters' position that the 10th Circuit appropriately took care of all necessary business.

The Supreme Court's hearing on Oct. 17 was to be held behind closed doors. Within several days, the court is expected to publish a list of cases that it will accept for review. — **Angus M. Thuermer Jr., Wyofile**

Water report calls on Interior to take action

RIVER REPORT (from page 1)

thresholds by late summer 2026. Without swift reductions in water use, the two reservoirs that sustain 40 million people and 5.5 million acres of farmland could approach functional limits well before the post-2026 operating guidelines take effect.

Using Reclamation's August 2025 24-Month Study and observed inflows, the authors conducted a simple mass balance assessment—total inflow minus consumptive use and evaporation losses. The findings are stark: in September 2025, Lakes Mead and Powell held 15.1 million acre-feet of active storage, but only 6.3 million acre-feet was "realistically accessible"—that is, water stored above the critical elevations needed to safely operate Glen Canyon and Hoover dams.

Lake Powell, the report notes, contained 7 million acre-feet of active storage, yet only 2.7 million acre-feet was above the 3,500-foot elevation that Reclamation now treats as its minimum protective threshold. Lake Mead held 8.1 million acre-feet, with just 3.6 million acre-feet above the 1,000-foot mark.

The authors emphasize in a press release that even a modestly dry winter could tip the balance. "If 2026 is as dry as 2025," they caution, "our reserve of usable water could drop next year to just 3.6 million acre-feet—less than the lowest storage content recorded in March 2023." Should that occur, the ensuing reservoir depletion season could erase another 1.4 million acre-feet before spring runoff begins.

The report said that despite wet years in 2005, 2011, 2019 and 2023, the river basin has reverted to deficit. Between 1999 and 2025, storage across 12 federal reservoirs declined 60%. Natural flow at Lees Ferry averaged about 8.5 million acre-feet last year. In comparison, total consumptive use in the U.S. and Mexico reached roughly 12.9 million acre-feet, creating a systemic shortfall of 3.6 million acre-feet.

"The river recognizes no human laws or governance structures and follows only physical ones," the report states.

The report also cautions about emergency drought releases from upstream reservoirs such as Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa and Navajo reservoirs. Though these can temporarily bolster Lake Powell levels under the Drought Response Operations Agreement, they are "a one-time solution." Drawing down Flaming Gorge to protect Powell, the authors warn, "simply exacerbates fu-

ture shortages," since those reservoirs would need years of wet conditions to refill.

The authors call for "immediate and substantial reductions in consumptive use across the Basin" rather than waiting for the next round of federal rulemaking. They recommend that the Department of the Interior take short-term administrative action if the states cannot agree to voluntary cuts before the post-2026 guidelines take effect.

"It may be difficult, if not impossible, for the basin states to implement immediate, additional reductions in use," the authors said. "That reality puts the onus on the Department of the Interior to take immediate action."

Earlier this year, the same team proposed seven "essential pillars" for a sustainable post-2026 regime—principles such as enforceable reductions, transparent accounting and realistic hydrology assumptions. Those same pillars, they argue, "can also function as guideposts for immediate action."

Among their specific recommendations:

- **Enforceable reductions:** Both Upper and Lower Basins must implement binding, shared-burden cuts in water use to match supply with reality and avoid Compact litigation.


- **No federal dependency:** Long-term conservation cannot rely on federal compensation; users must plan for self-funded, durable reductions.

- **Conservation pools:** Establish transparent, scientifically tracked storage pools in Lakes Mead and Powell for verified water savings.

- **Tribal inclusion:** Ensure equal participation and compensation mechanisms for Tribal Nations in all basin management decisions.

- **Storage recovery:** Build reservoir refill targets into mandatory use reductions and explore engineering fixes for "dead pool" access.
- **Operational flexibility:** Allow multi-year release flexibility to protect ecosystems while safeguarding Lower Basin allocations.
- **Public health priority:** Guarantee domestic and critical industrial water supplies in any worst-case scenario.

As basin state negotiators prepare to meet with Reclamation officials this November, the message from the September report is unmistakable: "Near-term actions must reflect this stark reality." The authors stress that waiting for new guidelines risks forcing "draconian measures" later if another dry year unfolds. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



BEARTOOTH ANGUS

Where

Power & Maternal

Annual Bull Sale
November 11, 2025
1:00pm - BLS
Billings, MT

Meet


5 Fall Pairs

75 Bulls


50 Replacement Heifers

SIRE LINEUP



Beartooth Icon 1612
 Hart Reflection 2233
 Schiefelbein Top Gun 522
 Baldrige Judement J127
 Brumfield Trail Boss 057



