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INSIDE WLJ

SALT RIVER GRAZING PLAN — Conservation groups and a ranch have objected to a plan to allow cattle grazing along the Salt River within the Tonto National Forest. **Page 8**

LA NIÑA TO CONTINUE — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts La Niña will persist for a third winter, meaning continued dry conditions in the West. **Page 21**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Most industries today, agriculture included, rely heavily on scientific advancements that have allowed us to increase outputs while using fewer inputs, 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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USDA/Preston Keres

The Bureau of Land Management has halted bison grazing on two state allotments in Montana. Pictured here, bison on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northeast Montana.

Bison grazing halted on 2 MT allotments

— MSGA hails decision

The state of Montana has halted bison grazing on two state grazing allotments that were approved for use by American Prairie.

In an Oct. 27 letter obtained by the Western Ag Network, the state of Montana wrote to American Prairie that the group may not graze bison or proceed with construction, modification or electrification of fences on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Flat Creek Allotment and the Whiterock Allotment in Phillips County.

The Flat Creek Allotment is made up of about 13,000 acres, and the Whiterock Allotment is made up of about 16,700 acres.

The state said American Prairie must submit a stocking plan for the BLM allotments by Nov. 17 while an appeal process is underway and detail how bison grazing will be prevented on the two allotments.

"On July 28, 2022, BLM issued its Notice of Final Decision authorizing (American Prairie) to graze bison on the Flat Creek, Whiterock, French Coulee, and Garey Coulee allotments," according to the letter. "Numerous individuals and entities—including (the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, DNRC) and other Montana State agencies—challenged the adequacy of the BLM Environmental Assessment and final grazing decision. These challenges rendered the validity of BLM's decision uncertain."

The letter continued that DNRC does not intend to conduct an environmental review of American Prairie's proposal to graze bison on the two allotments pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act until challenges to BLM's decision are concluded.

See BISON on page 20

USFWS sued over lesser prairie chicken listing

— Delay in ESA action

An environmental group filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the agency's failure to issue final rules by the June 2022 deadline regarding the listing of the lesser prairie chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) said the inaction by USFWS "delays crucial, lifesaving protections for the lesser prairie chicken, increasing its risk of extinction."

In May 2021, USFWS proposed listing two distinct populations on the ESA. The Southern distinct population, which includes populations in eastern New Mexico and across the southwest Texas Panhandle, would be listed endangered. The Northern distinct

See CHICKEN on page 11

Klamath ranch sues OR, water agency over rights

— Seeks $1.5M in damages

A Klamath County ranch in Oregon is seeking $1.5 million from the state and its water agency over the seizure of its irrigation water without just compensation.

Sprague River Cattle Co. has filed suit in the Marion County Circuit Court against the state and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), stating the taking of its water rights since 2018 on the Sprague River restricts the ranch's ability to irrigate its land.

Sprague River Cattle Co. writes in court documents that the ranch was part of the Klamath Indian Reservation and had water rights with a priority date of Oct. 14, 1864. The property was initially sold in 1962 from a member of the Klamath Tribe, and in 1964, the new owners obtained a permit from OWRD authorizing irrigation of the property. In 1979, OWRD issued a Certificate of Water Right for the ranch to take up to 5.83 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Sprague River for the irrigation of 436 acres.

See WATER RIGHTS on page 8

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

Market lackadaisical; cash trade steady and slow to develop

The cattle complex could not find any fundamental support, as the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates for the sixth time this year, and a disappointing export report weighed on the market. Cash trade developed on Thursday and was mainly steady in the North and South.

Live cattle lost support during the week, closing lower, with the December contract down $1.47 to $151.95 and the February contract down $1.98 to $154.87.

"Since last week's flurry of trade, cattle futures this week have turned into a choppy, back and fill, uninspired trade," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote on Thursday. "Futures are not overly concerned with the long-term bullish fundamental outlook. Gigantic daily limits allow the market to move quickly when it needs to. Large commercial feedyards, with inventory committed to the large packers, simply manage basis and ignore the rest."

Cash trade through Thursday was estimated to be 47,000 head. Live steers traded between $152-155, averaging $153.33, and dressed steers averaged $242.50. Cash trade was mostly steady, with trade in the South at $150 and trade in the North at $153. Some bids in Nebraska for dressed steers were $240, but asking prices were $244-245 in the North.

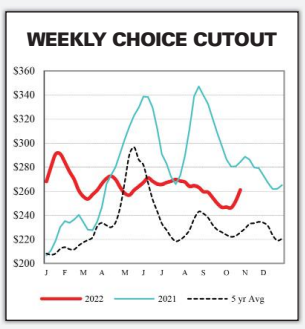
A total of 85,221 head sold during the last full week of October. Live steers averaged $152.69, and dressed steers sold for $240.

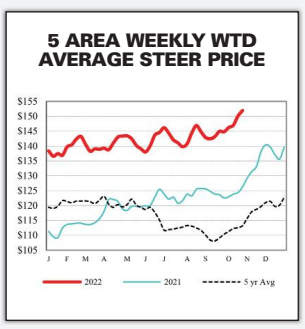
The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Oct. 17-24 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $152.06.
- Formula net purchases: $150.22.
- Forward contract net purchases: $145.96.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $150.41.

On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $239.76.
- Formula net purchases: $238.02.
- Forward contract net purchases: $229.74.





LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
$151.79	$242.47	$177.63

WEEK ENDING: 11-3-22

See MARKETS on page 27

COMMENTS

Same issues 100 years later



CROW

The media is at it again, forgetting about the political shenanigans because they are over. The Washington Post published an article talking about the difference between animal protein and plant protein. As usual, the Post selects a university scientist that supports their theme. Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, sounds credible, right? He actually says, "The proteins in foods from animals, such as meat, milk and eggs, tend to be absorbed more easily than those from plant sources, such as nuts, beans and grains. This is partly because of the fibrous coatings that help protect plants from insects and diseases, and this shield can also reduce the rate of digestion."

But this isn't a reason to choose animal proteins over plant proteins. He goes on to say that plant protein absorbs into the body 10-20% less efficiently than animal protein, and he explains the benefits of the amino acids that meat supplies the body with for growth and muscle development. But he says that citizens in rich countries eat too much animal protein anyway, and our bodies don't require much in the way of animal protein. He's actually pretty balanced on the differences between the two but comes down on the side of plant protein.

Then this guy goes on to say, "At this time in human history, it's also important to consider the role of food choices in preserving a viable planet for future generations. Although eliminating use of fossil fuels is the highest priority, we have little hope of avoiding disaster if we don't also shift our diets to be more plant-centric."

Does this sound like a typical university professor who perhaps receives much of his research funding from the governments or industries who have something to gain from this research, which we have known about for years? I suppose Beyond Meat is behind this.

In the end, neither meat diets nor plant diets gained much from this information. It always perplexes me when these people attack meat. Especially when consumers are paying more for meat than ever and U.S. consumers consume more than 200 pounds of meat per year. For these researchers, I would suggest paying attention to the markets of the products you're attacking.

They are activists hiding behind a university professorship. Do you trust everything they tell you? Who do you really believe? Who do you take diet information from? You take information from your own body's signals—I think most folks in animal agriculture understand that.

Then we have The New York Times, another major publication with little credibility. The author has more of a bone to pick because outside industry groups fund the pro-animal agriculture center at University of California (UC), Davis. The author is Hiroko Tabuchi, whoever she is. She's just another anti-meat activist.

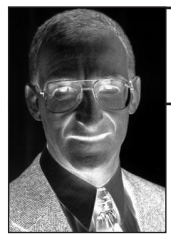
Her angle is that UC Davis' CLEAR Center is run by Frank Mitloehner, and industry groups fund it. She seems more upset that an outside industry group funds the research center.

According to the article, "The documents show that the center, which has become a leading institution in the field of agriculture and climate, was set up in 2019 with a $2.9 million gift to be paid out over several years from the Institute for Feed Education and Research, or IFeeder, the nonprofit arm of the American Feed Industry Association, a livestock industry group that represents major agricultural companies like Cargill and Tyson." The author says they also received more than $350 million from other groups, including $200 million from the California Cattle Council—imagine that.

"Industry funding does not necessarily compromise research, but it does inevitably have a slant on the directions with which you ask questions and the tendency to interpret those results in a way that may favor industry," said Matthew Hayek, an assistant professor in environmental studies at New York University. Makes me wonder if the scientific hypothesis is still in use. Solid science is repeatable, and you get the same results. How do you achieve that with climate science? The weather is always changing.

What I find disturbing about these meat-related articles is their underlying topic, which is climate change. The first author was supportive of animal and plant protein, but when viewed under the climate change criterion, animal protein lost out. Then our second author referred to the United Nations' "Livestock's Long Shadow" report. He continued to claim bovines are responsible for 15% of methane pollution—research that was debunked the year after the report came out.

If we're going to talk about these issues, let's all agree on established facts and that there are variables, especially when you throw climate change in the mix. — **PETE CROW**



KAY'S KORNER

DEMAND IS KEY TO 2023 MARKETS

U.S. consumers in 2023 can anticipate greater availability of pork, broiler meat and turkey—but less beef. Demand for all proteins will largely depend on consumer concerns about inflation and whether the U.S. economy has moved into a recession. Beef demand at retail and in food service is robust. Beef currently has an advantage over pork and chicken at retail, as average retail prices are trending below year-ago levels, while pork and chicken prices are trending higher. Beef prices are currently at their most competitive level in relation to the competing meats since 2017.

Beef prices are currently at their most competitive in relation to the competing meats since 2017.

U.S. consumer demand for beef, pork and chicken was strong before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. But it got even stronger as U.S. consumers stayed at home and cooked a lot more. Beef was the biggest winner of all the meats, as consumers sought a meat treat in exchange for not being able to eat out at most dine-in restaurants for many months.

Beef retail prices eventually reached record-high levels in October 2021. USDA's All Fresh beef price averaged $7.55 per pound, and its Choice price averaged $7.90/lb. They began to decline after that, and in September this year, they averaged $7.32/lb. and $7.60/lb., respectively. These were down 1.1% and 3.4%, respectively, from September 2021.

Of special interest is that retail demand for high-quality beef remains strong. The two largest sellers of USDA Prime beef, Costco and Walmart, both report that sales remain very robust. This is reflected in the price spread between the Prime and Choice beef wholesale cutouts reported by USDA each week.

For the week ending Oct. 28, the spread was $86.44/cwt after hitting an all-time record of $91.46/cwt the week ending Sept. 23. The bottom line is that American consumers continue to pay more for high-quality beef at both retail and in food service, with the latter sector having mostly recovered sales and foot traffic after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Drought forces ongoing liquidation

Cattle feeders and packers will face tighter cattle supplies in 2023. The Jan. 1, 2023, U.S. cattle herd total might be down 2.4 million head from Jan. 1 this year to only 89.5 million head. This goes against the current cyclical peak of 94.8 million in 2019 and would be the lowest cattle inventory since 2015. The decline is mostly due to severe, widespread drought and high input costs at the ranch and farm levels. These factors have forced cattle producers to liquidate some of their beef cows and put more heifers in feedlots.

Female slaughter levels are currently running 750,000 head higher than a year ago, with heifers accounting for the largest proportion of that slaughter for several decades. Total heifer slaughter through the week ending Oct. 1 was 364,000 head over last year, while beef cow slaughter was 336,000 head over last year, said Katelyn McCullock, director of the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Last year, fourth-quarter female slaughter outpaced 2020 by 154,000 head.

Given the pace of current slaughter, a reasonable estimate would conclude that U.S. female slaughter will be over 800,000 head larger by the end of the year. Using a simple regression analysis of data back to 1987, this would imply a Jan. 1, 2023, beef cow herd number down 4.8% from a year earlier, greater than the largest decline seen in the 2011-15 time period, she said.

Consumers will have ample protein supplies to choose from in 2023. Total red meat and poultry disappearance (consumption) is projected to be 224.9 lbs. per capita, versus an estimated 225.2 lbs. in 2022. This will reflect the 11th consecutive year of record broiler production and the recovery of turkey production from the impact of avian influenza.

