

# Western Livestock Journal®

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## INSIDE WLJ

Happy Halloween!  
From WLJ!



NO WORRIES — University of Idaho study concludes sage grouse and cattle can coexist peacefully on same land. Page 6

### A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

While the lamb market is currently down from a year ago, this was not the case in October 2002. "Slaughter lamb prices in the northern Plains were significantly higher in mid-October 2002 than in 2001. USDA Choice wooled slaughter lambs averaged \$76 to \$80 per cwt compared to \$46 to \$50 last year—a \$30-per-cwt increase. Medium and large frame No. 1 and No. 2 70-to-90-pound feeder lambs were about \$78 to \$83 per cwt this year compared to \$58 to \$63 last year—a \$20 per cwt advance," read WLJ's market advisor report.

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## Scoping report released on Colorado River's future

### — Post-2026 operations

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) released a scoping report showing some of the comments and recommendations received from stakeholders and other individuals to guide the stability of the Colorado River post-2026.

BOR also offered a timeline for when a new environmental impact

statement and the opportunity for public involvement to comment on the new guidelines set to go into effect in 2027 when the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines expire.

According to a BOR statement, a draft supplemental environmental impact statement to revise the interim guidelines would be issued by the end of this month for the river's operation through the end of 2026.

"The Colorado River Basin has come together over the past year to create a consensus path in the short term that now allows us to focus on the future," said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. "Today's next steps for post-2026 planning helps continue the momentum between all stakeholders across the Basin on what the future operations of this critical system will

look like."

The report, "Scoping Report for Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations," shows the range of issues and recommendations the agency received from over 24,000 comments during a public comment period conducted this summer.

See CO GUIDELINES on page 9



Mitch Owens, BLM

The Bureau of Reclamation has released a scoping report regarding the future management of the Colorado River. Pictured here, the Colorado River winding near the Chemehuevi Wilderness of Southern California.

## Greens call for groundwater reductions in San Pedro River Basin

### — Water rights quantified for area

Groundwater users in southern Arizona will soon be seeing water use restrictions.

The Center for Biological Diversity penned a letter to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), calling for a reduction in groundwater use in the Upper San Pedro River Basin to accommodate water rights for the San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area.

"For decades the Arizona Department of Water Resources has approved the use of more groundwater than it knew would be available," said Robin Silver of the Center for Biological Diversity in a statement. "By prioritizing the interests of developers, the agency shortchanged the San Pedro River and burdened residents with water use reductions that will inevitably come to pass."

The group wrote in its letter that the water department "can no longer hide behind its 'federal reserved water rights are not quantified' excuse," as the Superior Court of Arizona released an order quantifying water rights for the conservation area in August. Under the order, groundwater levels must be maintained at nine monitoring wells within the conservation area.

The Center calls for the ADWR to apologize to the more than 22,200 residents of the Sierra Vista area (south of Tucson) who are dependent on groundwater, as they will now face water use reductions. The group said the department has been deceitful for decades by "rubber-stamping unsustainable local water use and by refusing to clearly advise local well owners and homebuyers that the day would inevitably come when their groundwater use would need to be reduced."

The environmental group cited

a 2011 study prepared by a consulting group for Friends of the San Pedro River and the Walton Family Foundation that found the river will disappear over the next century if water use is not adjusted.

"ADWR has been knowingly contributing to and has facilitated the development of this crisis for decades," the Center concluded in its letter. "ADWR can no longer ignore addressing and working to resolve this crisis that ADWR itself has helped create."

Conflicts in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area have been numerous over the past few years, with environmentalists accusing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of favoring cattle ranchers for livestock grazing in the conservation area. Most recently in April, BLM authorized livestock grazing on four allotments within the conservation area.

See AZ WATER on page 13

## USFWS proposes new conservation area in MT

### — Comment period extended

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has extended the public scoping period on a proposal to establish a Missouri Headwaters Conservation Area in southwestern Montana.

USFWS is in the first phase of the planning process and is gathering information, including comments, issues, ideas and suggestions.

If created, the proposed 5.7 million acre conservation area would encompass portions of Beaverhead County and portions of Madison, Deer Lodge, Jefferson and Silver Bow counties.

The agency would seek willing sellers of conservation easements on up to 250,000 acres. The easements would protect wildlife habitat and open space while allowing agricultural uses.

Money for the easement purchases would come from the federal Land and Water Conservation

Fund.

In a USFWS fact sheet, the agency said the easements are designed to restrict development and subdivision but contain no restrictions on grazing, allow existing ag practices and permit existing residences and agricultural buildings. The easements also do not require public access.

USFWS said the area offers a stronghold for habitat connectivity and corridors for grizzly bears, pronghorn, elk, mule deer and big-horn sheep in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Crown of the Continent and wilderness of central Idaho.

Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT-02) sent a letter to USFWS Director Martha Williams on Sept. 8, calling the proposed conservation area a "land grab," and criticized the agency for consulting with non-governmental agencies and local municipalities without public notice.

See MO HEADWATERS on page 16

## Futures crash following Cattle on Feed report

It was a topsy-turvy week for the market following a bearish Cattle on Feed report. Futures crashed close to limit down on Monday following the report's release and were unable to muster up any support over the week.

"It is likely that some of the pressure seen Monday is focused on emotionally driven technical selling, but when prices continue to ratchet steadily lower through the day, it is impossible to expect buyer interest to develop," DTN said on Monday.

Live cattle futures closed lower, with the October contract down \$3.70 to \$181.70 and the December contract down almost \$6 to \$179.32.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 40,000 head. Live steers sold from \$182-185, and dressed steers sold from \$288-290.

"Cattle owners are discovering very little has changed in the cash markets," wrote the Cattle Report on Thursday. "The sellers still have the trade leverage to say 'no' and the processors still need cattle."

Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 22 totaled 100,824 head. Live steers averaged \$186.10, and dressed steers aver-

aged \$293.74.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 502,000 head. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 638,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 14 was 616,259 head. The average steer dressed weight was 927 lbs., 5 lbs. above the prior week.

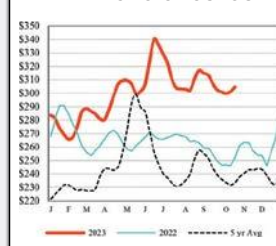
Boxed beef prices were higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained a little over \$2 to close at \$306.85, and the Select cutout gained about \$4.70 to close at \$279.69.

"Boxed beef values continue to exhibit volatility as the rib gyrates up and down this week," said Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday.

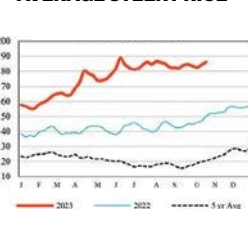
See MARKETS on page 19

Time Sensitive  
Priority Handling  
**PERIODICAL:**

### WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



### 5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$183.51	\$289.63	\$240.62
WEEK ENDING: 10-26-23		

## COMMENTS

### Speed bump

The futures market had a huge limit down reaction to the most recent Cattle on Feed report. Cattle on feed numbers were just 100.6% higher than last year. We knew more cattle would be available in late October. The cash fed cattle market was trading at the \$183 level at mid-week, \$3 lower than the week before. I would call the market short-term bearish.



CROW

What seemed to trip the futures trigger was September placements, which were 6.1% higher than last year. Futures traders fled for the door and sold the market. But the cash market will adjust fine. Packers still need cattle going into the holidays. The Choice cutout is on the move and was trading at \$307, and slaughter levels are picking up. Over 100,000 head of fed cattle traded through the week ending Oct. 22 on the cash market, with a weighted average of \$186.33. Packers processed 638,000 head and slaughter should be the same level for the next few weeks.

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist said, "Higher placements and reduced marketings resulted in an October 1 feedlot inventory of 11.58 million head, 0.6% higher than one year ago. This was the first year-over-year increase in 13 months and the second highest October on-feed total in the data series back to 1996. The October USDA Cattle on Feed report showed September feedlot marketings down 10.6% year over year. This marketing total reflects one less business day in the month compared to last year and was slightly less than average pre-report estimates for marketings. September feedlot placements were up 6.1% from one year ago. Placements were expected to be up year over year, but this total was larger than pre-report estimates."

The feeder cattle markets have been taking a beating on the futures board. September feeder cattle were trading at \$267 in September, the October contract is down to the \$238 level and the CME Feeder Cattle Index is at the \$240 level. Be reminded there are a million fewer feeder cattle available this year over last year. Beef production will be down again in 2024. Light feeder steers are still bringing over \$300 in the markets and 650-pound calves are trading at the \$250 level. Cash is king.

The Boys at HedgersEdge.com seem to think we may see new highs: "The feeder and calf supply outside feedyards is estimated to be down 1.096 million head from year ago levels. This is less of a reduction than the 1.3 million drop reported on July 1. Reduced placements during the third quarter (down 132,000 Y/Y) account for the change from July 1. Feeders challenged their historic 'cyclical' price ratio high versus fed cattle during September. A price retreat this month was expected. This does not imply feeders have attained their 'cyclical' high price for this cattle cycle. However, it does indicate that fed cattle prices need to advance to pull feeders to new price highs. New cyclical highs for both fed cattle and feeders are expected during the upcoming year."

Beef demand must stay strong for cattle prices to advance. The holiday rib and tenderloin markets typically lift the cutout values, and this year should be no different. Economic reports indicate consumers are still spending. The main drivers for beef demand are wages and employment and there don't seem to be any problems in that regard. Credit card debt and mortgage debt appear to be the grey clouds on the horizon.

The latest USDA Retail Report for the seven-day period ending Oct. 26 shows beef prices being featured by 63.2% of the 29,200 retailers surveyed. That is 8 percentage points below the prior week and 0.2 points below the same week last year. 80% seems to be the level indicating strong retail demand. Beef production is down 5.3% so far this year and is estimated to be down another 6.5% in 2024.

The number of heifers on feed is about 40% of the fed steer and heifers on feed, which is the highest since October 2001. Monthly slaughter data through September shows that total female (cow plus heifer) slaughter has averaged 51.8% of total cattle slaughter for the past 12 months. This is the highest 12-month average female slaughter percentage since August 1986. The latest slaughter data and the latest Cattle on Feed report both suggest that heifer retention is not beginning in 2023, more like 2025, according to Peel.

There are always curve balls thrown at cattle markets, but this should be a short-lived hiccup due to the heavy placements, this market still has more upside. — **PETE CROW**

## GUEST OPINION

If you don't live in Washington, D.C., or its suburbs, you probably think of the nation's capital as the Capital of Perpetual Dysfunction. Fair enough. No question there's political dysfunction aplenty in the District of Columbia. Lately there's also been an increase in another sort of dysfunction—violent crime.

But dysfunction is only one side of Washington's story. If you've visited the city as a tourist, you've experienced another—the district's wondrous museums and monuments, most of them wondrously free. There's still another side: Washington is a very livable place.

I know there are farmers who can't imagine any city being livable. Participating in a crop tour a few years ago, I rode with a farmer who felt claustrophobic in the tiniest of hamlets. Stopping at a traffic light made him seethe with impatience. Yet as cities go, Washington ranks high on livability. It has plenty of trees to offset the concrete. It has beautiful architecture. And it's walkable.

As an adult I've lived in 12 states and three foreign countries but in none of them as long as my combined 16 years in Washington. Having just moved out of Washington, D.C., to Vancouver, WA, I've been thinking a lot about the capital recently. I will get back to the dysfunction in a minute, after a few words on Washington's other sides.

People are sometimes surprised when I tell them it's easy for Washingtonians to keep the sides separate. But it's true. The dysfunction doesn't automatically spill over into daily life. Many residents spend no more time talking politics than people in the rest of the country. Despite the rise in crime, many Washingtonians live whole lifetimes unscathed.

I first experienced Washington as a 12-year-old tourist on a family vacation in 1959. I have two strong memories from that trip. One was meeting our congressman, Michigan Republican (and later President) Gerald R. Ford. My father wasn't particularly political, and he certainly wasn't a campaign contributor. Somehow, though, he and the congressman hit it off. Wanting to continue the conversation with his constituent, Ford sent aides to our car with nickels to put in the parking meter. Ah, for the days when you could park in Washington for nickels.



## OBITUARY



**Omer J. Burenheide;**  
1933-2023

Omer J. Burenheide, 90, of Fruita, CO, passed away peacefully on Oct. 17 after a short illness. Omer was born on Sept. 23, 1933, to Henry and Elizabeth Burenheide in Hartford, KS. He was one of 11 children.

Omer attended a one-room schoolhouse until the family moved from Kansas to Fleming, CO. While attending high school, Omer was introduced to agriculture education and FFA, which became his lifelong passion. After graduation, he went on to study at Colorado State University where he met his true love, Phyllis Kremers. He then became the ag advisor and FFA teacher in Fruita, CO. He continued this legacy for 31 years! He has been recognized

for many awards such as Colorado Agriculture Teacher of the Year, Mesa County Cattlemen's Producer of the Year and Fruita Monument Hall of Fame, to name a few.

After college, he was drafted into the Army and spent two years as a radio operator while stationed in Tokyo, Japan. In July 1957, Phyllis and Omer were married and moved to the Western Slope. They had two children, Elaine Clemans and Charles (Angie).

Omer was a proud teacher and rancher while remaining very active in the Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Mesa County and Colorado Cattlemen's associations, Mesa County Fair, and served on many boards in the community. Omer retired from teaching in 1990 and was able to enjoy full-time ranching for the remainder of his life. He loved his many cow dogs and irrigating on the mountain in the summer.

Omer was predeceased by his parents; two brothers; six sisters; his wife, Phyllis; and granddaughter, Elizabeth. He is survived by his two children and proud of his grandchildren, Justin and Zachary Clemans, and Allison and Lindsey Burenheide.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in his honor to the FFA Alumni Scholarship, P.O. Box 113, Fruita, CO 81521.

## THE OTHER SIDE(S) OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The other memory was of visiting the National Gallery of Art. My father was a commercial artist and painted as a hobby and I'd been to the art museum in our hometown of Grand Rapids many times. The National Gallery wowed me. I fell in love with the French Impressionists and decided Paul Cezanne was my favorite painter. When mom and dad let my younger sister and I choose how to spend our last day in town, we both voted to return to the gallery. I've been back countless times since. Earlier this month I spent my last day in the District there. Cezanne is still my favorite.

Washington is the one place I've lived where I've known crime. Near the end of my first five-year residence in the 1970s, a young man bashed a crowbar through my living-room window. Thankfully, he fled when he realized the house was occupied. My lady friend (now wife) was mugged once and on another occasion talked a 10-year-old with a gun out of taking her purse. Since returning to the capital in 2012, however, we've never felt unsafe. Walking is one of the great pleasures of living in Washington and from our condo building on a leafy street in Foggy Bottom we had grocery stores, restaurants, doctors, banks, pharmacies, the subway, the Potomac River and the Kennedy Center within a 15-minute stroll.

What changed during the 30 years between our two residences in the district is the political dysfunction. Washington was less divisive in the '70s. Liberals and conservatives were more likely to see each other as decent people who just had different views. They socialized with each other.

Back then, both sides accepted a key unwritten rule of democracy—you're going to lose some elections. Defeat isn't the end of the world; you can still win the next one, or the one after that. Meanwhile, you may be able to convince the other side to accept some compromises. These days both sides assume that if the other wins, the country will be irretrievably changed, the American way of life ended. They think avoiding this terrible outcome justifies breaking rules and smashing customary procedures.

This view is dangerously misconceived. It's not the realization of either side's policy preferences that threatens democracy and the American way of life. It's both sides' eroding commitment to normal democratic processes. I say both sides knowing that each sees the other as the greater sinner in this regard. Whoever's at fault—lately for the inability of the House to elect a speaker—democratic processes have clearly broken down. A Washington Post columnist quoted a Republican congressman suggesting holding a lottery and forcing the loser to be speaker.

Political dysfunction is not why I'm leaving Washington, however. Our daughter and her husband have moved to Vancouver, and for the first time since either of us were 18, my wife and I have decided we want to live near family. I'll miss Washington, but I'm looking forward to the change. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

### HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"See... yer not foolin' anyone... Jus'pay yer feed, café, an' saddle shop bills so we can come to town like normal folk."

**Letters to the editor:** Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing [editorial@wlj.net](mailto:editorial@wlj.net) or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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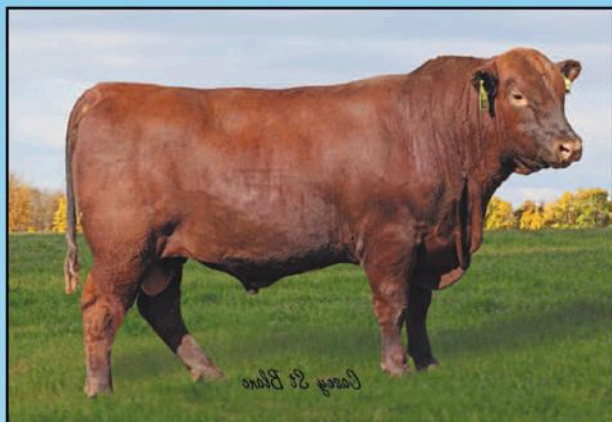
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# Fall Herdbuilder Bull Sale

