



INSIDE WLJ

AFBF GIVES RECOMMENDATIONS — The American Farm Bureau Federation released its recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill, including suggestions for funding and program development. **Page 11**

MEXICAN EXPORT DEVELOPMENT — A recent USDA report shows that Mexico continues to develop as a large beef exporting country, but imports have slowed over the last decade. **Page 15**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

For producers around the country, it feels like input costs only continue to rise, and that same issue was the main concern for producers in October 1923 too, as this *WLJ* article describes: "The cattleman is in a quandary. He doesn't know just where he's going to get off in the general procession as his cost of production mounts up from year to year. Taxes in Tulare county back in 1915 amounted to only \$1.35 on the \$100 valuation. Now, with new schools, hard roads, and other increases, taxes amount to \$4.60 on the \$100 valuation. We used to pay ranch hands \$30 a month and now we pay \$60. The freight rate on cattle from my shipping point in 1915 was \$62 a car; now it's \$88.50. Nearly everything we buy costs more than five years ago."

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9th Circuit hears case on wolf-cattle conflict

— Colville National Forest

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland, OR, recently heard arguments that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) failed to analyze the impacts of livestock grazing on gray wolves in the Colville National Forest.

The Colville National Forest encompasses over 1.1 million acres in the northeastern portion of Washington. Grazing allotments cover about 745,000 acres of administered forest lands on 58 grazing allotments, where 42 currently have permitted use and 16 are vacant.

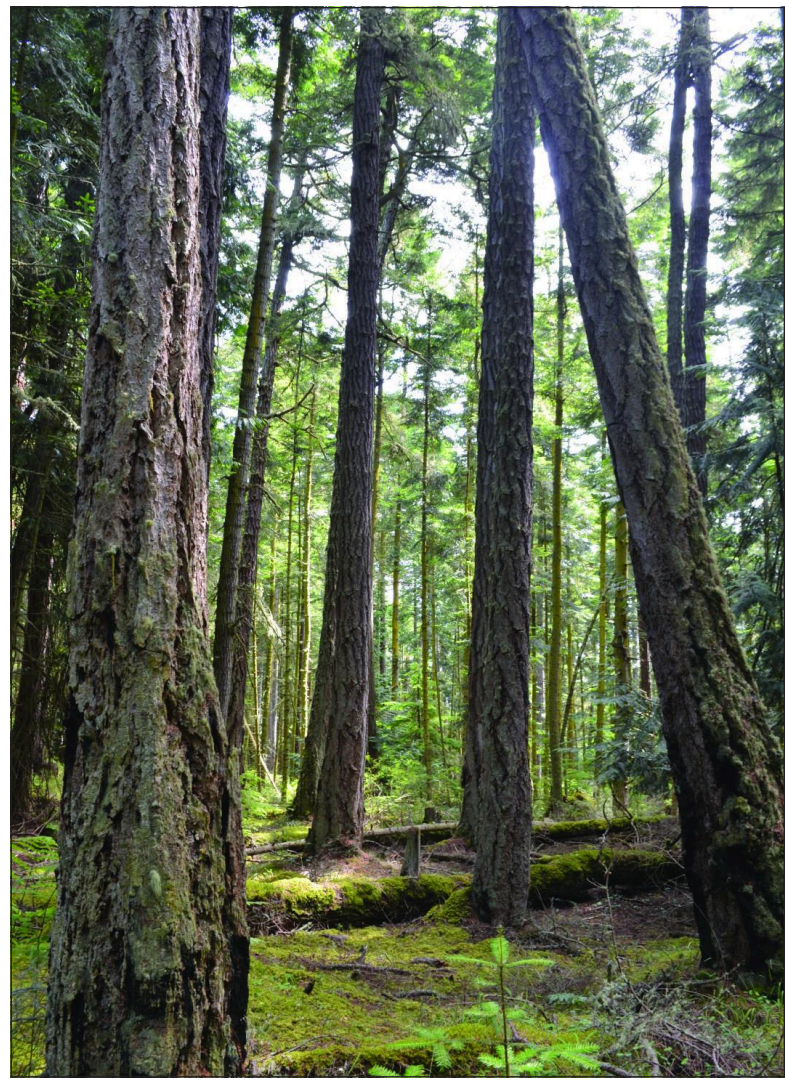
"This case is about the Forest Service's duty to responsibly manage cattle grazing that it authorizes to occur in the Colville National Forest to prevent harm to wolves," said Jennifer Schwartz, staff attorney for WildEarth Guardians, one of the plaintiffs in the case.

The case was filed in 2020 by WildEarth Guardians, Western Watersheds Project and Kettle Range Conservation Group against USFS. The groups argued the agency violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Forest Management Act (NFMA) through their failure to address the impacts to gray wolves. The groups also argued USFS failed to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the potential impacts of livestock grazing on endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington denied the plaintiffs' request under NEPA and NFMA, as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the lead agency responsible for wolf management, including the lethal removal of wolves. U.S. District Judge Rosanna Peterson also ruled the plaintiffs failed to show any injury from the revised 2019 Colville National Forest Plan, and NFMA challenges to the forest plan are "not ripe for adjudication because the forest plan neither authorizes livestock grazing nor wolf depredations."

Schwartz argued before the three-judge panel that USFS allowing

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Jennifer McNew/BLM

A suit claiming the U.S. Forest Service failed to analyze the impacts of livestock grazing on gray wolves in the Colville National Forest has made its way to the 9th Circuit Court. Pictured here, trees in the Colville National Forest, WA.

DOI plans to pay farmers, others to reduce water usage

— \$4 billion in funding

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has announced drought mitigation funding for farmers, Tribes and irrigation districts to conserve Colorado River water usage.

The \$4 billion in funding will come from the Inflation Reduction Act and be used to create the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program to fund drought mitigation projects in Arizona, California and Nevada. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) would manage the program and be responsible for funding proposal submissions.

"This significant investment from the Inflation Reduction Act enables the Bureau of Reclamation to improve water management and conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin today—and for the future," said BOR Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton in a statement.

"The Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program provides both new opportunities for system conservation and more durable long-term solutions for areas experiencing drought."

The program has three components, and two of the three components are open for proposal submissions until Nov. 21.

The first component open for proposals will pay farmers who undertake water conservation measures \$330 per acre-foot for a one-year agreement, \$365 per acre-foot for a two-year agreement and \$400 per acre-foot for a three-year commitment.

Project proposals should include a plan description, the amount of water conserved based on the history of use, the methodology for estimated use reduction and a description of the verification methods.

The program to conserve water

is designed in the hopes of preserving water levels in Lake Mead, which as of Oct. 14, was at 1,045 feet, well below the 2021 level of 1,067 feet.

According to a letter from BOR, the second program component would regard conservation plans that reduce the amount of water consumed from the Colorado River. The second component is for Colorado River water delivery contract or entitlement holders and Central Arizona Project water delivery contract or entitlement holders. BOR does not give specific details but states it is for "water conservation and efficiency projects that could involve a variety of pricing options."

Beginning in early 2023, a third component will "solicit proposals for long-term system efficiency improvements resulting in multi-year system conservation."

DOI also announced \$500

See RATES on page 6

Getting EPDs right on show cattle

— Proper data collection

There is a common myth that all performance cattle have bad structure and all show cattle have bad EPDs. These beliefs are simply not true on both accounts. For show cattle, it is true that a certain number have lower-than-desired EPDs, but this is generally due to one of two causes. The first is the breeder doesn't believe in the science of EPDs and therefore ignores them when breeding cattle. This is a critical mistake, as there are mounds of research that prove they do work. It is also sometimes forgotten that the extra performance a show calf has because of preferential treatment is not heritable. However, the biggest reason EPDs may not reflect a breeder's cattle is improper data collection.

The most common EPD problem occurs when producers show calves, which forces breeders to pull what are often their best calves out of their contemporary group prior to weaning. This allows producers to give the calves feed and attention to get them ready for an early show. Even worse is when they send the weights of calves being prepared for a show along with the rest of the contemporary group. This can cause the whole contemporary group to be filtered because its distribution demonstrates nonheritable properties due to incorrect

See EPDS on page 11

Cash prices up several dollars over the week

The cattle market headed mostly higher over the week. Corn prices were sent lower, slaughter has stayed strong and boxed beef prices continue to trade higher. Feedlots held out another week for cash trade, receiving a couple dollars more in the process.

"The live cattle complex is keeping with its aggressive upward move as the market is elated to see feedlots pushing back against packers and demanding more money for fats," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in her Thursday midday comments.

Live cattle futures were several dollars higher than a week earlier. The October contract was up over \$3 to \$149.77, and the December contract was up about \$4 to \$151.67.

Cash trade is expected to trade higher this week. Through Thursday early afternoon, about 83,000 head had sold. Live steers sold from \$147-152, and dressed steers sold from \$232-236.

"It's a long time coming to see cash cattle prices gain \$3 in one week, as tighter fed cattle supplies and big weekly slaughter schedules push packers to take prices to new highs for 2022," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in *The Beef* on Thursday. "This is the highest cash price in seven years."

Cash trade through the week ending Oct. 16 totaled 75,624 head. Live steers averaged \$147.21, and dressed steers

averaged \$231.51.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Oct. 10-17 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$147.19.
- Formula net purchases: \$147.24.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$145.15.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$146.78.

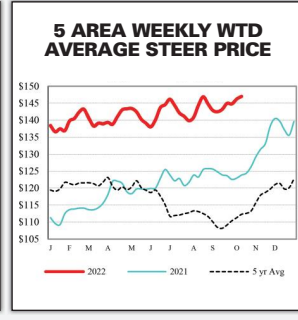
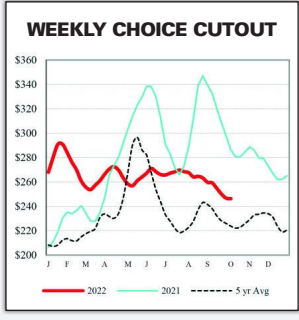
On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$231.51.

- Formula net purchases: \$234.02.
- Forward contract net

See MARKETS on page 17

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling



Category	Price
LIVE STEERS	\$149.89
DRESSED STEERS	\$233.13
CME FEEDER	\$172.77

WEEK ENDING: 10-20-22

COMMENTS

Economic election

This is a crazy recession we are in. In my view, energy is the main culprit, especially oil and gas. The number of products made from oil and gas is astonishing, and the remarkable thing to me is that oil is an organic compound made from biological material that is billions of years old.



CROW

It's a confusing economy right now. Inflation is running 10% or more. We have full employment with companies desperate for workers. Wages are going up, fast food joints are paying unskilled laborers \$15-20 per hour—that's nearly \$800 per week—which sure beats the \$2.30 per hour when I was in college. You look around and new commercial buildings are going up as quickly as they can get the materials. Recessions typically have the opposite effect on labor.

If you think about it, the use of our natural resources is where an economy starts. Everything we produce starts with harvesting a natural resource. Then we have advocacy groups that don't want anyone to use them. I don't understand why anybody would want to intentionally hurt their economy. We have renewable resources like timber and grass; if they are not consumed, the young growth can't survive, and then they die. It's almost as bad as a fire. Natural resources are the basis for all production and wealth.

We have big political decisions ahead of us, and the days of the balanced political statesmen have passed us by. We have a government that is run by advocacy groups with only one agenda. There doesn't appear to be any businesslike people running the government. COVID-19 money helped a lot of people, and it helped some more than others. COVID was a \$4 billion "investment," then President Joe Biden got his anti-inflation bill passed for another \$2 billion in spending. That is a lot of money dumped into the economy, and it doesn't appear anybody in government thought about what would happen to the economy until it was too late.

We have been living with cheap money for a long time, and for the most part, the economy handled it well. There wasn't an excessive amount of leveraging by companies or individuals. Farmers and ranchers experienced excessive leveraging in the 1980s when money cost 14% or more. Ten years of cheap interest became comfortable for many folks. Folks bought a lot of real estate and could afford it—not like it was in 2008 with subprime lending.

An entire generation has grown up with cheap money. Young folks don't realize it yet, but 6% mortgage money is still pretty reasonable compared to the 1980s. The dollar has become very strong in relation to other major currencies, which will hurt exports. A barrel of oil is only \$85, which is reasonable, and gas prices are about \$3.50 in most of the country—sorry, California.

Then, we have about 2 million undocumented people crossing our southern border every year for the past couple years. They're undocumented, so they technically can't be hired to fill all those extra jobs we have.

I don't know about you, but it's starting to feel like America is a threshold to the world of prosperity. And can you blame these people? Most just want a better life than they had in their authoritarian-led governments. We take freedom for granted, and a lot of our citizens don't realize just how much opportunity lies before them.

I haven't been watching the cattle markets as closely as I usually do the past three or four weeks. But it doesn't seem like things changed all that much. Boxed beef prices have been flat, around \$260. Fed cattle are trading around \$145, while futures are trading at a premium to the cash market. This last summer, we had more cattle available, cash was leading the way and fed cattle futures were trading at a discount to cash. When cash leads, we should be looking at a stronger market.

Feeder cattle are trading at around \$170 or so, and corn prices are relatively stable around the \$6.50/bushel zone. Cattle feeders are currently losing \$125 per head, according to published closeouts. I can't remember the last time I saw positive margins in cattle feeding. How do cattle feeders endure this market? The markup in feed must cover all the bills.

With the midyear elections coming up, it's important to slow inflation with more energy production. This administration and all their minions don't seem to get it. We can force policy directions with this administration, and it must happen. We need a little fiscal conservatism to move forward, so vote. A bunch of snow and rain would help too. — **PETE CROW**

GUEST OPINION

As if the country doesn't suffer sufficiently from divisiveness already, some politicians are trying to make conservation easements look like a leftist plot. Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) says the federal government and "radical environmental groups" are trying to "entice" farmers and ranchers to "give up their property rights."

Conservation easements, like many things, are matters about which reasonable people can disagree. Demonizing them is uncalled for.

The demonization is especially unfortunate because conservation easements, being voluntary and nonadversarial, are the kind of environmental protection measures that should appeal to politicians who like property rights and free markets. Far from "radical," the conservation groups that have long promoted easements are among the most pragmatic. They include The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and an organization dedicated to preserving agricultural land, American Farmland Trust (AFT).

By agreeing to a conservation easement, a landowner gives away or sells specified rights on her property—for example, the right to build a housing subdivision or a Walmart on it—while retaining ownership. The nonprofit organization or government agency, called the easement holder, agrees to hold those rights but not use them.

The easement runs with the land, meaning all subsequent buyers of the property must abide by the easement's terms—in perpetuity. That's a good thing to some people, a bad thing to others.

One landowner might agree to an easement because he wants to make sure his land will always be agricultural land. Forever. Another might think it's wrong to limit the rights of future property owners, who could face circumstances different from today's. With easements being voluntary, both landowners are free to do as they choose.

In addition to protecting the land against unwanted uses, the easement provides a financial benefit—a tax deduction or deductions reflecting the decline in the property's value or occasionally a cash payment. "It's an opportunity for farmers to keep farming and get a little money in their pockets," John Piotti, AFT president, said in an interview.

Compared to alternative ways of extracting equity from land while maintaining ownership, like borrowing, easements are painless, Piotti said. "If farmers plan to continue farming, they don't need to have the right to put a Walmart on their property. They can sell that right."

The terms of some conservation easements are specific—don't drain the wetlands or chop down the woods, for example. Others are sweeping—no construction of buildings

of any kind.

The agricultural easements AFT promotes and holds are more flexible. Their principal purpose, Piotti said, is "to make sure that land is available for agriculture long into the future."

If the trees need to be chopped or housing built for farmworkers, the ag easement will allow it. Most ag easements don't even require the land to be farmed, only that it be "available" for farming.

