

INSIDE WLJ

CRIME WATCH — Texas judge and rancher among those indicted in livestock theft case. Page 6

NEW HIGHS — Idaho sets record for ag production value in 2022. Page 10

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

All industries rely heavily on scientific advancements to move forward, and as this 1943 *WLJ* article describes, many of those advancements occur during times of war: "We can view the post-war world with certainty in one vital particular. It will be a world of change—drastic change—in agriculture as well as in industry. The release of chemical materials will make nitrogen-bearing fertilizers available to the nation's farms in quantities that may lead to wholly new crop practices. Undoubtedly we will see a great expansion of rural electrification and mechanization. The country will emerge from the war with capacities for making plastics, synthetic fibers, high octane gasolines and scores of raw materials on a scale that could not be foreseen before the war began."

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A pair of ranches has filed suit against the BLM, claiming their failure to remove excess horses is unlawful. Pictured here, feral horses within the Stone Cabin Complex in Nevada.

BLM Nevada

NV ranchers sue BLM to remove feral horses

— BLM argues full corrals

Two Nevada ranches are suing the feds for their failure to remove feral horses from several public land allotments, claiming overpopulation and rangeland damage. In an Oct. 17 suit, Colvin &

Son LLC, and Stone Cabin Ranch LLC, argue the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in violation of the Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act of 1971 regarding the Stone Cabin Complex in the state of Nevada. The ranches contend there is an overpop-

ulation of feral horses on the allotments within the herd management areas (HMA), and the feds have a duty to remove the excess horses per a wild horse management plan. The Stone Cabin Complex contains nearly 890,000 acres

and is guided by the Stone Cabin Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan. The BLM's environmental assessment published in April earlier this year calls for three specific management actions over the next 10 years: gather and remove excess wild horses,

apply population growth suppressants and conduct additional gathers to bring population numbers back down if they grow. The ranches claim the feds have yet to actually implement the plan, therefore violating the Wild and Free

Roaming Horses & Burro Act of 1971. This violation, the ranchers say, is causing harm to their operations, public lands, wildlife species and their habitats, and to the wild horses themselves. The lawsuit contends the

See SUIT on page 8

Frog wins Oregon grazing battle appeal

— Appeals court reverses decision

Has a yearslong battle between cattle and a frog species finally croaked? The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in late October that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) failed to meet its obligations to pro-

tect the Oregon spotted frog when the agency allowed cattle to graze within its critical habitat in Oregon's Fremont-Winema National Forest. After a federal judge dismissed a suit last year filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon Medford Division, environmental

See FROG SUIT on page 17

Court rules in favor of AZ grazing renewal

— Finds USFS met obligations

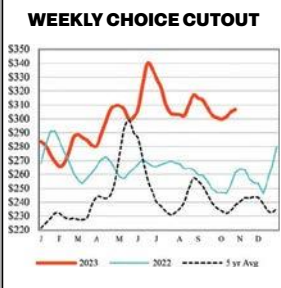
A district court recently ruled in favor of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), stating the agency took a hard look and considered public input when it reauthorized grazing for the Stateline Range Project straddling the Arizona and New Mexico border. Western Watersheds Project (WWP) and Wilderness Watch, represented by the Western Environmental Law Center, filed a suit in 2021 in the U.S. District Court for Arizona seeking to halt the renewal of grazing permits on the range project. The groups asserted that USFS violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not taking a hard look at a range of alternatives and their impacts when the agency issued

an environmental assessment (EA) and findings of no significant impact (FONSI). They further stated the grazing allotments are in the Greater Gila bioregion, an ecologically critical area that is the habitat for the Mexican wolf, several threatened or endangered species and the Blue Range Primitive Area. The Stateline Range project area covers 14 allotments along and near the state line between Arizona and New Mexico, on the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila National Forests. According to USFS, the 14 allotments are authorized for 45,867 animal unit months, with

See GRAZING on page 12

Futures regain losses from earlier crash

After live cattle and feeders each experienced plummeting figures following a bearish Cattle on Feed report, they were able to recover and find their footing again. Cash trade however, was at a standstill and inactive throughout the majority of the week. Live cattle futures were able to pick up their lost momentum and climb higher following the nosedive of a week earlier. The December contract gained over \$5 to close at \$184.67, and the February contract gained more than \$6 to close at \$186.42. Cash trade was practically nonexistent through Thursday afternoon, with less than 3,000 head sold. Live steers sold from \$181-185, and there was no trend on dressed steers. "A few cattle were reported sold in the South Wednesday at \$185/cwt, which is not enough to set a market tone, but still evidence that steady to positive price moves are expected through the end of the week," DTN wrote in its Thursday midday comments. "If the futures market support continues, it is likely that feeders will carry this bullish focus into end of the week negotiations." Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 29 totaled 77,466 head. Live steers averaged \$184.04, and dressed steers averaged \$290.19.



See MARKETS on page 19

↑	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$184.66	N/A	\$237.25
WEEK ENDING: 11-2-23		

Time Sensitive
Priority Handling
PERIODICAL:

COMMENTS

Fall observations

We are in the heart of fall. In my home state of Montana, all the signs are here: leaves have changed to their wonderful fall colors, nights are dipping well below freezing, we have had our first shot of snow and cold, and the semi loads of cattle are heading down every major road hauling calves to their new season is in full swing.



MURNIN

The end of October saw a big change in the calf market. The knee-jerk reaction to the latest Cattle on Feed report saw a drastic dip in the spot market for those who market their calves at the local auction market. Calves that were forward contracted during the summer video auctions and loaded on a truck the same day as their contemporaries that got on a truck from an auction market were receiving a \$20-plus premium. It definitely paid to forward contract your calves—if you had the means—if that week was your marketing window.

Now my observation on the market response to the Cattle on Feed report, calling it a knee-jerk reaction, comes from a couple of points. The market has already responded in the first week of November by tacking money back on the calves. Most markets in my region were up after the down market experienced the week earlier. The demand is still evident, and the supply is simply not there. In Montana in particular, after the last few years of drought and major selloff of cows, the inventory of calves is simply lower. The herd rebuild has not started yet. I do foresee commercial ranchers looking to restock their ranches after they put their calf checks in the bank, take inventory of their hay stocks and meet with their accountants. However, these additional cows brought back to their ranches are going to restock the inventory lost from the last couple of years; I do not see it being a herd expansion yet.

Another major discussion point from ranchers is that these higher prices received for their calves along with their cull cows and bulls were necessary. Sure, there should be profit at these price levels, but when you consider the increase in input prices, there is not as much profit left over at the end of the day as at our prior historic prices. More money in and more money out. We will need to realize these higher price levels for the foreseeable future in order to incentivize ranchers to expand and to encourage the next generation of ranchers to take the gamble and make this business their livelihood.

Now I will admit that I am a chronic optimist and I do believe that the price levels we are experiencing in 2023 will be the reality for the next couple of years. I also believe that inputs will stabilize, making future planning easier and providing this incentive. The wild card in the equation is interest rates. If you have to borrow money this will be the one limiting factor to producers.

On another note, we have been busy planning the 2024 Livestock Tour presented by the *Western Livestock Journal*. Pete Crow, my wife, Samantha, and I spent a week in Texas lining up what I believe will be a great tour. The details are still being finalized, but we will be making a loop from San Antonio to near Houston, up to College Station, and back to the San Antonio area. We will get to see some diverse landscapes in this loop and some excellent agriculture operations. The type of cattle and operations we will visit will be very diverse and we will get to visit with some very innovative and progressive operators. The tour is scheduled for May 19-25, 2024, so mark your calendars and plan on joining us then. Registration and more information will be available in December.

There are a lot of reasons to be cautiously optimistic in the cattle business right now. Demand for our product is at record levels. I also credit the cattlemen in the U.S. with improving the genetics and quality of the national cow herd. Stay the course and always be on the lookout for ways to improve. Take advantage of opportunities to learn, like on the Livestock Tour in Texas this next year. Keep working on improvement. With this market, coupled with your hard work and a little help from Mother Nature, I believe we are in for more good times ahead. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

 GUEST OPINION

The U.S. is the land of plenty for most of its residents. In terms of the food supply, one does not hear of people starving to death, as occurs in some third world countries. In fact, America and Americans discard more food every year than any other country. That is a scandal in of itself. But even worse is the fact that nearly 13% of U.S. households were food insecure in 2022.

While the world wastes about 2.5 billion metric tons (mt) of food every year, the U.S. discards nearly 60 million mt, or 120 billion pounds, every year. That's estimated to be almost 40% of the entire U.S. food supply and equates to 325 lbs. of waste per person. That's like every person in America throwing 975 average-sized apples into the garbage, or rather, into landfills, as most discarded food ends up there. In fact, food is the single largest component taking up space inside U.S. landfills, making up 22% of municipal solid waste. All told, the amount of food wasted in America has an approximate value of nearly \$218 billion, the equivalent of 130 billion meals.

Yet it is estimated that nearly 35 million people across America, including 10 million children, suffer from food insecurity. In 2022, 87.2% of U.S. households were food secure. The remaining 12.8% (17 million households) were food insecure, according to a new report by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). Food-insecure households (those with low and very low food security) had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members because of a lack of resources. The 2022 prevalence of food insecurity was statistically significantly higher than the 10.2% recorded in 2021 (13.5 million households) and the 10.5% in 2020 (13.8 million households), says ERS.

In 2022, 5.1% of U.S. households (6.8 million households) had very low food security, says ERS. This was statistically significantly higher than the 3.8% (5.1 million households) in 2021 and the 3.9% (5.1 million households) in 2020. In this more severe range of food insecurity, the food intake of some household members was reduced, and normal eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because of limited resources. Children were food insecure at times during 2022 in 8.8% of U.S. households with children (3.3 million households), up from both 6.2% (2.3 million households) in 2021 and 7.6% (2.9 million households) in 2020. These households with food insecurity among children were unable at times to provide adequate, nutritious food for their children, says ERS.

Children are usually shielded from the disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake that characterize very low food security, says ERS. However, in 2022, children and adults both suffered instances of very low food security in 1% of households with children (381,000 households), statistically significantly higher than the 0.7% (274,000 households) in 2021. These households with very low food security among children reported that children were hungry, skipped a meal or did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, says ERS.

The prevalence of both food insecurity and very low food security increased from 2021 to 2022 for nearly all subgroups of households described in its report, says ERS. The typical (median) food-secure household spent 15% more on food than the typical food-insecure household of the same size and composition. These estimates include food purchases made with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) benefits.

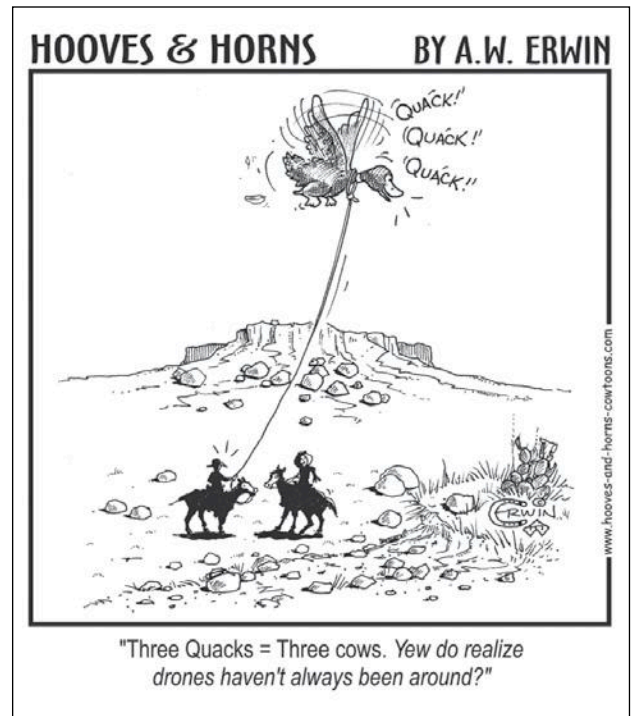
About 55% of food-insecure households in the ERS survey reported that in the previous month, they participated in one or more of the three largest Federal nutrition assistance programs, says ERS.

With so many people suffering and in need of basic amounts of food, why do Americans waste so much of their food abundance, asks another report. Getting to the bottom of what causes food waste in America is a challenge that traverses the complex landscapes of socio-economic disparities, confusion and ingrained beliefs, layered with human behaviors and habits, it says.

Food spoilage, whether real or perceived, is one of the biggest reasons people throw out food. More than 80% of Americans discard perfectly good, consumable food simply because they misunderstand expiration labels, says the report. Labels like “sell by,” “use by,” “expires on,” “best before” or “best by” are confusing to people, and in an effort to not risk the potential of a foodborne illness, they’ll toss it in the garbage.

The beef industry suffers its share of food spoilage. The industry has long operated on the old adage of “sell it or smell it.” However, decades of packaging improvements—think case-ready – have helped reduce wastage of red meat and poultry. But the industry can and should do more to educate Americans about recognizing when a meat product is still safe to consume. — **Steve Kay**

(Steve Kay is editor/publisher of Cattle Buyers Weekly, an industry newsletter published at P.O. Box 2533, Petaluma, CA, 94953; 707-765-1725. Kay's Korner appears exclusively in WLJ.)



OBITUARY



Anthony 'Tony' Caputo; 1922-2023

From the greatest generation to have ever lived, our father, Anthony "Tony" Peter Caputo, passed away peacefully on Oct. 25 at 101-and-a-half years old. He was born in San Jose, CA, to Italian immigrants Pietro and

Giuseppina Caputo, where he prospered as a young man.

Tony attended San Jose Technical High School, leaving at the age of 14 to work full time for his brother, Dan, who went on to work as a general engineering and building contractor to handle building roads, bridges and sewers. Tony enlisted in the Navy Seabees (C.B. Construction Battalion) during WWII, serving two tours in Guadalcanal and Okinawa. Upon returning from the service, he became superintendent for Dan Caputo Co. in San Jose, a company that was responsible for many of the bridges, overpasses and roads that make up the fabric of the Bay Area.

He was especially proud of the award-winning Eugene A.

Doran Memorial Bridge in
Crystal Springs, CA.

In 1949 Tony married his young love, Virginia Jane Toste, and together they raised four children in the Willow Glen area, Sandy, Toni Jane, Peter and Terri. Amongst them there were nine grandchildren, Adam, Sarah, Lindsay, Gina, Jasen, Andrew, Jailena, Casey and Shaylynn, and they were also blessed with 10 beautiful great-grandchildren. Tony and Virginia eventually moved south to Tres Pinos, CA, near his ranch in Paicines and started raising a small herd of Angus cattle.

Tony will be remembered as a world traveler, traveling to most continents, and visiting livestock ranches with the *Western Livestock Journal*; an avid 49ers faithful fan since

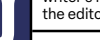
1946 enjoying games at Kezar, Candlestick and Levi stadiums; an avid fisherman and hunter; a builder; and a proud Italian American attending meetings/dinners at the Tricarico Social Club in San Jose.

In 2018 Tony was on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. as one of four WWII vets amongst a plane full of veteran honorees.

Tony loved the challenge the stock market presented to him, family dinners and the outdoors.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia; his son-in laws Bill Renz and Ben Beam; and his granddaughter, Sarah Williams.

Donations would be appreciated to the veteran honor flight program, Central Valley Honor Flight.



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 email and editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

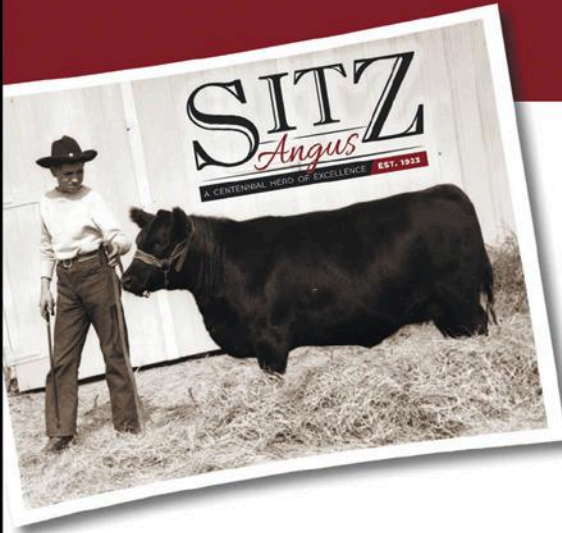
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WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL (ISSN 0094-6710, USPS 678660) is published weekly (52 issues annually, plus special features) by Western Livestock Journal LLC, 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Website: www.wlj.net. Email: advertising@wlj.net or editorial@wlj.net. U.S. subscription rates: 1 year - \$55, 2 years - \$85, 3 years - \$110. Single-copy price: \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Denver, CO, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western Livestock Journal, P.O. Box 370930, Denver, CO 80237-0930.

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Lot 100

Reg #20306671 S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS SITZ Stellar 726D
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MARB 0.44 REA 0.84 \$M 90 \$C 285 PAP 39

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Milk 30 MARB 0.85 REA 0.88 \$M 112 \$C 312

SITZ Intuition 11942



Lot 23

Reg #20306689 S: SITZ Intuition
CED 6 BW 0.9 WW 80 YW 132 SC 0.31 HP
20.0 Milk 24 MARB 0.93 REA 0.71 \$M 104 \$C 313

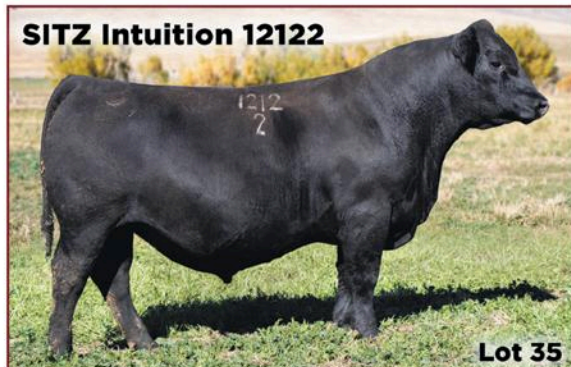
SITZ Continuity 10142



Lot 45

Reg #20306589 S: SITZ Continuity
CED 7 BW 0.3 WW 79 YW 139 SC 0.66 HP
17.8 Milk 29 MARB 0.52 REA 0.72 \$M 88 \$C 276

SITZ Intuition 12122



Lot 35

Reg #20306698 S: SITZ Intuition
CED 10 BW -0.1 WW 76 YW 128 SC 0.16 HP 17.4
Milk 35 MARB 1.15 REA 0.81 \$M 84 \$C 312

SITZ LT Resilient 10412



Lot 1

Reg #20307895 S: SITZ Resilient 10208
CED 12 BW -0.6 WW 79 YW 133 SC 1.09 HP 17.5
Milk 28 MARB 0.60 REA 0.95 \$M 92 \$C 268 PAP

SITZ Resilient 10202



Lot 53

Reg #20306594 S: SITZ Resilient 10208
CED 3 BW 2.7 WW 78 YW 129 SC 1.52 HP 14.0
Milk 20 MARB 0.66 REA 0.69 \$M 67 \$C 242

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Summit tackles water challenges facing California

Below-average precipitation and snowpack during 2020-22 and depleted surface and groundwater supplies pushed California into a drought emergency that brought curtailment orders and calls for modernizing water rights.

At the Water Education Foundation annual Water Summit held recently in Sacramento, CA, Eric Oppenheimer, chief deputy director of the California State Water Resources Control Board, discussed what he described as the state's "antiquated" water rights system. He spoke before some 150 water managers, government

officials, farmers, environmentalists and others as part of the event where interests come together to collaborate on some of the state's most challenging water issues.

Of the state's water rights system, he said it is "kind of a strange system with riparian and pre-1914 and post-1914 (water rights), all operating under slightly different rules and requirements, and it is a challenging system to manage."

During the last two droughts, Oppenheimer said, "The system was really pushed to the brink where we realized very

quickly that the data that we were using ... was not up to the task."

He said data is key to a functioning water rights system. "There are just huge errors in our data, and some of that is a function of we haven't been collecting data that long in a digital format," Oppenheimer said.

Water rights discussions also focused on Senate Bill 389, by state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica). Signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) this year, it authorizes the state water board to investigate water rights.

Alexandra Biering, Califor-

nia Farm Bureau senior policy advocate, said the Farm Bureau and others moved to a neutral position on the bill after important amendments were made.

"To the extent that we could put a few things in the bill that made it clear that this wasn't a tool to be used to go after people unless there was a good reason to do so, many people became much more comfortable," Biering said.

She noted the final bill requires the water board to be transparent by explaining why it needs water right information from diverters.

While she has heard about various proposals to modernize water rights, Biering said, "you can actually do what you need to do if you had better information using the tools that you already have."

Agriculture and water districts, she said, support the water board's Updating Water Rights Data for California project to improve collection and management of water rights data.

"We recognize how important high-quality data is on the demand side to be able to manage the system, especially during periods of shortage," added Chelsea Haines, regulatory relations manager at the Association of California Water Agencies.

California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot said, "You can't manage what you don't measure, and as climate variability intensifies, we need to manage more nimbly whether you are an individual water rights user or the state."

Historically, there has been a lack of trust between regulators and those who are regulated—more specifically, the state and water rights holders, he said.

"A lot of these measurements can feel really scary if you don't actually trust how the regulators are going to use the data and the information," he said. "I think, over time, building that trust is going to create a better system."

As part of a discussion on groundwater, Paul Gosselin, deputy director for sustainable groundwater management at the state Department of Water Resources, reflected on the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The regulatory framework requires groundwater agencies to balance groundwater aquifers by 2040 and 2042.

"A lot of the state was starting to observe the impact of climate change," Gosselin said of the impetus for SGMA. "(California) had increased rates of subsidence and upwards of a thousand dry wells. We reached a tipping point that something needed to be done."

Tina Cannon Leahy, staff counsel at the state water board, said SGMA is unique because it requires interconnected surface waters to be considered.

"If you're sinking a well next to a river and you're basically pulling the water out of the river, not only are you impacting public trust resources potentially, but you're also actually taking the water of senior water right holders," Leahy said.

To help resolve legal con-

flicts related to groundwater, local groundwater agencies may pursue groundwater adjudication.

"It gives certainty on the water rights side for the groundwater sustainability agency when they're going to do demand management or allocations," Leahy said.

Ann Hayden, vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund's climate resilient water systems program, talked about trading groundwater credits and the state's Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program.

"As it relates to trading of groundwater credits, there's starting to be a little bit more energy and action around that as a management tool," Hayden said. "Trading can play an important role in providing increased flexibility when there's scarce water supplies."

For trading groundwater credits, Hayden suggested the state provide clear guidance that has protections for ecosystems and communities.

In discussing the Colorado River, J.B. Hamby, chair of the Colorado River Board of California, chronicled the complicated water rights system for the river, which supplies water to 40 million people in seven U.S. states and Mexico.

With the operating criteria for the river expiring in 2026, Hamby said, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation wants consensus on sustainable management of the river for the next 20 years.

"There's going to be a need for dramatic reduction certainly solving that structural deficit that we've been living with for the last 20 years that's emptied our reservoirs," Hamby said. "IID (Imperial Irrigation District) is certainly one piece of that puzzle, but it's a much larger mosaic, and all users are going to have to step up to ensure sustainability moving forward."

Dam removal was discussed during the summit with a presentation by Brian Johnson, president of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, which was formed to oversee removal of four dams on the Klamath River, considered the nation's largest dam removal project.

During the summit, speakers including Anecita Agustinez, tribal policy advisor of the state Department of Water Resources, discussed the human right to water.

"As managers," Agustinez said, "we will continue to be challenged to ensure that the principles of the human right to safe, clean drinking water is available to all citizens." — **Christine Souza, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**

November 18th

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200 Head
J Spear
Black Baldy Bred Heifers
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Calving Window April 15th-May 20th

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Consignments

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COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wjlj.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.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 – Attendee registration and the hotel room block for the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association/California Cattle Women Convention in Sparks, NV, is now open. Details: 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. More info, call 303-465-2333 or email info@gelbvieh.org.

Dec. 13-14 – The 28th Range Beef Cow Symposium will take place at The Ranch in Loveland, CO. There also will be a pre-symposium Beef Quality Assurance training on Dec. 12. Early registration closes Nov. 25. To register, visit tinyurl.com/4ky7xp8m or contact Ryan D. Rhoades at 970-217-0239 or ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu.

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.

THE VIEWPOINT

with Wes Ward

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

Service is something Wes Ward has done for much of his adult life, from his time in the Marine Corps to his current position as secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Although Wes' parents were not farmers, he knew he wanted to do something related to the agriculture industry

portant agriculture is to the state, which makes his job easy.

"She is the most personable, nicest person who understands how important agriculture is in the state, cares about the state, cares about the country and wants to do what's right to help us move forward," Wes said.

Wes said Sanders encourages a collaborative environment of cabinet members working together, holding regular meetings and having an open dialogue. Wes carries that open door policy to the industry associations, trade groups and producers he works with, and tells them that if something is not working, to let him know.

"That's what we are there for," Wes commented. "If something isn't working, let us know. We want to get out of the way of industry and let free markets

The enforcement action by Sanders and Attorney General Tim Griffin is the first in the nation amid growing concern about foreign ownership of farmland.

Wes said efforts initially started in 2021 when SB 312 required foreign investors to submit copies of federal Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act reports—which they already submit to USDA—to the secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

"Over that two-year period, the national conversation around foreign ownership—particularly China—regarding their land ownership was problematic and raised concerns about where they were owning farmland and what they were going to do with it,"

Wes said.

Wes said members of the legislature discussed what additional steps the state could take to limit foreign ownership in 2023 and passed SB 383, or Act 636.

Wes continued while it may only be 160 acres that ChemChina owns in the state, and to some it may not seem like a big concern, an quick online search would reveal the company is on the Department of Defense list as a Chinese military company doing business in the U.S.

"It's not just 160 acres in northeast Arkansas," Wes said. "It's part of a larger conversation that we can't just let a country that is adversarial to our interests do whatever they want."

Wes said the issue of foreign

ownership of agricultural land has been on the minds of other states, and according to the National Agriculture Law Center based at the University of Arkansas, 24 states have laws that restrict foreign businesses or individuals from owning agricultural land.

Wes said there have been other states and Departments of Agriculture that have reached out to him asking how Arkansas enforced the law, what worked well, and how the state would change the enforcement. Overall, Wes said the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from other states, the industry and citizens.

"I think from an agriculture standpoint it sends a message that agriculture is important," Wes said. "We've got great pro-

ducers and a great industry that has spent a lot of money on research and to grow technologies, whether it is equipment or seeds, to make our industry successful and we just don't want to hand it over to someone who wants to displace the U.S."

Wes continued China is a trading partner, but it is sometimes hard to do business with someone who could potentially undercut, steal technology or take advantage of agriculture. Wes said that the state and country want to do business with China, but they have to follow the rule of law and act appropriately. Otherwise, Wes said, "We're going to do our best to correct that and put them back on course." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



Courtesy photo

Wes Ward

to give back to the community he grew up in and was surrounded by.

Wes grew up in Lake City in the northeastern portion of Arkansas. He joined the Marine Corps after high school and completed deployments in Afghanistan, Jordan and Japan, and is still serving in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Wes attended Arkansas State University, earning his bachelor's degree in agricultural business, and also received a Master of Laws degree in agricultural and food law from the University of Arkansas.

"Growing up in a small town in a row crop area of the state, I knew that I wanted to be involved in agriculture," Wes told WLJ. "Coming out of active duty, my family members weren't landowners and I didn't have a farm to come back to, so I knew that was not an option. In the Marine Corps they taught lifelong learning, always looking for areas to grow and increase understanding, and so that was also a part of me. It worked out between agriculture and the desire to keep learning to pursue my degrees."

After returning from duty, Wes worked for Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-01), who encouraged Wes to speak with then-Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) in 2015 about the Agriculture secretary position.

"I had a good relationship with Gov. Hutchinson," Wes said. "He was very gracious to give this young guy the opportunity to be in this position."

Wes served eight years under Hutchinson and was reappointed under current Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) in 2022. Wes said he has a good relationship with Sanders, and that she understands how im-

work. Let producers work."

Wes said that in his discussions with producers in the state they are concerned about farm bill negotiations and have an uneasiness with the uncertainty. He said they are fortunate to have Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), ranking member on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, to communicate about the bill.

Climate issues are also a concern and how the industry is going to meet the challenges with the Biden administration, along with other issues such as waters of the U.S., Endangered Species Act and herbicide regulations. Wes said exports and trade are another concern as a large portion of the commodities produced in the state are exported. If one country closes off trade, there needs to be other avenues to continue selling the goods the state produces, he said.

China land sale announcement

On Oct. 17, Sanders announced that Northrup King Seed Co. has two years to sell 160 acres in Craighead County as the company is a subsidiary of Syngenta Seeds, owned by China National Chemical Company, or ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned company.

Earlier this year, Senate Bill (SB) 383, also known as Act 636, was passed and signed into law, barring a "prohibited foreign party" from holding or acquiring public or private land in the state, including agricultural land. The law would apply to entities subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations such as China, Iran, North Korea or Russia.



Upcoming Sales

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Consignment Deadline:
November 16
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► January 4

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December 27
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► January 25

Consignment Deadline:
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Texas grand jury indicts judge, others on livestock thefts

A Loving County, TX, judge and rancher, along with three others, were indicted by a Howard County, TX, grand jury on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity and theft of livestock under \$150,000 in connection with May 2022 arrests in southwest Texas.

Indicted was Skeet Lee Jones, a local ranch owner who has served as a county judge in Loving County since 2007. Also indicted were former Loving County sheriff's deputy Leroy Medlin Jr., Cody Williams and Jonathon Alvarado.

The grand jury convened in Howard County, which is several counties east of Loving County.

Each indictment names an individual followed by: "On or about the 11th day of November 2021, and anterior to the presentment of this indictment, in the county of Howard and state of Texas, did then and there, with the intent to establish, maintain, or participate in a combination or in the profits of a combination, the combination consisting of" the four men who "collaborated in carrying on criminal activity, intentionally and knowingly commit the offense theft of livestock under \$150,000."

To get an indictment in Texas, prosecutors are required to persuade nine out of 12 grand jurors that the probable cause of guilt exists. Once an indictment is issued, an arraignment hearing is typically held within two to four weeks. It is possible a prosecutor could decide to dismiss a case following an indictment.

According to DTN's reporting from 2022, the men were arrested in connection with the alleged theft of seven head of cattle in what is the nation's least populated county with only 57 residents. The seriousness of the alleged crimes with the organized crime component raises the charge from a third-degree felony for cattle theft to a second-degree felony. A second-degree felony in Texas is punishable by two to 20 years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines. A third-degree felony carries a fine of up to \$10,000 and two to 10 years in prison.

According to Chapter 142 of Texas ag law, if someone finds estray livestock, they are required to report it to the county sheriff. The sheriff then must notify the owner of an estray animal that it has been found on private property.

Jones is the owner and operator of P&M Jones Ranch, founded in 1953 by his father, Elgin "Punk" Jones, and mother, Mary Belle Jones.

DTN's attempts to reach Jones were unsuccessful.

Jones is not a registered lawyer, according to the Texas Bar Association. In Texas, county judges oftentimes are not lawyers but serve as the head official of a county. Jones was sworn in as judge in 2007.

The Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct in 2016 issued a public warning to Jones regarding illegal rulings he issued in connection with multiple speeding tickets. According to the commission, Jones offered a one-time deal to first-time

speeding offenders to allow them to change their citations to illegal parking.

In its findings, the commission said from 2009 to 2014, "at least 90 citations had been changed, but that some of the citations that were changed were for charges other than speeding."

The commission concluded that Jones "failed to comply with the law and/or failed to maintain professional competence in the law by entering judgments finding defendants guilty of 'illegal parking' violations that were not supported

Because of severe drought across Midwestern states this growing season, some livestock producers are seeing issues with lower groundwater levels. Most farms either use wells or tap into rural water systems for water.

The drought is shrinking groundwater levels, leading to some issues with water availability in livestock operations. Producers can take measures to assure they have water, from building permanent or semi-permanent storage structures to even obtaining temporary water storage. Livestock producers should be prepared to plan ahead when considering emergency water storage. The earlier a plan is put into place, the better off you will be, said Iowa State University Associate Professor and Extension Specialist Daniel Andersen.

Underground storage tanks

In his recent webinar titled, "When Wells Run Dry: Options for Livestock Farmers When Water Becomes an Issue," Andersen discussed various options to get water to livestock during drought. In many cases, there are times during the day

when water demand exceeds capacity. This results in periods of inadequate system pressure and flow, Andersen said.

