Western Livestock Journal®

"The Industry's Largest Weekly Circulation"

The National Livestock Weekly

October 28, 2024 • Vol. 102, No. 48

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

INSIDE WLJ

WATER WAYS — California debates instream flow requirements for Scott and Shasta rivers amid economic concerns. Page 7

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

In October 1952, agricultural advancements were shaping livestock feeding practices: "A new livestock by-product feed is being tested on the ranches of Santa Clara County (Calif.) by the agricultural extension service. This new beet by-product is known as MC-47 (or Betaine) and is proving satisfactory in feeding livestock when used as a supplement to hay; straw, or on dry range grass," read the October 1952 *WLJ* article by M.S. Beckley.

INDEX

Greens sue BLM over OR horse gathers

—Blame cattle for degradation

A pair of horse advocacy groups and a conservation group are suing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over what the groups call a case of scapegoating horses for livestock grazing. The suit challenges the agency's plans to gather excess horses from two herds in southeast Oregon for population control, alleging livestock are the ones degrading the environment.

"Wild horses make for convenient scapegoats for the Bureau to divert attention away from the true ecological catastrophe on the sage-steppe, the domestic cow," said Grace Kuhn with Western Watersheds Project, one of the suit plaintiffs.

The lawsuit calls for the court to halt BLM's proposed gathers and require the agency to consider alternative management strategies, such as reducing livestock grazing in herd management areas (HMAs).

Plan background

BLM released a decision record for the Kiger and Riddle Mountain Herd Management Areas (HMA) Population Management Plan in July.

The Kiger HMA covers about

See HORSE SUIT on page 9

Randy Martin/BLM

Horse advocacy groups filed suit against the BLM for planning to gather horses in southeast Oregon. Pictured here, a group of horses grazing south of Battle Mountain, NV.

Study: Cattle unlikely to spread cheatgrass seeds

—Digestion breaks seeds down

A study conducted by Nevada researchers confirms what rangeland users have long suspected, but myths have claimed otherwise: cattle don't actually spread invasive cheatgrass across the West through grazing. In fact, their digestive process breaks down cheatgrass seeds and effectively renders the seeds unable to germinate.

A group of researchers from the University of Nevada, Reno, published a study in the August edition of Rangelands that evaluated whether cattle spread cheatgrass seed via excrement. Results showed that not only does cheatgrass not spread through cattle's digestion processes, but cheatgrass seeds consumed in the fall will have a slight lag in microbial degradation.

"Thus, we can conclude that seeds consumed while target grazing in the fall will be subjected to prolonged periods of ruminal fermentation, effectively eliminating germination while reducing the seed bank in afflicted areas," the researchers wrote.

The Public Lands Council (PLC) called the study the perfect example of common sense meeting environmental realities.

"What we see in the West today is a perfect storm of mismanagement and misinformation, and this study is a huge step in the right direction in applying real solutions to real problems, like late season grazing on cheatgrass stands," said PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover.

Glover continued that if seeds can't survive the digestion process, cattle are the ideal grazing tool. Not only does grazing reduce fuel build-up to reduce fire risk, but it also neutralizes seeds to prevent re-germination and provides organic matter to support native grass stands.

"Thank you to the researchers that took the time to conduct this labor-intensive study and prove that grazing is the best conservation practice for our western landscape," Glover said.

Study details

The spread of cheatgrass on rangelands has proven to have major implications on native ecosystems and agricultural productivity. The grass rapidly spreads and leads to an abundance of fuel buildup, increasing the risk of wildfires and limiting forage sources for livestock grazing.

Recent studies have tried to link the spread of cheatgrass to cattle

See CHEATGRASS on page 7

Survey highlights need for rancher tax relief

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) recently released a report analyzing the results of a nationwide tax survey of American cattle producers, focusing on the impact of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) provisions.

NCBA said the findings reveal deep concerns among family-owned cattle operations regarding the potential expiration of several important tax provisions by the end of 2025, which could lead to increased tax burdens, financial strain and potential loss of multigenerational businesses.

"Farms and ranches are unique small businesses, and they face a variety of challenges that our tax code must address," said NCBA Executive Director of Government Affairs Kent Bacus.

"The survey data shows strong support for tax provisions that help cattle producers reduce their taxes and invest in essential assets for running a successful cattle operation," Bacus continued. "To protect our farming and ranching heritage, we need Congress to step up and back tax provisions that help cattle producers save more of their hard-earned money and set up the next generation of cattle producers for success."

Survey findings

The NCBA tax survey examined tax provisions impacting cattle producers, including estate tax, capital gains, and deductions, such as depreciation. Overall, the survey revealed ranchers are concerned about income and property taxes, with 25% stating they spend over $10,000 annually for tax preparation and compliance.

The report cites the stepped-up basis as one of the most significant tax tools, which 96% of respondents support maintaining as a tool for

See TAX SURVEY on page 11

Cash trade pushes cattle futures higher

Cattle futures faced a turbulent week, driven by a plunge in the equities market and McDonald's E. coli scare, before surging as cash trade hit $190 in Kansas and Texas.

"Until moments ago, the negotiated fed cattle trade was at a complete standstill," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in Thursday's comments for The Beef. "Now three packers are bidding $190 in Kansas and Texas, $2 higher than last week's $188 top and there has been trade at that level. It would appear sizeable kills are planned beyond this week and packers require cattle inventory. Margins expanded well into the black last week and have improved even more this week."

Live cattle futures were higher, with the October contract up $2.68 to $189.30 and the December contract up $3.08 to $189.25.

Cash trade through Thursday was about 24,000 head. Live steers sold for $188-192, and dressed steers sold for $298.

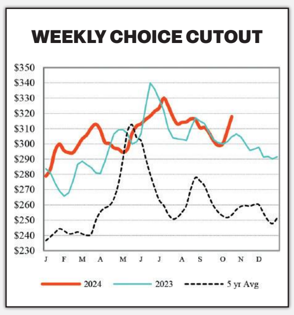
Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 20 was 78,941 head. Live steers averaged $187.63, and dressed steers averaged $296.41.

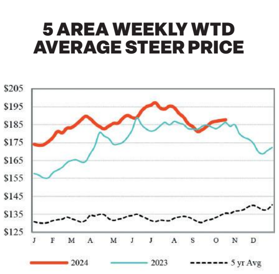
Slaughter through Thursday is estimated to be 491,000 head. Slaughter for a week earlier was projected to be 608,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 12 was 585,337 head. The average steer dressed weight was 950 lbs., the same as the prior week.

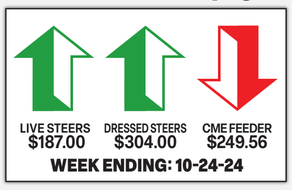
Boxed beef prices were higher, with the Choice cutout up $1.91 to $321.17 and the Select cutout up 82 cents to $294.34.

Analysts released the pre-report estimates for Friday's Cattle on Feed report release. The consensus is that cattle on feed will be 99.7% for feedlots of 1,000 head or greater in

See MARKETS on page 13







PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Genetic flexibility

IPSEN

From the time breeding decisions are made all the way to consumption, we take indicators and use them to the best of our abilities. It's been in the works for centuries. We receive indications to make cattle bigger, so we do. We receive indications to make cattle grade better, so we do. We receive indications to make cattle more efficient, so we do.

A driving constant is change. No conditions stay the same from one day to the next, one season to the next, or one year to the next. We can all hope for ideal conditions, but as an example, look at this past year and how many acres were burned up across the West. There is no way to plan for these types of events. This was supposed to be a good year to continue the financial recovery efforts for the cow-calf producer. Livestock producers simply need several good years to make up for the past decade of scraping by. Added value in what calves have brought over the past two years has largely gone to higher inputs. I don't want to come across ungrateful for what these calves have brought this year. We are all thankful for that, without question.

Interest rates are showing they may have hit their high point when the Fed finally cut that national rate by 50 points last month, but more cuts are needed to finally reach the producer level. Everyone is anxious to get past the election and know what is in store for the next four years. Reprieve feels like it is on the horizon.

Looking at production, the latest Cattle on Feed report showed a steady number of inventories compared to 2023. Nobody was shocked by any means, but what keeps all the predictions at bay is the simple fact that a lower cost of gain driven by cheaper feed inputs has helped feeders and packers to manage demand and price through carcass weights. All the cumulative factors have pressed together and created an interesting scenario.

With all the inputs lining themselves up for a near perfect fall for feeding cattle, the output is a result in much heavier carcass weights. In fact, steer carcass weights are up almost 28 pounds per steer head and almost 23 lbs. per heifer. This has been a trend for nearly all of 2024 which has pushed overall beef production up 1.9%. Packers have been able to slow production down with the added product each animal is providing. Just in mid-level facilities, simple math would tell us that a 700-head steer kill day would yield an additional 19,600 lbs. of carcass weight for them to process. This is huge flexibility for the packer without even getting into deeper details.

The indications are that this trend will continue throughout the rest of 2024 and into 2025. We have made these cattle bigger. We took indicators and pressure on the national cow herd and responded as cattle breeders. Think about what has happened over the past several decades. We took moderate-framed animals, added exponentially larger frames that could hold more weight, then added carcass merit and feed efficiency into their genetic makeup. We then slapped branded beef programs, value-added programs and marketing efforts across the world to them. Then to top it off, the feeding industry evolved to maximize usage, space and time and marketed this product to a vastly shrunken packing industry.

That's a lot to get through in one column and a lot of points that could be talked about at length. Over the next few weeks, I'll dive deeper into some of these areas and provide more data.

It's a compliment to the people breeding cattle. They have been able to respond by changing the genetic makeup of these cattle in response to market conditions and market signals. This industry is going to be facing some crossroads in the next few years as heifer retention is now on the minds of many cattlemen. Lower hay costs and drought relief have given light to people wanting to hold back heifers again or buy replacement cows.

There are many factors at play, but the genetics in these cattle have been selected to produce the most amount of beef on the fewest number of acres possible, all while producing a high-yielding, high-grading product. It's their efforts in producing these types of cattle that have afforded the feeder and packer the genetic flexibility in today's market conditions. Today's cattle have the flexibility to be maximized in a short period of time on feed or slowed down and held for more favorable conditions, all while maintaining valuable carcass merit to hit branded beef targets for more value at the consumer side. All the indications that I see tell me that we're now producing cattle that afford the feeder and packer much more flexibility and the markets have responded with the holding pattern we've seen over the past 90 days. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

UNITED WE STAND

with Anastasia Meyer

This new monthly column highlights the common ground in the livestock industry, uniting us around the issues that impact us all.

Estate planning ensures the next generation inherits assets after the owners retire or pass away. It is a crucial aspect of maintaining a ranching operation and ensuring the next generation is set up for success. For ranchers, the combination of land, livestock and equipment means that the estate often comprises valuable assets that represent years, even generations, of hard work. Unfortunately, without a well-thought-out estate plan, transitioning these assets to the next generation can lead to confusion, tax burdens and family disputes. One vital component of estate planning that every rancher should be familiar with is the stepped-up basis. This tax provision can have significant benefits for the heirs of ranches or other agricultural operations. However, a failure to properly incorporate it into a broader estate plan can leave families exposed to unnecessary taxes and financial hardship. Let's dive into what a stepped-up basis is, why it matters and how estate planning can help protect ranching families for generations to come.

What is a stepped-up basis?

When someone inherits an asset—whether it's land, livestock or other farm equipment—the stepped-up basis allows the asset's value to be reset to its current market value at the time of inheritance. This is particularly beneficial for assets that have appreciated significantly over time. When the heirs eventually sell these assets, they will only owe capital gains taxes on the difference between the market value at the time of inheritance (the stepped-up value) and the selling price, rather than paying taxes on the entire growth of the asset's value from when it was initially purchased.

For example, imagine a rancher purchased land 30 years ago for $200,000, and today that land is worth $1 million. If the land is passed down to the next generation without a stepped-up basis, the heirs would be responsible for paying capital gains tax on the difference between the original purchase price and its sale price—an $800,000 gain. However, with a stepped-up basis, the value of the land resets to $1 million at the time of inheritance, and the heirs would only pay taxes on any increase in value from the point of inheritance onward.