Is society well served by never-ending restrictions on land use? According to Piotti, easements can be amended as long as there's a trade-off that ensures no net loss of conservation value. Moreover, he said, if society has a genuine need for the land, there's eminent domain; easements don't protect against that. And as easements are creatures of federal and state law, laws can be changed if circumstances change.

Some fear the effect of easements on the tax base. That fear is founded on a misconception; the reduction in property value seldom translates into less tax revenue. That's because most ag land is taxed at its agricultural value, which easements preserve.

Yes, easements block development, and developed lands generate more tax revenue. But they also require more services. Numerous studies by AFT and others show that the lower outlays for services on open land under easements more than compensate for lost revenue. "Farm fields don't require police protection, and cows don't go to school," Piotti explained.

Holding down property prices makes it easier for younger farmers to acquire land. Without an easement, young farmers may have to compete with real estate developers for land, a competition the developers will usually win.

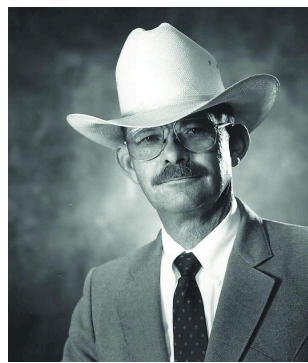
"In many places, the only way we get the next generation of farmers on the land is by putting an easement on it," Piotti said. "Easements are a critical part of what is needed to advance agriculture in this country."

Easements come in different sizes and flavors depending on which land trust or conservation group is offering them. If one easement doesn't suit, another might. Or not. For many landowners, none will. Nobody is making them do it. It's their choice.

That's the point, in Piotti's view. Politicians who see landowners getting their pockets picked have it backward. The truth is, easements expand landowners' options.

"An easement gives people the right to do what they want with their property," Piotti said. "People who are anti-easements are anti-property rights." — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

OBITUARIES



CB 'Doc' Lane; 1937-2022

C.B. "Doc" Lane passed away peacefully on Oct. 2 after a long illness. Born on April 23, 1937, in Roswell, NM, he grew up on cattle ranches in New Mexico and southeast Arizona. A graduate of Tucson High School and the University of Arizona, he ranched at the family's O Bar O north of Willcox, AZ; the Dry Lot Cattle Co. feedlot near Sasabe, AZ; and the Lane Ranch north of Limon, CO.

After managing a ranch in Cheyenne, WY, he came back to Arizona to work for the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, where he stayed for 21 years until his retirement. Never one to sit idle, he started making saddle racks, boot jacks, coat stands and chairs in his enormous metal barn in Cave Creek, AZ. Doc is survived by his wife, Patti Lane; sons, Todd (Stacey), Tim (Diane) and Sam; daughter, Justine (Ryan); grandkids,

Blair, Riley, Alex, Lukas and Millie; and great-grandsons, Nico and Robin.

He was even-tempered and quick to smile, and you really had to work to make him mad (which his children often managed to do). He made it to most of his kids' sporting events and helped coach many of the baseball and football little league teams. More importantly, he lived by example; he was a man of his word who imparted the importance of personal responsibility and integrity and that all work has value.



Bobby J. Rankin; 1932-2022

Dr. Bobby Joe Rankin died on Oct. 13 at 90 years old. He was a resident of Las Cruces, NM, for almost 60 years. Bobby was born July 5, 1932, in Wills Point, TX, to Joe Maxie (JK) and Mattie Lou (Harris) Rankin. He grew up in Wills Point during the difficult 1930s, helping on the family farm and working at the service station that

his father managed. Friends in those days knew him for his red hair and fun-loving spirit. After graduating from Wills Point High School, he attended Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the livestock judging and rodeo teams. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in animal science and a commission in the U.S. Army Reserve. After training at infantry basic officer school and the airborne and ranger schools, he was stationed in Germany. He continued his military career as commander of a reserve U.S. Special Forces unit in Stillwater, OK, and in Las Cruces, NM, until 1965.

In 1957, Bobby enrolled in graduate school at Oklahoma State University (OSU), where he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in animal science. At OSU, Bobby also met his wife of 58 years. He married Margie Ann Bond, daughter of Damon Upton and Marie Elizabeth Bond, on Sept. 5, 1959.

Bobby joined New Mexico State University (NMSU) in 1961 and traveled the state as an Extension livestock specialist, focusing on the genetic improvement of beef cattle. He helped improve productivity and marketability in the ranching industry with his central bull testing and ranch-to-rail programs. He then enjoyed a 20-year teaching career, mentoring students in NMSU's Department of Animal and Range Sciences before serving as the department head until his retirement in 2000. During his time at NMSU, he was active in sponsoring the livestock judging and rodeo teams. He helped establish New Mexico's 4-H horse program and initiated a campus horse program that led to Quarter Horse

breeding, hands-on horse training and intercollegiate competitions. He was instrumental in establishing the Corona research ranch in central New Mexico. Fluent in Spanish, he served as the college adviser to a U.S. Agency for International Development project in Paraguay and was the founding teacher for the graduate program in animal science at the University of Chihuahua. He also worked in Belize, Algeria and The Gambia, and he regularly advised international Ph.D. students.

In addition to his work that he loved, Bob loved his community. For over 40 years, he was active in the First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces, serving as deacon, teacher and elder at various times. Bob was a member and officer of Rotary Club of Las Cruces for many years, as well as New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, Farm Bureau and NMSU Foundation.

Bob was blessed with strong faith in his Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, from whom he received wisdom, strength and guidance throughout his life. He was a man of great integrity. He especially loved and served us, his family and his friends, and we couldn't have dreamed anyone could do it better.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Trina Davis (Bruce) of Springer, NM, and Amy Rankin (Doug Pickett) of Taos, NM; two grandsons, Benjamin Rankin (Rachel) Davis and John Damon Davis; and dear friends and family who shared this life journey with him.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents and his two sisters, Lue Jean Beck and Elizabeth Charlyne Sledge.

WLJ

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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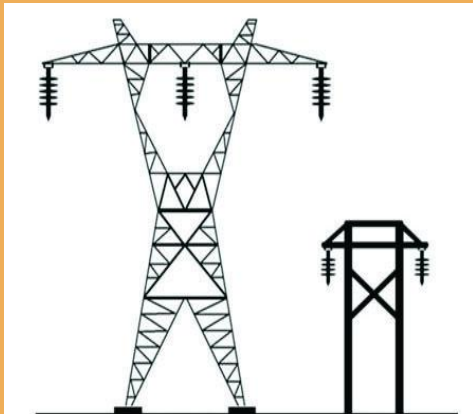
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THE VIEWPOINT

with Derrell Peel

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

Dr. Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist, has extensive experience working in the industry on a day-to-day basis on market outlooks, marketing management and market risk management. He maintains a particular interest in the Mexican cattle industry and the Mexico-U.S. trade relationship, and he has spent substantial time in Mexico for the past 30 years. As

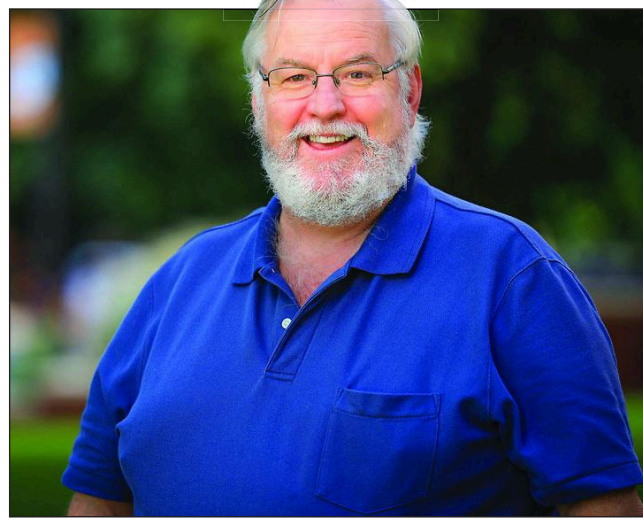
such, he is well versed in Mexico's market and the potential impacts on the U.S. cattle industry as we continue into another drought year with lower cattle numbers.

"A lot of my outlook work in the last two or three months in particular has been talking about what happens after the drought," Derrell told *WLJ*. "We don't know when that's going to start because we're still in the drought, and we're still getting worse in terms of impacts, but we already know that once we get out of it, the stage is set at a minimum for some of the things that are going to happen over the next three to four or five years."

The calf crop peaked cyclically in 2018 and has declined since then, so there are fewer cattle in the country, Derrell said.

Although the drought is exaggerating cattle numbers, he said he doesn't think reduced numbers have been broadly recognized since feedlot inventories are still equal to a year ago.

"Because of the drought, because we've been moving cattle in earlier and lighter, feedlots have been snapping them up, and in the short run, they're able to maintain inventories in terms of the numbers



Dr. Derrell Peel

Courtesy photo

on feed," he said. What this is actually doing is slowing down the turnover rate and placing lightweight cattle on feed for longer, so it looks like there are more cattle than there really are, Derrell explained. He said he expects this to become more apparent in the next few months.

In terms of the Mexican cattle market and how export numbers fit into the U.S., Derrell said numbers are actually down from

Derrell shared that female slaughter—heifers and cows—is over 50% of total slaughter this year, an event that has not occurred since 1986. Cow slaughter is up nearly 13% year over year and was up 9% last year, while heifer slaughter is up 5% this year compared to 4% last year. "We're just emptying the coffers in terms of the female side," he remarked.

Data shows that Oklahoma is 20% higher on week-to-week auction vol-

"It's going to take some pretty dramatic price signals to generate the kind of margins that will ensure that producers do respond."

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last year, and the U.S. is on track to import the smallest number of Mexican cattle since about 2008 on a net import basis. Derrell said part of these decreased numbers may be due to Mexico's evolving market over the past 15 years.

"We predicted a number of years ago that we might see a point where Mexico would export less cattle as their domestic industry grew and they have more market reasons to keep those cattle home," he said. "I'm not sure that's what's happening because exports have gone up and down for a variety of reasons over time," he added. "Although I really think it might at least in part be this trend where they won't be exporting as many cattle because of the growth in their domestic feedlot industry, their domestic packing industry and their development as an exporting country."

Canada may be filling in some of the void in the short term, but cattle imports from Canada are a mixture of feeder cattle, fed cattle and cull cows and bulls. Feeder cattle imports last year were down, and this year has seen about double the amount of feeder cattle compared to last year, which is partly a reflection of how low it was last year, Derrell said, but it also reflects some drought movement this year.

The latest numbers through August show Canadian feeder cattle exports at roughly 162,000 head, while Mexican exports are about 540,000 head—even on a low year—Derrell said. "Even though Canada's cattle imports are up significantly, the feeder cattle part of that is a fairly small part of the total."

With decreased cattle numbers, feedlots are going to start feeding more calves, which will also become tighter in numbers. Calves come with a high cost of gain, and as their numbers begin to decrease, they are going to get more expensive, Derrell said. "We are setting ourselves up to repeat what the drought did in 2011-2014 and what the markets did in 2014 and 2015," he said, noting that it may be more exaggerated this time.

umes for feeder cattle and well over 100% higher for cows from last year. "We are just moving enormous amounts of cattle through," Derrell said.

A worry with this, he continued, is what heifer availability will look like as a result. "We were coming down a hill in terms of cattle liquidation prior to the drought. Now, we've turned that hill into a cliff," Derrell said. He believes the industry is going to have to start from scratch with heifers when the time to rebuild comes, and he said, "We've set ourselves up for a very dramatic situation here for two to four years."

Once the herd rebuilding process begins, Derrell thinks total herd numbers are going to be smaller than they need to be, and he projects the cow herd at the end of this year will be about where it was in 2014—if not slightly smaller. While he's not sure how much can be rebuilt in a year—if the drought slows down—the herd may at least stop getting smaller.

But this also lends a problem in terms of improved genetics because "at some point we're going to quit cow culling to the bone, and every heifer standing with a constant temperature is going to be a replacement heifer," he remarked.

While the current liquidation and cow culling have possibly improved the average level of genetics, sacrificing quality for quantity to rebuild the herd over the next few years will likely take us right back to where we were before, he said.

While producers may be receiving a bigger check at the sale barn, margins aren't really that much better due to higher input costs, Derrell acknowledged. "It's going to take some pretty dramatic price signals to generate the kind of margins that will ensure that producers do respond," he said, citing 2014 and 2015 as examples.

Derrell concluded that he believes the U.S. beef cattle industry has the most complex set of markets on the planet, and the more you learn about the industry, the more you appreciate how enormously complex it is. — Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor



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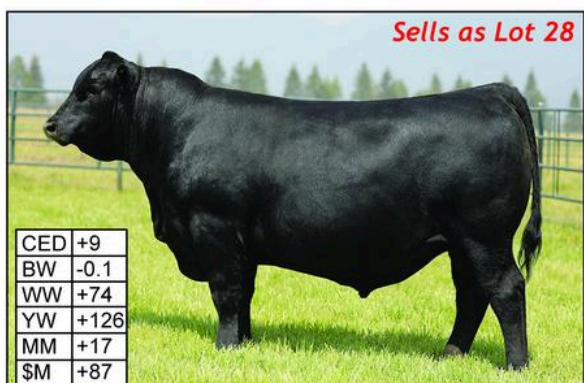
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What's the deal with anthrax in US cattle?

Anthrax is a serious infectious disease that is caused by *Bacillus anthracis* (a spore-forming bacteria), which occurs naturally in soil. Although outbreaks are less common in the U.S. than in other countries, sporadic outbreaks do occur, especially in cattle and deer. Sporadic outbreaks are possible because spores allow the bacterium that causes anthrax to survive in the soil for years to decades.

The American Veterinary Medical Association states that in the U.S., natural occurrences are extremely rare, although outbreaks have been reported in California,

Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas. Cases in Montana and Wyoming have also been reported.

Cause of outbreaks

Domestic and wild animals can become infected when they breathe in or ingest spores in contaminated soil, plants or water. Anthrax outbreaks usually occur after periods of drought followed by heavy rains.

Animals are at higher risk of contracting anthrax when

they are around disturbed soils, as this increases the chance the bacteria will become airborne. Livestock and wild animals may become infected by ingesting spores while grazing in areas of high soil contamination or through the bites of certain flies. The route of infection in animals is most often ingestion rather than inhalation or inoculation via skin lesions.

Prevention and treatment

The most effective control strategy for animals in widespread areas where the bac-

teria may be present is vaccination, according to the 2022 Merck Veterinary Manual. In areas where anthrax has occurred in the past, it is recommended to work with your veterinarian to create a yearly vaccination protocol to minimize the risk of an outbreak. A proper vaccination program reduces animal mortality and minimizes the spread of an anthrax outbreak.

If an outbreak occurs, working with your veterinarian promptly is critical because the course of the disease is very rapid. Prompt administration of appropriate antibiotics is essential.

The Merck Veterinary Manual states that animals at risk should be immediately treated with a long-acting antimicrobial to stop all potential incubating infections, followed by vaccination approximately seven to 10 days after treatment. Any animals that become sick after initial treatment or vaccination should be re-treated immediately and revaccinated a month later.

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends that livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats and horses that are affected by natural anthrax be treated with antibiotics such as penicillin and oxytetracycline. Consider consulting your veterinarian on what they recommend as well.

Additional management practices to prevent and treat anthrax in livestock include quarantine of the affected herd, removal of the herd from the contaminated pasture (if possible), disposal of contaminated carcasses (preferably by burning) and decontamination of contaminated materials.

Symptoms in livestock and wildlife include:

- Sudden death.
- Staggering.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Trembling.
- Uncontrollable movements.
- Fever.
- Bloody diarrhea.
- Colic (in horses).