Red meat disappearance is forecast at 109.3 lbs., down 1.6%, as lower beef supplies offset an increase in projected pork production. USDA currently forecasts 2023 beef production at 26.34 billion lbs., versus an estimated 27.01 billion lbs. in 2022. USDA forecasts 2023 pork production at 27.52 billion lbs., versus an estimated 27.13 billion lbs. in 2022. It forecasts 2023 broiler production at 45.9 billion lbs., versus an estimated 45.47 billion lbs. in 2022.

U.S. beef exports have been one of the top stories in the U.S. beef industry in recent years. Exports topped $1 billion in seven out of eight months to the end of August this year. For the first eight months, beef exports increased 5% from a year ago to over 1 million metric tons, valued at $8.23 billion, 24% above last year's record pace. China/Hong Kong is the second largest value destination for U.S. beef so far this year, and the U.S. beef industry will be hoping this continues in 2023. — **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.)**

GUEST OPINION

LAKE RINGGOLD: ANOTHER FIGHT FOR RURAL TEXANS

Try as you might, you cannot raise cattle without land. They either need plenty of space to graze or to be fed forage and grain from land elsewhere.

Fortunately, generations of Texans have had access to plentiful grazing lands, making Texas the largest cattle-producing state in the nation. With 12.7 million head at the beginning of this year, we aren't going anywhere anytime soon, but that doesn't mean we can rest easy.

Around 83% of our lands are rural, yet 85% of the population lives in urban and suburban areas. As Texas grows at an unprecedented speed, so does the competition for land and other resources.

We are an easy target in rural Texas—where land is plentiful and people are few. The latest fight is playing out between the city of Wichita Falls and the citizens of rural Clay County.

As the city plans for future water needs, it's moving to construct a massive reservoir in the county next door, which is mainly rural and dominated by agriculture. If the project moves forward, more than 16,000 acres of prime agricultural land and wildlife habitat will be flooded to create the reservoir.

According to the latest USDA Census of Agriculture, Clay County is home to more than 1,300 agricultural producers and 77,500 cattle. Thousands of acres of agricultural production will be lost, and ranches will be flooded out of existence or cut into small pieces with a lake standing between them. Other producers will likely suffer from decreased water flows elsewhere along the basin they rely on to water their cattle.

Businesses supplying these agricultural operations also stand in harm's way. Every county citizen does too.

They will all suffer increased costs or decreased services, such as waiting for emergency responders to drive around a 16,000-acre lake unless the county expands operations, all while removing more than 40,000 acres from the county's tax rolls.

There's another wrinkle in this precedent-setting battle. According to the state water plan, the city's water needs will remain relatively flat throughout the next 50 years. Further, a new water reuse project at Lake Arrowhead is now operational to help protect supplies during times of drought.

With the enormous impact on agriculture, the questionable need and the implications for similar water projects across the state, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) has taken an active role in the fight.

To proceed, the city of Wichita Falls must get a water use permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. We sought affected party status and are contesting the permit issuance before the agency. The hearing process will culminate in fall 2023, and we continue to explore other avenues of opposition.

The proposed Lake Ringgold project reminds us why we must continually advocate for rural Texas.

Developing new water sources is sometimes necessary, but not this time. We cannot allow rural citizens and communities to foot the entire bill for urban growth, or our grocery store shelves are sure to suffer. — **Joe Parker, TSCRA past president**

WLJ

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

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Claw 0.39 Angle .50 CW 61 Marb 1.10 REA .63
$M 76 $C 286 Act. PAP 40



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S: SITZ Logo 8148 **MGS:** LD Capitalist 316
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Claw .36 Angle .46 CW 54 Marb .90 REA .82
$M 97 $C 287 Act. PAP 42



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S: SITZ Resilient 10208 **MGS:** #SITZ Upward 307R
CED 14 BW -1.6 WW 77 YW 127 SC 1.19 HP 11.0 Milk 37
Claw .34 Angle .40 CW 48 Marb .31 REA .81
$M 90 $C 246 Act. PAP 41



SITZ Stellar 11151 AAA 19980019
S: SITZ Stellar 726D **MGS:** Spring Cove Paygrade 5064
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USDA opens wallet for meat processors

Following the fallout over livestock markets and the influence of the country's largest meatpacking companies, USDA on Nov. 2 announced $223 million in grants and loans to expand meat and poultry processing around the country.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visited Omaha, NE, to further spotlight the $73 million in grants that will go to 21 meat processing projects in the first round of the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program.

"We're excited about these projects," Vilsack said on a call Nov. 1 with reporters. "We think it's going to expand capacity of beef, pork and mixed processing by over 500,000 head a year, and we think it will expand capacity in poultry of nearly 34 million birds a year."

The focus on meatpacking competition stems from supply chain problems that hit livestock producers and consumers during the peak of the COVID-19 lockdowns. President Joe Biden also started 2022 by meeting with producers and laying out his administration's plan to invest as much as $1 billion to expand competition in the meatpacking industry.

"The president had a number of goals when he set this plan forward last January," Vilsack said. "I think he clearly wanted to increase competition and expand capacity. He wanted to strengthen the supply chain, and I think he wanted to make sure that we fostered a producer-focused business model, strengthen local and regional food systems, reduce barriers to processing, do things at scale, help create jobs and, over time, lower costs to consumers by expanding choice."

USDA is rolling out awards for three different programs. Beyond the 21 grants in the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, USDA also will provide eight loans through the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program for $75 million, as well as more than $75 million in loans for four meat- and poultry-related projects through the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Lending Program.

Beyond the $223 million, USDA expects to announce additional projects either in December or early next year, as well as open applications for another $150 million in funding for a second round of project announcements that would come later in 2023.

While the funding, which comes from the American Rescue Plan, is meant to improve the resilience of supply chains, groups such as the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) criticized USDA's plans earlier this year to use taxpayer dollars to compete with private packing plants. NAMI maintained the biggest problem in the packing industry was not consolidation or competition, but labor shortages.

Grant projects

The 21 grant projects include projects in 16 states. Vilsack said USDA received more than 300 applications for the first round of funding for the projects. A key component for the grants was community support, as well as assurances that jobs would be created and that the workforce was available locally for those positions, Vilsack said.

The grants range in size from $291,900 for a startup cooperative in Montana to $19.98 million for the expansion of Greater Omaha Packing Co.

Vilsack highlighted the Montana Premium Processing Cooperative, which is a partnership between Montana Farmers Union and Farmers Union Industries. The cooperative will create a local USDA-inspected processing facility for independent cattle producers in an area that currently does not have a federally inspected processing plant.

Another project, Vermont Livestock Slaughter & Processing, will connect farmers in the Northeast with schools and businesses. USDA stated meat processing in Vermont "is currently a bottleneck in the region, with many producers having to wait significant periods for the service." The $1.09 million grant will help upgrade and triple capacity at the employee-owned facility.

Most of the grant projects involve facilities that are smaller and would create 10, 20 or 30 local jobs. "These are small to midsized production facilities," Vilsack said. "And that was the purpose of this project, which is this effort that the president launched, was to basically create local and regional capacity, not getting into the larger production facilities."

Vilsack also added the smaller operations were more set up for providing products to domestic and local markets. "It's not so much geared towards or structured in a way that would make you think about exports. Many of these facilities are located in the middle of the country and, again, relatively small for the most part. So, I don't think exports are really on the minds of most of these facilities."

That is not the case with Greater Omaha Packing, however. The $19.9 million grant would allow Greater Omaha to expand from processing 2,400 head a day to 3,100 head, which adds up to an additional production of 195,000 cattle per year. Greater Omaha would add 275 jobs as well. The Omaha packer also exports to 70 countries, and it was the first packing plant to export beef to China when that market reopened.

Among the requirements for receiving the grants was an assurance that the grant recipients will not end up being swallowed by the largest packers in the country as a result. The grant recipient is required to provide details of ownership changes within 10 years of receiving the funds to USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

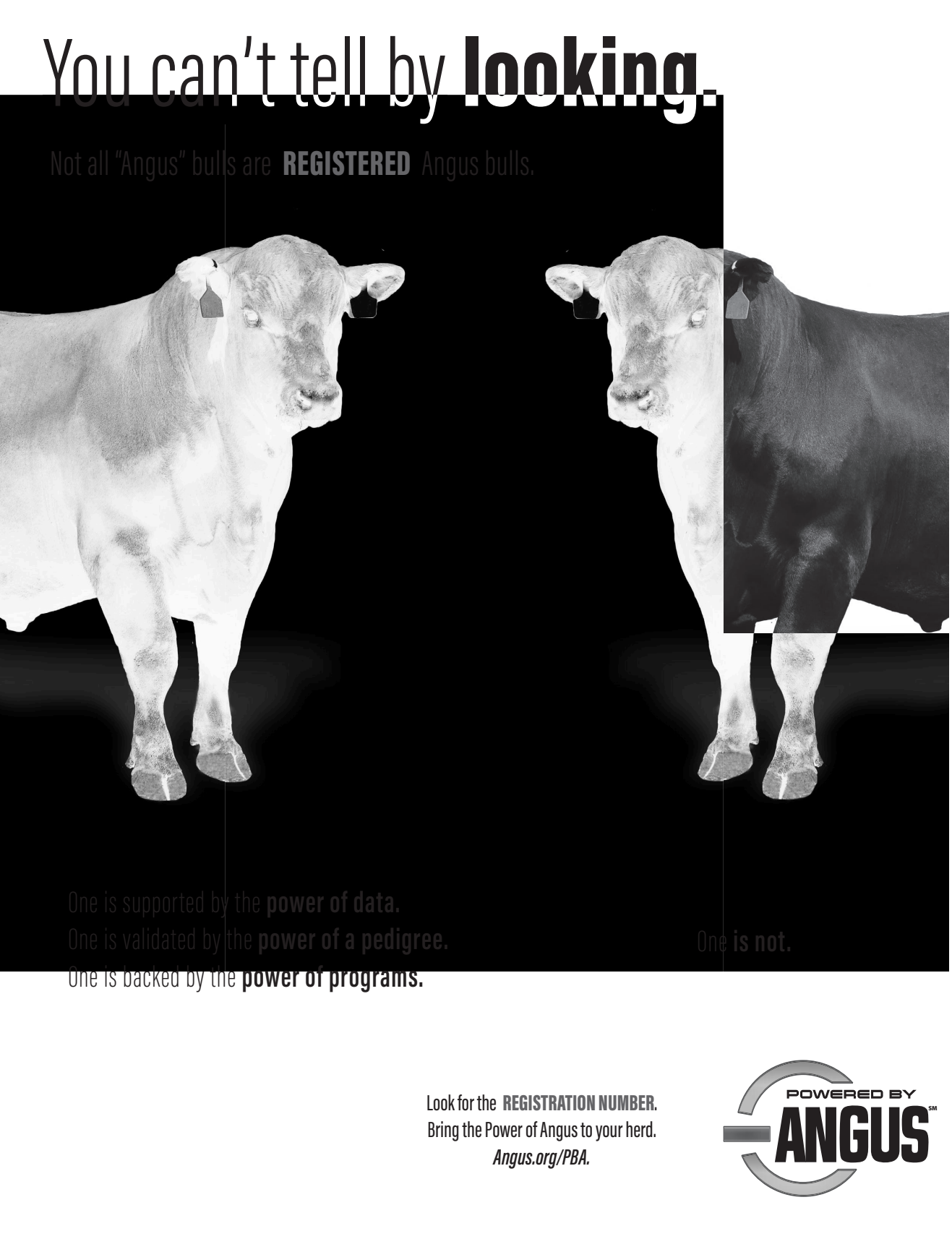
"One of the things that is a requirement of this program is that the agency is notified if a sale or change in total or partial ownership of the facility is under consideration," said Karama Neal, administrator for the Rural Business-Cooperative Service. "So that is something that we would monitor, … and that notification will trigger a review by the agency."