Why it's important for ranchers

Ranchers tend to accumulate large, valuable assets over time, such as land and equipment, that often appreciate in value. Without the stepped-up basis, ranching families could be forced to sell portions of the ranch to cover substantial capital gains taxes. This can reduce the size of the operation and undermine the financial stability of the family's business.

In addition to preserving the operation's financial health, the stepped-up basis helps alleviate the tax burden that could otherwise fall on family members when they inherit the ranch. Without this provision, families might find themselves in a situation where they are asset-rich but cash-poor, forcing them to make difficult decisions, such as selling land or livestock just to pay the tax bill.

Estate planning is about much more than ensuring assets are passed down—it's about safeguarding the future of the ranch. Many ranchers put off estate planning because the process can feel overwhelming, but the sooner you start, the better. Effective estate planning combines legal, financial and business strategies to ensure your operation continues smoothly after your passing.

At its core, estate planning involves organizing your affairs in a way that minimizes taxes, avoids family conflict and ensures your wishes are followed. For ranchers, this typically means using tools such as wills, trusts and other legal mechanisms to designate who will inherit assets, how those assets will be transferred and how taxes will be managed.

Don't wait to plan

The benefits of estate planning can be undermined if it's delayed or not executed properly. Ranchers face unique challenges that make estate planning essential to protecting both the business and the family's legacy. Addressing these issues while you're still able ensures that you're in control of how your ranch is passed on, while minimizing stress on your family.

Furthermore, changes in tax laws could alter the advantages of the stepped-up basis in the future, which is why it's essential to remain proactive. By working with legal and financial professionals who understand the complexities of ranching, you can build a strategy that minimizes your tax liability and positions the next generation for success.

The stepped-up basis and estate planning are critical tools for ranchers looking to secure the future of their operations. Without them, families risk losing significant portions of their ranch to taxes and facing unnecessary financial hardships. By starting the planning process now, ranchers can ensure their legacy endures, and the next generation is set up for long-term success. —**Anastasia Meyer, Beatrice, NE**

(Anastasia Meyer is an agricultural economics Extension instructor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.)

GUEST OPINION

INTEREST PAYMENTS SURPASS MILITARY SPENDING, WASHINGTON YAWNS

In Greek mythology, the princess Cassandra warned her fellow Trojans that the wooden horse outside the gate of Troy was packed with Greek warriors. No one believed her. The Trojans brought the horse into the city. Catastrophe ensued. The federal government's ballooning debt has had many Cassandras. For years they've been predicting that the debt's continued growth will lead to disaster. Apparently, no one in Washington believes them. Congress keeps passing deficit budgets that add to the debt. It doesn't matter which party controls Congress; both yawn when the Cassandras issue their warnings.

In the just-ended fiscal year, the federal government—Republicans in control of the House, Democrats the Senate—spent $1.83 trillion more than it took in. That brought Uncle Sam's cumulative debt to around $35 trillion. If the nation had a gross domestic product (GDP) in the neighborhood of $75 trillion, or even $50 trillion, the debt Cassandras' lips would be sealed. An economy that size would generate more than enough taxes for the government to make its interest payments and maybe even pay down the principal. Alas, the U.S. GDP is only $25 trillion.

Many experts say a government-debt-to-GDP ratio above 60% begins to raise red flags. Others say 77%. Uncle Sam's ratio is above 130%. Even excluding debt that one part of the government owes another—in other words, just counting debt held by the public—the ratio is almost 100%. Now it has been many years since the debt Cassandras started predicting disaster and disaster has not come to pass. The debt-to-GDP ratio has soared past the red flags, yet investors keep buying the U.S Treasury's paper. Could the Cassandras be wrong? Could the real danger point be a much higher debt-to-GDP ratio than experts have imagined? Maybe there's nothing to worry about.

The passage of time, combined with uncertainty about the debt's danger level, has lulled Washington into complacency. Uncle Sam keeps borrowing and borrowing. Sure enough, the government is still able to make its interest payments. Yet those payments are eating up a bigger and bigger chunk of the federal budget. Interest on the debt now exceeds spending on the military. Not too many years from now, interest payments will surpass Social Security as the single biggest line in the federal budget.

As the debt surges higher, investors in the government's bonds and notes will at some point seriously worry about getting their principal repaid. When that happens, demand for the government's paper will plummet. To sell it, the government will have to offer much higher interest rates. Those higher rates will exacerbate the debt problem still further.

They'll also weigh heavily on the economy, and this time Congress won't be able to resuscitate it with tax cuts and deficit spending. Quite the opposite: The stratospheric interest rates on the government's own debt will force Congress to raise taxes and cut spending, further depressing the economy. In that nightmare, scenario farm-program spending would likely not be spared. Truth is, no one knows the debt-to-GDP ratio that would make creditors panic.

Optimists point out that Japan's debt-to-GDP ratio is 250%. But that figure is deceptive, an analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis concludes. Taking into account things like intragovernmental transfers and reserve funds, the balance sheets of both countries' governments show the same net liability—119% of GDP. Japan is also different because its national savings rate is high and relatively little of its debt is held by foreigners.

The small minority of economists who subscribe to so-called Modern Monetary Theory say governments that borrow in their own currency, like the U.S., needn't worry about the debt; they can just print money to repay it. That's true, and the government probably would print money in a crisis. But the resulting inflation would be horrendous. We don't know how long the debt can keep swelling before creditors panic and head for the exits. The more years that pass without it happening, the greater the temptation for optimists, including apparently most everyone in the nation's capital, to think it may never happen. We have to hope the optimists are right; the nation is hitched to their wagon. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

WLJ

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

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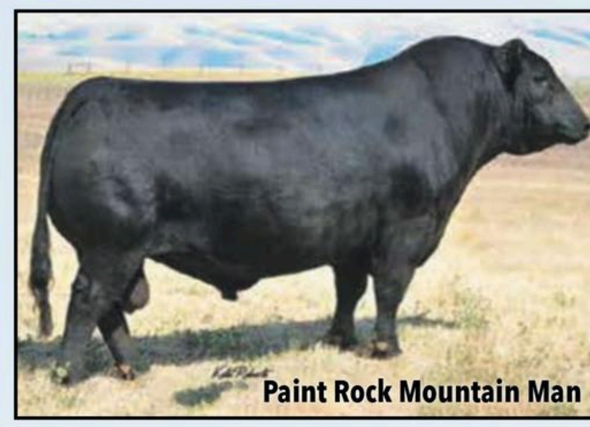

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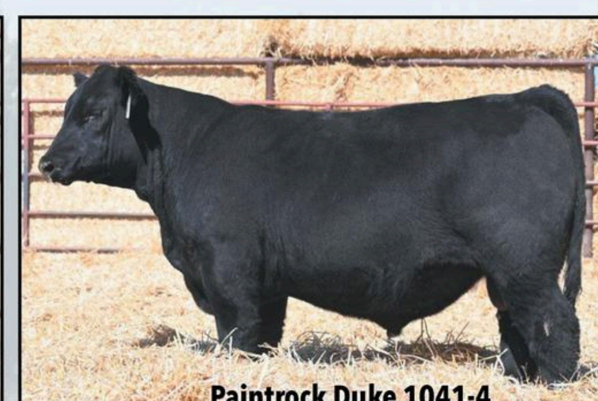

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Tim Canterbury

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.

Tim Canterbury's journey has taken him from working on his family's ranch to operating heavy equipment after high school, and now to becoming the newly elected president of the Public Lands Council (PLC). As the group's president, Tim is working behind the scenes to ensure that the farm bill reflects the needs and concerns of ranchers and land managers and secures the future of agriculture and land stewardship.

Courtesy photo

Tim Canterbury and his family.

Background

Raised on his family's ranch in Howard, CO, which dates back to his great-great-grandparents who settled in the area in 1879, Tim spent his early years working the land alongside his family.

However, the ranch was not large enough to support him and his brother, so Tim took to the road after high school, finding steady work operating heavy equipment on state highway jobs. It wasn't easy to step away from the ranch, but Tim's connection to ranching never waned.

While Tim worked with heavy equipment, his wife, Rhonda, partnered with his father, using the money they saved to buy cattle and slowly build their stake in the business. After two decades of running equipment, the ranch's call pulled him back. He returned to his family's land, expanded the operation and worked alongside his father before eventually taking over management.

Tim and Rhonda currently manage their family's hay and cow-calf operation. They utilize Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service allotments while upholding Tim's commitment to environmental stewardship.

"You have to give back to the land," Tim told *WLJ*, echoing the teachings of his father and grandfather. "Take care of the land, and it will take care of you."

Since the '90s, Tim has been deeply involved in federal land issues, holding leadership roles in various organizations. He served on the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Board of Directors for 15 years, acted as CCA president from 2009-10, and has spent over two decades as the Colorado PLC chairman.

Sustainability

Tim's influence extends to his local community, where his dedication to sustainability has earned him recognition.

Tim holds a BLM grazing permit for Hayden Ranch in southern Lake County, CO, where he was honored in 2023 with the prestigious Doc Smith Leaders in Conservation Award from the Lake County Open Space Initiative.

In the late '90s, BLM purchased the ranch from the city of Aurora and brought Tim in as a range management consultant. He began using holistic grazing practices to restore the land's vegetation and wildlife.

"We drilled two wells and set up six or eight tanks on the ranch, moving the cattle to those areas," Tim said. "Cows are funny, and I know it sounds crazy, but they'll tell you what they want.

"They'd much rather drink clean, cool water from a tank than stand in a creek, especially when another cow is upstream," he continued. "If you give them the option of fresh water, they'll always choose it. This shift has significantly reduced the impact on the creek and helped restore riparian areas that had been overused for decades."

A balancing act

Like many ranchers in Colorado, Tim shares his land with a growing number of recreational users. With the Colorado Trail running through one of his federal land allotments, Tim has had to find ways to manage his livestock while respecting the rights of outdoor enthusiasts.

This challenge led him to embrace innovative solutions, such as virtual fencing. With nine 14,000-foot peaks near his ranch attracting visitors, Tim had to find a way to keep cattle from wandering into heavily trafficked areas. The virtual fencing system allows him to "draw an imaginary line" around his cattle, keeping them away from public access points while maintaining their grazing patterns.

"At any given time, about 1,000 people a day go through one of my allotments," Tim said. "Virtual fencing has been a game changer."

Tim continued, "I have received positive feedback from visitors who often ask about the collars on my cattle. Once they understand the purpose, they appreciate the balance I strike between livestock management and recreation."

Future of ranching

As a leader in the ranching community and president of PLC, Tim is passionate about addressing the key challenges that ranchers face. Chief among them is the issue of generational transfer. But, like many ranchers, Tim has struggled with the transition.

"Generational transfer is hard," Tim admits. "I remember my dad and I not liking each other very much when I started making decisions he didn't agree with. Now, I can see the same thing with my son. It's tough to let go."

Tim has begun transferring portions of the ranch to his youngest son, including some of the federal grazing permits, which include the Hayden Ranch. Beyond the personal dynamics, Tim sees generational transfer as a critical issue for the long-term sustainability of ranching. Without a clear path for younger generations to take over, the future of ranching is uncertain.

In addition to generational transfer, Tim said water rights and access to public lands are pressing concerns.

"If I can have even a small impact on any one of those three areas—whether it's making things easier or simply leaving the opportunity open for them to happen and for the ranch to continue—I would be deeply satisfied and humbled, knowing I made a difference," Tim said.

Farm bill

Tim hopes these issues are addressed in the new farm bill and stressed the urgency of passing a bill that includes post-wildfire mitigation for ranchers after this year's devastating fires in the West.

"There's no funding for post-fire infrastructure replacement," Tim explains. "It's frustrating when you have to put back in all your head gates and other infrastructure out of your own pocket after a fire. We need a farm bill that addresses these realities."

Tim and others at PLC and the agriculture community are working behind the scenes to ensure that livestock producers receive the support they need for the new farm bill.

"We need a farm bill badly," Tim said. "The programs it supports are crucial, and it's important that they are updated to reflect the costs and challenges of today."