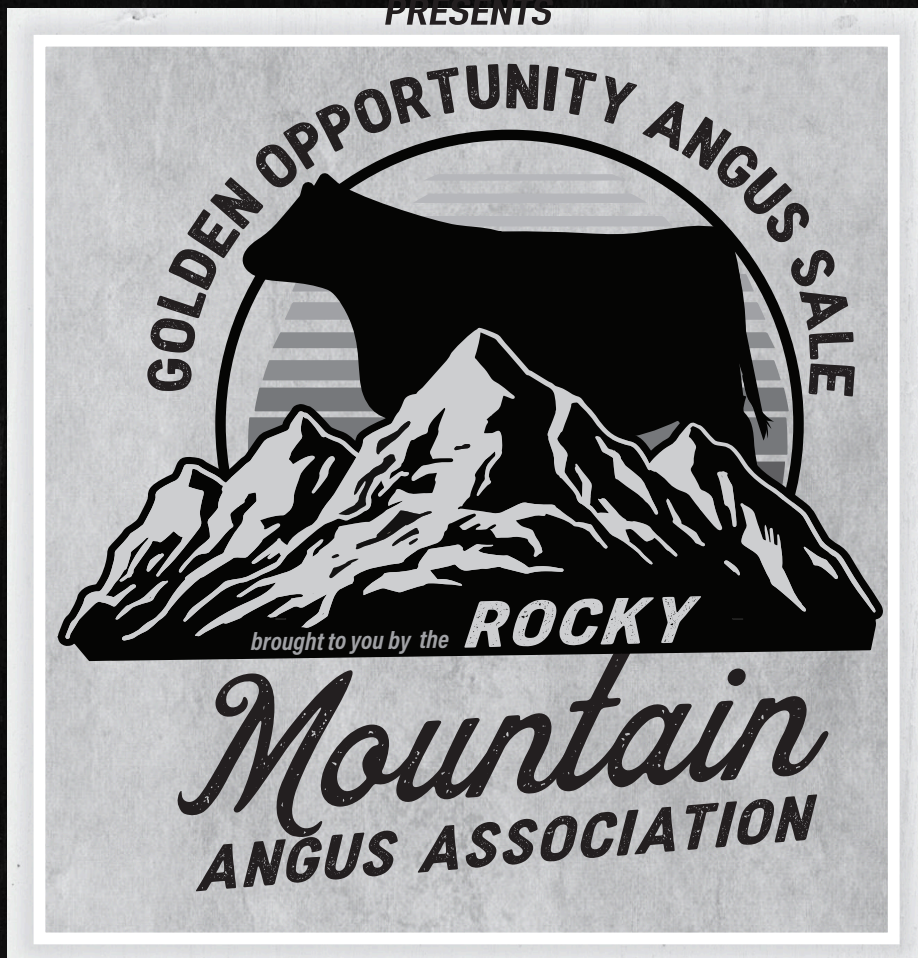
It is important to work with your veterinarian for a proper diagnosis, as the symptoms listed above are symptoms for other diseases as well.

To prevent and treat an outbreak, it is important to work closely and promptly with your veterinarian to create a vaccination protocol for areas at higher risk of an outbreak (e.g., areas with a prior outbreak), properly diagnose the disease and implement the proper treatment using antibiotics such as penicillin and oxytetracycline.

Make sure to decontaminate all contaminated feed and materials. Properly disposing of carcasses, moving animals out of the contaminated pasture and quarantining sick animals are good management practices to help reduce mortality from anthrax. — **University of Wyoming Extension**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS



Sat., November 12, 2022

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SHOW HEIFERS - OPEN & BRED HEIFERS - EMBRYOS

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Thomson Land & Livestock, Idaho Falls, ID

Kasey Rowser, Wellsville, UT

Aztec Angus, Gilbert, AZ

Rimrock Angus, Blackfoot, ID

Hansen Family, Blackfoot, ID

DBC Angus, Morgan, UT

Shandar Angus, Payson, UT

John Dalbey, Corvallis, MT

Elizabeth Murdock, Blackfoot, ID

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AUCTIONEER: Jake Parnell, 916-662-1298

BOR will pay producers for water conservation

RATES

(from page 1)

million in funding for the Upper Basin states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico "to invest in long-term system efficiency improvements across the Basin," but it did not provide any details.

"It's a big deal, but I think it's only a big deal if we make this \$4 billion count," Alex Funk, director of water re-

sources and senior counsel at the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, told public radio station KUNC. "Crystal balling here a little bit, I don't think we're going to see something of this scale of an investment to address this problem again anytime soon."

More information can be found at www.usbr.gov. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Reducing calf weight loss at sale time

A change of environment will cause beef cattle to be stressed, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"When cattle are stressed, the first thing they do is urinate and defecate, which leads to immediate weight loss," said K-State veterinarian Brad White.

And that weight loss can cost producers income, said nutritionist Phillip Lancaster.

"When we take cattle to the sale barn, we are getting paid by the pound, so we need to reduce the amount of shrink those cattle experience as much as possible," Lancaster said.

White explained shrink as "the amount of weight lost prior to when they are sold."

He cited a K-State study that measured the amount of shrink that 700 pound calves typically experience. The calves were driven on a trailer two hours away and brought back to their starting facility.

"Our study showed that the cattle lost 5-6% of their total body weight, and most of that loss happened immediately when we put them in a loading situation," White said.

Veterinarian Bob Larson said that amount of loss is not

uncommon. Producers can expect cattle to lose at least 2-3%, and that amount is unavoidable. However, he added that there are ways to keep that percentage from climbing higher.

To put that into perspective, White said that a 5% loss on a 500 lb. calf is 25 lbs.

"If you told me that I could add 25 lbs. of weaning weight on my calves, I'd be doing everything I could do to implement those strategies," he said.

The K-State experts agreed that moving cattle in a way that minimizes the amount of stress they experience is important.

"Make sure your facilities are set up in a way that the cattle can easily move through them and avoid injury," Larson said.

Lancaster said it is important to keep cattle from standing in a holding pen for long periods of time. That is also true regarding the amount of time they spend standing at the sale facility, according to Larson.

"To minimize shrink, you need to move cattle in a quiet way, get them loaded smoothly and deliver them to the auction facility close to sale time," Larson said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

LEGAL LEDGER

HOS exemption extension not renewed

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has not renewed the hours-of-service (HOS) exemptions for livestock haulers. While an emergency declaration exempted haulers over 10 times since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the agency did not extend exemptions after Oct. 15. According to the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), the expired emergency declaration means California Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D) executive order that exempted haulers engaged in intrastate or interstate transportation from California's HOS regulations has also expired. CCA said the organization and National Cattlemen's Beef Association will "continue to work to provide continued flexibility for livestock producers relative to hours of service regulations." For additional information, contact the CCA office at 916-444-0845.

Alleged activist pig thieves not charged

A Utah jury found that two animal activists accused of stealing two piglets from Smithfield Foods' Circle Four Farms in March 2017 were not guilty. The accused men, members of the animal activist group Direct Action Everywhere, claimed they did not steal anything of value because the pigs were sick and likely to die. The two activists faced up to five-and-a-half years in jail if they had been found guilty. Members of the activist group ran onto the Los Angeles Rams' field during an NFL game on two separate occasions this fall to spread awareness about the trial. The members ran onto the field with smoke flares while wearing T-shirts that bore the name of a website intended to "Help the whistleblowers facing prison time for exposing factory farm abuses and rescuing suffering animals." On the second occasion, Los Angeles Rams linebacker Bobby Wagner tackled one of the activists on the field, who has now filed an assault complaint against the player.

NCBA denounces Google search feature

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has denounced Google's new sustainability search feature that provides what the association calls inaccurate climate information on cattle production. "Google is using its billions of dollars of resources to target cattle producers and ignore the science that demonstrates beef's sustainability and value to the environment," said NCBA President Don Schiefelbein in a statement. Google has announced a slew of features related to sustainability, including showing ingredient-level emissions when searching for recipes. For example, when searching for a beef recipe, Google will display information from the United Nations on the greenhouse gas impact comparisons of beef versus lamb. "NCBA is urging Google to consider the science of beef production before making this new feature widely available," NCBA said.

Forest management bill introduced

Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY) recently introduced the Promoting Effective Forest Management Act of 2022, which they say will reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health. The bill directs the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to utilize existing tools and resources to increase wildfire mitigation projects on national forest lands and public lands. "History tells us, and science confirms, that livestock grazing is an effective tool in managing annual grasses and residual biomass that make fires hotter and more destructive," said Kaitlynn Glover, executive director of the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Natural Resources, in response to the bill. "Increasing the use of grazing as part of a larger strategy will make landscapes more resilient, reduce fire severity and make conditions safer for land managers and firefighters alike." Environmentalist groups had a different reaction to the bill, with Earthjustice saying the bill would "falsely recognize mature forests only for timber value, endangering vitally important trees and forests on publicly owned lands."

Tortoise habitat listing requested

Conservation groups have nominated a Mojave Desert habitat for protection, asking the Bureau of Land Management to protect 58,000 acres of land near Cactus Springs, NV. The conservation groups claim the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has called the region "the most critical desert tortoise connectivity corridor in Nevada." The groups say the area links habitats for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise to breed in. "It would be a waste to sacrifice this habitat for large-scale solar energy when sound alternatives for this energy exist (on) rooftops, over parking lots and on brownfields," said Kevin Emmerich, co-founder of Basin and Range Watch. Western Watersheds Project said in a statement the Department of the Interior's push to develop renewable energy and transmission structures on public lands is creating a "land rush of large-scale energy applications on significant habitat for imperiled species and carbon-sequestering ecosystems."



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STORY SHORTS

AR to begin meat inspection program

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the state of Arkansas finalized a cooperative agreement that will permit state inspection of meat products produced for shipment in the state. Arkansas becomes the 28th state to implement a state meat and poultry inspection program. The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 418 in 2021 to create a state meat inspection program within the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. "The Arkansas State Meat Inspection Program is the realization of multiple years of hard work by Arkansas cattle producers," said Arkansas Cattlemen's Association President Phillip DeSalvo. "This program gives Arkansas cattle producers the means to ensure complete control of their product from pasture to plate."

NE Cattlemen disaster relief fund

The Nebraska Cattlemen announced it is accepting monetary donations and relief applications for those affected by the Oct. 2 Bovee Fire. Applicants for relief can submit documentation of agriculture-related expenses not covered by insurance or other governmental sources. Applications are being accepted until Dec. 31, and applicants do not need to be a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen. Nebraska Cattlemen is also accepting tax-deductible monetary donations until Nov. 30. For more information about the application process or to make a monetary donation, you can visit nebraskacattlemen.org/disaster-relief-fund.

Beyond Meat announces layoffs

Beyond Meat announced it is cutting its annual revenue forecast and will cut 200 jobs due to lower product demand. The company also announced its finance chief, Phil Hardin, is leaving the job after being in the position for over a year. According to Reuters, the layoffs are expected to save the company \$39 million over the next 12 months. Beyond Meat forecasts revenue will be about \$400-425 million, compared with previous expectations of \$470-520 million. Separately, Beyond Meat announced that Doug Ramsey, former chief operating officer, is no longer with the company. Ramsey was suspended after a physical altercation resulted in Ramsey allegedly biting a man's nose at an Arkansas Razorbacks football game.

CA approves hike in water fees

The California State Water Resources Control Board has approved a rate increase for water quality and water rights programs to meet budgetary shortfalls. The board approved an increase in water quality fees for programs in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF) and a 7.2% increase in water rights fees for the Water Rights Fund. Specifically in the WDPF, for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the board approved increases of 3.8% for waste discharge requirements, 3.8% for land disposal, 13.1% for water quality certification (Section 401 certificate), 4.1% for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System for stormwater, 4.1% for confined animal facilities and 3.9% for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. "We recognize there's a cost to administer these programs, but I feel they don't consider the reality facing our farmers, so it's another example of death by a thousand cuts," Brent Burchett, executive director of the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, said.

Reward offered for wolf poisonings

Conservation groups have announced a \$51,100 reward after wildlife officials confirmed the deaths of six wolves in northeastern Washington were due to poison. According to Oregon Public Broadcasting, Stevens County deputies initially found four wolves in February. Officers thought they died of old age because there were no blood or bullet holes on the carcasses. The deputies reported the incident to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) officials. An additional two wolves were found the next month during a search of the area. Toxicology reports revealed they'd been poisoned. Illegally killing a wolf is considered a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$5,000 fine. Anyone with information regarding the incident can report it confidentially by calling WDFW's poaching hotline at 877-933-9847 or texting WDFWTIP to 847411.

Tyson to relocate offices

Tyson Foods Inc. announced it is consolidating all of its corporate employees under one location at its world headquarters in Springdale, AR. Tyson currently has offices in Chicago, IL; Downers Grove, IL; and Dakota Dunes, SD. Tyson said the employees will start relocation in early 2023, and the company will provide details for the expansion and remodeling of its Arkansas facility. Donnie King, president and CEO of Tyson Foods, met with employees and state and local officials at the Dakota Dunes facility on Oct. 13 to discuss the move. Sioux City Mayor Bob Scott is calling on the governors in the region to work together to keep the Dakota Dunes office open. Gov. Kristi Noem (R) said in a statement she would work with Tyson to keep the jobs in South Dakota.

USDA to pay \$3.1B in distressed farmer loan debt

USDA on Oct. 18 announced it has provided \$800 million in debt relief so far to distressed borrowers of Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans as part of \$3.1 billion in promised aid.

The programs and support will help as many as 34,000 borrowers with USDA direct or guaranteed loans.

The department kicked off a process to provide aid to distressed farm loan borrowers "with the goal of keeping them farming, removing obstacles that currently prevent many of these borrowers from returning to farming, and improving the way that USDA approaches borrowing and servicing," USDA stated.

The \$3.1 billion comes from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed into law in early August. The funds replace a separate loan debt relief program for socially disadvantaged farmers that had been blocked by federal lawsuits. Still, leaders of the National Black Farmers Association and others sued

the federal government earlier this month over those provisions being rescinded from law.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack addressed the difference in the new debt payments, which will pay off debt for distressed farmers, regardless of race or gender.

"The key here for the activity and work that we're doing under this program is to focus on distressed borrowers," Vilsack said. "Those distressed borrowers might be Black farmers; they might be Hispanic farmers; they might be beginning farmers; they might be veteran farmers; they might be women farmers; they might be organic farmers; they might be conventional crop producers; they could be livestock producers."

The only similar characteristic for these distressed farmers is that they received FSA loans when they had no other place to turn, Vilsack said.

"They couldn't get credit anywhere else. We were the last resort for all of these

borrowers. And two, they didn't make their payment. They were in a distressed circumstance," Vilsack said.

As of Oct. 18, USDA stated more than 13,000 distressed borrowers have already benefited from the IRA debt relief. USDA said roughly 11,000 farmers who were delinquent on direct or guaranteed loans "had their accounts brought current. USDA also paid off the next scheduled annual installment on those direct loans."

"Through no fault of their own, our nation's farmers and ranchers have faced incredibly tough circumstances over the last few years," Vilsack said. "The funding included in today's announcement helps keep our farmers farming and provides a fresh start for producers in challenging positions."

Out of about \$800 million paid out, USDA officials said the average debt relief payment on a direct loan is about \$52,000. For loans that have gone into foreclosure or court action, the av-

erage payment is about \$101,000. On guaranteed loans, which have a higher loan limit, the average payoff is about \$172,000.

Another 2,100 or so borrowers who had their farms foreclosed on but remained in debt to USDA "have had this debt resolved in order to cease debt collections and garnishment, relieving that burden that has made getting a fresh start more difficult," USDA stated. Vilsack said \$200 million will be set aside to help these producers to end garnishments.