Loan recipients

Among the guaranteed loan recipients was FPL Food LLC in Georgia, which was approved for a $24.2 million loan guarantee to buy equipment to produce prepared foods.

Pure Prairie Farms Inc., a startup chicken processing facility in Charles City, IA, received approval for a $38.7 million loan guarantee.

Under the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program, rural economic development authorities in Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota and South Dakota received grants that will allow these local economic development groups to provide loans, grants and infrastructure to aid smaller processing facilities in their states as well. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**



Invasive species mitigation program in UT a success

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is pleased to announce the launch of the Utah invasive species mitigation (ISM) dashboard, a new tool highlighting the success of the ISM Weed Control Program.

In the past three years alone, the ISM program has funded 118 projects treating over 3.3 million acres across the state through $4.7 million in funding.

"Noxious weed control is vital to protecting critical agricultural land, rangeland and wetlands," said UDAF Commissioner Craig Buttars. "I am proud of the progress this program has made in mitigating invasive species in our state."

Noxious weeds compete directly with beneficial native plants and can cause devastating impacts to agriculture, wildlife habitat and native ecosystems, and they can increase wildfire fuel loads to catastrophic levels. These weeds cost an estimated $26.4 billion per year in agricultural economic losses in the U.S. All of Utah's 29 counties face challenges in controlling noxious weeds, including funding, jurisdictional hurdles and accessing difficult-to-reach terrain.

The Utah Legislature passed the Noxious Weed Act to coordinate and fund the control of noxious weeds. This effort relies on multiple management strategies and a high level of coordination using strategic partnerships between federal, state, local and private stakeholders.

ISM provides financial assistance to landowners, county weed boards, universities and other public and private agencies through competitive grant opportunities. There are currently 54 noxious weeds listed in Utah. For more information on these weeds, visit the Utah Noxious Weed List at ag.utah.gov.

UDAF has created a new website to further highlight each of these projects and provide detailed information on how they have helped protect Utah's native plant communities and ecosystems. To learn more about these projects, visit the featured ISM projects page at ag.utah.gov by searching for "Utah Featured ISM Projects." To view the full ISM dashboard, visit bit.ly/Utah-Noxious-Weed-Dashboards.

For more information on the ISM grant and how to apply, visit the ISM program application page at ag.utah.gov. — **UDAF**

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LOT 11 - Paintrock Double 07-671-2
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April 12, 1923, Vol. 1, No. 19

Hereford breeders strongly endorse farm credit bill

Enactment of the Lenroot-Anderson bill to provide credit for the farm and live-stock industry is strongly endorsed by the membership of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders Association, in a statement issued today at national headquarters. Fifteen thousand Hereford breeders, representing in their holdings the major portion of the country's improved beef cattle herds, look with favor on the bill, which has already passed the Senate and is before the House of Representatives for consideration.

"The great trouble with existing facilities for farm and cattle loans," says the association statement, "is that they necessitate short-time maturities. Farms and live-stock herds cannot be operated on the basis of a short-time turnover. A retail merchant can turn his merchandise in from thirty to ninety days. A short-time credit system is workable for him. But the farmer who buys land and the ranch operator who breeds and raises cattle needs three years at least in which to realize returns from credit granted him. The Lenroot-Anderson bill, providing credit for terms synchronized with the farmers' and ranchers' period of production, offers practical, workable relief, which will mean the re-establishment of agriculture on a sound basis.

"Hundreds of ranchmen in the range states today are unable to buy sorely-needed breeding stock because their banks cannot or will not make the necessary loans at a satisfactory rate of interest. Great cow-herds have been forced to market at ruinous prices. Many herds still intact are deteriorating because their owners have no funds with which to buy the registered Hereford bulls needed to get large calf crops and to improve the quality of commercial cattle.

"Adequate credit facilities, such as are proposed in the Lenroot-Anderson bill, will make possible a re-stocking of the range with suitable sires. This means new life for the livestock industry.

"Prospective breeders, many of whom desire to invest in purebred cattle at the present comparatively low prices, will be enabled to purchase foundation stock for new herds. With the proposed credit facilities, established breeders can buy herd-improving material now at prices which insure profits in the future. Lack of these credit facilities is the chief obstacle to this important phase of agricultural improvement, and enactment of a satisfactory rural credits bill will not only be a boon to agricultural and live-stock producers generally, but to the whole field of general business and industry.

"The present session of Congress ends March 4th. The fate of the Lenroot-Anderson bill will be determined this week. Every person in the live-stock industry should wire his representative in Congress, urging passage of the act." — ***WLJ***



LEGAL LEDGER

Second railroad union rejects deal

Another railroad union has rejected a deal with employers. Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) union members rejected a national tentative deal proposed in September, with more than 60% of members voting against the deal. Of its 6,300 members, about 73% voted on the agreement in a ballot vote. "For the first time that I can remember, the BRS members voted not to ratify a National Agreement, and with the highest participation rate in BRS history," BRS President Michael Baldwin said in a statement. "The highest offices at each Carrier, as well as their stockholders, seem to forget that the rank-and-file of their employees continued to perform their job each day through an unprecedented pandemic, while the executives worked from home to keep their families safe." BRS said its members spoke loudly and clearly to explain that their contributions are worth more, "particularly when it comes to a basic right of being able to take time off for illness or to prevent illness." The rejection of the agreement will now result in a status quo period, where the unions will reengage with the National Carriers' Conference Committee.

CA farmers protest water cuts

A group of farmers from the San Joaquin Valley in California marched on the state Capitol in late October, protesting decreased surface water allocations for agriculture. The group was led by a group of growers from the Sikh community in Madera County, according to a California Farm Bureau Ag Alert report. Farms received zero water allocations this year from the Central Valley Project and were hit with severe cutbacks in water from the State Water Project. Water officials also issued curtailment orders to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. "At this point, (a farmer's) livelihood depends on something that is being taken away from them at every angle they turn," said Christina Beckstead, executive director of the Madera County Farm Bureau. "So they are trying to have that voice and explain what it is they're losing and how it impacts everyone else."

Suit to protect Montana fish

A group of environmentalist and conservation organizations filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for not listing Montana's Arctic grayling fish under the Endangered Species Act. "It shouldn't take nearly three decades to protect a fish like the grayling that's so clearly on the brink of extinction," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The Fish and Wildlife Service's refusal to protect this beautiful fish is embarrassingly biased and thin on science." In 2014, USFWS denied protection for the species, which was challenged by conservation groups. The groups were able to get a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that the agency did not consider the impacts of climate change on the species. Yet, USFWS denied protections again in 2020. The groups also said the fish is threatened by livestock grazing, urbanization and nonnative trout.

Walmart sued again for overcharging

The same plaintiff who sued Walmart in 2019 for overcharging shoppers on meat has sued the company again for the same reason. Vassilios Kukorinis accuses Walmart in his lawsuit of "systemic unfair and deceptive business practices" that "deceivingly, misleadingly and unjustly pilfer … its customers' hard-earned grocery dollars." The first lawsuit alleged Walmart was putting deceptive price tags on clearance meat products, while the newest suit accuses Walmart of continuing to do so on clearance products, but also in the seafood department and the produce section. The suit contains numerous photos of meat and seafood products labeled with a low unit price and a higher, incorrectly calculated selling price. "The frequency and consistent pattern of the falsification practices are not mere errors," the suit read. "Rather, they are symptomatic of a programmed fraudulent scheme."

DOJ investigating poultry payments

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating the nation's largest poultry companies and the way they pay farmers who raise their chickens. "The U.S. government's recent focus and attention on market dynamics in the meat processing industry could expose (Pilgrim's Pride) to additional costs and risks," Pilgrim's Pride said in a Securities and Exchange Commission regulatory filing last month. Chicken farmers are typically paid in a tournament-style system, in which farmers in a region are compared against other farmers to determine their payment rates—a system that farmers have criticized. The investigation is the latest from the Biden administration, which has announced its intent to scrutinize concentration in the meat sector, especially on price fixing, wages and how farmers are paid.

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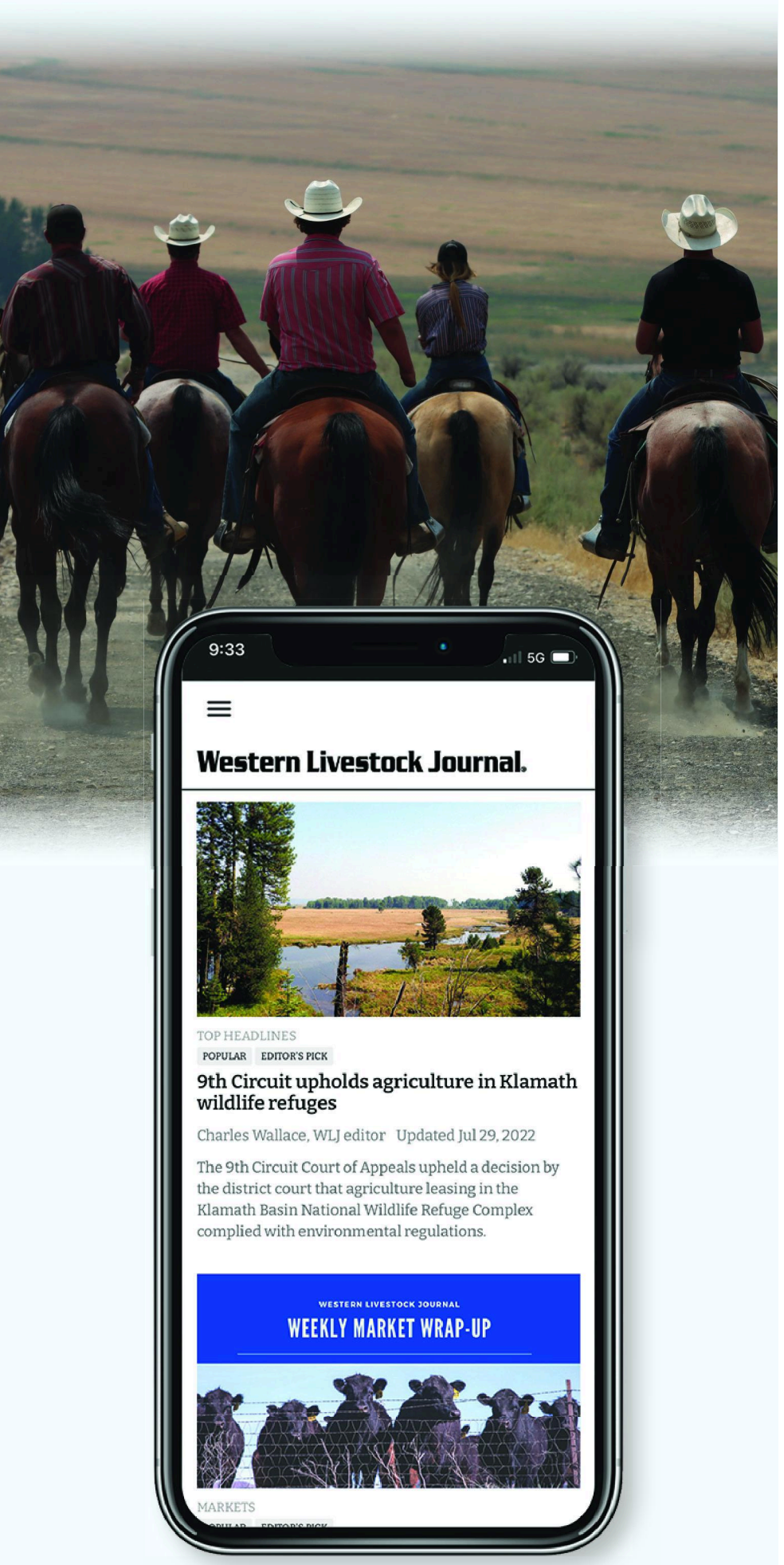

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Extend the grazing season by grazing corn residue

With proper considerations for nutrient content and stocking rate, corn residue can extend the grazing season.