Looking ahead, Tim hopes to make a lasting impact during his term as PLC president. His focus remains on ensuring that future generations can stay on the land, have water rights and that ranchers continue to have access to grazing on public lands.

"PLC has a great staff in Washington, D.C. and I am humble to be at the head of this outfit," Tim said. "I appreciate everyone's confidence in allowing me to have this position, and I look forward to serving them the best I can." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

Using soybean residue for forage

Bean fields are opening up after harvest and cows may be moving in to get them off pasture when other forage options are unavailable. Soybean residue or stubble can occasionally be baled and used in rations. Before we use it however, we need to set expectations. Is soybean residue a quality forage?

Soybeans themselves are very high in protein and fat. They are about 40% crude protein (CP) and about 20% fat, which is why soybean residue can be perceived as great feed. With such a high fat content, too many beans can cause issues with the rumen, so any spilled piles should be cleaned up before animals are sent out to graze.

Soybean residue itself, however, has a much different feed composition. The empty pods and stems contain only 4-6% CP and the total digestible nutrients is only 35-45%. The leaves are slightly higher in protein at 12% but break down quickly after plants reach maturity and harvest has taken place.

These feed values will not begin to support the nutritional requirements of a dry cow even if there is some grain left in the field. So, while soybean residue can be grazed and can be used to move animals from overused pasture, supplemental feed is required.

When baled, soybean residue can be worked into a ration as a roughage source if other sources are less available. Just like grazing, baled soybean residue does not even come close to providing the feed value of corn stalk bales. Producers should also consider if removing litter from already lightly covered bean fields is worth the effort and potential erosion risks.

Soybean residue may not be the quality we often think. Residue alone will not even meet a dry cow's nutrient requirements, so supplementation will be needed. **— Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**

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WW	+82
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MILK	+26
$M	+91

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BW	+1.4
WW	+69
YW	+118
MILK	+34
$M	+70

MONTANA LIFELINE 3028 - Atlantis x Final Product
Expressively-muscled and easy-doing with robust rib shape, Lot 8 is a full brother to the popular Judgement.

CED	+1
BW	+0.9
WW	+60
YW	+100
MILK	+27
$M	+78

MONTANA LARAMIE 3012 - Atlantis x Game Day
Powerfully constructed with unparalleled soundness, Lot 9 is from a productive 10 year old dam.

CED	+7
BW	+0.5
WW	+75
YW	+125
MILK	+29
$M	+68

MONTANA LEDGER 3280 - Atlantis x Tahoe
Deep and densely-made, Lot 10 was produced by the same dam as Montana Jet 1271.

CED	+6
BW	+0.8
WW	+73
YW	+125
MILK	+22
$M	+69

MONTANA LOMBARDI 3051 - Stellar x Resource
This high-volume, heavy-muscled powerhouse is another in a long line of big-time sons of Donna 7233.

CED	+6
BW	+1.6
WW	+81
YW	+142
MILK	+28
$M	+79

MONTANA LAWTON 3296 - Jumbo x Resource
From the first calf crop by Jumbo 1099, Lot 18 is one of the highest performing bulls of this loaded event.

CED	+8
BW	+0.3
WW	+78
YW	+130
MILK	+29
$M	+90

MONTANA LATITUDE 3308 - Judgement x Chaps
Balancing optimum levels of growth with reduced mature size, Lot 19 is from the first crop by Judgement.

CED	-1
BW	+1.5
WW	+60
YW	+96
MILK	+20
$M	+78

MONTANA LEVERAGE 3009 - Rito 7075 x Game Day
With unmatched muscle and masculinity, Lot 23 blends flawless structural soundness and maternal function.

CED	+9
BW	+0.3
WW	+83
YW	+148
MILK	+25
$M	+67

MONTANA LONG RANGE 3330 - Jet x Renown
Balanced from every angle, Lot 24 stacks some of the breed's most proven, productive and prolific cows.

CED	+7
BW	+0.5
WW	+72
YW	+124
MILK	+15
$M	+83

MONTANA LARIAT 3058 - Logo x Resource
A changer for center-mass, muscle and dimension, Lot 31 is truly Different by Design.

CED	+10
BW	+1.0
WW	+75
YW	+132
MILK	+24
$M	+63

MONTANA LATIGO 3211 - Jennings x Resource
Exceptionally long-spined and stout in his construction, Lot 33 carries big-time herd sire credentials.

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MONTANA RANCH

Federal officials weigh ESA listing for monarch butterfly

The iconic monarch butterfly—famed for its vibrant orange and black wings—makes its annual stop along California's Central Coast to overwinter. This journey is part of a multigeneration migration that spans North America, with monarchs traveling as far as Mexico and Canada.

But their numbers have dwindled.

Chip Taylor, founding director of Monarch Watch, said monarch butterflies are affected by hot weather.

"The modest climates that they have been relying on are going to be disappearing," he said. "Their habitat is going to be narrowed, and their population is probably going to decline significantly over the next couple of decades."

Taylor discussed the plight of the monarch butterfly during an Oct. 8 webinar, which included a discussion on how a potential action to list the monarch as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) would affect California farmers and ranchers. The session was led by Western Growers, the California Farm Bureau and the California Association of Pest Control Advisers.

A January count by the Xerces Society revealed that 233,394 western monarchs overwintered in California this year, down from 330,000 monarchs observed in 2023. Today's population is 5% of what it was in the 1980s, the Xerces Society reported.

Monarch populations have declined due to loss of habitat such as areas with native milkweed, which the species depend on for food and reproduction.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has until Dec. 4 to submit a proposed rule on whether to list the monarch.

Brigit Rollins, staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center, said the agency is required to act as part of a settlement agreement stemming from litigation between the agency and environmental groups.

"Once a species is listed under the ESA as endangered, it automatically gets granted all the protections the ESA has to offer," Rollins said. That means it will be an ESA violation to "take," or kill, the species.

A federal monarch listing could affect farmers by limiting use of crop protection materials to protect the butterflies from pesticide exposure and use of property, should it be designated as critical habitat for the species.

"Should the species get listed, especially if it's listed as endangered, this prohibition on 'take' is going to kick in immediately," Rollins said, adding that a listing would impact potential harm of species through regular, routine use of herbicides or insecticides.

A designation of critical habitat, she said, would affect farmers in cases in which there is a federal nexus, such as working with a federal agency to acquire a permit, receiving grant funding or working on a project.

"This is where the critical habitat rubber is going to meet the road because that agency must ensure that whatever action it is they are doing in participation with you will not cause destruction of critical habitat," Rollins said.

Kari Fisher, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau, said many farmers have voluntarily created monarch habitat on their farms.

"There is a concern for those growers that already have put in milkweed, hedgerows or other plants that if the monarch is listed and there is an accidental 'take,' that they would be held liable for a violation of the ESA," Fisher said. In addition, she said, landowners who do certain practices on their property to help a species may also receive "take" protection through a conservation benefit agreement.

To reduce pesticide exposure to listed species, the EPA released an updated work plan that discusses how it will pursue protections for listed species, such as during review of pesticide registrations. The plan also incorporates an action plan for vulnerable species, or species with the greatest risk of pesticide exposure.

Representing farmers and ranchers on the Central Coast, Norm Groot, executive director of the Monterey County Farm Bureau, said with the monarch's overwintering habitat in Pacific Grove, farmers are concerned.

"What we need to watch out for is how extensive a critical habitat designation is going to be and whether or not that's going to include rangeland and what that means for grazing cattle and maintenance of milkweed species on that rangeland," Groot said. "The other concern is if hedgerows would be required around ag fields to support milkweed, which is a food safety issue, as it becomes habitat for insects and rodents."

Groot said farmers and landowners affected by a potential listing of the monarch butterfly are looking for a balanced solution that protects the species and their right to farm. He cited the greater sage-grouse as an effective example of farm landowners working with agencies and nonprofits to protect a listed species.

If the Fish and Wildlife Service issues a decision to list the monarch butterfly under the ESA by Dec. 4, a public comment period will be announced, and a final decision will be issued. Once the decision is finalized, the prohibition on "take" goes into effect. **— Christine Souza, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

LEGAL LEDGER

Deere laying off more employees

Deere & Co. announced the company will be laying off more employees due to decreased demand for tractors. The company plans to lay off about 375 employees in the Midwest's Quad Cities area effective Jan. 3, 2025, adding to the nearly 2,000 workers already laid off this year. "It is important to note these layoffs are due to reduced demand for the products produced at these facilities," Deere & Co. said in a statement to local media outlet KWQC. "They are not related to production moves." The company continued that layoffs over the fiscal year are due to a weakening farm economy and a reduction in customer orders for equipment.

Meat Institute calls for trade agenda

The Meat Institute calls for a comprehensive trade policy agenda and the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to promote the growth of the meat and poultry industries. The organization penned comments to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in response to a request for input on significant foreign trade barriers. "The industry's export potential remains limited by unjustified sanitary barriers, prohibitive tariffs and tariff rate quotas, and onerous registration and approval requirements for exporting facilities, among other impediments," said Julie Anna Potts, Meat Institute president and CEO. The group details several objectives for an ambitious trade agenda in its 15-page comments.

Deadline looming to file with government

The Jan. 1, 2025, deadline for farmers and ranchers required to file their business with the federal government is quickly approaching. More than 230,000 farms are required to file beneficial ownership information with the Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network as required under the Corporate Transparency Act of 2021. Government data indicates that less than 11% of eligible businesses nationwide have done so, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. "Many farms are structured as either a C-corporation, S-corporation or limited liability company (LLC), which are now required to be registered if they employ fewer than 20 employees or receive under $5 million in cash receipts—which covers the vast majority of farms," the organization said. Ranchers are encouraged to contact an accountant or attorney if they are unsure whether they are required to file their business.

BLM seeking advisory committee members

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for 15 people to serve on a new federal advisory committee to help inform how the agency implements the Public Lands Rule. Members will serve two-year terms on the committee, which will include representatives from Tribes, state and local governments, the public at large, the science community, non-governmental organizations, energy or mineral development, federal grazing and commercial recreation. The 30-day nomination period is open until Nov. 18. Nominations can be emailed to BLM_PLR_IAC@blm.gov. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/p794amsm.

USPS changes could impact rural areas

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is reviewing proposed changes that could impact mail service to rural communities. "The refinements to our existing service standards will enhance service reliability, improve the daily reach of mail when traveling through the network, and are projected to reduce costs by approximately $3 billion annually," USPS said. Under the changes, customers within 50 miles of USPS' largest processing facilities will receive their mail sooner, but rural areas could see delays. Pick-up and drop-off of mail will primarily occur in the morning, meaning some mail and packages could wait until the next day for pickup. "Delivery for approximately 75% of first-class mail will not be impacted by the refinements to our current service standards, and around two-thirds of mail will be delivered in three or less days," USPS said. "All first-class mail and USPS ground advantage will continue being delivered within five days." If approved, changes would go into effect in 2025.

Petitions seeks ban of M-44 devices

A coalition of environmental groups petitioned the U.S. Forest Service to ban the use of M-44 devices, known as "cyanide bombs," in national forests. "I just can't understand why the Forest Service won't follow the lead of other land-management agencies that rightly recognized how dangerous cyanide bombs are to wildlife, people and their pets," said Collette Adkins of the Center for Biological Diversity. The Bureau of Land Management recently prohibited the use of M-44s by Wildlife Services on their agency-managed lands, and the devices are not used on lands managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Bureau of Reclamation.

CA to consider Scott and Shasta river flows rules

California water officials recently directed staff to create a report that outlines the scientific basis for development of permanent instream flow requirements on the Scott and Shasta rivers in Siskiyou County to aid salmon and steelhead trout.

In addition to developing the scientific basis report, the California State Water Resources Control Board asked staff to assess the economic impacts of baseline minimum flows and to continue modeling and developing information that could be used in the future to evaluate water year-specific minimum instream flows. The board also directed staff to obtain input on whether to extend the December 2023 emergency flow regulations for another year or implement a locally preferred alternative if it becomes available.

Farmers from the region called for a science-based approach to guide the requirements for river flows.

"We just want to continue to push that science must drive this process," said Siskiyou County farmer Gary Black, a restoration and conservation consultant who farms along the Scott River. "We count on and trust you to ensure that this is a well driven, science-based process and that the model used includes accurate data that is adjusted over time."