USDA also outlined steps to administer up to an additional \$500 million in payments to benefit the following distressed borrowers:

- USDA will administer \$66 million in separate automatic payments, using COVID-19 pandemic relief funds, to support up to 7,000 direct loan borrowers who used FSA's disaster set-aside option during the pandemic to move their scheduled payments to the end of their loans. Their loans will be made current as well.

- FSA also will review and assist with delinquencies from 1,600 complex cases, including cases in which borrowers are facing bankruptcy or foreclosure before the debt freeze went into place. Vilsack said these debt cases will be more complicated to resolve because the loans are already in bankruptcy or some other court action.

- A second process will add a new option using existing direct loan servicing criteria to intervene more quickly and help an estimated 14,000 financially distressed borrowers who request assistance to avoid becoming delinquent.

USDA noted all debt relief payments will be reported as income, and borrowers are encouraged to consult their tax advisers on the impact of that income.

In early October, in a move to address past discrimination against minority farmers, USDA announced a 30-day comment period on another \$2.2 billion in aid under Section 22007 of the IRA to request

information on "how USDA should design and administer the program." USDA wants to know how to use those funds to support former borrowers and identify those who experienced discrimination. USDA also wants to know how it should set up the criteria to select the outside group or groups that would administer that program.

Annually, USDA provides credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans.

USDA suspended foreclosures and other adverse actions against direct farm loans in January 2021 due to the pandemic. USDA also encouraged its guaranteed lenders to do the same. The department recently reiterated the request to guaranteed lenders "to provide time for the full set of IRA distressed borrower assistance to be made available before lenders take irreparable actions." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Group sues USFS over fire retardant pollution

— Claims Clean Water Act violation

An environmental group composed of current and former U.S. Forest Service (USFS) employees has filed a suit alleging fire retardant used to fight wildfires is inadvertently polluting waterways in violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, contending USFS dropped fire retardant on at least 459 occasions. The group claims the agency dropped hundreds of thousands of gallons from aircraft between 2012-19 "directly into national forest navigable waters." Court documents state there were 138 intrusions into threatened and endangered species habitats from 2012-19.

"If fire retardant enters a waterway, direct effects include lethal and sublethal effects on aquatic species," court documents said. "These could include mortality of organisms, change in abundance and composition of aquatic communities, or adverse impacts to habitat."

The suit states USFS is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the CWA, but USFS asserts that a June 23, 2011, letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) excuses the agency from obtaining a permit.

FSEEE contends an EPA opinion "cannot amend the (CWA), which requires a NPDES permit for the discharge of fire retardant from aircraft into waterways." The suit continues that discharges of retardant pollutants from aircraft into waterways "is continuous, ongoing, and unpermitted, in violation of the CWA."

FSEEE brought on a lawsuit in 2008. In 2010, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana ruled USFS violated the National Environmental Policy Act. In

response, USFS adopted a policy of establishing buffer zones around waterways and habitats for some threatened, endangered and sensitive species, except for cases where human life or public safety is threatened, in a 2011 final environmental impact statement (EIS).

In 2022, USFS issued a draft supplemental EIS (SEIS) with updated language and procedures for approving the use of new aerial retardant products in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and monitoring requirements. The SEIS determined in the updated risk analysis that ingredients in fire retardant may affect 57 threatened and endangered aquatic species and are likely to adversely affect an additional 32 aquatic species.

Fire retardant contains inorganic fertilizers such as ammonium phosphates and other inorganic salts like magnesium chloride. However, the SEIS states that over the past 10 years, "Approved products have reduced ammonia content by 33 percent compared with formulations approved prior to 2011."

FSEEE contends in the suit that the application of fire retardant is increasing, "suggesting that more retardant will be discharged to navigable waters in the future." The group is asking the judge to compel USFS to comply with applicable environmental statutes and prevent irreparable harm.

"It's simply too toxic at the levels used fighting fires," Andy Stahl, FSEEE's executive director, told The Associated Press.

Stahl, since 2012, has contended that fire retardants do not work to save homes and told several news outlets they are ineffective.

"Its use might be justified if retardant made any difference to fire outcomes. There's no evidence it does," Stahl told E&E News. "That makes the environmental trade-offs not worth it." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

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GDAR Blackcap Lady 1197
Lot 30
Reg: 20078436
Tops in WW, YW, Claw, and Angle, Marb, and \$Values AI to Tehama Testament - Calve 2-8



GDAR Miss Wix 14
Lot 4
Reg: 20078599
Tops in WW, YW, HP, Carcass, and \$Values AI to Tehama Testament - Calve 2-8

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Farm transition program links farmers with younger counterparts

In Kansas, the average age of an agricultural producer is 58.1 years old, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The same report indicates 66% of those who farm in the Sunflower State are more than 55 years old.

What that means, says Ashlee Westerhold, is that “most of our farmers or ranchers could retire sometime in the next 10 years.” As director of the Office of Farm and Ranch Transition at Kansas State (K-State) University, Westerhold is keenly aware of the emerging issues in Kansas farm ownership.

“A 2012 study from the Harvard Business School found that 70% of family-owned businesses fail to transition (to new owners) successfully,” she said. “In Kansas, 84.6% of Kansas (farms) are family owned.”

The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition recently led a series of 10 focus groups in the state, which could help create a link between older farmers and ranchers wanting to leave the busi-

ness and younger producers needing help getting started.

“A common issue discussed within the focus groups was the lack of land access,” Westerhold said. “Unless (aspiring farmers) have an inheritance or benefactor, being able to create an agricultural operation is extremely difficult.”

Westerhold said the office she leads—also often called AgKansitions—pairs older farmers with younger counterparts in a program called the Kansas Land Link.

“Land Link provides the opportunity for a landowner who does not have anyone coming back to the farm to be matched with a beginning farmer or rancher who is interested in the opportunity,” Westerhold said.

The online application costs \$100. Producers list key components of the current operation, who is involved, goals they have for the future and characteristics of a young farmer they may be looking at to complete the transition of the farm. All information is con-

fidential.

The young farmer or rancher must list their goals for getting into the business, areas of the state to which they are willing to relocate and the type of farm or ranch they are interested in.

“My office collects all the information from applicants (and) determines if we think

there is a suitable candidate for a match,” Westerhold said. “We may call the landowner and give them the application of the land seeker to determine if they are, indeed, a potential match.”

Westerhold said there are also opportunities for the landowner to mentor the younger farmer in such ar-

as record-keeping, grain marketing decisions, inputs, how they have remained profitable and more.

“Some landowners have even been willing to work with beginning farmers and ranchers in procuring capital, such as Farm Service Agency loans or conventional loans,” Westerhold said.

“The landowners see these land seekers as an apprentice and in a testing period to see if this (transition) could be a fit.”

More information about AgKansitions and the Land Link program is available at www.agkansitions.org. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Winterizing alfalfa, timing cuttings by utilizing growing degree days

Allowing for alfalfa to winterize before dormancy is a key factor in preventing winterkill across a stand. Traditionally, the recommendation has been to time the last cutting for roughly six weeks before the first frost. At a minimum, plants need three uninterrupted weeks to complete the transfer of carbohydrates to the crown and roots, which is the winterization process. The additional three weeks give us a cushion in case of an early frost.

While this general guideline has proved its worth over the years, many producers would love to have a more accurate method to time last cuttings. One way to narrow the no-harvest window down is by utilizing growing degree days (GDDs). Researchers at the University of Wisconsin calculated winterkill risk by looking at GDDs at a base of 41 F until a killing frost of 25 F occurred. They noticed two GDD levels of importance for

alfalfa stands: 500 GDDs and 200 GDDs.

By providing at least 500 base 41 F GDDs after harvest, research showed that there was sufficient time for alfalfa to winterize. If harvest occurred with fewer than 200 GDDs left, alfalfa plants did not have sufficient time to regrow, which depleted carbohydrate reserves to a level that would negatively impact winterization.

While other factors like ground cover and stress of the stand over the course of the year need to be considered in the decision for a late

cutting, this gives us a more accurate calendar point to shoot for if forage is needed.

A tool like the High Plains Regional Climate Center’s CLIMOD can be used to look at the GDDs of past years and help us decide if we can accumulate 500 GDDs or fewer than 200 GDDs going forward. When we are between the two, wait to cut, but once the chances of surpassing 200 GDDs are low and extra hay is needed, it’s probably safe to take that final cutting. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension educator**

Advanced algorithm aims to optimize cattle feeding

To help combat burgeoning costs for producers, Virginia Tech researchers are creating advanced computer algorithms and models to optimize cattle feeding.

Currently, dairy cattle are kept in different pens based on production and are fed according to those specific populations. But even within those pens, some cows are genetically inferior and require additional nutrients, such as protein, and others will require less than the average. The economic impact of these variances is estimated to be between \$2 billion and \$10 billion yearly in the U.S.

The goal of this research is to deploy a self-learning control and diagnostic system that can identify cows with health or production problems, control feeding at the milking robots to generate individualized diets, optimize diets for each cow in the entire herd, and discover individual animal requirements for multiple nutrients.

“With the advancement of technology, our idea was that we now could tailor the feedings to the individual cow instead of the average population,” said Mark Hanigan, the David R. and Margaret Lincicome Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Dairy Science and a fellow in the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture. “With our algorithm, we can feed each cow to their true requirements, and we should save money on at least half of the cows by not overfeeding them.”

Additionally, cows that are being underfed protein and other nutrients could produce better with these individually tailored feedings.

Robotic milking systems, along with other automated feeders, are being installed on farms and at production facilities. The advent of these feeders presents the opportunity to use an advanced feed-

ing system to feed individual animals and assess individual animal responses to protein and amino acid supplies, which has not previously been conducted with dairy cattle, according to Hanigan.

A bonus to using these innovative algorithms is that by optimizing cattle nutritional intake, it could also reduce the animal’s excretion of nitrogen, potentially reducing emissions and lessening the animal’s environmental impact.

The researchers, including graduate students Leticia Marra Campos in the Department of Dairy Science, Hayden Ringer in the Department of Mathematics and Sonal Jha in Synergistic Environments for Experimental Computing, will do fieldwork at Hillside Farm in Dublin, VA.

The work is being done in partnership with the College of Engineering’s Department of Computer Science, where faculty members are assisting with the software development and the aggregation of various data collection systems.

The collaboration doesn’t stop there.

An additional partner on the research is the University of Tennessee’s Department of Animal Science. Other campus partners include the Department of Mathematics, which is helping with the diet optimization algorithm, and the Department of Computer Science, which is assisting with anomaly detection.

“We’re starting to phenotype these cows,” Hanigan said. “We’re working with a couple geneticists because our plan is for this project to run for at least a decade and collect information on hundreds of thousands of cows so we can develop breeding values for nutrient efficiencies that are used in the industry.” — **Virginia Tech Extension**


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Deer Valley Growth Fund x HA Rito Lady 3839

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CEM	SC	MARB	REA	SM	SW	SB	SC
10	0.7	90	162	31	17	0.85	0.51	0.65	104	91	161	313




13 Hoffman Niagara 1729
Tehama Niagara H471 x Hoffman Donna 9741

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CEM	SC	MARB	REA	SM	SW	SB	SC
14	0.3	90	180	37	13	1.93	0.30	1.10	49	84	164	262



100 H AH MMC ENTICE 101 ET
UPS ENTICE 9365 ET x BR RELEVANT D67 7098 9226


CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	CEM	SC	MARB	REA	BMS	CHBS
4.5	2.1	78	128	41	80	5.5	2.1	0.57	0.85	511	185



105 H PROMINENT 159 ET
JDH AH PROMINENT 21G ET x K&B BELLA 219Z 1ET

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	CEM	SC	MARB	REA	BMS	CHBS
-2.7	3.9	62	93	35	66	0.2	1.4	0.01	0.52	436	98

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Farm Bureau establishes farm bill priorities

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has released its priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill, which include over 60 recommendations for funding, transparency and development.

"The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation that affects farmers and ranchers across the country," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Since enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, farmers have faced significant challenges from market volatility, increased input costs and devastating natural disasters."

The recommendations are split into several specific sections. Broadly, the organization says it supports protecting current farm bill program spending, keeping nutrition and farm programs together, prioritizing risk management tools and funding, and ensuring adequate USDA staffing capacity. AFBF also recommends any changes to current farm legislation should be an amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 or the Agricultural Act of 1949.

"There's a huge percentage of Congress that has not had

this challenge in front of them, and we need to make (them) understand how important it is to all Americans, whether you're in rural America, whether you farm or not or whether you're in urban America," Duvall said in a recent "Newsline" podcast episode. "And it's not just about farming; it is about America and its national security."

The group supports the continuation of a countercyclical program like the Price Loss Coverage program and a revenue program like the Agriculture Risk Coverage program. In addition, AFBF supports the opportunity for farmers to reelect and re-enroll annually and for payments to be based on historic, not planted, acres. AFBF is also in favor of increased commodity loan rates, among other issues.

The group also supports funding for federal conservation programs that have environmental benefits and working land conservation programs rather than retirement programs. The group also wants the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation practice

approval process to be streamlined.

Specifically, the group expresses support for the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

For crop programs, AFBF supports having a robust crop insurance program with no reductions in premium cost sharing, expanding insured commodities and developing risk management tools.

For trade, the organization supports more funding for the Foreign Market Development Program and Market

Assistance Program.

AFBF supports streamlining loan programs and keeping loan amounts matched with expenses, along with minimizing application requirements for young and beginning farmer guarantee programs.

For rural development, the organization supports a market-oriented farm policy that prioritizes projects with the greatest economic impact on rural communities. AFBF says projects should focus on processing and marketing opportunities for direct-to-market producers, broadband programs and increased access for child care in rural areas.

On the research side of

things, AFBF supports funding for agricultural research and education, funding for a producer-directed, research-oriented specialty crop block grant program, and funding for the research and mitigation of health risks from chemical contaminants in water and food.

The group also recommends adequate funding for the Rural Energy for America Program, increased resources for biofuels and increased resources for methane digesters.

Finally, AFBF includes support for nutrition, including a block grant program to allow food banks and access networks to purchase specialty crops from farmers,

technical and monetary assistance for farmers to facilitate online Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) sales, and the use of SNAP for U.S.-produced ag products.

"It makes perfect sense that one single bill supports the people who produce the food and supports the people who need assistance accessing nutritious food for their families," Duvall said.

The AFBF board of directors voted unanimously to approve the priorities. Delegates will give final approval at the AFBF Convention in Puerto Rico in January. To read the full list of priorities, visit fb.org. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Hough: Collect actual birth weights, invest in genomics

EPDS

(from page 1)

contemporary groupings. If the data is used, the show calves will be grossly overestimated for weight traits. When they have daughters, the weaning weights of their calves will be disproportion-

ate to growth genetics rather than maternal genetics, therefore artificially decreasing the milk EPDs of the dams.

Either way, it is a lose-lose because it will harm the producer either in the short run or the long run when the cattle don't breed true to their

EPDs.

However, you can have your cake and eat it too. An example of one producer doing it right is Kevin Jensen of Jensen Bros. Herefords in Kansas. With new, advanced software to calculate genetic predictions, the use of genomics and complete but strategically timed data collection, Jensen says the EPDs reflect his cattle like never before.

It all starts with data collection, and the key is to get complete and accurate data through weaning on the full contemporary groups. This means taking the birth weights correctly and not just guessing them. Producers that guess birth weights are only fooling themselves. The data in the calculation of EPDs in most breeds is filtered because producer-guessed weights almost never have the normal variation you would see in nature, so they are filtered and don't go into the EPD calculations. If they are not filtered, your customers will filter you as a supplier when they get big surprises on their calving ease, generally having to pull too many calves or having calves too small and weak.