Grazing corn stalks is one way for farmers and ranchers to reduce the cost of wintering beef cows. However, "grazing corn stalks" is a bit misleading, as cattle shouldn't be forced to graze the stalk of the corn plant, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension specialists say.

"The components of the corn plant remaining postharvest include the stalk, leaf, husk, cob and any downed ears," said Zac Carlson, NDSU Extension beef cattle specialist. "The components with the greatest nutritive value are the husk and leaf. The cob is relatively high in digestibility but low in protein. The stalk is low in protein and digestibility.

"Cattle are selective grazers and will eat any grain first that is remaining in the field, followed by husk and leaf," Carlson said. "As a consequence, the longer the cattle graze a particular corn field, the lower in nutrient content their diet will be."

Therefore, farmers and ranchers should have cattle consume husk and leaf and use the visual appearance of husk and leaf as an indicator of when to move cattle to the next field, Carlson advises.

"For each bushel of corn produced, there is approximately 16 pounds of leaf and husk available," said Janna Block, NDSU Extension livestock systems specialist. "A suggested stocking rate is to target grazing half (8 lbs. per bushel of corn produced) of the available leaf and husk."

Mature, nonlactating, spring-calving cows with a body condition score of 5 or greater will not need supplemental protein when grazing corn residue in favorable weather at an appropriate stocking rate.

Weaned calves, first-calf heifers and fall-calving cows will require additional protein and energy to meet nutrient requirements.

"Corn residue is low in most minerals and vitamin A," said Karl Hoppe, NDSU Extension livestock systems specialist. "Farmers and ranchers should provide a vitamin and mineral program when grazing corn residue."

Scout fields prior to grazing to determine the amount of downed corn present.

"There is an increased risk of founder or acidosis if fields have eight to 10 or more bushels of ears of corn per acre," said James Rogers, NDSU Extension forage crops production specialist. "If this is the case, strip grazing is recommended to limit the amount of corn consumed in one day."

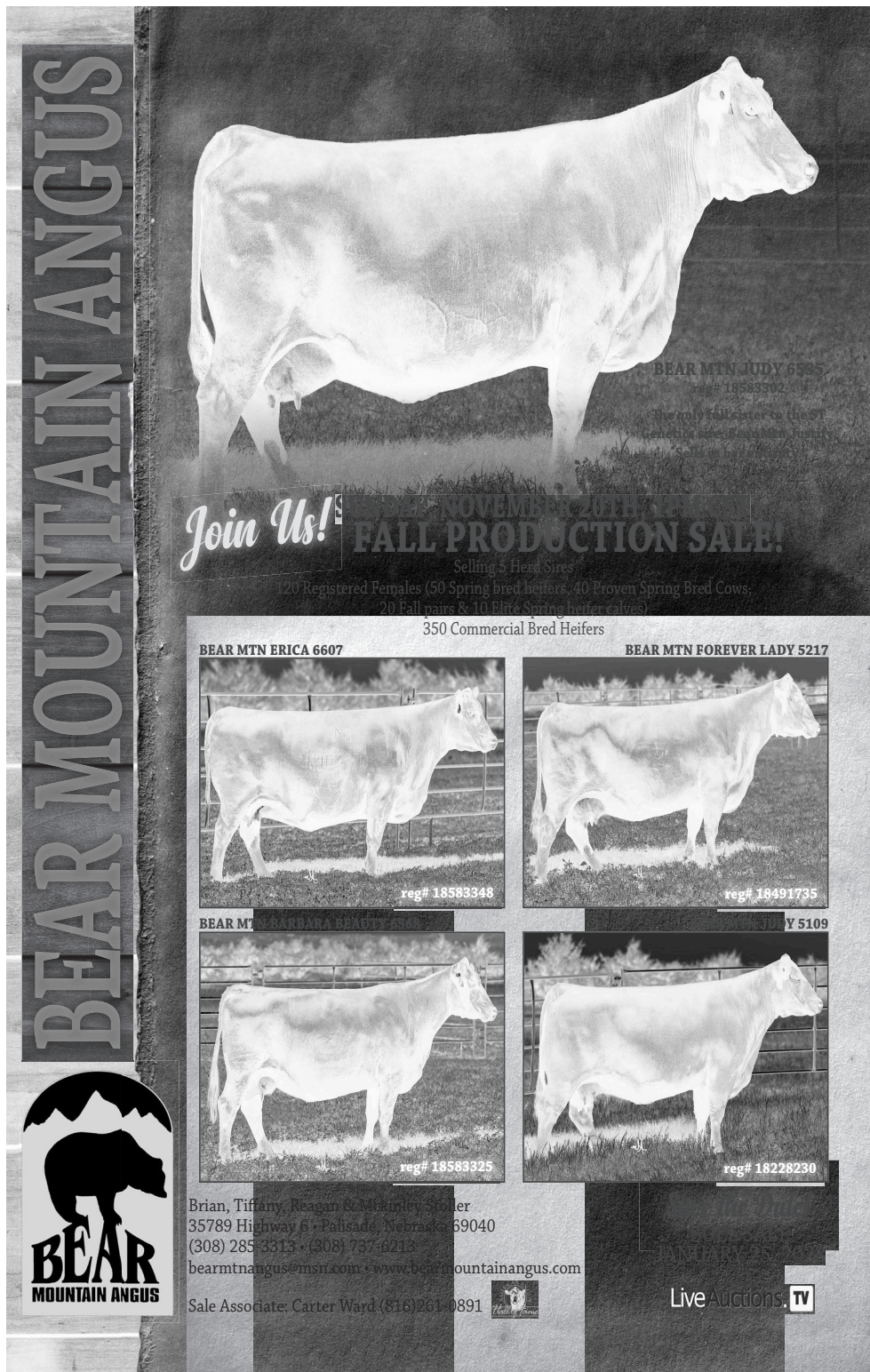
To determine the amount of corn remaining in fields planted in 30-inch rows, count the number of 8-inch ears (or equivalent) on the ground along three different 100-foot furrow strips, and then divide the total by two. This will give an estimate for bushels of corn per acre remaining in the field, Rogers said.

"Do not turn hungry cattle out to graze," advises Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock stewardship specialist. "Provide good-quality hay for a day or more so cattle don't consume corn immediately. Allow cattle to fill up on hay before grazing corn residue."

Two main limitations to grazing corn residue are installing fencing and providing water for grazing cattle.

Soil compaction is another issue often attributed to grazing corn residue. Based on research conducted at USDA's Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, ND, the risk of compaction from fall grazing is low in the northern Great Plains due to the freeze-thaw cycles. However, NDSU Extension specialists recommend that producers avoid grazing soils with a high clay content when they are saturated.

"Have a plan for weather events that limit grazing," Meehan said. "Deep snow and ice will limit the ability for cattle to graze corn residue. Have additional feed resources available when the weather gets bad." — **NDSU Extension**



Grazing plan along Salt River draws ire of enviros

— Ranch objects as well

A plan to allow cattle grazing along the Salt River in the Tonto National Forest of Arizona has drawn objections from conservation groups. The groups, Western Watersheds Project and Sierra Club, claim grazing in the Salt River Canyon Wilderness Area endangers critical habitat for several endangered and threatened species.

The Hicks-Pike's Peak Allotment grazing authorization would allow the grazing of up to 1,900 cattle and add about 6 miles of fencing along the Salt River about 8 miles north of Globe, AZ, in Gila County.

The U.S. Forest Service said livestock will be grazed using a flexible rotational system with a selective rest-rotation strategy. The proposed yearly maximum authorized use would vary between 650-800 adult cattle. In addition, 700-1,100 weaned calves up to 18 months old would be authorized to graze for up to seven months at a time.

"We are concerned that commercial livestock use is being expanded in some of the wildest and most ecologically important places in Arizona, and the Forest Service is not telling the public just how bad the impacts from cattle grazing really are," said Cyndi Tuell, the Arizona and New Mexico director at Western Watersheds Project. "It's a major reason that many of Arizona's wildlife are in danger of extinction, and we're concerned that special interests are dictating how public lands are being used."

The group claims livestock grazing would affect the critical habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and razorback sucker, as well as the habitat for the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo and the narrow-headed gartersnake.

The Tonto National Forest proposed a similar grazing authorization in 2021, but it was pulled after parties objected. One of the parties was Rockin Four Ranch, which is owned in part by Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner Bill Brake, Western Watersheds Project said. The ranch objected again to the newest plan.

"Reconstruction, removal, maintenance, and repair of improvements should not require a new archeological clearance and new consult with (the State Historic Preservation Office, SHPO)," the ranch wrote in its objection. "This new practice would put an undue burden on the permittee by not allowing them to repair or provide maintenance to a fence line or water source, which would result in cattle moving to restricted areas or reducing water availability which would result in death of the animal."

The ranch requested the requirement be reworded to reflect that access to repair an existing improvement would not be delayed by a new requirement of an archeological clearance and SHPO consultation.

The ranch also objected to livestock removal if insufficient riparian vegetation is present and instead said the area should be fenced off. Finally, the ranch asked for use of the terms "viewshed" and "foreground" to be removed from the assessment, as the Salt River was never determined to be wild and scenic.

The plan was also objected to by a University of Arizona professor, who said the assessment was inaccurate and misleading when it detailed the scope of livestock grazing.

The U.S. Forest Service will respond to objections and then determine whether to sign and implement the decision. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Attorney: State should compensate appropriately

WATER RIGHTS
(from page 1)

The property changed hands several times until Sprague River Cattle Co. purchased 368 acres of the original 436 acres in 2011. In 2013, the state and OWRD issued a Partial Order of Determination, affirming the 1864 priority date and the ranch's right to divert 9.42 cfs for a duty of 3 acre-feet (an acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons) per acre from March 10 through Nov. 10 of each year.

The state follows the rule that during times of shortage, junior water rights may be shut off to protect the interests of senior water rights holders.

Following a court case in 1984, the U.S. determined the Klamath Tribe has water rights sufficient to secure its right to hunt, gather and fish and to prevent other water holders from depleting the water levels below an unspecified amount. OWRD in 2014 determined the Tribe is entitled to have the instream flows in the Williamson River preserved to protect fish habitat.

"In addition, OWRD created additional minimum flows, by river reach, running all the way from the mouth of the Williamson River, up the Sprague River, each of which must separately be met in order for plaintiff to exercise its water rights," court documents show.

In 2018, OWRD issued an order that Sprague River Cattle Co. was "regulated off the Sprague River for the remainder of the irrigation season," and subsequent orders have been issued every year "earlier and earlier," stating the water rights may not be used. Sprague River Cattle Co. said the taking of water is also a threat in the foreseeable future, and the "impact upon plaintiff's water rights is functionally equivalent to defendants' pursuing a case to seize them every year by the exercise of eminent domain power."

Sprague River Cattle Co. claims without adequate irrigation, OWRD has deprived them of the economic use of the property, hence the $1.5 million evaluation. The original carrying capacity of the ranch was 200 head and has been reduced to 50 head, "which does not justify the overhead involved in maintaining cattle."

Sprague River Cattle Co. said in court documents the loss of revenue is $150,000 per year, and the value of the real estate has diminished from $2.5 million to $1 million from the reduction in water rights.

"In this action, plaintiff does not challenge the creation of the Tribal Rights or the enforcement actions taken pursuant to them, but merely seeks declaratory relief establishing that the unique circumstances of creation of these rights creates an entitlement to just compensation under the United States and Oregon Constitutions," court documents show.

Sprague River Cattle Co. attorneys argue the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution and Article I, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution state no property shall be taken without just compensation.

James L. Buchal of Murphy & Buchal LLP, counsel for Sprague River Cattle Co., told *WLJ* there had been attempts by the state to move the case to federal court, and, after some persuasion, the state agreed to file an opposed motion for remand back to the Marion County Circuit Court.