Emergency water storage should be high capacity in nature, built quickly and at low cost. Andersen said large livestock operations would need thousands of gallons of water.

Livestock producers can install on-farm water storage to even out the livestock demand on a struggling system. This storage can be permanent structures, semi-permanent or temporary ones, he noted. For example, permanent water storage structures could be underground water tanks; a tank "basement" can be built to store water for use during high-demand times.

Andersen said these long-life structures are expensive to construct. "A large swine finisher operation in southern Iowa built a 14,000-gallon underwater tank and the cost was close to \$30,000," Andersen said. "It was roughly \$20,000 for the tanks and a control shelter and another \$10,000 for pumping, controls and plumbing."

Underground tanks provide supplemental flow when peak demands exceed well or rural water capacity. Most store wa-

ter overnight when demand is lower and this storage is then released during the day, he explained.

Above-ground tanks, earthen ponds

Semi-permanent water structures can be built to store some water without the high costs associated with permanent storage structures. These tanks can be built with material such as grain bin rings or even an earthen pond. Andersen recommended producers use a liner in either structure to keep water from seeping out.

The advantage of these structures is they are cheaper than permanent structures and can be built quicker, usually in a week or two. Also, they offer large capacity at relatively low initial costs. There are some disadvantages. Since they are open topped, there could be some airborne contamination. For livestock, this isn't a problem—but for human consumption, it would be an issue, he said.

Andersen estimated a 15,000-gallon above-ground tank that's 36 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep could be built for about \$3,500. A 15,000-gal-

lon earthen or underground storage structure to hold water would cost about \$2,750.

Temporary/portable tanks

There are many different temporary and/or portable options available to producers, according to Andersen. For example, there are "onion" plastic tanks that can store 6,000-20,000 gallons of water; they're open-topped temporary tanks.

Another temporary design is "pillow" tanks, he said. These tanks look like large plastic pillows and have a capacity from 10,000-20,000 gallons. They are completely sealed; the water is not subject to the environment.

"There is a wide variation in costs for these temporary storage units, so you would want to shop around to find the best price," he said.

Andersen added when using these temporary tanks, they need to sit on level ground to prevent damage. An advantage of these tanks is they can be taken down and stored until the next time they need to be used. — **Russ Quinn, DTN staff reporter**

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120 BRED HEIFERS

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RR ENDEAVOR 9005



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Paintrock Powder 133L



Lot 87

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Lot 35

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ALTITUDE PROVEN ANGUS SEEDSTOCK

Responsible management to reduce TB in deer, cattle

Deer season can be an exciting time. Seeing signs of deer, knowing their trails and habits, watching for the prey and selecting the moment to make the shot, whether by bow, rifle or black powder gun. It's tradition, outdoor adventure, trophy hunt and meat acquisition all rolled into one.

However, it is even more that all that; hunting deer is also good stewardship of the deer population. Deer population appears to have been rising in many areas in recent years. That affects everything from forest regeneration to garden and landscaping success, deer-car accidents and disease transmission between deer. Disease transmission includes but is not limited to bovine tuberculosis (bTB), although that is the primary disease of concern to cattle producers.

The percentage of infected deer detected has decreased, but as long as the bacteria is alive in deer, there will be new infections in the deer herd, and potentially in cattle herds.

The crucial aspect of the

TB bacteria is that it is capable of living outside a host for an extended period, even months given the right conditions (cool, moist, dark). That somewhat unique characteristic is what makes bTB more infectious, able to be transmitted indirectly from an infected animal to a non-infected animal on what is being eaten. Deer in the feed today can mean a cow picking up the bacteria next week or next month.

That is why even at a low prevalence of infected deer, cattle herds are at risk when deer have access to feed, feeding areas and water sources that cattle will have access to, even if not at the same time. Saliva from an infected animal, left on a partially consumed apple, hay in a feeder, silage in a pile or grain left around the storage, can deposit the bacteria to be picked up by another deer or by a cow, and thus infect that animal.

There is mutual responsibility in keeping cattle herds from becoming infected, and good stewardship is required to keep disease from spread-

ing within the wild whitetail herd.

Standards include excluding cattle from areas that provide good deer habitat, only feeding cattle enough stored feed that it will all be consumed in one feeding, feeding in areas where deer cannot get to, storing feed in a way that severely limits the ability of deer to access it, removing harvested crops from fields immediately, providing water by means that don't allow convenient access by wildlife and getting rid of waste feed in a way that does not attract wildlife. These are standards that cattle producers are held to.

On the deer side, responsible management involves planning to harvest does (not just shooting one if you don't end up getting a buck), not feeding or baiting deer and removing animals that repeatedly pose a risk to cattle farms. Deer population is best controlled by harvesting females. Population is limited by the number of reproducing females, not the number of breeding males. Taking females as well as a buck is a

good strategy to protect the herd from disease and reduce the negative impacts of a large population.

Scientists with USDA, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other institutions have been and continue to research whether vaccinating deer against bTB is possible and how it could be accomplished. Their studies have demon-

strated that an oral vaccine is effective in penned deer. The next step in understanding if vaccination is feasible would be to conduct a field trial in wild deer.

However, vaccination is just one potential tool to reduce the risk of deer becoming infected and spreading the bacteria to other deer and cattle in the future. It is important to understand

that even with vaccination, good population management will still be needed to reduce the pressure and stress of high populations. The responsible management of deer and the responsible limits to deer access by cattle producers will help to reduce the risk of cattle herds becoming infected by bTB.

— Michigan State University Extension

Ranchers argue gathering delays are unwarranted

SUIT
(from page 1)

Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act requires excess animals to be removed immediately, and that the complex's management plan did not include authority to condition the immediate removal of excess horses. BLM claimed horses could not be gathered due to full off-range corrals, but the lawsuit ar-

gued off-site conditions have nothing to do with the BLM's responsibility to immediately remove excess horses.

Complex background

The Stone Cabin Complex is located just east of Tonopah, NV, and includes the Stone Cabin HMA and the Saulsbury HMA, along

with some adjacent lands within nearby allotments. The Stone Cabin HMA includes the majority of acreage at 407,705 acres, followed by 135,018 acres in the Saulsbury HMA and the remaining adjacent 343,457 acres.

The Stone Cabin HMA's appropriate management level (AML) is set at 218-364 head of wild horses, while the Saulsbury HMA's AML is set at just 24-40 head. The adjacent lands are supposed to contain no wild horses, yet do.

The current estimated population of horses in the Stone Cabin HMA is 179% higher than the set AML of 651 head, and the Saulsbury HMA is 700% higher than its AML of 280 head.

"At the current population size, if a single gather were to be immediately implemented to reach low AML, the BLM would need to gather and remove approximately 689 excess wild horses within the complex," the lawsuit noted.

The feds collected monitoring data from 2012-22 to assess the horses' impacts to the public lands and resources, demonstrating "grave resource conditions and wild horse conditions, including other adverse impacts," according to the lawsuit.

In 2022, BLM considered three alternative management options for the Stone Cabin Complex. The selected alternative proposed three types of management over the 10 years of the plan.

First, the BLM would initially gather and remove excess horses to achieve a low AML, and conduct follow-up gathers if the low AML was not achieved with a single gather. BLM would then apply population growth suppression methods over the next 10 years to gathered and released horses, along with sex ratio adjustment, to slow population growth and maintain the AML. The agency would then conduct additional gathers over the next decade to bring population numbers back down.

The plaintiffs ask for the court to rule the gathering delays as a result of "off-site conditions" unlawful under the Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Vermilion Ranch

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Vermilion Three Rivers K837



AAA 20594115

BD: 8-19-2022
Sired by Ellingson Three Rivers 0065 out of a Bomber daughter. BEPD +3.1; WEPD +77; YEPD +126; BW 80; WW 783; YW 1292; Milk +22; \$B +141; \$C 250

Vermilion G077 Bomber K798



AAA 20594078

BD: 8-12-2022
Sired by Vermilion Bomber G077 out of a KR Joe Canada 5372 daughter. BEPD +4.5; WEPD +81; YEPD +145; BW 82; WW 776; YW 1310; Milk +17; \$B +186; \$C 290

Vermilion G017 Bomber K790



AAA 20594072

BD: 8-11-2022
Sired by Vermilion Bomber G017 out of a Vermilion Privilege D406 daughter. BEPD -.3; WEPD +80; YEPD +133; BW 66; WW 766; YW 1254; Milk +28; \$B +147; \$C 267

Vermilion Growth Fund K353



AAA 20368329

BD: 2-22-2022
Sired by Deer Valley Growth Fund out of a Vermilion Ride daughter. BEPD +1.0; WEPD +85; YEPD +157; BW 84; WW 804; YW 1362; Milk +38; \$B +161; \$C 284

Vermilion Lass 6043



AAA 18482030

By Connealy Countdown out of a Connealy Dublin daughter. Progeny WR 107, YR 104. Safe in calf to Basin Jameson due March 4, 2024. Carrying a bull calf.

Vermilion Blackbird 2274



AAA 20368141

By Myers Fair-N-Square M39 out of a Sitz JLS Game Day 9630 daughter. Bred to Vermilion Growth Fund K353 due March 10, 2024



Vermilion Ranch

Pat Goggins Family

Bob Cook - Records & Sales
Cell: 406-670-0078

Jeff Mosher - Vermilion North
Brandon Mosher - Pryor Creek

Jake Kading - Herdsman
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LEGAL LEDGER

New bill would limit NEPA authority

A group of senators has introduced the Revising and Enhancing Project Authorizations Impacted by Review (REPAIR) Act, which would streamline the permitting process for energy, manufacturing and critical infrastructure projects. The senators said the bill will stop “radical groups from hijacking the justice system” and sending projects into legal purgatory. The legislation would ensure “all laws related to permitting have the same review process, scope of adjudication, rules for standing, and statute of limitations.” The bill would remove the ability to file a suit based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and instead focus lawsuits on the statute for which the permit was issued. “In the case of a judicial remand or other court action, the REPAIR Act establishes a mediation process that allows the project developer and the permit-issuing agency to directly address the challenge in order to allow the project to move forward,” according to a news release.

CA steelhead protections upheld

A judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court has rejected a challenge from United Water Conservation District to strip protections from the Southern California steelhead. The ruling will allow California Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to continue until the California Fish and Game Commission decides on permanent protections. “Southern steelhead are in dire need of state protections and today the court ruling got us one stop closer to that goal,” said Walter “Redgie” Collins, legal and policy director at CalTrout, in a statement. Following a petition from CalTrout, the California Fish and Game commission decided to grant the fish species candidate status under the California ESA. Environmentalists allege the steelhead faces challenges “because dams and water diversions have destroyed its habitat.”

\$5B in funding announced for USDA

More than \$5 billion in funding has been allocated for new investments in rural America. USDA is announcing \$1.7 billion to be invested in supporting the adoption of climate-smart ag practices, including \$1.1 billion invested across 81 projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, \$100 million through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, \$250 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program and \$250 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. USDA also announced \$1.1 billion to be invested in upgrading infrastructure in rural communities, \$2 billion in Rural Partners Network projects to help create jobs and build infrastructure, \$274 million to expand high-speed internet, and \$145 million to expand access to renewable energy and lower energy costs.

DOI acting deputy secretary named

President Joe Biden has designated Laura Daniel-Davis as acting deputy secretary for the Department of the Interior (DOI). Most recently, Daniel-Davis was the principal deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management. “We will continue to work in partnership with states, Tribes, industry, non-profit organizations and academia to ensure that the best available science guides our decision-making as we deliver on our promises to the American people,” Daniels-Davis said in a news release. She has worked at the DOI for more than 14 years, serving as chief of staff to former Interior Secretaries Sally Jewell and Ken Salazar, and also as associate deputy secretary during the Obama administration. Daniel-Davis has also served as chief of policy and advocacy for the National Wildlife Federation, helping to get the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanently authorized and fully funded.

Bill to stop Lava Ridge energy project

A group of Idaho congressmen has introduced the Don’t Develop Obstructive Infrastructure on Our Terrain (Don’t DO IT) Act, which would require the secretary of the Interior to deny any wind or solar energy project proposed on public land that faces state legislature disapproval. The Idaho Legislature passed a resolution earlier this year expressing opposition to the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project in southern Idaho, a wind turbine project spanning 146,000 acres. “Idahoans know what is best for their land and livelihoods,” said Mike Crapo (R-ID), a sponsor of the measure. “Allowing state legislatures to have oversight on new wind and solar projects on federal land means the federal government and its agencies take into consideration the will of the people closest to the project.”

\$6.4M for Tribal wildlife grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is allocating more than \$6.4 million to Tribes for fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The funding will support 36 Tribes for conservation projects across 17 states. “Tribal Wildlife Grants help Tribes develop increased management capacity, improve and enhance relationships with conservation state partners, address cultural and environmental priorities, and help train the next generation of conservationists by engaging Native students interested in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study,” USFWS said in a news release.

Consumers are interested in what their animal protein consumes

As consumers continue to be conscientious about their food choices, a new survey from the United Soybean Board (USB) reveals valuable insights into consumer preferences and purchasing attitudes for animal protein. According to the survey, 70% of respondents say that animal diet is extremely or very important to them when purchasing meat, up from 51% in 2019.

Meat consumers who prefer soy-fed meat say it offers better health, higher quality, greater nutrition and better taste. This research confirms that consumers desire to know more about their meat choices, such as what poultry and livestock consume. When it comes to soybean meal, this nutri-

tional package of protein, the amino acids that make it up and energy concentration continues to be the standard for all other plant protein feedstuffs.

“It’s no secret that for poultry, livestock and seafood, U.S. soybean meal is an excellent source of nutrients including protein, which is why we grow our own soybeans to feed the pigs on our farm,” said Carla Schultz, checkoff farmer-leader and soybean and pig farmer from Michigan.

“Highlighting consumer preference for pork products raised on a high-quality diet presents a real opportunity. Showing that soy is a favored feed ingredient among consumers adds value for our half-million U.S. soybean farm-

ers,” Schultz shared on a recent Supermarket Perimeter webinar.

Other key takeaways:

- Three out of four consumers (77%) are more likely to purchase meat if it’s raised and fed by U.S. farmers. Even higher than that, the majority of consumers (88%) are more likely to purchase meat from animals born, bred and raised in the U.S.

- Nearly all U.S. consumers (96%) pay some attention to food labels. Knowing the animal was raised humanely and fed a nutritious diet are the leading food labels for trustworthy meat brands.

- Sixty-five percent of consumers are more likely to purchase meat if it’s

not fed synthetic ingredients, which bodes well for U.S. soybean meal as a natural ingredient.

“It’s inspiring to see the growing support for inclusive label transparency rather than exclusive marketing tactics,” said Wendy Vlieks, vice president of communications for USB. “This emphasizes the pivotal role of factual information on food labels across the food industry, where informed choices directly influence consumer behavior.”

USB commissioned global market research firm Reputation Leaders to survey more than 2,000 U.S. adults online spanning 30% baby boomers, 26% Gen X, 31% millennials and 14% Gen Z. — USB



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Idaho sets a record for ag production value in 2022

Idaho set a record for total agricultural production value in 2022, blowing away the previous record. However, farm and ranch expenses also reached a record high last year and are expected to rise even more this year.

With prices for most of the major ag commodities produced in Idaho on the decline, some significantly, there will almost certainly be no state record for ag production this year. In fact, that total is expected to decline significantly.

Idaho farmers and ranchers produced \$11.7 billion worth of agricultural commodities in 2022, according to data recently released by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

That total differs slightly from data that shows total farm-gate receipts, which are what the farmer or rancher receives directly for their commodity. Idaho's farm-gate receipts total for 2022 was a record \$11.2 billion,

according to USDA.

The ag production value total includes commodities that are used on-farm and not sold, such as hay. Ag commodity prices soared last year to record or near-record highs and so did total ag production value.

Idaho's total ag production value of \$11.7 billion in 2022 is 37% higher than the 2021 value of \$8.6 billion and 33% more than the previous record for Idaho ag production value of \$8.83 billion set in 2014.

But this year will be a different story.

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) expects farm revenue to fall by 8% this year. ERS also forecasts farm and ranch production expenses to rise by 3% in 2023.

Prices for most ag commodities have declined this year, some considerably. For example, the farm-level price for milk, the state's top ag commodity in terms of total

revenue, is way down this year compared with last year.

Farm-level milk prices for Idaho's dairy operations spent a lot of time hovering around \$25/cwt last year. That means dairies on average were getting paid \$25 for every hundred pounds of milk they produced.

This year, that average price has spent a lot of time in the mid-to-upper teens, said Rick Naerebout, executive director of the Idaho Dairymen's Association, which represents the state's 360 dairies.

At the same time, feed costs, the highest expense for a dairy, have not declined much, he added.

"It's been a big difference for our dairymen this year compared with 2022," Naerebout said. "And feed prices have not come down anywhere near the level that we have seen milk prices come down."

The total value of milk production for Idaho dairies in

2022 was pegged at a record \$4.3 billion by NASS. That is 40% higher than the 2021 value of \$3 billion and 34% higher than the previous record of \$3.2 billion set in 2014.

Cattle and calves, the state's No. 2 ag commodity in terms of total revenue, also set a record for total value of production in 2022. According to NASS, that sector had a total production value of \$1.75 billion last year, 2% higher than the previous record of \$1.71 billion set in 2014.

Potatoes, the state's top crop and No. 3 ag commodity, had a total production value of \$1.5 billion in 2022, which was a record and 36% higher than the previous high of \$1.1 billion set in 2021.

Hay ranked as the state's No. 4 commodity in 2022 with a record \$1.4 billion worth of production, up 27% from the previous record of \$1.1 billion set in 2008.

Wheat came in at No. 5

with \$748 million worth of production value in 2022, 43% higher than the 2021 total of \$525 million.

Those five commodities had a combined production value in Idaho of \$9.7 billion in 2022, which was 83% of the state's total production value for all ag commodities.

Barley passed sugar beets to take over the No. 6 spot in the state last year with a record \$450 million worth of production, which was 88% higher than the previous year and 22% more than the previous record of \$370 million set in 2013.

The total value of sugar beet production in Idaho last year was pegged at \$403 million, down less than half a % from 2021 (\$405 million).

Corn for grain remained Idaho's No. 8 ag commodity with \$171 million worth of production value in 2022, up 12% from the previous year's total of \$152 million.

Onions ranked No. 9 with \$123 million worth of production in 2022, down 10% from 2021 (\$136 million), and hops ranked No. 10 with \$98 million worth of production value last year, down 7% from 2021 (\$105 million).

The value of Idaho hop production declined last year following nine straight years of increases.

Idaho ag commodities outside of the top 10 that in-

creased in production value last year included: trout (up 29% from 2021 to \$43 million, which represented 42% of total U.S. sales in 2022), dry edible peas (up 27% to \$7.6 million) and honey (up 4% from 2022 to \$7.3 million).

Notable Idaho ag commodities outside the top 10 that decreased in total production value last year included peppermint oil (down 22% to \$25 million) and lentils (down 12% to \$3 million).

The total value of livestock production in Idaho last year was a record \$6.8 billion, up 35% from 2021, and the total value of crop production was a record \$4.9 billion, up 38% from 2021.

According to the NASS report, Idaho ranked No. 1 in the U.S. in five ag commodities last year (potatoes, barley, peppermint oil, alfalfa hay and food trout), No. 2 in hops, No. 3 in sugar beets, milk and cheese production, No. 4 in five commodities (dry onions, winter wheat, all hay, dry edible peas and lentils) and No. 5 in all wheat and dry edible beans.

According to the report, Idaho ranked among the top 10 states in 22 ag commodities last year. The state also ranked No. 11 in cattle and calves and No. 14 in honey.

— **Idaho Farm Bureau Federation**

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Farms with FSA loans able to ease repayment distress

There is an old saying that no two farms are exactly alike. Over the past several years, that has certainly been true regarding how farms have been affected financially. Some farms have experienced pandemic-driven disruptions and market volatility and found chances for profit. Other farms felt those same changes and endured financial distress. USDA is offering borrowers going through financial distress an opportunity for much needed assistance through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Cash Flow-Based Assistance is an ongoing program offered to USDA direct loan borrowers. It provides help with a recently missed or upcoming loan payment. The amount of aid is equal to the next loan payment due. Payments past due since Aug. 1, 2022, or upcoming through Jan. 15, 2024, can receive financial relief. As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, program aid is considered a one-time credit offered to help farms in their financial recovery.

Eligibility for cash flow-based assistance involves the following:

- Farms must be able to show they lack enough farm operating income to make their loan payment.
- Analysis of a farm's financial status is based on the current production cycle.
- Cash flow analysis is only required to show farm-related income, to determine financial distress.

- Assistance is only available if prior aid was not received through other IRA programs.
- The focus on only farm-related income is a significant change in how USDA typically looks at cash flow analysis. Traditionally, USDA considers both farm and non-farm income in repayment plans. For purposes of this program, only farm related income is required. USDA hopes that this will swiftly provide aid to farms where their income is unable to cover loan payments.

All USDA direct loan borrowers were mailed a letter on Feb. 16 announcing the program. A follow-up letter was mailed on Aug. 30 clarifying assistance criteria. Similar assistance was also announced in August for borrowers who have guaranteed loans.

Similar to other USDA programs, any payment aid is reported as taxable income. Borrowers are encouraged to speak with their tax advisers. USDA has tax-related resources available at farmers.gov/taxes.

Cash-Flow Based Assistance requests are due by Dec. 31. Borrowers can submit their application in person at a local Farm Service Agency office. They can also send requests through USDA's assistance request portal. To access the portal, visit: farmers.gov/ira2006cashflow. — **Michigan State University Extension**

STORY SHORTS

Cattle die in CO semitrailer accident

A semitrailer hauling cattle overturned Oct. 27 on Colorado's Highway 13 south of Craig, resulting in the death of nearly two dozen head of cattle, according to the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. The driver of the truck, who was uninjured, was hauling 93 head when the rollover occurred. Twelve cattle died initially and nine were euthanized on scene. The remaining cattle were moved to a portable corral, examined by a veterinarian and transported from the area. The Colorado State Patrol is investigating the crash.

CME resets futures price limits

Beginning Nov. 1, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. (CME) reset price limits for grain, oilseed and lumber futures, according to a press release. Corn and soybean futures will go down 10 cents per bushel to 35 cents and 95 cents, respectively. The extended price limit changed to 55 cents for corn and \$1.45 for soybeans. The soybean oil futures price limit is unchanged at 40 cents per pound with an extended price limit of 60 cents. Soybean meal futures price limit will go from \$30/ton to \$25/ton, with an extended price limit of \$40. Wheat futures will go down 10 cents to 50 cents a bushel for Chicago and Kansas City futures, with an extended price limit of 75 cents. The new futures price limits will be effective until the first trading day in May 2024.

JBS unveils new company logo

On the company's 70-year anniversary, JBS S.A. unveiled a new logo that reflects a journey of growth from its founding in 1953 as a small butcher shop to a large global company, the company said. "We started out as a little beef store in the hinterland of Brazil, and we have become one of the world's major food companies," said Gilberto Tomazoni, CEO Global of JBS. "We are a multiprotein, multi-geographic company that employs 270,000 people in over 20 countries. We have evolved a lot, above all in the last decade, so naturally, our brand has also evolved." The company's three letters have been modernized and surrounded by three parentheses. JBS said the shades of blue represent the different proteins and geographies the company operates, with the solid blue representing the company's strength. The green represents their commitment to environmental, social, operational and economic sustainability. The new logo appeared at the company's headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil, on Oct. 16 and will gradually be rolled out across all JBS units.

\$65M invested for rural water projects

The Biden administration announced \$65 million for rural water projects currently underway or in the planning process as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The announcement was made as Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton traveled to Clovis, NM, to tour the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System. The facility is one of six projects in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota receiving the funding. The investment follows \$668 million previously announced for rural water projects from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. "The Bureau of Reclamation is committed to these projects to bring clean, reliable drinking water to rural communities," Touton said. "Thanks to funding from the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will expedite the completion of these projects, making these communities more resilient to the impacts of drought and climate change."

California reservoir expansion approved

The Department of the Interior and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority approved plans on Oct. 20 to create additional storage space in San Luis Reservoir, the nation's largest off-stream reservoir in central California. The joint project will create an additional 130,000 acre-feet of storage (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) to supply reliability to the area's farms, municipalities, and the environment. The project will add an additional 10 feet to the dam on top of the funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to increase the dam crest by 10 feet to improve seismic safety.

List of VSV-affected premises expands

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has reported additional vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) affected facilities in California. VSV causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves and teats of livestock. These blisters swell and break, resulting in infected animals refusing to eat and drink and showing signs of lameness. On Oct. 25, APHIS announced eight new VSV-affected facilities (four confirmed, four suspected), with Mariposa County as a new affected area. The counties currently under quarantine include Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare counties. Since the start of the outbreak in 2023, VSV has been identified in California, Nevada and Texas. Of the 236 total VSV-affected premises, 209 premises have completed the quarantine period with no new clinical cases. Twenty-seven premises remain quarantined in California.

Taking care of young calves in cold weather

Calves need extra care in cold weather conditions to stay healthy.

Calves expend energy to keep warm. The thermoneutral zone is defined as the temperature at which the animal's heat loss equals the heat production. The animal does not have to expend extra energy to control its temperature when in the thermoneutral zone.

The thermoneutral zone for a newborn calf is 50-78 F. This is affected by many variables including wind, moisture, hair coat and bedding. By one month of age, the calf is able to tolerate more cold and the thermoneutral zone expands to 32-78 F.

Normal milk replacer or milk feeding will not be sufficient to meet the extra energy requirements of young calves to keep warm in extreme temperatures. Researchers at Cornell University have shown that

the pounds of milk replacer needed to meet maintenance requirements of a 100-pound calf increases 44% when temperatures are 15 F, compared to 50 F. If the temperature drops to 5 F, then the requirement for maintenance increases 55%.

Ensure that milk is delivered to calves at 105 F. When preparing milk replacer, follow tag instructions to properly mix the milk replacer at the correct temperature. Too hot of water destroys nutrients within the powder, making it indigestible for the calf. Energy intake can be increased by adding an additional feeding of milk or milk replacer. If an additional feeding cannot be done, then increasing the milk feeding size, increasing fat content of the milk or the amount of powder mixed in the same amount of water can help the calf fight the cold.

Older calves are able to consume more starter to battle the cold. In addition to providing increased calories via milk, supplying calves with warm water will aid to maintain body temperature and improved hydration for physical development and immune system readiness.

Dry newborn calf coats as soon as possible to prevent drastic heat loss from the calf. This can be done in a calf-dryer box or with towels. Extra bedding will help the calf keep warm and dry. When laying down, the calf's legs should be buried in the straw. Deep bedding will trap warm air in addition to keeping the calf dry. A quick and easy way to test that your straw pack is dry is to kneel for 20 seconds on the pack. If your knees are wet, it is time to change the bedding or add more.

A calf blanket can also be used with deep bedding to

give the newborn calf extra protection. Be sure that the calves are not sweating underneath the coat resulting in wet hair and being chilled as temperatures drop.

Don't forget to provide fresh air while minimizing drafts for young calves. If a young animal is sick, do not withhold milk or milk replacer. The energy from the milk is essential for the calf to fight illness. Electrolytes that provide minerals, energy and protein to the calf should be fed in addition to normal milk feeding for scouring calves. When using electrolytes, do so at least two hours after the calf was given milk. If electrolytes are fed too soon after milk feeding, then the ingredients in the electrolytes can interfere with the clot formation in the abomasum, possibly making scours worse. — **Michigan State University Extension**

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Managing for toxicity risk in panicum grass species

The exceptional rainfall this growing season brought forth an abundance of forage on rangelands and pastures. In some cases, this moisture prompted a flush of growth from annual plant species not commonly seen.

A recent contact to the Johnson County Extension office in Wyoming reported the presence of an unknown grass and non-predator losses of mature ewes while grazing upland pasture. A discussion with the local weed and pest district identified fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*) on the piece of land where the sheep were grazing. While correlation does not equal causation in most cases, this time the pieces fell together. Fall panicum can be toxic to livestock.

Fall panicum is a native warm season, annual grass related to the annual witchgrass (*Panicum capillare*) and the warm season, perennial switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), all in the *Panicum* ge-

nus. These grasses are sometimes called panic grasses in reference to their open, airy panicle seed head structure.

Of note, *P. dichotomiflorum* and *P. capillare* share the common name witchgrass, which can create confusion. These may be correctly distinguished by the hairy stems of *P. capillare* and the hairless stems of *P. dichotomiflorum*. For the purpose of this article, witchgrass refers to *P. capillare*.

Witchgrass is a widely distributed weedy species frequently seen in disturbed areas. Switchgrass is not common in Wyoming, except for at the eastern margins of the state. Fall panicum is not common in Wyoming, which makes the above report a standout case study.

Panicum effects in livestock

Panicum grasses are known to contain steroidal saponins, which are chemical compounds that can cause photo-

sensitization, gallbladder obstruction, liver failure and death of livestock in severe cases.

Ruminant livestock are usually able to tolerate the toxic components of these grasses under normal conditions because they are metabolized and neutralized by microbes in the rumen. The precise mechanism of toxicity is unknown, and sometimes animals can graze panicum grass species with no complications. However, some evidence suggests that fungal mycotoxins can compound the effects of the saponins in a way that the rumen cannot overcome, resulting in toxicosis.

Fungal growth requires humidity, which many parts of Wyoming have experienced this growing season due to the higher-than-average precipitation. For the producer who experienced livestock loss in this case study, conditions aligned in a perfect storm.

Panicum toxicity can cause

many different symptoms in livestock. Photosensitization includes skin redness and sores, especially on the muzzle, around the eyes, and other areas not covered by hair or wool; shade-seeking behaviors may become pronounced. Animals may appear lethargic and their stool may become loose. Swelling of the lips and then of the entire head may occur.

Yellowing of the eyes and jaundice can set in as liver failure progresses. Incidents of fatal liver failure in horses, goats, and sheep have been associated with the consumption of panicum grasses.

Management strategies

As with many things, the dose makes the poison. A few stray plants in a hay field or grazing allotment does not mean immediate death for any animal that dares to nibble a bite. Likewise, pastures in which panicum grasses are

the predominant species should be grazed with caution. Feeding panicum-free hay prior to turnout on pasture containing a high proportion of panicum grasses can help reduce appetite and intake while also making use of the available forage.

Note that pasture and hay containing fall panicum, witchgrass, and switchgrass is never recommended for horses because they do not have the biological ability to neutralize the toxins.

The simplest and best management strategy is to remove livestock from an area with a large population of panicum grasses when possible, especially when conditions have been wet and the likelihood of fungal growth is high. Affected livestock typically recover rapidly following this change in diet.

Since fall panicum and witchgrass are both annual grasses, a targeted pre-emergent herbicide application can provide effective management while minimizing harm to desirable perennial forage grasses. Herbicide applications should be considered only when these species are overtaking pasture.

When panicum grass species are present in forage, graze only with ruminant livestock. If signs of toxicity occur, immediately remove them from the site and provide a panicum-free recovery diet. As always, keep an eye out for unusual plants and be aware of what is growing in the local environment. — **University of Wyoming Extension**

Court finds grazing has little impact on wolves

GRAZING (from page 1)

two of the allotments to be used seasonally, one to be closed, and the others to be used year-round with rotating use.

The area covers approximately 271,665 acres, with 126,243 acres in Arizona and 145,422 acres in New Mexico. It also includes over 30,000 acres in the Blue Range Primitive Area and almost 80,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas and cultural resource sites.

Ruling

The court ruled that USFS met its obligations of taking a hard look when the EA looked at the aspects of environmental consequences, despite stating the standard is “fraught with confusion because it relies on vague murky definitions that provide little guidance to the Court.”

The court found USFS evaluated the impact on Mexican wolves in the EA and while grazing occurs in the wolf recovery zone on one allotment, the wolf population is designated as an experimental, non-essential population.

“The court finds plaintiffs have not shown substantial questions exist as to whether the Project may have significant adverse effects on the Mexican wolves,” court documents show. “The Forest Service addressed this intensity factor in the three FONSI’s it issued and concluded there would not be significant effects based on the information in the EA.”

The groups also argued that USFS failed to consider the effects on other endangered or threatened species. Still, the court found the agency consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for each allotment on utilization and management plans.

The groups also contended they were not given access or the opportunity to comment on an analysis and management report for the Blue Range Primitive Area. The

court concluded that USFS provided several opportunities for public comment on the reauthorization of grazing. The first was during the scoping period in 2017 when WWP commented, and then again in 2018 when a preliminary EA was issued, and in 2019 when the final EA was published.