Jensen weighs all his calves at birth using scales, or in the case of not being able to lift the calves, using hoof tapes. He calves in February and March and collects his weaning weights when he preconditions his calves in August, a month or two before weaning. This way, he has weights on the full contemporary groups that have been managed the same. It also gives him time to give a few calves some better treatment if he decides to show them. In his case, he generally doesn't creep feed because of the adverse effect on milk production if heifers get too fat. However, creep feeding the whole contemporary group on a fairly low-energy feed like crimped oats is certainly a viable option.

It is extremely important to check with your breed association on what their window is for weaning weight age because if you wean them too young, the data won't be accepted. If you do wean calves too young and then project the weaning weights out mathematically, you are assuming a linear growth curve from a very young age. That is not the way biology works.

Getting the full, actual birth and weaning weights from legitimate contemporary groups is absolutely critical because with these full contemporary groups, the EPD models can account for

selection postweaning. The models assume you will be culling calves after weaning, so it will adjust the better calves' EPDs to account for the poor calves being culled. It also can account for contemporary groups getting broken up after weaning.

The other thing Jensen said made a huge difference is genomics, particularly with the new single-step EPD models that are now in use. He thinks the EPDs now reflect his cattle accurately. He particularly sees it from co-operators' calves, which generally have lower base weights in the average of their contemporary groups compared to his home-raised calves. However, the genomics give him the assurance that they have the performance they were bred to have.

Jensen then collects all the postweaning data with the assurance that the data will be properly adjusted for selection because he collected full and legitimate contemporary group weaning weights. He is confident that what he sees with his eyes and what he knows about his cattle will line up with the genetic predictions that the American Hereford Association calculates.

The belief that EPD models aren't accurate for show cattle is simply a fallacy. It takes management and forethought, but EPDs can nail a producer's cattle correctly, even if they show. First, it takes collecting actual birth and weaning weights on the legitimate contemporary groups. This will mean taking the weaning weights a little earlier than normal and perhaps creep feeding—but not so early that the calves are out of the window to be accepted by the breed association.

The other thing is to invest in genomics. In an ideal situation, genomics would be collected on all of the healthy calves. This ensures their sires' and dams' EPDs are adjusted according to the quality of their calves, making the next generation of calves' EPDs that much more accurate.

Of course, the EPDs are not going to reflect your cattle when you are guessing weights, incorrectly grouping your calves and not using genomics. If you do this, you are ultimately fooling yourself and your customers. This may allow you to make a splash in the short run, but it will put you out of business in the long run. — Dr. Bob Hough, WLJ correspondent

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Tax rules for weather-related sales of livestock

Over the past several months, many livestock producers have wanted information concerning the application of the weather-related sales of livestock rules provided by the IRS.

The IRS recently released "Notice 2022-43: Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought." It reports that livestock producers in all 77 Oklahoma counties qualify for the four-year extended period for replacing breeding, dairy and draft animals that were sold in excess of normal

beginning Sept. 1, 2021, and throughout 2022.

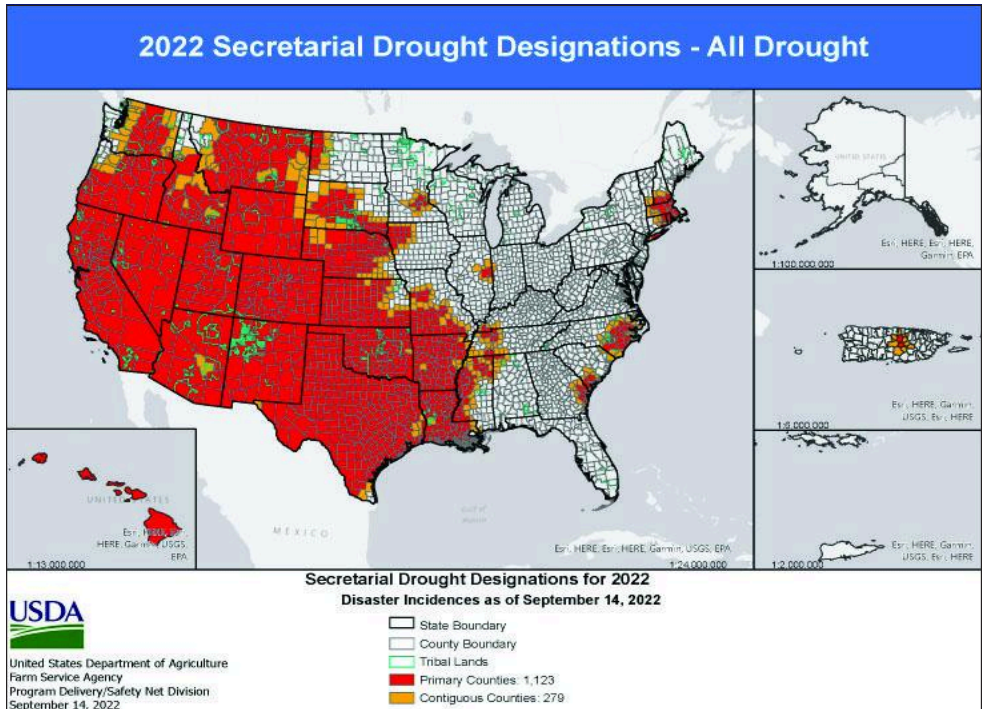
The beginning of the replacement period is the first 12-month drought-free period (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31). Producers electing to replace animals will have until Dec. 31 of the fourth year. More detailed information can be found by searching for IRS Notice 2022-43.

In addition, the secretary of Agriculture's federal disaster declarations for this year allow the gain from sales of any livestock in excess of normal for 2022 to be reported

on livestock producers' 2024 income tax return. The following map provides proof of the declarations by county from the secretary.

More detailed information can be found by searching for "USDA secretary of Agriculture drought disaster designations" at www.fsa.usda.gov.

In both scenarios, the treatment only applies to the number of animals sold in excess of normal annual sales. — **J.C. Hobbs, Oklahoma State University associate Extension specialist**



USDA, WY big game partnership formalized

USDA and the state of Wyoming are formalizing a partnership to support the voluntary conservation of private working lands and migratory big game populations.

"Conserving private working lands and tribal lands through voluntary, collaborative incentives not only empowers producers to address a range of natural resource concerns, but also helps them care for our nation's most important wildlife habitats and corridors," said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement.

He continued that the partnership will keep working lands in production and give producers and landowners new opportunities to conserve wildlife and migration corridors.

"Private landowners have long provided key habitat for wildlife across Wyoming," said Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (R) in a statement. "Offering voluntary funding opportunities to landowners to maintain this valuable space for wildlife is a recognition of their role in conservation."

The partnership will offer new investments in conservation programs for fiscal year 2023 and will also streamline application processes. Programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

USDA will invest an addi-

tional \$6 million in EQIP assistance and \$10 million in ACEP. EQIP focuses on integrating practices on working lands, such as prescribed grazing systems. ACEP helps producers keep land from being converted to other uses, such as residential subdivisions, by using conservation easements.

The programs will be used to complement a habitat lease offering under the Grassland CRP that allows producers to maintain and protect grasslands while still being allowed to hay and graze.

USDA has also developed special guidance for this pilot partnership that will allow producers to stack different farm bill program benefits in a way that fits their specific requirements.

Background

The pilot program was first announced this past May and goes hand in hand with USDA's Working Lands for Wildlife's "Framework for Conservation Action in the Great Plains Grasslands Biome."

The pilot program commits to voluntary, incentive-based approaches to advance conservation and maintain grasslands through grazing, while also supporting plant and animal diversity. Working Lands for Wildlife helps producers conserve wildlife habitat. The program focuses on protecting working lands from exurban develop-

ment, removing invasive weeds and trees, reducing wildfire risk and protecting wetlands.

USDA said these programs are helping landowners keep grasslands intact. "Grasslands are the backbone of the beef industry, and

they support rural communities, wildlife habitat, and recreation," the department said.

One out of every three acres qualifies as a grassland, with 90% of grasslands located in the West, USDA said. The grasslands also

hold 12% of all terrestrial carbon on the planet. "Unfortunately, grassland ecosystems are the most imperiled on Earth," the department said. "In the United States, a million acres per year are lost to make way for row-crops and subdivisions. Con-

serving working grasslands and shrublands is critical to USDA's climate mitigation and adaptation strategies."

Information on how Wyoming producers can apply to the pilot program will be coming soon. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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May 29, 2006, Vol. 85, No. 33

Congress halts ID spending

Animal identification has experienced several changes and complications within the last two years, resulting in delayed mandatory reporting. Congress has now halted \$33 million intended to fund further identification efforts. The change was made during budget negotiations over the \$93.6 billion agricultural appropriations bill last Tuesday.

"Congress's decision is not indefinite," said Rick Stott, a member of the board of directors for the United States Animal Identification Organization (USAIO).

Stott said the reason for the suspension of funds was due to Congress wanting definitive direction from USDA.

"Their frustration, as with most people in general, is due to USDA making several changes in direction during

the course of animal identification," said Stott. "Congress wants focus."

Stott, who has been pushing for progression of effective animal identification as well the utilization of an efficient database, said he cannot comment on Congress' justification and/or lack thereof, but he has witnessed significant progress from USDA.

"One thing is for sure, our conversations with USDA have been more productive in the past several weeks than ever before in regards to integrating our database (USAIO) into animal ID," said Stott. "We are encouraged by their (USDA's) progress."

Stott reiterated the halt in funding is not permanent.

"I think they're just trying to motivate USDA," he said. — **Mike Deering, WLJ Editor**

Fall and winter cattle care requirements

As you wean calves and prepare for the fall and winter months, it is important to consider your herd's nutritional requirements and ensure that livestock performance isn't negatively impacted.

After weaning, fall is the best time to improve the body condition of thinner cows. However, factors such as stress from cold temperatures, low-quality forages (range forage, hay, etc.) and age can influence whether or not their nutritional requirements are met.

Stress from cold temperatures

Before winter, it is important to evaluate the body condition score (BCS) of your cattle to ensure they achieve a BCS of 5-5.5 prior to winter. Improving the BCS of your cattle prior to winter reduces the negative impact of cold weather on livestock performance. Cold temperatures add stress to cattle, which increases their energy requirements. If energy requirements are not met, BCS may decrease.

BCS also influences lower critical temperature (LCT), the threshold at which cattle have to start using energy to maintain their body temperature. Cows in good condition (BCS of 5-5.5) with dry, heavy coats can more easily maintain their body temperature without needing to use additional energy until the wind chill index is below 19 F. However, thinner cows with a BCS of 4 and dry, heavy coats have a LCT of 27 F.

Note that LCT increases significantly when cattle have a wet coat or if there is wind present. Make sure to provide wind protection and monitor your herd's BCS over the fall and winter to ensure their energy requirements are fulfilled. If body condition starts to decrease, providing or increasing supplementation high in energy is recommended to satisfy increased energy demand.

Forage quality

As you prepare for feeding during the fall and winter months, it is important to understand the nutritive value of the forage that your livestock are consuming. Keep in mind that native range forages are dormant

and have less forage value in the colder months compared to the growing season.

Hay testing is a useful tool in determining nutritive value. Testing annual forages and harvested annual forages for nitrates is also crucial because drought-stressed annual forages can cause nitrate toxicity. It is important to test your hay prior to feeding to ensure that it is safe for your livestock to consume and to determine if the nutritional requirements of your herd will be met or if supplementation is needed.

Feed quality

To determine if and what kind of supplementation is needed to meet nutritional requirements, you must know the quality of the feed your herd is consuming. When two feeds with different crude protein (CP) percentages are compared on a dry matter basis, it is important to understand what the percentage difference means in terms of dry matter intake (DMI).

An example demonstrates that a spring-calving cow who weighs 1,300 pounds and is currently in the second trimester (fall/early winter) needs 1.6 lbs. of CP. Therefore, if she were consuming 9% CP hay, her daily DMI would have to be 17.8 lbs. to meet her CP requirement, but if she consumes 5% CP hay, she would have to consume 32 lbs. on a dry matter basis to meet the requirement.

Knowing what affects cattle nutritional requirements is important when creating your fall/winter care management plan. Lower quality feed can be given to cattle with lower nutritional requirements, such as cattle in maintenance and cattle in the first trimester.

However, growing cattle, lactating cows, cattle needing to increase their BCS and cattle in the third trimester have higher nutritional requirements, so it is better to give them higher quality feed. Separating cattle based on their nutritional requirements can help a producer better meet nutritional requirements while saving money.

Pregnancy checking cattle and heifers is extremely important, as it helps you determine the number of open cattle you have. Culling

older cows or open cows can help reduce the amount of feed needed this winter.

Additionally, if you want to retain open cattle, pregnancy checking allows you to separate bred and open cattle and feed them differently based on their nutritional requirements. Separating heifers from cows is beneficial not only because of the difference in nutritional requirements, but also because young heifers are not as aggressive and do not eat as rapidly as mature cows, which can make it harder for them to meet their intake needs.

Other things to consider

When buying and feeding hay this fall and winter, there are a few additional things a producer should consider. When buying and feeding hay that may contain weeds or invasive grasses, minimize where you are feeding the hay to avoid spreading

weeds and invasive grasses throughout a pasture.

While feeding hay, it is important to understand that some hay losses will occur. Producers spend approximately 26-40% of the cost of production on feed. However, management techniques can reduce the amount of waste, which can reduce feed costs and increase the profitability of the herd.

Research conducted by the University of Nebraska and Michigan State University showed that the type of feeder used can affect the amount of feed wasted. Although some feeders are more expensive, feeders that force the animal to turn its head when backing away from the feeder instead of being able to back straight out of the feeder reduce feed waste; this can make the extra cost worth it.

Feed loss can also be reduced by feeding only the amount of hay required per day, as it forces your livestock to eat hay they might otherwise refuse and trample.

While it might be difficult to remove and pick up every piece of baling twine and hay wrap, do your best to prevent cattle from consuming it. A study conducted by North Dakota State University found that after 14 days, net wrap and biodegradable twine are not broken down in the rumen. Sisal twine is more digestible (70% digestibility) but is still digested more slowly than hay.

A small amount of twine or net wrap in the rumen may not be a major issue, but the consumption and accumulation of large amounts of twine/wrap can create major issues. Try to remove and pick up as much of the wrap and twine as possible to reduce impacts on your herd.

Finally, as temperatures start to fall, it is important that livestock have access to thawed water. This can be challenging throughout the winter, but preparing for it now can have significant returns. Recommendations for how to provide thawed water

include water tank heaters, heated tanks and breaking ice multiple times as needed.

As you prepare for feeding your herd during the fall and winter months, keep in mind a few key considerations to increase livestock performance and reduce feed costs. It is extremely important to increase the BCS of your thin cows postweaning but prior to winter, when cold stress increases their energy requirements.

Understanding your forage quality and how it affects daily intake can help you supplement when needed to meet the nutritional requirements of your herd. Although feed waste and some hay wrap/twine consumption may occur, precautions to reduce feed waste and the consumption of hay wrap/twine can improve profitability. Finally, it is important that livestock have access to thawed water during the winter months. — **University of Wyoming Extension**



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Pilgrim's Pride execs have price-fixing charges dismissed

Just days after a federal judge in Colorado ruled insufficient evidence existed of a broiler price-fixing scheme involving Jason McGuire and Timothy Stiller, two Pilgrim's Pride Corp. executives, U.S. attorneys filed an unopposed motion to dismiss, and the case was officially dismissed.

In July 2021, a federal grand jury in Denver handed down an indictment of McGuire, Stiller and Pilgrim's Pride employees Wesley "Scott" Tucker (a national accounts sales executive) and

Justin Gay (director of fresh food service sales). Park Ridge, IL, based Koch Foods also was indicted by the grand jury.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado had scheduled a 15-day trial for McGuire and Stiller starting on Oct. 31.