Buchal continued there is no precedent with the case, but "the courts should recognize that when someone buys a piece of property with water rights duly issued by the state, and then later the state decides to take those rights away—even by issuing what the state deems a more senior water right long after the first rights—the state should pay appropriate compensation." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**



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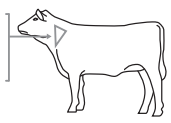

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DOSAGE TABLE			
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50	0.5 ml	-	-
100	1 ml	-	-
150	1.5 ml	-	-
200	2 ml	-	-
300	3 ml	-	-
400	4 ml	-	-
500	5 ml	-	-
600	6 ml	-	-
700	7 ml	-	-
800	-	5.3 ml	-
900	-	6 ml	-
1000	-	6.6 ml	5 ml
1100	-	-	5.5 ml
1200	-	-	6 ml
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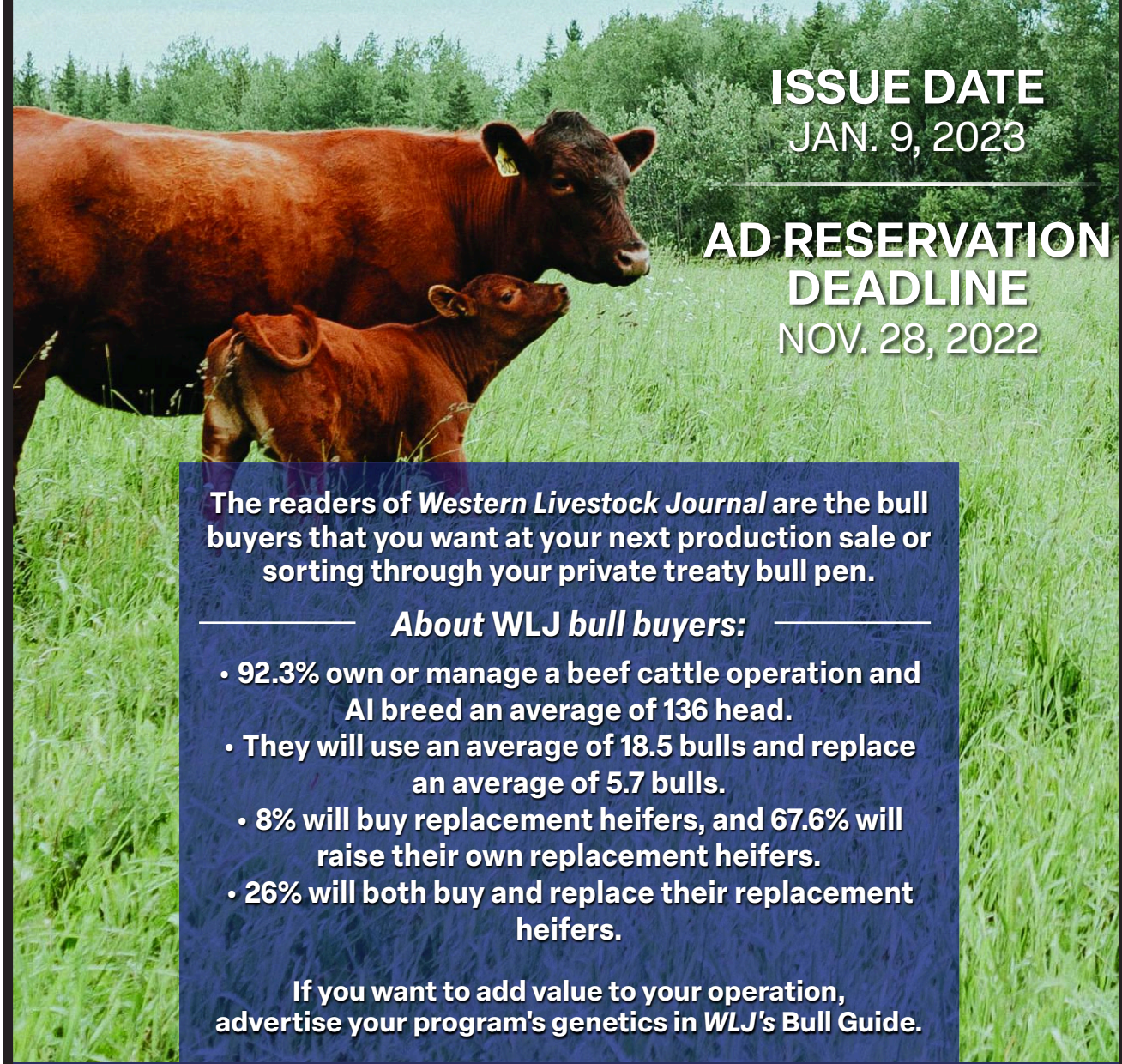

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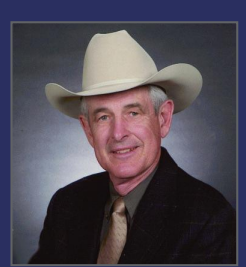

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Husker scientists add to long history of bovine pinkeye study

Research notes, reference materials and reports—such are the items to be found in the office of Dustin Loy, a professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. But Loy's office also features an unusual drawing, a scientific one from deep in the university's history.

The image is a drawing from one of the first known descriptions of cattle affected with pinkeye, a longtime scourge of Nebraska beef producers. The debilitating disease is primarily caused by Moraxella (M.) bovis, a tiny organism that, in the 21st century, results in annual losses estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars within the cattle industry.

Frank Billings, a veterinary pathologist who was the first faculty member given a full-time research position, sketched the image of afflicted cattle for an 1889 bulletin from the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. The bulletin, in which Billings described a "dense cluster of micro-organisms," provided the first scientific description of the bacterium and the disease.

In the present day, combating bovine pinkeye—an affliction that involves a range of possible traumas to the animal's eye—remains a major challenge for veterinary research scientists. The genetic diversity and variation of the bacterium are so complex that major gaps in scientific understanding remain. And unlike diseases such as polio and measles, which can be addressed through a vaccine, bovine pinkeye so far has remained resistant to consistently effective prevention via vaccination.

The illness—technically known as infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis, or IBK—is the No. 1 reported disease for breeding cows and No. 2 for calves.

Two recent studies with contributions from Husker researchers are advancing scientific knowledge of the disease. A joint research project between UNL and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) reported important findings about the bacterium's genetic characteristics. And Matt Hille, an assistant professor of veterinary medicine and biomedical sciences, led the first long-term study of bovine pinkeye vaccines, identifying shortcomings in inoculation efficacy.

Finding a solution to bovine pinkeye is hindered by the fact that a range of factors of varying influence contribute to the disease.

"It's what we call a classic disease complex," Loy said. "With contributions from the pathogens, contributions from the host, we know that certain breeds or types of animals are more susceptible to this disease than others. And then there's the environment: everything from dust to UV light to fly burden. All those things contribute. So, there are a lot of targets."

"A big factor, certainly, is that this is a multifactorial disease," said Hille, whose vaccination study noted the multiple influences contributing to the disease.

The genetic complexity and variability of the M. bovis bacterium—as well as a related bacterium, M. bovoculi—currently thwart a complete understanding of the microorganism's ability to cause disease. Precisely which factors turn nonthreatening components of the bacterium into pathogens have yet to be fully identified. Nebraska's joint study with ARS, published in BMC Microbiology, has moved the science forward by providing significant new information on the genetic structure and diversity of M. bovis.

ARS molecular biologists Emily Wynn and Michael Clawson in the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE, analyzed M. bovis strains provided by Loy from the university's extensive inventory of pinkeye bacterial isolates. Loy collected the samples from veterinarians in 17 U.S. states and one Canadian province as part of his longtime work in identifying variations among the strains.

The ARS scientists sequenced and compared the samples' genetic makeup, resulting in notable discoveries. The researchers identified two major M. bovis genotypes, each with different versions of a pinkeye-related toxin. They also identified certain proteins on the outer membrane of the bacterial cell.

Those findings significantly broaden scientists' genetic understanding of the disease. This sets the stage for future research work to fill in additional gaps to enable "better interventions and better targets," Loy said.

In an academic paper published this year in the journal Vaccines, Hille described a five-year study he led that compared pinkeye vaccine effectiveness for three study groups of calves. One group received an autogenous vaccine, developed from bacterial strains isolated from the study herd. Another group received a commonly used vaccine developed by a pharmaceutical company. A third group received a formulation consisting only of an adjuvant, a component normally added to a vaccine to bolster the immune response.

The autogenous vaccine produced a significantly stronger antibody response than the other two formulations, but the effect wasn't significant in terms of actually preventing the disease. The study involved an average of 240 calves a year at Nebraska Extension's Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center near Mead, NE.

Hille's five-year project advanced the science in several ways, Loy said. It was the first vaccine study using real-world field conditions over that duration of time and using antigens from three different species of bacteria associated with pinkeye. — **UNL**

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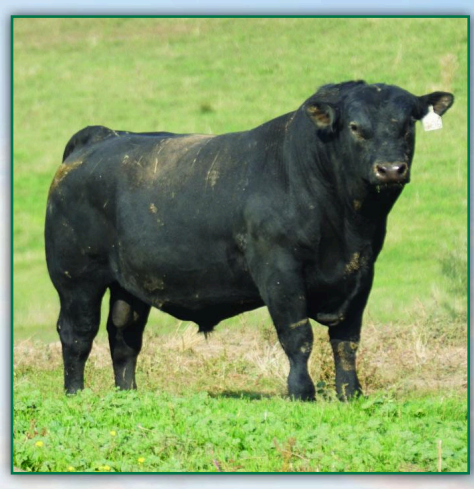

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Wheat prices up amid war, expanding drought

Wheat prices are high, and weather and market factors could make the crop an attractive option for Texas growers coming out of a severe drought, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension grain economist, said uncertainty about the accessibility of wheat around the globe has driven prices skyward, and emerging drought in wheat-producing areas of the U.S. could add to that trend.

Recent rainfall across many parts of the state improved conditions for Texas wheat, Welch said. Some areas had adequate planting moisture following widespread August rains, but other areas remained too dry to support crop establishment or to plant.

Some producers "dusted" crops in, planting seeds in dry soil, and hoped for rain, while others waited for moisture. The recent moisture could boost plantings, seed germination and crop establishment.

Most Texas wheat is planted for a dual purpose—cool-season grazing and grain—or for grain production, Welch said. The value of wheat as a forage (either for grazing, hay or wheatlage) and as a grain crop could make the crop very attractive to producers this season.

Welch said planted wheat acres typically trend upward following cotton abandonment, which was widespread this year due to drought. Wheat is also a relatively flexible crop when input costs like fuel and fertilizer are high.

He said producers can plant the crop into the first part of December, let fields establish and wait until January or early February to invest money in fertilizer.

"Conditions look much better after much of the Texas wheat country got a drink," he said. "The moisture could boost establishment and set it up for winter, and between that potential and the market conditions, wheat could be an interesting crop for a lot of producers."

Uncertainty drives wheat prices up

Welch said Texas wheat producers could have an opportunity due to high prices and uncertainty surrounding U.S. and global supplies.

Moisture levels worsened in other U.S. wheat-producing regions as they improved in Texas, Welch said. Large swaths of Kansas, Oklahoma and southeastern Colorado are experiencing extreme to exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, and most fall planting windows for crop insurance in those areas have passed.

"If those areas do not get moisture, it creates a big question for U.S. winter wheat production, and that could mean better prices for Texas wheat producers," he said.

Wheat prices are already historically high, Welch said. The October cash price for Texas wheat is $9 per bushel, compared to the same time last year, when bushel prices reached $8. Wheat prices hit $11 per bushel in June, compared to October 2019, when a bushel of Texas wheat was $4.

The pandemic impacted wheat prices to a degree, but the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been the primary factor driving wheat prices upward, Welch said. The two countries account for around 30% of global wheat production, and the uncertainty of war has weighed on the market.

Welch said news that Russia may not extend an agreement that allowed Ukraine to export wheat created a price spike in the global market and injected more uncertainty. At the same time, Russia is reporting a record wheat crop.