Beartooth Bougie M51
AAA# 21021711



Beartooth Nobility M60
AAA# 21018091

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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: 10/16/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	236.00 ▲	230.64	185.83
CME Feeder Index	374.47 ▲	365.51	250.25
Boxed Beef Average	366.11 ▲	365.22	319.26
Average Dressed Steers	N/A ▲	N/A	295.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	N/A ▲	N/A	1,411
Weekly Slaughter**	N/A ▲	N/A	586,000
Weekly Beef Production***	N/A ▲	N/A	504.1
Hide/Offal Value	11.16 ▼	11.25	11.34
Corn Price	4.23 ▲	4.23	4.05

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	
October 10	6,423	367.21	203	423.16	1,137	372.14	1,999	364.53	650	347.03	2,434	327.27
October 3	7,233	372.48	265	426.67	1,257	377.80	2,418	368.25	760	350.88	2,533	327.87
September 26	6,983	382.60	244	437.28	1,405	388.90	2,075	379.92	740	360.61	2,518	337.85
September 19	6,983	393.06	200	449.47	1,293	401.68	2,105	391.87	591	372.65	2,793	346.49

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
October 16	366.11	348.93	317.79		146.51	401.34					
October 15	366.48	349.16	331.42		139.36	430.08					
October 14	364.42	350.55	330.90		139.62	N/A					
October 13	363.91	349.75	331.37		144.38	423.38					
October 10	365.57	346.39	335.21		137.00	429.96					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	10/10	10/13	10/14	10/15	10/16	High*	Low*
Oct.	23848	24058	24228	24250	24443	24678	16853
Dec.	24253	24475	24698	24698	24830	24830	16668
Feb.	24540	24720	24920	24920	25018	25018	17005
Apr.	24713	24823	25038	25028	25093	25093	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	10/10	10/13	10/14	10/15	10/16	High*	Low*
Oct.	37550	37550	38100	38050	38103	38103	21920
Nov.	37590	37673	38280	38198	38250	38280	22268
Jan.	37195	37373	38000	37898	38020	38020	22460
Mar.	36890	37125	37775	37660	37860	37860	24118

FED CATTLE TRADE			
Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price	
Live FOB Steer	58	1,400	236.00
Live FOB Heifer	157	1,353	236.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	58	1,400	236.00
Live FOB Heifer	157	1,353	236.00
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	417	1,459	230.64
Live FOB Heifer	36	1,325	228.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	576	1,548	185.83
Live FOB Heifer	759	1,350	186.14
Dressed Del Steer	140	1,008	295.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 12, 2025		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	30,846	5,668
Formula	239,547	1,792
Negotiated Cash	69,539	87
Negotiated Grid	30,138	1,644
Packer Owned	7,395	N/A
Total	377,465	9,191

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	Neg. Sales 21+ days	2,046
Oct. '25	188,466	729	
Nov. '25	178,398	3,569	
Dec. '25	180,926	79	
Jan. '26	106,909	5,855	
Feb. '26	128,529	136	

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		220.35	-4.42
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		216.95	-6.57

Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		229.53	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		149.09	+1.76

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, October 14, 2025				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	483.92	502.21	459.73	
601-700 lbs	438.48	448.66	424.62	
701-800 lbs	400.94	466.85	375.63	
801-900 lbs	364.29	360.02	379.20	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	503.67	516.62	466.24	
501-600 lbs	432.81	441.54	410.20	
601-700 lbs	394.74	391.47	363.02	
701-800 lbs	359.54	354.10	333.55	

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeder Steers	0	0	230,638	1,058,330

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
October 16, 2025			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: N/A	Week Ago EST: N/A	Year Ago Act: 6,800	
THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A

Selected Auctions										
Week Ending October 16, 2025										
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS
October 10	Blackfoot, ID	N/A	475-546	420-538	360-475	330-402	310-352	295-352	135-171	
October 9	Burley, ID	660	532.50	485-550	385-460	339-387		275-333	172-192.50	
No report available										
October 11	Emmett, ID									
October 11	Eugene, OR	882	340-450*	325-438*	300-382*	265-326*	230-280*	210-249*	135-171	1,000-2,550
October 13	Madras, OR	924	465-515	450-485	440-465	390-435	358-395	325-362	150-185	
October 15	Vale, OR	3,439	450-500	400-445	400-430	370-392	335-380	320-335	160-190	
No report available										
October 9	Davenport, WA				400-420*	380-387.50*		295-331*	160-180	
October 9	Toppenish, WA	1,690		420*	350-412.50*	350-355*			176-194.50	

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2										
October 9	Orland, CA	3,036	350-560	350-553	300-525	250-437	225-383	225-358	140-170	2,700-4,200
No report available										
October 13	Escalon, CA								140-190	2,000-3,875
October 13	Famoso, CA	742	425-558	440-534	425-511	350-435	340-360	300-340	85-220	
October 15	Galt, CA	1,327	400-523	400-538	385-480	350-375		300-325	150-180	
October 14	Turlock, CA	1,010	450-510	425-500	370-435	350-390		320-350	110-180	2,200-4,100
October 14	Salina, UT	1,897	425-500	370-460	310-400			165-185	2,200-3,600	