The action by the state water board is partially in response to petitions submitted in 2023 by the Karuk Tribe, Environmental Law Foundation, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and Institute of Fisheries Resources requesting that the state water board develop regulations to establish long-term flows to benefit fish.

At the meeting, a panel of petitioners, including Aaron "Troy" Hockaday, a member of the Karuk Tribal Council, urged the board to support permanent instream flow regulations.

In advocating for instream flow protections, Crystal Robinson, Klamath watershed specialist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), said fish populations are a fraction of what they were 50 years ago.

"While coho salmon numbers are showing a bit of improvement, in some brood years Chinook salmon populations are getting lower," she said.

Robinson talked about other factors affecting fish, such as a need to improve spawning access.

In public comments to the board, Alexandra Biering, California Farm Bureau senior policy advocate, identified actions that should be taken when developing a regulation for long-term flows.

"When locals bring forward some of those potential solutions under an amended resolution, I would request that you and staff are transparent in your evaluation process for what parts are acceptable and what aren't," Biering said. "I also appreciate that the resolution directs staff to help develop or evaluate those baseline minimum flows, potential economic impacts in the region—all those things that are necessary for understanding the conditions that need to be addressed."

Black and other farmers who spoke as part of a Siskiyou County Farm Bureau panel talked about short-term and long-term efforts to improve flows for fish. The panelists also asked for flexibility as they work with tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others to negotiate voluntary agreements that include a more holistic approach to fish recovery outside of flows alone.

"Especially in the Scott (River) in a drought year, the GSA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency) model says you can eliminate agriculture entirely and you still wouldn't hit the minimum flow for adult migration," Black said, urging the board to be mindful of unintended consequences from the instream flow regulation in the short term and long term.

Ryan Walker, president of the Siskiyou County Farm Bureau, asked for a "robust" scientific report that addresses flows and the many other actions needed to recover fish.

"It is our hope that a voluntary solution may come out of this rather than long-term regulations," said Walker, a rancher based in Montague. "I think we can come to compromised agreements that would likely be enforceable and that we can achieve."

Farmers have facilitator-led conversations with tribes and NGOs and hope a compromise can be reached, Walker added.

"The tribes want flow, but they also want restoration and things that are more than flow that are going to lead to fish recovery," Walker said. "I think we are having some really good and important conversations."

Before a long-term regulation for flows is approved, Walker said the state water board between now and early January 2025 will likely move forward with a new round of flow requirements for the Scott and Shasta rivers. Affected water users say they plan to continue working with staff and others on the regulations, including identifying what works, what doesn't and if there are alternatives.

"If there's a compromise or a negotiated solution to the regulations, these have to happen between now and basically the first couple weeks of January," Walker said.

Permanent, long-term flow requirements on the rivers, Walker said, "will control surface water diversions and also groundwater extractions, and that's a new world." Taking action to control use of groundwater affects the ongoing work that local agencies are doing to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, he added.

Participating as part of the Farm Bureau panel, Siskiyou County farmer Brandon Fawaz talked about the economic impact of added water regulations when the region's farmers already face low commodity prices and high input costs. "This is taking a toll on farmers," he said.

For alfalfa hay, Fawaz said, the price is $215 a ton this year, a drop from $370 in 2022. In addition, he said the per-ton price for grain hay was $90 this year, a drop from $150 in 2022. As a beginning farmer in 2004, Fawaz said, "grain hay was $100 a ton to $120 a ton, so we're below 2004 pricing."

Despite the high costs facing farmers, Fawaz said he is hopeful that data and science will lead to a balanced solution.

"With the amount of data that we forecast being collected next year, I believe we will work through this process and have better tools in our toolbox to come up with a better solution that all sides can support, or at least be part of in the coming year," Fawaz said.

Farmers who rely on water from the Scott and Shasta rivers have been subject to curtailments under a drought emergency regulation that limits surface-water diversions and groundwater pumping since 2021. The regulation, which is updated annually, prioritizes minimum flow recommendations from the CDFW to protect salmon and steelhead trout. **— Christine Souza, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

Fall cheatgrass seeds take longer to break down

CHEATGRASS
(from page 1)

grazing, but the Nevada researchers suggested that targeted grazing effectively reduces cheatgrass fuel height and seed bank without adverse impacts on the ecosystem.

In the in situ ruminal incubation portion of the study (seeds were inserted into the rumen of cannulated steers), noteworthy patterns were observed in the germination response over time in the rumen, the researchers said.

Cheatgrass seeds collected in the spring and in the fall showed a steady decline in their breakdown as time in the rumen increased. After 36 hours in the rumen, the seeds showed nearly a complete lack of germination.

"This suggests a critical timepoint beyond which the ruminal environment becomes detrimental to seed viability," the study read.

Seeds collected in the fall also took longer to break down and stayed intact for a longer duration than spring-harvested seeds. This is because the mature cheatgrass in the fall is a lower-quality forage, which leads to longer retention times in the rumen and slower passage rates.

The study authors do note that while the lack of seed germination in the fecal germination trial is promising, there are still factors to consider. "Nevertheless, our findings offer a deeper insight into the detrimental effects ruminal conditions have on cheatgrass seed and may ease concerns surrounding cattle as endozoochorous cheatgrass dispersal agents," the authors concluded.

The study was funded by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office. **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ's Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to editorial@wlj.net.)

Oct. 27 – Certified Angus Beef is seeking applications for its 2025 summer internship program. Four internships are available to join the communications and marketing teams. Details: CABcattle.com/internship.

Cattle producers deal with drought, short pastures

Drought conditions persist in southern Nebraska with areas seeing little or no rain during the past 60 days. For cattle producers, these conditions lead to tough decisions on weaning early, culling cows and properly managing rangeland for future use.

Lori Hallowell, who owns HJ Bar Ranch near Palmyra, NE, with her husband, Paul, said the conditions on their southeast Nebraska ranch returned to the extremely dry conditions they saw last year. "Last summer we had already culled 10% of our herd, and since then we had moisture in the spring which made us think about herd expansion, but then August came, and we had hot temperatures and really haven't had any rain since early summer," she said.

Karla Wilke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln range management cow-calf specialist, said it seems like cattlemen in many parts of Nebraska have been selling cows because of the drought since 2021. Drought paired with high prices has kept producers from any herd expansion in the past few years.

Hallowell said they have had 45 heifers at a heifer development center that feeds and breeds them for cattle producers. While they would like to be able to bring most of them back to the ranch, it likely won't happen this year because of the continued dry conditions. Some may be sold on a sale at the center. After pregnancy checking the cow herd in the coming days, they will make culling decisions and decide just how many cows to keep for the coming year.

Making management decisions

Hallowell said they decided to use stored feed and creep feed to get the cattle through the fall before weaning. Wilke said many producers with spring calving herds have weaned calves earlier than usual to help save some of the grass. "A cow's energy requirement is reduced when they are just in gestation and not also lactation," she said. "It's much easier to wean calves and add weight back on cows than to fight adding weight to cows in the winter months."

Wilke suggested analyzing the body condition score (BCS) of the cows to know just how much feed and/or supplementation they will need to get to a BCS 5 by calving time. "Cows need to have the right kind of body condition before calving so they will do a good job raising a calf and rebreeding in the spring," she said.

The dry conditions led Hallowell and her husband to start feeding hay, hauling water and supplementing first-calf heifers in August, much earlier than they normally would, because of the lack of grass in their pastures. Thankfully, the early spring moisture helped their hay crop and due to many of their neighbors converting pasture or hay ground to crop ground and selling cows, they have access to purchasing hay from neighbors who would've normally fed it themselves.

When looking at fall-calving herds, Wilke said it has been important to analyze if there is enough quantity and quality of grass to get cows through the hot dry part of the year or if supplementation or substitution feeding needs to occur.

Dry conditions persist

DTN Ag Meteorologist John Baranick said there are some incredibly dry conditions in many areas of the High Plains with some parts of Wyoming and Nebraska not seeing more than a half inch and a few with less than 0.10 inch in the last 60 days.

The dryness has also been seen across parts of Colorado, the Dakotas and northern Kansas where less than a half inch of rain has been received in the last 30 days.

Drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor has grown during the last several weeks throughout most of the region outside of those pockets that had good rainfall. Moderate to extreme drought is seen in parts of this region recently.

Wilke said one of the biggest things farmers and ranchers need to have is a drought plan with trigger dates. "We are all eternal optimists. We can think it's going to rain, but if it doesn't, we need to have a plan," she said. "It's important to make hard management decisions to save the grass if we don't get moisture by a certain date."

When drought is seen in the spring months, she suggested feeding a mix of distillers grains with a lower-quality hay or cornstalks to help stretch out the time until some grass has grown for grazing.

In the fall, when the grass is gone, feed substitution won't be very effective and leaving the cows on the pastures can ruin the grass.

Rotating pastures and getting cows to cornstalk fields for grazing can give grass some relief. She suggested planting an annual crop for grazing in fields where irrigation is available.

"We also know that water can be limited, which means we have to make management decisions," Wilke added. "In severe drought situations, cows may need to be moved to a dry lot and be fed in order to provide proper nutrition for the cows and to let the pasture grasses recover."

Keep cattle healthy

Drought conditions can also lead to health problems for cattle. Wilke said the most common is dust pneumonia. "Cows are walking in the dusty dry areas and their calves are following behind breathing in the dust. This coupled with the heat stress seen in these areas can really cause some major problems," she added. "Any animals with a challenged immune system will suffer greatly. The unusually high temperatures this fall haven't helped the situation either."

Hallowell said the drought conditions have led to problems with pinkeye in their herd. "We'd go out one day and everything is fine and the next, we had several that needed treated. It spreads like wildfire," she said. "We use a pinkeye vaccine available from an animal health company and also an autogenous vaccine made to cover the virus in our specific area," she added. "The dry weather doesn't help for fighting flies and dealing with pinkeye."

Forecast isn't promising

In the short term, Baranick said the forecast is for overall drier conditions, with some opportunities for rain. Another chance for moisture comes in late October into early November.

"Since we're entering a weak La Niña state, the weather pattern usually favors more clipper-like systems for the winter. Typically, that means very little precipitation for the Plains," he said. "Drought expansion looks likely through most of the High Plains, though again the north could get some better chances from passing fronts with those clippers for at least some precipitation."

He continued that the spring forecast is somewhat neutral and unsure with La Niña being the driver. The DTN forecast is for a more chaotic March that could bring in more precipitation, but drier in April and May.

Hallowell, like all cattle producers dealing with drought conditions, said she hopes to see moisture soon. "On top of not having enough grass, now there have been several fires in our area. We are very careful in our pastures. We don't want to see that kind of loss," she concluded. — **Jennifer Carrico, DTN senior livestock editor**

Estimating hay needs for the fall, winter

Here are some basic rules of thumb to follow when determining the hay supplies you will need to sustain your cow herd over the next few months.

Determine your average mature cow size. This can be done by weighing your 4-7-year-old cows and calculating the average weight. From mature cow size, we can approximate the amount of forage dry matter cows will need to consume per year or per day. For example: a 1,000-pound cow will consume about 26 lbs. of forage dry matter per day. A 1,400-lb. cow will consume about 36.4 lbs. of forage dry matter per day.

Determine your cow inventory and estimate the amount of time you expect to be feeding cows.

From this information you can calculate the total amount of hay needed. For example: 100 cows weighing 1,400 lbs. will consume about 3,640 lbs. of hay per day.

We should take into account that a certain amount of the hay fed will be wasted and there will be a certain amount of spoilage of each bale fed that won't be consumed. With this in mind, we will add another 10% to the daily total to bump it up to about 4,000 lbs. (2 tons) per day.

Remember the amount of hay wasted or spoiled could be higher. If we are feeding hay from last year, expect a higher percentage spoiled in each bale.

If we are expecting to feed hay from mid-October to mid-May, that is approximately 200 days of hay feeding. A total of 4,000 lbs. of hay needed per day x 200 days equals a total of 800,000 lbs. (400 tons) of forage dry matter that cows will consume over this time. If we are feeding or buying large rounds with an average weight of 1,250 lbs. that equates to 640 (800,000 divided by 1,250) big bales needed to sustain the 100 cows.