Other wheat-exporting nations like Australia and Canada have also reported strong production numbers, though European production was expected to be down compared to last year. Overall, global wheat production is expected to hit an all-time high in 2022.

"It's not a supply problem; it's an access problem," Welch said. "The uncertainty around exports and how grain flows are important. If the Russia-Ukraine war went away, I think wheat prices would fall significantly overnight. But the Russians control the Black Sea, and Ukraine is down on plantings and harvest. They don't have access to fields or storage facilities, and Russia is looking at a bumper crop. All of it ties to the uncertainty of conflict." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

CBD asks court for final rule to be issued

CHICKEN
(from page 1)

population, which encompasses southeastern Colorado, south-central to southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma and the northeast Texas Panhandle, would be listed as threatened, with an ESA 4(d) rule that tailors protections to allow for agricultural production.

USFWS said the conversion of grasslands to crop production fragmented the available habitat. The agency also noted that livestock grazing does not have a detrimental effect on the bird and "in many cases, is needed to maintain appropriate vegetative structure."

CBD states in court documents that in addition to grazing and agriculture, the main threats to the prairie chicken's population are oil and gas production, mining, wind energy production and "fences, power lines, and other tall structures that beckon predators to perch."

Through aerial surveys, USFWS estimated the five-year average population in the five states is 27,384 birds. USFWS said the prairie chicken once numbered in the "hundreds of thousands" and has lost 90% of its habitat due to fragmentation and habitat loss, despite voluntary conservation efforts.

In 2011, USFWS reached a settlement with CBD and other environmental groups to submit a proposed listing rule for the lesser prairie chicken by 2012. After a delay, the agency listed the bird as a threatened species in 2014. The bird was removed from the list after the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas vacated the rule in 2015. In September 2016, USFWS received a new petition from environmental groups to list the lesser prairie chicken as endangered, and in November 2016, it made a substantial 90-day petition finding that listing may be warranted.

In May 2021, USFWS proposed listing the two distinct populations. At the time of the announcement, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council expressed disappointment with the decision to list the lesser prairie chicken despite "a decades-long conservation partnership." The groups said it "directly disincentives continuation of effective, public-private conservation partnerships."

CBD contends USFWS should have published the final rule by June 1 and, as a result, violated the ESA.

"Defendants' violation of the ESA's nondiscretionary mandatory deadlines has delayed the ESA's protections for the lesser prairie chicken, harming the center's members' interests in them," CBD said in court documents.

CBD is asking the court to declare that USFWS violated the ESA and to compel the agency to issue a final rule.

"The lesser prairie chicken needs the protections of the Endangered Species Act," said Michael Robinson, a senior conservation advocate at CBD. "With no dispute about the bird's long-term decline and near-term peril and all the bureaucratic excuses for not listing it having already been used up, we're left with baffling agency inaction that calls for court intervention." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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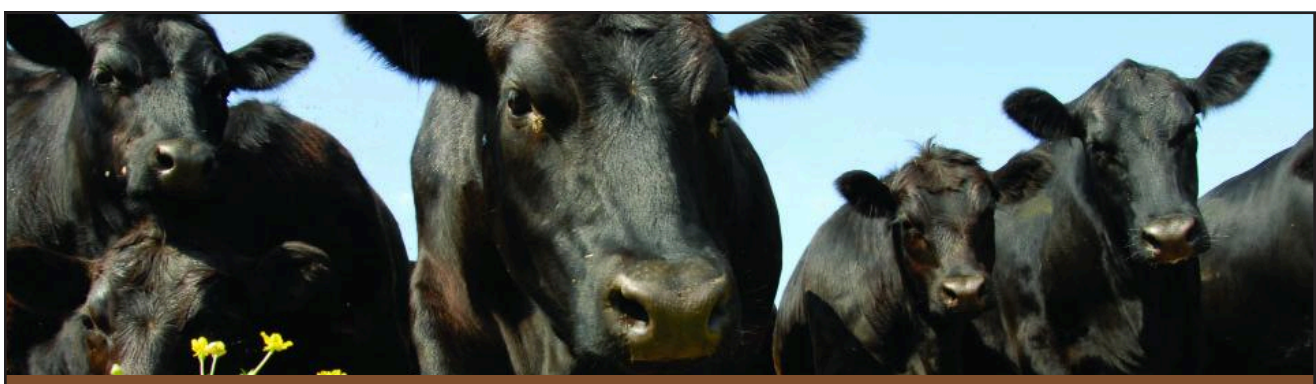

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STORY SHORTS

GOP questions use of CCC funds

Republican lawmakers have sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, questioning how USDA funded the recently created Climate-Smart Commodities pilot program. The letter expressed concerns about the program, as it was created with no direction from Congress and uses $2.8 billion in funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), with plans for an expected second portion, bringing total funding to $3.5 billion. "We are dismayed by the lack of transparency and congressional consultation throughout the development of this process," the lawmakers wrote. "In no way can $3.5 billion be considered a 'pilot program,' and there must be direct congressional involvement before a program of this magnitude is implemented." The letter states there may be projects worthy of being funded, but it questions why USDA is going to partner organizations "rather than going directly to aid farmers or ranchers in this difficult farm economy when many are struggling with rising input costs, drought, and an ongoing supply chain crisis."

NRCS in CO accepting applications

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado announced it is accepting applications for funding opportunities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Producers, landowners and forest managers interested in participating in these programs are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible to discuss a conservation plan for their conservation project. This will help NRCS identify which funding opportunities fit the project best. Producers must have farm records current with the Farm Service Agency and submit a complete program application to NRCS to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP and CSP. EQIP and CSP applications must be submitted by Dec. 2.

NAMI reveals environmental report

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) and the Protein PACT released their first report on the meat industry's 2030 targets for the environment and other issues. The report, released ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, showed 81% of the facilities that submitted data for the report made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NAMI said the report covers about 90% of the meat sold in the U.S. and sets the first-ever baselines for measuring progress toward ambitious targets for environmental sustainability, animal care, food safety, worker safety and food security. The report also found that among the facilities that submitted data, 82% are committed to minimizing packaging waste, 71% are committed to reducing food waste and 96% of the facilities that conduct meat processing require suppliers to maintain a written animal welfare program based on NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines. "The Meat Institute's first-ever continuous improvement report is a game changer for transparency in the sector—setting transparent baselines that will allow us to measure progress and verify our sector's contributions to global goals," said NAMI President and CEO Julie Anna Potts in a statement.

1839 Cherokee Meat Co. opens

Representatives from Cherokee Nation Businesses held an opening ceremony on Oct. 25 for the 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. processing plant in Tahlequah, OK. Named after the year Cherokee Nation became united by a constitution, 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. is a 12,000-square-foot USDA- and state-certified meat processing facility. "The 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. is our boldest effort yet to reclaim our food sovereignty and strengthen our economy by keeping more of the dollars that we spend on food within the great Cherokee Nation reservation," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. "Ranchers, farmers and others in the agriculture industry work extremely hard to keep our families fed and our economy moving. By directly addressing the meat processing shortage with our own facility, we support locally sourced food for the benefit of Cherokee citizens and the region's economy." The facility will process a variety of meats, including beef and pork, with buffalo, deer and elk processing available in the future.

$210 million for drought projects

The Biden administration announced $210 million in funding for projects in the West to address water storage and conveyance projects to bring drinking water to communities. The projects are expected to develop over 1.7 million acre-feet (an acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons) of additional water storage capacity, enough water to support 6.8 million people for a year. One of the projects includes $5 million for conducting the Verde River sedimentation feasibility study in Arizona. In California, funding includes $25 million for the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, $30 million for the Sites Reservoir project in Maxwell and $82 million for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion. Other projects include $60 million for the Arkansas Valley Conduit pipeline in Colorado and $5 million to increase the Cle Elum reservoir's capacity in Washington.

Grain deliveries halted at Mississippi River elevators

As Mississippi River levels continue to hinder grain shipping, at least some Cargill grain terminals on the river have now stopped taking corn and soybeans.

Cargill's facilities in Hickman, KY, and Keithsburg, IL, both posted on their websites that they stopped taking deliveries for the last week of October. Hickman's website noted, "We are full on corn and YSB (yellow soybeans). Will not be taking until river levels change. Hickman Harbor was closed due to low water. We are filling our remaining space. Customers can expect slower unload times and we apologize for any disruptions this causes our producers."

Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition, sent a river update on Oct. 26, stating that the conditions of the inland waterway system remain "very concerning."

"The metaphor I routinely use, 'attaching a garden hose to a fire hydrant,' continues to be very applicable," Steenhoek said. "Farmers are continuing to harvest an overall strong crop, but the inland waterway system—especially the lower Mississippi River—does not currently possess the normal capacity to accommodate it."

Steenhoek said the low river conditions are a challenge for the soybean industry given how the September through February period accounts for 80% of U.S. soybean exports. More than half of the soybeans produced in the country are exported as well.

Steenhoek added, "Barge transportation is essential for connecting U.S. soybean farmers with international customers."

No help from mighty MO

Meanwhile, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials in the Missouri River Basin held fall public meetings across the basin. The overall theme was that dry conditions persist everywhere in the Missouri River Basin as well.

Water releases from the lowest dam on the Missouri River at Gavins Point Dam, SD, also will be reduced starting around Nov. 19. Gavins Point had been averaging about 30,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), but the Corps is starting to dial back releases from the South Dakota dam and will bring it down to the minimum level of 12,000 cfs. The Corps will start stepping down water releases by about 3,000 cfs per day until early December.

Asked if the Corps could instead boost water releases out of Gavins Point, John Remus, chief of the Missouri River Basin for the Corps Water Management Division, said there have been conversations about it, but the Corps is not authorized to release water to support navigation on the Lower Mississippi River.

"We are not authorized on the Missouri River system to make releases for the sole purpose of supporting the Mississippi River for anything, whether it is navigation or flood control," Remus told DTN at a meeting Oct. 26 in Smithville, MO.

In his tenure with the Corps, Remus said, there have been at least three times the issue of water releases from the Missouri to help the Mississippi has been raised. Each time, attorneys have said the authorizing legislation and court cases prohibit Corps officials in the Missouri River Basin from adjusting water releases to support the Mississippi.

"We are only authorized for benefits on the Missouri River," he said.

Remus added, however, that the Missouri River system right now also doesn't have the volume to significantly raise water levels in the Mississippi River.

"We can't release enough water to make a difference," Remus said. "The river (Mississippi) gets so big once it gets below the Ohio (River), so even if we had the authority, we don't have the ability to do that."

The Corps meeting reaffirmed reporting from DTN on the challenging river outlook going forward. In the Missouri River Basin, the National Weather Service expects La Niña conditions to prevail for the third year in a row. Right now, about 75% of the Missouri River Basin is in some level of drought that is "likely to persist, if not expand."

Smaller barge loads

American Commercial Barge Line highlighted how depth restrictions of no greater than 9 feet have been instituted on the Lower Mississippi River—a 24-30% decrease. Barges are often loaded to 11-12 feet at this time of the year on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis, MO.

"For every 1 foot of decreased water depth, 5,000 fewer bushels of soybeans are loaded into each barge," Steenhoek said.

So, a 2-foot to 3-foot reduction will result in 10,000-15,000 fewer bushels. Barges on the Lower Mississippi River are often loaded with 57,000 bushels (Upper Mississippi River barges will be loaded with 50,000-52,000 bushels due to the minimum 9-foot navigation channel). The barge industry continues to maintain a maximum of 25 barges connected together along the Lower Mississippi River, compared to 30, 35 or even 40 barges under normal conditions, Steenhoek added.