October 14	Iowa	5,087	595	530-625	470-545	395-520	350-440	330-403	326-373	122-255	
October 14	Miles City, MT	3,411	740	585-635	520-590	431-528	402-447.50	385-386	356	131-192.50	
October 15	Bassett, NE	3,660	545	530-555	455-530	377.50-462		360-362	312.50-329	155-199	2,675-3,300
No report available											
October 11	Imperial, NE	3,663		580-600	530-550	450-515	395-445	396-404	368.25-388.50		
October 15	Kearney, NE	2,000		506-509	453-485	378-407.50	366.50-375	361-378	291-359.50		
October 10	Lexington, NE	1,250		574-582	546-522	473-519	412-463	374-409	338-372.75	172-183.50	
October 9	Ogallala, NE	4,638		501	470-483	402-470	395-432	364-397.50	330.25-356	181-210	
October 9	Valentine, NE	2,366		541-582	482-543	431-469	412-434				
October 10	Herreid, SD	2,326		519-553	460-490	389-428		342	290-341		
October 15	Torrington, WY	2,429		597.50-637.50	492.50-595	430-511	400-441	340-412.50	334.50-382		
October 9	Colorado	9,583		500-547.50	421-501	371-436	352-411.50	352-388	300-368		
No report available											
October 13	Loma, CO	1,245		595-625	504-567.50	451-531	432-475				
October 15	Dodge City, KS	3,351		500-525	469-481				356-383		
October 15	El Reno, OK	6,171		576-675	560-568	470-509	433-454	345-371	326.50-357		
October 9	Salina, KS	1,948		530-537	465-504	435-520	380-421	342-353	348-357		
October 13	Loma, CO	1,245		655-695	559-670	467.50-535	420-465	335-402.50		130-175	4,100-4,500
October 14	Colorado	9,583		486-525	473-525	428-465	346-422.50	309-360		165-202	3,000-3,200
October 14	Colorado	9,583		560-615	525-645	430-540	355-486	340-446	345-381	292.50-360	121-211
No report available											
October 13	Loma, CO	1,245		441-537.50	425-560	377.50-467.50	341-430	347.50-385	329-361	270-335	130-199
October 15	Dodge City, KS	3,351									
October 9	Salina, KS	1,948		520-580	460-535	410-485	390-430	330-375	300-340	160-185	
October 16	Clovis, NM	2,247		485-530	425-500	375-425	335-395	340-375	375-360	185-220	
October 15	El Reno, OK	6,171		543-580	508-546	435-549	376-428	365-399	348.25-387.50	139-182.50	2,825-3,400
October 14	McAlester, OK	1,005		487.50	441-482.50	383-465	355-393	347-360	341-352.50	176-210	1,875-3,175
October 9	Salina, KS	1,948		550	475-515	419-445	365-433	366-400	343-383	162-181	4,000
October 16	Clovis, NM	2,247		552.50-662.50	427.50-582.50	387.50-505	375-440	365-398.50	354-3		

WY delegation wants to override BLM coal lease ban

The Trump administration has issued sweeping orders to federal agencies to remove regulatory hurdles and encourage more coal leasing and coal use. Now, Congress is acting to employ a little-used tool to override the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and rewrite or install new coal- and mining-friendly public land management plans throughout the West, including one in northeast Wyoming.

Wyoming's all-Republican congressional delegation introduced a joint resolution recently to employ the Congressional Review Act to essentially invalidate the BLM's Biden-era supplemental environmental impact statement updating the Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan.

Published last year, the Biden-era plan included a ban on future federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, citing coal's human health and climate impacts, as well as the fact that mining companies had not asked for any new major coal leases in the basin in nearly a decade.

The joint resolution, if passed, "would terminate the no leasing alternative, revert to the previous plan and prohibit the BLM from issuing a substantially similar plan," according to a joint statement by Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), and

Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY-At large).

The Powder River Basin is home to one of the world's largest coal deposits and some of the nation's biggest coal mines.

"Coal is the backbone of Wyoming's economy, it supports thousands of good-paying jobs, generates the revenue that funds our communities and provides reliable, cheap electricity to Americans across our country," Lummis said. "Biden's BLM left us no choice but to stop this dangerous overreach via the Congressional Review Act."

The Buffalo office oversees 780,291 acres of public lands and 4.7 million acres of mineral estate spanning Campbell, Johnson and Sheridan counties.