The court also concluded that USFS determined structural improvements in the Blue Range Primitive Area would have a minimal effect, and should be implemented to provide a benefit to resources in the area.

Improvements were also found not to have an effect on the inventoried roadless areas. No new roads would be built or improved to install fencing, water pipelines, water storage tanks and troughs, wells and corrals. Therefore, the court ruled USFS looked at the roadless characteristics even though it was not required to do so, which belies the plaintiffs’ arguments.

Lastly, the court stated that USFS followed guidelines by not preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) when it determined in the EA the project would not impose substantial environmental impacts and issued a FONSI describing the decision. The court also found the FONSI’s considered impacts on culturally sensitive areas and public health and safety; therefore, an EIS was not warranted.

“The administrative record shows the Forest Service considered data and public input and decided to reauthorize livestock grazing on these allotments of land based on the appropriate factors,” the ruling stated.

“In particular, the Court finds the lengthy 102-page Final EA, coupled with its reference in three FONSI’s of approximately 20 pages each are more than sufficient to meet the ‘concise public document’ standard to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS,” the court concluded. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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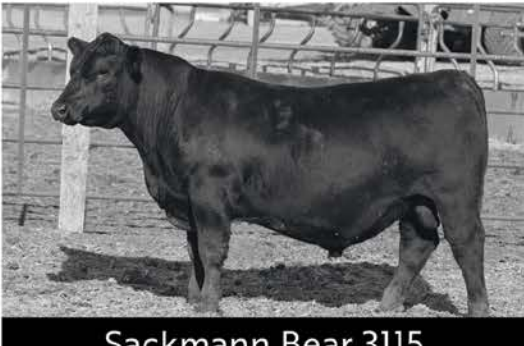
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Sidwells receive New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award

Tom and Mimi Sidwell of Tucumcari, NM, have been selected as the recipients of the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award.

The \$10,000 award honors ranchers, farmers and forest-land owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

The Sidwells, who own and operate JX Ranch in Quay County, will be formally presented with the award at the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau's Annual Meeting on Nov. 17.

One statistic encapsulates Tom and Mimi Sidwell's conservation success: It used to take 58 acres of grass to annually feed a cow at JX Ranch, but now takes just 27 acres. It's the result of a willingness to manage land differently with rotational grazing practices.

Over the course of 20 years, the Sidwells transformed an arid landscape at JX Ranch that was over-grazed and over-run by invasive species. They first bulldozed mesquite trees and juniper shrubs, and later installed fencing and water distribution to create 30 pastures.

When cattle only graze a pas-

ture for three to five days, the grass is then given more time to recover between each grazing. Rather than reseeding their pastures, natural grasses began regrowing on once bare soils. More ground covered led to better water infiltration, less erosion, and improved soil health and forage production.

Rotational grazing created a resilient ecosystem that is better able to retain moisture and mitigate drought in a region that typically receives less than 16 inches of annual rainfall. More living plants on the ground pull more carbon from the atmosphere and stores three to four

tons of carbon per acre.

Although the Sidwells graze their cattle year-round, the forage assessments they conduct each fall allow them to rate each pasture's production and estimate the next year's stocking rates.

The ability to graze far-flung corners of JX Ranch's 7,000 acres is made possible by a series of six wells that pump drinking water for cattle. Solar pumps move water through 10 miles of pipeline, and storage tanks can hold about 100,000 gallons of water. Water evaporation is prevented by covering storage tanks and placing black

plastic shade balls in drinking tanks.

Improved forage and water resources for cattle also provide unmeasured benefits for wildlife including quail, turkey, antelope and elk.

JX Ranch in Quay County sits between 4,300 to 5,000 feet in elevation. The Caprock escarpment found in eastern New Mexico features rolling terrain and steep canyons. The Sidwells chose a breed of cattle to fit these rugged conditions. They breed Angus with Spanish Creole cattle known for being tough and healthy, but smaller in stature.

A guest ranching enterprise and direct marketing their beef to customers provide buffers against sometimes volatile beef prices. This allows the Sidwells to maximize income earned from the ranch so they don't have to raise more cattle to the detriment of the land.

Tom Sidwell grew up on a small ranch and began ranching on his own elsewhere in New Mexico and Nebraska, before buying JX Ranch. He's dedicated his life to improving the health of the land and has served in numerous civic and governmental roles. JX Ranch often hosts research trials and tours, and Tom regularly shares his knowledge and experience with other ranchers.

Tom is willing to share them with others to show how conservation leads to improved profitability. If financial statements and stocking rates don't convince you, satellite imagery

shows JX Ranch's healthy land conditions in dramatic contrast to neighboring landscapes.

"Farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of our land, water, and natural resources, and our working lands play a central role in providing solutions to some of our most pressing problems," said Larry Reagan, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau president. "We are happy to support the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award in recognizing landowners for their innovative and dedicated efforts and extend congratulations to the Sidwells for this well-deserved prestigious honor."

In New Mexico, the award is presented with New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands and New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau.

The New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support of American Farmland Trust, Sand County Foundation, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services of New Mexico, American Ag-Credit, John Duncan and Anita Sarafa, and Taos Ski Valley Foundation. — **Sand County Foundation**

Adding crushed rock to farmland can pull carbon out of the air

Adding crushed volcanic rock to cropland could play a key role in removing carbon from the air. In a field study, scientists at the University of California (UC), Davis, and Cornell University found the technology stored carbon in the soil even during an extreme drought in California. The study was published in the journal Environmental Research Communications.

Rain captures carbon dioxide from the air as it falls and reacts with volcanic rock to lock up carbon. The process, called rock weathering, can take millions of years—too slow to offset global warming. But by crushing the rock into a fine dust, rock weathering speeds up. Previous studies have estimated this "enhanced" rock weathering could store 215 billion tons of carbon dioxide over the next 75 years if spread across croplands globally.

But until now the technology hasn't been field-tested in dry climates.

"These reactions require water," said lead author Iris Holzer, a doctoral candidate in soils and biogeochemistry in the

Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis. "Since we're interested in the global carbon storage potential of enhanced weathering, we need to understand if it can work in these drier climates and if different measurement approaches are effective. We were excited to observe carbon removal in this environment."

Researchers applied crushed rock, both metabasalt and olivine, on 5 acres of a fallowed cornfield in the Sacramento Valley. They collected measurements during the winter months of 2020-21. California was experiencing extreme drought at the time, with rainfall at 41% of its historical average.

The study found the plots with crushed rock stored 0.15 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare (2.47 acres) during the study compared to plots without crushed rock. Though researchers expect different weathering rates in different environments, if this amount of carbon was removed across all California cropland, it would be equivalent to taking 350,000 cars off the road every

year.

"We're definitely seeing evidence of weathering processes taking place on short time scales," said Holzer. "Even the infrequent heavy rains we get in the West might be enough to drive enhanced rock weathering and remove carbon dioxide."

Holzer said measuring and verifying that carbon storage at larger scales and following it over time is the next challenge.

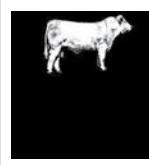
Forty-one percent of Earth's land surface is covered by drylands that are expanding due to climate change. Researchers said this makes investigating enhanced rock weathering in drylands increasingly important.

"When it comes to bending the global carbon curve, we are in a race against time," said senior author Benjamin Z. Houlton, Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Our study demonstrates a new way to verify carbon dioxide removal via enhanced weathering, which is a critical leap forward for scaling this technology in

croplands worldwide."

Other authors include Malika Nocco, in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis.

The research, part of the Working Lands Innovation Center, was funded by the California Strategic Growth Council and the Grantham Foundation, Roger Sant and Doris Matsui. Aggregates and mining company, SGI, a Standard Industries company, donated the crushed metabasalt rock from its site in Ione, CA. — **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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Interpreting results from hay analysis reports

More and more beef producers nationwide are having their hays sampled to analyze its nutrient content as part of their yearly routine. This relatively simple and affordable exercise allows cattlemen an in-depth look at the actual nutrient profile their herd will receive from hay, allowing them to plan supplemental feed programs accordingly.

However, before a hay analysis can be effectively put to use, it has to be understood. Depending on the lab performing the analysis, you may receive back a simple list of nutrients next to the corresponding measured value, with no indication of whether the value is high, average, or low compared to similar feeds. The nutrients themselves may only appear as abbreviations and could include a long list of measured and calculated components, some of which are more important than others depending on the operation.

This article will go through a basic breakdown of key nutrient components found in most routine hay analyses, as well as the relative values to look for in each.

Moisture

Typically, the first values you'll find on a hay analysis report are moisture and dry matter (DM), a means of comparing the amount of water within different feeds. This is determined by drying the hay in an oven and then weighing all non-water components.

Nutrient values will often be

reported as both DM and "as-fed" (AF) or "as received." Hay should be compared to other feeds using the DM value for nutrients. For the rest of this article, values for other nutrient measurements will be discussed on a DM basis.

Moisture level also greatly influences the stability of harvested forage during storage. The target for hay is around 85% DM, or 15% moisture. Baleage is usually 40-60% DM, and silage should be 30-40% DM for proper fermentation. You'll notice some moisture should remain, as being 100% water-free decreases palatability and leads to leaf shatter.

Crude protein

Protein in ruminant feeds is usually expressed as crude protein, or CP, as a percentage of DM. This is based on the total nitrogen in the plant matter multiplied by 6.25, as plant protein is typically 16% nitrogen ($100/16 = 6.25$). Crude protein can be used for ruminants, including cattle, because their unique gastrointestinal tract allows them to convert non-protein nitrogen into microbial protein in the rumen.

Crude protein level is critical for a productive beef herd. Sufficient protein is required for growth, lactation, reproduction and muscle development. This is why protein is the one of the most commonly supplemented nutrients for grazing or hayed cattle.

It is also the most expensive. Dry gestating cows need at least 7% CP on a daily basis (7% value is also considered the

bare minimum for wintering cattle, as this is lowest level needed to support rumen function). For at least the first 60 days after calving, a cow's needs increase to 11% CP. Throughout the rest of lactation cows need at least 9% CP. Growing rations for calves typically contain 14-16% CP. Crude protein can vary based on forage species, maturity, soil and storage stability.

Fiber

The fiber content of the forage is made up of the structural components in the grasses' cell wall and is usually broken into neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF), both expressed as a percentage of DM. NDF contains the components cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin, and is what remains after the digestible material is removed with a neutral detergent.

Forage intake will decrease as NDF increases, and dividing 120 by NDF (%) can help determine how much the animal will eat as a percentage of body weight. For example, if NDF is 50%, dry matter intake will be 2.4% of the animal's weight.

NDF can range from 40-65% DM, and at 60% and higher begins to noticeably decrease feed intake. Lower values are typically desired for NDF.

ADF is what remains after remaining NDF has been removed with acid detergent. Forage digestibility decreases with increased ADF.

Average ranges for ADF in hay are anywhere from 30-45% DM. Values above 40% ADF

indicate a lower quality hay. Both forms of fiber increase with plant maturity and are typically lower in legumes than grasses.

Energy

Energy in a feed can be measured in several ways. The most common and practical way to evaluate energy content of a forage is total digestible nutrients, or TDN. Total digestible nutrients are also expressed as a percentage of dry matter, and are the sum of digestible carbohydrates, protein and fat the animal will receive.

In general, hay with less than 52% TDN would be considered lower quality, hay with 52-58% TDN would be medium or average quality and hay exceeding 58% would be high quality. Based on the 2016 "Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, Eighth Revised Edition," mature cows that are nursing calves need a minimum of 58-61% TDN in their diet, whereas a dry pregnant cow should be getting at least 50-54% TDN, depending on stage of pregnancy.

These values can easily be converted to pounds by multiplying the percentage of TDN by the total pounds of dry matter the animal eats per day.

Minerals

Both macrominerals and trace minerals are critical for cattle growth and perfor-

mance, and several will show up on a good hay analysis. Two of the key minerals you should look for are calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P), both usually reported as a percentage of total DM. These are both needed for skeletal growth in growing cattle and are crucial for lactation.

Dry cows need 0.25-0.28% Ca and 0.16-0.19% P a day in their diets. Cows at peak lactation need at least 0.31% Ca and 0.21% P per day. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus should remain between 1.5:1 and 4:1, because too much phosphorus can impede calcium absorption. Most common complete mineral mixes are sufficient to provide cattle with enough calcium and phosphorus.

Calculated values (RFV & RFQ)

Several values can be calculated based on other results from a hay sample. Relative feed value (RFV) and relative forage quality (RFQ) are calculated values and meant to combine energy content and dry matter intake into a single value, which is measured against full bloom alfalfa as a standard (full bloom alfalfa is assumed to have RFV=100).

These are meant to provide an idea of how well a forage would provide for a ruminant animal if that was all that was being fed. Both may appear on a hay sample analysis. However, depending on the

lab, these may need to be specifically requested.

RFV was developed first, calculated using the measured values for ADF and NDF in the sample. The problem is that RFV isn't accurate across forage types, such as when comparing good grass hay to legumes, so RFQ was developed using TDN as part of the calculation. RFQ is considered a better judge of true potential for a forage to predict animal performance.

In most cases, RFQ will range from 50 to 250. In hay, RFQ < 90 = low quality, 90-110 = fair quality, 111-140 = good quality, 141-200 = premium hay and > 200 = outstandingly high-quality hay.

Dry cows can get by on hay in the 100-115 range, whereas growing cattle and lactating cows really need hay in the 115-140 range.

A good hay analysis can provide a tremendous amount of information about the actual nutrition your herd is receiving. But the data you get back can be difficult to sort through, especially without a good frame of reference for what the values and nutrient components mean. Some values are extremely important to pay attention to and can go a long way in formulating a good supplementation program for your herd. Others may not be as crucial. — **University of Wyoming Extension**

Money saved through cost effective feeding: Part 2

In the last article, we broke down the cost per unit of protein and energy in 20% and 38% range cubes at current prices. This week we evaluate the money saved when purchasing feed on the cost per unit of protein or energy in order to meet a specific nutritional objective. The bottom-line point of this article is working through an example to determine the most cost-effective ration or supplement based on the feeding or supplementation objective.

The scenario and objective

We have 60 mature cows with an average weight of 1,300 pounds, due to calve in January, entering the last trimester of pregnancy. Cows are in a body condition score (BCS) of 5.5. We have ample standing forage in the form of native grass which forage analysis indicates is 5% crude protein (CP) and 55% total digestible nutrients (TDN). On grass of this type, cows should consume 1.9-2% of their body weight resulting in forage dry matter consumption of 25 lbs./day.

Knowing that reproductive efficiency is highly correlated to nutrition, our objective is for cows to maintain current weight and BCS until calving.

These cows will need 1.84 lbs. of CP and 13.3 lbs. of TDN per day over the next 100 days. If possible, we would like to

maintain cows by utilizing the standing forage. Can this be done?

- 25 lbs. forage dry matter (DM) intake x 0.05 CP = 1.25 lbs./day CP intake.
- 1.84 lbs. CP required - 1.25 lbs. from the forage = a daily CP deficiency of 0.59 lbs./day.
- 25 lbs. forage DM intake x 0.55 TDN = 13.75 lbs./day TDN intake. There is no energy deficiency.

We have identified a supplemental need for protein. Research has consistently shown that protein supplementation is extremely effective for cattle grazing protein-deficient forage. In fact, energy supplementation will not be effective if dietary protein is deficient.

Now the question is which of the two protein supplements evaluated can most cost effectively meet our goal? The 20% CP range cubes at \$350/ton or the 38% range cubes at \$475/ton?

It would take 3 lbs./day of the 20% cubes to meet the CP requirement.

- For example:
- 0.59 lb. CP deficiency / 0.20 CP content = 2.95 lbs.
- We previously determined the cost per unit of CP in the 20% range cubes to be \$0.875. Taking the 0.59 lb. CP deficiency x \$0.875 = \$0.52/day cost with 20% cubes to meet CP needs.

- This daily cost x 100 days of supplementation x 60 cows = an expense of \$3,120.

It would take 1.58 lbs./day of

the 38% cubes to meet the CP requirement.

- For example:
- 0.59 CP deficiency / 0.38 CP content = 1.58.

• We previously determined the cost per unit of CP in the 38% range cubes to be \$0.625.

- 0.59 lb. CP deficiency x \$0.625 = \$0.37/day cost to supplement the cows with 38% cubes to meet their CP needs.
- This daily cost x 100 days of supplementation x 60 cows = an expense of \$2,220.

Supplementing the 38% range cubes purchased at a cost of \$475/ton instead of the 20% cubes at a lower price per ton resulted in a savings of approximately \$900 to supplement the 60 cows for 100 days.

Unnecessary supplementation increases feed cost without real benefit. The goal of supplementation is to feed just enough of the right supplement to optimize the overall diet. Determining the most cost-effective means of supplementing cows requires the evaluation of feeds on a cost per unit of protein and energy provided. Can you afford not to?

Computer software, such as Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Cowculator program, can better pinpoint an animal's nutrient requirement at a specific time and in a specific stage of production. These and other useful tools can be found at beefextension.com. — **Mark Z. Johnson, OSU Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**



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Research into precision irrigation management of alfalfa begins

A three-year research project led by the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) will develop open-source software to help farmers better manage water supply, especially for Nevada's crucial crop of alfalfa. The project is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture as a grant of its Engineering for Precision Crop and Water Management Program.

The College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources received about \$400,000 for its part in the \$745,000 collaborative project with the University of California, Davis and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Bushland, TX. The three institutions are working on different crops as part of the grant: alfalfa for Reno, corn for Davis and cotton for Bushland.

The UNR portion of the research started in July and concludes in 2026. The university will develop precision irrigation management software, conducting field experiments to test and improve the software. The research is being conducted on an alfalfa field at the Valley Road Field Lab, which is part of the College's Experiment Station unit.

Alejandro Andrade-Rodriguez is an assistant professor in the University's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences, and is the principal investigator of this project, "Partnership: Making the most of a limited water supply by improving a site-specific irrigation management decision support system." Andrade-Rodriguez has extensive knowledge of irrigation hardware and software and has conducted research on irrigation management before as part of the Experiment Station unit.

This latest research for Andrade-Rodriguez ties into his post-doctoral research in the 2010s at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. That is where he developed ARSPivot, decision support software for center pivot irrigation systems equipped for precision irrigation. Center pivots are the most common irrigation systems in the U.S., and they irrigate about one-third of the acreage in Nevada, Andrade-Rodriguez said.

ARSPivot is the embodiment of a sensor-based decision support system created by Steve Evett and Susan O'Shaughnessy, among other scientists with the USDA in Bushland. Evett and O'Shaughnessy are co-principal investigators of this project.

"Precision irrigation allows center pivot systems to apply variable amounts of water to a field, which can lead to water savings," he said. "These systems allow water to be applied in the right amounts required by plants growing in different parts of a field."

Andrade-Rodriguez said the objective of conventional center pivot irrigation systems is to have every part of a field receive the same amount of water.

"If the entirety of a field has similar characteristics, you don't want to irrigate more here or there, because that will cause lower yields in some portions of the field and higher yields in others," he explained. "This is why you want to irrigate the same across a uniform field. But, the reality is that you may have different soil types in a field, or there may be areas with higher or lower elevations. Applying the same irrigation amounts to such a field will result in poor water management."

Through precision irrigation, growers can alter the amounts of water applied to different parts of the field, to make a more efficient use of irrigation water. Yet, adoption of these systems has been slower than expected since they became commercially available in 2004, in part because there is a lack of decision support systems capable of estimating the water requirements for a field's different sections.

ARSPivot was developed with this purpose in mind. The software automatically generates precision irrigation maps for center pivot systems using weather, soil moisture and plant sensing

systems. ARSPivot uses measurements from crop canopy temperature sensors collected at different parts of a field to estimate water stress and water need.

"For example, when canopy temperatures are higher in a certain part of a field, more irrigation is needed there," he said.

This current phase of Andrade-Rodriguez's work with ARSPivot is centered on expanding the software capabilities to make it compatible with different manufacturers of center pivot systems. The current version of ARSPivot only supports center pivots from one manufacturer.

The new version of the software will also be able to operate on linear move irrigation systems in addition to center pivots. Both linear move and center pivots are self-propelled sprinkler irrigation systems used to water rectangular and circular fields, respectively.

Although center pivots are considerably more common than linear move systems, supporting linear move systems is important for agricultural researchers, since these systems irrigate the rectangular shapes of agricultural fields common in experiment stations. The new version of the software will be tested at the Valley Road Field Lab using a linear move system.

The new version of ARSPivot will also incorporate an interface to a crop water use and yield model, with the objective of allowing the software to analyze many different potential irrigation management decisions (such as when to irrigate, and how much to irrigate in different parts of a field). This effort will be led by Isaya Kisekka with the University of California, Davis, who is a co-principal investigator of the project.

The new version of ARSPivot will be released as open-source software that Andrade-Rodriguez expects to provide irrigation researchers with a much-needed open platform that facilitates the generation, testing and implementation of innovative precision irrigation management strategies.

"If someone wants to use the software for a different crop or to incorporate additional functions, they can modify its source code to do that," he said. "The idea is to open it up to others, so the technology can only improve."

The importance of alfalfa

Andrade-Rodriguez said precision irrigation using ARSPivot is being used for alfalfa for the first time as part of his research. He added that the sensor-based decision support system has been tested with corn, soybeans, cotton, grain sorghum and potatoes in several states, and there have been good results from it.

"In general, there have not been significant differences in the yield obtained per unit of water between the sensor-based decision support system and the neutron probe soil moisture sensor, which is considered the gold standard for irrigation scheduling," he said. "However, a neutron probe is not accessible to farmers due to its high cost and because it requires specialized training for its safe use."

The alfalfa portion of the project will cover several different irrigation treatments. The key benchmarks are yield and water use statistics from each of the four harvests that commonly take place in northern Nevada per growing season.

One treatment will use full irrigation to replenish soil water depletion in the top 1.5 meters of soil to the full field capacity. Other treatments will use varied levels of deficit irrigation—anywhere from 60-80% of full irrigation—to see how yields and water use using the sensor-based system compare against local best management practices.

Strong alfalfa yields are important to the Nevada agriculture economy. The Governor's Office of Economic Development calls it "the leading cash crop of the state," as its hay is sold to other states' dairy farmers, as well as overseas. The USDA also notes that there were more than 1.25 million tons of hay and alfalfa produced in Nevada in 2022, at a price of \$313 per ton.

Andrade-Rodriguez notes that alfalfa has a reputation for using more water than other crops, and having a decision support system that can help farmers and ranchers in Nevada to make irrigation more efficient can be to farmers' advantage.

"Alfalfa is more flexible than many other crops," he said. "When there are water cuts with other crops, you can lose your entire investment. But, alfalfa can still give you two or three harvests, which can help you to reduce the economic impact of the water cuts. So, having a decision support system that reduces the amount of water used in agriculture can help farmers and ranchers in Nevada reduce the negative effects of a limited water supply." — **UNR Extension**

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Management advice for when feed supplies run low

When consumers are trying to extend their buying dollar at the grocery store, meal planning and shopping the sale items are two ways that they can manage their spending to get the most for their money.

In a similar way, some cattle producers are already looking at ways to extend their feed resources because of the lack of moisture that may have cut those supplies short, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster recommends turning out the cattle on crop residues as a way to extend the time before they need to feed them hay.

"Grazing corn or sorghum stalks are a good feed resource for cows in mid-gestation that have their calves weaned off already," Lancaster said.

Another option he mentioned was the fall planting of cool-season annuals.

"Those cool season annuals should provide some early grazing options in the spring assuming we get enough moisture for them to grow," Lancaster said.

If those strategies are not options, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson suggests producers limit the number of hours in the day that the cows are given access to hay. Larson said that cows given free choice access to hay tend to eat the most appealing part of the hay and don't as readily consume the less digestible parts.

"To waste less hay, make the cows eat all of one bale before they get the next one," Larson said. "Another tip is to limit the cows' access to the hay to 6-12 hours per day."

In a situation where feed resources are even more limited, K-State Research and Extension beef cattle geneticist Bob Weaber said it may mean some voluntary culling to reduce the herd size.

"Anytime there is a short supply, changing the demand is an effective strategy, and that can be done through the early weaning of the calves as well culling some of the cows," Weaber said.

He added: "If you are going into a feeding period where hay is elevated in price, you can decrease the demand for the hay by reducing the herd size down to the essential group of cows you want to preserve."

He suggested producers look at the current market prices as a factor when deciding which cows to sell.

"If the choice is between selling a mature bred cow and a bred replacement heifer, think about which one will generate more value next spring when she calves," Weaber said. "On average, the mature cow will raise a heavier calf than the bred heifer."

The experts agreed that if feed resources are challenged and with the current favorable market prices, it may be better to sell now rather than feeding cattle through the winter and selling them in January.

"Most importantly, producers need to have a plan now for what happens when feed runs short," Weaber said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Producer perceptions of BRD and BVD-PI threats

The Oklahoma Cow-Calf Biosecurity Survey was implemented in early 2022 to gain insight into biosecurity practices on Oklahoma cow-calf operations. The survey was administered for Oklahoma State University (OSU) through USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and garnered over 1,400 producer responses.

The overarching goal of the survey is to find ways to increase producer awareness of biosecurity issues and to assist producers in planning and implementation of best practices with respect to biosecurity on their individual operations.

One constant for cattlemen is considering the potential threat and impact of infectious diseases. A segment of the survey asks producers to rate the threat level of bovine respiratory disease (BRD), commonly known as shipping fever or pneumonia, and the threat level from persistently infected (PI) bovine viral diarrhea (BVD-PI) cattle, recognizing that BVD is part of the larger BRD disease complex.

BVD-PI animals can be a problem for producers because they are BVD carriers that constantly shed the virus, creating consistent viral exposure to other members of the herd. The survey asks producers to rate the threat of these diseases to their own operations due to arrival of cattle from outside sources, and the beef industry overall. Those results are reported in Figure 1.

When asked whether BRD is a threat to the industry, 58% of producers perceive that it is a threat to the industry. Only 19% of producers state that they do not believe it is a threat, while 23% are not sure whether it is a threat. In contrast, only 34% believe that BRD is a threat to their own operation, but 48%—nearly half of producers responding—believed that BRD is not a threat to their own operation.

Producer evaluation of the perceived threat from BVD-PI cattle is similar. Half of survey respondents believe that persistently infected BVD-PI cattle are a threat to the industry, with 25% responding that it is not a threat to the industry. However, when asked whether BVD-PI cattle are a threat to their own operation, only 33% say that it is a threat and nearly half (46%) say that it is not.

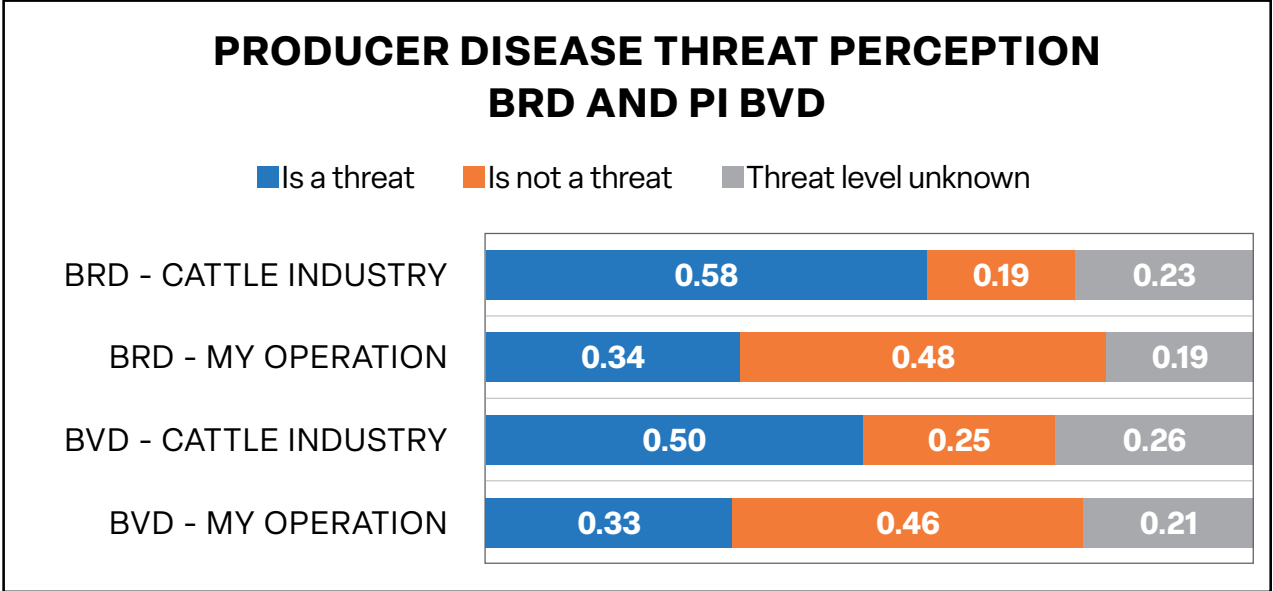
In both scenarios, only a small percentage of producers are unsure of the threat to the operation or are unfamiliar with the disease. Interestingly,

producers may have biosecurity elements in place that they feel are sufficient protection against BRD and BVD for their cattle and operation. Quarantines for incoming cattle, a closed herd and vaccinations for the herd and calves are all elements that can protect against disease.

On the other hand, some

cattlemen may simply have unrealistic perceptions of disease threats. So how do we sort that out? For example, are perceived threats greater or smaller based on herd size? How does the number of biosecurity practices already in place impact perceptions of disease threat? Stay tuned! But as you wait for more information on the topic, consider your own perceptions about disease threats and what it is that informs your decisions regarding biosecurity on your operation.

— **Kellie Curry Raper and Amy Hagerman, OSU Department of Agricultural Economics**



Frog BiOp vacated and remanded back to USFWS

FROG SUIT
(from page 1)

groups appealed the decision and came out victorious in the 9th Circuit. The judge ruled the agency fell short when it released a biological opinion (BiOp) that allowed cattle to graze on Jack Creek in the national forest.

However, the court did not rule against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in its decision.

"Maybe, just maybe, the Forest Service will finally come to terms with the fact that cattle grazing is incompatible with the habitat needs of the Oregon spotted frog here on Jack Creek," said Adam Bronstein with Western Watersheds Project said in a statement. "The Forest Service's efforts to prop up irresponsible cattle operations can no longer stand, particularly in the face of the accelerating climate and the extinction crises."

Lawsuit, ruling details

The battle between grazing on the Antelope Allotment and the Oregon spotted frog has stretched on since 2008. The allotment is located in the Fremont-Winema National Forest and comprises nearly 170,000 acres. Jack Creek runs through two pastures and is the primary habitat for the frog species.

The environmental groups argued in their latest suit that USFS failed to scrutinize three key issues in a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) regarding threats to the spotted frog: direct impacts such as trampling, climate change and increasing drought, and population-level effects.

However, on this claim, the court ruled, "Although the FEIS did not specifically compare the magnitude of these particular threats across alterna-

tives, the FEIS included sufficient information for a reader to understand how the different grazing strategies would affect these threats, thus allowing for an 'informed comparison of alternatives.'"

The environmental groups also argued USFS failed to demonstrate consistency with the Winema National Forest Plan, which the court rejected.

On the claim that the USFWS' 2018 BiOp was deficient in its discussion of climate change, the court ruled in favor of the environmental groups. "The BiOp does not account for climate change as a cumulative effect or baseline condition," the court ruled.

The decision continued, "Although the BiOp considered how drought conditions might harm the frogs, the BiOp nevertheless failed to consider how climate change will impact frogs in nondrought years."

The court said the BiOp needed to consider whether the frog could sustain grazing-related impacts on top of potential climate change effects. In addition, although USFS acknowledged the threat of low water conditions in Jack Creek, the order said the BiOp failed to engage with information suggesting climate change could affect water levels and streamflow.

"Because FWS failed to address available information indicating that climate change would make low water conditions—an acknowledged threat for Oregon spotted frogs—more frequent or severe, it failed to consider an important aspect of the problem," the decision read.

Therefore, the court reversed the grant of summary judgement to the USFWS and ordered the 2018 BiOp to be vacated and remanded back to USFWS for reconsideration.