## Monday, November 13, 2023

100 Coming 2 YR Old Red Angus and Red Hybred Bulls Sell!  
Yellowstone Development Center • Shepherd, MT • 1:00 MST

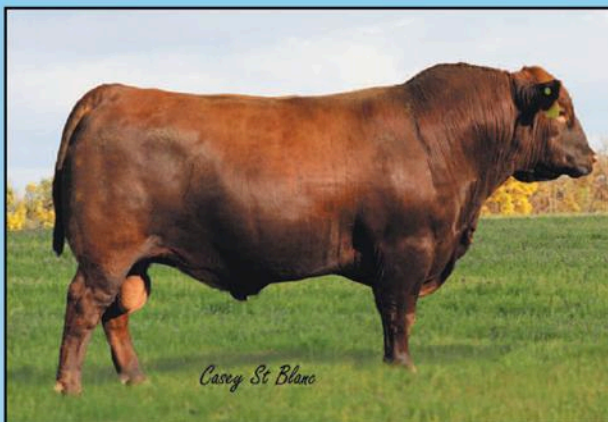


**2412K • 4618409 • 2/17/22**

**CAPTAIN X FOREFRONT X ACCENT**

105PROS, 64HB, 41GM, 14CED, -5.1BW, 67WW, 113YW, 35MILK, 13HPG, 9CEM, 16ST, 0.58MB, 0.17RE, \$19,986\$P, \$85\$R

*Solid numbers in this herd bull prospect!*

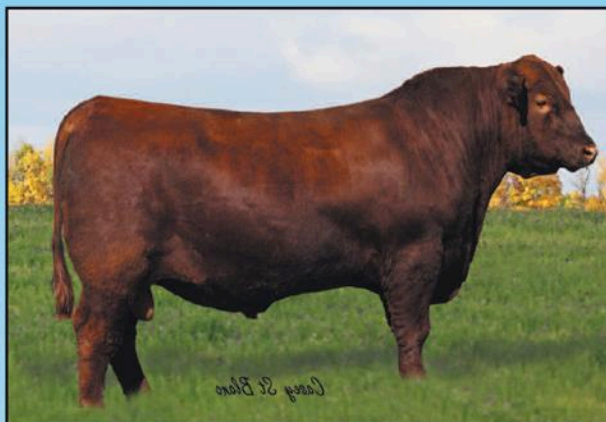


**2537K • 4735437 • 4/4/22**

**ENERGIZE X EPIC X BIG SKY**

117PROS, 66HB, 52GM, 15CED, -5.1BW, 60WW, 101YW, 33MILK, 16HPG, 8CEM, 17ST, 0.79MB, 0.06RE

*Calving ease deluxe herd bull!*

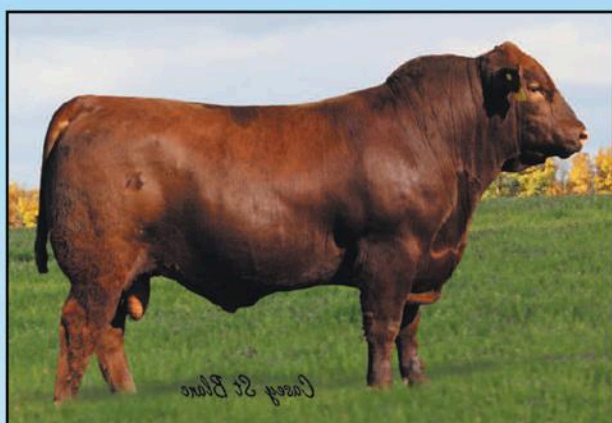


**2569K • 4615801 • 3/9/22**

**STOCKMARKET X B571 X MAKE MY DAY**

84PROS, 42HB, 42GM, 18CED, -4.8BW, 64WW, 98YW, 21MILK, 8HPG, 10CEM, 14ST, 0.99MB, 0.03RE, \$17,168\$P, \$73\$R

*One smooth operator in a great package!*

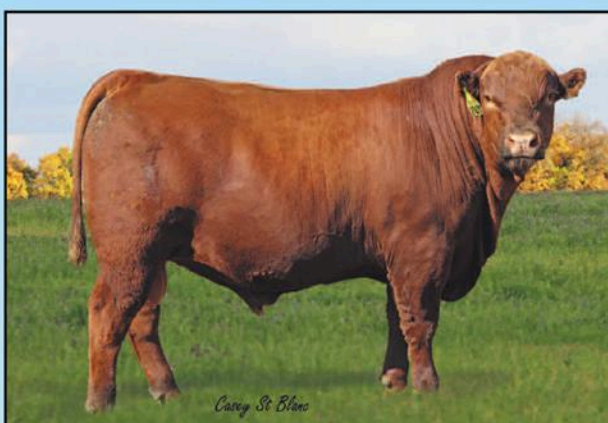


**2605K • 4612153 • 3/11/22**

**DOMAIN X HERDBUILDER X FAT TON**

99PROS, 62HB, 37GM, 15CED, -3.2BW, 54WW, 93YW, 28MILK, 14HPG, 7CEM, 16ST, 0.34MB, 0.05RE, \$6,488\$P, \$15\$R

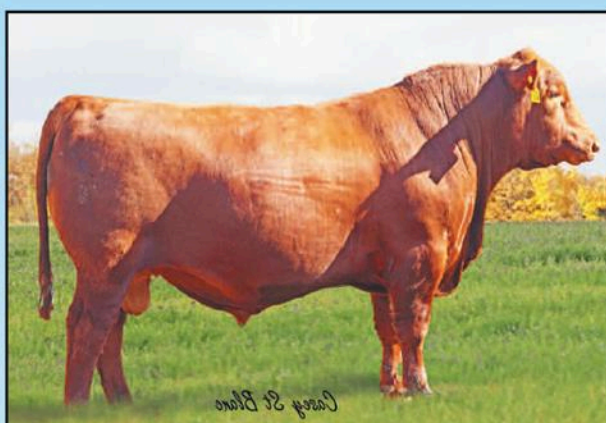
*Big time calving ease maternal bull!*



**2747K • 4638165 • 3/12/22**

**BRIGADIER X EPIC X RIBEYE**

94PROS, 45HB, 49GM, 9CED, -1.5BW, 72WW, 112YW, 28MILK, 12HPG, 5CEM, 13ST, 0.63MB, 0.14RE, \$17,659\$P, \$91\$R

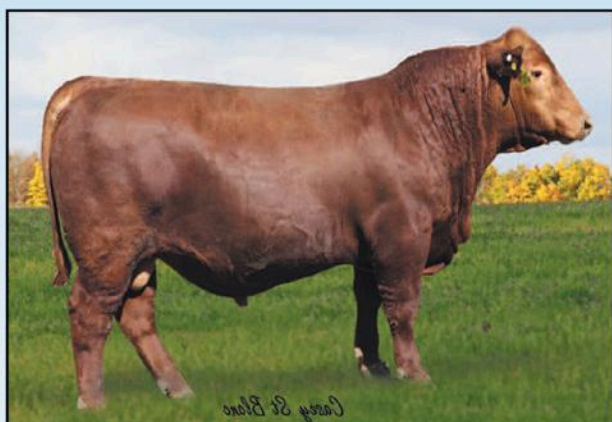


**2862K • 4620367 • 3/17/22**

**BLAZIN STEEL X PROFITBUILDER X MAJOR LEAGUE**

120PROS, 81HB, 39GM, 14CED, -5.2BW, 56WW, 91YW, 26MILK, 12HPG, 8CEM, 20ST, 0.45MB, 0.09RE, \$4,422\$P, \$1\$R

*Superior outcross herd bull!*



**2864K • 4620373 • 3/24/22**

**PREMIER X TOP FLIGHT X JUSTICE**

164PROS, 80HB, 84GM, 11CED, -0.8BW, 75WW, 124YW, 28MILK, 11HPG, 8CEM, 19ST, 0.71MB, 0.40RE, \$18,344\$P, \$89\$R

*Excellent growth and \$Ranch bull!*

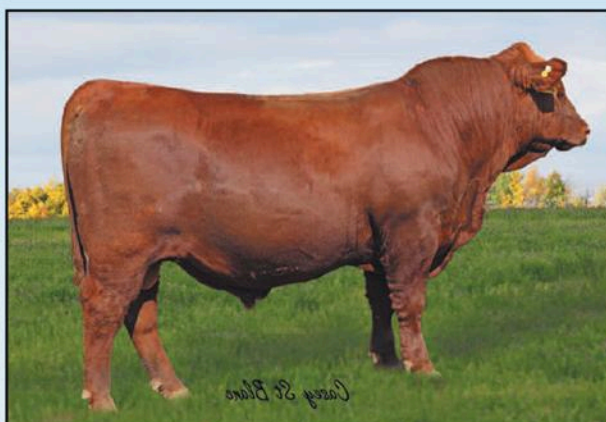


**2870K • 4620385 • 3/29/22**

**BIG BEEF X CONQUEROR X HERITAGE**

131PROS, 66HB, 65GM, 17CED, -4.0BW, 73WW, 125YW, 30MILK, 12HPG, 11CEM, 15ST, 0.53MB, 0.38RE, \$11,295\$P, \$32\$R

*Awesome spread bull that puts it all together!*



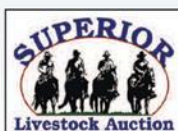
**2875K • 4620397 • 4/16/22**

**PERFORMANCE X DECLARATION X GOLD BAR**

120PROS, 62HB, 57GM, 10CED, 2.8BW, 91WW, 154YW, 25MILK, 13HPG, 5CEM, 16ST, 0.36MB, 0.36RE, \$7,813\$P, -\$2\$R

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Red Angus and Red Composite Bulls Sell at 1:00 pm MST



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# USDA rolling out \$2.3B to boost trade promotion, food aid

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is releasing \$2.3 billion in funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to bolster trade promotion and international food aid programs.

The funds and temporary programs created with it are in response to a request from Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), the committee ranking member. Stabenow and Boozman asked Vilsack to release the

funds as a way to ease pressure on demands for the next farm bill.

USDA will use \$1.3 billion for the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) and support for specialty crop industries to diversify export markets. Another \$1 billion to help address global hunger.

The United States Agricultural Export Council, (USAEDC) called the infusion of funds “a necessary and welcome development.” The council cited

that every dollar invested in trade programs generates more than \$24 in net export revenue.

“I’ve experienced firsthand the immense positive impact on consumers, companies, and countries around the world, and on our U.S. agricultural economy from this type of sustained investment. This funding helps American producers compete in established overseas markets and expand into new ones,” said Jim Sutter, chairman of USAEDC and CEO of the

U.S. Soybean Export Council.

The funding comes as commodity groups have repeatedly called on Congress to increase funding in the next farm bill for USDA’s two major trade-promotion programs, the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD).

In a news release, USDA noted releasing the money is “consistent with a bipartisan request from the Sen-

ate Agriculture Committee.”

Vilsack said in a news release, “The Commodity Credit Corporation continues to address the needs of American producers as significant and unpredictable challenges arise, including impacts to international commodities markets and global food insecurity in the wake of ongoing conflict and a changing climate.

“The Commodity Credit Corporation and USDA’s market development and aid programs are critically important at this time, and with this additional support we can strengthen U.S. agriculture’s presence in existing markets, open up new market opportunities, and build on our relationships and connections to ensure that high-quality American agriculture and food products reach where they are needed in the world.”

Vilsack, who has opposed congressional efforts to curb his authority to use the CCC, also noted the announcement “comes on the heels of the 90th anniversary of the CCC, which was incorporated on Oct. 17, 1933, in response to the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl’s devastation on producers and their operations.”

Vilsack added, “For 90 years, the CCC has stabilized markets, supported farm income and prices, and enhanced the ability of farmers to market their commodities.”

USDA also pointed out, “The FY23 agricultural trade deficit is \$19 billion, and USDA has projected that it will grow to \$27.5 billion in FY24. There is also increased competition in our export markets in Asia and Africa.

“Therefore, additional investments in market development need to be made to keep ahead of the competition. Further, investing in non-traditional markets will help the United States diversify away from dependence on a handful of large markets,” USDA said.

The new trade and aid programs will not be part of the traditional trade and international food aid programs. Agriculture Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor told reporters recently the CCC cannot be used to provide additional funds for appropriated programs.

Instead, \$1.3 billion in CCC money will be put into RAPP, which USDA said, “will enable exporters to break into new markets and increase market share in growth markets.”

There will also be “targeted technical assistance to the specialty crops industry that will help it enter and expand markets that often impose onerous non-tariff barriers on their products,” USDA said.

As if anticipating some

criticism for using the CCC for trade and food aid purposes, USDA noted that five years ago “in reaction to the trade war with China,” the Trump administration had developed the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) to help exporters diversify their markets.

USDA said, “The funds from ATP will expire next year and with that, many exporters are already curtailing their activities. Without being on the ground in markets, it is nearly impossible to build the trust and relationships needed to create opportunities. The RAPP will address this critical loss and ensure continuity of the relationships key to market development.”

On food aid, USDA said, “Recent challenges to supply chains and ongoing conflicts have exacerbated what was already a dire situation of increased numbers of people experiencing food insecurity globally.

“An estimated 205 million people need life-saving food assistance, and some 768 million people are facing chronic hunger, according to the Global Report on Food Crises and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

“American agriculture is well positioned to help fill these gaps,” USDA added. “The United States produces more commodities than are consumed, and therefore has the opportunity to extend this food, via a USDA donation, to those who are in need,” USDA said.

USDA said it will purchase commodities and work with the U.S. Agency for International Development the lead federal agency on international emergency food aid programs, “to ensure they reach those most in need around the world.”

“The \$1 billion donation will bolster ongoing efforts to address global hunger, as well as support U.S. agriculture through the purchase of surplus commodities,” USDA said.

In their letter last month, Stabenow and Boozman noted, “As Congress works toward reauthorizing critical programs in the farm bill, we continue to hear from organizations representing the vast majority of U.S. agriculture about the need to strengthen trade opportunities, increase revenue streams, and help producers grow and thrive in a global economy.

“Farm bill trade promotion programs help address these needs and build new markets,” they said. “We believe that resources available under the CCC can support similar efforts to open access to markets and promote American-grown products abroad.” — **Chris Clayton, DTN Ag policy editor, and Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent**

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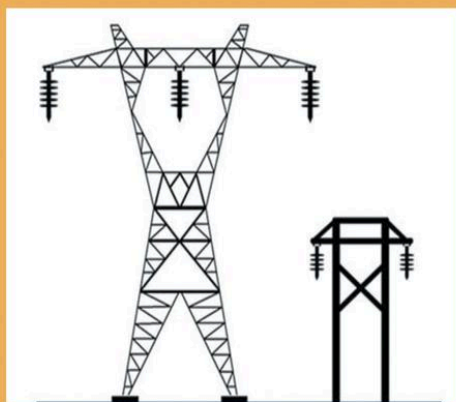
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# Updated WOTUS rule could still give EPA expansive authority

An environmental attorney told a U.S. Senate committee that a recent change to the waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule to conform with the Supreme Court's ruling in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may have potentially left property owners across the country still exposed to regulation.

The Biden administration announced in September a change to the WOTUS rule that includes removing the significant-nexus standard in making Clean Water Act determinations.

Susan Parker Bodine, a partner at Earth and Water Law, told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee the EPA left language in the updated WOTUS rule that should have landowners still concerned.

Bodine said she believes the updated rule finalized last month will face more legal challenges because it "fails to fully implement" the court's decision.

For example, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers left "interstate waters" as an independent category of ju-

isdictional waters, she told the committee, "Whether or not such waters are navigable or relatively permanent and connected to an interstate navigable water."

What's more, Bodine said, the updated rule does not implement a key limitation from the Sackett opinion.

"It is difficult to understand how defining WOTUS to include interstate waters as a separate category of jurisdictional waters fits into the holding of the Sackett court that a water of the United States must be 'a relatively

permanent body of water connected to traditional interstate navigable waters," she said.

In addition, Bodine pointed out that the EPA and Corps left untouched the expansive definitions of "tributary," "relatively permanent" and "continuous surface connection" from the preamble to the January 2023 WOTUS rule.

According to the preamble, to identify a tributary, "All EPA and the Corps need to do is to 'be able to trace evidence of a flow path downstream,'" Bodine said.

"That flow path does not need to be a water of the United States. It can include ephemeral flows."

Once the agencies identify a tributary, she said, they must then decide whether the tributary is "relatively permanent."

Bodine said the January 2023 preamble says this determination can be based on runoff from "a concentrated period of back-to-back precipitation events."

The agencies also can determine that a stream is "relatively permanent" based on identifying a bed and bank, she said, the same indicators used to identify wetlands.

"When you put it all together, EPA and the Corps are saying that if the upper reach of a stream is considered 'relatively permanent,' then they can regulate that upper reach as long as a flow path (even if a dry channel or subsurface flow) extends to a 'water of the United States,'" Bodine told the committee.

"It is not outside the realm of possibility that they will try to regulate the entire 'flow path,' even parts that are not 'relatively permanent.'"

Bodine said that following Sackett, it is "clear that wetlands are not an independent category" of WOTUS.

Under the January 2023 rule preamble, a wetland can be clearly distinguishable from a "water of the United States" and still be regulated.

Mazeika Patricio Sullivan, a scientist at the Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science at Clemson University, told the committee the Supreme Court did not consider science in rendering a decision on Sackett v. EPA.

"The Sackett decision abandons scientific consensus at a time when protections are most needed," Sullivan said.

The U.S. has lost "vast amounts" of historic wetlands, he said.

For example, Sullivan said, about 5 million acres of wetlands existed at the time of California's statehood in 1850. Today, just 9% of these wetlands remain because of conversion to agriculture, urbanization and channelization of rivers, he said, meaning protections are needed to preserve what is left.

"Sackett is likely to cause substantial and widespread harm to the nation's waters," Sullivan said.

"In the case of Sackett, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that a wetland, to be afforded CWA protection, must have a continuous surface connection with a 'water of the United States'—an ocean, river, stream, or lake—such that it is difficult to determine where the water ends and the wetland begins. This ruling removes the majority of U.S. wetlands from federal protection."

Sullivan said the ruling puts about 16.3 million acres of non-floodplain wetlands outside of federal protection.

"The court bludgeons science to render an opinion that is catastrophic for water protection across the United States," he said. "For example, the court's primary conclusion requiring a permanent hydrological surface connection demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of how natural waters function and connect across space and time." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**



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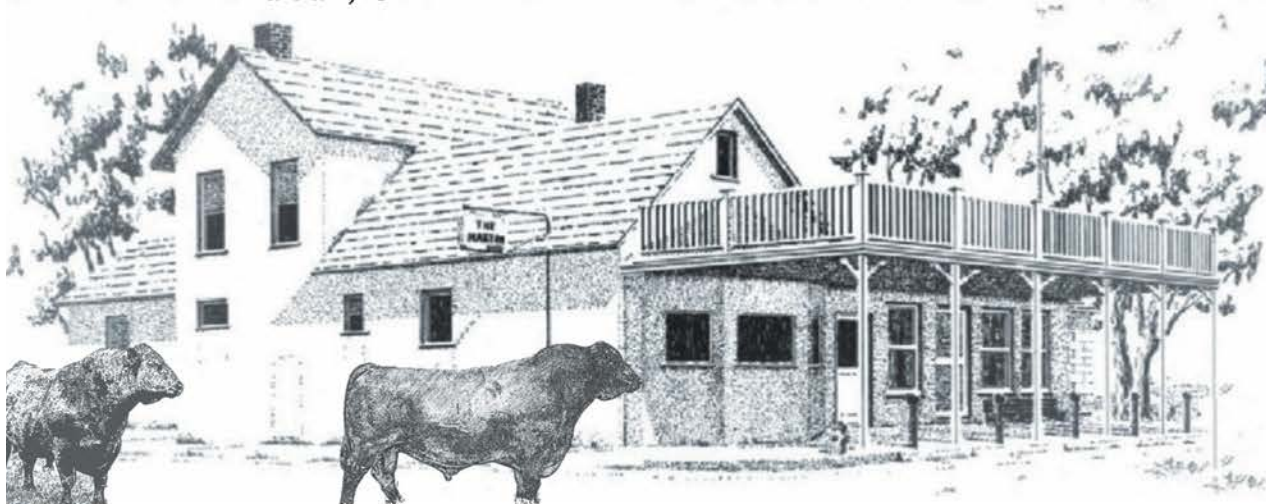
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## Moderate cattle grazing has no effect on grouse

Sage grouse and cows can coexist on the same land without declines in greater sage grouse nest success or insect abundance, according to a 10-year University of Idaho (U of I) study.

In fact, according to the research, there are upshots for grouse living side-by-side with cows.

"Nesting success doesn't seem to be affected by low to moderate levels of cattle grazing, and insect biomass increases with grazing," said Courtney Conway, U of I professor of wildlife sciences.

The idea for an extensive grouse and cattle grazing research project was spurred by opposition to spring cattle grazing on federal land in the early 2000s and a lack of science to inform the debate. The decade-long research project wrapped up data collection in August 2023.

Conway joined forces with U of I professor of rangeland ecology Karen Launchbaugh, biologists in the Bureau of Land Management—the agency that oversees much of the sage grouse habitat in southern Idaho—Idaho Fish and Game, several ranchers who have grazing permits within sage-

grouse habitat, and other partners in Idaho to bring scientific data to the debate.

"Many decisions regarding sage grouse and cattle were being made by land managers, but there wasn't a lot of science to rely on," Conway said. "We just didn't know what effect spring grazing had on nesting grouse, brood production or anything else."

Working closely with local ranchers who agreed to participate in the long-term project, Conway's group of researchers annually collected and analyzed data from five research sites in Idaho.