The Senate passed other resolutions employing the Congressional Review Act to modify BLM public land management plans, including in Alaska, North Dakota and one in southeast Montana that also included the Biden-era coal leasing ban.

Congress' move to override the BLM bypasses years of public input and local expertise, and it threatens to "upend the public lands management system as we know it," according to the nonprofit conservation advocacy group Earthjustice.

"They're saying, 'We don't like the public process. It didn't achieve the result that we want,'" said

Jenny Harbine, managing attorney for Earthjustice's Northern Rockies Office. "It says, by partisan fiat, the BLM cannot take substantially the same action [banning coal leasing in the Powder River Basin] in the future no matter what information might support it."

Using the Congressional Review Act to invalidate land use plans creates a lot of "chaos and confusion," which may end up backfiring on the fossil fuel and mining industries that President Donald Trump and GOP congressional members say they're trying to help, according to the conservation group Center for Western Priorities.

If a plan is invalidated, "doesn't that mean that oil and gas leases or coal leases issued under that [resource management plan] are no longer valid?" Western Priorities Policy Director Rachael Hamby told WyoFile. "What you're guaranteed to

get is uncertainty, which is not good for anyone, including industry."

Others suggested it's insulting to Wyoming residents to invalidate a hard-fought compromise among multiple stakeholders who rely on the Buffalo Field Office management plan to guide myriad public land activities, including grazing and recreation.

"Wyoming voices—people who participated in that exhaustive [BLM planning] process—aren't going to be heard once that [Congressional Review Act] kicks in," Powder River Basin Resource Council Executive Director Donna Birkholz told WyoFile.

Further, Birkholz said, Congress doesn't have the capacity or expertise to micromanage such plans to make them work for all stakeholders.

"People in the West, we tend to get our backs up about people from [Wash-

ington] D.C. telling us what to do," Birkholz said. "Using the [Congressional Review Act] seems like politicians telling folks that their voices are not going to be considered."

Gov. Mark Gordon (R) joined the Wyoming delegation in support of overriding the BLM to remake the Buffalo Field Office plan, as did the Campbell County Board of Commissioners.

"Campbell County has always known the true value of coal—both to meet base-load demand for affordable, reliable energy and for other non-thermal uses that are emerging as important for the future," the commissioners said in a statement.

"We appreciate the unwavering support we have received from the Trump Administration and our entire congressional delegation to overturn the misguided decisions by the previous administration to eliminate future coal leasing

in the Powder River Basin."

The Wyoming BLM, under Trump, had already initiated its own amendment process earlier this year to potentially remove the coal leasing ban from the Buffalo Field Office's management plan. The administration also scheduled two federal coal lease sales in the Powder River Basin, testing the mining industry's appetite for new reserves.

A competitive lease auction recently in Montana attracted one bid: \$186,000 for 167 million tons of federal coal associated with the Spring Creek mine—a fraction of a penny per ton compared to past coal lease sales that reaped more than \$1 per ton. The low bid stunned industry watchers, and the BLM indefinitely postponed a sale in Wyoming—for 441 million tons—that was supposed to happen shortly after. — **Dustin Bleizeffer, WyoFile**

Feeder Cattle Index reaches new high

MARKETS (from page 1)

for consumers to take home," Fish said. "High end dining demand also increases in November and December. So packers are under pressure to try and meet end users needs."

Boxed beef prices were steady to higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained about a dollar to close at \$366.11, and the Select cutout gained about \$4 to close at \$348.93.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also saw several-dollar gains over the week. The October contract gained about \$5 to close at \$379.67, and the November contract gained about \$6 to close at \$380.95.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained nearly \$9 to close at \$374.47.

"Demand has been utterly incredible this week in sales across the countryside, as shown by the CME Feeder Cattle Index's rally, which reached a new all-time high at \$374.47," Stewart said.

Corn futures were sideways over the week, up 3 cents on the December contract to \$4.21 and up a penny on the March contract to \$4.35.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 2,036

head on Tuesday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 400 lbs. sold \$4-7 lower. Feeder steers over 400 lbs. sold sharply higher. Feeder heifers sold sharply higher across all weight classes. Benchmark steers averaging 706 lbs. sold from \$377-392, averaging \$387.01.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 7,500 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold steady to \$10 higher, with feeder heifers selling \$5-15 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 721 lbs. sold from \$375-411 and averaged \$403.39.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,500 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold \$10-20 higher and feeder heifers traded \$5-15 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold \$20-30 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 766 lbs. sold from \$372-388, and averaged \$383.65.