— **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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2022 Fall High Selling Two-Year-Old



2023 Spring High Selling Fall Born Bull

Fall Production Sale:

Nov. 27th 2023

Fall Sale Features:

- 240 Bull Calves
- 100 Two-Year-Old Bulls
- 100 Registered Females
- 1400 Commercial Females



www.stevensonsdiamonddot.com

MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 11/2/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	184.66	▲	183.51
CME Feeder Index	237.25	▼	240.62
Boxed Beef Average	304.53	▼	306.85
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	289.83
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,373	▼	1,382
Weekly Slaughter**	636,000	▼	638,000
Weekly Beef Production***	527.0	▼	527.8
Hide/Offal Value	18.68	▲	12.88
Corn Price	4.70	▼	4.80
* Average weight for previous week. ** Total slaughter for previous week. *** Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.			

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
October 27	6,975	301.00	185	341.42	1,295	309.63	1,981	303.38	812	281.03	2,703
October 20	6,698	298.62	230	337.70	1,234	306.06	1,993	299.98	815	277.11	2,426
October 13	6,577	296.75	201	336.48	1,270	304.15	1,972	299.22	798	276.89	2,337
September 29	6,398	296.93	188	339.47	1,207	305.87	1,781	299.08	887	278.14	2,335
Cutouts											
FED BOXED BEEF											
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Nov 2	304.53		274.34		230.90		71.59		286.91		
Nov 1	302.18		278.55		231.67		74.77		290.15		
Oct 31	305.18		279.50		229.79		75.81		N/A		
Oct 30	309.28		280.89		230.08		75.68		285.09		
Oct 27	307.57		280.12		231.34		78.41		287.44		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	10/27	10/30	10/31	11/1	11/2	High*
Oct.	18400	18413	18375	N/A	N/A	18708
Dec.	18223	18325	18350	18363	18468	19183
Feb.	18295	18398	18463	18518	18643	19633
Apr.	18490	18573	18668	18755	18878	19975

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	10/27	10/30	10/31	11/1	11/2	High*
Oct.	23973	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26448
Nov.	23690	23768	23770	23858	24263	26813
Jan.	23570	23688	23720	23803	24218	26833
Mar.	23858	23938	23975	24033	24443	25723

*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	693	1,357	184.66
Live FOB Heifer	240	1,295	183.97
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	9,351	1,480	151.79
Live FOB Heifer	1,883	1,333	150.87
Dressed Del Steer	2,051	959	242.47
Dressed Del Heifer	833	835	242.35

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 29			
	Domestic	Imported	
Forward Contract	20,138	3,823	
Formula	266,533	1,450	
Negotiated Cash	90,726	677	
Negotiated Grid	40,506	1,317	
Packer Owned	11,332	N/A	
Total	429,235	7,267	
SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS			
FORWARD BEEF SALES			
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days		1,923
Oct. '23	104,951		1,151
Nov. '23	145,226		3,660
Dec. '23	120,744		242
Jan. '24	106,279		6,002
Feb. '24	84,312		72

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		167.47	-4.00
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		168.18	N/A
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		172.06	-1.17
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		91.38	-6.04
*Price comparison from one week ago.			
Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, October 20, 2023			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	282.82	284.61	263.02
601-700 lbs	264.66	267.25	238.99
701-800 lbs	252.33	255.22	227.32
801-900 lbs	238.25	237.51	219.01
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	270.82	272.08	236.92
501-600 lbs	245.75	245.99	226.03
601-700 lbs	234.05	235.16	206.55
701-800 lbs	222.99	220.93	201.94
USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS			
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.			
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date
	10/23/23	10/16/23	Previous Year-to-date
Feeders	31,413	29,883	963,240

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES			
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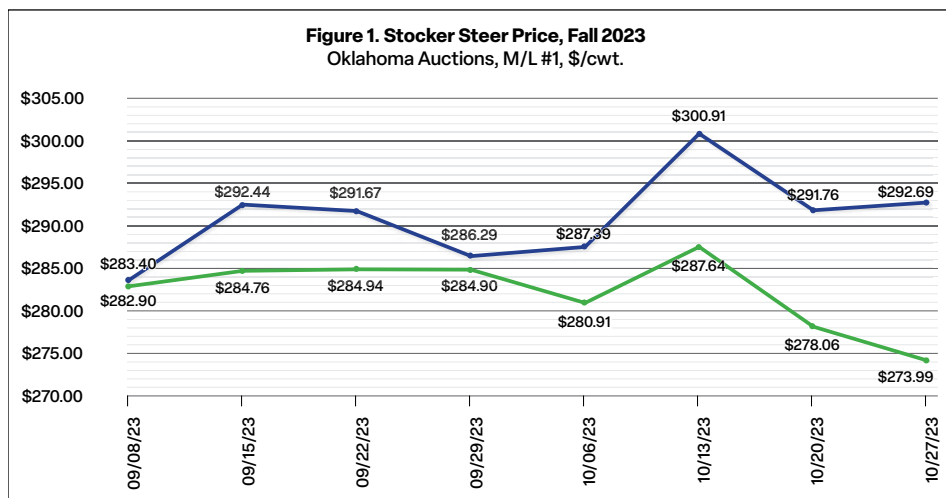
Selected Auction				Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2							
Week Ending November 2, 2023											
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
October 27	Blackfoot, ID	N/A	265-407.50	230-360	200-299	190-258	190-242	180-238	82-107		NORTHWEST
October 26	Burley, ID	800	405-406	328-371	250-275	185-238	240		100-122.50		
Noreport available Emmett, ID			238-306	285	223-240	236			81.50-98		
October 28	Eugene, OR	1,271	169-245*	180-247*	180-255*	155-191*	160-217*	140-181*	88-112	825-1650	
October 30	Madras, OR	1,417	325-375	310-362	267-309	237-266	235-260	191-220	90-113		
October 25	Vale, OR	1,104	288-339	285-326	240-275	225-256	205-233	185-209	105-118		
October 23	Davenport, WA	1,216	285-332	271-332.50	247-272	235-264	227-242.50		80-104.50		FARWEST
October 26	Toppenish, WA	1,840	275-312.50	235-306	220-240	219-233	213-227		108-128		
October 23	Davenport, WA	1,216	106-185	135-250	125-280	150-262.50	60-232.50	62.50-224	30-159	1,300-1825	
October 26	Toppenish, WA	1,840	130-210	42.50-200	47.50-226	100-200	188-191	108-180	42-100	1,475-1,700	
October 26	Toppenish, WA	1,840		245-290*	211-225*	205*			97-113.75		
October 26	Toppenish, WA	1,840		230*	219*	205*			100-128	500-1,360	

October 26	Orland, CA	1,999		220-325	200-281	190-257	180-234		95-110		FARWEST
October 30	Escalon, CA	N/A	200-275		200-260	170-240	160-204		95-130		
October 23	Famoso, CA	480	175-225		175-215		160-215	115-145	80-104	800-1,500	
October 25	Galt, CA	1,566	250-275	250-275	250-275	190-220	190-201	90-120	100-140		
October 31	Turlock, CA	1,004	180-260	180-260	180-239	180-200	170-180	180-192	110-136		
October 24	Salina, UT	2,693	200-270	200-250	200-253	200-238	190-235	175-220	50-136		

October 30	Iowa	5,430	310-367.50	261-340	236-315.50	225-281.50	217-254.50	215-241	70-139		NORTH CENTRAL
October 31	Miles City, MT	2,988	270-305	230-290	220-270	203-252	220-240	203-233.50	80-152		
November 1	Bassett, NE	1,890	380-410	306-383	260-313.50	235-260			77-110		
October 28	Ericson, NE	2,380	290-332	266-295	235-273	221		205	84-106.50		
Noreport available Imperial, NE			314-326	287-305	254-297	243-250	221.50-251				
October 25	Kearney, NE	3,000	265-273.50	271-285	240-246	237	226.50				
October 27	Herreid, SD	4,188	307-310	273-320	245.50-277	242					NORTH CENTRAL
October 25	Torrington, WY	5,189									
October 25	Kearney, NE	3,000		312-327	262.50-310	242-273.75	235-258.25	246.50-250.50			
October 27	Lexington, NE	2,729		245-282	226-263.50	244.50-251.50	239	214			
October 26	Ogallala, NE	5,465	325-335	327.50-345	264-296	248-275	230-249				
October 26	Valentine, NE	5,340	305	263-285	230-266.50	233-245		200			

October 26 Willcox, AZ	1,472	316-322.50 231-280	291-345 239-280	253-319 220-245	225-250 197-227.50	217-250 190-214			78-106 90-120	1,025-1,725 1,225-1,475	SOUTH CENTRAL
October 30 Colorado	13,885		315-355 258-312.50	300-353 255-300	240-315 231-268	236-271 224-248	225-247 221-240.50	202.50-241 163-241	68-129.50 71-125	1,150-2,500 825-2,525	
October 25 La Junta, CO	3,176		313-340 251-293	261-330 231-283	251-300 226-259	237-256 220-243	221-240 221-231	226-233 212-216	89-110 99-117	950-2,000	
October 31 Loma, CO	1,267		360-401 300-310	300-350 240-280	260-282 240-267	245-263 215-240	215-243 180-219	173-220 160-208	92-108 108-116		
October 27 Dodge City, KS	2,124	352.50 332	260-296 224-309	263-313 244-300	250-296 237-266	233-267 226-239	215-237 222-227.50	202-203.50 219.25	81-107 76-114	2,000-2,500 1,675	
November 2 Pratt, KS	3,000		300-342 265-302.50	298-330 240-295	251-322 229-241	226-254 209-237.50	224-240.50 202.50-240	222-239.75 211-230.50			
No report available Salina, KS											
November 1 Clovis, NM	2,099		290-332 250-275	257-308 237.50-268	242-282 219-245	212-257 210-227	202-225 200-215	135-217 122.50-212	93.50 62		
November 1 El Reno, OK	2,485	270	255-267.50	250-305 211-260	252.50-267.50 216-265	234-251 203-232	207.50-238 211-219	221-240 179-215			
November 1 McAlester, OK	885		251 231-255	257-283 221-241	224-271 221-240	212-232 196-225	185-200 160-175	180 140	85-108 108-122	1,125-2,000 1,025-1,725	
October 30 Oklahoma City, OK	2,023			265-327 220-249	215-305 200-244	220-251.50 205-228.50	190-235 200-220.50	190-236 191.50-203			
October 27 Cuero, TX	1,105	217-300 176-232.50	224-335 198-300	242-332 209-225	229-250 205-226	219-235 200-215	213-224 156-204		80-95 98-115		
October 27 Dalhart, TX	2,682	332-336 275	300-350 285-326	300-324 237-273	260-297 213-225	210-263 200-224	220-244 212-227	209-230 194-215	70-110 97-124	1,250-1,800	
No report available San Angelo, TX											
No report available Tulia, TX											

Winter wheat grazing hopes revived



Most of Oklahoma has received significant rain recently, reviving hopes for wheat pasture. The majority of the state was blessed with 1.5 to over 6 inches of rain in recent rains. Only the northwest and panhandle regions missed out this time.

Wheat stands around the state are quite variable with some bigger wheat all the way down to wheat barely emerged. The latest Crop Progress report shows that 71% of Oklahoma wheat is planted, 2% more than last year but less than the 75% five-year average.

In recent Extension meetings, many producers have indicated that they expect to have wheat pasture, if somewhat later than usual in many cases. Some producers have already purchased stockers, betting on the come, while others will be in the market now.

Figure 1 shows prices for stocker steers this fall in Oklahoma. Prices for the preferred stockers under 500 pounds have not decreased season-

ally this fall. In fact, average prices for 450-500-lb. steers in October were higher than September. Prices for heavier feeder cattle over 600 lbs. have decreased about 10% in recent weeks.

Both live and feeder futures have seen a huge downward correction in the past six weeks after months of trending higher. Both markets have dropped precipitously in the last half of October but appear to be stabilizing now. A profit-taking correction is not surprising and has been made worse by recent global events and enhanced market volatility.

March feeder futures are currently priced at about \$238/cwt, down from roughly \$255/cwt just two weeks ago. Current cash and futures prices imply a value of gain from Nov. 1 to early March of about \$1.50/lb. for a 475-lb. stocker steer. Depending on specific cost assumptions, this is about equal to the breakeven for winter grazing, providing returns to wheat pasture and labor but nothing beyond that for the cattle.

If feeder futures rebound somewhat, there may be better opportunities to lock in additional returns in the coming weeks.

Reduced feeder auction volumes reflect the decreasing supplies of cattle in the country. Oklahoma combined auction feeder volume is down 10.6% year over year thus far in 2023. The auction volume has been down every week for the last 10 weeks and is down 14.7% compared to the same period one year ago. The biggest weekly volumes of the year typically occur in the next six weeks but are likely to remain below year-ago levels.

With smaller volumes and stronger wheat pasture demand, stocker calf prices are unlikely to show any seasonal weakness in the coming weeks and may move higher, depending on the impact of broader market uncertainty and volatility. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeder numbers limited at markets

MARKETS (from page 1)

"The rib and the loin are still holding week-over-week gains but it is disappointing to see the Choice cutout reported at \$302.67 on November 1 when just two days ago, the market was reported at \$309.28," Cassie Fish, market analyst, wrote in The Beef on Wednesday. "Will have to wait and see if this dump in end cut prices was enough to get product cleaned up overall, so the cutout can finally make more headway."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also climbed higher over the week. The November contract gained more than \$6 to close at \$242.62, and the January contract gained more than \$7 to close at \$242.17.

"Although prices are still well below any significant resistance level that would point to a market pullback in the complex, it would not be surprising if a light to moderate correction developed in the coming days based on lack of volume more than a change of market direction," DTN said.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index was lower by more than \$3 to \$237.25.

Corn futures lost some value, with the December contract down 9 cents to

\$4.70 and the March contract down 8 cents to \$4.85.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 2,680 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady and feeder heifers under 600 lbs. sold \$6-10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 790 lbs. averaged \$248.50.

Nebraska: Bassett Livestock Auction in Bassett sold 1,890 head on Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, 550-lb. steers traded \$3 higher, 600-lb. steers traded \$8 lower, 900-lb. steers traded \$4 higher and 500-lb. heifers traded steady. Benchmark steers averaging 766 lbs. sold for \$243.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Feedyards in Oklahoma City sold 2,200 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, numbers were limited due to heavy rains and colder temperatures. Benchmark steers averaging 769 lbs. sold from \$226-235, averaging \$229.86.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 905 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, there was a lighter offering of steer and heifer calves. There was improved demand for calves and yearlings. Benchmark steers averaging 663 lbs. sold for \$260. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.nationalcattlemenfoundation.org.

Dec. 1 — Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program student intern applications are due Dec. 1. Details: bit.ly/AngusFoundationTalonProgram or JBoester@Angus.org.

Jan. 10 — Applications for the Angus Foundation's spot at the Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) can be found at tinyurl.com/3etp6sdu. YCC is a program developed for up-and-coming cattle producers who are interested in seeing every part of the supply chain from production to marketing, to Capitol Hill.

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Don't skip the bug spray: Alpha-gal cases are climbing

Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension specialists say residents should remain diligent in preventing tick bites as the alpha-gal allergy emerges as a serious health risk in the southeastern U.S.

Tick bites are rare during the cooler months, but the pests are considered a year-round threat in states with mild winter temperatures.

12 years of mysterious illness

Sand Springs, OK, resident Stephanie McAllister developed a mysterious cough in 2008 that baffled medical specialists. She coughed constantly, but every X-ray was clear and every test declared normal. The pulmonologist she visited mentioned a chronic cough is usually an indicator of some kind of allergy,

but no diagnosis was determined. Doctors suggested several serious medical ailments as the probable cause, including bulimia or anxiety. McAllister felt like she was going crazy, but deep down she knew none of these were the problem.

"I started having brain fogginess and joint pain in my arms and legs, but all of the tests ran for arthritis came back normal," she

said.

In 2019, while hiking around Keystone Lake near her home, McAllister was bit by a tick and began vomiting five or six times a day. Again, every test doctors administered came back normal.

"I started Googling symptoms and reading articles," she said. "I went to three different doctors and asked them to do an alpha-gal test, and they all said it was too rare, that there was no way I had it."

Frustrated with 12 exhausting years of unexplained illness, McAllister started eating a vegan diet. Her symptoms disappeared, and she suspected alpha-gal was the culprit. In 2020, she found an urgent care that reluctantly ran the simple alpha-gal blood test, and the result was positive.

"It was a relief to know," McAllister said. "I had it for so long, and I was just

thankful I knew what to do to feel better."

Today, she consumes chicken and seafood, but her avoidance of red meat is more complicated than it sounds.

"I have to be really careful with anything that's processed because beef and pork aren't listed on allergy labels," she said. "Any box, can or bag that lists natural flavors as an ingredient could have beef or pork in it. I know if I eat it, I'm going to feel terrible for the next three days."

Allergic reactions to meat

"Mammals have the alpha-gal compound, but humans don't," said Janice Hermann, OSU Extension nutrition specialist. "When a tick feeds on a mammal and bites a human, it can cause the human to have an allergic reaction to alpha-gal."

Meat from beef, pork and venison contain the compound and can enact a severe allergic reaction. In some cases, even milk, gelatin or beef broth can heighten alpha-gal syndrome.

Hermann explained the allergy is difficult to identify because of its delayed reaction.

"Food allergy symptoms usually occur rapidly whereas alpha-gal syndrome may not show symptoms until 2 to 6 hours after consuming the product," Hermann said. A lot of times, people don't associate it with the fact they consumed meat."

The CDC lists the following symptoms of an alpha-gal allergic reaction:

- Hives, itchy skin or rashes.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Heartburn or indigestion.
- Diarrhea.
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Drop in blood pressure.
- Swelling of the lips, throat, tongue or eyelids.
- Dizziness or faintness.
- Severe stomach pain.

For those who have alpha-gal syndrome, some can trace the allergy to a specific tick bite. Others were never aware of a tick on their body. Bruce Noden, associate professor of medical/veterinary entomology in the OSU Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, has personal experience with the health condition. His son was diagnosed shortly after high school.

"He got into a bunch of seed ticks out at Lake McMurtrey and wound up in the hospital with anaphylaxis," Noden said. "He calls me at 11:30 at night and says, 'Dad, I can't breathe.'"

His son is one of the lucky alpha-gal victims whose symptoms eventually faded.

"We ate fish and chicken for two years in our house, and when he tried to reintroduce red meat, he came

out of it," Noden said.

Alpha-gal goes global

The lone star tick variety is the most common carrier of the alpha-gal compound, inoculating a salivary protein.

"We're recognizing it more and seeing it in areas where lone star ticks are prevalent," Noden said. "The lone star tick is invading New England, and we're seeing alpha-gal cases rise there. Wherever the lone star tick is present, we have a problem."

He described the lone star tick as ubiquitous; while most other varieties feed on different hosts during different stages of their development, the lone star tick will feed on anything regardless of its stage.

Another confusing characteristic of the alpha-gal compound is human variability. Noden's international veterinary medicine colleagues in other areas of the world, such as Spain, have discovered people can show high levels of the alpha-gal antibody in their system but not exhibit allergic reactions to red meat.

"It seems there's something else going on here," he said. "We've simplified the allergy to a tick bite, but what else in the bite causes the reaction, and why is the reaction coming from lone star ticks?"

As an emerging illness, physicians are more aware of the possibility of alpha-gal when a patient shows symptoms. Dr. Lora Cotton, a primary care physician at OSU Family Medicine—Health Care Center, said the unusual symptoms are not typically associated with an allergy and can change every time a reaction occurs.

"It's probably underdiagnosed because of the variability in presentation of symptoms," Cotton said. "We're not able to pinpoint a cause right away. We mark off the common things, and when we don't find a diagnosis, that's when we should consider testing for the alpha-gal allergy."

Cotton said the blood test that reports antibodies to the alpha-gal sugar molecule is readily available. Patients can ask for the test if they suspect a tick bite.

There is no direct treatment for the allergy, and those who experience serious anaphylactic reactions should carry an EpiPen. Cotton said that although symptoms can fade over time, alpha-gal can be reactivated if a person is re-exposed to tick bites.

OSU Extension's nutrition and entomology specialists say the most effective way to prevent tick bites in tall grass or wooded areas is to spray skin with an insect repellent that contains DEET. Wear pants, tall socks and boots that impede pests from crawling onto bare skin, and always complete frequent and thorough tick checks. — **OSU Extension**

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Building a veterinarian recruitment toolbox for rural Texas

In communities throughout Texas, the veterinarian serves as the cog of livestock and animal care, yet many rural areas are experiencing a historical lack of veterinary service.

A collaborative pilot effort between the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases and the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is underway to enhance recruitment of veterinarians to critically underserved areas of Texas.

The three-year project is funded by a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant.

"What we are trying to do is create a community template of recruiting (options) intended for use by communities that need a veterinarian and want to help attract one to their area," said Dee Ellis, DVM, Texas A&M AgriLife Research veterinarian and part of the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology.

"For example, if a church wants to recruit a preacher, they often offer them a place to live. So, the question we are trying to answer is, 'What can communities offer to veterinarians as incentives for them to relocate to their town?'"

Community template project

Ellis is joined by project co-members Dan Posey, DVM, clinical professor at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences who leads outreach efforts within the school's Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach initiative; and Jennifer Schleining, DVM, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, ACVS-LA, head of the Department of Large Animal Clinic Sciences at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

"The ultimate goal of this grant is to help communities help themselves and be able to attract, recruit and retain veterinarians," Schleining said. "In a lot of small communities, the veterinarian is also highly involved in driving the economy and is seen as a leader. So, it's really an important part of the whole community atmosphere to have a veterinarian located there. We're thankful to the USDA for recognizing that this is a much larger issue than just training and that they're giving us the tools to be able to address it from a multifaceted approach."

The community template project will not replace the supplemental loan repayment programs already in

place, Ellis said.

Texas currently has both state and federally funded programs to help repay part of a veterinarian's student loan debt if they relocate to an underserved area, Ellis said.

"In the federal program, the Texas Animal Health Commission, with industry input, selects the areas each year that are designated as 'underserved' and then USDA reviews the applications of veterinarians to see who will actually receive a loan repayment stipend."

Ellis said the template project is intended for small towns or communities that need a veterinarian but also could be used by agribusinesses or other stakeholders looking to recruit veterinarians into historically underserved parts of Texas. It could also help in food animal sectors, which also struggle to recruit veterinarians due to the shortage of large animal practitioners.

Beyond salary, the project could explore other areas of

attraction, such as good schools, recreational opportunities, cultural or well-being environments, and peer or mentorship interactions.

"This embraces the 'it takes a village mindset' to recruit veterinarians to historically underserved areas," Ellis said. "It's not just about a community providing housing or inexpensive locations for a clinic to set up at an industrial park, but how can the community work with the veterinary professionals and local agribusiness to offer a desirable environment for a veterinarian to relocate to."

Retention in a small town

"It's also not just about moving to a small town; it's about staying in a small town long term," Ellis said.

Retention of newly located veterinarians is a big issue facing many rural communities that needs to be addressed. Processes helping to

repay student loans may get a veterinarian to a rural location, but the real question is "How do you keep them there long term?" Ellis said.

"When you look at the rural dilemma, there are rural towns that are getting smaller, but there are also rural towns that are getting bigger," Posey said. "Part of what we aim to find out is why."

"By doing this work, we can see why some rural communities, like Canyon in the Texas Panhandle, thrive and others don't. Once we've identified these things, we'll make a 'toolbox' to help rural areas that are shrinking start thriving again so that they can attract veterinarians. The toolbox will serve as a blueprint to help build stronger attractions for young professionals to rural areas."

Posey said when he and the fellow researchers looked at the many ways to solve the problem, "which has been on-going for the duration of my 21 years teaching veteri-

nary medicine," it was really clear that the next logical step is to help rural communities develop and grow in a way that attracts young professionals.

"To be part of such a project is an honor, because it means we're part of the solution," he said.

Schleining said the grant emphasizes the core tenets of the land-grant university—service and commitment.

"One of the things that drew me to Texas A&M was service," Schleining said. "This grant really gets to the heart of service and our commitment as a land-grant university. It's really fun to work with people to address a problem that we've been talking about in the veterinary profession for 20 years. This project is a very meaningful way to make a positive difference both in the field of veterinary medicine and in the communities that need veterinary care most." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame honorees announced

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame 2024 inductees and industry award winners will be honored on Feb. 1 at the 15th annual banquet, held during CattleCon24 in Orlando, FL. The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame was established in 2009 to honor the exceptional visionary men and women who have made lasting contributions to the cattle-feeding industry.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2024 include Dr. Kee Jim, DVM, of G.K. Jim Farms and Feedlot Health Management Services Ltd., and the late Dr. Jack Reeve, DVM, founder of Reeve Cattle Company in Garden City, KS. Dr. Delbert Miles of Colorado will receive the Industry Leadership Award for his respected work in feedlot veterinary medicine and research in beef cattle production, and Greg Wolfe with Timmerman & Sons in Nebraska will receive the Arturo Armendariz Distinguished Service Award.

"These individuals have dedicated their careers to our collective success," said Dustin Johansen, senior vice president at Farm Journal and Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame board member. "We are proud to honor them, as their unwavering dedication has led to extraordinary, impactful strides within the cattle feeding industry."

Attendees of the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet are invited to participate in CattleCon24, which features industry meetings, motivational speakers, valuable education, entertainment, a

massive trade show, producer recognition and much more. Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet tickets are \$200 per person in addition to convention registration. All proceeds from banquet ticket sales and corporate sponsorships benefit future Hall of Fame initiatives.

For more information about CattleCon24 and to purchase tickets to the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet, visit convention.ncba.org. For more information about the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and 2024 inductees, visit www.cattlefeeders.org. — **National Cattlemen's Beef Association**

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Nov. 20 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, Female Sale, Madras, OR
Dec. 5-6 — PAYS Blue Ribbon Female Sale, Billings, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 3 — Klamath Falls, Bull & Female Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Mar. 1 — Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Heber City, UT
Mar. 15 — Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Baker, NV
Mar. 16 — UBA, Bull Sale, Salina, UT

ANGUS

Nov. 10 — TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Nov 10 — Arntzen Angus, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 11 — HD Dunn Angus, Bull Sale, Tetonia, 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 — Vermillion 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
Dec. 2 — Hollow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Ramsay, MT
Dec. 2 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Dec. 2 — Reverse Rocking R, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 5 — Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 7 — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 8 — KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 9 — Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
Dec. 13 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 15 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Feb. 9 — Bar KD & Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 9 — Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 9 — Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 10 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 12 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 — Meadow Acres, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 16, 2024 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

Feb. 19 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 19 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 20 — Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 24 — Ranchers Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Feb. 24 — RV Bar Angus, Bull Sale, Jensen, UT
Feb. 25 — Buchanan Angus, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 26 — Colyer Angus & Hereford, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
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Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 1 — Crouthamel Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
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Mar. 5 — Allen Brothers, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 6 — 3-String Cattle & Dille Red Angus, Bull Sale, Castleford, ID
Mar. 6 — Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 7 — Cannon Angus, Bull Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 8 — Rollin Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Mar. 9 — Riverbend Ranches, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 11 — Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 14 — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 15 — J Lazy S, Online Bull Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 16 — Nelson Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 16 — Ward Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV

Mar. 18 — Angus in the Basin, Bull Sale, Duchesne, UT
Mar. 18 — Herd Builder, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 20 — Lufkin Cattle, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 21 — Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 21 — Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 21 — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 7 — Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Feb. 20, 2024 — V-A-L Charolais, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 23 — Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 24 — Ranchers Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 12 — Romans Ranches Charolais, Production Sale, Harper, OR

HEREFORD

Nov. 13 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 13 — Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT
Dec. 1 — Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV
Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Feb. 2 — Elkington Polled Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Feb. 9 — CX Ranch & Dutch Flat Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 9 — Lambert Ranch & Bar KD, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 10 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan UT
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 26 — Colyer Hereford & Angus, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 29 — Northwest Hereford Breeders, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 4 — Harrell Hereford & Angus, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID

RED ANGUS

Nov. 13 — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bred Heifer and Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 6 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
Dec. 8 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 11 — Cross Diamond, Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 15 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Mar. 6 — Dille Red Angus & 3-String Cattle, Bull Sale, Castleford, ID
Mar. 12 — Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 16 — Iron Lorenzen Cattle, Bull Sale, Madras, OR

SALERS

Dec. 4 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SIMANGUS

Nov. 18 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 2 — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO
Dec. 2 — Western Choice Simmental, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 22, 2024 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR

Feb. 27 — Barker Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 2 — Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA

STABILIZER

Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Wytheville, VA
Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Gering, NE
Dec. 2 — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 17 — Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 27 — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Jan. 25, 2024 — Red Bluff, Replacement Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA

HORSE

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Mar. 2 — Winnemucca Ranch, Rodeo Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Mar. 4 — Harrell & Mackenzie, Quarter Horse Sale, Baker City, OR

DOG

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA



SALE REPORTS

RUGGLES ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Oct. 27, McCook, NE
55 Total lots \$5,498
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
Sale Manager: American Angus Hall of Fame

TOPS—Bred heifers: Ruggles Mchenry Pride 2605, 1/16/22 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Dave Johnson, Cambridge, NE, \$5,750. Ruggles Mchenry Pride 2608, 1/17/22 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Dave Johnson, Cambridge, NE, \$5,250. **Spring pairs:** Ruggles Blkhd Progress 0108, 1/22/18 by S Whitlock 179; to Dane Pilakowski 179; to Dane Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, \$13,500. Ruggles Mchenry Blkcap 0225, 2/3/18 by LD Capitalist 316; to JBK Ranch, McCook, NE, \$10,500. Ruggles Erica 0131, 1/24/18 by S Whitlock 179; to

JBK Ranch, McCook, NE, \$8,500. Ruggles Mchenry Blkcap 0215, 2/1/18 by S A V Resource 1441; to Adam Freouf, Ericson, NE, \$8,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

BEAR MOUNTAIN ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Oct. 28, Palisade, NE
307 Total lots \$5,496
49 Fall pairs 5,147
3 Donor cows.... 29,000
42 Heifer calf pairs 6,764
91 Spring bred cows 4,815
72 Spring bred heifers 4,699
27 Spring open heifers 3,531
21 Fall open heifers 5,031
3 Herd bulls 10,333
30 Commercial bred heifers 2,800
Auctioneers: Cody Lowderman, Clint

Hunter & Matt Sims Sale Manager: Matt C. Sims Auction, Inc.
TOPS—Bulls: Bear Mtn Magnify, 2/5/20 by Bear Mtn Justify; to R.D. Laflin, Olsberg, KS, \$13,000. SITZ Thunderstruck 746J, 1/9/21 by Sitz Thunderball 734E; to Jason Flickinger, Andalusia, IL, \$11,000. **Open heifers:** Bear Mtn Enchantress 2835, 9/3/22 by Bear Mtn Justice; to Elwood Ranches, Montague, CA, \$13,000. Bear Mtn Forever Lady 3672, 2/12/23 by KR Caliber 1087; to Stinson Angus Farms, Talbott, TN, \$9,700. **Bred heifers:** K A Forever Lady 201, 1/13/22 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to Meng Farms Cattle Company, Troy, KS, \$20,000. Bear Mtn Bell 1855, 9/6/21 by S S Brickyard; to Deryl Riley, Arapahoe, NE, \$13,000.