In February 2021, Pilgrim's Pride admitted to its role in a conspiracy to fix broiler chicken prices starting in 2012 and was required to pay a \$107.9 million fine as part of a plea agreement entered in federal court.

The July 2021 indictment alleges the defendants conspired to suppress and eliminate competition for sales of broiler chicken products.

In its motion to dismiss the charges, the U.S. government said the court's Oct. 14 ruling that evidence was insufficient to prove a conspiracy "departs from prior rulings" in the district on the same conspiracy.

In the case of U.S. v. Jason Penn, former president and CEO of Pilgrim's Pride, the same court ruled, "The government has shown that

a conspiracy to rig bids and fix prices for broiler chicken products in the United States did exist and that such conspiracy operated between at least August 2011 and early 2019."

Penn was found not guilty by a jury this past summer.

In the court's Oct. 14 order, Judge Daniel D. Domenico wrote, "They are wrong to suggest that evidence of price sharing compels the conclusion that such a conspiracy exists, both as a matter of law and a matter of fact. The law is clear that sharing pricing information can be perfectly innocent if done independently and not pursuant to concerted action.

"And here, the facts are at least as consistent with innocent, independent price-sharing behavior as they are with conspiratorial price fixing and bid rigging."

Koch Senior Vice President William Kantola was among 10 people indicted in October 2020 for their roles in the alleged conspiracy. On May 19, 2021, a grand jury returned an indictment against

Claxton Poultry for its role in the same alleged conspiracy.

Koch Foods, McGuire, Stiller, Tucker and Gay were charged with a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, according to the indictment. Violations of the Sherman Act carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for individuals or \$100 million fine for corporations.

In December 2021, a mistrial was declared in the alleged conspiracy involving Penn; Roger Austin, former vice president of fresh food service at Pilgrim's Pride; Mikell Fries, Claxton Poultry president; Scott Brady, vice president of national accounts for Claxton Poultry; and other poultry company employees, including Jimmie Little, Timothy Mulrenin, Kantola, William Lovette, Gary Roberts and Rickie Blake.

A grand jury indicted the employees back in June 2020.

The indictment alleged the price-fixing went back to at least 2012 and pointed to

repeated text communications among Austin, Brady and Fries over bids and prices for poultry contracts or overall market prices. The texts also repeatedly referenced communications back to Penn. Those communications for bids on prices continued repeatedly until at least 2017.

The indictment also cited conversations over how to treat competitors who are short on product for delivery and competitors who were selling chicken products for lower margins. Penn noted in a series of emails regarding one unnamed competitor, "So in essence they are cheap and to add insult to injury, are short product."

The indictment stated the business practices of the four executives "substantially affected interstate trade and commerce."

The Department of Justice filed the indictment with an antitrust class-action civil case in federal court in Illinois, which was initially filed in 2016. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

NWSS announces the 2023 Citizen of the West

The National Western Stock Show (NWSS) proudly announces former Wyoming Gov. Matthew Mead as the 2023 Citizen of the West. This prestigious award recognizes those who embody the spirit and determination of the Western pioneer—a true representative of the Western lifestyle, ideals, agricultural heritage and traditions. A committee of community leaders selects recipients.

Mead served two terms as governor of Wyoming. He is a respected community and government leader throughout the Front Range. As the governor of Wyoming and the U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming, Mead has dedicated his service to representing his constituents, defending the law, managing businesses and protecting residents' rights throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Born in Jackson, WY, Mead was raised on the family ranch in Teton County. After graduating from high school, he earned a bachelor's degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, and a law degree from the University of Wyoming. Mead began his career as assistant county attorney in Campbell County, WY. His distinguished resume includes positions as the assistant U.S. attorney, special assistant U.S. attorney, special assistant state attorney general, member of the U.S. attorney general's anti-terrorism task force and U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming, appointed by then-President George W. Bush. Mead has managed a private practice career while maintaining working knowledge and experience in every aspect of the ranching world.

Mead has served on significant committees that help preserve valuable resources and protect local businesses. These committees include the Office of State Lands and Investments' board and other associations supporting Western heritage and maintaining American values. After serving as governor, Mead returned to co-managing Mead Land and Livestock and X Diamond Development with his wife, Carol Mintzer Mead. He is currently a partner at Hathaway and Kunz, a law firm in Cheyenne, WY, and he runs the cattle ranch in Albany County, WY.

Mead feels privileged to



Courtesy photo
Former Wyoming Gov. Matthew Mead, 2023 Citizen of the West.

have grown up in a ranching family. His parents taught him the value of hard work, leaving things in better condition than when he found them and improving the lives of the next generation. These lessons helped pave the path of his career and life choices.

Mead's great-grandparents homesteaded in Jackson Hole, WY, in the late 1800s, and he has a long family history of serving in government. His great-grandfather was a Wyoming state senator, his mother ran for governor of Wyoming and his grandfather, Clifford Hansen, was governor of Wyoming, a senator and the NWSS 1996 Citizen of the West recipient. Now, 27 years later, Mead is recognized and honored as the 2023 Citizen of the West, an extraordinary tribute to him and his family legacy.

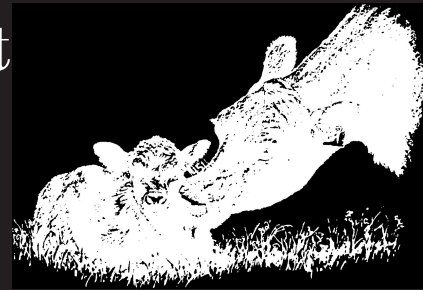
Mead's connection to NWSS is a long-standing Mead family tradition. Each year, his family would travel to Denver, CO, to attend the stock show and rodeos. They loved seeing the livestock, eating their favorite stock show food, spending valuable time with family and celebrating their Western heritage. The tradition continues to this day with his wife of 31 years, Carol, and his two adult children, Mary Mead and Pete Mead, who reside in Wyoming.

Mead will be honored as the 44th Citizen of the West during the annual award dinner on Jan. 9, 2023. Proceeds from the event support the National Western Scholarship Trust, awarding 100 scholarships to students attending colleges and universities in Colorado and Wyoming for agricultural science, rural medicine or veterinary medicine studies.

To purchase tickets for the 2023 Citizen of the West event honoring Mead, please contact Ashley Fischietto at 303-299-5560 or afischietto@nationalwestern.com. — **NWSS**

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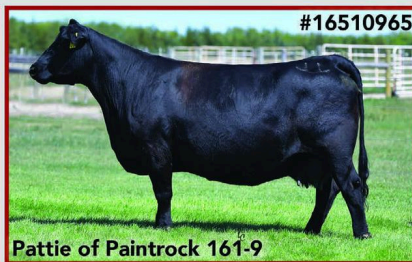
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Mexican beef and cattle industry development continues

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service recently released the latest Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade report. The report provides estimates for production, consumption and trade for beef, pork and chicken for major countries.

Mexico continues to develop as a major beef export-

ing country. In recent years, Mexican beef production has continued to grow while total domestic consumption has been relatively stable, leading to growing beef exports from the country. Current USDA projections for 2023 have Mexico as the number 10 beef exporting country in the world.

Over 80% of Mexican beef exports go to the U.S., although other global markets have been receiving larger amounts of Mexican beef in recent years. Beef imports from Mexico have accounted for 18.9% of total U.S. beef imports, and in 2021, Mexico was the second largest source of U.S. beef imports,

accounting for a record 20.2% share of the total.

Mexico continues to be a significant beef importer, with total beef imports relatively steady in the last decade. However, the current level of Mexican beef imports is about half of the peak level in the previous decade. The majority of Mexican beef imports originate in the U.S.

Beef exports from the U.S. to Mexico were relatively steady in the decade prior to the pandemic, albeit at levels significantly lower compared to the peak levels in the 2000s. However, U.S. beef exports to Mexico decreased the past two years, with 2021 down 30% from 2018. Mexico has dropped from being the number three market for U.S. beef exports to number five, behind Japan, South Korea, China/Hong Kong and Canada.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Mexican beef imports were a matter of supplementing the total supply of beef to meet demand in the

country. As domestic production and exports have developed, Mexico has been a net exporter of beef since 2015. Mexican beef exports and imports are now more a matter of specific product flows in and out to match domestic demand and increased value opportunities in global markets, similar to the economic role of beef trade in the U.S. and Canada. Mexico is the largest source of imported beef cuts that are marketed directly to consumers in the U.S.

Historically, Mexico had a comparative advantage in cow-calf production, with many of the feeder cattle exported to the U.S. for growing, finishing and processing. For the past 20 years, the U.S. has imported roughly 1.2 million head of cattle from Mexico annually. In 2021, lower cattle imports, combined with increased cattle exports to Mexico, resulted in the lowest net cattle imports since 2016.

Thus far in 2022, reduced cattle imports and in-

creased cattle exports have reduced net cattle imports sharply and are projected to lead to annual net cattle imports of roughly 700,000 head, the lowest total since 2008. It is unclear if the current reduction in net cattle flows from Mexico to the U.S. is a short-term or long-term change. Short-term production conditions (e.g., drought) do not appear to be the explanation, although cattle numbers do change year to year.

The change may be more long term in nature, as the continued development of beef production and net exports in Mexico may be a reason for smaller cattle exports in the coming years. Mexico continues to develop the finishing and processing infrastructure to retain more cattle in the country for value-added production. Time will tell how beef and cattle flows in Mexico continue to develop. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**



VIDEO AUCTION

Oct. 6, Hudson Oaks, TX

Cattle producers offered over 24,500 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 21 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through July 2023. Drought, inflation and rising interest rates dominated the headlines all week and also overshadowed the offering. However, with lighter trading across the board, Thursday's offering was an important test of the market. Region 3/4/5/6 feeder steers witnessed a strong market on lighter steers. Feeder steers were \$7-8 lower, and feeder heifers from the same regions were \$8-10 lower, with heavier weights under the most pressure. Region 1 and 2 feeder steers and heifers were only lightly tested and were met with lower prices since the last offering. Region 1 and 2 weaned calves and calves on cows were also in very short supply. Beef-dairy crosses saw a fully steady market. Region 3/4/5/6 weaned calves and calves on cows saw a weaker market undertone.

TOPS—Feeder steers: Mitchell Ranch, Fletcher, OK, sold 160 feeder steers @ 625 lbs. VAC PRECON. Pred. Angus & Angus Exotic cross, balance Charolais, Charolais cross, red & red motley face, few showing Brahman influence. Approx. 90% black hided. \$183.50, Oct. 7-21 delivery. Ashe County Farms, Crumpler, NC, sold 39 feeder steers @ 725 lbs./26 feeder heifers \$8/cwt back @ 700 lbs. Owner Certified Natural. Approx. 28 head out of Angus cross cows by Angus bulls & approx. 6 head out of Charolais cross cows by Charolais bulls. 7 Red Neck Hereford sired & 25 Gelbvieh sired. \$154, Nov. 14-19 delivery. Thompson Land & Cattle, Munday, TX, sold 64 feeder steers @ 775 lbs. VAC 60. Out of pred. Angus cross & Red Angus cross cows by Angus, Red Angus & Hereford bulls. Approx. 60% black hided, balance red & RWF. \$172.50, Oct. 10-31 delivery. Allex Ventures, Bartlesville, OK, sold 62 feeder steers @ 850 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC. Angus & Angus cross. Some with Hereford influence. Pred. black hided. \$177.50, Oct. 10-15 delivery. Leeco LLC, Quitman, GA, sold 55 feeder steers @ 900 lbs. VAC PRECON, BQA Certified. Angus, Angus cross & Charolais cross. \$157, Nov. 21-Dec. 21 delivery. Tim Morrow, Folsom, NM, sold 75 feeder steers @ 950 lbs. Superior Verified, NHTC. Out of Angus & Angus cross (BWF) cows by Black & Red Angus bulls (Bieber genetics). \$170, Oct. 7-14 delivery. Western States Ranches LLC, Boulder, CO, sold 208 feeder steers @ 950 lbs. AngusLink, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Superior Progressive Genetics, Verified Grassfed. Angus & Angus cross. Sired by Leachman Stabilizer bulls. \$175, Oct. 10-12 delivery. **Feeder heifers:** Thompson Land & Cattle, Munday, TX, sold 63 feeder heifers @ 750 lbs. VAC 60. Out of pred. Angus cross & Red Angus cross cows by Angus, Red Angus & Hereford bulls. Approx. 60% black hided, balance red & RWF. \$160, Oct. 10-31 delivery. Leeco LLC, Quitman, GA, sold 60 feeder heifers @ 820 lbs. VAC PRECON, BQA Certified. Angus, Angus cross & Charolais cross. \$153, Nov. 21-Dec. 21 delivery. Troy Arledge & Joel Walzel, Milano, TX, sold 73 feeder heifers @ 675 lbs. VAC 60, VAC PRECON. Out of Brangus & a few Braford cows by outstanding Angus & Charolais bulls. \$161, Oct. 17-21 delivery. Marchk Enze, Ulysses, KS, sold 250 feeder heifers @ 750 lbs. Angus, Angus cross, English cross & Charolais cross. Approx. 80% black hided. \$158, Oct. 10-19 delivery. Roberts Cattle, Beaver, UT, sold 65 feeder heifers @ 770 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Angus, Angus cross & Simmental cross. Approx. 90-95% black & BWF. \$158, Oct. 7-15 delivery. Curt Selensky, Park, KS, sold 130 feeder heifers @ 800 lbs. English & English cross. Approx. 80-85% black hided, balance pred. red & few Charolais before sort. \$166, Dec. 28-Jan. 11 delivery. AL Ranch, Axtell, UT, sold 64 feeder heifers @ 830 lbs. BQA Certified. Approx. 70% black hided, balance Red Angus

cross & Charolais cross. \$154, Oct. 17-31 delivery. M&K Ranch, Centerfield, UT, sold 224 feeder heifers @ 895 lbs. VAC PRECON. Angus, Angus cross, SimAngus, Red Angus cross & Charolais cross. Approx. 85% black hided. \$150, Oct. 15-31 delivery. **Beef-dairy crosses:** S-D Feeders, Syracuse, KS, sold 154 beef-dairy cross steers @ 650 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of Holstein cows Al'd to reg. Angus & Cowboy SimAngus bulls. Bred for muscling. Some w/white underbelly, head, socks & tip on tail. \$189.50, May 1-June 1 delivery. S-D Feeders, Syracuse, KS, sold 120 beef-dairy cross heifers @ 400 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of Holstein cows Al'd to reg. Angus & Cowboy SimAngus bulls. Bred for muscling. Some w/white underbelly, head, socks & tip on tail. \$185, March 1-April 1 delivery. Batemans Mosida Farms, Genola, UT, sold 37 beef-dairy cross steers @ 1,000 lbs./13 beef-dairy cross heifers \$8/cwt back @ 1,000 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Holstein cows by Select Sires Angus (Teamwork) bulls. 100% black. Few with spots on belly, head & tail. \$126, Oct. 7-10 delivery.