Texas: Giddings Livestock in Giddings sold 1,208 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers and heifers were steady. A group of steers averaging 662 lbs. sold from \$330-365, averaging \$340.48. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



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WW: 102
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WW: 76
YW: 122
M: 30
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WW: 81
YW: 135
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BW: 3.3
WW: 108
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TWO LEGACIES. ONE STANDARD

UC ANR receives \$15.1M to accelerate ag tech innovation

UC ANR Innovate—the innovation program of University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR)—has been awarded \$15.1 million to launch the state's first coordinated agricultural innovation network, connecting California's diverse food-producing regions to accelerate technology, support entrepreneurs and prepare the workforce of the future.

This award is part of \$28.6 million in new Jobs First funding for California's agricultural sector, with UC ANR leading the statewide agricultural innovation cluster. The cluster spans agtech and food systems investments designed to strengthen competitiveness and resilience across the state.

Funded through the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and California Jobs First, this statewide effort will align research, industry and community partners across nine re-

gions, ensuring that breakthroughs in one part of the state can be shared quickly and equitably across all of California agriculture. At \$15.1 million, it is the largest award made to date under the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative.

"This award allows us to do something California has never done before: build a single, statewide engine for agricultural innovation," said Gabriel Youtsey, chief innovation officer at UC ANR. "We will be able to seamlessly connect researchers, entrepreneurs, farmworkers and industry across major farming regions, moving ideas from the lab to the field faster than ever, and ensuring that every farmer—from small specialty growers to large scale producers—benefits from the tools needed to stay competitive."

"UC ANR's presence in every California county for over 100 years gives us unprecedented reach," said

Glenda Humiston, UC vice president of agriculture and natural resources. "Our Cooperative Extension advisors know which technologies actually work in the field, which innovations farmers need most, and how to bridge the gap between research and reality. This funding transforms our local expertise into statewide impact, accelerating technology adoption that might otherwise take decades."

The stakes could not be higher. California's \$59 billion farm economy, which is responsible for more than a third of the nation's vegetables and three quarters of its fruits and nuts, faces intensifying pressure on multiple fronts. Drought, extreme heat and wildfire smoke are driving up costs and reducing yields. Pests and diseases are shifting in unpredictable ways, threatening specialty crops and permanent orchards.

Meanwhile, a shortage of

skilled workers leaves many farms unable to adopt new tools, and small and mid-sized growers are often the last to access solutions. Even when promising technologies exist, they spread slowly because efforts are fragmented across regions and lack the infrastructure to test, validate and scale innovations statewide. Without better coordination, California risks losing its longstanding leadership in food production.

This initiative meets the moment by establishing California's first statewide infrastructure to align regional priorities under a single network with shared industry leadership. It lowers the risks of bringing new technologies to market by incorporating field trials, farmer feedback and targeted innovation grants, while equipping growers and workers with the skills to adopt them. The effort is built around three integrated components:

- Statewide network and investment hub: Unites nine food-producing regions under a single vision. Guided by an advisory board of growers and agricultural leaders, the hub will coordinate priorities, host annual convenings and deploy \$2 million in innovation grants.

- It will also connect startups with investors, provide tools to navigate regulatory and market barriers, and create a statewide digital platform and shared brand to give California agriculture greater visibility on the global stage.

- Entrepreneur support programs: Accelerates commercialization of new technologies through two pathways. Early-stage innovators will receive support to refine prototypes, strengthen business models, and prepare for regulatory approval.

- Market-ready companies will gain opportunities to test solutions in the field, gather farmer feedback and showcase technologies to buyers and investors. Both pathways use a common readiness framework to ensure innovations are validated and ready to scale across California agriculture.

- Workforce investments: Builds the talent pipeline needed for adoption of emerging tools. Programs will upskill farmworkers with industry-aligned training, engage students in robotics and automation challenges, integrate drone and data science skills into classrooms, and provide hands-on field experiences that inspire careers in agricultural innovation.

"This investment positions California at the forefront of the agricultural technology revolution," said Dee Dee Myers, senior advisor to Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) and GO-Biz director. "We're building the infrastructure for innovation that will keep California agriculture competitive for decades. These aren't just incremental improvements; we're talking about transformative technologies that will reshape how food is produced."

Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture secretary, added, "California feeds the nation, but our agricultural leadership isn't guaranteed. Other states and countries are investing heavily in ag-

ricultural technology. This initiative ensures California doesn't just keep up but defines the future of farming globally."

The initiative fills a critical gap in agricultural innovation: the disconnect between technology development and on-farm use.

"I've seen too many promising agricultural startups fail because they couldn't find farmers to test their products or didn't understand how farms actually operate," said Connie Bowen, general partner of Farmhand Ventures. "This initiative builds the missing infrastructure: test sites, farmer feedback, technical expertise. We're creating the conditions for California to capture the growing agricultural technology market."

The program specifically focuses on democratizing innovation, ensuring small and mid-sized farms aren't left behind in the technology transformation. By creating regional hubs and shared resources, even smaller operations can access cutting-edge tools and expertise.