Bred cows: Bear Mtn Forever Lady 9512, 1/17/19 by Hoover No Doubt; to Norman Angus, Crawford, NE, \$11,000. Reagans BM Forever Lady 6671, 2/19/16 by KG Justified 3023; to Berent Thompson, Kintrye, ND, \$10,000. **Fall pairs:** Bear Mtn Forever Lady 7833, 9/16/17 by Koupals B&B On Course 5068, carrying a bull calf by Bear Mtn Pilot 1520; to Stellflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$42,000. Bear Mtn RRS Eisa Erica 9501, 1/10/19 by Connealy Ruger, carrying a bull calf by LAR Man In Black; to Stellpflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$35,000. **Spring pair:** Bear Mtn Eulima 1727, 4/3/21 by DDB Payoff, carrying a heifer calf by Bear Mtn Stealth 1510; to Linz Heritage Angus, Byars, OK, \$17,250. — **TY GROSHANS**

Central Oregon Livestock Auction

Centraloregonlivestock@gmail.com
541-475-3851

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:

Jay Buriril 541-620-1559
Eric Duarte 541-891-78
Dale Landrus 541-419-8762
Tim Messner: 541-410-8691
Craig Weaver: 503-741-0861

Trent Stewart
Owner & Actioneer
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023

BEAVER, UT 1 MST
46TH ANNUAL COW SALE



Y1 Lady Luck L99, 3/4 SM
Remedy 1054J x WS Stepping Stone



Y1 Lilac L62, PB AN
LD Capitalist 316 x SAV Brilliance



Y1 Lolly Pop L180, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Yardley Lawman x ZKCC Chopper



Miss Yardley H3, PB SM
Lover Boy x Yardley Top Notch



Miss Yardley H14, PB SM
Lover Boy x Yardley Top Notch



Miss Yardley E28, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Lover Boy x SAV Bismark



Miss Yardley K139, 1/4 MA 11/16 AN
Maternal Made x Duff New Edition



Miss Yardley J168, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Yardley Standout x Yardley Zion



Miss Yardley J218, 1/2 SM 1/2 AN
Yardley Standout x GCC Gold Standard



Miss Yardley J206, PB AN
SAV Rainmaker x Bushs Bushwacker



Miss Yardley K30, PB AN
Yardley Acclaimed x SAV Resource



Miss Yardley H145 PB AN
WAR Cowboy UP x Bushs Bushwacker

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INSIDE WLJ

CRIME WATCH — Texas judge and rancher among those indicted in livestock theft case. Page 6

NEW HIGHS — Idaho sets record for ag production value in 2022. Page 10

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

All industries rely heavily on scientific advancements to move forward, and as this 1943 *WLJ* article describes, many of those advancements occur during times of war: "We can view the post-war world with certainty in one vital particular. It will be a world of change—drastic change—in agriculture as well as in industry. The release of chemical materials will make nitrogen-bearing fertilizers available to the nation's farms in quantities that may lead to wholly new crop practices. Undoubtedly we will see a great expansion of rural electrification and mechanization. The country will emerge from the war with capacities for making plastics, synthetic fibers, high octane gasolines and scores of raw materials on a scale that could not be foreseen before the war began."

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A pair of ranches has filed suit against the BLM, claiming their failure to remove excess horses is unlawful. Pictured here, feral horses within the Stone Cabin Complex in Nevada.

BLM Nevada

NV ranchers sue BLM to remove feral horses

— BLM argues full corrals

Two Nevada ranches are suing the feds for their failure to remove feral horses from several public land allotments, claiming overpopulation and rangeland damage. In an Oct. 17 suit, Colvin &

Son LLC, and Stone Cabin Ranch LLC, argue the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in violation of the Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act of 1971 regarding the Stone Cabin Complex in the state of Nevada. The ranches contend there is an overpop-

ulation of feral horses on the allotments within the herd management areas (HMA), and the feds have a duty to remove the excess horses per a wild horse management plan. The Stone Cabin Complex contains nearly 890,000 acres

and is guided by the Stone Cabin Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan. The BLM's environmental assessment published in April earlier this year calls for three specific management actions over the next 10 years: gather and remove excess wild horses,

apply population growth suppressants and conduct additional gathers to bring population numbers back down if they grow. The ranches claim the feds have yet to actually implement the plan, therefore violating the Wild and Free

Roaming Horses & Burro Act of 1971. This violation, the ranchers say, is causing harm to their operations, public lands, wildlife species and their habitats, and to the wild horses themselves. The lawsuit contends the

See SUIT on page 8

Frog wins Oregon grazing battle appeal

— Appeals court reverses decision

Has a yearslong battle between cattle and a frog species finally croaked? The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in late October that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) failed to meet its obligations to pro-

tect the Oregon spotted frog when the agency allowed cattle to graze within its critical habitat in Oregon's Fremont-Winema National Forest. After a federal judge dismissed a suit last year filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon Medford Division, environmental

See FROG SUIT on page 17

Court rules in favor of AZ grazing renewal

— Finds USFS met obligations

A district court recently ruled in favor of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), stating the agency took a hard look and considered public input when it reauthorized grazing for the Stateline Range Project straddling the Arizona and New Mexico border. Western Watersheds Project (WWP) and Wilderness Watch, represented by the Western Environmental Law Center, filed a suit in 2021 in the U.S. District Court for Arizona seeking to halt the renewal of grazing permits on the range project. The groups asserted that USFS violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not taking a hard look at a range of alternatives and their impacts when the agency issued

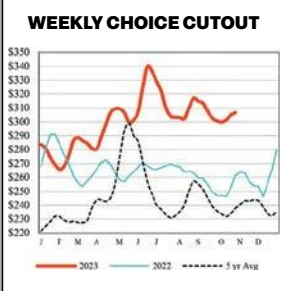
an environmental assessment (EA) and findings of no significant impact (FONSI). They further stated the grazing allotments are in the Greater Gila bioregion, an ecologically critical area that is the habitat for the Mexican wolf, several threatened or endangered species and the Blue Range Primitive Area. The Stateline Range project area covers 14 allotments along and near the state line between Arizona and New Mexico, on the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila National Forests. According to USFS, the 14 allotments are authorized for 45,867 animal unit months, with

See GRAZING on page 12

Futures regain losses from earlier crash

After live cattle and feeders each experienced plummeting figures following a bearish Cattle on Feed report, they were able to recover and find their footing again. Cash trade however, was at a standstill and inactive throughout the majority of the week. Live cattle futures were able to pick up their lost momentum and climb higher following the nosedive of a week earlier. The December contract gained over \$5 to close at \$184.67, and the February contract gained more than \$6 to close at \$186.42. Cash trade was practically nonexistent through Thursday afternoon, with less than 3,000 head sold. Live steers sold from \$181-185, and there was no trend on dressed steers. "A few cattle were reported sold in the South Wednesday at \$185/cwt, which is not enough to set a market tone, but still evidence that steady to positive price moves are expected through the end of the week," DTN wrote in its Thursday midday comments. "If the futures market support continues, it is likely that feeders will carry this bullish focus into end of the week negotiations." Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 29 totaled 77,466 head. Live steers averaged \$184.04, and dressed steers averaged \$290.19.

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 496,000 head, about 6,000 head short of a week earlier. Projected total slaughter for the week prior is 636,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 21 was 637,931 head. The average steer dressed weight was 927 lbs., the same as last week. "The year-on-year reductions in slaughter are reflective of the decline in the nation's cattle herd—both cows and fed cattle," the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. "The cow slaughter will increase during the final quarter of this year but remain under last year." Boxed beef prices traded lower over the week, with the Choice cutout down about \$2 to \$304.53 and the Select cutout down more than \$5 to \$274.34.



See MARKETS on page 19

↑	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$184.66	N/A	\$237.25
WEEK ENDING: 11-2-23		

Time Sensitive
Priority Handling
PERIODICAL:

COMMENTS

Fall observations

We are in the heart of fall. In my home state of Montana, all the signs are here: leaves have changed to their wonderful fall colors, nights are dipping well below freezing, we have had our first shot of snow and cold, and the semi loads of cattle are heading down every major road hauling calves to their new homes. Shipping season is in full swing.

The end of October saw a big change in the calf market. The knee-jerk reaction to the latest Cattle on Feed report saw a drastic dip in the spot market for those who market their calves at the local auction market. Calves that were forward contracted during the summer video auctions and loaded on a truck the same day as their contemporaries that got on a truck from an auction market were receiving a \$20-plus premium. It definitely paid to forward contract your calves—if you had the means—if that week was your marketing window.

Now my observation on the market response to the Cattle on Feed report, calling it a knee-jerk reaction, comes from a couple of points. The market has already responded in the first week of November by tacking money back on the calves. Most markets in my region were up after the down market experienced the week earlier. The demand is still evident, and the supply is simply not there. In Montana in particular, after the last few years of drought and major selloff of cows, the inventory of calves is simply lower. The herd rebuild has not started yet. I do foresee commercial ranchers looking to restock their ranches after they put their calf checks in the bank, take inventory of their hay stocks and meet with their accountants. However, these additional cows brought back to their ranches are going to restock the inventory lost from the last couple of years; I do not see it being a herd expansion yet.

Another major discussion point from ranchers is that these higher prices received for their calves along with their cull cows and bulls were necessary. Sure, there should be profit at these price levels, but when you consider the increase in input prices, there is not as much profit left over at the end of the day as at our prior historic prices. More money in and more money out. We will need to realize these higher price levels for the foreseeable future in order to incentivize ranchers to expand and to encourage the next generation of ranchers to take the gamble and make this business their livelihood.

Now I will admit that I am a chronic optimist and I do believe that the price levels we are experiencing in 2023 will be the reality for the next couple of years. I also believe that inputs will stabilize, making future planning easier and providing this incentive. The wild card in the equation is interest rates. If you have to borrow money this will be the one limiting factor to producers.

On another note, we have been busy planning the 2024 Livestock Tour presented by the *Western Livestock Journal*. Pete Crow, my wife, Samantha, and I spent a week in Texas lining up what I believe will be a great tour. The details are still being finalized, but we will be making a loop from San Antonio to near Houston, up to College Station, and back to the San Antonio area. We will get to see some diverse landscapes in this loop and some excellent agriculture operations. The type of cattle and operations we will visit will be very diverse and we will get to visit with some very innovative and progressive operators. The tour is scheduled for May 19-25, 2024, so mark your calendars and plan on joining us then. Registration and more information will be available in December.

There are a lot of reasons to be cautiously optimistic in the cattle business right now. Demand for our product is at record levels. I also credit the cattlemen in the U.S. with improving the genetics and quality of the national cow herd. Stay the course and always be on the lookout for ways to improve. Take advantage of opportunities to learn, like on the Livestock Tour in Texas this next year. Keep working on improvement. With this market, coupled with your hard work and a little help from Mother Nature, I believe we are in for more good times ahead. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



MURNIN

GUEST OPINION

The U.S. is the land of plenty for most of its residents. In terms of the food supply, one does not hear of people starving to death, as occurs in some third world countries. In fact, America and Americans discard more food every year than any other country. That is a scandal in of itself. But even worse is the fact that nearly 13% of U.S. households were food insecure in 2022.

While the world wastes about 2.5 billion metric tons (mt) of food every year, the U.S. discards nearly 60 million mt, or 120 billion pounds, every year. That's estimated to be almost 40% of the entire U.S. food supply and equates to 325 lbs. of waste per person. That's like every person in America throwing 975 average-sized apples into the garbage, or rather, into landfills, as most discarded food ends up there. In fact, food is the single largest component taking up space inside U.S. landfills, making up 22% of municipal solid waste. All told, the amount of food wasted in America has an approximate value of nearly \$218 billion, the equivalent of 130 billion meals.

Yet it is estimated that nearly 35 million people across America, including 10 million children, suffer from food insecurity. In 2022, 87.2% of U.S. households were food secure. The remaining 12.8% (17 million households) were food insecure, according to a new report by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). Food-insecure households (those with low and very low food security) had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members because of a lack of resources. The 2022 prevalence of food insecurity was statistically significantly higher than the 10.2% recorded in 2021 (13.5 million households) and the 10.5% in 2020 (13.8 million households), says ERS.

In 2022, 5.1% of U.S. households (6.8 million households) had very low food security, says ERS. This was statistically significantly higher than the 3.8% (5.1 million households) in 2021 and the 3.9% (5.1 million households) in 2020. In this more severe range of food insecurity, the food intake of some household members was reduced, and normal eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because of limited resources. Children were food insecure at times during 2022 in 8.8% of U.S. households with children (3.3 million households), up from both 6.2% (2.3 million households) in 2021 and 7.6% (2.9 million households) in 2020. These households with food insecurity among children were unable at times to provide adequate, nutritious food for their children, says ERS.

Children are usually shielded from the disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake that characterize very low food security, says ERS. However, in 2022, children and adults both suffered instances of very low food security in 1% of households with children (381,000 households), statistically significantly higher than the 0.7% (274,000 households) in 2021. These households with very low food security among children reported that children were hungry, skipped a meal or did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food, says ERS.

The prevalence of both food insecurity and very low food security increased from 2021 to 2022 for nearly all subgroups of households described in its report, says ERS. The typical (median) food-secure household spent 15% more on food than the typical food-insecure household of the same size and composition. These estimates include food purchases made with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) benefits.

THE FOOD WASTE SCANDAL

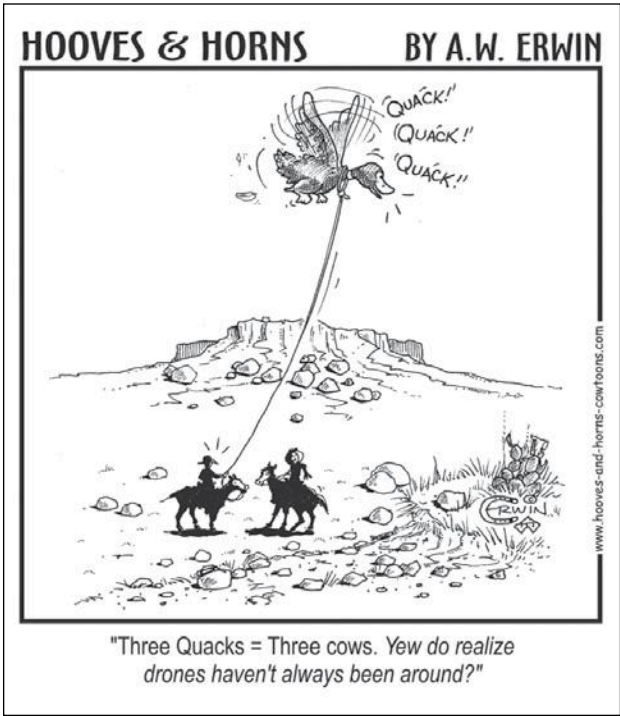
About 55% of food-insecure households in the ERS survey reported that in the previous month, they participated in one or more of the three largest Federal nutrition assistance programs, says ERS.

With so many people suffering and in need of basic amounts of food, why do Americans waste so much of their food abundance, asks another report. Getting to the bottom of what causes food waste in America is a challenge that traverses the complex landscapes of socio-economic disparities, confusion and ingrained beliefs, layered with human behaviors and habits, it says.

Food spoilage, whether real or perceived, is one of the biggest reasons people throw out food. More than 80% of Americans discard perfectly good, consumable food simply because they misunderstand expiration labels, says the report. Labels like "sell by," "use by," "expires on," "best before" or "best by" are confusing to people, and in an effort to not risk the potential of a foodborne illness, they'll toss it in the garbage.

The beef industry suffers its share of food spoilage. The industry has long operated on the old adage of "sell it or smell it". However, decades of packaging improvements—think case-ready – have helped reduce wastage of red meat and poultry. But the industry can and should do more to educate Americans about recognizing when a meat product is still safe to consume. — **Steve Kay**

(Steve Kay is editor/publisher of *Cattle Buyers Weekly*, an industry newsletter published at P.O. Box 2533, Petaluma, CA, 94953; 707-765-1725. Kay's Korner appears exclusively in WLJ.)



OBITUARY



Anthony 'Tony' Caputo; 1922-2023

From the greatest generation to have ever lived, our father, Anthony "Tony" Peter Caputo, passed away peacefully on Oct. 25 at 101-and-a-half years old. He was born in San Jose, CA, to Italian immigrants Pietro and

Giuseppina Caputo, where he prospered as a young man.

Tony attended San Jose Technical High School, leaving at the age of 14 to work full time for his brother, Dan, who went on to work as a general engineering and building contractor to handle building roads, bridges and sewers. Tony enlisted in the Navy Seabees (C.B. Construction Battalion) during WWII, serving two tours in Guadalcanal and Okinawa. Upon returning from the service, he became superintendent for Dan Caputo Co. in San Jose, a company that was responsible for many of the bridges, overpasses and roads that make up the fabric of the Bay Area.

He was especially proud of the award-winning Eugene A.

Doran Memorial Bridge in Crystal Springs, CA.

In 1949 Tony married his young love, Virginia Jane Toste, and together they raised four children in the Willow Glen area, Sandy, Toni Jane, Peter and Terri. Amongst them there wereninegrandchildren, Adam, Sarah, Lindsay, Gina, Jasen, Andrew, Jailena, Casey and Shaylynn, and they were also blessed with 10 beautiful great-grandchildren. Tony and Virginia eventually moved south to Tres Pinos, CA, near his ranch in Paicines and started raising a small herd of Angus cattle.

Tony will be remembered as a world traveler, traveling to most continents, and visiting livestock ranches with the *Western Livestock Journal*; an avid 49ers faithful fan since

1946 enjoying games at Kezar, Candlestick and Levi stadiums; an avid fisherman and hunter; a builder; and a proud Italian American attending meetings/ dinners at the Tricarico Social Club in San Jose.

In 2018 Tony was on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. as one of four WWII vets amongst a plane full of veteran honorees.

Tony loved the challenge the stock market presented to him, family dinners and the outdoors.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia; his son-in laws Bill Renz and Ben Beam; and his granddaughter, Sarah Williams.

Donations would be appreciated to the veteran honor flight program, Central Valley Honor Flight.

WLJ

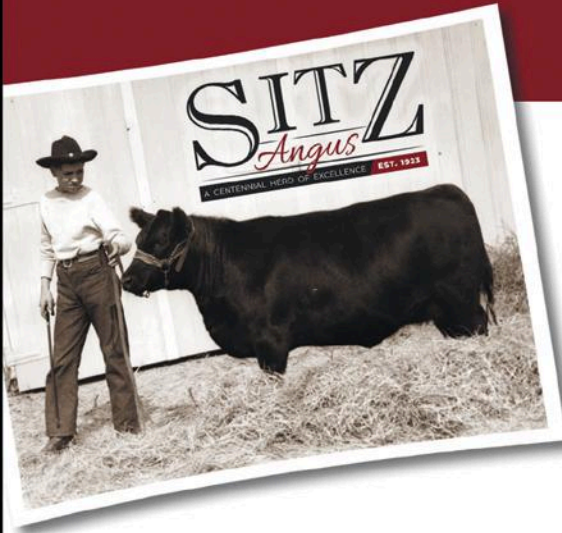
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WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL (ISSN 0094-6710, USPS 678660) is published weekly (52 issues annually, plus special features) by Western Livestock Journal LLC, 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Website: www.wlj.net. Email: advertising@wlj.net or editorial@wlj.net. U.S. subscription rates: 1 year - \$55, 2 years - \$85, 3 years - \$110. Single-copy price: \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Denver, CO, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western Livestock Journal, P.O. Box 370930, Denver, CO 80237-0930.

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Angus



SITZ Centennial 11702



Lot 100

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MARB 0.44 REA 0.84 \$M 90 \$C 285 PAP 39

58th Annual Fall Bull & Female Sale

December 7, 2023

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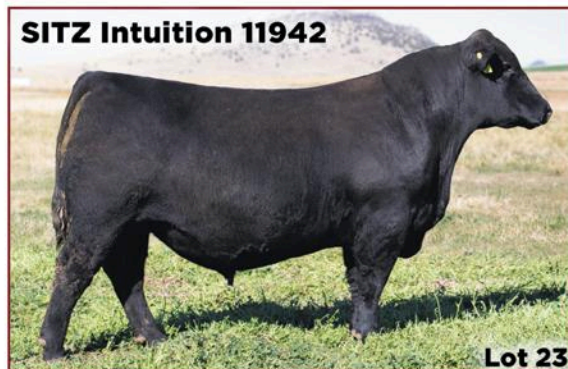
SITZ Continuity 8732



Lot 3

Reg #20321078 S: SITZ Continuity
CED 7 BW 0.4 WW 78 YW 133 SC 1.57 HP 22.2
Milk 30 MARB 0.85 REA 0.88 \$M 112 \$C 312

SITZ Intuition 11942



Lot 23

Reg #20306689 S: SITZ Intuition
CED 6 BW 0.9 WW 80 YW 132 SC 0.31 HP
20.0 Milk 24 MARB 0.93 REA 0.71 \$M 104 \$C 313

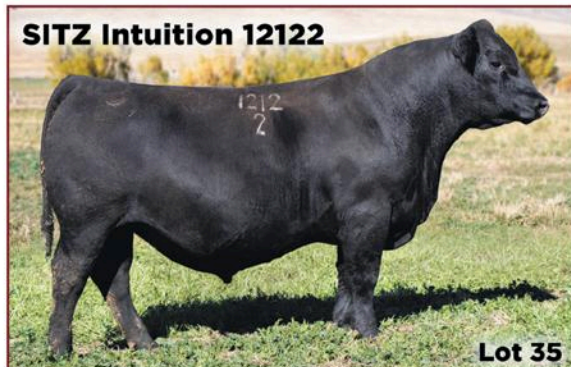
SITZ Continuity 10142



Lot 45

Reg #20306589 S: SITZ Continuity
CED 7 BW 0.3 WW 79 YW 139 SC 0.66 HP
17.8 Milk 29 MARB 0.52 REA 0.72 \$M 88 \$C 276

SITZ Intuition 12122



Lot 35

Reg #20306698 S: SITZ Intuition
CED 10 BW -0.1 WW 76 YW 128 SC 0.16 HP 17.4
Milk 35 MARB 1.15 REA 0.81 \$M 84 \$C 312

SITZ LT Resilient 10412



Lot 1

Reg #20307895 S: SITZ Resilient 10208
CED 12 BW -0.6 WW 79 YW 133 SC 1.09 HP 17.5
Milk 28 MARB 0.60 REA 0.95 \$M 92 \$C 268 PAP

SITZ Resilient 10202



Lot 53

Reg #20306594 S: SITZ Resilient 10208
CED 3 BW 2.7 WW 78 YW 129 SC 1.52 HP 14.0
Milk 20 MARB 0.66 REA 0.69 \$M 67 \$C 242

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Summit tackles water challenges facing California

Below-average precipitation and snowpack during 2020-22 and depleted surface and groundwater supplies pushed California into a drought emergency that brought curtailment orders and calls for modernizing water rights.

At the Water Education Foundation annual Water Summit held recently in Sacramento, CA, Eric Oppenheimer, chief deputy director of the California State Water Resources Control Board, discussed what he described as the state's "antiquated" water rights system. He spoke before some 150 water managers, government

officials, farmers, environmentalists and others as part of the event where interests come together to collaborate on some of the state's most challenging water issues.

Of the state's water rights system, he said it is "kind of a strange system with riparian and pre-1914 and post-1914 (water rights), all operating under slightly different rules and requirements, and it is a challenging system to manage."

During the last two droughts, Oppenheimer said, "The system was really pushed to the brink where we realized very

quickly that the data that we were using ... was not up to the task."

He said data is key to a functioning water rights system. "There are just huge errors in our data, and some of that is a function of we haven't been collecting data that long in a digital format," Oppenheimer said.

Water rights discussions also focused on Senate Bill 389, by state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica). Signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) this year, it authorizes the state water board to investigate water rights.

Alexandra Biering, Califor-

nia Farm Bureau senior policy advocate, said the Farm Bureau and others moved to a neutral position on the bill after important amendments were made.

"To the extent that we could put a few things in the bill that made it clear that this wasn't a tool to be used to go after people unless there was a good reason to do so, many people became much more comfortable," Biering said.

She noted the final bill requires the water board to be transparent by explaining why it needs water right information from diverters.

While she has heard about various proposals to modernize water rights, Biering said, "you can actually do what you need to do if you had better information using the tools that you already have."

Agriculture and water districts, she said, support the water board's Updating Water Rights Data for California project to improve collection and management of water rights data.

"We recognize how important high-quality data is on the demand side to be able to manage the system, especially during periods of shortage," added Chelsea Haines, regulatory relations manager at the Association of California Water Agencies.

California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot said, "You can't manage what you don't measure, and as climate variability intensifies, we need to manage more nimbly whether you are an individual water rights user or the state."

Historically, there has been a lack of trust between regulators and those who are regulated—more specifically, the state and water rights holders, he said.

"A lot of these measurements can feel really scary if you don't actually trust how the regulators are going to use the data and the information," he said. "I think, over time, building that trust is going to create a better system."

As part of a discussion on groundwater, Paul Gosselin, deputy director for sustainable groundwater management at the state Department of Water Resources, reflected on the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The regulatory framework requires groundwater agencies to balance groundwater aquifers by 2040 and 2042.

"A lot of the state was starting to observe the impact of climate change," Gosselin said of the impetus for SGMA. "(California) had increased rates of subsidence and upwards of a thousand dry wells. We reached a tipping point that something needed to be done."

Tina Cannon Leahy, staff counsel at the state water board, said SGMA is unique because it requires interconnected surface waters to be considered.

"If you're sinking a well next to a river and you're basically pulling the water out of the river, not only are you impacting public trust resources potentially, but you're also actually taking the water of senior water right holders," Leahy said.

To help resolve legal con-

flicts related to groundwater, local groundwater agencies may pursue groundwater adjudication.

"It gives certainty on the water rights side for the groundwater sustainability agency when they're going to do demand management or allocations," Leahy said.

Ann Hayden, vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund's climate resilient water systems program, talked about trading groundwater credits and the state's Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program.

"As it relates to trading of groundwater credits, there's starting to be a little bit more energy and action around that as a management tool," Hayden said. "Trading can play an important role in providing increased flexibility when there's scarce water supplies."

For trading groundwater credits, Hayden suggested the state provide clear guidance that has protections for ecosystems and communities.

In discussing the Colorado River, J.B. Hamby, chair of the Colorado River Board of California, chronicled the complicated water rights system for the river, which supplies water to 40 million people in seven U.S. states and Mexico.

With the operating criteria for the river expiring in 2026, Hamby said, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation wants consensus on sustainable management of the river for the next 20 years.

"There's going to be a need for dramatic reduction certainly solving that structural deficit that we've been living with for the last 20 years that's emptied our reservoirs," Hamby said. "IID (Imperial Irrigation District) is certainly one piece of that puzzle, but it's a much larger mosaic, and all users are going to have to step up to ensure sustainability moving forward."

Dam removal was discussed during the summit with a presentation by Brian Johnson, president of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, which was formed to oversee removal of four dams on the Klamath River, considered the nation's largest dam removal project.

During the summit, speakers including Anecita Agustinez, tribal policy advisor of the state Department of Water Resources, discussed the human right to water.

"As managers," Agustinez said, "we will continue to be challenged to ensure that the principles of the human right to safe, clean drinking water is available to all citizens." — **Christine Souza, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**

November 18th



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COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wjlj.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.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 – Attendee registration and the hotel room block for the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association/California Cattle Women Convention in Sparks, NV, is now open. Details: 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. More info, call 303-465-2333 or email info@gelbvieh.org.

Dec. 13-14 – The 28th Range Beef Cow Symposium will take place at The Ranch in Loveland, CO. There also will be a pre-symposium Beef Quality Assurance training on Dec. 12. Early registration closes Nov. 25. To register, visit tinyurl.com/4ky7xp8m or contact Ryan D. Rhoades at 970-217-0239 or ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu.

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.

THE VIEWPOINT

with Wes Ward

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

Service is something Wes Ward has done for much of his adult life, from his time in the Marine Corps to his current position as secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Although Wes' parents were not farmers, he knew he wanted to do something related to the agriculture industry

portant agriculture is to the state, which makes his job easy.

"She is the most personable, nicest person who understands how important agriculture is in the state, cares about the state, cares about the country and wants to do what's right to help us move forward," Wes said.

Wes said Sanders encourages a collaborative environment of cabinet members working together, holding regular meetings and having an open dialogue. Wes carries that open door policy to the industry associations, trade groups and producers he works with, and tells them that if something is not working, to let him know.

"That's what we are there for," Wes commented. "If something isn't working, let us know. We want to get out of the way of industry and let free markets

The enforcement action by Sanders and Attorney General Tim Griffin is the first in the nation amid growing concern about foreign ownership of farmland.

Wes said efforts initially started in 2021 when SB 312 required foreign investors to submit copies of federal Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act reports—which they already submit to USDA—to the secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

"Over that two-year period, the national conversation around foreign ownership—particularly China—regarding their land ownership was problematic and raised concerns about where they were owning farmland and what they were going to do with it,"

Wes said.

Wes said members of the legislature discussed what additional steps the state could take to limit foreign ownership in 2023 and passed SB 383, or Act 636.

Wes continued while it may only be 160 acres that ChemChina owns in the state, and to some it may not seem like a big concern, an quick online search would reveal the company is on the Department of Defense list as a Chinese military company doing business in the U.S.

"It's not just 160 acres in northeast Arkansas," Wes said. "It's part of a larger conversation that we can't just let a country that is adversarial to our interests do whatever they want."

Wes said the issue of foreign

ownership of agricultural land has been on the minds of other states, and according to the National Agriculture Law Center based at the University of Arkansas, 24 states have laws that restrict foreign businesses or individuals from owning agricultural land.

Wes said there have been other states and Departments of Agriculture that have reached out to him asking how Arkansas enforced the law, what worked well, and how the state would change the enforcement. Overall, Wes said the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from other states, the industry and citizens.

"I think from an agriculture standpoint it sends a message that agriculture is important," Wes said. "We've got great pro-

ducers and a great industry that has spent a lot of money on research and to grow technologies, whether it is equipment or seeds, to make our industry successful and we just don't want to hand it over to someone who wants to displace the U.S."

Wes continued China is a trading partner, but it is sometimes hard to do business with someone who could potentially undercut, steal technology or take advantage of agriculture. Wes said that the state and country want to do business with China, but they have to follow the rule of law and act appropriately. Otherwise, Wes said, "We're going to do our best to correct that and put them back on course." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



Courtesy photo

Wes Ward

to give back to the community he grew up in and was surrounded by.

Wes grew up in Lake City in the northeastern portion of Arkansas. He joined the Marine Corps after high school and completed deployments in Afghanistan, Jordan and Japan, and is still serving in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Wes attended Arkansas State University, earning his bachelor's degree in agricultural business, and also received a Master of Laws degree in agricultural and food law from the University of Arkansas.

"Growing up in a small town in a row crop area of the state, I knew that I wanted to be involved in agriculture," Wes told WLJ. "Coming out of active duty, my family members weren't landowners and I didn't have a farm to come back to, so I knew that was not an option. In the Marine Corps they taught lifelong learning, always looking for areas to grow and increase understanding, and so that was also a part of me. It worked out between agriculture and the desire to keep learning to pursue my degrees."

After returning from duty, Wes worked for Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-01), who encouraged Wes to speak with then-Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) in 2015 about the Agriculture secretary position.

"I had a good relationship with Gov. Hutchinson," Wes said. "He was very gracious to give this young guy the opportunity to be in this position."

Wes served eight years under Hutchinson and was reappointed under current Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) in 2022. Wes said he has a good relationship with Sanders, and that she understands how im-

work. Let producers work."

Wes said that in his discussions with producers in the state they are concerned about farm bill negotiations and have an uneasiness with the uncertainty. He said they are fortunate to have Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), ranking member on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, to communicate about the bill.

Climate issues are also a concern and how the industry is going to meet the challenges with the Biden administration, along with other issues such as waters of the U.S., Endangered Species Act and herbicide regulations. Wes said exports and trade are another concern as a large portion of the commodities produced in the state are exported. If one country closes off trade, there needs to be other avenues to continue selling the goods the state produces, he said.

China land sale announcement

On Oct. 17, Sanders announced that Northrup King Seed Co. has two years to sell 160 acres in Craighead County as the company is a subsidiary of Syngenta Seeds, owned by China National Chemical Company, or ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned company.

Earlier this year, Senate Bill (SB) 383, also known as Act 636, was passed and signed into law, barring a "prohibited foreign party" from holding or acquiring public or private land in the state, including agricultural land. The law would apply to entities subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations such as China, Iran, North Korea or Russia.



Upcoming Sales

► December 5

Consignment Deadline:
November 16
Silver Legacy | Reno, NV

► January 4

Consignment Deadline:
December 27
WVM Headquarters
Cottonwood, CA

► January 25

Consignment Deadline:
January 17
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Ryan 541-969-9409
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150 BRED HEIFERS

- ◆ AI Bred to RR Endeavor 9005 and RR Endeavor 1019 on May 8th & 9th for a February 14th calving date
- ◆ Cleaned up with Rollin' Rock Angus calving ease sires
- ◆ Raymond and Son heifers were pregnancy checked via ultrasound on August 22nd by Travis Allen, DVM and re-checked Nov 13th by Creigh Lincoln, DVM.