If possible, purchase hay by the ton. It leads to less error in securing the amount of hay you will need to purchase or have on inventory. If buying hay by the bale is your only option, make sure to weigh enough of the bales to have an accurate representation of bale weight.

Also, take into account the amount of spoilage of each bale. One of the upsides of hay baled this summer (and the drought we are dealing with now) is less spoilage of warm season grass hay baled in the summer of 2024.

Other factors such as weather, stage of gestation or lactating versus dry cows will obviously impact nutritional requirements of cows from day to day. Provide hay and other nutritional supplementation accordingly. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Study finds horse overpopulation affects grouse

HORSE SUIT

(from page 1)

30,000 acres and has an appropriate management level (AML) of 51-82 horses. As of the 2023 Wild Horse and Burro Population Estimates report, the HMA was supporting 183 horses, or 223% of the AML. The Riddle Mountain HMA covers about 33,000 acres and has an AML of 33-58 horses. The 2023 population estimate was 165 horses, or nearly 300% of the AML.

The decision outlines a plan over a 10-year time frame to gather excess horses to keep populations at AMLs and restore ecological balance. The first gather was set to begin this fall, with gathers occurring over the next decade as needed.

The proposed action removes excess horses for adoption and applies fertility treatments to maintain the feral horse population within the AML. BLM's ultimate plan is for the Kiger HMA to have a population of 25 fertile studs and 26 mares treated with a fertility control vaccine, and for the Riddle Mountain HMA to have a population of 16 fertile studs and 17 treated mares. When that point is reached, BLM will decide how often to give treatments.

The greens' lawsuit argues the BLM violated the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act in its decision record. The groups said the plan fails to properly assess the ecological impact of reducing horse populations, and "neglects its obligation to manage public lands in a way that ensures a thriving natural ecological balance."

"If the BLM wants to get serious about managing public lands and maintaining ecological balance, they need to start properly attributing the cause of land health degradation," Kuhn said, alluding to livestock grazing.

Research shows effects on wildlife

A study conducted by the University of Wyoming and published in The Journal of Wildlife Management suggests that sage grouse have been negatively affected by feral horses roaming in sagebrush-steppe habitat.

"Very clearly, our results suggest that if we don't go over (horse population goals), then sage grouse nesting, brood-rearing and juvenile survival is going to perform much higher," Jeff Beck, an ecologist who led the research, told media outlet News From The States.

The research monitored about 1,000 sage grouse equipped with GPS devices in southern and central Wyoming. The researchers evaluated how the birds fared in areas with no horses, along with nest success and survival rates in areas with horses.

Results suggest a correlation between increased horse numbers and a decline in sage grouse nests and numbers. Nest survival decreased 4% for birds that lived with horse populations set at the AML, while survival rates declined another 8% when horse numbers were three times the AML.

Chick and juvenile survival rates decreased by 18% in areas where horse numbers were three times the AML. Adult birds were the outlier, according to the research, with no evidence that increased horse numbers influenced survival rates.

Horses are likely influencing sage grouse populations by causing indirect effects by modifying sage grouse habitat, the researchers said. "They break up sagebrush, they increase bare ground, they have a lot of impact on riparian areas," Beck said.

Beck shared skepticism that domestic livestock have the same effects on sage grouse habitat as horses, because "if there's a problem with livestock, they take them off the range. Horses are staying there year round, until the next gather."

However, Beck noted, "We're not saying, 'Get rid of all the horses.' Our message is to manage it. If you manage it not to exceed that (goal), then sage grouse that share habitat with horses can continue to do well." **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Fall grazing alfalfa fields with cattle

Every fall, there can be some situations where there can be the potential to graze alfalfa. In some cases, the alfalfa may not have been big enough to warrant haying or maybe you have an alfalfa field that is adjacent to some cornstalks. A side benefit is that grazing alfalfa in late fall or winter can reduce alfalfa weevil infestations by removing stems and plant parts that serve as a wintering site or a spring laying site for weevil eggs.

Even through late October and into November, alfalfa is still quite green, despite several nights with low temperatures in the twenties. There may be some wilting and yellowing, especially on the top, but most leaves still are attached to the plant stems.

The real question often being asked is "can I be sure my cows won't bloat if they graze my alfalfa?" To be quite honest, you can never be 100% certain that alfalfa won't cause bloat. Bloat occurs in ruminant livestock when gas produced during fermentation becomes trapped inside the rumen.

Bloat risk is much lower a week after a hard freeze that causes wilting. But always use good management methods to reduce the risk further. Have cows full before turning out to alfalfa. Wait until mid-day, after frost or dew is gone, before turning out. Provide other dry, palatable feeds or even bloat retardants. And keep a close eye on them for the first couple days.

Alfalfa can be grazed safely. Just be careful and realistic. **— Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension**

CALENDAR COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 4-6 – The National Grazing Lands Coalition will hold the ninth National Grazing Lands Conference in Tucson, AZ. Registration is open at www.grazinglands.org.

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN

"I know zackly how yew feel,.... School's 'bout to start,.....
An' everyday's gunna be like this fer me too!"

CRP acreage is the highest in a decade

Total acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is now the highest level in a decade as the program evolves and focuses more on grazing acres than at any time in its history.

USDA recently announced it was issuing CRP checks for approximately $1.7 billion in payments in October.

CRP acreage under the Biden administration has grown 5.36 million acres since early 2021 to hit 25.86 million acres, a 26% increase in enrollment. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is getting close to its 27-million-acre cap from the 2018 Farm Bill.

This year's enrollment programs added 199,214 acres in the general signup—the traditional program—while the Grasslands CRP contracts added another 1.44 million acres.

Rolling back the number just a bit, landowners had 481,092 acres of contracts expire Sept. 30 and leave the program.

Right now, other than issue payments, USDA is essentially freezing CRP in place because the authority to administer CRP expired Sept. 30 when Congress did not extend the farm bill. So, FSA can't accept new continuous acres or make any changes or revisions to CRP contracts. All of that will have to wait until Congress reauthorizes a new farm bill or extends the current one.

2024 acreage and rental rates

The Biden administration also has continued a shift in how landowners enroll in the program. General enrollment only accounts for 7.7 million acres—down 5.4 million acres since early 2021—with an average national rental rate of $57.10 per acre.

The continuous enrollment programs—Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), non-CREP and Wetlands—now make up 8.35 million acres averaging $149.20 an acre.

Grasslands CRP is driving more acreage in the overall program despite lower rental rates than other forms of CRP.

Grasslands CRP as of August was reported at 8.59 million acres. With another 1.44 million acres added, Grasslands CRP now tops 10 million acres. The average rental rate is $15.60 per acre.

The Grasslands program is meant to help support grazing operations and keep those acres from conversion to other uses. When the Biden administration came into office in January 2021, Grasslands CRP only accounted for 1.86 million acres.

Shift from 2014 rates

While acreage is now just above the 2014 enrollment of 25.45 million acres, the contracts have changed. A decade ago, the lion's share of CRP acres—19.7 million acres at the time—was locked in the general signup idling ground. The average general rental rate was $51.09 per acre in 2014. Another 5.7 million acres back then were in continuous programs such as CREP, as well as "non-CREP" with an average rental rate of $106.79 per acre. The Grasslands program, which now plays a significant role, wasn't actually part of CRP in 2014.

The top five states for CRP overall payments:

- Iowa, $403 million.
- Illinois, $173.54 million.
- Minnesota, $154.9 million.
- South Dakota, $137.47 million.
- Missouri, $98.66 million.

The top five states for total CRP acreage (as of October):

- Colorado, 2.98 million acres.
- South Dakota, 2.63 million acres.
- Nebraska, 2.42 million acres.
- Texas, 2.23 million acres.

— **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

STORY SHORTS

E. coli cases linked to McDonald's burgers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a multistate E. coli outbreak linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounder burgers, with 49 people sick across 10 states, 10 hospitalizations and one death in Colorado. McDonald's Chief Supply Chain Officer Cesar Piña said in a statement the outbreak is believed to be connected to slivered onions from a single supplier. In response, the company has removed the Quarter Pounder from locations in Colorado, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming, as well as portions of Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Piña said, "All other menu items, including other beef products," are unaffected, and the company will continue to work with CDC to provide "timely updates as we restore our full menu."

Frozen waffles linked to listeria

The Food and Drug Administration announced that TreeHouse Foods Inc. is voluntarily recalling certain frozen waffle products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes. The recalled products, distributed across the U.S. and Canada, include various formats sold under multiple brand names. Consumers can identify the affected products by checking the cartons' Universal Product Code, best by date (ranging from 12 to 18 months, depending on the product), and lot codes beginning with 2C. The products are sold at major retailers like Albertson's, Aldi, Dollar General, HEB, Kroger, Target and Walmart. A complete list of the recalled products can be found at tinyurl.com/yzx7c67v.

CO offers wolf tips ahead of calving season

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has partnered with state and federal agencies to offer livestock producers training on coexistence with wolves. These sessions focus on non-lethal deterrent methods, such as range riding, carcass disposal and the use of guardian dogs, as well as a flexible grant program. The initiative aims to prepare producers for the spring calving and lambing season. Upcoming training events are scheduled in Meeker, CO, on Nov. 4 and Glenwood Springs, CO, on Nov. 5. For questions about the training, stockmanship clinics or grants, contact Dustin Shiflett, CDA non-lethal conflict reduction program manager, at dustin.shiflett@state.co.us or call 720-902-1222.

Report: Beef better than soy for muscles

New research from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shows that 100% ground beef is more effective than soy-based alternatives for muscle protein synthesis. The study, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that double the amount of soy-based protein is required to achieve the same muscle-building effects as ground beef. Researchers compared the anabolic response—muscle-building ability—of 24 healthy adults aged 18-40 after consuming one 4-ounce beef patty, one 4-ounce soy-based patty or two 4-ounce soy-based patties.

CAB reports second-best sales year

Certified Angus Beef (CAB) closed its 2024 fiscal year with its second-highest sales in company history, selling 1.237 billion pounds of beef across the U.S. and 55 other countries. Despite a 1.6% decline in total fed cattle supply, a record 5.96 million carcasses, or 37.4% of all Angus cattle, met the brand's standards. CAB Prime sales hit a new milestone with 730,000 qualifying carcasses and 50.5 million lbs. sold—a 22.5% increase. CAB's foodservice sector grew significantly, while value-added products like smoked brisket and beef bacon saw strong demand, driving growth in domestic and international markets.

RAAA, IGS announce new EPD index

According to the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA), its partnership with International Genetic Solutions (IGS) has led to the introduction of the $GAIN index. This index helps predict profitability in feedlots by evaluating an animal's efficiency in converting feed into weight. It combines the Dry Matter Intake and Average Daily Gain EPDs with higher $GAIN values, indicating more profit per head post-weaning. Released in September, the $GAIN Index is available to members via monthly downloadable reports featuring top sires. For inquiries, contact Dr. Lindsay Upperman, director of breed improvement, at lindsay@redangus.org or 940-387-3502, ext. 29.

ExxonMobil donates to wildfire relief fund

ExxonMobil contributed $100,000 to the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) and North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation's (NDSF) Out of the Ashes Wildfire Disaster Relief Program. "The outpouring of support for those who have been impacted by the wildfires has been amazing," said NDSA President Randy Schmitt. "We appreciate ExxonMobil's generosity and that of all those who have reached out to help in a time of great need." The relief effort was launched to support cattle producers affected by devastating wildfires in northwestern North Dakota and other areas. Donations can still be made by check to NDSF with "Out of the Ashes" written in the memo and sent to 4520 Ottawa St., Bismarck, ND 58503. Alternatively, donations can be made online at tinyurl.com/yx69b9hf.

Studying carbon program impacts on US forest product industries

A researcher at Michigan State University (MSU) has received an $800,000 grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) to study the reliance of wood between regions and impacts of carbon offset programs on forest product industries.

Raju Pokharel, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Forestry, will lead a team looking at how the supply chain of wood products is connected across states and regions and how carbon offset programs affect wood flow, forest investments and raw material sourcing for forest product industries. The team will also estimate potential leakage, the shift in harvesting and production of timber from one region to another when policies or programs are implemented in an area.