"This isn't about replacing traditional farming, it's about giving every farmer the tools to thrive," noted Youtsey. "Whether you're managing 10 acres or 10,000, this initiative ensures you have access to innovations that improve productivity, sustainability, and profitability."

Expected outcomes within five years include support for 200 agricultural technology startups, the creation of more than 2,000 jobs in the agricultural innovation sector, training for over 1,500 individuals in agricultural technology and a strengthened position for California in the global agricultural technology market.

The initiative brings together a powerful coalition including the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Western Growers Association, California Farmworker Foundation, Agricultural Council of California, UC Santa Cruz, Center for Land-Based Learning, and regional partners across all nine food producing regions.

Implementation begins in late 2025, with innovation cohorts and regional technology demonstrations ramping up in early 2026. — UC ANR

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COMING EVENTS

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

Nov. 12-14 – The Washington Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's associations' 100th Annual

Convention and Tradeshow will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, WA. Details: washingtoncattlemen.org/convention.



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.)

Nov. 7 – The National Cattlemen's Foundation encourages college students pursuing careers in the beef industry to apply for the 2026 CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship. Ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded. Details: nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

Study identifies the gene marker for hill-climbing cattle

In an ideal situation, ranchers and range managers like to see cattle actively grazing on a broad spectrum of the range. Especially on hot summer days, some cattle like to hang out in the shade and creek-bottoms to stay cool. Often times, it requires herding cattle uphill to move them away from streams and riparian areas. But what if a cow is genetically inclined to climb hills?

In a new research study, University of Idaho Beef Specialist Jim Sprinkle and his partners have identified a genetic marker for hill-climbing cattle. These animals hiked more and ate less but still had optimal weight gain. The implications of the study are significant for overall range health, experts say.

"All things considered, when we can get cattle that really will venture out and utilize better, the range stays in better condition, and especially riparian areas stay in better condition," said Scott Jensen, a study participant and University of Idaho Extension Educator in Owyhee County, based in Homedale.

"I really think for the long-term health of the range, which includes those riparian areas, it's going to help provide folks to do a better job of managing livestock," Jensen said.

Cattle use of riparian areas is a big deal on public lands. For ranchers, meeting required riparian standards is important for maintaining their grazing permits. It's an important issue for anglers, hunters and the general public as well. Many species of birds and wildlife benefit from healthy riparian areas. Healthy riparian areas also provide quality fish habitat, reduced water temperatures and good water quality.

From the standpoint of Wyatt Prescott, range manager at the University of Idaho Rinker Rock Creek Ranch, the study's findings are significant.

"We're trying to understand how we can use livestock as a tool for conservation and to enhance wildlife habitat," Prescott says.

"I think this information is very significant," Jensen adds. "It's like most things, the more we learn, the better we're able to manage."

Tracking cattle movement

Sprinkle created one-of-a-kind collars for cattle equipped with an accelerometer and GPS to track their movements. The Accelerometer measures the cow's activity 25 times per second. The GPS tracks movements every 2 to 7 minutes.

"It's pretty powerful, the accelerometer they're using on rockets, it measures velocity up and down, side to side, backward and forward," said Sprinkle. "The GPS tells you where they're at, and the accelerometer tells you what they're doing while they're there."

Sprinkle and research assistants ground-proofed the data by recording cattle activity on tablets while riding horseback.

"We've got lots of data. Millions of lines of data, millions!" Sprinkle said. "Each cow, each day, we get 2.16 million lines of data; we average it down to 180,000 lines of data, for each day, and we have 35 cows."

For the research project, Sprinkle and his graduate student, Landon Sullivan, compared the movements of 18 efficient cows versus 18 inefficient cows over several grazing seasons at Rinker Rock Creek Ranch. To get started, they ran mother cows through a squeeze chute to place the collars on the animals.

Sprinkle and his crew had all of the collars laid out and organized. They painted numbers on the mother cows for easier identification.

Sprinkle wanted to see how cattle with different eating habits in a feedlot setting would perform on the range. In the study, "efficient" and "inefficient" cattle were observed in a true rangeland setting at the ranch.

"They've done this work since the 1980s, but never on rangeland, so when I came here in 2015, I saw a real opportunity to evaluate efficient versus inefficient animals on rangeland to see if there was any difference," Sprinkle said.

Using a car analogy, the inefficient cows in a feedlot setting were heavy eaters and required a lot of fuel, like a 1970s muscle car. The efficient cattle ate less in a feedlot but still had the same amount of weight gain, more like a turbo-charged sports car. And the efficient cows turned out to be the champion hill-climbers.

The inefficient cattle were more lazy, hanging out in the creek-bottom, especially when temperatures got hot in August.

"My original thinking was that we probably want inefficient animals out here. Because we want animals with a lot of drive and appetite that'll get out and forage," Sprinkle says. "And that's the beauty of science, when we did the experiments, it just turned that upside-down."