Weaned calves & calves on cows: Robert & Karen Furrow, Yuma, CO, sold 140 weaned steer calves @ 350 lbs. Angus & Angus cross. Black, BWF & black brockle face. 100% black hided. \$269, Oct. 10-24 delivery. Robert & Karen Furrow, Yuma, CO, sold 140 weaned heifer calves @ 350 lbs. Angus & Angus cross. Black, BWF & black brockle face. 100% black hided. \$238, Oct. 10-24 delivery. Davidson Yellow Jacket Ranch Ltd., Meeker, CO, sold 86 steer calves @ 575 lbs. VAC 34+, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Owner Certified Natural Plus, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Angus & Angus cross cows by Diamond Peak (1/3 Angus & 2/3 SimAngus) bulls. 100% black hided. \$191, Oct. 15-20 delivery. Frank & Kathy Bengoa, Golconda, NV, sold 157 steer calves @ 650 lbs. VAC 34+, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of pred. Charolais cross, a few Black Angus & Red Angus cross cows by DeBruycker Charolais bulls & out of Charolais cross first-calf heifers by DeBruycker Red Angus bulls. \$167, Oct. 20-Nov. 5 delivery. Birdsong & Everton Ranch, Gorman, TX, sold 48 weaned steer calves @ 450 lbs./48 weaned heifer calves \$25/cwt back @ 400 lbs. VAC 60. Out of mixed crossbred cows by Charolais, Angus & a few horned Hereford bulls. \$191, Oct. 10-20 delivery. Jeff Lewey, Uvalde, TX, sold 105 weaned steer calves @ 450 lbs. VAC PRECON. Predominantly English & English cross, Charolais cross & Red Angus cross. Some will show light Brahman influence. \$199, Oct. 11-14 delivery. Hendrick Ranch Ltd., Ranger, TX, sold 166 weaned steer calves @ 550 lbs. VAC 45+, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of BWF cows by Wilks & Evans Black Angus, Holton Red Angus & R.A. Brown SimAngus bulls & out of Black Angus & Angus cross cows by Langford Hereford bulls. \$200, Oct. 27-Nov. 4 delivery. Rodney Sklar, Belcher, LA, sold 86 weaned steer calves @ 575 lbs. VAC 60. Out of pred. Brahman cross with some English & Exotic cross cows by 100% Charolais bulls. \$171, Oct. 20-Nov. 10 delivery. **Bred stock:** Jay Steffen, Cunningham, KS, sold 26 bred cows @ 1,000 lbs. Angus & Angus cross. 100% black hided. Preg checked 9/28/22. Start calving approx. 2/20/23 for approx. 60 days. \$1,825, Oct. 7-14 delivery. Moore Feeding, Gage, OK, sold 34 bred cows @ 1,275 lbs. High-quality Angus cows bred to 44 Farms & Baldrige Angus bulls. Bulls turned in 5/1/22 for 90 days. 5-8-year-olds' calves weaned off 9/1/22. \$1,060, Oct. 10-28 delivery. Hladik Land & Cattle LLC, Drummond, OK, sold 61 first-calf heifer pairs @ 1,300 lbs. Superior Verified, GAP 4, CARE Certified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Certified Natural Plus.

Angus & Angus cross (BWF & black brockle face) cows with calves sired by Mike & Julyie Livingston bulls (Schaff bloodlines). Bulls turned in 4/25/22. Approx. 90-95% of calves born 2/1/22-3/10/22. Cows are all Northern origin. Calves are pred. black hided. \$2,750, Oct. 7-29 delivery. Hladik Land & Cattle LLC, Drummond, OK, sold 30 cow-calf pairs @ 1,600 lbs. Superior Verified, GAP 4, CARE Certified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Certified Natural Plus. Pred. Angus & few Angus cross (BWF & black brockle face) cows with calves sired by Mike & Julyie Livingston bulls (Schaff bloodlines). Bulls turned in 4/25/22. Approx. 90-95% of calves born 2/1/22-3/10/22. 3-year-olds' calves are pred. black hided. Cows are all Northern origin. \$2,750, Oct. 7-29 delivery.



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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: 10/20/2022	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	149.89 ▲	145.81	124.32
CME Feeder Index	172.77 ▼	173.03	155.11
Boxed Beef Average	253.62 ▲	246.53	280.66
Average Dressed Steers	233.13 ▲	229.57	195.81
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,379 ▲	1,368	1,479
Weekly Slaughter**	660,000 ▼	664,000	646,000
Weekly Beef Production***	547.1 ▲	550.2	535.1
Hide/Offal Value	14.61 ▲	13.92	16.32
Corn Price	6.84 ▼	6.98	5.32

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price	PRIME Loads/Price	BRANDED Loads/Price	CHOICE Loads/Price	SELECT Loads/Price	UNGRADED Loads/Price						
October 14	7,298	244.51	199	337.32	1,347	253.86	2,190	245.11	946	217.95	2,616	204.96
October 7	6,840	246.02	180	335.50	1,182	252.93	1,954	244.77	938	219.65	2,586	207.02
September 30	6,628	248.12	207	338.30	1,236	256.66	1,988	247.55	921	222.40	2,276	208.09
September 23	7,929	250.51	247	340.43	1,442	261.29	2,325	248.97	1,098	226.81	2,818	215.29

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN						
Oct 20	253.62	222.08	200.54	72.01	N/A						
Oct 19	253.39	222.19	200.54	74.90	249.72						
Oct 18	250.78	221.28	201.80	82.87	252.61						
Oct 17	248.14	219.61	205.14	69.19	258.15						
Oct 14	246.98	216.94	205.22	71.41	258.30						

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	10/14	10/17	10/18	10/19	10/20	High*	Low*
Oct.	14695	14788	14848	14935	14978	14978	12525
Dec.	14778	14920	14978	15135	15168	15168	13055
Feb.	15110	15220	15278	15425	15485	15555	14003
Apr.	15483	15553	15613	15730	15756	15903	15388

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	10/14	10/17	10/18	10/19	10/20	High*	Low*
Oct.	17380	17475	17483	17523	17558	18418	15425
Nov.	17478	17640	17783	17808	17755	18610	16373
Jan.	17510	17725	17920	18008	17925	18703	16958
Mar.	17665	17895	18093	18233	18145	18748	17595

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

FED CATTLE TRADE			
Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price	
Live FOB Steer	16,977	1,530	149.89
Live FOB Heifer	6,992	1,369	149.97
Dressed Del Steer	1,096	941	233.13
Dressed Del Heifer	177	862	232.00

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	16,977	1,530	149.89
Live FOB Heifer	6,992	1,369	149.97
Dressed Del Steer	1,096	941	233.13
Dressed Del Heifer	177	862	232.00

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	5,947	1,467	145.81
Live FOB Heifer	3,703	1,288	146.26
Dressed Del Steer	495	948	229.57
Dressed Del Heifer	135	857	230.00

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	22,113	1,479	124.32
Live FOB Heifer	5,968	1,307	124.38
Dressed Del Steer	6,212	974	195.81
Dressed Del Heifer	2,574	846	196.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 16		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	27,522	4,518
Formula	268,952	911
Negotiated Cash	103,407	237
Negotiated Grid	41,824	369
Packer Owned	11,666	0
Total	453,371	6,035

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,875
Oct. '22	144,062	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,587
Nov. '22	142,202	Formula sales	3,610
Dec. '22	100,843	Forward contract sales	225
Jan. '23	103,470	Domestic sales	6,405
Feb. '23	82,965	NAFTA Exports	121

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		132.31	+0.38
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		131.70	+1.26

Ontario Auctions			
	Price	Weekly Change	
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	132.33	+0.21	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	80.49	-1.46	

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, September 30, 2022			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	196.09	196.37	188.83
601-700 lbs	190.41	189.28	179.35
701-800 lbs	185.59	183.71	176.72
801-900 lbs	176.22	176.94	182.56
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	180.55	174.88	154.09
501-600 lbs	166.50	166.74	154.84
601-700 lbs	163.09	162.56	148.44
701-800 lbs	160.52	161.70	149.13

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
	10/15/2022	10/8/2022		
Feeders	15,627	11,041	608,322	827,100

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
Friday, October 14, 2022			
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST:	13,000	Week Ago Act: 8,442	Year Ago Act: 12,545
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady, instances 1.00 lower. Heifers 2.00-3.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.			
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 200.00-210; 400-500 lbs 185.00-195.00; 500-600 lbs 170.00-180.00; 600-700 lbs 155.00-165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 185.00-195.00; 400-500 lbs 170.00-180.00; 500-600 lbs 155.00-165.00.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 172.00-182.00; 400-500 lbs 162.00-172.00; 500-600 lbs 152.00-162.00; 600-700 lbs 142.00-152.00.			
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales FOB port of entry.)			

Selected Auction Week Ending October 20, 2022										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
DATE MARKET	STEERS / HEIFERS								SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up				
October 14 Blackfoot, ID	N/A	180-209 150-184	170-210 150-182	165-209 155-180	160-188 150-167	155-177 145-165	145-166 135-160	72-92 90-113	90-113		
October 13 Burley, ID	625		178	178	173.50-176 167	165-170 152		75-78			
No report available Emmett, ID											
October 15 Eugene, OR	988	160-200* 140-195*	160-185* 120-130*	150-168* 110-127.50*	135-140* 110-122*	125-132* 105-125*	120-138* 95-103*	72-80 98-108		400-1,000	
October 17 Madras, OR	1,927	215-232.50 193-212.50	210-228.50 170-192	178-202 165-179	165-176 152-164	165-177 146-160	152-164 140-149.50	70-90 80-102			
October 12 Vale, OR	671		151-175	161-184 147-163	157-183 146-164		137-150	78-87.50 91-112		1,075-1,500	
No report available Davenport, WA											
October 13 Toppenish, WA	1,650		228*	175-190* 155-160*	171-175.50* 155-157.50*			68-84.50 90-99		1,225-1,525	
October 13 Orland, CA	1,738		170-222 178	150-198 172	140-178 162	130-172 165	125-171 158	75-91 90-116		1,500-1,950 1,200-1,600	
October 19 Escalon, CA	N/A							65-80 90-120			
October 17 Famoso, CA	806	150-190 125-150	160-194 150-173	165-185 150-175	150-176 140-160	150-163	130-141 130-140	80-105 85-125			
October 19 Galt, CA	1,006		170-200 150-180	165-190 140-170	145-180 140-155	140-170 125-150	140-160	50-94 90-125			
October 18 Turlock, CA	723	170-220 150-175	165-198 150-169	160-179 145-155	140-150			72-90 90-120			
October 11 Salina, UT	2,388	175-260 157.50-235	167.50-245 150-207.50	160-225 140-195	157.50-201.50 137.50-176	152.50-184 127.50-180	150-168.50 117-155	122.50-162 104.75-124.75		63.75-94.75 84.50-114	
October 17 Iowa	3,912	235-242.50	205-235 175-205	195.50-221 163-181	170-207.50 151-198	156-205 150-180.35	170-194.50 161-173.10	159-186.25 156.75-172.25		67.50-116 80-117	
October 18 Miles City, MT	2,071	255	247.50-262 202-215	220-255 186-206	187-214.50 166-199.50	171-177.50		170 159.50-163		64-82 71-106.50 1,150	
No report available Bassett, NE											
October 15 Ericson, NE	3,550		245-251 222-225	222-253 189-232	206.75-235.50 179-198	185.50-210 177-182	177.25 174-188	185 158-187			
October 18 Imperial, NE	725		242	206-225 185-191.50	198.50-200.50 171.50-200	180.50-185.50	173 170.50-171.50	177.50 136			
October 19 Kearney, NE	1,800		246 205-220	211-228 187-195	204-218 174-186.50	187.58-204.50 167-178.25	190.25	175-176.50 180		79-96.50 92-108	
October 14 Lexington, NE	1,950		238-248 195-200	208-236 182.50-207	190-209.50 170-184	174.50-184 168.50-172.50	184.50 171.50	174-176.75 162.50			
October 13 Ogallala, NE	6,244		243-271 200-231	204-240 188-209	193.50-223 168.50-188	168-197 158-180	170.50 168.50-173.50	148 156.50-170			
October 13 Valentine, NE	3,685		245 197-201	231-256 198-216.50	202-231.50 175-219	182-212 170-186	172-190 169.50				
October 14 Herreid, SD	3,097					183.25	179-188.25 184.25	173.50-187.75 160-183			
October 19 Torrington, WY	4,489		255-270 214-240	215-238 185-210	195-217 175-199	180-209 178-180	176-189 174-179	162-180 160-180			
October 13 Willcox, AZ	N/A	177-206 129-130	154-189 144-168	161-183 139-156	139-163.50 128-149	135-154 126-141		70-103 90-105.50		1,135-1,420 1,075-1,210	
October 17 Colorado	8,468	227.50	203-227.50 170.50-216.50	181-225 160-200	168-208 147.50-187	160-194 145-169	155-181.50 158.50-167	154-179 115-163		30-100 71-116 875-1,200	
October 12 La Junta, CO	2,974		202-211 165-179	181-215 158-170	173-195 147-165.50	163-181.50 145-166.50	152-167 163-170	151-163 156-162		60-79 87-96.50 825-1,450	
October 17 Loma, CO	624		207-211 172-180	194-210 164-181	172-189	170-180		156-161 160-168		71-92 85-119	
October 19 Dodge City, KS	3,229	182.50	170-205 174-227	178-218 166-204	165-206.50 157-172.50	166.50-193.25 159-171.25	173-183.50				

COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wlj.net.)
Nov. 10-12 – The Washington Cattlemen's Association and Washington CattleWomen's Convention and Trade Show will be held in Wenatchee, WA. Registration: bit.ly/3Scywpw. The host hotel will be the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Call 509-662-1234 to get the convention group rate.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1 – The 2022 California Cattlemen's Association/California CattleWomen Convention is headed back to the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV, and will be held in

conjunction with the Nevada Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention. Attendee and exhibitor registration for the event are now open! Register and get more information at calcattlemen.org/convention2022.
Dec. 8-10 – The U.S. Cattlemen's Association's 15th Annual Meeting and Cattle Producer's Forum will be held at the DoubleTree Nashville Downtown in Nashville, TN. Registration and room reservations are now live at cattlemensmeeting.square.site. Contact usca@uscattlemen.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Stocking the animal health toolbox

Cattle producers have a vast set of options to keep diseases from coming onto the farm, said the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.
 "One of the things that beef producers have in their toolbox is sanitation," said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson. One of the examples he shared

was washing feed trucks and other vehicles that come in contact with other herds to keep them from being a vector of disease transmission.
 Another tool Larson cited is diagnostic testing. "Diagnostic testing works best when trying to prevent a disease in which the carrier animals are rare," he said. "With accurate testing prior to arrival, producers are able to keep diseased animals off the farm."
 A third tool he mentioned is keeping the cattle in good health.
 "This includes following vaccination protocols that will protect them from diseases, as well as providing them with quality nutrition," Larson said.
 Veterinarian Brad White offered a fourth tool: prioritizing disease prevention.
 "There are costs associ-

ated with each of these prevention strategies, so producers need to prioritize the diseases that bring the greatest risk to the overall health of the herd," White said.
 As producers make their biosecurity plan in partnership with their veterinarian, K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said it is important to know the risk tolerance for the operation.
 "If you have a high-value herd, isolation and testing will be important when bringing new cattle into the operation," he said.
 When a disease situation arises on the ranch, the veterinarians agree that rapid communication is going to be key in mitigating the situation.
 "If you think you are dealing with a disease outbreak, you've got to make that phone call to your local veterinarian," Lub-

bers said. "I know it is a hard phone call to make, but it is a critical step in stopping disease spread."
 From that phone call, the local veterinarian will investigate the situation and reach out to the state veterinarian, he added.
 "There is a network of veterinarians trained specifically to spot high-consequence diseases, and they will be on your farm literally within hours," Lubbers said.
 While that is the worst-case scenario, Larson stressed that using the tools in the prevention toolbox will reduce the chance of these situations arising.
 "The healthier you can have the environment and the cattle, the more resistant and resilient the cattle will be when faced with disease exposure," he said.
 — **K-State Research and Extension**