Through preliminary research, Pokharel and his team have identified a key knowledge gap in this space. During a time when policymakers, scientists, industry leaders and producers have worked to identify solutions to limit the amount of excess carbon in the atmosphere—a leading cause of climate change—carbon offset programs have become popular for landowners because of the credits received based on the amount of carbon their forests sequester.

As carbon offset projects and programs continue growing, it's unknown to what extent their impacts will have on forest management practices and wood products harvested for forest product industries, in addition to the scope at which harvesting is substituted from one region to another, resulting in leakage.

"As more forests enroll in these carbon offset programs, our team is going to evaluate what will happen to the wood supply and forest product industries," Pokharel said. "What will happen to trade? Are we going to import more or export more wood? Is the price of wood going to go up or down? And if one forest enrolls in a carbon offset program, will another forest in a different part of the country harvest more wood to meet that demand? What would be the amount of leakage? These are all questions we're going to answer through this project."

Modeling and analysis from the project will be carried out at a national scale to account for interstate and interregional reliance on forest product industries, including in the Mountain, Northeast, Northwest and Southern U.S. regions. Along with MSU, Colorado State University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Idaho are current partners on the project.

Pokharel and his team will conduct a meta-analysis using literature, reports, policies and databases to identify how inputs such as carbon offset programs, carbon policies (including goals set to become net-zero by 2050), market prices and the supply chain of timber relate to and influence each other. They will also hold stakeholder meetings among suppliers, producers, consumers and other key players to understand how they're affected when different scenarios occur.

"Historically, carbon offset programs have been looked at unidirectionally, and I believe we have to look at them from all directions," Pokharel said. "These are novel programs, and we should do them and have been doing them, but we should do them right because they're just a part in a big ecosystem and economy."

For example, as it relates to the economy, Pokharel asked if more forests in a region enlist into carbon offset programs, what might happen to the local lumber mills if the supply of wood decreases due to a lack of harvesting? If lumber mills begin to close in the region, then who'll produce timber products and where will the wood come from?

Pokharel said this scenario could lead to leakage, an aspect he said hasn't been studied enough when it comes to carbon offset programs. If forests aren't being harvested in one region, Pokharel said that may prompt forests to be overharvested in another region.

"We have to create a balance," Pokharel said. "If a forest is enrolled in a carbon offset program in one region, we don't know if the carbon is fully captured, partially captured or not captured at all because not harvesting in one region might change the harvesting pattern in another region, negating the intentions of the carbon offset program.

"The demand for wood hasn't changed. In fact, it might increase. We build with it and store carbon in its harvested products," Pokharel continued. "Doing these are all good, but we need to make strategic decisions around how we do them so that they're effective."

The project is funded through 2029. Pokharel said findings from this research will be shared in academic journals, as well as in presentations, workshops and fact sheets from his team. — **MSU Extension**

Estate tax limits set to expire in 2025

TAX SURVEY
(from page 1)

managing tax liability. Given the sharp rise in land values, two-thirds of cattle producers are concerned that eliminating or reducing this provision could significantly increase their tax burdens.

For many cattle producers, real estate is their most valuable asset, and selling farmland can result in significant capital gains taxes, especially for operations with limited cash flow. A Section 1031 Exchange is a critical tool for minimizing this tax burden, and according to the NCBA survey, 18% of respondents have utilized the 1031 Exchange.

Additionally, cattle producers widely utilize the Section 179 deduction, with 57% of survey respondents reporting its use within the last three years. The TCJA increased the Section 179 deduction limit to $1 million, with a total equipment purchase cap of $2.5 million. For the 2024 tax year, the Section 179 deduction limit has been adjusted to $1.22 million. Many producers noted that without this provision, they would have faced an additional tax burden exceeding $20,000.

NCBA has supported TCJA due to its enhancements of crucial tax provisions like bonus depreciation. According to NCBA's tax survey, 44% of producers utilized bonus depreciation in the past three years, with 31% stating they avoided more than $20,000 in additional taxes. The TCJA's changes enabled producers to recover costs more quickly, although the 100% deduction limit began phasing out after 2022 by 20% annually until 2027.

Section 199A, introduced by the TCJA, allows small businesses with pass-through income to deduct up to 20% of qualified business income from their taxable income. This deduction is significant for farm and ranch businesses, such as S-corporations and sole proprietorships that are not C-corporations.

With the provision set to expire at the end of 2025, 56% of NCBA survey respondents view it as crucial to their business, and the NCBA supports making it permanent to avoid a $2.2 billion increase in tax liabilities for farmers and ranchers.

Estate tax concerns

The estate tax remains one of the most pressing concerns for multigenerational cattle operations. According to the NCBA survey, over one-third of producers have been directly impacted by this tax, with some respondents forced to sell land or take out loans to meet tax obligations.

With estate tax limits set to expire in 2025, 61% of respondents worry that their operations will be affected if the threshold is reduced to $5 million per individual. Estate tax tools such as the 2032A Special Use Valuation, which measures real estate based on its agricultural use rather than development potential, have proven helpful, with 13% of respondents utilizing this provision to avoid tax penalties.

Succession planning is crucial for ensuring the continuity of multigenerational cattle operations. According to the NCBA survey, 65% of the respondents plan to pass their business down to a spouse or children, highlighting the strong desire to keep operations within the family. Regarding transitioning decision-making responsibilities, 56% have either stepped back from daily management or plan to do so within the next decade. In comparison, 29% have no immediate plans for transition.

The financial burden of succession planning is significant, with 25% of respondents spending over $10,000 annually on estate planning. Many producers seek professional advice to navigate this process, with 66% consulting attorneys, 59% working with accountants and 33% engaging financial advisers. Additionally, half of the survey respondents have purchased life insurance or similar tools to cover the costs associated with succession.

NCBA concluded the survey findings demonstrate that many producers could face severe financial hardship without these tools, threatening the future of multigenerational businesses. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 10/24/2024		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	187.00	▲	185.83	183.51
CME Feeder Index	249.56	▼	250.25	540.62
Boxed Beef Average	321.17	▲	319.26	306.85
Average Dressed Steers	304.00	▲	295.00	289.83
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,414	▲	1,411	1,382
Weekly Slaughter**	608,000	▲	586,000	638,000
Weekly Beef Production***	523.5	▲	504.1	527.8
Hide/Offal Value	11.43	▲	11.34	12.88
Corn Price	4.19	▲	4.05	4.80

*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	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
October 18	7,570	310.98	270	354.94	1,383	316.87	2,339	312.38	783	290.02	2,795	275.53
October 11	6,410	304.11	215	347.12	1,170	309.49	1,879	302.07	711	286.86	2,435	271.97
October 4	6,573	300.09	235	342.81	1,189	304.59	2,104	298.48	683	285.83	2,362	268.87
September 27	7,123	301.18	209	344.67	1,317	306.65	2,162	299.69	764	287.49	2,672	273.14

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
October 24	321.17	294.34	274.10	76.74	347.31
October 23	321.41	295.77	275.30	62.55	350.57
October 22	323.96	294.80	275.59	63.10	350.56
October 21	322.86	296.21	276.90	65.77	N/A
October 18	320.65	294.20	276.86	58.12	353.18

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	10/18	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	High*	Low*
Oct.	18763	18700	18805	18880	18738	19633	15310
Dec.	18733	18683	18813	18898	18733	19975	16853
Feb.	18813	18763	18883	18943	19000	19000	16668
Apr.	18905	18855	18950	18995	19043	19043	17005

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	10/18	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	High*	Low*
Oct.	24833	24758	24943	24985	24978	26390	21608
Nov.	24760	24660	24893	24940	24863	26460	21920
Jan.	24550	24425	24605	24675	24580	27095	22268
Mar.	24478	24365	24488	24550	24443	26625	22460

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

FED CATTLE TRADE

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	76	1,600	187.00
Live FOB Heifer	123	1,426	186.91
Dressed Del Steer	76	953	304.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	576	1,548	185.83
Live FOB Heifer	759	1,350	186.14
Dressed Del Steer	140	1,008	295.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	14,714	1,540	183.51
Live FOB Heifer	2,948	1,324	183.09
Dressed Del Steer	5,723	959	289.83
Dressed Del Heifer	3,465	835	289.99

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 20, 2024

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	20,667	3,727
Formula	274,872	4,807
Negotiated Cash	74,872	120
Negotiated Grid	42,588	1,644
Packer Owned	11,864	N/A
Total	**424,863**	**10,298**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

Delivery Month		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Oct. '24	113,660	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	2,119
Nov. '24	174,926	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,214
Dec. '24	137,375	Formula sales	4,046
Jan. '25	94,039	Forward contract sales	190
Feb. '25	83,400	Domestic sales	6,248
		NAFTA Exports	222

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES

Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	175.99	+0.08
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	174.74	+0.88
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	176.69	+0.68
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	175.22	+0.68
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	115.42	-1.59

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	301.06	305.50	294.65
601-700 lbs	284.36	283.74	275.37
701-800 lbs	261.64	274.35	242.61
801-900 lbs	245.13	246.92	240.03
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	293.26	293.73	293.41
501-600 lbs	263.42	267.29	268.53
601-700 lbs	249.04	248.47	243.60
701-800 lbs	234.53	236.96	227.34

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
	10/14/2024	10/7/2024		
Feeders	24,962	23,421	1,085,922	931,827

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

October 24, 2024

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 69,500 **Week Ago EST: 6,800** **Year Ago Act: 6,150**

Santa Teresa, NM -

Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	286-296
400-500 lbs	266-276
500-600 lbs	246-256
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	337-347
400-500 lbs	307-317
500-600 lbs	277-287

Douglas, AZ -

Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	283-293
400-500 lbs	263-273
500-600 lbs	243-253
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	333-343
400-500 lbs	303-313
500-600 lbs	273-283