"We've determined that those efficient animals, when you have steep terrain and hot temperatures, they seemed to handle that a little better."

Ranchers may want to select for hill-climbing cattle, if they have a range operation.

"If you do have an opportunity to select an animal that is going to eat a little less and use more rugged country, especially when it's hot, might be something to consider," he said.

Prescott sees a lot of value in the research findings for Idaho ranchers because the study was completed in a

true rangeland setting at Rinker Rock Creek Ranch.

"We're really trying to make sure the research conducted is super applicable to those ranchers who want to use cattle as a conservation tool to create a better environment and better years to come and for them, the wildlife and the public to enjoy," Prescott said.

Sergio Arispe, a professor of range science for Oregon State University, has been assisting in the research.

"What I'm excited about is we're truly at the forefront of understanding and learning more about cattle behavior. It's important for landscape management in the sagebrush steppe," Arispe says.

"The project is answering

questions that cattle producers have—not only cattle producers and public land managers as well academia—all coming together to promote healthy ecosystems. This project is at the forefront, we're all learning from so it can move beyond Idaho to the rest of the world." — **Steve Stuebner, Life on the Range**



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SALE REPORTS

JAMISON QUARTER HORSES PRODUCTION SALE

- Oct. 9, Quinter, KS
- 36 Quarter Horse ranch geldings \$11,916
- 2 Quarter Horse studs 10,000
- 3 Quarter Horse ponies 7,666
- 14 Quarter Horse saddle mares 7,303
- 7 Quarter Horse brood mares 7,035
- 22 Quarter Horse stud colts 5,340
- 32 Quarter Horse fillies 4,520

Auctioneers: Lynn & Seth Weishaar

TOPS—Ranchgeldings:

Flingin Cielo, 4/5/2021 by Flingin Wood; to Jason McGee, Cherry Valley, AR, \$25,500. TFR Sir Sunetta, 5/6/2020 by Gritty Little Badger; to Richard Ames, Malott, WA, \$24,000. Starlite High Brow, 5/9/2015 by Smart Like High Brow; to Linda Muegge, Carthage, IN, \$22,500. Roller, 4/1/2017 by High Driftin Gold; to Ver-

million Ranch, Rock Springs, WY, \$21,000. **Stud colt:** Call Me Mitch X Miss Tuff Gun, 5/16/2025 by Call Me Mitch; to Mitch Holt, Firth, NE, \$14,500. **Saddle mare:** Bay Water Dally, 8/1/2022 by Dallypost Parrdunme; to Jason Boyer, Rush, CO, \$13,500. **Filly:** Metallic Malice X Ali Messina, 4/19/2025 by Metallic Malice; to Vicki Kinser, Morristown, TN, \$10,000. **Studs:** Gunwood Frost, 5/24/2024 by PC Redwood Manny; to Larry Turner, Valentine, NE, \$10,000. Driftin In Payments, 5/28/2024 by Irish Pay; to JMS Equine, Afton, IA, \$10,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

COLEMAN ANGUS FEMALE SALE

Oct. 14, Charlo, MT
70 Reported sale
total \$40,920

Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Angus bred heifers: Coleman Chloe 426, 1/28/2024 by Cole-

man Rock 7200; to Ingram Angus, Pulaski, TN, \$140,000, 1/2 interest. Coleman Donna 4126, 1/31/2024 by Hummell Palermo SA; to Southhall Angus, Franklin, TN, \$95,000, 1/2 interest. Coleman Blackbird 4327, 1/17/2024 by Coleman Glacier 041; to KT Ranches, Cherryville, BC, and Canadian Sires, Olds, AB, \$84,999. Coleman Donna 512, 2/10/2024 by Hummell Palermo SA; to Firth Cattle, Malad, ID, \$75,000, 1/2 interest. **Herd bull:** Coleman Avalanche 487, 1/27/2024 by Coleman Glacier 041; to Montana Ranch, Bigfork, MT, and Canadian Sires, Olds, AB, \$250,000, 1/2 interest.

Open heifers: Coleman Chloe 511, 1/18/2025 by Coleman Rock 7200; to Southhall Angus, Franklin, TN, \$115,000, 1/2 interest. Coleman Donna 572, 3/9/2025 by Hummell Palermo SA; to Southhall Angus, Franklin, TN, \$105,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

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NEW LISTING! REEVES CO., TX – Organic alfalfa farm, producing mineral, feedlot, rock quarry, 2,777± acres.