"I think this is a significant outcome for the ranching community, which has wondered all along what they would do if scientists learned that their spring grazing was bad for grouse," said Launchbaugh, co-lead investigator. "Had we found that spring grazing had a negative effect on grouse populations, it could have resulted in the loss of grazing allotments on federal land, something cattle ranchers, especially smaller operations, need for their businesses to survive." — **U of I Extension**

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# PUC to weigh changes to net energy metering program

A proposed decision under consideration by the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would bring changes to a program implemented to encourage private investment in on-site renewable energy.

The state's Net Energy Metering Aggregation (NEMA) program has led to increased adoption of solar and other renewables by farms, ranches and other businesses.

Under a proposed decision outlined in August, the PUC on Nov. 2 is due to consider changes that would affect multimeter custom-

ers of the state's three investor-owned utilities—Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co. and Southern California Edison. The proposed decision would effectively eliminate the benefit of aggregation for power used and generated by customers with more than one meter.

The purpose of net energy metering is to compensate customers for generating renewable energy that is exported to the electric grid to help the state meet its renewable energy goals. State legislation passed in 2012 authorized aggrega-

tion of meters on contiguous parcels, enabling renewable customers to offset energy generated against energy used from more than one account.

"Net energy metering aggregation has been the option for our members to control their costs and utilize renewable energy to operate in a sustainable fashion," said Karen Norene Mills, California Farm Bureau director of legal services. "The argument by utilities has been that NEMA customers don't pay their full cost of service, but there's no evi-

dence that that is correct. Our position is NEMA customers do pay their cost of the program, and so there's no reason to change it."

The proposed decision is a response to a PUC-requested study of net energy metering under NEM 2.0, the second version of the program that allowed customer generators to receive full retail rate credit for energy exported to the grid and compensation for surplus energy. NEM 2.0 also required a switch to time-of-use rates.

The study, which looks at

only net metering and not aggregation, claimed that the program negatively impacts nonparticipating and low-income ratepayers and is not cost-effective.

However, California Farm Bureau associate counsel Kevin Johnston said the proposed decision "would unfairly discriminate against multimeter customers compared to single-meter customers and effectively eliminate the use of NEMA in agriculture."

In joint comments submitted Sept. 28 to the PUC, the California Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association challenged the proposed decision and urged the commission to retain the subtariff for multimeter aggregation.

If benefits of aggregation disappear, the two organizations argued, that effectively ends net energy metering programs for agriculture and discriminates against multimeter customers compared to single-meter customers.

"We've argued either just leave us as is under the existing NEMA program or do the research and come back to us," Johnston said. "In this process, the fundamental aspect of why Farm Bureau and others fought for the NEMA program has been lost, and the commission hasn't proven that that change should take place to NEMA."

Interested in investing in renewable energy, many farmers were early adopters of NEMA. "But now, with significant proposed changes to the program," Johnston said, "the commission and utilities are making it cost prohibitive to do so."

The changes in the proposed decision should have been addressed under new net billing tariff guidelines known as NEM 3.0, which took effect April 15. But Johnston said Farm Bureau succeeded in convincing the commission to defer its decision regarding net energy metering aggregation for nonresidential customers such as agriculture.

He said Farm Bureau made the request because the PUC study largely focused on single-meter customers and found residential net energy meter-

ing customers created the cost impacts.

Unlike NEM 2.0, under the new billing program, there are lower rates of compensation for power generation, and the program reflects time-of-use rates with lower rates for the nighttime and early morning hours. The new version of the program provides some incentives for pairing solar with battery storage.

Tulare County dairy producer Ken De Groot invested in solar on his farm about seven years ago. He said the changes in the proposed decision "benefit utilities because of the high-value, time-of-use period changes to late evening when little solar power is generated and average compensation rates for generated solar power are therefore sharply reduced."

Fresno County farmer Russel Efird, who farms nut crops, raisins and fruit, began investing in on-farm solar in 2015. He said the farm's solar installations generate about 1.25 megawatts of renewable energy, saving the farm considerable costs annually through the NEMA programs. The cost of the farm's energy usage, which is mostly for irrigation pumping and powering homes and buildings, is offset by the solar energy generated on the farm.

For customers under the earlier programs, the compensation rates stay intact for 20 years and then are shifted to the new net energy metering program.

"Depending on where you are in that 20-year span with these other (NEM) programs, you'll have to decide whether it's a good fit for you to move on to this new program," Efird said.

With some nut crops at break-even prices, he added, "You have to do the math and decide whether it is worth it. It is very much unique to the individual operation and where they stand financially."

At the Nov. 2 meeting, the PUC may approve the proposed decision or make revisions. For more information, visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov/nemrevisit](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/nemrevisit). — **Christine Souza, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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4:00 PM Consignors Meeting

5:00 PM Rocky Mountain Angus Futurity Show

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:00 AM Sale Preview

1:00 PM Sale Time

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## COMING EVENTS

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

**Nov. 3-6** – The 2023 Angus Convention and Trade Show will be held in Orlando, FL at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. For more information, visit [angusconvention.com](http://angusconvention.com).

**Nov. 29-Dec. 1** – Attendee registration and the hotel room block for the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association/California CattleWomen Convention in Sparks, NV, is now open. Details: [calcattlemen.org/convention2023](http://calcattlemen.org/convention2023).

**Nov. 29-Dec. 1** – The 53rd Annual American Gelbvieh Association Convention will take place at the Omaha Marriott Downtown at the Capitol District in Omaha, NE. Register today to reserve early

bird pricing at [gelbvieh.org](http://gelbvieh.org). More info, call 303-465-2333 or email [info@gelbvieh.org](mailto:info@gelbvieh.org).

**Jan. 10-13** – Registration is now open for the 2024 American Sheep Industry Association Annual Convention at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO. Early bird rates apply through Dec. 8 and all online registrations must be completed by Dec. 18. Details: [tinyurl.com/33x26zdm](http://tinyurl.com/33x26zdm).

**Jan. 21-Feb. 2, 2024** – Mark your calendars for the 2024 Cattle Industry Convention & National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show, which is heading to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Additional information is available at [convention.ncba.org](http://convention.ncba.org).

# Ag groups intervene in CAFO litigation battle

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rejected petitions from environmental groups in August seeking more regulation of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Now, those groups, along with agriculture interests, have taken the fight to a federal appeals court.

Environmental groups led by Food and Water Watch and the Center for Biological Diversity appealed EPA's rejection of the 2017 petition to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit on Sept. 8.

In late October, agriculture groups, including the National Pork Producers

Council, American Farm Bureau Federation, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and United Egg Producers, filed a motion to intervene in the petition for review.

This past summer the agency announced the launch of a study of pollution generated by CAFOs after rejecting petitions from environmental groups from 2017 and 2022. EPA said it would form a federal advisory committee to study CAFOs sometime in 2024. That process is expected to last 12-18 months.

The 2022 petition filed by numerous state-level clean water advocacy groups as

well as Friends of the Earth, Earthjustice, Humane Society of the United States and others, asked the EPA to adopt a presumption that large CAFOs using wet manure management systems discharge pollutants.

The 2017 petition asked the EPA to change CAFO regulations to assume several things. That includes CAFOs with certain production-area characteristics do actually discharge, that regulations should assume CAFOs applying manure to land as fertilizer actually discharge, and to revise EPA interpretation of the agricultural stormwater exemption to clarify that it does not include any CAFO-related discharges, among other requests.

Ag groups told the 9th Circuit in their motion that producers have a vested interest in the outcome of the appeal. "EPA denied the petitioners' rulemaking petition in its entirety," the groups said in the motion to intervene.

"Among other things, EPA

refused to establish an evidentiary presumption that CAFOs with certain characteristics actually discharge, explaining that this request was hardly distinguishable from the approach EPA used in the 2008 rule."

The 2008 EPA rule on CAFOs required facilities to "obtain permits if they are designed, constructed, operated and maintained such that a discharge will occur." That rule was vacated by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

"EPA underscored that 'issuing a rule consistent with the petition's request would be even more vulnerable to claims that EPA is exceeding its statutory authority than the 2008 rule,'" the motion said.

"A ruling in petitioners' favor would adversely affect the interests of the agricultural associations' members by increasing the scope of permitting requirements applicable to CAFOs and increasing the stringency of

CAFO permit terms."

Back in April 2023, the EPA committed to answering the 2017 petition. In January 2023, the agency announced a plan to determine ways of strengthening the Clean Water Act in its effluent limitation guidelines in response to a 2021 lawsuit.

Another lawsuit filed in 2022 was stayed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. The environmental groups agreed to drop that lawsuit by Aug. 29, 2023, if EPA responded by Aug. 15, 2023.

There is a long history of unsuccessful petitions filed by environmental groups when it comes to CAFO regulations. In 2003, EPA proposed a major revision to its CAFO regulations. Among other provisions, the rule required "all CAFO owners or operators to seek coverage under an NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit," unless they

affirmatively demonstrate that they have "no potential to discharge."

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit vacated that aspect of the 2003 rule, holding it unlawfully "imposes obligations on all CAFOs regardless of whether or not they have, in fact, added any pollutants to the navigable waters, i.e., discharged any pollutants."

In 2008, EPA revised its regulations to try to require a permit for any CAFO with a "potential to discharge" and the revised rule called for a "case-by-case evaluation by the CAFO owner or operator as to whether the CAFO discharges or proposes to discharge from its production area or land application area."

EPA's requirement that discharging CAFOs or those that propose to discharge obtain a CAFO permit, was vacated in a challenge to the 2008 rule. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

## Comments stress Tribes should be included

### CO GUIDELINES (from page 1)

Of the comments received, a large majority were form letters from individuals. The agency received comments from 19 Tribes and over 140 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

### Comments received

BOR identified 10 primary public comment themes for the operating guidelines of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Among the themes were the supply and demand imbalance, the scope of federal action, conservation and storage programs, Tribal water rights and sustainable solutions.

"Address the imbalance between available supply and demand," the Upper Colorado River Commission commented. "This will require permanent Lower Basin reductions under most if not all operating conditions."

Several irrigation districts and other governmental agencies wrote changes should be done equitably for all parties reliant on the river, but respect the "Law of the River," which grants water rights to senior holders, many of whom are in the Lower Basin.

According to the report, several commenters stressed the importance of Tribal involvement in the post-2026 process, as they have been excluded in previous negotiations.

"We are concerned that Reclamation will once again allow the states to monopolize the environmental review, particularly in the formulation of meaningful alternatives, which in the past led Reclamation to dismiss citizen and tribal proposals," commented environmental groups led by Save the Colorado. "The interests of the states should not be able to dominate and preclude consideration of Tribal water rights and environmental issues including instream needs for native fish and riparian resources or alternatives that include bypass or decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam."

Some commenters suggested filling Lake Mead by bypassing, decommissioning or maintaining Lake

Powell at 3,550 feet and sending all excess water to Lake Mead.

Many recreationists and boaters supported the BlueRibbon Coalition's (BRC) "Path to 3588" Plan, which proposes maintaining Lake Powell at an elevation of 3,588 feet.

Although most were form letters from individuals, BRC submitted their own comments stating, "An elevation of 3,588 at Lake Powell is the elevation that allows for all major recreation amenities to be maintained and open. Managing operational tiers around this level will also position the agency to have more operational flexibility when dealing with changed circumstances since the adoption of the 2007 Interim Guidelines."


The prolonged drought, coupled with low runoff conditions in the last 20 years, has contributed to lower levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell and has forced entities that rely on the water from the river to make cuts.

Tom Buschatzke, director for Arizona Department of Water Resources, commented BOR should consider how each water user can help to reduce their usage on the river as the supply and demand imbalance has threatened the infrastructure at Lake Powell. Buschatzke continued that the the burden of protecting the Colorado River system must be shared across the river basin.

### Timeline

According to BOR, the multi-year process will begin with the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in fall 2023. Work on the alternative development phase will continue through 2024 with the completed draft EIS and public comment period. BOR anticipates a final EIS will be available in late 2025, followed by a Record of Decision in early 2026.


The Post-2026 process must be concluded before developing the 2027 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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SCAN TO VIEW CATALOG



# What to expect if anaplasmosis is identified in your part of the country

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, Kansas State (K-State) University veterinarian Brad White said anaplasmosis is a blood-borne pathogen carried primarily by ticks and can impact cattle in certain regions of the country.

"Because it is a blood-borne pathogen, cattle with anaplasmosis become anemic and that can lead to spontaneous abortions and in some cases, death," White said.

K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said this disease often impacts a certain group of cows the most.

"Anaplasmosis typically impacts the older cows the hardest because they have a harder time with the anemia," he said.

With anemia, the first sign is often that cattle hold their heads down and act

depressed, according to White. Spontaneous abortions can also be a sign that anaplasmosis is impacting the herd, he said.

"The abortions are related to the cattle getting sick systemically, meaning they get the disease and become sick enough that they can't maintain the pregnancy," White said.

If anaplasmosis is suspected in the herd, Lubbers said it is important to test the sick animals for an accurate diagnosis. He said that with a blood sample, veterinarians have three ways to confirm the presence of it in the herd.

"We can test the blood sample by looking for parasites on the blood cells, but that doesn't typically show up until the cattle are clinically sick," Lubbers said.

"Other options are a PCR test where we look at the parasite's DNA, or a serol-

ogy test where we look for antibodies in the blood, which would indicate exposure to the disease."

If the disease is suspected, the sick animals are typically treated with tetracycline antibiotics, Lubbers said.

Not all herds will come in contact with ticks that carry anaplasmosis, said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson.

"This disease does have a geographic component to it, and the longer the disease is in the area the magnitude of the harm will decrease because the herd will build stability over time," he said.

He also said that fall is the time of year when cases will peak in the Midwest.

"We tend to see peak cases a few weeks after the tick populations are at their highest, so that means September through November is often when

the cattle show sickness," Larson said.

White agreed, adding: "The delay of sickness results from the time it takes from the initial infection until when they show signs of illness from the infected blood cells."

Because this disease is extremely difficult to keep out of the herd once the carrier ticks arrive in the area, White and the others agree it is important for producers to work with their local veterinarians to come up with a management plan ahead of anaplasmosis infecting the herd.

White said, "There is not a lot producers can do to prevent exposure to anaplasmosis, and so monitoring and control will be important in the management plan for this disease." — **K-State Research and Extension**

## LEGAL LEDGER

### New MT wolf plan now available

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is now accepting public comment on a draft plan and environmental impact statement (DEIS) regarding gray wolf management in the state. The draft 2023 Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan shifts a counting metric from the number of breeding pairs to the number of wolves representing at least 15 breeding pairs. The plan establishes that 450 wolves would ensure 15 breeding pairs. Population estimates will continue to be determined by the Integrated Patch Occupancy Modeling method. The agency will not convene a citizen advisory group for wolf management at this time, as it says the public has had the opportunity to comment on wolf management for the past two decades. Comments will be accepted on the plan and DEIS through Dec. 19. To view the documents and submit comments, visit [tinyurl.com/5ernvad5](http://tinyurl.com/5ernvad5). Public meetings about the draft plan will be scheduled prior to the public commenting period.

### Rock Springs comments extended

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the comment period for the Draft Rock Springs Resource Management Plan, draft environmental impact statement and proposed areas of critical environmental concern for the Rock Springs Field Office in Wyoming. The commenting period now closes on Jan. 17, 2024, after Gov. Mark Gordon (R) requested more time. "The purpose of the land use plan is to establish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for public lands administered by the Rock Springs Field Office," BLM said. "The plan is comprehensive and will resolve and address issues that are identified through agency, interagency and public input." To submit comments, visit [tinyurl.com/4uku28nj](http://tinyurl.com/4uku28nj).

### More meetings on WA bear introduction

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are hosting two additional public meetings regarding the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The additional public meetings are the following: Nov. 2 in Darrington, WA, at the Darrington High School Auditorium, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; and Nov. 3 in Winthrop, WA, at the Winthrop Barn Auditorium, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The previously scheduled meetings will take place Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, at Okanogan and Newhalem, respectively. Comments are being accepted on the plan through Nov. 13. The plan may be viewed at [tinyurl.com/5dbedycn](http://tinyurl.com/5dbedycn).

### New organic livestock standards out

USDA has released a new rule regarding organic livestock and poultry standards, which the department says will level the playing field for organic producers and businesses. "This organic poultry and livestock standard establishes clear and strong standards that will increase the consistency of animal welfare practices in organic production and in how these practices are enforced," said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement. "Competitive markets help deliver greater value to all producers, regardless of size." USDA received more than 40,000 written comments in the rule-developing process. The final rule lays out more consistent standards for six key areas, including outdoor space requirements, indoor and outdoor living conditions, poultry stocking densities, preventative health care practices, physical alterations and euthanasia, and transport and slaughter. "These new standards not only create a more level playing field for organic producers, but they ensure consumers that the organic meat, poultry, dairy and eggs they choose have been raised with plenty of access to the real outdoors, and in humane conditions," said Tom Chapman, CEO of the Organic Trade Association, in a news release. The rule in its entirety will be published at [federalregister.gov](http://federalregister.gov) under Docket ID AMS-NOP-21-0073.

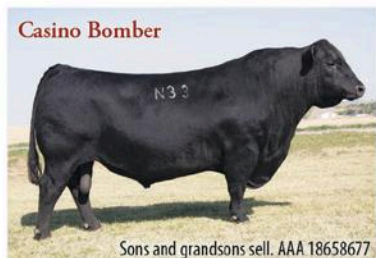
### ID updates renewable energy app process

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho is updating how they process renewable energy applications. After conducting public engagement meetings and producing a report, the agency will now require companies to gather input locally on proposed renewable energy projects to understand stakeholders' concerns before analyzing the project under the National Environmental Policy Act. "Our objective is for companies to use early input from local residents and stakeholder groups to determine where best to locate renewable energy projects, so the BLM is only processing applications that have the greatest technical and financial feasibility, and the fewest anticipated conflicts with natural and cultural resources and other public land uses," said BLM Idaho State Director Karen Kelleher.

### Suit filed over bee listings

The Center for Biological Diversity announced its intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for not protecting four bee species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The suit includes American bumblebees, southern Plains bumblebees, variable cuckoo bumblebees and blue calaminta bees. "The Biden administration has not taken any meaningful actions to protect bees, such as reining in the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, which play an outsized role in bee population declines," the group said in a statement. "The four bee species in today's lawsuit have suffered declines in population and range, largely driven by habitat loss, intensive agricultural land use and the related increase of toxic pesticides."

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Jeff Mosher - Vermilion North  
Brandon Mosher - Pryor Creek

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Cell: 406-672-5844

Bill Shaules - South Pryor  
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# Beware of hazards when working in and around grain, manure storage

Confined agricultural spaces such as grain bins and manure-holding facilities can pose several safety hazards that farmers and ranchers should always be aware of when working in and around these structures.

Each type of confined space has its own unique hazards. In grain bins, for example, flowing grain can bury someone in a matter of seconds, causing them to suffocate. Manure pits often have a toxic atmosphere that could kill people in a few seconds.

In a recent ag safety webinar titled "Confined Spaces in Agriculture," an expert shared some safety practices producers can use to minimize the risk of injury when working in different types of confined spaces.

## Flowing grain kills

Dan Neenan, director of

the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) in Peosta, IA, said during the webinar that there is significant danger involved with both grain storage structures and manure storage facilities. Those working around both need to know proper safety practices.

In a grain entrapment, a worker is in a race they cannot win. The grain will flow quickly, and pulling a person out often is not possible, as a human does not have the strength to pull another person out of flowing grain.