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120 BRED HEIFERS

- ◆ AI bred to RR Endeavor 9005 on April 26th for February 5th calving date.
- ◆ Cleaned up with Rollin' Rock and Loop Ranch Angus calving ease sires
- ◆ All 1-iron heifers with one set of slick, full eared females. A select set of red heifers offered as well.
- ◆ Heifers were pregnancy checked via ultrasound on June 20th, and re-checked November 8th by Dr. Colleen Robertson, John Day River Veterinary Center.
- ◆ All heifers anaplasmosis exposed and have ran outside in eastern Oregon at 5000' elevation

Sorted by calving date, sold in lots of 5 or more

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RR ENDEAVOR 9005



RR ENDEAVOR 1019



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TSF Black Powder 6609D



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Paintrock Alliance 564-3



Lot 30

Paintrock Rainmaker 455-3



Lot 94

Paintrock Powder 133L



Lot 87

Paintrock Bulldogger 733-3



Lot 35

Paintrock Medicine B413L



Lot 208

Paintrock Pioneer 706-169-3



Lot 73

Paintrock Stellar 684-86-3



Lot 54

Paintrock Reride 85-3

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Responsible management to reduce TB in deer, cattle

Deer season can be an exciting time. Seeing signs of deer, knowing their trails and habits, watching for the prey and selecting the moment to make the shot, whether by bow, rifle or black powder gun. It's tradition, outdoor adventure, trophy hunt and meat acquisition all rolled into one.

However, it is even more that all that; hunting deer is also good stewardship of the deer population. Deer population appears to have been rising in many areas in recent years. That affects everything from forest regeneration to garden and landscaping success, deer-car accidents and disease transmission between deer. Disease transmission includes but is not limited to bovine tuberculosis (bTB), although that is the primary disease of concern to cattle producers.

The percentage of infected deer detected has decreased, but as long as the bacteria is alive in deer, there will be new infections in the deer herd, and potentially in cattle herds.

The crucial aspect of the

TB bacteria is that it is capable of living outside a host for an extended period, even months given the right conditions (cool, moist, dark). That somewhat unique characteristic is what makes bTB more infectious, able to be transmitted indirectly from an infected animal to a non-infected animal on what is being eaten. Deer in the feed today can mean a cow picking up the bacteria next week or next month.

That is why even at a low prevalence of infected deer, cattle herds are at risk when deer have access to feed, feeding areas and water sources that cattle will have access to, even if not at the same time. Saliva from an infected animal, left on a partially consumed apple, hay in a feeder, silage in a pile or grain left around the storage, can deposit the bacteria to be picked up by another deer or by a cow, and thus infect that animal.

There is mutual responsibility in keeping cattle herds from becoming infected, and good stewardship is required to keep disease from spread-

ing within the wild whitetail herd.

Standards include excluding cattle from areas that provide good deer habitat, only feeding cattle enough stored feed that it will all be consumed in one feeding, feeding in areas where deer cannot get to, storing feed in a way that severely limits the ability of deer to access it, removing harvested crops from fields immediately, providing water by means that don't allow convenient access by wildlife and getting rid of waste feed in a way that does not attract wildlife. These are standards that cattle producers are held to.

On the deer side, responsible management involves planning to harvest does (not just shooting one if you don't end up getting a buck), not feeding or baiting deer and removing animals that repeatedly pose a risk to cattle farms. Deer population is best controlled by harvesting females. Population is limited by the number of reproducing females, not the number of breeding males. Taking females as well as a buck is a

good strategy to protect the herd from disease and reduce the negative impacts of a large population.

Scientists with USDA, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other institutions have been and continue to research whether vaccinating deer against bTB is possible and how it could be accomplished. Their studies have demon-

strated that an oral vaccine is effective in penned deer. The next step in understanding if vaccination is feasible would be to conduct a field trial in wild deer.

However, vaccination is just one potential tool to reduce the risk of deer becoming infected and spreading the bacteria to other deer and cattle in the future. It is important to understand

that even with vaccination, good population management will still be needed to reduce the pressure and stress of high populations. The responsible management of deer and the responsible limits to deer access by cattle producers will help to reduce the risk of cattle herds becoming infected by bTB.

— Michigan State University Extension

Ranchers argue gathering delays are unwarranted

SUIT
(from page 1)

Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act requires excess animals to be removed immediately, and that the complex's management plan did not include authority to condition the immediate removal of excess horses. BLM claimed horses could not be gathered due to full off-range corrals, but the lawsuit ar-

gued off-site conditions have nothing to do with the BLM's responsibility to immediately remove excess horses.

Complex background

The Stone Cabin Complex is located just east of Tonopah, NV, and includes the Stone Cabin HMA and the Saulsbury HMA, along

with some adjacent lands within nearby allotments. The Stone Cabin HMA includes the majority of acreage at 407,705 acres, followed by 135,018 acres in the Saulsbury HMA and the remaining adjacent 343,457 acres.

The Stone Cabin HMA's appropriate management level (AML) is set at 218-364 head of wild horses, while the Saulsbury HMA's AML is set at just 24-40 head. The adjacent lands are supposed to contain no wild horses, yet do.

The current estimated population of horses in the Stone Cabin HMA is 179% higher than the set AML of 651 head, and the Saulsbury HMA is 700% higher than its AML of 280 head.

"At the current population size, if a single gather were to be immediately implemented to reach low AML, the BLM would need to gather and remove approximately 689 excess wild horses within the complex," the lawsuit noted.

The feds collected monitoring data from 2012-22 to assess the horses' impacts to the public lands and resources, demonstrating "grave resource conditions and wild horse conditions, including other adverse impacts," according to the lawsuit.

In 2022, BLM considered three alternative management options for the Stone Cabin Complex. The selected alternative proposed three types of management over the 10 years of the plan.

First, the BLM would initially gather and remove excess horses to achieve a low AML, and conduct follow-up gathers if the low AML was not achieved with a single gather. BLM would then apply population growth suppression methods over the next 10 years to gathered and released horses, along with sex ratio adjustment, to slow population growth and maintain the AML. The agency would then conduct additional gathers over the next decade to bring population numbers back down.

The plaintiffs ask for the court to rule the gathering delays as a result of "off-site conditions" unlawful under the Wild and Free Roaming Horses & Burro Act. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Vermilion Ranch

2,200 ANGUS SELL

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Public Auction Yards, Billings, MT at 11:00 AM (MST)

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170 Outstanding Fall Yearlings

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50 Select Registered Bred Heifers

AI bred Connealy King Air, Vermilion Leo and Vermilion Influence.

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From the Diamond Ring Ranch.

1,500 Fancy Commercial Angus Bred Heifers

One-Iron – Montana's Best. AI bred to Vermilion Leo and Connealy King Air. Pasture exposed to King Air and Commerce sons. They will calve mostly in February and March 2024. All ultrasound pregnancy tested and AI Calves will be sexed. All the heifers will be sorted into short calving periods.

Vermilion Three Rivers K837



AAA 20594115

BD: 8-19-2022
Sired by Ellingson Three Rivers 0065 out of a Bomber daughter. BEPD +3.1; WEPD +77; YEPD +126; BW 80; WW 783; YW 1292; Milk +22; \$B +141; \$C 250

Vermilion G077 Bomber K798



AAA 20594078

BD: 8-12-2022
Sired by Vermilion Bomber G077 out of a KR Joe Canada 5372 daughter. BEPD +4.5; WEPD +81; YEPD +145; BW 82; WW 776; YW 1310; Milk +17; \$B +186; \$C 290

Vermilion G017 Bomber K790



AAA 20594072

BD: 8-11-2022
Sired by Vermilion Bomber G017 out of a Vermilion Privilege D406 daughter. BEPD -3; WEPD +80; YEPD +133; BW 66; WW 766; YW 1254; Milk +28; \$B +147; \$C 267

Vermilion Growth Fund K353



AAA 20368329

BD: 2-22-2022
Sired by Deer Valley Growth Fund out of a Vermilion Ride daughter. BEPD +1.0; WEPD +85; YEPD +157; BW 84; WW 804; YW 1362; Milk +38; \$B +161; \$C 284

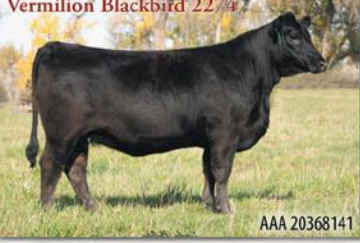
Vermilion Lass 6043



AAA 18482030

By Connealy Countdown out of a Connealy Dublin daughter. Progeny WR 107, YR 104. Safe in calf to Basin Jameson due March 4, 2024. Carrying a bull calf.

Vermilion Blackbird 2274



AAA 20368141

By Myers Fair-N-Square M39 out of a Sitz JLS Game Day 9630 daughter. Bred to Vermilion Growth Fund K353 due March 10, 2024



Vermilion Ranch

Pat Goggins Family

Bob Cook - Records & Sales
Cell: 406-670-0078

Jake Kading - Herdsman
Cell: 406-672-5844

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LEGAL LEDGER

New bill would limit NEPA authority

A group of senators has introduced the Revising and Enhancing Project Authorizations Impacted by Review (REPAIR) Act, which would streamline the permitting process for energy, manufacturing and critical infrastructure projects. The senators said the bill will stop “radical groups from hijacking the justice system” and sending projects into legal purgatory. The legislation would ensure “all laws related to permitting have the same review process, scope of adjudication, rules for standing, and statute of limitations.” The bill would remove the ability to file a suit based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and instead focus lawsuits on the statute for which the permit was issued. “In the case of a judicial remand or other court action, the REPAIR Act establishes a mediation process that allows the project developer and the permit-issuing agency to directly address the challenge in order to allow the project to move forward,” according to a news release.

CA steelhead protections upheld

A judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court has rejected a challenge from United Water Conservation District to strip protections from the Southern California steelhead. The ruling will allow California Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to continue until the California Fish and Game Commission decides on permanent protections. “Southern steelhead are in dire need of state protections and today the court ruling got us one stop closer to that goal,” said Walter “Redgie” Collins, legal and policy director at CalTrout, in a statement. Following a petition from CalTrout, the California Fish and Game commission decided to grant the fish species candidate status under the California ESA. Environmentalists allege the steelhead faces challenges “because dams and water diversions have destroyed its habitat.”

\$5B in funding announced for USDA

More than \$5 billion in funding has been allocated for new investments in rural America. USDA is announcing \$1.7 billion to be invested in supporting the adoption of climate-smart ag practices, including \$1.1 billion invested across 81 projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, \$100 million through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, \$250 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program and \$250 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. USDA also announced \$1.1 billion to be invested in upgrading infrastructure in rural communities, \$2 billion in Rural Partners Network projects to help create jobs and build infrastructure, \$274 million to expand high-speed internet, and \$145 million to expand access to renewable energy and lower energy costs.

DOI acting deputy secretary named

President Joe Biden has designated Laura Daniel-Davis as acting deputy secretary for the Department of the Interior (DOI). Most recently, Daniel-Davis was the principal deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management. “We will continue to work in partnership with states, Tribes, industry, non-profit organizations and academia to ensure that the best available science guides our decision-making as we deliver on our promises to the American people,” Daniels-Davis said in a news release. She has worked at the DOI for more than 14 years, serving as chief of staff to former Interior Secretaries Sally Jewell and Ken Salazar, and also as associate deputy secretary during the Obama administration. Daniel-Davis has also served as chief of policy and advocacy for the National Wildlife Federation, helping to get the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanently authorized and fully funded.

Bill to stop Lava Ridge energy project

A group of Idaho congressmen has introduced the Don’t Develop Obstructive Infrastructure on Our Terrain (Don’t DO IT) Act, which would require the secretary of the Interior to deny any wind or solar energy project proposed on public land that faces state legislature disapproval. The Idaho Legislature passed a resolution earlier this year expressing opposition to the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project in southern Idaho, a wind turbine project spanning 146,000 acres. “Idahoans know what is best for their land and livelihoods,” said Mike Crapo (R-ID), a sponsor of the measure. “Allowing state legislatures to have oversight on new wind and solar projects on federal land means the federal government and its agencies take into consideration the will of the people closest to the project.”

\$6.4M for Tribal wildlife grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is allocating more than \$6.4 million to Tribes for fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The funding will support 36 Tribes for conservation projects across 17 states. “Tribal Wildlife Grants help Tribes develop increased management capacity, improve and enhance relationships with conservation state partners, address cultural and environmental priorities, and help train the next generation of conservationists by engaging Native students interested in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study,” USFWS said in a news release.

Consumers are interested in what their animal protein consumes

As consumers continue to be conscientious about their food choices, a new survey from the United Soybean Board (USB) reveals valuable insights into consumer preferences and purchasing attitudes for animal protein. According to the survey, 70% of respondents say that animal diet is extremely or very important to them when purchasing meat, up from 51% in 2019.

Meat consumers who prefer soy-fed meat say it offers better health, higher quality, greater nutrition and better taste. This research confirms that consumers desire to know more about their meat choices, such as what poultry and livestock consume. When it comes to soybean meal, this nutri-

tional package of protein, the amino acids that make it up and energy concentration continues to be the standard for all other plant protein feedstuffs.

“It’s no secret that for poultry, livestock and seafood, U.S. soybean meal is an excellent source of nutrients including protein, which is why we grow our own soybeans to feed the pigs on our farm,” said Carla Schultz, checkoff farmer-leader and soybean and pig farmer from Michigan.

“Highlighting consumer preference for pork products raised on a high-quality diet presents a real opportunity. Showing that soy is a favored feed ingredient among consumers adds value for our half-million U.S. soybean farm-

ers,” Schultz shared on a recent Supermarket Perimeter webinar.

Other key takeaways:

- Three out of four consumers (77%) are more likely to purchase meat if it’s raised and fed by U.S. farmers. Even higher than that, the majority of consumers (88%) are more likely to purchase meat from animals born, bred and raised in the U.S.

- Nearly all U.S. consumers (96%) pay some attention to food labels. Knowing the animal was raised humanely and fed a nutritious diet are the leading food labels for trustworthy meat brands.

- Sixty-five percent of consumers are more likely to purchase meat if it’s

not fed synthetic ingredients, which bodes well for U.S. soybean meal as a natural ingredient.

“It’s inspiring to see the growing support for inclusive label transparency rather than exclusive marketing tactics,” said Wendy Vlieks, vice president of communications for USB. “This emphasizes the pivotal role of factual information on food labels across the food industry, where informed choices directly influence consumer behavior.”

USB commissioned global market research firm Reputation Leaders to survey more than 2,000 U.S. adults online spanning 30% baby boomers, 26% Gen X, 31% millennials and 14% Gen Z. — USB



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Idaho sets a record for ag production value in 2022

Idaho set a record for total agricultural production value in 2022, blowing away the previous record. However, farm and ranch expenses also reached a record high last year and are expected to rise even more this year.

With prices for most of the major ag commodities produced in Idaho on the decline, some significantly, there will almost certainly be no state record for ag production this year. In fact, that total is expected to decline significantly.

Idaho farmers and ranchers produced \$11.7 billion worth of agricultural commodities in 2022, according to data recently released by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

That total differs slightly from data that shows total farm-gate receipts, which are what the farmer or rancher receives directly for their commodity. Idaho's farm-gate receipts total for 2022 was a record \$11.2 billion,

according to USDA.

The ag production value total includes commodities that are used on-farm and not sold, such as hay. Ag commodity prices soared last year to record or near-record highs and so did total ag production value.

Idaho's total ag production value of \$11.7 billion in 2022 is 37% higher than the 2021 value of \$8.6 billion and 33% more than the previous record for Idaho ag production value of \$8.83 billion set in 2014.

But this year will be a different story.

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) expects farm revenue to fall by 8% this year. ERS also forecasts farm and ranch production expenses to rise by 3% in 2023.

Prices for most ag commodities have declined this year, some considerably. For example, the farm-level price for milk, the state's top ag commodity in terms of total

revenue, is way down this year compared with last year.

Farm-level milk prices for Idaho's dairy operations spent a lot of time hovering around \$25/cwt last year. That means dairies on average were getting paid \$25 for every hundred pounds of milk they produced.

This year, that average price has spent a lot of time in the mid-to-upper teens, said Rick Naerebout, executive director of the Idaho Dairymen's Association, which represents the state's 360 dairies.

At the same time, feed costs, the highest expense for a dairy, have not declined much, he added.

"It's been a big difference for our dairymen this year compared with 2022," Naerebout said. "And feed prices have not come down anywhere near the level that we have seen milk prices come down."

The total value of milk production for Idaho dairies in

2022 was pegged at a record \$4.3 billion by NASS. That is 40% higher than the 2021 value of \$3 billion and 34% higher than the previous record of \$3.2 billion set in 2014.

Cattle and calves, the state's No. 2 ag commodity in terms of total revenue, also set a record for total value of production in 2022. According to NASS, that sector had a total production value of \$1.75 billion last year, 2% higher than the previous record of \$1.71 billion set in 2014.

Potatoes, the state's top crop and No. 3 ag commodity, had a total production value of \$1.5 billion in 2022, which was a record and 36% higher than the previous high of \$1.1 billion set in 2021.

Hay ranked as the state's No. 4 commodity in 2022 with a record \$1.4 billion worth of production, up 27% from the previous record of \$1.1 billion set in 2008.

Wheat came in at No. 5

with \$748 million worth of production value in 2022, 43% higher than the 2021 total of \$525 million.

Those five commodities had a combined production value in Idaho of \$9.7 billion in 2022, which was 83% of the state's total production value for all ag commodities.

Barley passed sugar beets to take over the No. 6 spot in the state last year with a record \$450 million worth of production, which was 88% higher than the previous year and 22% more than the previous record of \$370 million set in 2013.

The total value of sugar beet production in Idaho last year was pegged at \$403 million, down less than half a % from 2021 (\$405 million).

Corn for grain remained Idaho's No. 8 ag commodity with \$171 million worth of production value in 2022, up 12% from the previous year's total of \$152 million.

Onions ranked No. 9 with \$123 million worth of production in 2022, down 10% from 2021 (\$136 million), and hops ranked No. 10 with \$98 million worth of production value last year, down 7% from 2021 (\$105 million).

The value of Idaho hop production declined last year following nine straight years of increases.

Idaho ag commodities outside of the top 10 that in-

creased in production value last year included: trout (up 29% from 2021 to \$43 million, which represented 42% of total U.S. sales in 2022), dry edible peas (up 27% to \$7.6 million) and honey (up 4% from 2022 to \$7.3 million).

Notable Idaho ag commodities outside the top 10 that decreased in total production value last year included peppermint oil (down 22% to \$25 million) and lentils (down 12% to \$3 million).

The total value of livestock production in Idaho last year was a record \$6.8 billion, up 35% from 2021, and the total value of crop production was a record \$4.9 billion, up 38% from 2021.

According to the NASS report, Idaho ranked No. 1 in the U.S. in five ag commodities last year (potatoes, barley, peppermint oil, alfalfa hay and food trout), No. 2 in hops, No. 3 in sugar beets, milk and cheese production, No. 4 in five commodities (dry onions, winter wheat, all hay, dry edible peas and lentils) and No. 5 in all wheat and dry edible beans.

According to the report, Idaho ranked among the top 10 states in 22 ag commodities last year. The state also ranked No. 11 in cattle and calves and No. 14 in honey.

— **Idaho Farm Bureau Federation**

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Farms with FSA loans able to ease repayment distress

There is an old saying that no two farms are exactly alike. Over the past several years, that has certainly been true regarding how farms have been affected financially. Some farms have experienced pandemic-driven disruptions and market volatility and found chances for profit. Other farms felt those same changes and endured financial distress. USDA is offering borrowers going through financial distress an opportunity for much needed assistance through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Cash Flow-Based Assistance is an ongoing program offered to USDA direct loan borrowers. It provides help with a recently missed or upcoming loan payment. The amount of aid is equal to the next loan payment due. Payments past due since Aug. 1, 2022, or upcoming through Jan. 15, 2024, can receive financial relief. As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, program aid is considered a one-time credit offered to help farms in their financial recovery.

Eligibility for cash flow-based assistance involves the following:

- Farms must be able to show they lack enough farm operating income to make their loan payment.
- Analysis of a farm's financial status is based on the current production cycle.
- Cash flow analysis is only required to show farm-related income, to determine financial distress.

• Assistance is only available if prior aid was not received through other IRA programs.

• The focus on only farm-related income is a significant change in how USDA typically looks at cash flow analysis. Traditionally, USDA considers both farm and non-farm income in repayment plans. For purposes of this program, only farm related income is required. USDA hopes that this will swiftly provide aid to farms where their income is unable to cover loan payments.

All USDA direct loan borrowers were mailed a letter on Feb. 16 announcing the program. A follow-up letter was mailed on Aug. 30 clarifying assistance criteria. Similar assistance was also announced in August for borrowers who have guaranteed loans.

Similar to other USDA programs, any payment aid is reported as taxable income. Borrowers are encouraged to speak with their tax advisers. USDA has tax-related resources available at farmers.gov/taxes.

Cash-Flow Based Assistance requests are due by Dec. 31. Borrowers can submit their application in person at a local Farm Service Agency office. They can also send requests through USDA's assistance request portal. To access the portal, visit: farmers.gov/ira2006cashflow. — **Michigan State University Extension**

STORY SHORTS

Cattle die in CO semitrailer accident

A semitrailer hauling cattle overturned Oct. 27 on Colorado's Highway 13 south of Craig, resulting in the death of nearly two dozen head of cattle, according to the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. The driver of the truck, who was uninjured, was hauling 93 head when the rollover occurred. Twelve cattle died initially and nine were euthanized on scene. The remaining cattle were moved to a portable corral, examined by a veterinarian and transported from the area. The Colorado State Patrol is investigating the crash.

CME resets futures price limits

Beginning Nov. 1, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. (CME) reset price limits for grain, oilseed and lumber futures, according to a press release. Corn and soybean futures will go down 10 cents per bushel to 35 cents and 95 cents, respectively. The extended price limit changed to 55 cents for corn and \$1.45 for soybeans. The soybean oil futures price limit is unchanged at 40 cents per pound with an extended price limit of 60 cents. Soybean meal futures price limit will go from \$30/ton to \$25/ton, with an extended price limit of \$40. Wheat futures will go down 10 cents to 50 cents a bushel for Chicago and Kansas City futures, with an extended price limit of 75 cents. The new futures price limits will be effective until the first trading day in May 2024.

JBS unveils new company logo

On the company's 70-year anniversary, JBS S.A. unveiled a new logo that reflects a journey of growth from its founding in 1953 as a small butcher shop to a large global company, the company said. "We started out as a little beef store in the hinterland of Brazil, and we have become one of the world's major food companies," said Gilberto Tomazoni, CEO Global of JBS. "We are a multiprotein, multi-geographic company that employs 270,000 people in over 20 countries. We have evolved a lot, above all in the last decade, so naturally, our brand has also evolved." The company's three letters have been modernized and surrounded by three parentheses. JBS said the shades of blue represent the different proteins and geographies the company operates, with the solid blue representing the company's strength. The green represents their commitment to environmental, social, operational and economic sustainability. The new logo appeared at the company's headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil, on Oct. 16 and will gradually be rolled out across all JBS units.

\$65M invested for rural water projects

The Biden administration announced \$65 million for rural water projects currently underway or in the planning process as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The announcement was made as Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton traveled to Clovis, NM, to tour the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System. The facility is one of six projects in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota receiving the funding. The investment follows \$668 million previously announced for rural water projects from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. "The Bureau of Reclamation is committed to these projects to bring clean, reliable drinking water to rural communities," Touton said. "Thanks to funding from the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will expedite the completion of these projects, making these communities more resilient to the impacts of drought and climate change."

California reservoir expansion approved

The Department of the Interior and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority approved plans on Oct. 20 to create additional storage space in San Luis Reservoir, the nation's largest off-stream reservoir in central California. The joint project will create an additional 130,000 acre-feet of storage (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) to supply reliability to the area's farms, municipalities, and the environment. The project will add an additional 10 feet to the dam on top of the funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to increase the dam crest by 10 feet to improve seismic safety.

List of VSV-affected premises expands

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has reported additional vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) affected facilities in California. VSV causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves and teats of livestock. These blisters swell and break, resulting in infected animals refusing to eat and drink and showing signs of lameness. On Oct. 25, APHIS announced eight new VSV-affected facilities (four confirmed, four suspected), with Mariposa County as a new affected area. The counties currently under quarantine include Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare counties. Since the start of the outbreak in 2023, VSV has been identified in California, Nevada and Texas. Of the 236 total VSV-affected premises, 209 premises have completed the quarantine period with no new clinical cases. Twenty-seven premises remain quarantined in California.

Taking care of young calves in cold weather

Calves need extra care in cold weather conditions to stay healthy.

Calves expend energy to keep warm. The thermoneutral zone is defined as the temperature at which the animal's heat loss equals the heat production. The animal does not have to expend extra energy to control its temperature when in the thermoneutral zone.

The thermoneutral zone for a newborn calf is 50-78 F. This is affected by many variables including wind, moisture, hair coat and bedding. By one month of age, the calf is able to tolerate more cold and the thermoneutral zone expands to 32-78 F.

Normal milk replacer or milk feeding will not be sufficient to meet the extra energy requirements of young calves to keep warm in extreme temperatures. Researchers at Cornell University have shown that

the pounds of milk replacer needed to meet maintenance requirements of a 100-pound calf increases 44% when temperatures are 15 F, compared to 50 F. If the temperature drops to 5 F, then the requirement for maintenance increases 55%.

Ensure that milk is delivered to calves at 105 F. When preparing milk replacer, follow tag instructions to properly mix the milk replacer at the correct temperature. Too hot of water destroys nutrients within the powder, making it indigestible for the calf. Energy intake can be increased by adding an additional feeding of milk or milk replacer. If an additional feeding cannot be done, then increasing the milk feeding size, increasing fat content of the milk or the amount of powder mixed in the same amount of water can help the calf fight the cold.

Older calves are able to consume more starter to battle the cold. In addition to providing increased calories via milk, supplying calves with warm water will aid to maintain body temperature and improved hydration for physical development and immune system readiness.

Dry newborn calf coats as soon as possible to prevent drastic heat loss from the calf. This can be done in a calf-dryer box or with towels. Extra bedding will help the calf keep warm and dry. When laying down, the calf's legs should be buried in the straw. Deep bedding will trap warm air in addition to keeping the calf dry. A quick and easy way to test that your straw pack is dry is to kneel for 20 seconds on the pack. If your knees are wet, it is time to change the bedding or add more.

A calf blanket can also be used with deep bedding to

give the newborn calf extra protection. Be sure that the calves are not sweating underneath the coat resulting in wet hair and being chilled as temperatures drop.

Don't forget to provide fresh air while minimizing drafts for young calves. If a young animal is sick, do not withhold milk or milk replacer. The energy from the milk is essential for the calf to fight illness. Electrolytes that provide minerals, energy and protein to the calf should be fed in addition to normal milk feeding for scouring calves. When using electrolytes, do so at least two hours after the calf was given milk. If electrolytes are fed too soon after milk feeding, then the ingredients in the electrolytes can interfere with the clot formation in the abomasum, possibly making scours worse. — **Michigan State University Extension**

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Managing for toxicity risk in panicum grass species

The exceptional rainfall this growing season brought forth an abundance of forage on rangelands and pastures. In some cases, this moisture prompted a flush of growth from annual plant species not commonly seen.

A recent contact to the Johnson County Extension office in Wyoming reported the presence of an unknown grass and non-predator losses of mature ewes while grazing upland pasture. A discussion with the local weed and pest district identified fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*) on the piece of land where the sheep were grazing. While correlation does not equal causation in most cases, this time the pieces fell together. Fall panicum can be toxic to livestock.

Fall panicum is a native warm season, annual grass related to the annual witchgrass (*Panicum capillare*) and the warm season, perennial switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), all in the *Panicum* ge-

nus. These grasses are sometimes called panic grasses in reference to their open, airy panicle seed head structure.

Of note, *P. dichotomiflorum* and *P. capillare* share the common name witchgrass, which can create confusion. These may be correctly distinguished by the hairy stems of *P. capillare* and the hairless stems of *P. dichotomiflorum*. For the purpose of this article, witchgrass refers to *P. capillare*.

Witchgrass is a widely distributed weedy species frequently seen in disturbed areas. Switchgrass is not common in Wyoming, except for at the eastern margins of the state. Fall panicum is not common in Wyoming, which makes the above report a standout case study.

Panicum effects in livestock

Panicum grasses are known to contain steroidal saponins, which are chemical compounds that can cause photo-

sensitization, gallbladder obstruction, liver failure and death of livestock in severe cases.

Ruminant livestock are usually able to tolerate the toxic components of these grasses under normal conditions because they are metabolized and neutralized by microbes in the rumen. The precise mechanism of toxicity is unknown, and sometimes animals can graze panicum grass species with no complications. However, some evidence suggests that fungal mycotoxins can compound the effects of the saponins in a way that the rumen cannot overcome, resulting in toxicosis.

Fungal growth requires humidity, which many parts of Wyoming have experienced this growing season due to the higher-than-average precipitation. For the producer who experienced livestock loss in this case study, conditions aligned in a perfect storm.

Panicum toxicity can cause

many different symptoms in livestock. Photosensitization includes skin redness and sores, especially on the muzzle, around the eyes, and other areas not covered by hair or wool; shade-seeking behaviors may become pronounced. Animals may appear lethargic and their stool may become loose. Swelling of the lips and then of the entire head may occur.

Yellowing of the eyes and jaundice can set in as liver failure progresses. Incidents of fatal liver failure in horses, goats, and sheep have been associated with the consumption of panicum grasses.

Management strategies

As with many things, the dose makes the poison. A few stray plants in a hay field or grazing allotment does not mean immediate death for any animal that dares to nibble a bite. Likewise, pastures in which panicum grasses are

the predominant species should be grazed with caution. Feeding panicum-free hay prior to turnout on pasture containing a high proportion of panicum grasses can help reduce appetite and intake while also making use of the available forage.

Note that pasture and hay containing fall panicum, witchgrass, and switchgrass is never recommended for horses because they do not have the biological ability to neutralize the toxins.

The simplest and best management strategy is to remove livestock from an area with a large population of panicum grasses when possible, especially when conditions have been wet and the likelihood of fungal growth is high. Affected livestock typically recover rapidly following this change in diet.

Since fall panicum and witchgrass are both annual grasses, a targeted pre-emergent herbicide application can provide effective management while minimizing harm to desirable perennial forage grasses. Herbicide applications should be considered only when these species are overtaking pasture.

When panicum grass species are present in forage, graze only with ruminant livestock. If signs of toxicity occur, immediately remove them from the site and provide a panicum-free recovery diet. As always, keep an eye out for unusual plants and be aware of what is growing in the local environment. — **University of Wyoming Extension**

Court finds grazing has little impact on wolves

GRAZING (from page 1)

two of the allotments to be used seasonally, one to be closed, and the others to be used year-round with rotating use.

The area covers approximately 271,665 acres, with 126,243 acres in Arizona and 145,422 acres in New Mexico. It also includes over 30,000 acres in the Blue Range Primitive Area and almost 80,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas and cultural resource sites.

Ruling

The court ruled that USFS met its obligations of taking a hard look when the EA looked at the aspects of environmental consequences, despite stating the standard is “fraught with confusion because it relies on vague murky definitions that provide little guidance to the Court.”

The court found USFS evaluated the impact on Mexican wolves in the EA and while grazing occurs in the wolf recovery zone on one allotment, the wolf population is designated as an experimental, non-essential population.

“The court finds plaintiffs have not shown substantial questions exist as to whether the Project may have significant adverse effects on the Mexican wolves,” court documents show. “The Forest Service addressed this intensity factor in the three FONSI’s it issued and concluded there would not be significant effects based on the information in the EA.”

The groups also argued that USFS failed to consider the effects on other endangered or threatened species. Still, the court found the agency consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for each allotment on utilization and management plans.

The groups also contended they were not given access or the opportunity to comment on an analysis and management report for the Blue Range Primitive Area. The

court concluded that USFS provided several opportunities for public comment on the reauthorization of grazing. The first was during the scoping period in 2017 when WWP commented, and then again in 2018 when a preliminary EA was issued, and in 2019 when the final EA was published.

The court also concluded that USFS determined structural improvements in the Blue Range Primitive Area would have a minimal effect, and should be implemented to provide a benefit to resources in the area.

Improvements were also found not to have an effect on the inventoried roadless areas. No new roads would be built or improved to install fencing, water pipelines, water storage tanks and troughs, wells and corrals. Therefore, the court ruled USFS looked at the roadless characteristics even though it was not required to do so, which belies the plaintiffs’ arguments.

Lastly, the court stated that USFS followed guidelines by not preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) when it determined in the EA the project would not impose substantial environmental impacts and issued a FONSI describing the decision. The court also found the FONSI’s considered impacts on culturally sensitive areas and public health and safety; therefore, an EIS was not warranted.

“The administrative record shows the Forest Service considered data and public input and decided to reauthorize livestock grazing on these allotments of land based on the appropriate factors,” the ruling stated.