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

Selected Auctions Week Ending October 24, 2024

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

DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
NORTHWEST										
October 18 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		280-316 260-321	270-320 250-302	255-305 235-267	230-267 225-246	225-257 215-240	210-237 205-230	105-134 121-143	
October 17 Burley, ID	943	307-321	370-387 300	300-358 266-282	278.50-295 249-274	259-273.50	230-252 221	190 167-199	93-149 125-138	
No report available Emmett, ID										
October 19 Eugene, OR	842		200-260* 210-229*	225-256* 200-247*	220-284* 210-250*	205-235* 190-231*	190-229*		95-112 120-131	1,600-2,000 690-2,100
October 21 Madras, OR	1,534		325-388 315-347.50	325-370 285-319	275-305 250-285	255-265 245-256	240-255 215-229	195-228 210-223	105-128 130-148	
No report available Vale, OR										
October 21 Davenport, WA	840	185	100-267.50 85-269	155-307.50 105-258	115-265 155-239.50	120-245 85-240	177.50-222.50 150-201	92.50-200 92.50-179	35-130 99-169	1,500-1,700
October 17 Toppenish, WA	1,400			290* 258-262.50*	245* 227-236*	224-245* 205*			123-143.50 134-141	1,525-1,590
FARWEST										
October 17 Orland, CA	2,036			250-363 230-310	230-310 210-281	220-284 200-242	200-235 180-222	185-226	110-145 120-157	
No report available Escalon, CA										
October 21 Famoso, CA	1,202		250-322 230-288	250-322 250-293	250-300 230-275	220-258 200-230	200-220	190-213 190-205	105-160 110-144	
October 23 Galt, CA	1,330			270-300	265-326 230-276	240-275 210-255			80-125 130-142	2,000-2,800 2,300
October 22 Turlock, CA	1,149		280-362.50 277-340	270-348 267-335	262-345 260-289	247-279 230-244	210-239 205-221.75	205-217 200-213	105-135 120-145	
No report available Salina, UT										
NORTH CENTRAL										
October 21 Iowa	5,115		345-416 295-380	288-377.50 274-335	270-315 237.50-292	250-290 246-270	250-279.50 239.50-260	222.50-258.50 216-235	105-160 117-170	
October 22 Miles City, MT	5,730	420-470 382.50-415	386-435 337.50-380	315.50-382.50 288-334	289-325.75 271-299	274-285.50 245-260	244	236.50-239.50	105-136 131-161	1,535-2,500
No report available Bassett, NE										
October 19 Ericson, NE	3,360		365-387.50 337.50-347.50	310-362.50 297.50-339	290-340 267-287.50	248-302 257-270	238-258.50	231-258.50 214.25-246.50		
October 22 Imperial, NE	2,323		341-392.50 281-330	306-370 287-309	285-328.50 254.50-272.50	283-283.50 235	245 241-243.50	215.50-254.50 238-241.25		
No report available Kearney, NE										
October 18 Lexington, NE	2,563		343.50-395 349-350	319-347 288.50-317	285-343 265-307	269-305.50 251-266.25	253.50	250.50-254.50 214-237		
October 17 Ogallala, NE	3,692	383	374-390 336-367.50	325-376 276-313	287-328 255-297	268.50-290 249.50-264.50	262-274 235.50-258.25	224.50-254 217.50-241		
October 17 Valentine, NE	6,210		362-425 332-347.50	330-361 294-330	3113-335 259-316	285-299 252.50-280.25	264.50-296.50 240.50-256.75	244.50-270 236.50-251.50		
October 18 Herreid, SD	5,364		345-350 340-341	322.50-345 287-325	296-320 251-290	287-311.25 257-260	254-273.50 238.75-254	234-270.25 224-242		
October 21 Torrington, WY	4,509		375-430 339-365	339-390 287-344	299-340 260-297	275-302 257-258	252			
SOUTH CENTRAL										
October 17 Willcox, AZ	1,517	349.50-362 328.50-333	328-371 314-325	307-340 269-310	252.50-277.50 223.50-247	237-259 202.50-227			90-130 117-144	2,000-2,500 1,975-2,100
October 21 Colorado	9,722	397.50-405 342.50-385	340-410 311-380	300-362 250-317	266-319 241-281	234-285 212-256.50	231-265 210-239.75	191-249.50 191-226.50	72.50-178 110-175	2,050-2,550 700-2,400
No report available La Junta, CO										
October 21 Loma, CO	1,170		370-415 330-350	310-350 280-330	275-310 250-275	260-280 230-250	225-255 210-240	150-235 180-220	125-140 130-150	
October 23 Dodge City, KS	2,495	346	332.50-388 300-333	311-356 256-311	268-309.50 236-269	243-269 226-253	243-260 225-238	210-260 221-223	110-139 129-156	2,375 1,075-2,200
October 17 Pratt, KS	1,508	307.50-335	362.50-365 303-327.50	325-358 276-300	272-312.50 231-277.50	246-268 222-249	231-248.50 219-244.50	219-257 214-251.50	110-144 147-170	1,475-2,125 1,650-,1850
October 17 Salina, KS	2,466		365 288-317	332-352 276-296	267-317.50 244-269	250-289 225-250.50	233-272 221-247	233-248.50 216-248		
October 17 Clovis, NM	3,091		344-367 209-322	253-358 240-276	240-300 225-285	213-256 202-217	205.50-238 186-219	132-218.50 174-190	105-120.50 127-157	1,225-2,500 1,035-1,985
October 22 El Reno, OK	4,000		350-360 295-370	265-360 242.50-335	250-310 230-281	235-280 218-257.50	220-256 212-234			
October 22 McAlester, OK	1,390		338-365 285-313	303-331 246-277	251-275 238-258	235-257 213-230	223-240 201-228	181-229 170-222	108-129 137-157	875-1,700 950-2,000
October 22 Oklahoma City, OK	8,620	369 290-323	309-386 273-323	270-332 246-305	250-316 232.50-278	244-280 225-260	230-273.50 229-244	211-252 200-228		
October 18 Cuero, TX	2,029	225-435 233-285	220-300 221-272	229-362 214-260	219-280 203-254	206-250 195-240	197-230 134-216		87-125 127-160	1,250-2,000
October 17 Dalhart, TX	2,433		366-370 315	280-350 239-290	270-300 216-262	252-280 220-237	233-254 181	231-253.75 171-221	90-130 140-158	
October 17 San Angelo, TX	1,200				229-238	248 224-228			105-126 130-150	1,800-2,300 1,600-2,700
October 17 Tulia, TX	1,884		280	283-295 225-254	270-289 218-238	226.50-250 205-247	219-230 217-235.75	215	102-117.50 120-142	1,500-1,625
EAST										
October 18 Alabama	10,681	400 288-340	310-365 260-305	286-330 230-285	252-304 224-255	235-260 208-232.50	223-255 190-225		102-142 126-170	1,200-3,275 900-2,750
October 22 Lexington, KY	1,154	245*	300-310* 240-242.50*	287.50* 239-259*	265-288* 235-259*	241-284* 220-254*	244-265.50* 219-234.50*	222-253.25* 161-228.75*	118-149 105-170	1,375-2,125
October 21 Joplin, MO	8,127		345-370 315	290-347.50 270-303	272-308 251-275	259-283 246-259.50	249-266 232-249	230-256 219.50-229		
October 21 Tennessee	8,957	283-370 240-370	275-360 222.50-335	232.50-315 212.50-282	235-292 190-268	218-287 188-270	205-261 175-227.50	160-235 160-212.50	100-147 123-180	1,875-2,675 1,000-2,350
October 21 Virginia	4,855	247.50	250-317.50 160-270	185-302.50 175-265	180-289 200-236.25	187.50-280 187.50-245	219-264 175-225	200-237.50 157.50-221		
CANADA										
October 18 Lethbridge, Alberta	240		500-600 430-400	449-526 365-429	397-459 374-408	378-417 332-374	325-404 310-330	315-332 294-319	160-185.50 190-220	

Beef production and fall beef demand

As of Oct. 18, the daily Choice boxed beef price was $320.65/cwt, up from a recent low of $296.37/cwt on Sept. 26 and the highest price since July 15. The weekly Choice boxed beef price is also at the highest level since July and has averaged 2.2% higher year over year and a record high for the year-to-date (Figure 1).

Numerous wholesale cuts have moved higher recently including chuck arm roast, chuck roll, chuck mock tender and chuck flap. Wholesale round cuts have also moved higher including round knuckle, top inside round, bottom (gooseneck) round, outside round and eye of round.

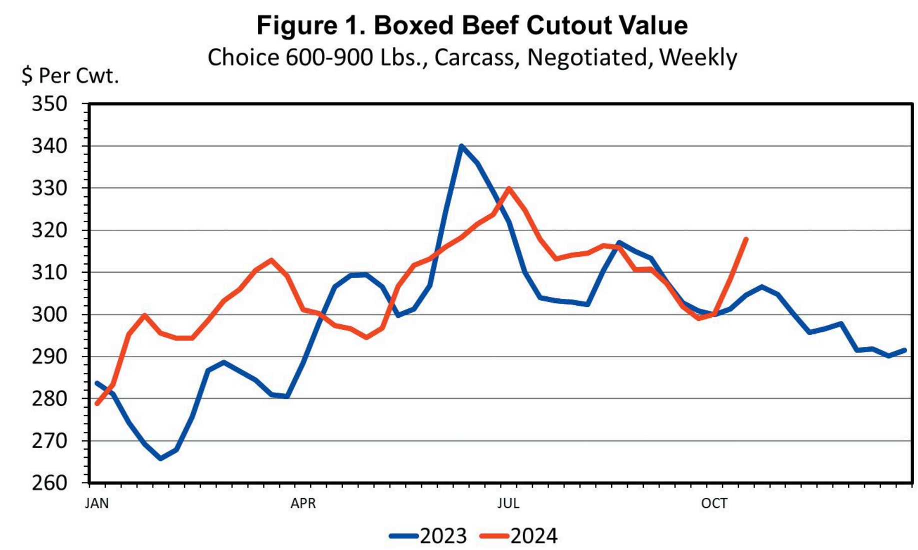
Middle meat prices from the loin and rib have also increased, including bottom sirloin flap, sirloin tri-tip, loin strip and tenderloin. Likewise, wholesale ribeye prices have increased recently and are showing an early seasonal demand for the holidays.

Thus far in 2024, steer slaughter is unchanged from one year ago. Heifer slaughter is down 1.6% year over year. Total fed slaughter is down 0.7% compared to last year, less than earlier expected. For the year-to-date, steer carcasses have averaged 25.5 pounds heavier than last year, and heifer carcasses are averaging 22.6 lbs. heavier than one year ago.

The result of stronger-than-expected fed slaughter and heavier carcass weights has been an increase in fed beef production of 1.9% year over year thus far in 2024. In fact, for the last 16 weeks, fed beef production has been 3.7% larger year over year. The increase in boxed beef prices is perhaps even more surprising in the face of increased fed beef production. Higher prices and increased quantities suggest that beef demand continues to be very robust.

In contrast to fed beef production, nonfed beef production is sharply lower this year, down 12.8% year over year. Total cow slaughter is down 15.3%, consisting of a 13.8% year-over-year decrease in dairy cow slaughter and a 16.8% decrease in beef cow slaughter so far this year. Bull slaughter is also down 8.1% compared to last year. Tighter supplies of lean trimmings have kept processing beef prices higher this year and the demand for lean has increased demand for lean carcass cuts. For example, the current wholesale price of 90% lean trimmings is higher than wholesale prices for top inside round, bottom (gooseneck) round, and outside round.

In the fall, summer grilling demand gives way to seasonally stronger demand for roasts, crock pot cooking and increased middle meat demand in restaurants. Wholesale ground beef prices have moderated recently as hamburger grilling demand slows but prices remain well above year-ago levels. Total beef production is down a scant 0.7% so far this year and may end the year equal to year ago levels. Despite this, wholesale and retail beef prices are higher thus far in 2024. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**



CME Feeder Cattle Index lower

MARKETS
(from page 1)

October. Placements in September are estimated to be 95.8%, and marketings for September are predicted at 102.2%.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also closed higher, with the October contract up $2.68 to $249.40 and the November contract up $2.77 to $248.52. The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 69 cents to $249.56.

Corn futures were higher, with the December contract up 15 cents to $4.21 and the March contract up 14 cents to $4.35.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,127 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers under 800 lbs. sold steady to $5 lower, with heavier weights selling steady to $3 higher. Feeder heifers sold from $2 higher to $6 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold between $250-265, averaging $255.78.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 3,505 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers were $9-21 lower and heifers were $4-26 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 741 lbs. sold for $276.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 8,620 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers under 800 lbs. sold steady to $3 lower and over 800 lbs. were steady to $2 higher. Feeder heifers traded steady to $2 lower. Steer calves sold steady to $4 lower, and heifer calves were mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 719 lbs. sold for $250-258, averaging $254.89. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

With cow efficiency, phenotype is king

"That's the one driving force in the UK funding and government policy—how to reduce methane per kilogram of product. We can't wait to do it and when we decide to do it, we need to do it fast," said Mike Coffey of Scotland's Rural College. Coffey was a featured speaker during the 2024 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium June 12 in Knoxville, TN.

Coffey shared his perspective on the United Kingdom's (UK) progress towards reducing methane emissions in beef and dairy cattle. Updates included current selection and management trends in dairy and beef populations, his perspective on what the future of UK production will look like, some of the challenges the UK will face, and his vision for solving the challenge of methane emissions.

Coffey emphasized that production per cow had increased, which plays a role in reduced methane emissions per unit of product. Like the U.S. dairy, selection for production alone negatively affected disease resistance and cow fertility. Selection on the overall index PLI, which is like net merit indices in the U.S. dairy population, has been successful in not only increasing production but improving disease resistance and fertility in cattle.

Coffey said he believes more needs to be done to meet climate change goals, farmers' needs and society's needs. Old practices, such as antibiotic use and exporting calves for veal or euthanizing calves, were not deemed socially acceptable and UK market demands for dairy products reflected as such.

He explained this is where utilizing sexed beef semen can play a role and give calves a purpose in the system. He also believes dairy cows will need to be even less susceptible to illness, have increased fertility and live longer to decrease the number of environmentally and fiscally expensive replacements that need to be raised. Current levels of fertility, disease resistance and longevity are not enough.