Neenan said the most common type of grain entrapment is when someone enters a bin and there is a crust on the grain and an open void under it. The person can fall through the crust and become entrapped. Often, the person may fall many feet downward through the grain.

The other common grain

entrapment accident is when someone is cleaning out a bin and grain is crusted in a slope along the wall, he said. Workers could become trapped as they work to move this column of grain if the crust breaks and the grain flows rapidly to the center of the bin.

Even outdoor piles of grain can be dangerous, Neenan said, as workers can be trapped by flowing grain if the pile is crusted.

The leading cause of grain entrapment is out-of-condition grain. The size of the out-of-condition grain will continue to grow larger in a bin, making it extremely unsafe. The best way to avoid an accident in this situation is to stay out of the bin, Neenan said.

"If you don't go into the bin, you can't get trapped," Neenan said.

He said keeping grain in good condition is not only a good idea for having quality grain, but it is also key for keeping those who work

with it safe.

There are newer products on the market that help safely move out-of-condition grain, Neenan said. For example, there are products available that mount to the center sump of a bin that break up clumps of grain as it is unloaded. Another company produces small robots that can be put into the grain to break up areas of out-of-condition grain.

NECAS has provided rural fire departments with rescue tubes that go into the grain and protect the person from flowing grain until they can be rescued. Three hundred tubes have been given away in 23 states over the years, Neenan said. NECAS has donated 68 grain rescue tubes in 2023 so far.

## Watch manure pits

Manure pits are another type of confined space in agriculture. And much like

grain storage structures, these facilities can be extremely dangerous.

Neenan said ag workers can fall into a manure pit and drown in liquid manure. Often, though, they die from exposure to toxic gases that can build up in the structures.

Hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, methane, ammonia and carbon dioxide are the most common gases released in manure pits, he said. Each gas works slightly differently to remove oxygen from the air.

At low concentrations, these gases can make those who work within these structures sick, affecting respiratory tracts, he said. At high concentrations, the gases can kill a person in seconds.

Neenan said those who work around manure pits should know the risks before they begin working. Many tragic stories have people dying in these facilities because they rush in

to save others only to be overcome by toxic gases themselves, he said.

## Harvest safety

Neenan also had some general safety rules as harvest gets underway.

A fully stocked first-aid kit should be available to those bringing in the harvest. You never know what you will need but having enough of everything in a first-aid kit is a good idea, he said.

Farmers should also always know the address of where they are working. Many rent farms, and knowing the correct address can save time for emergency personnel trying to locate someone after a 911 call.

Neenan also suggested farmers recharge all fire extinguishers before harvest to ensure they are ready to go. They should keep one in the shop and two in the combine, he said. — **Russ Quinn, DTN staff reporter**

## Online listings of hay for sale in Missouri

The University of Missouri Extension (MU) and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) are helping livestock producers find hay. Their websites are seeing increased interest from buyers and sellers post-drought, said Tony Hancock, MDA market news manager.

Many of the listings come from sellers in states that have not seen back-to-back drought years. "They are aware of our situation," Hancock said. MDA listings are at [apps.mda.mo.gov/HayDirectory](https://apps.mda.mo.gov/HayDirectory).

Listings give detailed information to help buyers find hay for their operations, said MU Extension agricultural economist Ryan Milhollin, who works with MU's Agricultural Electronic Bulletin Board (AgEBB). MU hay listings are at [agebb.missouri.edu/haylst/vsale.php](https://agebb.missouri.edu/haylst/vsale.php).

The websites list sellers by region and forage type, as well as bale type, number and weight. Details may include whether the hay has been analyzed, crude protein, acid detergent fiber, neutral detergent fiber, relative feed value and percent total digestible nutrients.

Buyers may also find notes such as "First cutting" or "Don't call before 6 p.m."

Hay listings on the MDA website will be posted for up to six months. Listings on MU AgEBB remain in the market listing system for 60 days unless updated. AgEBB lists the most recent postings first.

MU Extension and MDA have listed hay market information online for more than three decades, and the websites complement each other as easy-to-use tools to help producers, said John Travlos, system administrator for MU AgEBB.

Milhollin said livestock producers also may find

AgEBB's byproduct feed price listing helpful to find soy hulls, corn gluten feed and other byproducts. Find the byproduct feed price listing at [agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/listing.php](https://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/listing.php).

Use caution when buying hay from new sources, said MU Extension agronomy specialist Tim Schnakenberg.

Varying sizes, densities and, most importantly, quality affect hay's true value, said Schnakenberg. When buying, ask how hay was stored and for how long.

More tips from Schnakenberg:

- Test and weigh hay before buying, if possible. Many MU Extension centers lend hay probes for pulling hay tests. The best way to tell good hay from bad is to have it tested for quality in a laboratory.

- Look for leafiness, weeds and seed heads. Mature seed heads are a sign of an overmature crop. Check for mold and smell. Weeds often transfer in a drought from one farm to another, so look for thistle, poison hemlock, spiny pigweed or Johnson grass seed heads.

- Check for fire ants and other pests in hay from states where these pests are common.

- Buy by the ton, not the bale.

- Test for nitrates.

Hay containing Sudan grass, millet or Johnson grass can have nitrate toxins when harvested during dry conditions. Nitrates in the hay remain at the same levels as when baled; nitrate levels in hay made into haylage may be reduced 20-50%. Some extension centers can do quick tests, but Schnakenberg recommends using a laboratory for more accurate results. — **MU Extension**

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# Rangeland Trust successfully preserving CA's ranching legacy

In 1998, as today, many California ranchers were facing serious headwinds, including high taxes, escalating land prices, ever-increasing regulations and the threat of urban development. Many ranchers were getting out of the business or leaving California altogether.

To protect California's cattle industry—which dates back to the first Spanish mission in 1769—and allow families to continue ranching, leaders with the California Cattlemen's Association began looking for solutions. The one they settled on was creating a land trust similar to one ranchers in Colorado had formed a few years previously.

The plan worked. Today, the California Rangeland Trust is the state's largest statewide land trust. The owners of 84 properties totaling 377,434 acres have voluntarily sold or donated their development rights—an area equivalent to the cities of Los Angeles and Sacramento combined. And the amount of acreage continues to grow.

In fact, by the end of this year—the organization's silver anniversary—the Rangeland Trust could have an even 100 conservation easements established, said Alyssa Rolen, the trust's communications director.

Rolen said there are many reasons why a ranching family would be interested in establishing a conservation easement.

"There's satisfaction in knowing that regardless of what happens in the future, their land will remain working open range land," Rolen said. "There are also financial benefits when they sell the development rights, which many do."

While the bulk of the Rangeland Trust's funding comes from state and federal conservation grants, the non-profit also receives crucial private-sector funding, which Rolen said has been a big help in recent years. The group's major fundraising event is its A Western Affair, which takes place every other year. This year's event was

held in May at Yolo Land and Cattle in Esparto. Farm Credit organizations with operations in California have come together annually to sponsor the gala since 2011.

"As Farm Credit partners with farmers and ranchers to grow the future, we stay rooted in our mission-based, farmer-owned legacy, which focuses on serving our customers and communities," said Regional Marketing Manager Jacob DeBoer with American AgCredit. "We are committed to helping preserve and protect California's rich ranching and farming resources, both through customized financial solutions—and by partnering with non-profit organizations like Rangeland Trust."

Nearly 400 people attended this year's event, which raised \$360,000. Rolen said a highlight was a resolution from Rep. John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove) recognizing its contributions to the Golden State for the past 25 years. It was appropriate because in 1998, Garamendi

and his family were the first ranchers in California to dedicate their development rights to the trust.

In addition, the Trust debuted the film trailer for its upcoming documentary "Just Can't See Them From the Road", which attempts to connect people back to where their food comes from and show viewers why keeping ranchers ranching matters for everyone. The film screened at film festivals this summer with private screenings beginning this fall and through next year. You can view the trailer and get more information at [rangelandtrust.org/fromtheroad](http://rangelandtrust.org/fromtheroad).

Kevin Ralph, California State president at AgWest Farm Credit, said the Rangeland Trust's work to preserve rangeland is vital.

"The Rangeland Trust works with ranchers interested in preserving their land to enter into voluntary legal agreements that permanently limit uses of the

land to protect its conservation values," Ralph said. "The landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. As most ranches are family-owned, that is a major incentive because limiting estate taxes helps ensure that the property can be passed down to the next generation."

Farm Credit organizations supporting the Rangeland Trust are AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit and CoBank. These organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System—the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

Rolen stressed that the Rangeland Trust doesn't actively seek properties.

"We don't contact landowners—they come to us," Rolen said. "Easements may not be a solution for all ranching families, but we're always open to having those discussions with ranchers who are interested. We work with the landowner to figure out what works best for them."

The benefits of preserving rangeland go far beyond the ranching community. Rolen said 62% of the state's open space consists of rangeland, 67% of the state's endangered species spend part of their lives on private rangeland and 85% of the state's water runs over rangeland.

"Rangeland is critical to air quality, water quality, wild-


life habitats and local food supplies. We believe in protecting rangeland and the life it sustains," she said.

Protected parcels range from a 30-acre parcel in the Livermore area that protects the endangered California tiger salamander to the 80,000-acre Hearst Ranch in San Luis Obispo County that surrounds the famed Hearst Castle.

"The owners of the 30-acre parcel were close to losing the ranch because of an estate tax burden and a huge debt. Because of the conservation easement, the owners were able to keep it in ranching," Rolen said. "And the Hearst family has been quoted as saying that the coastline along Highway 1 could have looked like Malibu because of the opportunities for development, but now, with the conservation easement, it will never be developed and will remain beautiful open space forever."


While the goal is to finish the year with 100 ranches with conservation easements, Rolen said there are more than 90 ranches representing over 200,000 acres on their waiting list, awaiting funding.

"We know we won't stop after we reach that milestone because there is still a lot more work to do. Our goal is to help as many families stay on the land as possible because their stewardship benefits all Californians," she said.—Farm Credit




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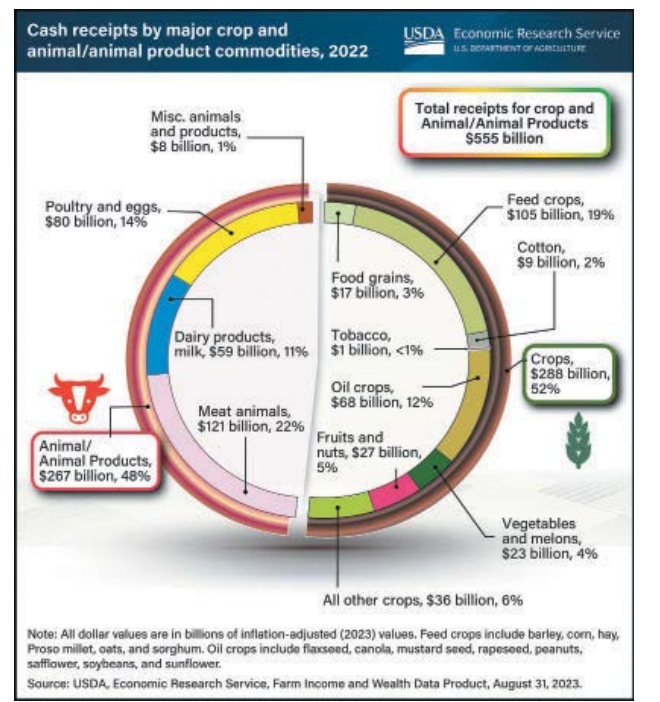
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## Farms report record cash receipts in 2022



U.S. farm operations reported record cash receipts of \$555 billion from the sales of all commodities in 2022. This beat the previous high from 2014 by 3.1% after adjusting both amounts for inflation and was 28% above the 20-year average level.

The 2022 record cash receipts primarily resulted from the strength of 2022 commodity prices, although production levels in 2022 were also strong. Cash receipts from all animals and animal products totaled \$267 billion.

A comparison of 2022 levels by commodity group to their respective inflation-adjusted 20-year average

levels (2002–21) indicates widespread high performance relative to historical averages. Operations selling meat animals (cattle, calves and hogs) reported \$121 billion in cash receipts in 2022, 18% higher than its 20-year average.

Farm operations with feed crops (primarily corn) reported \$105 billion in cash sales, 53% above its 20-year average. Poultry and egg receipts were \$80 billion (primarily made up of broilers and chicken eggs), 67% above the average. Oilseed crop receipts were \$68 billion (primarily soybeans), 54% above its 20-year average. — USDA Economic Research Service

# Impact of lower corn prices on feeding cost of gain

Cash corn prices in Kansas were over \$7/bushel in the first four months of 2023, peaking in February at \$7.35/bushel. The average corn price in August, the latest month for which data is available from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, was \$5.70 or 22% lower than the average corn price in February.

Corn futures prices for 2024 currently range from \$5-5.20/bushel. Thus, corn prices are expected to remain below the levels experienced in the last couple of years for the foreseeable future. This article examines the impact of lower corn prices on feeding cost of gain for cattle finishing.

## Feeding cost of gain

Feeding cost of gain is sensitive to changes in feed conversions, corn prices and alfalfa prices. Figure 1 illustrates feeding cost of gain from January 2013 to August 2023. In August 2023, corn and alfalfa inventory prices were \$7.04/bushel and \$273/ton, respectively.

After averaging \$125/cwt in 2022, feeding cost of gain averaged \$147/cwt and \$145/cwt for the first and second quarters of 2023. Feeding cost of gain in August was \$141.83. It is important to note that since this estimate was made corn prices have continued to decline.

Feeding of gain for the rest of 2023 was estimated using early October projections of corn and alfalfa prices, and seasonal average feed conversions. Because feeding cost of gain is computed using corn prices from the time cattle are placed to the time they are sold, corn prices experienced earlier this year will impact feeding cost of gain for the next several months.

With this in mind, feeding cost of gain for the third quarter of 2023 is expected to range from \$134-143/cwt, with the highest cost occurring in July. For the fourth

quarter, feeding cost of gain is expected to range from \$115-130/cwt.

Feeding cost of gain for the first six months of 2024 is expected to range from \$103-112/cwt. Is it possible for feeding cost of gain to drop below \$100/cwt? The answer is yes, but this is not likely to occur unless corn price this fall and winter drops below \$4.50/bushel.

## Sensitivity to changes in corn prices

To determine the sensitivity of feeding cost of gain to changes in corn prices, alfalfa prices and feed conversion, a regression using data for the last 10 years was estimated. Results are as follows: Each 0.10 increase in feed conversion increases feeding cost of gain by \$1.33/cwt, each \$0.10/bushel increase in corn prices increases feeding cost of gain by \$0.96/cwt, and each \$5/ton increase in alfalfa prices increases feeding cost of gain by \$0.53/cwt.

To more fully understand the impact of feed conversion, corn price and alfalfa price on feeding cost of gain, we computed coefficients of separate determination. These coefficients can be used to measure the influence of each independent variable upon the dependent variable. The sum of the coefficients of separate determination for each variable equals the R-square goodness of fit measure, which was 0.959 for the feeding cost of gain regression.

This goodness of fit statistic indicates that 95.9% of the variation in feeding cost of gain was explained by fluctuations in feed conversions, corn prices and alfalfa prices. Computed coefficients of separate determination indicated that corn price explained approximately 76% of the variation in feeding cost of gain.

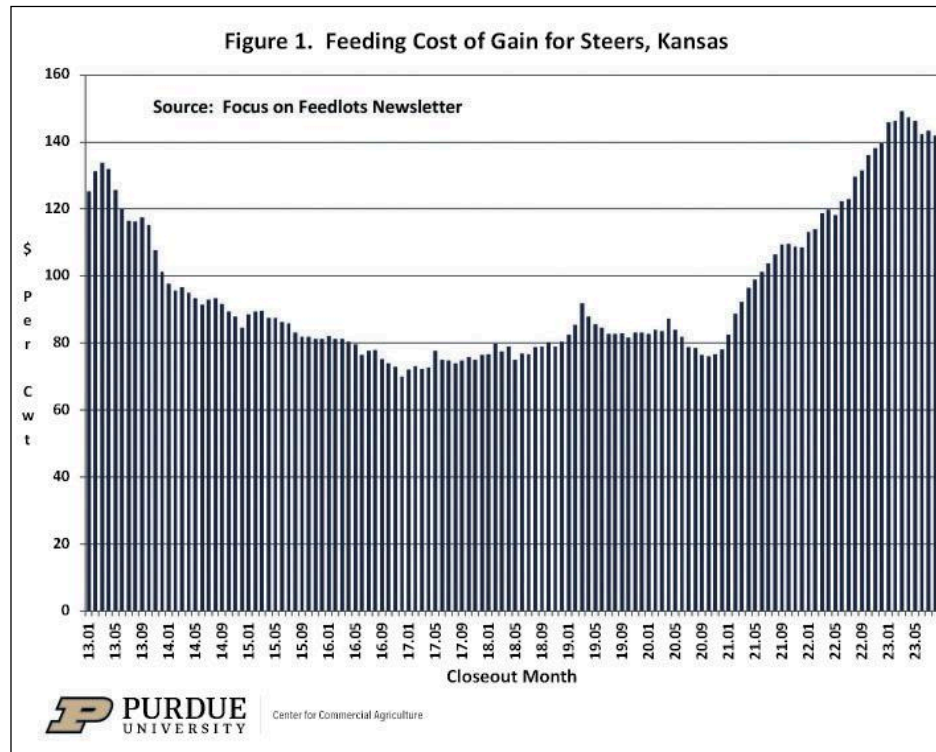
To further examine the sensitivity of feeding cost of gain to changes in the corn price, let's use the farmdoc

Price Distribution Tool and the March 2024 corn futures contract. The mid-point price is currently about \$5/

bushel. The 25% and 75% percentile prices are approximately \$4.60 and \$5.40, respectively. Feeding cost of

gain at the mid-point price is \$107/cwt. At the 25% and 75% percentile corn prices, feeding cost of gain would be

\$103 and \$111/cwt, respectively. This analysis strengthens the argument made above that corn price would need to drop below \$4.50 for feeding cost of gain to fall below \$100/cwt.



## Conclusions

Corn prices have declined substantially since the first half of this year. This article examined the impact of higher corn prices on feeding cost of gain for cattle finishing. Using projected corn prices, feeding cost of gain is expected to decline from \$142/cwt in August to \$114/cwt in December, and then remain in the \$103-112/cwt range for the first six months of 2024.

However, it is important to note that each \$0.10 change in corn price results in a change feeding cost of gain of \$0.96/cwt. Thus, it would not take a particularly wide swing in corn prices to change our projections. — Purdue University Extension

## Monthly flows set for AZ conservation area

### AZ WATER (from page 1)

#### Background

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area is a two-mile wide riparian corridor that covers 57,000 acres along the San Pedro River in southern Arizona. The conservation area was created in November 1988 to protect the riparian area and the aquatics and wildlife the area contained.

The Superior Court of Arizona ruled on Aug. 25 to quantify the water rights in the conservation area to protect fish species. "The standard governing the quantification of a federal reserved water right calls for neither the optimum amount of water to provide fish habitat nor

optimum streamflow," the court wrote. "The specific quantity of water is, instead, a function of the amount sufficient for the survival of the desert sucker."

The court ordered the conservation area to be entitled to federal water rights defined as monthly flows for each month. Monthly flows are determined as the median rate of the mean daily flow for each month from 1981-2015. The area is also entitled to flood flows, calculated as the difference between the sum of the monthly flows and the mean annual flows.