“In particular, the Court finds the lengthy 102-page Final EA, coupled with its reference in three FONSI’s of approximately 20 pages each are more than sufficient to meet the ‘concise public document’ standard to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS,” the court concluded. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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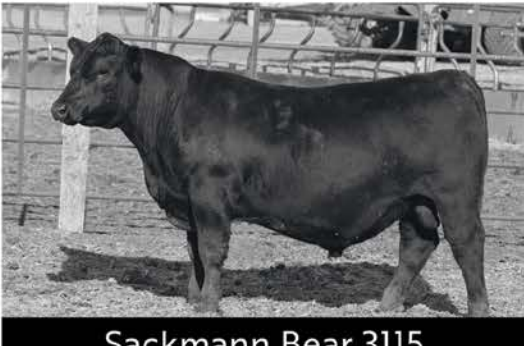
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Sidwells receive New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award

Tom and Mimi Sidwell of Tucumcari, NM, have been selected as the recipients of the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award.

The \$10,000 award honors ranchers, farmers and forest-land owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

The Sidwells, who own and operate JX Ranch in Quay County, will be formally presented with the award at the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau's Annual Meeting on Nov. 17.

One statistic encapsulates Tom and Mimi Sidwell's conservation success: It used to take 58 acres of grass to annually feed a cow at JX Ranch, but now takes just 27 acres. It's the result of a willingness to manage land differently with rotational grazing practices.

Over the course of 20 years, the Sidwells transformed an arid landscape at JX Ranch that was over-grazed and over-run by invasive species. They first bulldozed mesquite trees and juniper shrubs, and later installed fencing and water distribution to create 30 pastures.

When cattle only graze a pas-

ture for three to five days, the grass is then given more time to recover between each grazing. Rather than reseeding their pastures, natural grasses began regrowing on once bare soils. More ground covered led to better water infiltration, less erosion, and improved soil health and forage production.

Rotational grazing created a resilient ecosystem that is better able to retain moisture and mitigate drought in a region that typically receives less than 16 inches of annual rainfall. More living plants on the ground pull more carbon from the atmosphere and stores three to four

tons of carbon per acre.

Although the Sidwells graze their cattle year-round, the forage assessments they conduct each fall allow them to rate each pasture's production and estimate the next year's stocking rates.

The ability to graze far-flung corners of JX Ranch's 7,000 acres is made possible by a series of six wells that pump drinking water for cattle. Solar pumps move water through 10 miles of pipeline, and storage tanks can hold about 100,000 gallons of water. Water evaporation is prevented by covering storage tanks and placing black

plastic shade balls in drinking tanks.

Improved forage and water resources for cattle also provide unmeasured benefits for wildlife including quail, turkey, antelope and elk.

JX Ranch in Quay County sits between 4,300 to 5,000 feet in elevation. The Caprock escarpment found in eastern New Mexico features rolling terrain and steep canyons. The Sidwells chose a breed of cattle to fit these rugged conditions. They breed Angus with Spanish Creole cattle known for being tough and healthy, but smaller in stature.

A guest ranching enterprise and direct marketing their beef to customers provide buffers against sometimes volatile beef prices. This allows the Sidwells to maximize income earned from the ranch so they don't have to raise more cattle to the detriment of the land.

Tom Sidwell grew up on a small ranch and began ranching on his own elsewhere in New Mexico and Nebraska, before buying JX Ranch. He's dedicated his life to improving the health of the land and has served in numerous civic and governmental roles. JX Ranch often hosts research trials and tours, and Tom regularly shares his knowledge and experience with other ranchers.

Tom is willing to share them with others to show how conservation leads to improved profitability. If financial statements and stocking rates don't convince you, satellite imagery

shows JX Ranch's healthy land conditions in dramatic contrast to neighboring landscapes.

"Farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of our land, water, and natural resources, and our working lands play a central role in providing solutions to some of our most pressing problems," said Larry Reagan, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau president. "We are happy to support the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award in recognizing landowners for their innovative and dedicated efforts and extend congratulations to the Sidwells for this well-deserved prestigious honor."

In New Mexico, the award is presented with New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands and New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau.

The New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support of American Farmland Trust, Sand County Foundation, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services of New Mexico, American Ag-Credit, John Duncan and Anita Sarafa, and Taos Ski Valley Foundation. — **Sand County Foundation**

Adding crushed rock to farmland can pull carbon out of the air

Adding crushed volcanic rock to cropland could play a key role in removing carbon from the air. In a field study, scientists at the University of California (UC), Davis, and Cornell University found the technology stored carbon in the soil even during an extreme drought in California. The study was published in the journal Environmental Research Communications.

Rain captures carbon dioxide from the air as it falls and reacts with volcanic rock to lock up carbon. The process, called rock weathering, can take millions of years—too slow to offset global warming. But by crushing the rock into a fine dust, rock weathering speeds up. Previous studies have estimated this "enhanced" rock weathering could store 215 billion tons of carbon dioxide over the next 75 years if spread across croplands globally.

But until now the technology hasn't been field-tested in dry climates.

"These reactions require water," said lead author Iris Holzer, a doctoral candidate in soils and biogeochemistry in the

Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis. "Since we're interested in the global carbon storage potential of enhanced weathering, we need to understand if it can work in these drier climates and if different measurement approaches are effective. We were excited to observe carbon removal in this environment."

Researchers applied crushed rock, both metabasalt and olivine, on 5 acres of a fallowed cornfield in the Sacramento Valley. They collected measurements during the winter months of 2020-21. California was experiencing extreme drought at the time, with rainfall at 41% of its historical average.

The study found the plots with crushed rock stored 0.15 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare (2.47 acres) during the study compared to plots without crushed rock. Though researchers expect different weathering rates in different environments, if this amount of carbon was removed across all California cropland, it would be equivalent to taking 350,000 cars off the road every

year.

"We're definitely seeing evidence of weathering processes taking place on short time scales," said Holzer. "Even the infrequent heavy rains we get in the West might be enough to drive enhanced rock weathering and remove carbon dioxide."

Holzer said measuring and verifying that carbon storage at larger scales and following it over time is the next challenge.

Forty-one percent of Earth's land surface is covered by drylands that are expanding due to climate change. Researchers said this makes investigating enhanced rock weathering in drylands increasingly important.

"When it comes to bending the global carbon curve, we are in a race against time," said senior author Benjamin Z. Houlton, Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Our study demonstrates a new way to verify carbon dioxide removal via enhanced weathering, which is a critical leap forward for scaling this technology in

croplands worldwide."

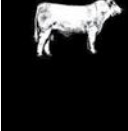
Other authors include Malika Nocco, in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis.

The research, part of the Working Lands Innovation Center, was funded by the California Strategic Growth Council and the Grantham Foundation, Roger Sant and Doris Matsui. Aggregates and mining company, SGI, a Standard Industries company, donated the crushed metabasalt rock from its site in Ione, CA. — **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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Interpreting results from hay analysis reports

More and more beef producers nationwide are having their hays sampled to analyze its nutrient content as part of their yearly routine. This relatively simple and affordable exercise allows cattlemen an in-depth look at the actual nutrient profile their herd will receive from hay, allowing them to plan supplemental feed programs accordingly.

However, before a hay analysis can be effectively put to use, it has to be understood. Depending on the lab performing the analysis, you may receive back a simple list of nutrients next to the corresponding measured value, with no indication of whether the value is high, average, or low compared to similar feeds. The nutrients themselves may only appear as abbreviations and could include a long list of measured and calculated components, some of which are more important than others depending on the operation.

This article will go through a basic breakdown of key nutrient components found in most routine hay analyses, as well as the relative values to look for in each.

Moisture

Typically, the first values you'll find on a hay analysis report are moisture and dry matter (DM), a means of comparing the amount of water within different feeds. This is determined by drying the hay in an oven and then weighing all non-water components.

Nutrient values will often be

reported as both DM and "as-fed" (AF) or "as received." Hay should be compared to other feeds using the DM value for nutrients. For the rest of this article, values for other nutrient measurements will be discussed on a DM basis.

Moisture level also greatly influences the stability of harvested forage during storage. The target for hay is around 85% DM, or 15% moisture. Baleage is usually 40-60% DM, and silage should be 30-40% DM for proper fermentation. You'll notice some moisture should remain, as being 100% water-free decreases palatability and leads to leaf shatter.

Crude protein

Protein in ruminant feeds is usually expressed as crude protein, or CP, as a percentage of DM. This is based on the total nitrogen in the plant matter multiplied by 6.25, as plant protein is typically 16% nitrogen ($100/16 = 6.25$). Crude protein can be used for ruminants, including cattle, because their unique gastrointestinal tract allows them to convert non-protein nitrogen into microbial protein in the rumen.

Crude protein level is critical for a productive beef herd. Sufficient protein is required for growth, lactation, reproduction and muscle development. This is why protein is the one of the most commonly supplemented nutrients for grazing or hayed cattle.

It is also the most expensive. Dry gestating cows need at least 7% CP on a daily basis (7% value is also considered the

bare minimum for wintering cattle, as this is lowest level needed to support rumen function). For at least the first 60 days after calving, a cow's needs increase to 11% CP. Throughout the rest of lactation cows need at least 9% CP. Growing rations for calves typically contain 14-16% CP. Crude protein can vary based on forage species, maturity, soil and storage stability.

Fiber

The fiber content of the forage is made up of the structural components in the grasses' cell wall and is usually broken into neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF), both expressed as a percentage of DM. NDF contains the components cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin, and is what remains after the digestible material is removed with a neutral detergent.

Forage intake will decrease as NDF increases, and dividing 120 by NDF (%) can help determine how much the animal will eat as a percentage of body weight. For example, if NDF is 50%, dry matter intake will be 2.4% of the animal's weight.

NDF can range from 40-65% DM, and at 60% and higher begins to noticeably decrease feed intake. Lower values are typically desired for NDF.

ADF is what remains after remaining NDF has been removed with acid detergent. Forage digestibility decreases with increased ADF.

Average ranges for ADF in hay are anywhere from 30-45% DM. Values above 40% ADF

indicate a lower quality hay. Both forms of fiber increase with plant maturity and are typically lower in legumes than grasses.

Energy

Energy in a feed can be measured in several ways. The most common and practical way to evaluate energy content of a forage is total digestible nutrients, or TDN. Total digestible nutrients are also expressed as a percentage of dry matter, and are the sum of digestible carbohydrates, protein and fat the animal will receive.

In general, hay with less than 52% TDN would be considered lower quality, hay with 52-58% TDN would be medium or average quality and hay exceeding 58% would be high quality. Based on the 2016 "Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, Eighth Revised Edition," mature cows that are nursing calves need a minimum of 58-61% TDN in their diet, whereas a dry pregnant cow should be getting at least 50-54% TDN, depending on stage of pregnancy.

These values can easily be converted to pounds by multiplying the percentage of TDN by the total pounds of dry matter the animal eats per day.

Minerals

Both macrominerals and trace minerals are critical for cattle growth and perfor-

mance, and several will show up on a good hay analysis. Two of the key minerals you should look for are calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P), both usually reported as a percentage of total DM. These are both needed for skeletal growth in growing cattle and are crucial for lactation.

Dry cows need 0.25-0.28% Ca and 0.16-0.19% P a day in their diets. Cows at peak lactation need at least 0.31% Ca and 0.21% P per day. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus should remain between 1.5:1 and 4:1, because too much phosphorus can impede calcium absorption. Most common complete mineral mixes are sufficient to provide cattle with enough calcium and phosphorus.

Calculated values (RFV & RFQ)

Several values can be calculated based on other results from a hay sample. Relative feed value (RFV) and relative forage quality (RFQ) are calculated values and meant to combine energy content and dry matter intake into a single value, which is measured against full bloom alfalfa as a standard (full bloom alfalfa is assumed to have RFV=100).

These are meant to provide an idea of how well a forage would provide for a ruminant animal if that was all that was being fed. Both may appear on a hay sample analysis. However, depending on the

lab, these may need to be specifically requested.

RFV was developed first, calculated using the measured values for ADF and NDF in the sample. The problem is that RFV isn't accurate across forage types, such as when comparing good grass hay to legumes, so RFQ was developed using TDN as part of the calculation. RFQ is considered a better judge of true potential for a forage to predict animal performance.

In most cases, RFQ will range from 50 to 250. In hay, RFQ < 90 = low quality, 90-110 = fair quality, 111-140 = good quality, 141-200 = premium hay and > 200 = outstandingly high-quality hay.

Dry cows can get by on hay in the 100-115 range, whereas growing cattle and lactating cows really need hay in the 115-140 range.

A good hay analysis can provide a tremendous amount of information about the actual nutrition your herd is receiving. But the data you get back can be difficult to sort through, especially without a good frame of reference for what the values and nutrient components mean. Some values are extremely important to pay attention to and can go a long way in formulating a good supplementation program for your herd. Others may not be as crucial. — **University of Wyoming Extension**

Money saved through cost effective feeding: Part 2

In the last article, we broke down the cost per unit of protein and energy in 20% and 38% range cubes at current prices. This week we evaluate the money saved when purchasing feed on the cost per unit of protein or energy in order to meet a specific nutritional objective. The bottom-line point of this article is working through an example to determine the most cost-effective ration or supplement based on the feeding or supplementation objective.

The scenario and objective

We have 60 mature cows with an average weight of 1,300 pounds, due to calve in January, entering the last trimester of pregnancy. Cows are in a body condition score (BCS) of 5.5. We have ample standing forage in the form of native grass which forage analysis indicates is 5% crude protein (CP) and 55% total digestible nutrients (TDN). On grass of this type, cows should consume 1.9-2% of their body weight resulting in forage dry matter consumption of 25 lbs./day.

Knowing that reproductive efficiency is highly correlated to nutrition, our objective is for cows to maintain current weight and BCS until calving.

These cows will need 1.84 lbs. of CP and 13.3 lbs. of TDN per day over the next 100 days. If possible, we would like to

maintain cows by utilizing the standing forage. Can this be done?

- 25 lbs. forage dry matter (DM) intake x 0.05 CP = 1.25 lbs./day CP intake.
- 1.84 lbs. CP required - 1.25 lbs. from the forage = a daily CP deficiency of 0.59 lbs./day.
- 25 lbs. forage DM intake x 0.55 TDN = 13.75 lbs./day TDN intake. There is no energy deficiency.

We have identified a supplemental need for protein. Research has consistently shown that protein supplementation is extremely effective for cattle grazing protein-deficient forage. In fact, energy supplementation will not be effective if dietary protein is deficient.

Now the question is which of the two protein supplements evaluated can most cost effectively meet our goal? The 20% CP range cubes at \$350/ton or the 38% range cubes at \$475/ton?

It would take 3 lbs./day of the 20% cubes to meet the CP requirement.

- For example:
- 0.59 lb. CP deficiency / 0.20 CP content = 3 lbs.
- We previously determined the cost per unit of CP in the 20% range cubes to be \$0.875. Taking the 0.59 lb. CP deficiency x \$0.875 = \$0.52/day cost with 20% cubes to meet CP needs.

- This daily cost x 100 days of supplementation x 60 cows = an expense of \$3,120.

It would take 1.58 lbs./day of

the 38% cubes to meet the CP requirement.

- For example:
- 0.59 CP deficiency / 0.38 CP content = 1.58.
- We previously determined the cost per unit of CP in the 38% range cubes to be \$0.625.
- 0.59 lb. CP deficiency x \$0.625 = \$0.37/day cost to supplement the cows with 38% cubes to meet their CP needs.
- This daily cost x 100 days of supplementation x 60 cows = an expense of \$2,220.

Supplementing the 38% range cubes purchased at a cost of \$475/ton instead of the 20% cubes at a lower price per ton resulted in a savings of approximately \$900 to supplement the 60 cows for 100 days.

Unnecessary supplementation increases feed cost without real benefit. The goal of supplementation is to feed just enough of the right supplement to optimize the overall diet. Determining the most cost-effective means of supplementing cows requires the evaluation of feeds on a cost per unit of protein and energy provided. Can you afford not to?

Computer software, such as Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Cowculator program, can better pinpoint an animal's nutrient requirement at a specific time and in a specific stage of production. These and other useful tools can be found at beefextension.com. — **Mark Z. Johnson, OSU Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**



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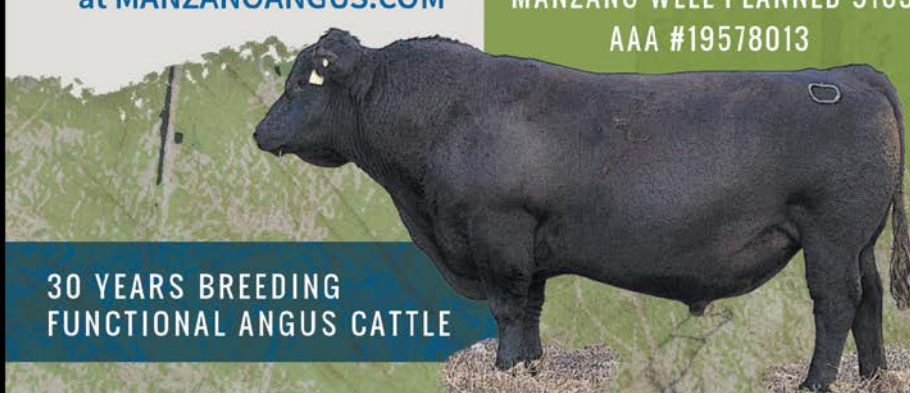
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Research into precision irrigation management of alfalfa begins

A three-year research project led by the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) will develop open-source software to help farmers better manage water supply, especially for Nevada's crucial crop of alfalfa. The project is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture as a grant of its Engineering for Precision Crop and Water Management Program.

The College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources received about \$400,000 for its part in the \$745,000 collaborative project with the University of California, Davis and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Bushland, TX. The three institutions are working on different crops as part of the grant: alfalfa for Reno, corn for Davis and cotton for Bushland.

The UNR portion of the research started in July and concludes in 2026. The university will develop precision irrigation management software, conducting field experiments to test and improve the software. The research is being conducted on an alfalfa field at the Valley Road Field Lab, which is part of the College's Experiment Station unit.

Alejandro Andrade-Rodriguez is an assistant professor in the University's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences, and is the principal investigator of this project, "Partnership: Making the most of a limited water supply by improving a site-specific irrigation management decision support system." Andrade-Rodriguez has extensive knowledge of irrigation hardware and software and has conducted research on irrigation management before as part of the Experiment Station unit.

This latest research for Andrade-Rodriguez ties into his post-doctoral research in the 2010s at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. That is where he developed ARSPivot, decision support software for center pivot irrigation systems equipped for precision irrigation. Center pivots are the most common irrigation systems in the U.S., and they irrigate about one-third of the acreage in Nevada, Andrade-Rodriguez said.

ARSPivot is the embodiment of a sensor-based decision support system created by Steve Evett and Susan O'Shaughnessy, among other scientists with the USDA in Bushland. Evett and O'Shaughnessy are co-principal investigators of this project.

"Precision irrigation allows center pivot systems to apply variable amounts of water to a field, which can lead to water savings," he said. "These systems allow water to be applied in the right amounts required by plants growing in different parts of a field."

Andrade-Rodriguez said the objective of conventional center pivot irrigation systems is to have every part of a field receive the same amount of water.

"If the entirety of a field has similar characteristics, you don't want to irrigate more here or there, because that will cause lower yields in some portions of the field and higher yields in others," he explained. "This is why you want to irrigate the same across a uniform field. But, the reality is that you may have different soil types in a field, or there may be areas with higher or lower elevations. Applying the same irrigation amounts to such a field will result in poor water management."

Through precision irrigation, growers can alter the amounts of water applied to different parts of the field, to make a more efficient use of irrigation water. Yet, adoption of these systems has been slower than expected since they became commercially available in 2004, in part because there is a lack of decision support systems capable of estimating the water requirements for a field's different sections.

ARSPivot was developed with this purpose in mind. The software automatically generates precision irrigation maps for center pivot systems using weather, soil moisture and plant sensing

systems. ARSPivot uses measurements from crop canopy temperature sensors collected at different parts of a field to estimate water stress and water need.

"For example, when canopy temperatures are higher in a certain part of a field, more irrigation is needed there," he said.

This current phase of Andrade-Rodriguez's work with ARSPivot is centered on expanding the software capabilities to make it compatible with different manufacturers of center pivot systems. The current version of ARSPivot only supports center pivots from one manufacturer.

The new version of the software will also be able to operate on linear move irrigation systems in addition to center pivots. Both linear move and center pivots are self-propelled sprinkler irrigation systems used to water rectangular and circular fields, respectively.

Although center pivots are considerably more common than linear move systems, supporting linear move systems is important for agricultural researchers, since these systems irrigate the rectangular shapes of agricultural fields common in experiment stations. The new version of the software will be tested at the Valley Road Field Lab using a linear move system.

The new version of ARSPivot will also incorporate an interface to a crop water use and yield model, with the objective of allowing the software to analyze many different potential irrigation management decisions (such as when to irrigate, and how much to irrigate in different parts of a field). This effort will be led by Isaya Kisekka with the University

of California, Davis, who is a co-principal investigator of the project.

The new version of ARSPivot will be released as open-source software that Andrade-Rodriguez expects to provide irrigation researchers with a much-needed open platform that facilitates the generation, testing and implementation of innovative precision irrigation management strategies.

"If someone wants to use the software for a different crop or to incorporate additional functions, they can modify its source code to do that," he said. "The idea is to open it up to others, so the technology can only improve."

The importance of alfalfa

Andrade-Rodriguez said precision irrigation using ARSPivot is being used for alfalfa for the first time as part of his research. He added that the sensor-based decision support system has been tested with corn, soybeans, cotton, grain sorghum and potatoes in several states, and there have been good results from it.

"In general, there have not been significant differences in the yield obtained per unit of water between the sensor-based decision support system and the neutron probe soil moisture sensor, which is considered the gold standard for irrigation scheduling," he said. "However, a neutron probe is not accessible to farmers due to its high cost and because it requires specialized training for its safe use."

The alfalfa portion of the project will cover several different irrigation treatments. The key benchmarks are

yield and water use statistics from each of the four harvests that commonly take place in northern Nevada per growing season.

One treatment will use full irrigation to replenish soil water depletion in the top 1.5 meters of soil to the full field capacity. Other treatments will use varied levels of deficit irrigation—anywhere from 60-80% of full irrigation—to see how yields and water use using the sensor-based system compare against local best management practices.

Strong alfalfa yields are important to the Nevada agriculture economy. The Governor's Office of Economic Development calls it "the leading cash crop of the state," as its hay is sold to other states' dairy farmers, as well as overseas. The USDA also notes that there were more than 1.25 million tons of hay and alfalfa produced in Nevada in 2022, at a price of \$313 per ton.

Andrade-Rodriguez notes that alfalfa has a reputation for using more water than other crops, and having a decision support system that can help farmers and ranchers in Nevada to make irrigation more efficient can be to farmers' advantage.

"Alfalfa is more flexible than many other crops," he said. "When there are water cuts with other crops, you can lose your entire investment. But, alfalfa can still give you two or three harvests, which can help you to reduce the economic impact of the water cuts. So, having a decision support system that reduces the amount of water used in agriculture can help farmers and ranchers in Nevada reduce the negative effects of a limited water supply." — **UNR Extension**

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Management advice for when feed supplies run low

When consumers are trying to extend their buying dollar at the grocery store, meal planning and shopping the sale items are two ways that they can manage their spending to get the most for their money.

In a similar way, some cattle producers are already looking at ways to extend their feed resources because of the lack of moisture that may have cut those supplies short, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster recommends turning out the cattle on crop residues as a way to extend the time before they need to feed them hay.

"Grazing corn or sorghum stalks are a good feed resource for cows in mid-gestation that have their calves weaned off already," Lancaster said.

Another option he mentioned was the fall planting of cool-season annuals.

"Those cool season annuals should provide some early grazing options in the spring assuming we get enough moisture for them to grow," Lancaster said.

If those strategies are not options, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson suggests producers limit the number of hours in the day that the cows are given access to hay. Larson said that cows given free choice access to hay tend to eat the most appealing part of the hay and don't as readily consume the less digestible parts.

"To waste less hay, make the cows eat all of one bale before they get the next one," Larson said. "Another tip is to limit the cows' access to the hay to 6-12 hours per day."

In a situation where feed resources are even more limited, K-State Research and Extension beef cattle geneticist Bob Weaber said it may mean some voluntary culling to reduce the herd size.

"Anytime there is a short supply, changing the demand is an effective strategy, and that can be done through the early weaning of the calves as well culling some of the cows," Weaber said.

He added: "If you are going into a feeding period where hay is elevated in price, you can decrease the demand for the hay by reducing the herd size down to the essential group of cows you want to preserve."

He suggested producers look at the current market prices as a factor when deciding which cows to sell.

"If the choice is between selling a mature bred cow and a bred replacement heifer, think about which one will generate more value next spring when she calves," Weaber said. "On average, the mature cow will raise a heavier calf than the bred heifer."

The experts agreed that if feed resources are challenged and with the current favorable market prices, it may be better to sell now rather than feeding cattle through the winter and selling them in January.

"Most importantly, producers need to have a plan now for what happens when feed runs short," Weaber said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Producer perceptions of BRD and BVD-PI threats

The Oklahoma Cow-Calf Biosecurity Survey was implemented in early 2022 to gain insight into biosecurity practices on Oklahoma cow-calf operations. The survey was administered for Oklahoma State University (OSU) through USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and garnered over 1,400 producer responses.

The overarching goal of the survey is to find ways to increase producer awareness of biosecurity issues and to assist producers in planning and implementation of best practices with respect to biosecurity on their individual operations.

One constant for cattlemen is considering the potential threat and impact of infectious diseases. A segment of the survey asks producers to rate the threat level of bovine respiratory disease (BRD), commonly known as shipping fever or pneumonia, and the threat level from persistently infected (PI) bovine viral diarrhea (BVD-PI) cattle, recognizing that BVD is part of the larger BRD disease complex.

BVD-PI animals can be a problem for producers because they are BVD carriers that constantly shed the virus, creating consistent viral expo-

sure to other members of the herd. The survey asks producers to rate the threat of these diseases to their own operations due to arrival of cattle from outside sources, and the beef industry overall. Those results are reported in Figure 1.

When asked whether BRD is a threat to the industry, 58% of producers perceive that it is a threat to the industry. Only 19% of producers state that they do not believe it is a threat, while 23% are not sure whether it is a threat. In contrast, only 34% believe that BRD is a threat to their own operation, but 48%—nearly half of producers responding—believed that BRD is not a threat to their own operation.

Producer evaluation of the perceived threat from BVD-PI cattle is similar. Half of survey respondents believe that persistently infected BVD-PI cattle are a threat to the industry, with 25% responding that it is not a threat to the industry. However, when asked whether BVD-PI cattle are a threat to their own operation, only 33% say that it is a threat and nearly half (46%) say that it is not.

In both scenarios, only a small percentage of producers are unsure of the threat to the operation or are unfamiliar with the disease. Interestingly,

for both BRD and BVD-PI, producers perceive that the threat of disease is a greater threat to the industry than it is to their own cattle operations.

There may be multiple reasons that cattlemen perceive a greater threat of disease to the industry than to their own cattle. On the one hand, pro-

ducers may have biosecurity elements in place that they feel are sufficient protection against BRD and BVD for their cattle and operation. Quarantines for incoming cattle, a closed herd and vaccinations for the herd and calves are all elements that can protect against disease.

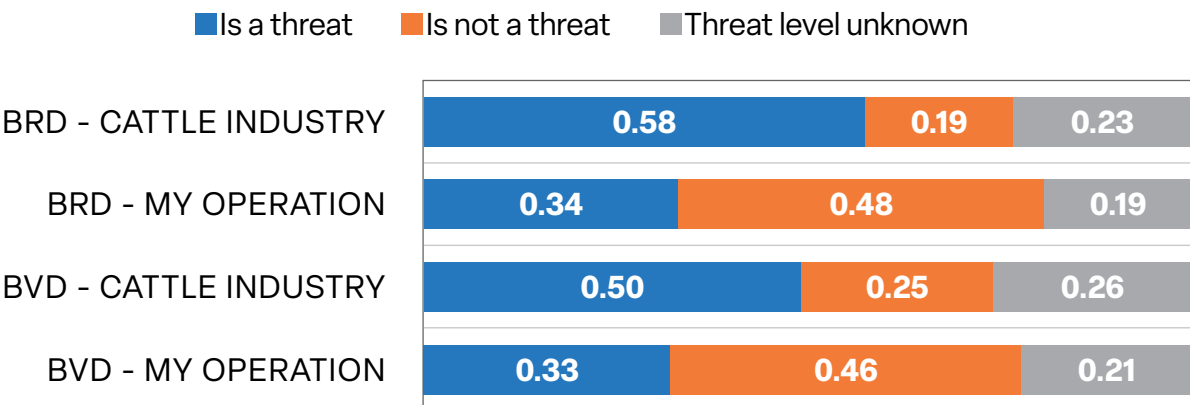
On the other hand, some

cattlemen may simply have unrealistic perceptions of disease threats. So how do we sort that out? For example, are perceived threats greater or smaller based on herd size? How does the number of biosecurity practices already in place impact perceptions of disease threat? Stay tuned! But as you

wait for more information on the topic, consider your own perceptions about disease threats and what it is that informs your decisions regarding biosecurity on your operation.

— **Kellie Curry Raper and Amy Hagerman, OSU Department of Agricultural Economics**

PRODUCER DISEASE THREAT PERCEPTION BRD AND PI BVD



Frog BiOp vacated and remanded back to USFWS

FROG SUIT
(from page 1)

groups appealed the decision and came out victorious in the 9th Circuit. The judge ruled the agency fell short when it released a biological opinion (BiOp) that allowed cattle to graze on Jack Creek in the national forest.

However, the court did not rule against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in its decision.

"Maybe, just maybe, the Forest Service will finally come to terms with the fact that cattle grazing is incompatible with the habitat needs of the Oregon spotted frog here on Jack Creek," said Adam Bronstein with Western Watersheds Project said in a statement. "The Forest Service's efforts to prop up irresponsible cattle operations can no longer stand, particularly in the face of the accelerating climate and the extinction crises."

Lawsuit, ruling details

The battle between grazing on the Antelope Allotment and the Oregon spotted frog has stretched on since 2008. The allotment is located in the Fremont-Winema National Forest and comprises nearly 170,000 acres. Jack Creek runs through two pastures and is the primary habitat for the frog species.

The environmental groups argued in their latest suit that USFS failed to scrutinize three key issues in a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) regarding threats to the spotted frog: direct impacts such as trampling, climate change and increasing drought, and population-level effects.

However, on this claim, the court ruled, "Although the FEIS did not specifically compare the magnitude of these particular threats across alterna-

tives, the FEIS included sufficient information for a reader to understand how the different grazing strategies would affect these threats, thus allowing for an 'informed comparison of alternatives.'"

The environmental groups also argued USFS failed to demonstrate consistency with the Winema National Forest Plan, which the court rejected.

On the claim that the USFWS' 2018 BiOp was deficient in its discussion of climate change, the court ruled in favor of the environmental groups. "The BiOp does not account for climate change as a cumulative effect or baseline condition," the court ruled.

The decision continued, "Although the BiOp considered how drought conditions might harm the frogs, the BiOp nevertheless failed to consider how climate change will impact frogs in nondrought years."

The court said the BiOp needed to consider whether the frog could sustain grazing-related impacts on top of potential climate change effects. In addition, although USFS acknowledged the threat of low water conditions in Jack Creek, the order said the BiOp failed to engage with information suggesting climate change could affect water levels and streamflow.

"Because FWS failed to address available information indicating that climate change would make low water conditions—an acknowledged threat for Oregon spotted frogs—more frequent or severe, it failed to consider an important aspect of the problem," the decision read.

Therefore, the court reversed the grant of summary judgement to the USFWS and ordered the 2018 BiOp to be vacated and remanded back to USFWS for reconsideration.

— **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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2022 Fall High Selling Two-Year-Old



2023 Spring High Selling Fall Born Bull

Fall Production Sale:
Nov. 27th 2023

Fall Sale Features:

- ◆ 240 Bull Calves
- ◆ 100 Two-Year-Old Bulls
- ◆ 100 Registered Females
- ◆ 1400 Commercial Females



MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 11/2/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	184.66	▲	183.51
CME Feeder Index	237.25	▼	240.62
Boxed Beef Average	304.53	▼	306.85
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	289.83
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,373	▼	1,382
Weekly Slaughter**	636,000	▼	638,000
Weekly Beef Production***	527.0	▼	527.8
Hide/Offal Value	18.68	▲	12.88
Corn Price	4.70	▼	4.80
* Average weight for previous week. ** Total slaughter for previous week. *** Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.			