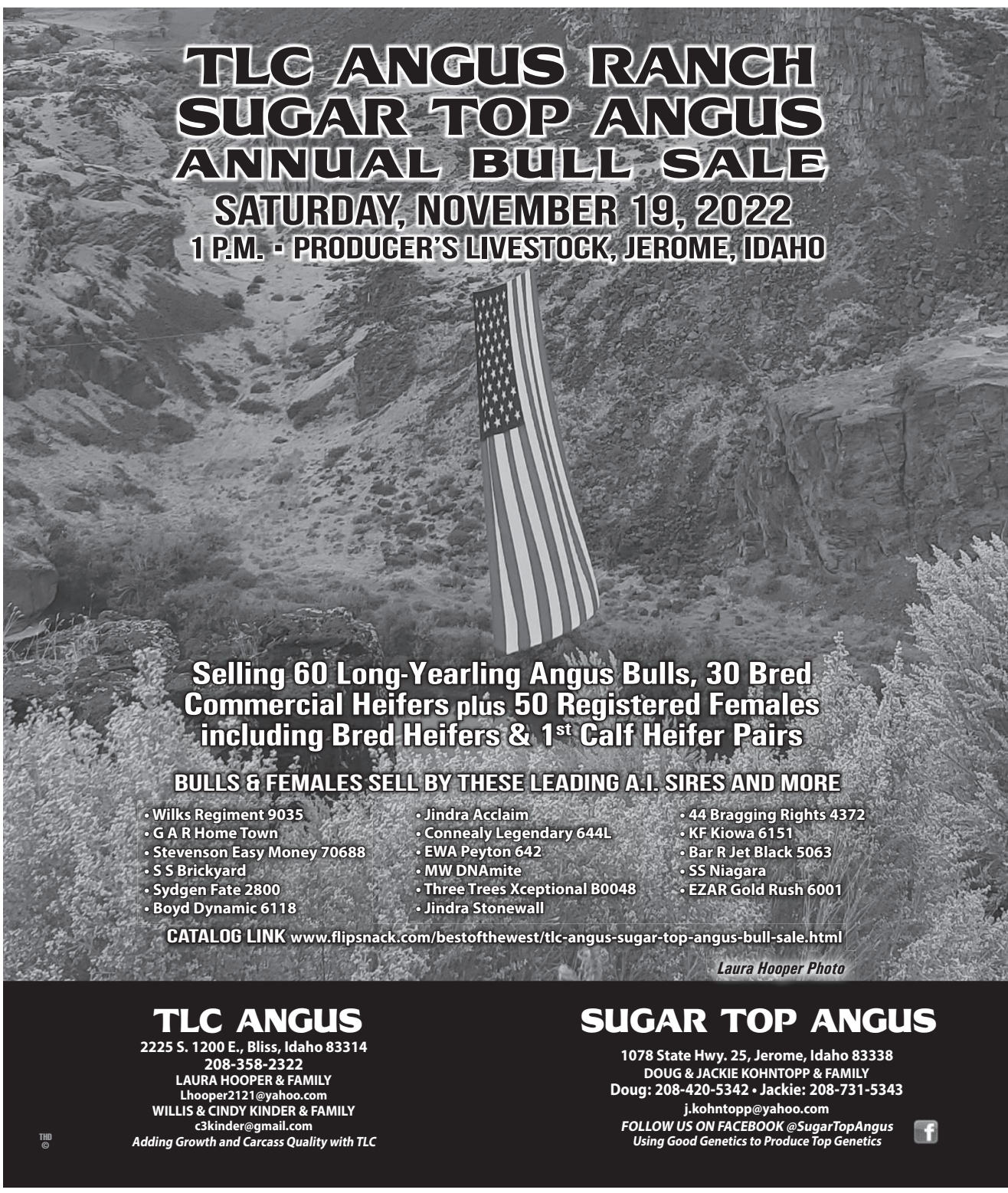
According to USDA's most recent Grain Transportation Report, barge freight rates have fallen. For the week of Oct. 18, transporting a ton of soybeans—loaded in St. Louis—cost $72.58 per ton. For the week of Oct. 11, it cost $105.85. The $72.58 cost is still 130% higher than the same week in 2021.

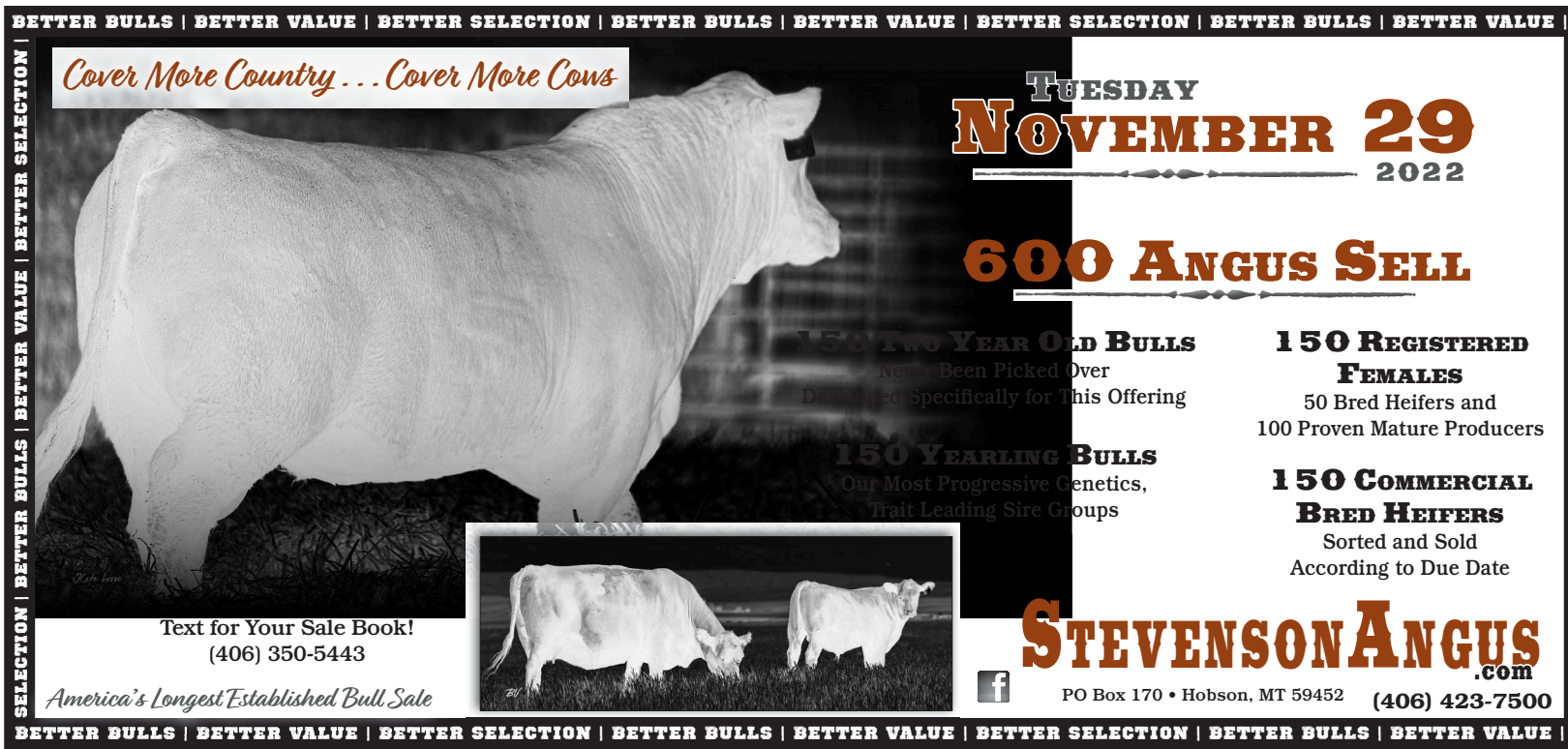
The USDA report offers an explanation that is consistent with testimonials Steenhoek said he has heard from farmers as well.

"Amid uncertainty about when barge traffic will normalize, some grain shippers have delayed deliveries until later in the year, which has softened demand for barges," Steenhoek said.

Some farmers—especially many close to the river system—have limited or no on-farm storage, Steenhoek noted. In many areas, the inland waterway system under normal conditions is such an attractive avenue for soybeans and grain that alternatives (processing or rail loading facilities) have not developed since they would be at a competitive disadvantage to the normal efficiencies of barge transportation.

The Grain Transportation Report also noted that for the week ending Oct. 6, unshipped balances of wheat, corn and soybeans for marketing year 2022-23 totaled 39.07 million metric tons, down 23% from the same time last year. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**





Leading the way toward eradicating cattle illnesses

The California Cattlemen's Association's Livestock Memorial Research Fund has accomplished much in its 40 years of service to the ranching community. But perhaps its most significant accomplishment was helping fund the creation of a vaccine against a tick-borne disease that had wreaked havoc on the state's cattle industry for decades.

The fund's leaders aren't resting on their laurels, however, and are now helping pay for a promising new research effort to find a vaccine against another serious disease affecting cattle.

For decades, a bite from a tick common in the foothill regions of California, Oregon and Nevada had caused tens of thousands of cows every year to abort their calves. In some cases, up to 100% of a year's calf crop in susceptible herds was lost, and ranchers reported losses of more than $10 million a year.

Fund committee member Tom Talbot, a rancher and veterinarian from Bishop, CA, recalled the disease—epizootic bovine abortion, also known as foothill abortion disease—nearly ruined his father's cattle business in the 1960s. That crisis helped prompt him to go to veterinarian school, where he worked on the problem.

"I was a student at vet school in 1972, and my summer job was capturing different kinds of insects, trying to find out which one was causing the problem," Talbot recalled.

Research fund Chair Dean Hunt, a rancher from Arcata, CA, said the organization was formed in the 1980s to accept donations to benefit ranching in the name of a loved one. After building up the fund, the group's leaders decided to support livestock research.

"We discovered there was a (University of California, UC) Davis researcher who wanted to work on the tick problem and develop a vaccine," Hunt said. "Over the years, they developed the vaccine, and it's on the market." Over the years, the fund contributed $278,500 toward the development of the vaccine.

Jeffrey Stott, a professor at UC Davis, along with researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno, led the effort to develop the vaccine, which was approved by USDA in late 2020 and is now being sold by Hygieia Biological Laboratories of Woodland, CA.

Marc Busalacchi, regional banking executive of the valley region with American AgCredit, said Farm Credit has proudly supported the research since at least 2009 by donating funds that the research fund uses to buy a stock trailer that is auctioned off at the annual conference of ranchers from California and Nevada.

"Each year, Farm Credit gives generously to many nonprofits that help California's agricultural community," Busalacchi said. "We were thrilled when the researchers made the breakthrough that brought this vaccine to market and were proud to have played a part."

American AgCredit, CoBank and Farm Credit West provide funding for the program. The organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System—the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

According to a UC Davis fact sheet, the pajaroello tick lives in decomposing plant litter and soil near animal beds and is attracted to the carbon dioxide that cattle and wildlife give off. A bacterium carried by the tick leads to a late-term abortion or the birth of sickly calves four or five months later but has little or no effect on the cow itself.

Vaccine trials were conducted over a decade to establish the safety and efficacy of the product. Talbot said the big breakthrough came with advancements in DNA technology, which allowed researchers to identify how to fight the unique bacteria.

"There were a number of times along the way where we thought we were done, that we'd never solve the problem. But it's been extremely successful. Ranchers who had a high degree of abortion rates have seen that cut down to almost nothing," Talbot said.

More recently, the fund has been supporting research to find a vaccine against bovine anaplasmosis, another tick-borne disease. The pathogen invades red blood cells, which are then destroyed by the animal's immune system. That leads to anemia and, often, death. Anaplasmosis causes billions of dollars in losses worldwide and is all too common in California.

While there are vaccines available, none have been approved by USDA. An experimental vaccine has been used in the U.S. for several years but has not been evaluated in published research studies.

This summer, researchers at Kansas State (K-State) University published a peer-reviewed paper on the successful testing of the vaccine they have developed in coordination with researchers at other universities, including UC Davis. The fund has contributed $25,000 for anaplasmosis research, which was singled out in a K-State press release announcing the successful study.

Researchers at St. George's University in Grenada (in the West Indies) collaborated on the project, which they said successfully "knocked out" a gene that was important for the pathogen's growth. Talbot said the hope is a vaccine will be on the market within a few years.