After the court's ruling, groundwater pumping by Sierra Vista will need to be reduced, with the amount dependent on the distance of water wells from the San Pedro River. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

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# Putting the 'farm' in solar farm production

Scientists with Texas A&M AgriLife seek to make solar energy production and agricultural production more compatible for producers on the landscape.

Researchers are actively contributing to the growing body of research focused on agrivoltaics—an innovative technology with the potential to enhance the efficiency and resiliency of sustainable food and agricultural systems while feeding the state's growing demand for energy.

While Texas leads the nation in energy production, thanks to its diverse reserves of fossil fuels and renewable energy resources, the state's rapidly expanding population places an ever-growing demand on the electrical power grid. This year, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas reported an unofficial record demand of 85,435 megawatts during the summer heatwave.

Photovoltaic systems, commonly known as solar power or solar panel arrays, play an important role in meeting these growing energy requirements, but the installations are land intensive and can compete with areas also suitable for agricultural production.

That's where agrivoltaics comes in. As the term implies, agrivoltaics is a dual land-use system combining agriculture in the form of crop and livestock production with solar power arrays.

"As the population of Texas continues to grow, we will see limitations in the amount of land available for the production of food and other agricultural commodities," said Nuria Gomez-Casanovas, Ph.D., assistant professor in regenerative system ecology in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

Gomez-Casanovas said the growing loss of agricultural lands, coupled with expanding energy requirements, has resulted in the mounting interest in the potential of agrivoltaic systems.

"Agrivoltaics combines traditional solar arrays with agricultural production between them so we can generate renewable energy while simultaneously producing food," said Gomez-Casanovas, based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon. "Just picture typical agricultural farming activities with a solar farm."

Despite the promise agrivoltaics holds for agriculture and energy production, the implementation of the system is relatively new, and Gomez-Casanovas said many questions remain unanswered.

To establish a foundation of existing knowledge and guide future research pri-

orities, Gomez-Casanovas and a team of researchers from across the country collaborated on a recent paper published in Cell Reports Physical Science. The publication, "Knowns, Uncertainties and Challenges in Agrivoltaics to Sustainably Intensify Energy and Food Production," is a comprehensive analysis of existing scientific literature to assess the potential of agrivoltaics in enhancing sustainable food and energy production systems.

"We reviewed existing scientific literature to assess how agrivoltaics can provide synergistic benefits across the food-energy-water nexus compared to solar power arrays or agricultural systems alone," Gomez-Casanovas said. "One of the take-home messages from our analysis is enhanced land productivity through the implementation of agrivoltaics."

## Making land more productive

The idea is to make each acre more profitable for landowners and agricultural operations, said Gomez-Casanovas. Agrivoltaics represents a dual-income stream from food and energy production.

Using a formula known as the land equivalency ratio, the researchers found that planting agricultural crops under solar panel arrays can enhance land productivity by up to 60% compared to crop monocultures or solar panel arrays on the same land area. Further, the vegetation planted under these solar arrays can offset several undesirable outcomes associated with widespread implementation of solar arrays.

"In a photovoltaic system, vegetation is often removed or kept low under the solar panels, which can result in biodiversity loss associated with land conversion and clearing, as well as an increase in local temperatures due to what is known as the photovoltaic heat island effect," Gomez-Casanovas said.

Similar to the urban heat island effect, this increase in local temperature is the result of the loss of natural land coverage and an abundance of human-made materials that absorb and retain heat.

## Water efficiency and heat abatement

While most of Texas' solar arrays are located in the vast, arid regions of West Texas where crop production can be a challenge, Gomez-Casanovas said agrivoltaic systems could boost solar energy production and agricultural resiliency in semi-arid regions of the state.

"Because the solar panels provide shade to the plants, less solar radiation reaches them, resulting in a reduction in soil water evaporation and plant transpiration," Gomez-Casanovas said. "This is very beneficial for plant health during intense summers and periods of drought."

This reduction in plant water loss ultimately translates to water savings in irrigation—an important factor for agricultural production and resource conservation as Texas faces growing demands for water amid rising scarcity.

"Although shading might be expected to lower plant productivity, and it does in certain agricultural settings, there is increasing evidence that agrivoltaics has the potential to enhance crop and forage yields compared to traditional agricultural systems alone," Gomez-Casanovas said.

For example, a 2019 study found a two-fold increase in yields from tomato and chiltepin peppers grown under solar panels in a semi-arid environment compared to a traditional agricultural system.

She noted, however, that

different plant species have varying light requirements, so further research regarding panel configuration and plant selection is needed to better understand how crop yields under solar panels can be enhanced.

In addition to benefiting plant growth, Gomez-Casanovas said agrivoltaics could enhance animal production on grazing lands with the shade provided by solar panels reducing livestock heat stress.

## Carbon accrual and biodiversity

The increased plant productivity seen in optimized agrivoltaic systems can also translate to increased carbon sequestration through above- and below-ground plant biomass. However, research shows that prior land use is a key factor in predicting the impact of agrivoltaics on carbon accrual.

"For example, if you transition a native rangeland to an agrivoltaic system, there is a detrimental impact on carbon sequestration," Gomez-Casanovas said. "However, if you transition from an agricultural system with low soil organic carbon to an agrivoltaic system promoting carbon buildup, there would be a positive impact."

She notes that plants used, varying soil types and agricultural practices implemented also influence the impact agrivoltaics can have on carbon sequestration.

Strategic management of vegetation under the arrays, such as the restoration of native vegetation or planting pollinator-friendly species can also have a positive impact on biodiversity, Gomez-Casanovas said.

## Limiting factors

While robust crop yields and supplemental energy production may seem like a win-win in the mind of producers, Gomez-Casanovas said the implementation of an agrivoltaic system involves significant upfront capital cost and a long-term investment horizon that integrates production risks.

"The profitability of agrivoltaics is expected to play an important role in farmers' decisions to adopt the system," Gomez-Casanovas said. "From a producer perspective, there are many questions that need to be answered."

Among these questions are the large-scale infrastructure needed for energy storage and transmission, as well as energy pricing, ideal crop selection, solar array configuration and policy support such as investment tax credit and production tax credit to make agrivoltaics as competitive as possible, among others.

"At this point, we have more questions than answers, which is exciting because these questions will guide our future cross-discipline research," Gomez-Casanovas said. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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# MT Fish and Wildlife Commission new transparency measures

Newly bound by a settlement between a wolf advocacy group and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the seven-member Fish and Wildlife Commission charged with "wise management" of the state's fish and wildlife resources conducted its business with a particular eye toward transparency when it met Oct. 19.

The Oct. 11 settlement, reached with Stevensville-based nonprofit Wolves of the Rockies, aims to close the book on a year-long dispute over open-government violations, more specifically friction surrounding FWP's compliance

with public record requests and allegations that commissioners acted unlawfully in 2022 when they discussed items on their agenda outside of public process.

Six of the body's seven commissioners, all Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) appointees, were implicated in those closed-door meetings conducted via email—enough to form a quorum and thereby violate right-to-know provisions enshrined in the Montana Constitution. The agreement leads with an admission that FWP violated Wolves of the Rockies' constitutional rights by "failing to

produce public information and failing to properly notice and conduct public meetings."

When commissioners delivered their customary reports at the start of the Oct. 19 meeting, they were required by the settlement to explicitly disclose which groups they'd met with since the body's last public meeting, a stipulation intended to provide the public with more transparency about who might be lobbying the commission.

A number of commissioners said they'd had contact with the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, a couple

had met with Trout Unlimited staff or members, and one commissioner said he'd met with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition and local sporting groups also made the list. Only chair Lesley Robinson said she had nothing to disclose.

Other pieces of the settlement involve the disclosure of text messages and emails sent in the periods between public meetings, a commitment to use only government phones and email addresses for commission business, and a requirement that commission-

ers, who are appointed by the governor to four-year terms, attend trainings on open-meeting and open-record compliance.

The 7-page settlement, inked on Oct. 11 and first reported by the Missoula Current, also includes clauses specific to Wolves of the Rockies—for example, a requirement that the commission post comments the group submits online and allow it an hour of public comment during the commission's June 2024 meeting.

In an Oct. 24 conversation with Montana Free Press, Wolves of the Rockies President Marc Cooke said he has "bittersweet" feelings about the settlement.

"I'm very happy that they were called out for their bad behavior and acknowledged that they violated our constitutional rights, but it was all avoidable—it's been avoided in the past," he said.

Cooke added that he's not "terribly optimistic" that the agency and commission will uphold the terms of the consent decree.

FWP spokesperson Greg Lemon has said that the agency values transparency and noted that the transparency protections included in the agreement were generated by agency staff. FWP has stream-

lined the record request process, according to Lemon.

The March 2022 Wolves of the Rockies complaint that preceded the settlement agreement asserts that some of the organization's requests for commission communications went unfulfilled for seven months.

Like other state agencies, FWP is subject to statutory deadlines to comply with public record requests after an overwhelming majority of lawmakers voted to apply clear timelines to the statutory definition of "timely" response. Per Senate Bill 232, which went into effect for most executive branch agencies on Oct. 1, those deadlines range from five business days for simple requests to up to six months for larger or more complex petitions.

The settlement with Wolves of the Rockies comes as the agency is subject to more public and legislative scrutiny. Last month, the Legislative Audit Division found that there were cultural issues within the agency's enforcement division that created an atmosphere of retaliation and intimidation under the leadership of former top warden Greg Loewen. Loewen has since been replaced by Ron Howell. — **Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press**

## Money saved through cost effective feeding

From a nutritional standpoint, cattle basically need protein, energy, vitamins, minerals and water. Assuming free choice vitamin/mineral and water is in adequate supply, most nutritional supplementation and feeding focuses primarily on the crude protein (CP) and energy (TDN) needs of cattle.

Furthermore, nutritional needs of cattle vary by age, size, stage of production, environmental conditions and weather, gender, breed and other factors (like level of milk production). In any nutritional program it is imperative to determine the objective of why we are feeding or supplementing. After defining our goal, we can minimize input costs and maximize our profit potential by evaluating feeds based on nutrient content as opposed to just looking at the price per ton or bag.

### Evaluating feeds

At the time of this writing, 38% CP, 70% TDN range cubes are available at a bulk price of \$475/ton, and the same commercial feed mill has 20% CP, 70% TDN cubes priced at \$350/ton. Protein and TDN content are on an "as fed" basis.

If we are in a situation requiring protein supplementation of cows grazing warm season grass this fall, either of these protein supplements could meet our needs, but which is the more cost-effective alternative? At a glance, \$350/ton strikes most of us as a more cost-effective feed. But what are we actually getting?

Some "cowboy math" yields the following answers:

#### The 38% cubes

At a cost of \$475, one ton of 38% cubes contains 760 pounds of CP and 1,400 lbs.

of TDN.

• 2,000 lbs. x 0.38 = 760 lbs., and 2,000 x 0.70 = 1,400 lbs.

The cost per unit of CP is \$0.625/lb., the cost per unit of TDN is \$0.34/lb.

• \$475/760 lbs. = \$0.625 and \$475/1,400 lbs. = \$0.34.

#### The 20% cubes

At a cost of \$350, one ton of 20% cubes contains 400 lbs. of CP and 1,400 lbs. of TDN.

• 2,000 lbs. x 0.20 = 400 lbs., and 2,000 x 0.70 = 1,400 lbs.

The cost per unit of CP is \$0.875/lb., the cost per unit of

TDN is \$0.25/lb.

• \$350/400 = \$0.875 and \$350/1400 = \$0.25.

So, we have determined the more cost-effective source of CP is the 38% cubes and the more cost-effective source of energy is the 20% cubes. What is the most cost-effective feed? Depends on our nutritional objective. What we are we feeding/supplementing and why. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

## USMEF seminar looks at China's foods market

More than 250 people attended a U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) seminar to learn about growth opportunities in the prepared foods market and potential applications with U.S. beef and pork.

With consumer demand for prepared foods expanding in China, USMEF hosted a trade seminar in Shanghai that highlighted industry innovations and the value and versatility offered by U.S. beef and pork cuts when used in home meal replacement and restaurant meal replacement items.

"Similar to Korea, the prepared food category in China is expanding as Chinese consumers seek convenient, high-quality meals at home," said USMEF Vice President of Asia Pacific Jihae Yang. "There are immediate market opportunities and one of our goals was to connect the U.S. red meat supply chain with prefabricated food developers in China."

More than 250 importers, distributors, processors and other prospective customers attended the seminar to learn about the development of the prepared foods market, innovations in packaging and new uses for U.S. beef and pork in prepared meals.

Prior to the seminar, USMEF partnered with a

noted research and development company to create eight prepared food dishes each with U.S. beef and U.S. pork for display and consideration by seminar participants. Products demonstrated at the event included beef jerky items derived from U.S. round cuts and meals featuring U.S. pork loin as the center-of-the-plate entrée.

"We're working to show how U.S. beef and pork can fit in product development plans for prepared foods," said USMEF China Marketing Director Polly Zhao. "We're also taking a team of potential customers from China to Korea to learn about home meal replacement products and to demonstrate how U.S. beef and pork is utilized."

Consul General Scott Walker and Lashonda McLeod Harper, director of USDA's Shanghai Agricultural Trade Office, attended USMEF's seminar to support the U.S. red meat industry. USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom and Asia Pacific Vice President Jihae Yang also joined Zhao for the seminar.

Funding for the seminar was provided by the Beef Checkoff Program, National Pork Board, United Soybean Board and USDA's Market Access Program. — **USMEF**










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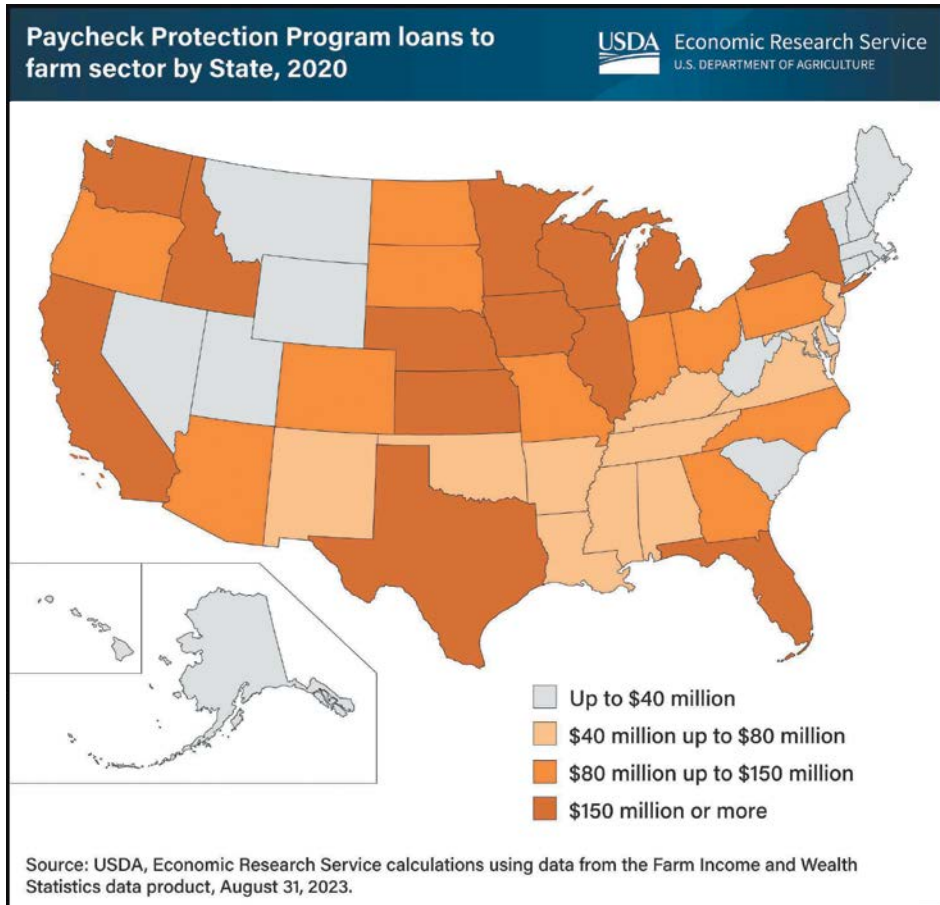
<p>LOT 1 Hoffman Thedford 2394 #20624423</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>SM</th><th>SB</th><th>SC</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>1.9</td><td>96</td><td>165</td><td>32</td><td>0.33</td><td>1.11</td><td>89</td><td>173</td><td>313</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC	5	1.9	96	165	32	0.33	1.11	89	173	313	<p>LOT 27 Stelplflug Summation 2411 #20608929</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>SM</th><th>SB</th><th>SC</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>0.7</td><td>110</td><td>198</td><td>25</td><td>1.13</td><td>0.83</td><td>63</td><td>201</td><td>324</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC	14	0.7	110	198	25	1.13	0.83	63	201	324	<p>LOT 44 Stelplflug Clarity 2420 #20654484</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>SM</th><th>SB</th><th>SC</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>-0.4</td><td>87</td><td>162</td><td>24</td><td>1.23</td><td>0.82</td><td>75</td><td>209</td><td>346</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC	16	-0.4	87	162	24	1.23	0.82	75	209	346
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<p>LOT 100 H BENTON 2205 ET #P-44372116</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>BMI</th><th>CHB</th></tr> <tr><td>11.7</td><td>-0.9</td><td>65</td><td>106</td><td>33</td><td>0.33</td><td>0.77</td><td>504</td><td>182</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	BMI	CHB	11.7	-0.9	65	106	33	0.33	0.77	504	182	<p>LOT 107 H WMS HIGH TIME 2195 ET #P-44399912</p>  <p>Homozygous Polled</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>BMI</th><th>CHB</th></tr> <tr><td>5.8</td><td>2.2</td><td>71</td><td>117</td><td>29</td><td>0.29</td><td>0.82</td><td>509</td><td>184</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	BMI	CHB	5.8	2.2	71	117	29	0.29	0.82	509	184	<p>LOT 124 H ENTICE 2249 ET #44369849</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>BMI</th><th>CHB</th></tr> <tr><td>-1.9</td><td>4.4</td><td>66</td><td>113</td><td>27</td><td>0.35</td><td>0.67</td><td>350</td><td>164</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	BMI	CHB	-1.9	4.4	66	113	27	0.35	0.67	350	164						
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<p>H SOUTHERN BELL 2223 ET #P-44369835</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>BMI</th><th>CHB</th></tr> <tr><td>10.3</td><td>0.0</td><td>70</td><td>115</td><td>29</td><td>0.39</td><td>0.23</td><td>466</td><td>137</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	BMI	CHB	10.3	0.0	70	115	29	0.39	0.23	466	137	<p>Hoffman Emblynette 273 #20326721</p>  <table border="1"> <tr><th>CED</th><th>BW</th><th>WW</th><th>YW</th><th>MILK</th><th>MRB</th><th>REA</th><th>SM</th><th>SB</th><th>SC</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2.7</td><td>89</td><td>155</td><td>31</td><td>0.64</td><td>0.68</td><td>88</td><td>173</td><td>310</td></tr> </table>	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC	4	2.7	89	155	31	0.64	0.68	88	173	310	<p>KUHL HAND CAT #5948340 2019 BAY GELDING BY CADES CAT</p> 																						
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# PPP loans provided \$5.8B to farm sector in 2020



Researchers at the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) estimate that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provided \$5.8 billion to the farm sector in 2020.