"More efficient cows that are good for the environment actually are more profitable than not," he said, emphasizing that the cows with the least environmental impact should also be the most profitable.

There will, however, be challenges to achieving these lofty goals. Coffey noted climate change and extreme weather events, geopolitical events that can drastically impact input costs and supply chains, energy prices, increasing cow sizes and a lack of weight data collection will be obstacles that need to be overcome for these goals to be met—with an emphasis on decreasing cow size.

Coffey summarized, "Change is coming, but you are capable of dealing with it. It's not scary, it's an opportunity."

To watch the full presentation, visit youtu.be/NRGHLZMrdPg. For more information about this year's Symposium and BIF, including additional presentations and award winners, visit BIFSymposium.com. — **BIF**

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SALE REPORTS

THOMAS ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
Oct. 17, Baker City, OR
110 Angus bulls . . . $7,227
93 Angus females 4,821
Auctioneer: Trent Stewart
Sale Managers: Cotton & Associates

TOPS—Bull: Thomas Trendsetter 3538, 8/23/2023 by SG Salvation; to Signature Farms LLC, Coloma, WI, $55,000. **Bred heifers:** Thomas Miss Lucy 2574, 9/4/2022 by Connealy Clarity bred to GB Fireball 672; to Circle F Farms, Baxley, GA, $38,000. Thomas Lady Jet 3073, 1/20/2023 by Connealy Clarity bred to Baldridge Heat Seeker H925; to Grieb Ranch, Arroyo Grande, CA, $14,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

LAMBERT RANCH BUTTE BULL SALE
Oct. 19, Oroville, CA
32 Hereford bulls $6,109
22 Angus bulls 5,732
Auctioneer: Rick Machado

TOPS—Hereford bulls: Lambert Whit 83L, by NJW 135U 33B WHIT 373G ET; to Steve Bianchi, Valley Ford, CA, $9,500. Lambert Hoss 33L, by NJW 170D 41E Hoss 222H; to Steve Bianchi, Valley Ford, CA, $7,750. Lambert End Game 59L, by VCR LR 173D End Game 32H ET; to El Sur Ranch, Monterey, CA, $7,750. **Angus bull:** Westwind LE Doc Ryan 1465, by T/D Doc Ryan 049; to Gansberg Ranch, Gardnerville, NV, $8,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

NILE RED ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Oct. 18, Billings, MT
14 Red Angus bred heifers $6,321
20 Red Angus open heifers 4,320
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
Sale Manager: Thomas Livestock Services

TOPS—Bred heifers: Feddes Lakina 024-365, 2/11/2023 by C-T Reputation 0094 bred to Bieber Payday K113; to Bullis Creek Ranch, Wood Lake, NE, $12,000. C-T Miss Pan 3077, 1/28/2023 by Bieber CL Energize F121 bred to Feddes Eastwood 3284; to Jeff Pettit, Sebree, KY, $9,250. CK Olivia 3022, 1/22/2023 by HXC Grindstone 9908G bred to PIE Captain 057; to Fischer Red Angus, Harlowton, MT, $9,250. FCC Blockana I66-3304, 1/16/2023 by TAC Drifter H10 bred to Bieber Payday K113; to Jake Patterson, Gooding, ID, $9,000. **Open heifers:** HRR Sallee 447, 2/23/2024 by HRR Franchise 8211; to Blom Red Angus, Vida, MT, $6,500. DCCC Sue 4005, 3/14/2024 by Six Mile Timberlake 180T; to Madison Brist, Kila, MT, $6,000. SUTH Daisey Duke 204M, 2/18/2024 by Red U2Q Boss Hog 2161K; to Greg Sanders, Clinton, MS, $6,000. TJB Energize Marta 412, 2/11/2024 by Bieber CL Energize F121; to Gilleard Show Stock, Stevensville, MT, $6,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

NILE ANGUS SALE
Oct. 18, Billings, MT
1 Open cow $16,000
19 Bred heifers . . . 11,460
27 Open heifers. . . . 5,750
24 Embryos 687
3 Pregnancies 8,833
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
Sale Manager: Ron Frye Marketing

TOPS—Bred heifers: Sitz Shauna 47L, 1/18/2023 by Sitz Incentive 704H bred to Sitz Insignia 12031; to Elm Tree Farm, Paris, KY, $39,000. Pick of Bred Heifers; to Edgar Bros., Rockham, SD, $20,000. JCH J&K Rita 3636, 2/25/2023 by Sitz Incentive 704H bred to Raven Republic; to 3C Cattle, Stevensville, MT, $17,500. SRS Rose 3120, 2/15/2023 by Sitz Resilient 10208 bred to SRS Logical 5273L; to Parker Cattle Co., Twin Falls, ID, $17,000. KG Enchantress 3199, 3/2/2023 by HA Opportunity H695 bred to Ellingson Badlands 0285; to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, $17,000. VDAR Polly 3729, 1/21/2023 by B Bar Black Mass 3045 bred to VDAR Kawliga 2141; to VLS Angus, Dunn Center, ND, $16,000. **Open cow:** BCC Everelda Entense 58J, 2/15/2021 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Bear Mountain Angus, Palisade, NE, $16,000, 1/2 interest. **Open heifers:** Pick of open heifers; to Basin Angus Ranch, Laurel, MT, $18,000. Willekes Rita M103, 1/2/2024 by Basin Jameson 1076; to Turner Meadow Ranch, Wills Point, TX, $15,000, 1/2 interest. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

BASIN ANGUS RANCH FEMALE SALE
Oct. 19, Billings, MT
70 Total registered females $13,875
161 Commercial bred cows. 3,136
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
Sale Manager: Dick Beck

TOPS—Bred cows: Basin Camilla 9044, 1/28/2019 by Basin Rainmaker 4404 bred to Boyd Bluegrass 1203; to Branch View Angus, Hustonville, KY, $32,500, 1/2 interest. Basin Lucy 9007, 1/7/2019 by EXAR Monumental 6056B bred to Basin Kash Deposit 2138; to Markota Angus, Lisbon, OH, $21,000, 1/2 interest. **Bred heifers:** Basin Joy 3061, 1/16/2023 by EZAR Step Up 9178 bred to Basin Rangeland 3511; to Boyd Beef Cattle, Mays Lick, KY, $35,000, 1/2 interest. Basin Joy 3461, 3/26/2023 by Basin Jameson 1076 bred to Basin True Grit 1021; to Express Ranches, Yukon, OK, $24,000. Basin Lucy 3512, 1/18/2023 by SG Salvation bred to Basin True Value 3017; to Rooney Angus, White Sulphur Springs, MT, $24,000. **Open cows:** Basin Joy 8471, 1/25/2018 by Basin Paycheck 5249; to Powerline Genetics, McCook, NE, $29,000. Basin Lucy 8444, 1/23/2018 by Basin Rainmaker 4404; to Branch View Angus, Hustonville, KY, $21,000. **Open heifers:** Basin Joy 4025, 1/4/2024 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Jimmy Joe Henderson, Stettler, AB, $50,000, 1/2 interest. Basin Lucy 8431, 1/21/2018 by Basin Rainmaker 4404 with a Basin Jackson 4723 bull calf by side; to Branch View Angus, Hustonville, KY, $34,000, 1/2 interest. Basin Rita 4439, 2/17/2024 by GB Fireball 672; to Nowatzke Cattle Co., Michigan City, IN, $25,000, 1/2 interest. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

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SALE CALENDAR

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ALL BREEDS

Nov. 2 – World of Bulls Bull Sale, Galt, CA

ANGUS

Oct. 28 – Dal Porto Livestock, Female Sale, Brewster, NE
Oct. 30 – SpringLake Angus, Dispersal Sale, Lynch, NE
Oct. 31 – Marcy Livestock, Cow Dispersal Sale, Gordon, NE
Nov. 7 – Stokrose Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Moses Lake, WA
Nov. 9 – Montana Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Bigfork, MT
Nov. 11 – Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 13 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Nov. 14 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 15 – Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL
Nov. 16 – TLC Ranch & Sugar Top Angus, Bull Sale, Jerome, ID
Nov. 18 – J&L Livestock, Bred Females Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 21 – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Nov. 22 – TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Nov. 23 – Baldridge/Tiedeman & Frank Cattle and Genetics, Female Sale, Chappell, NE
Nov. 23 – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 23 – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 23 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Nov. 23 – Queen Ann Cattle, Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 26 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 29 – Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 2 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 2 – Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec. 3 – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec 3 – ZumBrunnen Angus, Production Sale, Lusk, WY

HEREFORD

Nov. 25 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

RED ANGUS

Nov. 2 – Bet on Red Sale, Reno, NV
Nov. 4 – Sand Dune Cattle Co., Dispersal Sale, Burwell, NE
Nov. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT
Nov. 18 – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Female Sale, Othello, WA

SALERS

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

STABILIZER

Nov. 9 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Nov. 16 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 15 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 18 – COLA's 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR
Nov. 23 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID

They will have as much QUALITY and PROGRAM as any set of females you will find anywhere in America

1,640 BRED ANGUS HEIFERS

700+ AI Bred Heifers

129	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Feb. 12-15
120	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Feb. 12-15
58	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified	Calve Feb. 18-20
42	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified	Calve Feb. 18-20
62	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Mar. 2-4
33	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Mar. 2-4
89	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Connealy King Air	Calve Mar. 4-6
72	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Connealy King Air	Calve Mar. 4-6
26	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified	Calve Feb. 14-17
34	BWF Heifers Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Mar. 2-4
33	BWF Heifers Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Mar. 2-4

910 Pasture Bred Heifers
Bred to LBW Vermilion Angus Bulls

87	Carrying bull & heifer calves	Calve Feb. 1-15
242	Carrying bull & heifer calves	Calve Feb 16-March 2
170	Carrying bull & heifer calves	Calve March 1-15
365	Carrying bull & heifer calves	Calve March 16-31
146	Carrying bull & heifer calves	Calve April 1-30

1,990 BRED ANGUS COWS
Bred to High Performing Vermilion Angus Bulls

1,275 • 2- Coming 3-Year-Old Cows

570 Head	Calve Mar. 1-24
600 Head	Calve Mar. 25-Apr. 30
55 Head	Calve May 1-20
40 Head	Calve May 21-June 15
7 Head 2- Coming 3-Year-Olds (Papers Available)	Calve Mar. 1-22
4 Head 2- Coming 3-Year Olds (Papers Available)	Calve Mar. 23-Apr. 30

715+ • Angus Bred Cows

335	3- Coming 4-Year-Old	Calve March 20-April 30
27	3- Coming 4-Year-Old	Calve May 1-30
8	3- Coming 4-Year-Old	Calve June 1-25
69	Coming 3&4-Year-Old Bred NJW Polled Hereford Bulls	Calve March 1-24
66	Coming 3&4-Year-Old Bred NJW Polled Hereford Bulls	Calve March 25-April 30
12	Coming 3&4-Year-Old Bred NJW Polled Hereford Bulls	May 1-18
200	Coming 3,4,&5 Year Olds Ultrasounded for	March 20-April 30 and May 1-30

VERMILION LEO
Registration #20050354 | Born 2/5/2021

CED Acc % Prog	BW Acc % Prog	WW Acc % Prog	YW Acc % Prog
+14	-.2	+74	+120
.38	.56	.48	.44
4%	20%	20%	35%

CIRCLE L UNIFIED
Registration #20592872 | Born 9/29/2022

CED Acc % Prog	BW Acc % Prog	WW Acc % Prog	YW Acc % Prog
+12	+.2	+80	+128
.35	.56	.48	.42
10%	30%	15%	30%

CONNEALY KING AIR
Registration #19468964 | Born 7/27/2018

CED Acc % Prog	BW Acc % Prog	WW Acc % Prog	YW Acc % Prog
+18	-1.4	+51	+99
.80	.85	.85	.83
1%	10%	80%	70%
445	698	604	450

J & L Livestock

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

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Broadcast live on Northern Livestock Video online at www.northernlivestockvideo.com

The Best of Northern Cattle! NORTHERN LIVESTOCK VIDEO AUCTION

Sale catalog and videos can be viewed at www.northernlivestockvideo.com after October 20th