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
October 27	6,975	301.00	185	341.42	1,295	309.63	1,981	303.38	812	281.03	2,703 260.88
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
Cutouts											
FED BOXED BEEF											
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Nov 2	304.53		274.34		230.90		71.59		286.91		
Nov 1	302.18		278.55		231.67		74.77		290.15		
Oct 31	305.18		279.50		229.79		75.81		N/A		
Oct 30	309.28		280.89		230.08		75.68		285.09		
Oct 27	307.57		280.12		231.34		78.41		287.44		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	10/27	10/30	10/31	11/1	11/2	High* Low*
Oct.	18400	18413	18375	N/A	N/A	18708 14003
Dec.	18223	18325	18350	18363	18468	19183 15388
Feb.	18295	18398	18463	18518	18643	19633 15310
Apr.	18490	18573	18668	18755	18878	19975 16853

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	10/27	10/30	10/31	11/1	11/2	High* Low*
Oct.	23973	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26448 18303
Nov.	23690	23768	23770	23858	24263	26813 18755
Jan.	23570	23688	23720	23803	24218	26833 22750
Mar.	23858	23938	23975	24033	24443	25723 23858

*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	693	1,357	184.66
Live FOB Heifer	240	1,295	183.97
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK

Live FOB Steer	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 YEAR

Live FOB Steer	9,351	1,480	151.79
Live FOB Heifer	1,883	1,333	150.87
Dressed Del Steer	2,051	959	242.47
Dressed Del Heifer	833	835	242.35

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 29

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	20,138	3,823
Formula	266,533	1,450
Negotiated Cash	90,726	677
Negotiated Grid	40,506	1,317
Packer Owned	11,332	N/A
Total	429,235	7,267

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days 1,923	
Oct. '23	104,951	Neg. Sales 21+ days 1,151	
Nov. '23	145,226	Formula sales 3,660	
Dec. '23	120,744	Forward contract sales 242	
Jan. '24	106,279	Domestic sales 6,002	
Feb. '24	84,312	NAFTA Exports 72	

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	167.47	-4.00
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	168.18	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	172.06	-1.17
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	91.38	-6.04
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, October 20, 2023			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	282.82	284.61	263.02
601-700 lbs	264.66	267.25	238.99
701-800 lbs	252.33	255.22	227.32
801-900 lbs	238.25	237.51	219.01
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	270.82	272.08	236.92
501-600 lbs	245.75	245.99	226.03
601-700 lbs	234.05	235.16	206.55
701-800 lbs	222.99	220.93	201.94

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
	10/23/23	10/16/23		
Feeders	31,413	29,883	963,240	642,062

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
November 2, 2023			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 7,050	Week Ago Act: 7,450	Year Ago Act: 9,850	
Nogales, AZ		Santa Teresa, NM	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold 2.00-3.00 higher. Heifers not tested. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to firm. Heifers 2.00 higher. Trade moderate to active, and demand moderate to good. 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	225-237
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	215-227
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	205-217
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	265-275	300-400 lbs	265-275
400-500 lbs	245-255	400-500 lbs	245-255
500-600 lbs	225-235	500-600 lbs	225-235
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)			

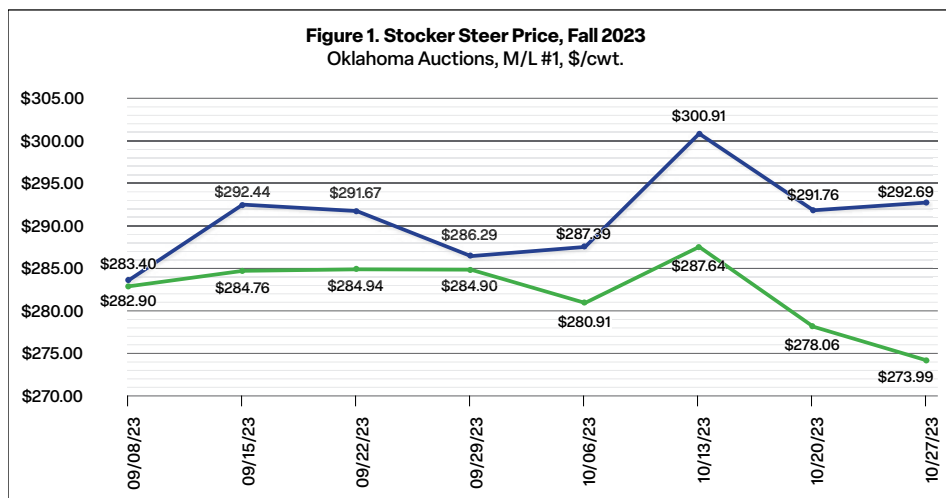
Selected Auction				Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2						
Week Ending November 2, 2023										
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
October 27	Blackfoot, ID	N/A	265-407.50	230-360	200-299	190-258	190-242	180-238	82-107	
October 26	Burley, ID	800	405-406	328-371	250-275	185-238	240	224.50	100-122.50	
			238-306	285	223-240	236			81.50-98	
									116	
	Noreport available Emmett, ID									
October 28	Eugene, OR	1,271	169-245*	180-247*	180-255*	155-191*	160-217*	140-181*	88-112	825-1650
			150-220*	159-220*	149-212*	148-209*			94-108	300-1600
October 30	Madras, OR	1,417	325-375	310-362	267-309	237-266	235-260	191-220	90-113	
			288-339	285-326	240-275	225-256	205-233	185-209	105-118	
October 25	Vale, OR	1,104	285-332	271-332.50	247-272	235-264	227-242.50		80-104.50	
			275-312.50	235-306	220-240	219-233	213-227		108-128	
October 23	Davenport, WA	1,216	106-185	135-250	125-280	60-232.50	62.50-224	145-195	30-159	1,300-1825
			130-210	42.50-200	42.50-235	100-200	188-191	108-180	42-100	1,475-1,700
October 26	Toppenish, WA	1,840		245-290*	211-225*	205*			97-113.75	
				230*	219*	205*			100-128	500-1,360

October 26	Orland, CA	1,999		220-325	200-281	190-257	180-234		95-110	
				200-278	180-246	170-240	160-204		95-130	
October 30	Escalon, CA	N/A	200-275		200-260		160-215	115-145	80-104	800-1,500
			175-225		175-215		115-175	90-120	80-134	
October 23	Famoso, CA	480	250-275	250-275	250-275	190-220	190-201	180-192	100-140	
			180-260	180-260	180-239	180-200	170-180	170-180	110-136	
October 25	Galt, CA	1,566		200-270	200-253	200-252	190-235		50-136	
				200-250	200-240	190-238	175-220		100-144	
October 31	Turlock, CA	1,004		137-250*	129-220*	120-213*	112-200*	105-196*	100-127.50	
				130-230*	124-210*	115-196*	105-189.50*	100-170*	94-115	
October 24	Salina, UT	2,693	350-420	345-425	285-390	235-305	217.50-260	195-242	140-229	75.20-116.65
			295-400	290-395	235-347.50	210-258	195-240	180-227.50	142.25-222.50	91-155.35

October 30 Iowa	5,430	310-367.50 270-305	261-340 230-290	236-315.50 220-270	225-281.50 203-252	217-254.50 220-240	215-241 203-233.50	70-139 80-152
October 31 Miles City, MT	2,988	380-410 290-332	306-383 266-295	260-313.50 235-273	235-260 221		205	77-110 84-106.50
November 1 Bassett, NE	1,890		314-326 265-273.50	287-305 271-285	254-297 240-246	243-250 237	221.50-251 226.50	
October 28 Ericson, NE	2,380		323-350 273-320	275-325.50 245.50-277	255-284.75 242	251		
No report available Imperial, NE								
October 25 Kearney, NE	3,000		312-327 245-282	262.50-310 226-263.50	242-273.75 244.50-251.50	235-258.25 239	246.50-250.50 214	
October 27 Lexington, NE	2,729	325-335 305	327.50-345 263-285	264-296 230-266.50	248-275 233-245	230-249	200	
October 26 Ogallala, NE	5,465	350-390 298-337.50	308-377.50 278-319	270.50-316 241-285	240-292 233	237.50 220-230.50	225 219-232	
October 26 Valentine, NE	5,340	354 280	327.50-366 274-286	286-329 260-281	264.50-286 259-264	261.50-273.50 242-254.50	239-268.50 210-244.50	
October 27 Herreid, SD	4,188		300-315 295-296	281-308.50 240-256	270-286	246	226.75-251.75 231.75-242	
October 25 Torrington, WY	5,189	360-400 345-365	325-356 275-338	277-310 235-266	258-275 235-245	239-250 234-246	238-242 223-235	

NORTH CENTRAL

Winter wheat grazing hopes revived



Most of Oklahoma has received significant rain recently, reviving hopes for wheat pasture. The majority of the state was blessed with 1.5 to over 6 inches of rain in recent rains. Only the northwest and panhandle regions missed out this time.

Wheat stands around the state are quite variable with some bigger wheat all the way down to wheat barely emerged. The latest Crop Progress report shows that 71% of Oklahoma wheat is planted, 2% more than last year but less than the 75% five-year average.

In recent Extension meetings, many producers have indicated that they expect to have wheat pasture, if somewhat later than usual in many cases. Some producers have already purchased stockers, betting on the come, while others will be in the market now.

Figure 1 shows prices for stocker steers this fall in Oklahoma. Prices for the preferred stockers under 500 pounds have not decreased season-

ally this fall. In fact, average prices for 450-500-lb. steers in October were higher than September. Prices for heavier feeder cattle over 600 lbs. have decreased about 10% in recent weeks.

Both live and feeder futures have seen a huge downward correction in the past six weeks after months of trending higher. Both markets have dropped precipitously in the last half of October but appear to be stabilizing now. A profit-taking correction is not surprising and has been made worse by recent global events and enhanced market volatility.

March feeder futures are currently priced at about \$238/cwt, down from roughly \$255/cwt just two weeks ago. Current cash and futures prices imply a value of gain from Nov. 1 to early March of about \$1.50/lb. for a 475-lb. stocker steer. Depending on specific cost assumptions, this is about equal to the breakeven for winter grazing, providing returns to wheat pasture and labor but nothing beyond that for the cattle.

If feeder futures rebound somewhat, there may be better opportunities to lock in additional returns in the coming weeks.

Reduced feeder auction volumes reflect the decreasing supplies of cattle in the country. Oklahoma combined auction feeder volume is down 10.6% year over year thus far in 2023. The auction volume has been down every week for the last 10 weeks and is down 14.7% compared to the same period one year ago. The biggest weekly volumes of the year typically occur in the next six weeks but are likely to remain below year-ago levels.

With smaller volumes and stronger wheat pasture demand, stocker calf prices are unlikely to show any seasonal weakness in the coming weeks and may move higher, depending on the impact of broader market uncertainty and volatility. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeder numbers limited at markets

MARKETS (from page 1)

"The rib and the loin are still holding week-over-week gains but it is disappointing to see the Choice cutout reported at \$302.67 on November 1 when just two days ago, the market was reported at \$309.28," Cassie Fish, market analyst, wrote in The Beef on Wednesday. "Will have to wait and see if this dump in end cut prices was enough to get product cleaned up overall, so the cutout can finally make more headway."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also climbed higher over the week. The November contract gained more than \$6 to close at \$242.62, and the January contract gained more than \$7 to close at \$242.17.

"Although prices are still well below any significant resistance level that would point to a market pullback in the complex, it would not be surprising if a light to moderate correction developed in the coming days based on lack of volume more than a change of market direction," DTN said.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index was lower by more than \$3 to \$237.25.

Corn futures lost some value, with the December contract down 9 cents to

\$4.70 and the March contract down 8 cents to \$4.85.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 2,680 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady and feeder heifers under 600 lbs. sold \$6-10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 790 lbs. averaged \$248.50.

Nebraska: Bassett Livestock Auction in Bassett sold 1,890 head on Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, 550-lb. steers traded \$3 higher, 600-lb. steers traded \$8 lower, 900-lb. steers traded \$4 higher and 500-lb. heifers traded steady. Benchmark steers averaging 766 lbs. sold for \$243.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Feedyards in Oklahoma City sold 2,200 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, numbers were limited due to heavy rains and colder temperatures. Benchmark steers averaging 769 lbs. sold from \$226-235, averaging \$229.86.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 905 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, there was a lighter offering of steer and heifer calves. There was improved demand for calves and yearlings. Benchmark steers averaging 663 lbs. sold for \$260. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.nationalcattlemenfoundation.org.

Dec. 1 — Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program student intern applications are due Dec. 1. Details: bit.ly/AngusFoundationTalonProgram or JBoester@Angus.org. **Jan. 10** — Applications for the Angus Foundation's spot at the Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) can be found at tinyurl.com/3etp6sdu. YCC is a program developed for up-and-coming cattle producers who are interested in seeing every part of the supply chain from production to marketing, to Capitol Hill.

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Don't skip the bug spray: Alpha-gal cases are climbing

Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension specialists say residents should remain diligent in preventing tick bites as the alpha-gal allergy emerges as a serious health risk in the southeastern U.S.

Tick bites are rare during the cooler months, but the pests are considered a year-round threat in states with mild winter temperatures.

12 years of mysterious illness

Sand Springs, OK, resident Stephanie McAllister developed a mysterious cough in 2008 that baffled medical specialists. She coughed constantly, but every X-ray was clear and every test declared normal. The pulmonologist she visited mentioned a chronic cough is usually an indicator of some kind of allergy,

but no diagnosis was determined. Doctors suggested several serious medical ailments as the probable cause, including bulimia or anxiety. McAllister felt like she was going crazy, but deep down she knew none of these were the problem.

"I started having brain foginess and joint pain in my arms and legs, but all of the tests ran for arthritis came back normal," she

said.

In 2019, while hiking around Keystone Lake near her home, McAllister was bit by a tick and began vomiting five or six times a day. Again, every test doctors administered came back normal.

"I started Googling symptoms and reading articles," she said. "I went to three different doctors and asked them to do an alpha-gal test, and they all said it was too rare, that there was no way I had it."

Frustrated with 12 exhausting years of unexplained illness, McAllister started eating a vegan diet. Her symptoms disappeared, and she suspected alpha-gal was the culprit. In 2020, she found an urgent care that reluctantly ran the simple alpha-gal blood test, and the result was positive.

"It was a relief to know," McAllister said. "I had it for so long, and I was just

thankful I knew what to do to feel better."

Today, she consumes chicken and seafood, but her avoidance of red meat is more complicated than it sounds.

"I have to be really careful with anything that's processed because beef and pork aren't listed on allergy labels," she said. "Any box, can or bag that lists natural flavors as an ingredient could have beef or pork in it. I know if I eat it, I'm going to feel terrible for the next three days."

Allergic reactions to meat

"Mammals have the alpha-gal compound, but humans don't," said Janice Hermann, OSU Extension nutrition specialist. "When a tick feeds on a mammal and bites a human, it can cause the human to have an allergic reaction to alpha-gal."

Meat from beef, pork and venison contain the compound and can enact a severe allergic reaction. In some cases, even milk, gelatin or beef broth can heighten alpha-gal syndrome.

Hermann explained the allergy is difficult to identify because of its delayed reaction.

"Food allergy symptoms usually occur rapidly whereas alpha-gal syndrome may not show symptoms until 2 to 6 hours after consuming the product," Hermann said. A lot of times, people don't associate it with the fact they consumed meat."

The CDC lists the following symptoms of an alpha-gal allergic reaction:

- Hives, itchy skin or rashes.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Heartburn or indigestion.
- Diarrhea.
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Drop in blood pressure.
- Swelling of the lips, throat, tongue or eyelids.
- Dizziness or faintness.
- Severe stomach pain.

For those who have alpha-gal syndrome, some can trace the allergy to a specific tick bite. Others were never aware of a tick on their body. Bruce Noden, associate professor of medical/veterinary entomology in the OSU Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, has personal experience with the health condition. His son was diagnosed shortly after high school.

"He got into a bunch of seed ticks out at Lake McMurry and wound up in the hospital with anaphylaxis," Noden said. "He calls me at 11:30 at night and says, 'Dad, I can't breathe.'"

His son is one of the lucky alpha-gal victims whose symptoms eventually faded.

"We ate fish and chicken for two years in our house, and when he tried to reintroduce red meat, he came

out of it," Noden said.

Alpha-gal goes global

The lone star tick variety is the most common carrier of the alpha-gal compound, inoculating a salivary protein.

"We're recognizing it more and seeing it in areas where lone star ticks are prevalent," Noden said. "The lone star tick is invading New England, and we're seeing alpha-gal cases rise there. Wherever the lone star tick is present, we have a problem."

He described the lone star tick as ubiquitous; while most other varieties feed on different hosts during different stages of their development, the lone star tick will feed on anything regardless of its stage.

Another confusing characteristic of the alpha-gal compound is human variability. Noden's international veterinary medicine colleagues in other areas of the world, such as Spain, have discovered people can show high levels of the alpha-gal antibody in their system but not exhibit allergic reactions to red meat.

"It seems there's something else going on here," he said. "We've simplified the allergy to a tick bite, but what else in the bite causes the reaction, and why is the reaction coming from lone star ticks?"

As an emerging illness, physicians are more aware of the possibility of alpha-gal when a patient shows symptoms. Dr. Lora Cotton, a primary care physician at OSU Family Medicine—Health Care Center, said the unusual symptoms are not typically associated with an allergy and can change every time a reaction occurs.

"It's probably underdiagnosed because of the variability in presentation of symptoms," Cotton said. "We're not able to pinpoint a cause right away. We mark off the common things, and when we don't find a diagnosis, that's when we should consider testing for the alpha-gal allergy."

Cotton said the blood test that reports antibodies to the alpha-gal sugar molecule is readily available. Patients can ask for the test if they suspect a tick bite.

There is no direct treatment for the allergy, and those who experience serious anaphylactic reactions should carry an EpiPen. Cotton said that although symptoms can fade over time, alpha-gal can be reactivated if a person is re-exposed to tick bites.

OSU Extension's nutrition and entomology specialists say the most effective way to prevent tick bites in tall grass or wooded areas is to spray skin with an insect repellent that contains DEET. Wear pants, tall socks and boots that impede pests from crawling onto bare skin, and always complete frequent and thorough tick checks. — **OSU Extension**

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Building a veterinarian recruitment toolbox for rural Texas

In communities throughout Texas, the veterinarian serves as the cog of livestock and animal care, yet many rural areas are experiencing a historical lack of veterinary service.

A collaborative pilot effort between the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases and the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is underway to enhance recruitment of veterinarians to critically underserved areas of Texas.

The three-year project is funded by a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant.

"What we are trying to do is create a community template of recruiting (options) intended for use by communities that need a veterinarian and want to help attract one to their area," said Dee Ellis, DVM, Texas A&M AgriLife Research veterinarian and part of the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology.

"For example, if a church wants to recruit a preacher, they often offer them a place to live. So, the question we are trying to answer is, 'What can communities offer to veterinarians as incentives for them to relocate to their town?'"

Community template project

Ellis is joined by project co-members Dan Posey, DVM, clinical professor at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences who leads outreach efforts within the school's Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach initiative; and Jennifer Schleining, DVM, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, ACVS-LA, head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

"The ultimate goal of this grant is to help communities help themselves and be able to attract, recruit and retain veterinarians," Schleining said. "In a lot of small communities, the veterinarian is also highly involved in driving the economy and is seen as a leader. So, it's really an important part of the whole community atmosphere to have a veterinarian located there. We're thankful to the USDA for recognizing that this is a much larger issue than just training and that they're giving us the tools to be able to address it from a multifaceted approach."

The community template project will not replace the supplemental loan repayment programs already in

place, Ellis said.

Texas currently has both state and federally funded programs to help repay part of a veterinarian's student loan debt if they relocate to an underserved area, Ellis said.

"In the federal program, the Texas Animal Health Commission, with industry input, selects the areas each year that are designated as 'underserved' and then USDA reviews the applications of veterinarians to see who will actually receive a loan repayment stipend."

Ellis said the template project is intended for small towns or communities that need a veterinarian but also could be used by agribusinesses or other stakeholders looking to recruit veterinarians into historically underserved parts of Texas. It could also help in food animal sectors, which also struggle to recruit veterinarians due to the shortage of large animal practitioners.

Beyond salary, the project could explore other areas of

attraction, such as good schools, recreational opportunities, cultural or well-being environments, and peer or mentorship interactions.

"This embraces the 'it takes a village mindset' to recruit veterinarians to historically underserved areas," Ellis said. "It's not just about a community providing housing or inexpensive locations for a clinic to set up at an industrial park, but how can the community work with the veterinary professionals and local agribusiness to offer a desirable environment for a veterinarian to relocate to."

Retention in a small town

"It's also not just about moving to a small town; it's about staying in a small town long term," Ellis said.

Retention of newly located veterinarians is a big issue facing many rural communities that needs to be addressed. Processes helping to

repay student loans may get a veterinarian to a rural location, but the real question is "How do you keep them there long term?" Ellis said.

"When you look at the rural dilemma, there are rural towns that are getting smaller, but there are also rural towns that are getting bigger," Posey said. "Part of what we aim to find out is why."

"By doing this work, we can see why some rural communities, like Canyon in the Texas Panhandle, thrive and others don't. Once we've identified these things, we'll make a 'toolbox' to help rural areas that are shrinking start thriving again so that they can attract veterinarians. The toolbox will serve as a blueprint to help build stronger attractions for young professionals to rural areas."

Posey said when he and the fellow researchers looked at the many ways to solve the problem, "which has been on-going for the duration of my 21 years teaching veteri-

nary medicine," it was really clear that the next logical step is to help rural communities develop and grow in a way that attracts young professionals.

"To be part of such a project is an honor, because it means we're part of the solution," he said.

Schleining said the grant emphasizes the core tenets of the land-grant university—service and commitment.

"One of the things that drew me to Texas A&M was service," Schleining said. "This grant really gets to the heart of service and our commitment as a land-grant university. It's really fun to work with people to address a problem that we've been talking about in the veterinary profession for 20 years. This project is a very meaningful way to make a positive difference both in the field of veterinary medicine and in the communities that need veterinary care most." — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame honorees announced

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame 2024 inductees and industry award winners will be honored on Feb. 1 at the 15th annual banquet, held during CattleCon24 in Orlando, FL. The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame was established in 2009 to honor the exceptional visionary men and women who have made lasting contributions to the cattle-feeding industry.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2024 include Dr. Kee Jim, DVM, of G.K. Jim Farms and Feedlot Health Management Services Ltd., and the late Dr. Jack Reeve, DVM, founder of Reeve Cattle Company in Garden City, KS. Dr. Delbert Miles of Colorado will receive the Industry Leadership Award for his respected work in feedlot veterinary medicine and research in beef cattle production, and Greg Wolfe with Timmerman & Sons in Nebraska will receive the Arturo Armendariz Distinguished Service Award.

"These individuals have dedicated their careers to our collective success," said Dustin Johansen, senior vice president at Farm Journal and Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame board member. "We are proud to honor them, as their unwavering dedication has led to extraordinary, impactful strides within the cattle feeding industry."

Attendees of the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet are invited to participate in CattleCon24, which features industry meetings, motivational speakers, valuable education, entertainment, a

massive trade show, producer recognition and much more. Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet tickets are \$200 per person in addition to convention registration. All proceeds from banquet ticket sales and corporate sponsorships benefit future Hall of Fame initiatives.

For more information about CattleCon24 and to purchase tickets to the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet, visit convention.ncba.org. For more information about the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and 2024 inductees, visit www.cattlefeeders.org. — National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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Dec. 5-6 — PAYS Blue Ribbon Female Sale, Billings, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 3 — Klamath Falls, Bull & Female Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Mar. 1 — Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Heber City, UT
Mar. 15 — Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Baker, NV
Mar. 16 — UBA, Bull Sale, Salina, UT

ANGUS

Nov. 10 — TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Nov 10 — Arntzen Angus, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 11 — HD Dunn Angus, Bull Sale, Tetonia, ID
Nov. 11 — Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Nov. 13 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
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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 — Vermillion 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
Dec. 2 — Hollow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Ramsay, MT
Dec. 2 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Dec. 2 — Reverse Rocking R, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 5 — Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 7 — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 8 — KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 9 — Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
Dec. 13 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 15 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Feb. 9 — Bar KD & Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 9 — Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 9 — Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 10 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 12 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 — Meadow Acres, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 16, 2024 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

Feb. 19 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 19 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 20 — Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 24 — Ranchers Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Feb. 24 — RV Bar Angus, Bull Sale, Jensen, UT
Feb. 25 — Buchanan Angus, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 26 — Colyer Angus & Hereford, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 27 — Barker Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 27 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 1 — Crouthamel Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 2 — Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Mar. 4 — Harrell Hereford & Angus, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 5 — Allen Brothers, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 6 — 3-String Cattle & Dille Red Angus, Bull Sale, Castleford, ID
Mar. 6 — Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 7 — Cannon Angus, Bull Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 8 — Rollin Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Mar. 9 — Riverbend Ranches, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 11 — Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 14 — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 15 — J Lazy S, Online Bull Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 16 — Nelson Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 16 — Ward Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV

Mar. 18 — Angus in the Basin, Bull Sale, Duchesne, UT
Mar. 18 — Herd Builder, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 20 — Lufkin Cattle, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 21 — Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 21 — Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 21 — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 7 — Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Feb. 20, 2024 — V-A-L Charolais, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 23 — Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 24 — Ranchers Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 12 — Romans Ranches Charolais, Production Sale, Harper, OR

HEREFORD

Nov. 13 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 13 — Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT
Dec. 1 — Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV
Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Feb. 2 — Elkington Polled Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Feb. 9 — CX Ranch & Dutch Flat Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 9 — Lambert Ranch & Bar KD, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 10 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan UT
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 26 — Colyer Hereford & Angus, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 29 — Northwest Hereford Breeders, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 4 — Harrell Hereford & Angus, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID

RED ANGUS

Nov. 13 — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bred Heifer and Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 6 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
Dec. 8 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 11 — Cross Diamond, Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 15 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Mar. 6 — Dille Red Angus & 3-String Cattle, Bull Sale, Castleford, ID
Mar. 12 — Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 13 — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 16 — Iron Lorenzen Cattle, Bull Sale, Madras, OR

SALERS

Dec. 4 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SIMANGUS

Nov. 18 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 2 — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO
Dec. 2 — Western Choice Simmental, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 22, 2024 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR

Feb. 27 — Barker Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 2 — Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA

STABILIZER

Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Wytheville, VA
Nov. 18 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Gering, NE
Dec. 2 — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 17 — Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 27 — Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Jan. 25, 2024 — Red Bluff, Replacement Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA

HORSE

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Mar. 2 — Winnemucca Ranch, Rodeo Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Mar. 4 — Harrell & Mackenzie, Quarter Horse Sale, Baker City, OR

DOG

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA



SALE REPORTS

RUGGLES ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Oct. 27, McCook, NE
55 Total lots \$5,498
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
Sale Manager: American Angus Hall of Fame

TOPS—Bred heifers: Ruggles Mchenry Pride 2605, 1/16/22 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Dave Johnson, Cambridge, NE, \$5,750. Ruggles Mchenry Pride 2608, 1/17/22 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Dave Johnson, Cambridge, NE, \$5,250. **Spring pairs:** Ruggles Blkhd Progress 0108, 1/22/18 by S Whitlock 179; to Dane Pilakowski 179; to Dane Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, \$13,500. Ruggles Mchenry Blkcap 0225, 2/3/18 by LD Capitalist 316; to JBK Ranch, McCook, NE, \$10,500. Ruggles Erica 0131, 1/24/18 by S Whitlock 179; to

JBK Ranch, McCook, NE, \$8,500. Ruggles Mchenry Blkcap 0215, 2/1/18 by S A V Resource 1441; to Adam Freouf, Ericson, NE, \$8,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

BEAR MOUNTAIN ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Oct. 28, Palisade, NE
307 Total lots \$5,496
49 Fall pairs 5,147
3 Donor cows.... 29,000
42 Heifer calf pairs 6,764
91 Spring bred cows 4,815
72 Spring bred heifers 4,699
27 Spring open heifers 3,531
21 Fall open heifers 5,031
3 Herd bulls 10,333
30 Commercial bred heifers 2,800
Auctioneers: Cody Lowderman, Clint

Hunter & Matt Sims Sale Manager: Matt C. Sims Auction, Inc.
TOPS—Bulls: Bear Mtn Magnify, 2/5/20 by Bear Mtn Justify; to R.D. Laflin, Olsberg, KS, \$13,000. SITZ Thunderstruck 746J, 1/9/21 by Sitz Thunderball 734E; to Jason Flickinger, Andalusia, IL, \$11,000. **Open heifers:** Bear Mtn Enchantress 2835, 9/3/22 by Bear Mtn Justice; to Elwood Ranches, Montague, CA, \$13,000. Bear Mtn Forever Lady 3672, 2/12/23 by KR Caliber 1087; to Stinson Angus Farms, Talbott, TN, \$9,700. **Bred heifers:** K A Forever Lady 201, 1/13/22 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to Meng Farms Cattle Company, Troy, KS, \$20,000. Bear Mtn Bell 1855, 9/6/21 by S S Brickyard; to Deryl Riley, Arapahoe, NE, \$13,000.

Bred cows: Bear Mtn Forever Lady 9512, 1/17/19 by Hoover No Doubt; to Norman Angus, Crawford, NE, \$11,000. Reagans BM Forever Lady 6671, 2/19/16 by KG Justified 3023; to Berent Thompson, Kintrye, ND, \$10,000. **Fall pairs:** Bear Mtn Forever Lady 7833, 9/16/17 by Koupals B&B On Course 5068, carrying a bull calf by Bear Mtn Pilot 1520; to Stellflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$42,000. Bear Mtn RRS Eisa Erica 9501, 1/10/19 by Connealy Ruger, carrying a bull calf by LAR Man In Black; to Stellpflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$35,000. **Spring pair:** Bear Mtn Eulima 1727, 4/3/21 by DDB Payoff, carrying a heifer calf by Bear Mtn Stealth 1510; to Linz Heritage Angus, Byars, OK, \$17,250. — **TY GROSHANS**

Central Oregon Livestock Auction

Centraloregonlivestock@gmail.com
541-475-3851

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:

Jay Burril 541-620-1559
Eric Duarte 541-891-78
Dale Landrus 541-419-8762
Tim Messner: 541-410-8691
Craig Weaver: 503-741-0861

Trent Stewart
Owner & Actioneer
541-325-3662

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SIMMENTAL, SIMANGUS, BLACK ANGUS, & MAINE ANJOU

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023

BEAVER, UT 1 MST
46TH ANNUAL COW SALE



Y1 Lady Luck L99, 3/4 SM
Remedy 1054J x WS Stepping Stone



Y1 Lilac L62, PB AN
LD Capitalist 316 x SAV Brilliance



Y1 Lolly Pop L180, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Yardley Lawman x ZKCC Chopper



Miss Yardley H3, PB SM
Lover Boy x Yardley Top Notch



Miss Yardley H14, PB SM
Lover Boy x Yardley Top Notch



Miss Yardley E28, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Lover Boy x SAV Bismark



Miss Yardley K139, 1/4 MA 11/16 AN
Maternal Made x Duff New Edition



Miss Yardley J168, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
Yardley Standout x Yardley Zion



Miss Yardley J218, 1/2 SM 1/2 AN
Yardley Standout x GCC Gold Standard



Miss Yardley J206, PB AN
SAV Rainmaker x Bushs Bushwacker



Miss Yardley K30, PB AN
Yardley Acclaimed x SAV Resource



Miss Yardley H145 PB AN
WAR Cowboy UP x Bushs Bushwacker

Yardley Cattle Company is a 5th generation family cattle ranch built on integrity, hard work, and great cattle. Our dedication and devotion on selecting genetics generation after generation for phenotype, performance, and maternal traits shows throughout our entire offering. The genetics available in our sale are the best you can buy anywhere. We produce beautifully made, moderately framed cattle, loaded with power, performance, and fleshing ability in stylish, structurally correct packages. We are confident our cattle will excel in your operation!

The cattle selling in this sale will sell in everyone's price range. With this many quality cows selling, there will be many bargains. Whatever your buying budget is, you'll get the most cows for your money in this sale. Many top quality cows will sell at realistic prices the common rancher or farmer can afford.

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