The PPP was a non-USDA assistance program for small businesses adversely affected by the pandemic. Total federal government payments to the farm sector in 2020 were \$45.6 billion, meaning that PPP payments were 13% of total payments.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) adminis-

tered the PPP, providing forgivable loans to eligible small businesses and certain other entities to allow them to cover some of their payroll costs. Businesses had to meet specific eligibility requirements, such as having a positive payroll and/or making profits. The PPP loans were forgiven in full if the loan was used on eligible expenses, including at least 60% on payroll expenses.

Agricultural producers in California were the largest recipients of PPP loans at \$1.1

billion, followed by Washington at \$285 million. California leads the nation in the value of agricultural production and has the highest hired labor expense among states.

Other top recipients of PPP loans included Texas (\$281.5 million), Iowa (\$252.6 million), Illinois (\$251.8 million) and Florida (\$247 million).

The latest publicly available data from the SBA show almost all the PPP loans (98%) made to the farm sector in 2020 have been forgiven. — **USDA ERS**

## Trends in using Livestock Risk protection

Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) has become so popular that people may stop using it. LRP has often sparked the interest of cow-calf producers and smaller cattle feeders looking for a cost-effective way to transfer downside price risk to others. A few years ago, the premium subsidy on LRP was substantially increased and the

impact on LRP sales has been dramatic.

In fiscal year 2020, fewer than 80,000 head were covered as feeder cattle. In fiscal year 2023 almost 4.2 million head were covered as feeder cattle. The feeder cattle coverage was popular in Texas, South Dakota and Nebraska, as each state had more than 400,000 head insured. In fiscal year 2019 fewer than 4,000 head were covered as fed cattle. In fiscal year 2023 there were over 850,000 head covered as fed cattle. The fed cattle coverage was popular in Nebraska, Texas and Iowa, as each state had more than 100,000 head insured.

For perspective, the 2022 U.S. calf crop was 34.5 million head. Thus, the share covered is growing, but nothing like the shares of corn or wheat acres insured. There were still only 19,259 policies sold for feeder cattle and 6,768 policies sold for fed cattle in 2023.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported 729,046 operations had beef cows. During 2022 the 26,000 feedlots marketed 25.9 million head of finished cattle. With the sharp increases in head covered, the liability (or insured amount) has also increased. During fiscal year 2023 the value of feeder cattle covered was almost \$7 billion and the value of fed cattle covered was almost \$2 billion.

The sharply higher subsidy on LRP premiums has been the primary driver of the in-

crease in sales and coverage. Hedges using futures would require margin deposits. With the increase in futures prices, that would have been observed as higher margin calls at higher interest rates this past year.

Hedges using put options would be more expensive at the time of purchase as they are not subsidized. In addition, option premiums are paid up-front while LRP premiums are paid for at the end of the coverage period. Higher interest rates can also effectively reduce the cost of LRP relative to using put options.

The LRP subsidy is the highest for the lowest levels of coverage. Before the subsidy increase the ratio of the total premium to total liability for feeder cattle coverage was 0.03. Last year the ratio was 0.04. From a risk perspective, this implies that buyers of LRP are buying a little more coverage than before.

The subsidy combined across fed and feeder cattle in 2023 was over \$110 million. Producers paid about twice that amount for the coverage. The market, during most of that time, steadily increased the cattle price levels. Thus, the indemnity payments were low for feeder cattle and zero for fed cattle. Producers need to remember that when LRP is paying out that cattle prices have likely fallen. — **Matthew Diersen, risk & business management specialist, South Dakota State University**

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- ◆ 100 Two-Year-Old Bulls
- ◆ 100 Registered Females
- ◆ 1400 Commercial Females

## Easements would not require public access

### MO HEADWATERS (from page 1)

"This is a topic that significantly affects my constituents and the state," Rosendale wrote. "Having one of the largest proposed conservation areas in the nation's history go on without any public comment or even being known to anyone outside the group plotting this land grab is a disservice to the country and Montanans."

According to the letter, The Nature Conservancy and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) coordinated the meetings with county officials to discuss the proposal's details.

In a statement, TRCP said voluntary conservation has

been a success for working lands, and they are excited to support Montana's farms and ranches. TRCP said the agency has an extensive history of working with landowners to create conservation areas in the state with similar projects on the Rocky Mountain Front and in the Blackfoot River Valley.

USFWS announced it was accepting comments in the scoping period on Sept. 20. Initially, the deadline was Oct. 26, but it has been extended to Nov. 27.

Comments can be emailed to MOHWCA@fws.gov or sent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Ben Gilles, 922 Bootlegger Trail Great Falls, MT 59404. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

[www.stevensondiamonddot.com](http://www.stevensondiamonddot.com)

## STORY SHORTS

### 2023 Wrangler NFR crew announced

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has announced the bullfighters, barrelman and pickup men for the 2023 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR). This year's selections for bullfighters are Dusty Tuckness, Cody Webster and Nathan Jests. The selected barrelman is John Harrison and the alternate is Matthew Tarr. The pickup men are Tyler Kraft and Josh Edwards, and the alternate is Matt Twitchell. The 2023 Wrangler NFR presented by Teton Ridge will be held in Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 7-16.

### NAMI releases improvement report

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) released the second continuous improvement report, representing over half of its members—a 60% improvement from the last report—and focusing on five key areas. According to NAMI, the report shows submitted data from 93% of the largest member companies representing an estimated 90% of the meat sold in the U.S. “98% of American households purchase meat, putting our sector undoubtedly at the center of sustaining healthy diets, healthy communities, and a healthy planet for generations to come,” said NAMI President and CEO Julie Anna Potts in a statement. One key focus area is for 100% of members to have a set science-based emissions reduction target by 2030, and so far, 14 general members and 10 suppliers have a plan. In September, NAMI and the United Nations Global Compact Network USA jointly released a tool to help meat companies conduct emissions surveys to assist in a plan to set science-based targets. NAMI highlighted a second key area of members contributing to food banks to provide protein to families facing hunger through long-term commitments and after disasters. A copy of the report is available at [tinyurl.com/bdzc8f8k](https://tinyurl.com/bdzc8f8k).

### Strauss Brands sells product lines

Wisconsin-based Strauss Brands has agreed to sell its veal and lamb product lines to focus on grass-fed, grass-finished beef products. Catelli Brothers Family of Foods, a subsidiary of Canadian-based Preval AG, purchased the lines for an undisclosed amount and will move production to its facilities in Collingswood, NJ, and Sutton, MA. Strauss also announced it is partnering with Texas-based Eddy Foods to expand beef product offerings under its Grass Rooted label. Eddy has two processing plants in Yoakum, TX, and Greenwood, SC, and offers ready-to-eat products such as smoked sausage, sliced brisket and shredded BBQ. “We are proud to have made meaningful changes in how animals are raised and treated, becoming leaders in ethical agriculture and creating a positive and lasting impact in our industry,” said Randy Strauss, CEO of Strauss Brands.

### CO brand commissioner job opening

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is looking for a brand commissioner to oversee the state's billion-dollar livestock industry. The brand commissioner will manage a \$4.7 million budget and assist in advising the Colorado State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners and the CDA in developing and implementing policies to protect the state's livestock industry. The position is also responsible for issuing sale barn and alternative livestock licenses and administering the issuance, renewal, transfer and cancellation of the state's 30,000-plus livestock brands. If you have 10 years of experience in a management position in the livestock industry or a bachelor's degree in a related field and six years of experience in management in livestock production, CDA encourages you to find out more about the position at [tinyurl.com/yk8bjf6f](https://tinyurl.com/yk8bjf6f).

### USDA releases report on carbon markets

USDA has released an assessment report on the carbon markets looking at the current market activity and barriers and opportunities to improve access for farmers and forest landowners. The report, titled “A General Assessment of the Role of Agriculture and Forestry in the U.S. Carbon Markets,” identifies various barriers, such as high costs in carbon markets, including the costs of greenhouse gas quantification, verification and reporting, and provides insight into solutions to accessibility. The report states despite a high awareness of carbon markets from producers, there is only a 3% participation rate due to the barriers. It further shows the agency has new or existing programs to reduce the barriers agricultural and forestry producers face in accessing voluntary environmental credit markets. This includes the \$300 million investment in climate-smart agriculture and forestry through President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda. USDA said the next step is for the agency to decide whether to establish the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program. This would facilitate better technical assistance to producers interested in participating in carbon markets and a process to register market verifiers.

# 10 activities that improve profitability of your cow herd

We have tight cattle supplies and record cattle prices, but costs of production have also increased. The industry is still in a place that if you are not in control of your production costs selling calves for record prices may still be below breakeven. Here are 10 activities that are important for managing a profitable cow-calf operation.

1. Know your costs of production. Beef cattle standard performance analyses of cow herds across the Great Plains show that high net income producers have 43% lower cost of production than low net income producers. It also allows for more effective marketing, risk management and setting production goals and makes it easier to identify places for improvement.

2. Have a defined calving season that matches your environment. This produces a more uniform calf crop to market; larger uniform groups at auction markets receive \$5/cwt compared to single head lots. This also allows for better health and nutritional management and management of calves pre- and post-weaning. This is the foundation for the development of least-cost winter nutrition programs.

3. Selection of replacement heifers for fertility and

longevity. Heifers that have their first calf early in the calving season tend to rebreed earlier and calve early in subsequent years, and heifers that reach puberty before their first breeding are more fertile. Assessing reproductive tract scores of heifers 30 to 60 days before their first breeding season can help sort out the heifers that have not reached puberty and are more likely to breed late.

4. Pregnancy testing and culling cows. Culling open cows obviously will decrease winter feeding costs, but also culling old cows, infirm cows, unsound cows and cows with poor dispositions can improve calf performance and decrease calf death losses. Culling open cows and not selecting heifers out of these cows as replacements will improve reproductive efficiency over time and increase calving rate.

5. Improve forage management. The forage resource is the foundation of cow production. Improved management will increase carrying capacity of the land, improve cow and calf nutrition, increase productivity of livestock, and decrease cost per unit of forage produced. Reduced reliance on feed and hay is a key to decreasing costs and in-

creasing profitability.

6. Hay testing and least cost supplementation. Knowledge of hay quality will allow you to match the hay being fed to the cow's nutrient requirements and has the potential to reduce or totally replace supplementation. The supplement being fed and supplement rates can better match what is needed by the cow.

7. Crossbreeding with a superior sire. Heterosis or hybrid vigor is the only free thing you can expect in the cattle business. Crossbred cows with hybrid vigor have higher conception rates, weaning rates, and longevity. These benefits combine to increase the pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed to a bull by 15-25%. Increasing sire quality leads to higher weaning weights, post-weaning growth, and improved marketability.

8. Have a designed herd health program. A close veterinary-client relationship pays dividends for your business. A good herd health program will reduce cow death loss and increase cow productivity. More productive cows with good immune systems will produce more and better colostrum which will reduce calf morbidity and death loss... and makes

for more productive calves.

9. Add value with preconditioning and retain ownership past weaning. Preconditioning added \$15-20/cwt premium on calves over the last few years. Extending ownership will allow you to capture more of their true value. This can be a good thing or bad thing, depending on your calf's quality.

10. Reduce debt and keep expenses low. Referring again to the beef cattle standard performance analysis; high-profit producers have lower costs of production with less invested per cow in all asset categories than low profit producers, but especially less invested in machinery and equipment and real estate. Low-profit producers have more total debt on a per cow basis.

The most profitable producers tend to have higher pregnancy rates, calving and weaning percentages, and thus higher pounds weaned per cow exposed to a bull than the least profitable producers. Profitability of the cow-calf enterprise is controlled by a web of production and economic factors but is rarely associated with maximized weaning weight. — Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University State Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist

## TLC ANGUS RANCH SUGAR TOP ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE SAT., NOVEMBER 18, 1 P.M. PRODUCER'S LIVESTOCK, JEROME, IDAHO

Offering includes 60 Long-Yearling Angus Bulls, Registered Angus Females and 30 Bred Commercial Heifers  
Bulls Sell by These Leading A.I. Sires and More ...

**G A R GREATER GOOD**  
Sire: G A R Ashland  
Dam's Sire: G A R Sure Fire



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
16	88	159	25	1.34	1.01	75	101	199	305

**SCHAACK WICKWIRE 8344**  
Sire: V A R Legend 5019  
Dam's Sire: G A R Prophet



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
7	77	144	35	1.70	.55	76	90	193	303

**44 BRAGGING RIGHTS 4372**  
Sire: VAR Discovery 2240  
Dam's Sire: Connealy Capitalist 028



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
6	70	127	7	1.04	.97	49	89	167	266

**DB ICONIC G95**  
Sire: Musgrave 316 Stunner  
Dam's Sire: V A R Discovery 2240



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
1.3	88	155	27	1.82	.67	77	108	218	334

**E W A PEYTON 642**  
Sire: Quaker Hill Manning 4EX9  
Dam's Sire: G A R Progresse



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
2.1	96	167	29	1.24	.80	84	131	215	341

**BOYD DYNAMIC 6118**  
Sire: Connealy Black Granite  
Dam's Sire: EXAR Denver 2002B



BW	WW	YW	MK	MA	RE	SW	SF	SB	SC
2.1	75	130	30	.77	.64	72	126	181	296

SALE BOOK LINK: [www.flipsnack.com/bestofthewest/tlc-angus-sugar-top-angus-bull-sale-dn0bm3kxvn/full-view.html](http://www.flipsnack.com/bestofthewest/tlc-angus-sugar-top-angus-bull-sale-dn0bm3kxvn/full-view.html)

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# MARKET NEWS

## MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 10/26/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	183.51 ▼	186.91	150.49
CME Feeder Index	240.62 ▼	244.83	174.78
Boxed Beef Average	306.85 ▲	304.12	262.49
Average Dressed Steers	289.83 ▼	292.50	236.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,382 ▲	1,367	1,370
Weekly Slaughter**	638,000 ▲	617,000	673,000
Weekly Beef Production***	527.8 ▲	510.0	557.4
Hide/Offal Value	12.88 ▼	18.62	13.92
Corn Price	4.80 ▼	5.05	6.83

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
October 20	6,698	298.62	230	337.70	1,234	306.06	1,993	299.98	815	277.11	2,426	261.91
October 13	6,577	296.75	201	336.48	1,270	304.15	1,972	299.22	798	276.89	2,337	259.23
September 29	6,398	296.93	188	339.47	1,207	305.87	1,781	299.08	887	278.14	2,335	260.77
September 22	6,768	297.62	207	341.01	1,217	306.71	2,073	299.33	941	279.11	2,330	263.16

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Oct 26	306.85	279.69	227.58		82.56	280.00					
Oct 25	307.50	281.66	235.10		78.30	294.40					
Oct 24	305.98	284.00	233.08		94.35	292.63					
Oct 23	304.54	281.02	232.35		79.65	290.31					
Oct 20	305.38	278.70	233.56		85.88	293.55					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	10/20	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	High*	Low*
Oct.	18428	17825	18000	18113	18170	18708	14003
Dec.	18463	17835	17863	17943	17933	19183	15388
Feb.	18773	18098	18085	18150	18040	19633	15310
Apr.	19043	18373	18343	18383	18290	19975	16853

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	10/20	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26	High*	Low*
Oct.	24183	23763	23943	23998	24055	26448	18303
Nov.	24223	23580	23543	23805	23650	26813	18755
Jan.	24305	23570	23485	23655	23508	26833	22750
Mar.	24573	23838	23763	23923	23775	25723	25475

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

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	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

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	2,506	1,543	186.91
Live FOB Heifer	1,530	1,343	196.31
Dressed Del Steer	319	952	292.50
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	4,294	1,454	150.49
Live FOB Heifer	1,109	1,315	150.91
Dressed Del Steer	205	1,024	236.00
Dressed Del Heifer	140	827	236.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 22		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	18,983	4,281
Formula	266,309	1,021
Negotiated Cash	99,202	227
Negotiated Grid	47,033	1,133
Packer Owned	8,656	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>440,183</b>	<b>6,653</b>

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,974
Oct. '23	104,951		1,018
Nov. '23	145,061	Formula sales	3,645
Dec. '23	111,704	Forward contract sales	62
Jan. '24	106,055	Domestic sales	5,795
Feb. '24	83,732	NAFTA Exports	56

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES			
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change	
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	171.47	+1.59	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	

Ontario Auctions			
	Price	Weekly Change	
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	173.23	+0.70	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	97.42	-3.82	

\*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, October 13, 2023				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	284.51	286.24	264.39	
601-700 lbs	266.15	267.90	246.19	
701-800 lbs	253.34	255.99	219.13	
801-900 lbs	234.97	234.27	226.72	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	273.85	277.65	236.92	
501-600 lbs	246.07	246.71	229.59	
601-700 lbs	235.47	235.88	210.54	
701-800 lbs	226.22	226.90	209.85	

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
10/16/23	29,883	23,710	931,827	625,237

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
October 26, 2023			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 7,450	Week Ago Act: 7,200	Year Ago Act: 13,401	
Columbus, NM	Santa Teresa, NM		
N/A		Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold 9.00 lower. Heifers 10.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.	

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	225-235
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	215-225
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	205-215

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	273-283
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	253-263
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	233-243

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

Selected Auction										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS	
October 20	Blackfoot, ID	N/A	350-396	280-360	210-316	195-265	190-245	190-228	89-07		
October 19	Burley, ID	630	370	335-370	285-302	233-246		220	100-118.50		
February 15	Emmett, ID								82-108		
October 21	Eugene, OR	935	172-250	220-278	230-268	166-221	175-215	146-198	90-106	650-1610	
October 23	Madras, OR	921	146-210	167-233	151-221	130-185			90-109		
October 18	Vale, OR	2,177	280-317	277-316	231-264				95-121		
No report available	Davenport, WA		280-305	250-296	225-249	200-223		170-202	100-120		
October 19	Toppenish, WA	1,800	310-363	262-330	243-286	231-262	220-245	190-213	96-105		
No report available	Orland, CA		260-343	240-317	220-258	217-237			110-123.50		
October 23	Escalon, CA	N/A			200-260		160-215	115-145	80-104	800-1500	
No report available	Famoso, CA				175-220		115-175	90-120	80-134		
No report available	Galt, CA										
October 24	Turlock, CA	1,117		274-328	240-270	235-259	220-240		95-127		
October 17	Salina, UT	2,149	295-435	290-445	265-400	220-310	217.50-275	185-238.50	152.50-231	80.75-135.20	
			280-400	250-380	205-335	185-272	160-242.50	145-226	136.50-222.50	109.35-133	

October 16	Iowa	9,879	305-385	274-360	260-313	231-294.50	231-265	218.50-260.25	80-129	
October 24	Miles City, MT	4,176	240-300	234-284.50	200-277.75	205-276	224.50-249.60	205-234	91-140.50	
October 25	Bassett, NE	3,390	330-377.50	284-335	260.75-288	234-253			62-116	
October 21	Ericson, NE	3,340	272.50-310	257.50-286	236-270	240-246	230.50-241	204-234.50	92-110	1,200-1,275
October 24	Imperial, NE	510	348	332-354	282-330.50	249.75-289	266.50-270	239.25-248.50		
October 18	Kearney, NE	2,600	292-315	282-306	258-280	240-243	239.50-241	181-243.50		
October 20	Lexington, NE	2,367	360-385	315-368	285-326	258-294	253	226-250.50		
October 19	Ogallala, NE	3,452	327.50-333	278-303	247-277	243-263.50	227-235.50	224-230		
October 24	Valentine, NE	3,730	347.50-352	295-359	269.50-308	255-257	230			
October 18	Torrington, WY	5,061	275.50	267-278	255-257				101-117	
				331-342	288-326.50	259-299.25	260.50	243-259.75	104-122	
				282-298	257.50-280	247-267	241	230.50-238		
				358	318-341	282-320	259-295	256.75		
				313	268-294	250.50-268	245-260	216		
				365-397	312.50-367.50	282.50-308	240-272	222-239		
				332-345	273-308	251-281.50	225-251	223-242.50		
				337.50-348	331-363	291-335	275-294			
				323-340	301-324	276-315	255			
				330-347	302-334	292-320	269.50-300	254-256.50	230.50-254.50	
				282	240-284	229-258.50	220-255	235.50-237	206-233	
				404	382-415	339-380	281-333	245-284.50	256-267	
				350	330-358	289-341	249-292	245-266	218-250	

October 19	Willcox, AZ	2,093	150	251-280	293-330	262-299	234-269		90-130	1,200-1,600
October 23	Colorado	9,654	254-270	239-285	223-257	202-226	206-220.50		105-130	
October 18	La Junta, CO	2,301	302.50-400	302-380	260-345	245-288	232-259	197.50-248.50	66-137.50	1,925-3,100
October 16	Loma, CO	961	305-335*	281-340*	250-287.50*	230-271*	202.50-247*	150-235*	56-122.50	800-1,850
October 25	Dodge City									

## Ensuring high cattle prices last longer

Higher placements and reduced marketings resulted in an Oct. 1 feedlot inventory of 11.58 million head, 0.6% higher than one year ago. This was the first monthly year-over-year increase in 13 months and the second highest October on-feed total in the data series back to 1996.