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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

Nov. 1 – World of Bulls & Replacement Female Sale, Galt, CA

ANGUS

Oct. 24 – Birch Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Ruby Valley, NV
Oct. 25 – Bear Mountain Angus, Female Sale, Palisade, NE
Oct. 26 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Oct. 27 – Dal Porto Livestock, Female Sale, Anselmo, NE
Nov. 6 – Memory Ranches, Bull Sale, Wells, NV
Nov. 8 – Montana Ranch,

Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Nov. 10 – Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 12 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Nov. 13 – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Production Sale, Othello, WA
Nov. 17 – J&L Livestock, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 19 – TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Nov. 22 – Frank Cattle & Genetics and Baldrige-Tiedeman Angus, Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Nov. 22 – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 22 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Nov. 25 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 28 – Vermillion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 1 – Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Fall Sale, Hobson, MT

Dec. 2 – Stevenson Angus, Fall Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec. 2 – Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 3 – McDonnell Angus, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 4 – Sitz Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 5 – KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 6 – Reverse Rocking R Ranch, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM

HEREFORD

Nov. 24 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Dec. 5 – Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV

OPTIMIZER

Dec. 8 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

RED ANGUS

Nov. 1 – Bet on Red, Female Sale, Reno, NV
Nov. 6 – Memory Ranches, Bull Sale, Wells, NV
Nov. 10 – Ludvigson Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT
Dec. 3 – Big Sky Elite,

Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
SIMANGUS
Nov. 7 – Table Rock Ranch, Production Sale, Ririe, ID
Dec. 5 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 6 – Western Choice Female Sale, Billings, MT
SIMMENTAL
Dec. 5 – Yardley Cattle Co.,

Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 6 – Western Choice Female Sale, Billings, MT
STABILIZER
Nov. 21 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY
Dec. 6 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 21 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Dec. 2 – Western Video Market Sale, Reno, NV
HORSE
Oct. 25 – Rick Machado Livestock, Horse Sale, Paso Robles, CA

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

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 - WEDNESDAYS -
 OCTOBER 29 NOVEMBER 5 & 19

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
 CLM ANNUAL BRED COW & REPLACEMENT FEMALE SALE & PARNELL'S 57TH ANNUAL CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 'WORLD OF BULLS' SALE

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS:

- 80 HEAD OF 2-4 YEAR OLD 1-IRON DECEMBER CALVING COWS FROM DOORNENBAL CATTLE. RAISED & RUN IN FOOTHILL COUNTRY. BRED TO BYRD ANGUS BULLS.
- 170 1-IRON FALL PAIRS. CALVES BORN BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 FROM ROUGH COUNTRY. CALVES Sired BY ANGUS BULLS.
- 25 3,4,5 YR BLK ANGUS PAIRS. LATE AUG/ SEPT CALVES.
- 30 BLK, RED FEW HEREFORDS 3,4,5 YR OLD BRED COWS CALVING NOV/DEC
- 30-35 YOUNG JANUARY AND FEBRUARY CALVING COWS BRED TO ANGUS BULLS
- 40 1-IRON PAIRS WITH BIG CALES, READY TO EXPOSE TO BULL OF YOUR CHOICE

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 Website/Market Report..... clmgalt.com
 Web Broadcast..... lmauctions.com

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



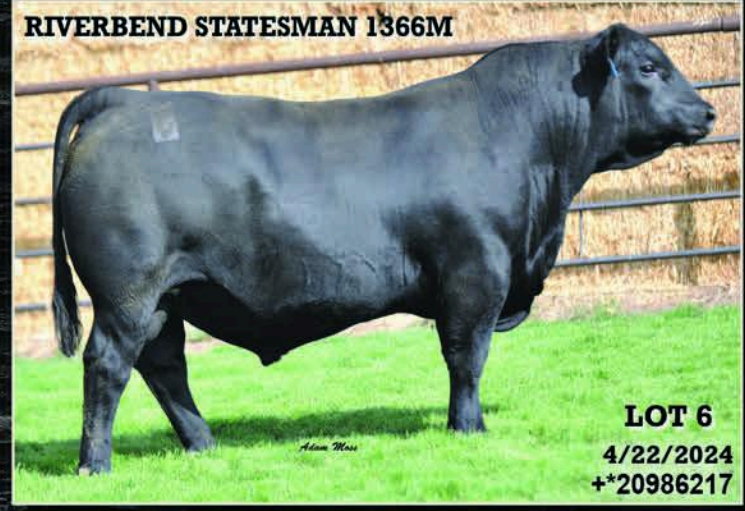
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Idaho Falls, ID

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MGS: TEX Playbook 5437



Sire: Pine View Red State • Dam: TEX Rita 9057
MGS: Hoover Know How



Sire: Riverbend Black Label J1810 • Dam: Woodhill Evergreen U181-A130
MGS: Hoover Dam



Sire: Yon Saluda • Dam: EXAR Blackcap 7888
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Sire: Riverbend Promontory 8533 • Dam: HD Dunn Erica 7245
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