Live cattle help propel feeders higher

MARKETS (from page 1)

purchases: \$227.65.
 • Negotiated grid net purchases: \$231.33.
 Slaughter through Oct. 13 is estimated at 660,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 8 totaled 669,274 head. Dressed steer weights were 920 lbs.
 Boxed beef prices were higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained over \$7 to close at \$253.62, and the Select cutout gained over \$6 to close at \$222.08.
 "Tightening packer margins have not slowed down slaughter, and since boxed beef prices are now surging seasonally, some of that margin contraction will stabilize," Fish said. "Packers are actually competing against one another for market share once again."
 Feeder cattle futures traded mostly sideways but were able to close slightly higher. The October contract was up

82 cents to \$175.57, and the November contract was up \$1.45 to \$177.55.
 The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$2 to close at \$172.03.
 Corn futures lost their momentum, with the December contract down 13 cents to \$6.84 and the March contract down 15 cents to \$6.90.
 "And while the corn market thankfully alleviates some pressure from the feeder cattle market, the live cattle complex is helping propel the market higher as not only is it trading higher through its contracts, but it's also looking like cash cattle will trade higher again this week," Stewart said in her Wednesday comments.
Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 3,772 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 525 lbs. sold steady to \$4 higher, with heavier weights selling \$2-5 lower. Feeder heifers

traded mostly steady to \$4 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 724 lbs. sold from \$170.50-180, averaging \$174.31.
Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 7,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$3 higher, and feeder heifers sold \$1-4 higher. Steer calves sold steady to \$2 higher, and heifer calves sold \$2-4 higher.
Wyoming: Torrington Livestock Feeder Cattle Auction in Torrington sold 4,489 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, yearling steers and heifers traded mostly steady, with a few instances of \$2 higher on load lots. Steer calves traded unevenly steady. Heifer calves also traded unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold between \$180-189, averaging \$187.54. — **Anna Miler, WLJ managing editor**

Western Livestock Journal
PROPERTIES
RANCH · FARM

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WINTER 2022
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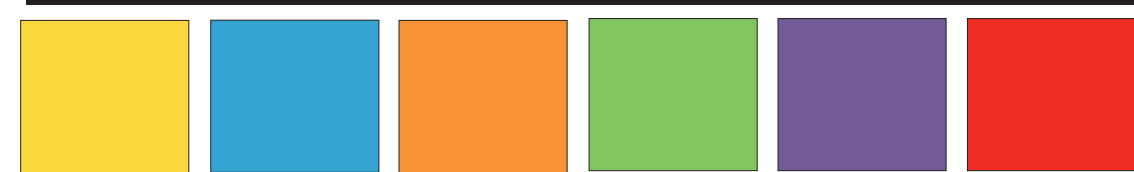


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61 SimAngus bred heifers \$3,380
9 Angus bred heifers 3,030
35 SimAngus cows, 3,010
19 Angus cows 2,700
Auctioneer: Butch Booker
— JARED PATTERSON

9 PEAKS RANCH 16TH ANNUAL "FIRST CHOICE BULL SALE"
Oct. 11, Fort Rock, OR
119 Registered Angus bulls \$6,744
Auctioneer: Eric Duarte
TOPS: 9 Peaks Confidence Plus J738, 9/14/21 by Sterling Confidence Plus 804; to Lucky 7 Angus, River-ton, WY, \$13,000. 9 Peaks Confidence Plus J524,

8/17/21 by Sterling Confidence Plus 804; to Bill Barboni, Petaluma, CA, and Pete Bussman, Blue Lakes, CA, \$9,500. 9 Peaks Confidence Plus J256, 3/14/21 by Sterling Confidence Plus 804; to T7 Cattle, Valley Falls, OR, \$8,500. 9 Peaks Rainfall J509, 8/14/21 by SAV Rainfall 6846; to Bill Barboni, Petaluma, CA, and Pete Bussman, Blue Lakes, CA, \$8,250. — **JARED PATTERSON**

28 Registered Hereford bulls \$5,260
18 Registered Angus bulls 4,260
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
TOPS: Lambert Ribstone 121J, 4/2/21 by XAMR Ribstone Domino 613; to Russ Hawkins, Adin, CA, \$8,000. Lambert Ringleader 61J, 3/8/21 by CRR LR Ringleader 7145 ET; to Circle S Ranch, CA, \$6,500. Lambert Ringleader 53J; to Wyatt Bourdet, CA, \$6,500. Lambert Ribstone 43J, 3/2/21 by XAMR Ribstone Domino 613; to Chad Justus, Esparto, CA, \$6,500. Sunbright Flattop J99, 3/9/21 by Werner Flat Top 4136; to CA, \$5,800. — **JARED PATTERSON**

LAMBERT RANCH BUTTE BULL SALE WITH GUEST CONSIGNORS SUNBRIGHT ANGUS & WESTWIND ANGUS
Oct. 15, Oroville, CA



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.

Dec. 16 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 30, 2023 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE

BRANGUS

Nov. 4-5 — GENEPLUS Brangus at Chimney Rock Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Concord, AR

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 1 — Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Nov. 12 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Dec. 2 — Schurrtop Ranch, Bull Sale, McCook, NE

HEREFORD

Nov. 14 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 14 — Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT
Nov. 30 — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 8 — Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

MAINE ANJOU

Nov. 19 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT

RED ANGUS

Oct. 29 — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
Nov. 5 — Bet on Red, Female Sale, Reno, NV
Nov. 10 — Bieher RedAngus, Female Sale, Leola, SD
Nov. 12 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Nov. 21 — Lautenschlager and Sons, Bull & Female Sale, Othello, WA
Dec. 7 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
Dec. 12 — Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 16 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 20 — Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE

SALERS

Dec. 5 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SIMANGUS

Nov. 14 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 19 — Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 19 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 3 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Dec. 3 — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO
Jan. 30, 2023 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE

SIMMENTAL

Jan. 30, 2023 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE

SOUTH DEVON

Nov. 30 — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

STABILIZER

Oct. 29 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Dinuba, CA
Nov. 19 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Wytheville, VA
Dec. 3 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Dec. 15 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
Jan. 12, 2023 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 4-5 — GENEPLUS Brangus at Chimney Rock Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Concord, AR
Nov. 5 — Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA
Nov. 18 — Rollin' Rock, Commercial Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 21 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR
Dec. 7-9 — Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings, MT

HORSE

Jan. 24-28, 2023 — Red Bluff, Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA

DOG

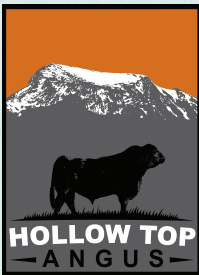
Jan. 24-28, 2023 — Red Bluff, Stock Dog Sale, Red Bluff, CA



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ's Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to editorial@wlj.net.)
Nov. 22 — Purina Mills and the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association's (NMCGA) Young Cattlemen's Leadership Committee (YCLC) will award two Purina Mills \$1,000 scholarships and two YCLC \$500 scholarships. Purina Mills scholarships will be awarded to a New Mexico student who is a member of NMCGA or the New Mexico Junior Cattle Growers' Association or is the child of an NMCGA member. YCLC scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior and to a continuing college student. To apply, visit www.nmagriculture.org, call the NMCGA office at 505-247-0584 or email

taylor@nmagriculture.org.
Dec. 1 — Applications for the Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program Internship are now open. College sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students under the age of 25 and majoring in an agricultural-related field of study are eligible to apply. Angus breeders and students interested in participating in the program can learn more and apply at bit.ly/AngusFoundationTalonProgram, or contact Jaclyn Upperman, Angus Foundation executive director, at JUpperman@Angus.org.
Dec. 2 — The Public Lands Council, in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, is now taking applications for public policy interns to join the D.C. office during the summer of 2023. This in-person internship will run from May 15-Aug. 11, 2023. Application: jobs.keldair.com/ncba. Contact Justyn Tedder at jt Tedder@beef.org with any inquiries.



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Tight labor market challenges employers to rethink compensation

Today's tight labor market makes it harder for farm employers to compete for workers, says Ryan Milhollin, University of Missouri (MU) Extension agricultural economist.

Farm laborers work long hours, sometimes in inclement weather. Workers may need diverse skills to fill roles such as truck driver, mechanic, nutritionist, forage specialist, veterinarian, babysitter and weather forecaster. For this demanding work, farmworkers often receive pay and benefits below those offered in other industries.

To help farms attract and retain workers in this environment, Milhollin recommends considering non-monetary compensation.

"Farm employers can use nonmonetary compensation to tap into what makes working on a farm unique and provide an inexpensive yet meaningful benefit to farm employment," said Milhollin, an author of MU Extension's "Missouri Farm Labor Guide."

Benefits could include free housing, hunting privileges on farmer-owned land and continuing education opportunities. Milhollin says the key is getting to know your employees and what they enjoy. Choosing benefits you know the farm team will value will have a greater impact on retaining team members.

Lynn Fodge of Hopewell Farms in Monroe County,

MO, says she, her husband and their two sons and their spouses try to show their deep appreciation for their two farm employees, Trevor Cockrell and Dakota Beckfield. The Fodges farm about 5,000 acres of row crops and pasture and have 550 head of fall- and spring-calving Angus cows.

The Fodges communicate their appreciation by thanking the workers for their many efforts, giving bonuses when sales are good and offering meat and other products of the farm. They also provide some insurance benefits and a retirement plan.

Other perks include being able to borrow farm equipment, trucks and tools for personal use. The farm allows flexibility in work hours to accommodate family time, school schedules and community events.

Hopewell Farms' two employees came to them by chance meeting and word of mouth. Neither had extensive agricultural backgrounds, so the Fodges trained them. Cockrell has worked on the farm for 12 years, and Beckfield joined the team eight months ago.

"We know there is too much work for the family without them," Fodge said. "We depend on them, and we are grateful for them."

Farmhands once were a fixture of farmsteads. Now, like farmers, they are a vanishing breed, she says. Fewer young people want

to return to the farm, and there are financial obstacles to entering the industry.

Wages for farmworkers are rising at a slower pace

than nonfarm wages, according to the USDA's Economic Research Service. In 2020, the average farm wage was \$14.62 per hour, just 59% of the nonfarm

wage (\$24.68). And the hired farm workforce is aging—another obstacle for those seeking employees.

For more information on

how to attract and retain farmworkers, download the free "Missouri Farm Labor Guide" at extension.missouri.edu/m199. — MU Extension

Defendants argue the state manages wildlife

WILDLIFE (from page 1)

cattle grazing in the forest has resulted in the "recurring cattle depredations here in the first place to get wolves killed."

Judge John B. Owens asked Schwartz about the legal status of WDFW's wolf management plan and whether the director could stop wolf killings. Conversely, he wondered if there was no grazing and the director decided to kill wolves as a preventative measure, is there a state or federal law to prevent it?

Schwartz stated the lethal control protocol within the management plan is nonbinding, and the director could state what control measures WDFW could use. Schwartz continued gray wolves are a state-listed endangered species, so the director could not arbitrarily order the removal of wolves.

"(WDFW is) purely killing wolves in response to conflicts with livestock, and if the conflicts were mitigated, there would be no basis for them to kill wolves for any other rea-

son, at least not while they remain in that protected status," Schwartz replied.

Schwartz said it is USFS that controls all aspects of authorizing livestock grazing in the forest, and the agency could make decisions that reduce the harm to wolves from livestock grazing. Schwartz pointed out that USFS does not need to regulate WDFW for the plaintiffs' standing in the case.

"Instead, causation turns on whether the defendant agency here, the Forest Service, is a necessary party in the chain of events that lead to the harm to plaintiffs' concrete interests, and the Forest Service by being the one to authorize and control the grazing, that is the source of these conflicts and is undeniably a necessary party," Schwartz argued.

"They don't need to be the final link in the causal chain here. If (WDFW) has the proverbial final link in the chain, that final link could be severed by the Forest Service's grazing management choices."

The Washington Cattleman's Association submitted an amicus brief stating the suit seeks to set a far-reaching precedent by making federal agencies responsible for state wildlife control.

Schwartz made the point that there are 42 active allotments in Colville National Forest, and the majority of depredations occur on five allotments leased by Diamond M Ranch. Diamond M Ranch has intervened in the case, but Chris Montgomery, the lawyer for Diamond M Ranch, did not present any arguments at the hearing.

Schwartz suggested USFS could close a portion of the allotments and follow guidelines to reduce wolf conflicts, such as removing sick calves, only allowing older cattle to graze in allotments and maintaining a human presence to monitor herds.

Robert Stockman, counsel for USFS, argued the plaintiffs do not have standing, as it is the state that manages wildlife unless the matter involves the ESA.

"There's no question that the Forest Service is not participating in the removals, is not coordinating with the state on the removals," Stockman said. "The state does not consider the Forest Service's actions directly in making a decision about lethal removal."

Stockman also argued the plaintiffs have not established that the measures proposed would re-

duce wolf-livestock conflicts and that they overstated the evidence about conflict avoidance measures. Stockman said evidence presented by the plaintiffs in the briefs was inconclusive about the efficacy of avoidance measures.

Central California District Court Judge Dean Pregerson, sitting in on the 9th Circuit Court, asked if the lethal removal of wolves is affecting the state's population enough to show causation.

Stockman replied that the population in the eastern part of the state is growing. There were several packs in or near the Colville National Forest, and the state considers the wolf recovered in that region.

"The overall picture is wolves are doing better and better and better," Stockman said.

Stockman also argued the plaintiffs did not show injury from the forest plan, and the forest plan was not applied to the sites where depredations occurred. Schwartz asked the court to reverse the decision by the district court and remand the matter so they can move forward on their claims. — Charles Wallace, WLJ editor

iGENDEC offered to support customized selection indexes

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) is pleased to announce the release of iGENDEC for constructing custom selection indexes, an industry first. While generalized selection indexes have been broadly available to commercial and seedstock producers for some time, a precision agriculture tool for building custom indexes has not been available to the industry until now.

iGENDEC is a web-based tool for constructing economically optimal selection indexes for specific production and marketing situations. iGENDEC allows index customization through the adjustment of economic and production parameters to reflect unique enterprise and production scenarios, including the sale point of calves, current phenotypic means, economic parameters, breed(s) and the investment planning horizon.

The iGENDEC product was developed with the financial support of a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant with the aim of helping enterprises make genetic selection decisions that are specific to their unique circumstances. It was co-developed by a team of researchers at the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University, the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and Theta Solutions LLC.

Matt Spangler, Ph.D., at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, led the research and Extension team that built iGENDEC, and he sees the system benefiting the beef industry in a number of ways. "It benefits commercial producers by helping them make genetic (often sire) selection decisions that are more profitable. It helps seedstock producers better advise their commercial bull buyers, and it can also allow them to make seedstock matings with their future commercial buyers' profit in mind," Spangler said.

BIF enables collaboration among beef producers and the Extension and research communities to foster continued genetic improvement. Spangler explained, "iGENDEC is a tool that originated from collaboration among producers and scientists with the goal of transferring scientific knowledge into action. BIF hosting this software seemed like a natural fit. It allows for the sustainability of iGENDEC and broad industry access."

Although the web-based system is user friendly, the developers strongly encourage that users possess a solid background in beef cattle genetics, especially index selection theory, or seek advice from someone who does. This tool can be used to develop general-use indexes offered by beef breed associations or customized indexes for specific enterprises. iGENDEC can also be used as a teaching tool in the classroom and in Extension programming efforts.

iGENDEC is made available to the industry in a variety of licensing arrangements. Funds collected through licenses support ongoing hosting and software development of the platform. A free 30-day trial option is available for users who wish to learn more about the potential applications. The software is made available to Extension educators and instructors at colleges and universities at no cost.

BIF member breed and state/provincial beef cattle improvement associations can access the software at reduced rates. More details about iGENDEC, including an educational video, are available at beefimprovement.org/igendec. — BIF

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