The October USDA Cattle on Feed report showed September feedlot marketings down 10.6% year over year. This marketing total reflects one less business day in the month compared to last year and was slightly less than average pre-report estimates for marketings. September feedlot placements were up 6.1% from one year ago. Placements were expected to be up year over year, but this total was larger than pre-report estimates.

Despite ever-smaller feeder cattle supplies, feedlot inventories have temporarily halted the slow decline of the last year with the September surge in placements. Sixty eight percent of the increase in September placements were between 700-900 pounds, which means that the bulk of the cattle will be marketed in the first quarter of 2024. The remaining increase in placements were cattle weighing less than 700 lbs. that will be

marketed in the second quarter of the year.

Some of the placements were likely drought-forced early feeder sales and may be offset by some reduction in feeder numbers in the fourth quarter. Increased placements no doubt also reflects many producers selling feeder cattle to take advantage of the sharply higher prices this fall.

Continued heifer feeding made up the biggest part of the increase in feedlot inventories. Oct. 1 feedlot inventories were up 71,000 head from one year ago and heifers made up 60,000 head (84.5%) of the increase. The number of heifers on feed was up 3.7% from July and up 1.3% over last year. This is the largest October heifer on feed total in the data series back to 1996. Heifers currently represent exactly 40% of the total cattle on feed, up fractionally from July and are at the percentage of feedlot inventories since October 2001.

The industry continues to liquidate females. Monthly slaughter data through September shows that total female (cow plus heifer) slaughter has averaged 51.8% of total cattle slaughter for the past 12 months. This is the highest 12-month average female percentage since August 1986.

The latest slaughter data and the latest Cattle on Feed report both suggest that heifer retention is not beginning in 2023.

Year-to-date beef cow slaughter is down 12.9% from last year but will still result in a net culling rate over 11.5% for year—indicating continued liquidation. The beef cow herd will be smaller in January 2024, and it increasingly looks like the best that could happen in 2024 is to stabilize the herd with significant growth delayed until 2025 or beyond.

Beef production is down 5.2% thus far in 2023. This is a significant decline from 2022 record beef production but is less of a decrease than would be the case if herd liquidation were not continuing. Smaller beef cow inventories are ahead and more dramatic reductions in cattle slaughter and beef production—and higher cattle prices—will occur when herd rebuilding gets rolling.

This process looks to continue into 2026 at least. This latest Cattle on Feed report may be taken as bearish for cattle markets in the short term, but it is certainly bullish for cattle markets in the coming years. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

## Boxed beef prices continue volatile price movement

### MARKETS (from page 1)

“Considering beef production is down 5.3% as of last Friday, according to the USDA, if an end user or consumer wants to purchase a holiday rib, supplies are limited. Rib primal prices have been trading at record high levels for this time of year the last 3 weeks.”

### Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were sent lower over the week. The October contract lost about \$3 to close at \$240.55, and the November contract lost \$8 to close at \$236.50.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index dropped more than \$4 over the week, closing at \$240.64.

“Right now, the cattle market—and feeder cattle trade in particular—is very emotionally driven, with very little time for the markets to settle down and stabilize,” DTN wrote on Thursday. “Moderate to wide price swings may continue to develop through the remainder of Thursday, limiting opportunity for buyers who have been waiting to step back into the market.”

Corn futures also nosedived over the week, with the December contract down 26 cents

to \$4.79 and the March contract down 24 cents to \$4.93.

**Colorado:** Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 1,118 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers in all weight classes sold \$8 lower. Feeder heifers in all weight classes sold \$4-8 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 780 lbs. sold between \$225-241, averaging \$239.79.

**Missouri:** Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 4,425 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$8-14 lower and feeder heifers sold \$9-16 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold from \$241-249, averaging \$243.02.

**Nebraska:** Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 2,630 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steers under 500 lbs. and over 600 lbs. sold sharply lower on the day. Steers from 500-600 lbs. sold \$1-6 lower. Most weights of heifers sold \$10-15 lower, except 400-450 lbs. sold \$3 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 687 lbs. sold between \$240.25-253, averaging \$243.64.

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,600 head on Monday. Compared to the week prior, feeder steers and heifers sold \$4-8 lower. Steer calves

sold \$2-4 lower, except a few under 500 lbs. that were long-weaned or fancy sold sharply higher. Heifer calves sold \$4-10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold from \$231-244.50, averaging \$239.79.

**South Dakota:** Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 1,638 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steer and heifer calves sold with lower undertones. Yearling feeder steers sold \$5-10 lower, and heifers sold with lower to much lower undertones. Benchmark steers averaging 731 lbs. sold for \$249.

**Texas:** Lonestar Stockyards in Wildorado sold 1,206 head Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer and heifer calves traded mostly \$5-10 lower. There were not enough comparable sales for an accurate comparison of steers and heifers, but a lower undertone was noted. Benchmark steers averaging 783 lbs. sold for \$227.

**Wyoming:** Winter Livestock in Riverton sold 4,596 head Tuesday. Compared to the auction last week, yearling steers and heifers traded \$10-15 lower. Feeder steers and heifers traded steady to \$10-15 lower, with instances of \$20 lower. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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

**Nov. 3** – Purina Mills and the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Committee (YCLC) will be awarding two Purina Mills \$1,000 scholarships and two YCLC \$500 scholarships during the 2023 Joint Stockmen's Convention in December. Details: [www.nmagriculture.org](http://www.nmagriculture.org).

**Nov. 10** – The National Cattlemen's Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2024 CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship. Ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to outstanding students pursuing careers in the beef industry. Details: [www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org](http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org).

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

# CSU program trains adults with disabilities for ag careers

As a 28-year-old woman with Down syndrome, Anika Pounds has worked washing dishes, folding silverware into napkins, doing laundry and cleaning health club machines. She wants something more.

The RAM Scholars program for adults with an intellectual disability at Colorado State University (CSU) strives to facilitate meaningful employment for Pounds and her classmates.

The RAM Scholars pilot initiative began this spring at CSU's Agricultural, Research, Development and Education Center, or ARDEC, and with classes at CSU. That was followed by a summer internship program at ARDEC and classes this fall. The goal is to match adults with disabilities to jobs in agriculture, an industry that needs employees.

"It's great to be free to help animals," said Pounds, fresh off learning about the curved cattle corral and chute system at ARDEC. "It makes me feel better to calm down and tell myself to be independent."

Pounds speaks two languages (English and her mother Ingrid Grotheer's native German), walks to CSU's main campus from home, rides horses, dances, plays musical instruments and has traveled to visit family in Germany and to Italy

with former classmates and teachers from the Poudre School District.

"Where a lot of people would maybe be OK with menial work or simple things, she gets bored with that," said Grotheer, who stressed she cannot fully express how much RAM Scholars means. "This program has been really good because it is challenging her mentally, and she's really enjoying it."

## Learning specific skills

On a recent clear and sunny day, RAM Scholars learned how the cattle moving system developed by CSU Professor Temple Grandin calms animals before being weighed. Students took turns catching the cattle in just the right spot of the hug machine, which reduces stress by applying even pressure across the animal's body.

"They're gaining exposure to a potential pathway to jobs in a sector that is employing here in Colorado," said Deborah Fidler, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and director of the department's Developmental Disabilities Research Laboratory.

James Graham, a professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and

director of the department's Center for Community Partnerships, and Fidler are the program's co-directors. "There are a lot of potential employers for people who have specific technical skills in the field of agriculture," Fidler said.

Pounds, classmate Alec Robinson and other RAM Scholars worked Grandin's cattle hug machine. It was hands-on, real-world learning from expert teachers and peer mentors from the College of Health and Human Sciences and the College of Agricultural Sciences.

"As Dr. Grandin says, we don't know what an individual might excel at until they have exposure to it," Fidler said. "When Alec and Anika have the opportunity to learn new technical skills, that's one more exposure that they have for potential employment."

Peer mentor and CSU senior Brianna Honeycutt has worked as a research assistant in Fidler's lab for three years. Honeycutt wants to be an occupational therapist, so supporting and teaching adults with disabilities is a good fit. Developing relationships with the participants is a benefit.

Honeycutt said, "All seven of us were walking across the Oval, and Alec, one of our RAM Scholars, looked at me and said, 'I love college,

I love being a student. This is so fun.' At that moment I thought, 'That's what this is about.'"

## Campus collaboration

Fidler said the collaborative program partners are experts who focus on optimizing participation for people across the lifespan with coursework opportunities to learn about horticulture, germination, row cropping systems, greenhouse operation, agronomy and livestock handling and sorting.

Classes on CSU's main campus taught by Department of Occupational Therapy staff focus on developing practical life and job-related skills.

"We aim to provide a broad exposure to the field of agriculture so that when RAM Scholars finish the program, they will know exactly which next steps they want to take on their career pathway," Fidler said.

Fidler said RAM Scholars started with funding from Larimer County to develop a workforce innovation program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A state funding grant allowed CSU to expand the program with additional staffing and administrative resources to sustain the program.

Nathan Clark, a senior instructor in agricultural education, said his job is to train future teachers and that serving neurodiverse learners has elevated his work.

"When you put a student on the path to becoming a future secondary agriculture teacher in a classroom like this, working with the RAM Scholars students, and alongside peer mentors who specialize in working with neurodiverse learners, your vision of what can happen in your future classroom opens wide," Clark said.

"These future teachers become more in tune to all the diversity they will have in their future classrooms and are confident they can accommodate whatever needs their students will have."

Last year Colorado passed a bill to expand opportunities for inclusive postsecondary higher education. Fidler said the RAM Scholars program was selected as one of two new expansion initiatives. The goal is to add six to eight Scholars per year and, by the third year, have 18-24 students.

Fidler has been in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities research and practice for more than two decades and is grateful for all the community partners working in that space. Northern Colorado entities include Foothills Gateway,

Disabled Resources Center, Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado, The Arc of Larimer County, The Arc of Weld County, and Access and Ability.

"This feels like a full circle kind of opportunity where we can create something that provides a resource and provides a service," she said. "Our community partners have provided so much of their time and energy to supporting and participating in our research activities at CSU, and this feels like the next step in growing our community together."

Fidler, Graham, Clark, the peer mentors, program coordinator and applied developmental science doctoral student Kaylyn Van Deusen and CSU's leadership all hope area agricultural employers find new employees.

"I think I'd want the broader community to know that we're working really hard to prepare productive and valuable members of the work force," Fidler said. "Our scholars have elevated every learning environment that they've been in, and they can do the same thing for future employment environments as well."

Anyone interested in getting involved with RAM Scholars can call 970-430-5454 or email ramscholars@colostate.edu. — **CSU Extension**



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# Weakening crop prices, high production costs weigh on farmer sentiment

Agricultural producers' sentiment declined for the second month in a row as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index fell 9 points to a reading of 106 in September. Producers expressed concern about their current situation as well as future prospects for their farms. The Current Conditions and Future Expectations indices both declined 10 points to a reading of 98 and 109, respectively. Notably, all three indices stand below their readings from one year ago. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from Sept. 11-15.

"Weakening prices for major crops and ongoing concerns about high production costs and interest rates weighed on producers' minds this month," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Producers continue to point to high input costs as

a top concern for their farming operations in the year ahead. One-third of respondents in this month's survey cite it as their No. 1 concern, followed by rising interest rates, chosen by 25% of respondents, and lower crop and/or livestock prices, chosen by 22% of farmers. The percentage of producers choosing lower crop and/or livestock prices has increased since the beginning of the year when just 16% of producers cited it as a top concern.

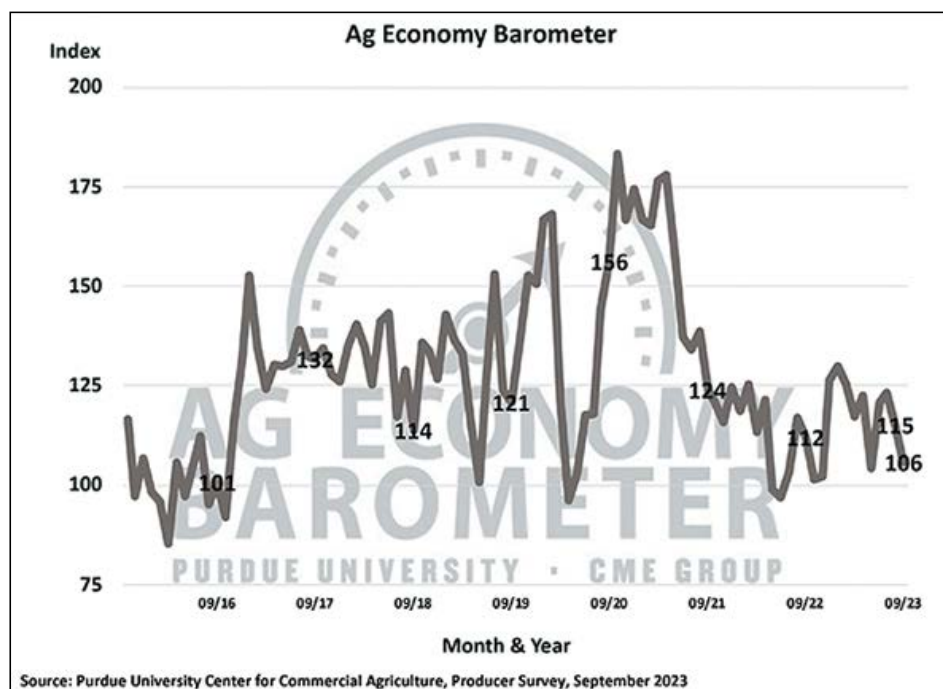
There was a small uptick in the Farm Capital Investment Index, up 2 points to a reading of 39 in September; however, three-fourths of producers still said now is a bad time for large investments. The primary reasons among those who feel that way are rising interest rates and the high cost of machinery and new construction. Notably, 40% of producers who feel it's a bad time to invest cited rising interest rates as a key reason, up from 35% last month, and up

from 14% when this question was first posed in July 2022. This month there was a slight rise in the percentage of producers who said now is a good time to make investments, citing strong cash flows on their farm operations as a primary reason.

The Farm Financial Performance Index was unchanged in September compared to August, leaving the index at a reading of 86. In a nod to how variable conditions have been around the country during this growing season, there were small increases in the percentages of producers who expect better conditions, and who expect worse financial conditions compared to last year.

Producers remain relatively optimistic about farmland values, which Mintert called surprising given the percentage of respondents who expressed concerns about high input costs, rising interest rates and the risk of lower crop and livestock prices.

The Short-Term Farmland



Value Expectations Index was unchanged at a reading of 126, while the long-term index rose 2 points to 153. Respondents who expect farmland values to rise over the next five years continue

to point to non-farm investor demand for farmland along with inflation as the top two reasons for farmland values to continue rising.

The September survey included several questions posed to corn and soybean growers to learn more about their perspective on cover crops. Just over half (52%) of corn/soybean growers said they currently plant cover crops on a portion of their acreage and, from this group, nearly half (47%) said they used cover crops on no more than 25% of their acreage. Among those corn and

soybean growers who reported having used cover crops, 41% said they had used cover crops for five years or less, while 14% said they've been using cover crops for more than 20 years. Respondents who use cover crops cited improvements to soil health and erosion control as primary reasons. Farmers who tried planting cover crops but ultimately chose to discontinue their use cited low profitability, lowered crop yields, insufficient soil benefits and a lack of resources to plant cover crops. — Purdue University Extension

## Documentary explores innovative grazing method

Peter Byck makes the distinction clear: He is not a farmer and he's not a scientist. Yet, the Arizona State University (ASU) filmmaker and professor of practice is responsible for bridging the two groups and conducting what has become the most comprehensive cattle grazing and regenerative agriculture research project in the U.S. to date—and he's secured support from some of the largest corporations in the world, including McDonald's, Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR), Cargill, Exxon-Mobil, Wrangler and Timberland.

Wrangling more than 20 scientists across seven universities and 10 farms in the southeast U.S., Byck initiated the work that has since produced nine peer-reviewed research publications in a quest to find a scalable climate solution.

The answer he's found is right under our feet.

An underutilized way to graze cattle called adaptive multi-paddock (AMP) grazing has been helping innovative farmers increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health for years, but very little research has been done to support what both scientists and farmers know anecdotally, and there's no assurance that traditional grazing farmers would embrace this new solution.

Byck spent the last four years meeting with scientists and farmers, seeking answers and documenting the process along the way. He chronicles the journey in a newly developed four-part docuseries called "Roots So Deep (You Can See the Devil Down There)."

"This story is based on rigorous science and human emotion; we've got the whole spectrum of science and humanity together," said Byck, who has dual academic appointments at ASU in the School of Sustainability and the Walter Cronkite School of

Journalism and Mass Communication. "It took a filmmaker here at a place like ASU to put together a science team to answer these questions that no one else had taken the time to answer."

### How we treat our soils

Cattle have long been thought of as fomenters of climate change. They produce methane when they digest food and forests are cleared to grow the feed they need. However, Byck believes that by transforming how cows are grazed in a way that revitalizes our soils, they too can become allies in the fight against climate change.

Soil, when healthy, acts as a carbon sink, storing substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere in the form of organic matter. Healthy soil also promotes beneficial microbial activity that reduces the release of greenhouse gases produced by agricultural practices; it also promotes plant growth, retains water more effectively and promotes biodiversity and ecological balance.

On land that has been farmed conventionally—using a lot of tillage, chemical fertilizers and pesticides—soils are not healthy. They're degraded, as opposed to being a living and organic environment teeming with life.

Instead of the common practice of letting cows graze for months in one big field, AMP grazing, inspired by historical grazing practices of wild buffalo, elk and deer, focuses on rotating cattle through smaller grazing areas to maximize manure distribution and promote healthier soil.

In this method, farmers divide their grazing land into smaller paddocks and rotate their livestock through these paddocks more frequently, allowing for periods of intense grazing followed by rest periods for the land. Frequently

rotating the cattle ensures that cattle graze the forage thoroughly while avoiding overgrazing and soil degradation.

"Simply by mimicking the way bison used to move across the Great Plains, farmers are regenerating their land in a phenomenally fast, productive, profitable and enjoyable way," Byck said. "(The AMP farmers) were building wildlife habitats, they were changing the water cycling on their land, they were getting out of debt and their animals needed a hell of a lot less medication. It's a win, win, win, win, all the way across the board."

Early results from Byck's studies show that AMP grazing pulled down up to four times more carbon from the atmosphere compared to conventional grazers, and their cows emitted up to 10% less methane. These farms also had healthier soils, with 33% more insect diversity, 25% more microbial activity, improved water retention capabilities and three times as many grassland birds.

Byck champions AMP grazing as a potential climate change gamechanger. Embracing this approach could diminish the need for fertilizers, safeguard natural ecosystems and potentially prevent rainforest deforestation for cattle farming.

But for any solution to really work, people need to use it.

That's where a big question comes in throughout the films: Even if the science proves that this new way of grazing is better for the land and can benefit the farmers financially, will the traditional farmers change their ways? Will they try this new approach and become heroes in the fight against climate change?

"Many of my colleagues in the regenerative agriculture space had already given up. They thought farmers wouldn't care about the science," Byck said. "I disagreed with them. This story is the

strongest story I've seen for a solution to climate change. I think our research will prove that farmers, whether they're conventional farmers or adaptive farmers, are very interested in science." — ASU Extension

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# Consignment Equipment AUCTION

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> • 10AM MDT**

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**LOADERS - LIFTS - ROLLER**

- 2018 JD 324K High Lift articulating wheel loader, 4x4 • 2008 JCB 940 forklift, 4x4 • 2007 Gehl DL-10L-55 telehandler, 4x4

**SEMIS - PICKUPS**

- 2007 Peterbilt 379 semi tractor, single sleeper • 2007 Peterbilt 379 semi tractor, sleeper • 2001 Peterbilt 357 semi tractor, daycab • 2000 Peterbilt 378 semi tractor, daycab • 1999 Kenworth T800 cab & chassis, Cummins ISM-305V • 2017 Ford F250 STX pickup, crew cab, 6.7L Power Stroke diesel, 4x4 • 2015 Chevrolet 2500HD pickup, crew cab, BAD MOTOR, 4x4, 6.6L Duramax • 2007 Chevy 3500 LTZ pickup, crew cab, long bed, Duramax diesel, 4x4

**HYDRO SEEDERS**

- 1992 Peterbilt 378 cab & chassis w/ 2013 Finn T330 hydro seeder • 1997 Kenworth T800 cab & chassis w/ 2013 Finn T170 hydro seeder • 1999 Finn T330 hydro seeder, JD diesel, gun on top • 2013 Finn T170 hydro seeder, Kubota diesel V3300, no hose on reel • 2012 Finn T170 hydro seeder, Kubota V3300 diesel

**MOROOKAS**

- 2013 Morooka 2200VD, dump bed, new batteries • 2008 Morooka 2200VD, dump bed

**RIPPERS - DISCS - CULTIVATOR - CULTI-MULCHER - DRY SPREADERS**

- 2010 Unverferth 5 shank Zone Builder inline ripper • 2009 Unverferth 5 shank Zone Builder inline ripper • JD 637 disc • Sunflower 1211 disc • Krause 2200 disc • JD 1600 field cultivator • 10' Brillion cultimulcher • Chandler dry fertilizer spreader • 2010 Adams dry fertilizer spreader

**SCRAPER PANS - ROCK CRUSHER - ROCK RAKE**

- (3) 2017 JD 2412DE pull type scraper pans • 2013 FAE rock crusher STCH 225 • Schulte SRW 1400 rock rake windrower

**TRAILERS**

- 2014 30'+5' Pull Rite gooseneck implement trailer • 2014 Legend 30'x5' gooseneck implement trailer • 2014 27'+5' Pull Rite gooseneck implement trailer • 2014 27'x5' Legend gooseneck implement trailer • 2013 25'x5' Legend gooseneck implement trailer • 2013 25'x5' Legend gooseneck implement trailer • 2019 16'x81" Gatormade tandem axle trailer • 2018 16'x81" Gatormade tandem axle trailer • 2017 16'x81" Gatormade tandem axle trailer • 2013 12'x76" PJ single axle trailer • 2013 12'x76" Holt tandem axle trailer • 2013 Kearney 16'x76" tandem axle trailer • 2014 LDJ Thundercreek ADT 990 fuel trailer • 2013 Haulmark cargo trailer • 2013 MTPA cargo trailer • 1999 US Cargo snowmobile trailer

**UTVS - ATVS - MOWERS**

- JD 825i gator utv • Polaris Ranger XP utv • 2012 Honda Foreman TRX 500 atv • 2011 Honda TRX 420 Rancher atv • 2011 Honda TRX 420 Rancher atv • 2021 Hustler Super 104 mower • 2019 Hustler Super 104 mower

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 - 244 Angus heifers (long breds) to Jorgenson Land and Cattle bulls (Rito and EXT)  
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# SALE REPORTS

**PRESTIGIOUS NILE RED ANGUS FEMALE SALE**  
**Oct. 20, Billings, MT**  
**20 Bred heifers ... \$5,720**  
**24 Open heifer calves ... 4,650**  
**Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe**  
**Sale Manager: Thomas Livestock Services**

**TOPS:** DKK Sheba 3016, 1/22/23 by STRA Relentless; consigned by Klompfen Red Angus, Manhattan, MT, to Niobrara Red Angus, Niobrara, NE, \$13,000. C-T Linsey 2006, 1/16/22 by C-T Reputation 0094, bred to Bieber CL Energize F121 carrying a bull calf; consigned by C-T Red Angus, Manhattan, MT, to Lucht Red Angus, Bozeman, MT, \$12,000. 3C Laurie 2105, 2/11/22 by SUTH Free Style 38G, bred to LEM Stockyard 2001 due Jan. 2024; consigned by 3C Cattle, Stevensville, MT, to Westphal Red Angus, Grass Range, MT, \$8,500. EDD Blockana 2232, 3/1/22 by BHAR A163 Domain 0020ET, bred to Bieber CL Energize F121; consigned by Dalton Cattle, Richfield, ID, to Bullis Creek Ranch, Wood Lake, NE, \$7,500. DKK Marigold 2030, 1/21/22 by DKK Brute 931, bred to STRA Relentless due Jan. 2024; consigned by Klompfen Red Angus, Manhattan, MT, to Lazy J Bar Ranch, Mina, SD, \$7,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**BASIN ANGUS RANCH FEMALE SALE**  
**Oct. 21, Billings, MT**  
**110 Total registered females ... \$11,664**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**Sale Manager: Dick Beck**  
**TOPS—Bred cow:** Basin

Lucy 8108, 2/23/18 by Basin Payweight 1682; to Byrd Cattle Co., Red Bluff, CA, \$80,000, 1/2 interest. Basin Rita 8052, 2/5/18 by Basin Yuma 4286; to Nowatske Cattle Co., Michigan City, IN, and Four Sons Angus, Cynthiana, KY, \$80,000. **Open heifer:** Basin Lucy 3219, 2/5/23 by SITZ Incentive 704H; to Rooney Angus Ranch, Chippewa Falls, WI, \$37,500. Choice of Lot 1A or 1B, flush sisters by SG Salvation x Basin Joy 9140; to Express Ranches, Yukon, OK, and Pollard Farms, Enid, OK, \$35,000. **Bred heifer:** Basin Joy 2028, 1/12/22 by EZAR Step Up 9178; to EZ Angus, Porterville, CA, \$35,000, 1/2 interest. Basin Lucy 1018, 1/9/21 by Square B True North 8052, bred to Basin Jefferson 1104; to Jason Parker, Malad City, ID, \$34,000. **Open cow:** Basin Lucy 3009, 1/10/23 by Basin Jefferson 1104; to Riverbend Ranch, Idaho Falls, ID, \$34,000. Basin Joy 3208, 2/4/23 by Basin Jameson 1076; to Berg Livestock, Judith Gap, MT, \$31,000. Basin Rita 9150, 2/28/19 by Basin Deposit 6249; to Branch View Angus, Hustonville, KY, \$27,000, 1/2 interest. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**NILE ANGUS FEMALE SALE**  
**Oct. 21, Billings, MT**  
**38 Open heifer ... \$7,348**  
**14 Bred heifers ... 9,875**  
**52 Registered females ... 8,028**  
**6 Embryos ... 750**  
**6 Pregnancies ... 7,958**  
**2 Flushes ... 2,000**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**Sale Manager: Ron Frye**

**Marketing TOPS—Bred heifer:** SITZ Everelda Entense 142, 1/26/22 by SITZ Resilient 10208, bred to SITZ Continuity; consigned by Sitz Angus, Harrison, MT, to Claylick Run Farms, Newark, OH, \$27,000. Pick of Stevenson's Diamond Dot bred heifers; consigned by Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Hobson, MT, to K&J Angus, Larkwood, IA, Carr Angus, Hobson, MT, Rock Mountain Ranch, Dustin, OK, and Mountaineer Meadows, Letart, WV, \$15,000. JCH BHA Rachel 2806, 2/11/22 by Sitz Logo 12964, bred to Sitz Incentive; consigned by JC Heiken & Sons Angus, Broadview, MT, to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, \$12,000. **Open heifer:** Pick of Vermilion Ranch open heifers; consigned by Vermilion Ranch Seedstock, Hall, MT, to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, \$22,500. GMAR Flgstone L267, 2/16/23 by Baldrige Flagstone F411; consigned by Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Ryegate, MT, to Wayne Weyerman, Idalia, CO, \$14,000. **Pregnancy:** Heifer pregnancy, RSA True Balance 1311 x Basin Rita 2003; consigned by Basin Angus Ranch, Laurel, MT, to Parker Cattle Co., Twin Falls, ID, \$12,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**MONTANA ANGUS FEMALE SALE**  
**Oct. 23, Billings, MT**  
**1,591 2-Coming-3-year-**

**old bred cows ... \$2,796**  
**163 4-to-6-Year-old bred cows ... 2,675**  
**887 AI bred heifers ... 2,740**  
**772 Pasture bred heifers ... 2,423**  
**Auctioneers: Ty Thompson and Greg Goggins**  
**TOPS—Commercial bred cows:** Lot 33, 2-coming-3-year-old cows bred to calve March 8-31; 10 hd @ \$3,125 each, 12 hd @ \$3,025 each, 14 hd @ \$2,925 each. Lot 41, 2-coming-3-year-olds cows bred to calve March 6-31; 29 hd @ \$3,100 each. Lot 35, 2-coming-3-year-old cows bred to calve March 8-31; 231 hd @ \$3,050 each. Lot 48, 3-coming-4-year-old cows bred to calve March 15-April 30; 21 hd @ \$3,050 each. Lot 40, 2-coming-3-year-old cows bred to calve March 6-31; 50 hd @ \$3,000 each. Lot 36, 2-coming-3-year-olds, bred to calve March 1-31; 10 hd @ \$2,950 each. **Bred heifers:** Lot 6, heifers AI bred to Vermilion Leo, carrying heifer calves due March 1-3; 58 hd @ \$3,300 each. Lot 5, heifers AI bred to Vermilion Leo, carrying bull calves due Feb. 19-21; 10 hd @ \$3,075 each, 60 hd @ \$2,950 each, 6 hd @ \$2,850 each. Lot 12, heifers AI bred to Vermilion Leo, carrying bull calves due Feb. 19-21; 10 hd @ \$2,825 each, 23 hd @ \$2,800 each. Lot 13, heifers AI bred to Vermilion Leo, carrying heifer calves due Feb. 19-21; 27 hd @ \$2,800 each. Lot 2, heifers AI bred to Vermilion Leo, carrying heifer calves due Feb. 17-21; 30 hd @ \$2,800 each. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



# VIDEO AUCTION

**Oct. 19, Hudson Oaks, TX**  
 Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on Oct. 19 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers offered over 28,000 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 23 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through July 2024. Superior Livestock Auction offered up a very respectable run of a little over 28,000 feeders, weaned calves, calves on cows and beef-dairy crosses to a cautious but aggressive buyer base. The buyers were very aware of quality, delivery windows and aggressive on higher genetics, home-raised and weight classes. Regions 3/4/5/6 was a very uneven

market with ranges \$7-12 lower on both feeder steers and heifers with lesser quality, especially on heavier weights. Higher quality steers along with heifers were steady to \$4 lower. Regions 1/2 also saw a softer market with limited supply in that region. The results were not enough calves in Regions 1/2 for a market test. Beef-dairy crosses also witnessed a decrease in market share with levels \$10-16 lower on weak demand. Regions 3/4/5/6 weaned calves were surprisingly in strong demand with good moisture on the horizon for next week. Prices were fully steady on lighter weights with very aggressive bidding. Heavier weights over 575 pounds saw weakness at levels \$6-8 lower, and if they were on growing rations, as much as \$15 lower.

*Central Oregon Livestock Auction*

*Centraloregonlivestock@gmail.com*  
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**zoetis**

**November 27th**  
**Zoetis Preconditioned Feeder Sale**  
**Lunch at 11 am**  
**Feeders start selling at noon**

**Sale Dates**  
**Nov 6 Feeder Sale**  
**Nov 13 Feeder Sale**  
**Nov 20 21st Century Female Sale**

**Field Reps:**  
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**ALL BREEDS**

**Nov. 4** — World of Bulls Bull Sale, Galt, CA  
**Nov. 11** — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO  
**Nov. 18** — Baldrige/Tiedeman & Frank Cattle, Female Sale, Chappell, NE  
**Nov. 20** — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Female Sale, Madras, OR

**ANGUS**

**Oct. 30** — Krebs Ranch, Female Sale, Gordon, NE  
**Nov. 2** — Stokrose Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Moses Lake, WA  
**Nov. 10** — TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE  
**Nov. 10** — Arntzen Angus, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT  
**Nov. 11** — HD Dunn Angus, Bull Sale, Teton, ID  
**Nov. 11** — Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT  
**Nov. 13** — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE  
**Nov. 14** — Huwa Cattle, Female Sale, Roggen, CO  
**Nov. 14** — Skinner Ranch, Female Sale, Ramsay, MT  
**Nov. 16** — JR Ranch, Female Sale, Othello, WA  
**Nov. 17** — Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Ryegate, MT  
**Nov. 18** — TLC Ranch &

Sugar Top Angus, Bull Sale, Jerome, ID  
**Nov. 18** — Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Nov. 21** — Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY  
**Nov. 25** — Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 27** — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID  
**Nov. 27** — Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Production Sale, Hobson, MT  
**Nov. 28** — Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV  
**Nov. 28** — Stevenson Angus, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT

**Nov. 29** — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

**CHAROLAIS**  
**Nov. 7** — Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

**HEREFORD**  
**Nov. 13** — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE  
**Nov. 13** — Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT

**RED ANGUS**  
**Nov. 4** — Bet on Red Sale, Reno, NV  
**Nov. 13** — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bred Heifer and Bull

Sale, Billings, MT

**SIMANGUS**  
**Nov. 18** — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT

**STABILIZER**  
**Nov. 18** — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Wytheville, VA  
**Nov. 18** — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Gering, NE

**COMMERCIAL**  
**Nov. 17** — Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR  
**Nov. 27** — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID

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# SPRING COVE RANCH

## Female Connection Sale

Monday, November 27, 2023  
At Spring Cove Ranch, Bliss, Idaho • 3:00 PM MDT

**OVER 600 FEMALES OFFERED**  
*Nearly 100 Lots of Registered Females Sell*



**SHE SELLS!**  
Along with daughters, granddaughters, great granddaughters and embryos.

This proven Pathfinder is responsible for over \$100,000 in progeny sales at our spring 2023 bull sale.



This direct daughter of Spring Cove Carol 418 is sired by Sitz Resilient 10208. She sells due 1/19/24 to Sitz Essential 731J carrying a heifer calf.



A daughter of Sitz Feat 729H from the dam of Spring Cove Compound 12E featured at Select Sires. She sells due 2/7/24 to EZAR Step Up 9178 carrying a heifer calf.



A daughters of DB Iconic G95 from a dam now working as a Baldrige Donor and maternal sister to CCA Emblazon 702. She sells due 1/3/24 to Sitz Essential 731J with a heifer calf.



A daughter of Pine View Raider G244 from a long-line of top producing females. She sells due 1/19/24 to Sitz Essential 731J with a heifer calf.



Selling a heifer pregnancy by Pine View Red State out of the dam of the \$100,000 Sitz Essential 731J featured at Spring Cove, Triple L and Select Sires. His first progeny and service are features in this sale.

**GUEST REGISTERED ANGUS BREEDERS**

Pine View Angus, Colesburg, IA - John Wessel 563-590-4120  
Musgrave Angus, Pike County, IL - Tyler Musgrave 217-242-1160

Reverse Rocking R Ranch, Maxwell, NM - Chris Earl 630-675-6559  
Amdahl Angus and Herefords, Piedmont, SD - JD Amdahl 605-999-6487  
Miller Angus Farm, Estelline, SD Kody Miller 650-690-1997

## Over 500 Head of Commercial Females Sell

Complete preg check data available sale day.

**FLAT TOP CATTLE CO.**

**GREG AND STEPHANIE BROWN, ABERDEEN, IDAHO.**

- 44 head of bred commercial Angus heifers with Spring Cove Ranch genetics on both sides
- They are bred AI May 10, 2023 to Sitz Essential 731J and cleaned up with 5 STAR Spring Cove Ranch Calving Ease bulls including Spring Cove Line Rider K34.

**JEFF EDDINGTON BLACKFOOT, IDAHO.**

- 100 head of ranch-raised Angus Bred heifers predominantly sired by Spring Cove Ranch bulls. They are bred AI May 9, 2023 to Spring Cove Compound 12E and cleaned up with sons of Spring Cove Compound 12E for 60 days.

**TRIPLE L ANGUS TWIN FALLS, IDAHO.**

- 148 head of bred commercial Angus heifers purchased from Spring Cove Ranch and Triple L Angus bull customers.
- 92 head are bred AI May 11, 2023 to Sitz Essential 731J and confirmed pregnant (no cleanup).
- 56 head are bred AI July 2, 2023 to Sitz Essential 731J and cleaned up with SCR & TL calving ease sires. Majority due to the AI date.

**WANNIE & BETH MACKENZIE RANCH BAKER CITY, OREGON.**

- 150 head of Black and BWF heifers bred AI April 25, 2023 to Sitz Essential 731J and Sitz Resilient 680K and cleaned up with 8 Calving Ease Angus Bulls and 3 Calving Ease Harrell Hereford Bulls.

**KOVAR FARMS LADORA, IOWA.**

- 100 head of top-quality Midwest Angus bred heifers ranch raised by Kovar Farms and some purchased from Vermillion Ranch in Montana.
- They are bred AI May 23-25, 2023 to Sitz Essential 731J.

**JOHNNY FAGUNDES PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA.**

- 10 head of 3 & 4 year old bred Angus Cows sired by Spring Cove Ranch & Triple L Angus herd sires.
- Pasture Exposed to Spring Cove Ranch bulls to calve in February & March 2024



**CONTACT THE SALE MANAGER TO REQUEST A SALE BOOK:**  
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**NOVEMBER 26 Pre-sale gathering and viewing of cattle**  
**NOVEMBER 27 Lunch 12:00 noon and Sale 3:00 pm**  
Stay after the sale for a steak dinner and entertainment.



Bliss, Idaho - [springcoveranch.com](http://springcoveranch.com)  
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