Besides large research projects, the memorial fund has also awarded over $150,000 in graduate-level scholarships for students in fields that would benefit cattle production—an amount that has accelerated.

"During the past three years, because of the support Farm Credit has given us, we have donated $30,000 a year to scholarships," Hunt said. "If there are three kids really worthy of big scholarships, we do that. They have to be grad students working to become a vet or an attorney working with ag-related groups—something that benefits the ag community."

Mark Littlefield, president and CEO of Farm Credit West, said Farm Credit strongly supports scholarship programs each year, and these scholarships are particularly important.

"Building the knowledge base of farmers and ranchers is vitally important, but it's also crucial that we develop the next generation of skilled professionals who will provide services that the ag community needs to flourish," Littlefield said. — **Farm Credit Alliance**



CO FFA announces new Hall of Fame inductees

The Colorado FFA Foundation is pleased to announce three inductees representing Colorado politics, water and agricultural advocacy into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Eric Wilkinson (Greeley), Jerry Sonnenberg (Sterling) and Ben Rainbolt Jr. (Platteville) will all be formally honored and inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame on Feb. 23, 2023, at the annual Hall of Fame banquet. The Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame is presented by the Farm Credit associations of Colorado.

"Congratulations to this amazing 2023 Hall of Fame class," said Glenda Mostek, chair of the Colorado FFA Foundation. "They each have had a tremendous impact on Colorado agriculture in their personal and professional lives."

Wilkinson is the retired general manager of Northern Water, and he oversaw key aspects of Colorado's largest water projects and developed measures to prevent "buy and dry" to take pressure off agricultural water supplies as Colorado's population increased.

Rainbolt is the executive director of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. Following his 25-year career in education as a highly recognized and awarded agricultural education instructor, he retired as a principal. He has shaped policy and developed new leaders in Colorado's agriculture industry.

Sonnenberg represented his rural district at the Colorado General Assembly for 16 years as both a representative and a senator, was a voice for rural communities and issues, was a mentor to both kids and adults and was a major force in the revitalization of the Colorado Ag Leadership Program.

The honorees will join 101 other outstanding Colorado agriculturists who have been similarly honored since 1989. All Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame members' portraits are displayed in the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame (presented by Farm Credit associations of Colorado) in the CoBank Center for Agricultural Education at Colorado State University.

Hosted by the Colorado FFA Foundation, the induction ceremony is held yearly to induct members who have significantly contributed to Colorado's second largest industry into the Hall of Fame. A unique multimedia presentation will highlight the life of each new inductee during the ceremony. — **Colorado FFA Foundation**

Consider costs and genetics when deciding to cull bulls

Bulls are like professional athletes. Once properly developed, they reach full servicing capacity and have a prime of several breeding seasons between the ages of 2-5, and after the age of 6, they are on borrowed time.

For each Tom Brady, who won Super Bowl championships past the age of 40, there are hundreds of the likes of Joe Namath, who peaked early and won a Super Bowl at 25 before knee injuries cut his career short and left him ineffective before the age of 30.

Bottom line, the life of a herd bull is full of perils. Mounting and breeding cows in all sorts of terrain; working on mud, sand, rocks and snow; potentially fighting with other herd bulls; and the natural service of each female could lead to injury of the feet, legs and sex organs. Over time, even the soundest and most athletic bulls are going to get injured, become more cantankerous and unsafe to have around or potentially fail a breeding soundness exam.

Consider the following:

• If you have a spring-calving cow herd, your bull or bulls are currently "off duty" for the next six to eight months. If your bull weighs 2,000 pounds and will eat 2% of his body weight in forage dry matter hay each day, that is a daily intake of 40 lbs. Over the next 200 days, while your bull is "off duty," he will consume about 4 tons, or 8,000 lbs. of forage dry matter. If his nutritional requirements will be met with hay valued at $200/ton, that is $800 in feed costs between now and turnout next spring.

• Think about the salvage value of the bull. A recent USDA market report indicates a salvage value of approximately $1/lb., or roughly $2,000 for a 2,000 lb. bull.

• As a result of successful selection programs in the purebred sector, younger bulls purchased as yearlings next spring will have the genetic advantage. The table of genetic trends shows the average EPDs by year of birth for Angus cattle. The improvement in genetic potential for calving ease, growth, milk, marbling and muscle is evident over time and indicative of the genetic trends in all beef breeds.

Assess the ages of your herd bulls and current feed costs. Culling older herd bulls now and repopulating with young bulls next spring can add long-term genetic advantages beyond just the savings in winter feed bills. The salvage value plus the savings in feed costs should cover a sizable portion of investing in younger, genetically superior bulls next spring. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Table 1. Average EPDs by year of birth for Angus cattle

Birth Year	CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marbling	Ribeye
2002	+1	+1.9	+30	+54	+20	+.33	+.21
2007	+3	+1.7	+37	+67	+23	+.43	+.31
2012	+4	+1.5	+45	+80	+24	+.47	+.41
2017	+6	+1.3	+54	+96	+25	+.55	+.54
2019	+6	+1.2	+59	+105	+26	+.61	+.60
2021	+6	+1.2	+63	+112	+26	+.71	+.67

When can we put cattle on winter pasture this year?

We finally got enough rain in parts of Oklahoma for our wheat and other cool-season annuals to start emerging. This is extremely late for our normal wheat grazing programs since for a "good" wheat pasture year, we expect to turn out on Nov. 1. The late start really limits the prospects for being able to graze cattle on wheat this winter.

Overgrazing and starting too early will limit animal performance and reduce the total overall production of these pastures. My normal recommendation is to wait until small grains are 4-6 inches tall before turning out cattle on pasture. Using a rule of thumb of about 200 pounds of forage dry matter per inch in height, this should provide us with 800-1,200 lbs. of forage dry matter per acre. This should allow adequate forage for steers to gain 2 lbs. per day when stocked at 2 acres per steer.

With our late start, can we reach this level of forage growth this winter?

• Wheat forage grows at 3-3.5 lbs. of forage dry matter per acre for each growing degree day.

• A growing degree day equals the average daily temperature, 40 F.

• The average daily temperature for November in central Oklahoma is 50 F, with a 61 F average high and 39 F average low temperature.

• Wheat would be expected to produce 30-35 lbs. of forage dry matter per day this month.

• So, we may be able to start grazing winter pastures in early December this year.

• Other cool-season annuals (cereal rye and triticale, for example) are more productive at lower temperatures, so forage accumulation should be higher.

• This rule of thumb relies on unlimited soil nutrients and moisture, so unfertilized pastures will not reach these targets, and we need to keep getting timely rains.

We can't rely on much forage production in December and January because the average temperatures are right at or below the 40 F threshold, so we need to be sure to let as much growth accumulate before we turn cattle out as we can. Forecasts indicate we have a 33-50% chance of having above-average temperatures in Oklahoma for the next three months. Things may be better than expected.

Holding cattle off pastures this fall and managing grazing to produce adequate leaf area for regrowth following grazing will improve productivity in the late winter and spring. This will shorten our hay feeding season later in the year. — **Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef nutrition specialist**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

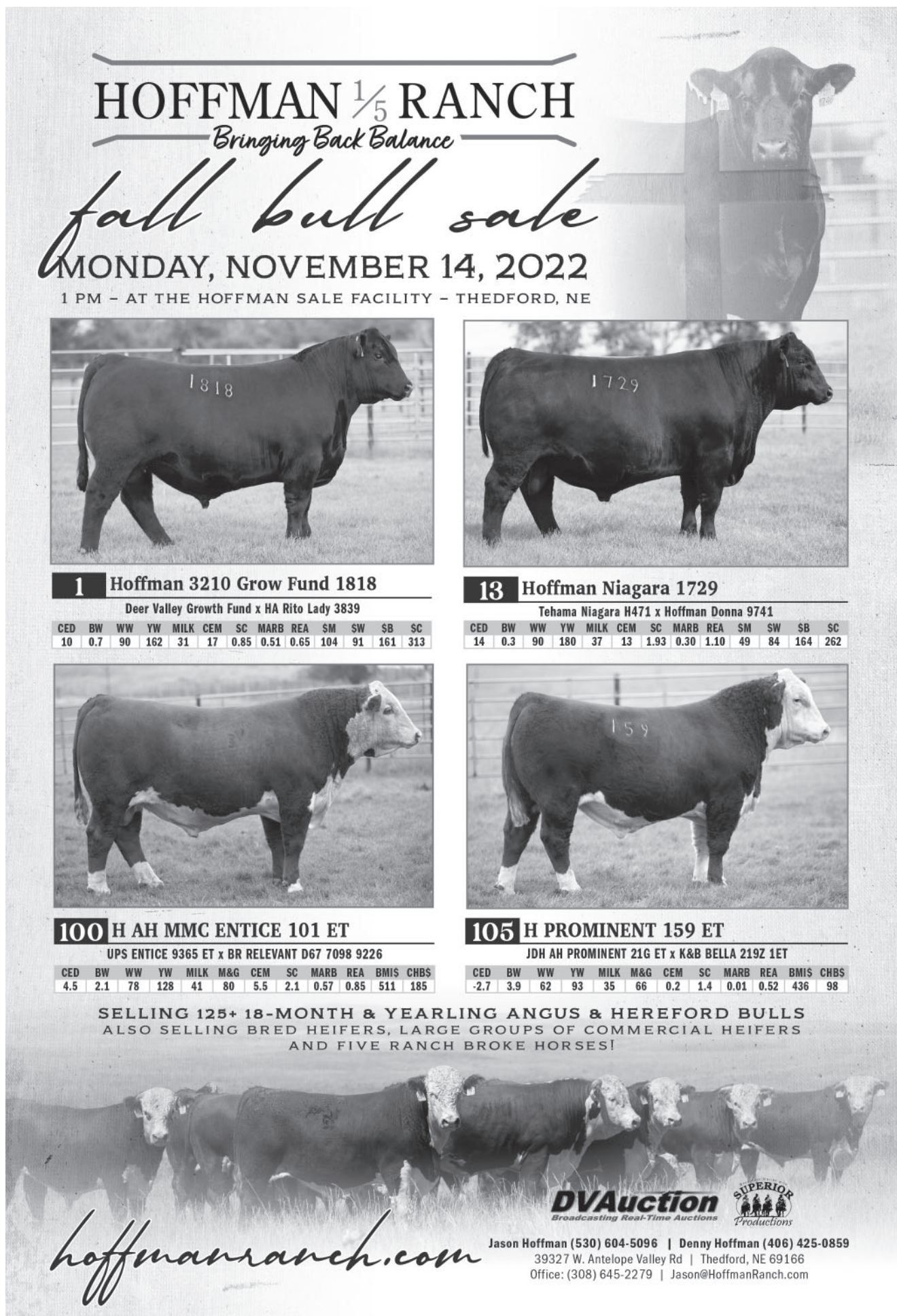
(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ's Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to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

Nov. 11 – The National Cattlemen's Foundation CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship applications are now available for undergraduate students. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or full-time undergraduate student enrolled at a two- or four-year institution. For more information and to apply, visit www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/scholarships.

Nov. 22 – Purina Mills and the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association's (NMCGA) Young Cattlemen's Leadership Committee (YCLC) will award two Purina Mills $1,000 scholarships and two YCLC $500 scholarships. Purina Mills scholarships will be awarded to a New Mexico student who is a member of NMCGA or the New Mexico Junior Cattle Growers' Association or is the child of an NMCGA member. YCLC scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior and to a continuing college student. To apply, visit www.nmagriculture.org, call the NMCGA office at 505-247-0584 or email taylor@nmagriculture.org.

Dec. 1 – Applications for the Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program Internship are now open. College sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students under the age of 25 and majoring in an agricultural-related field of study are eligible to apply. Angus breeders and students interested in participating in the program can learn more and apply at bit.ly/AngusFoundationTalonProgram, or contact Jaclyn Upperman, Angus Foundation executive director, at JUpperman@Angus.org.

Dec. 2 – The Public Lands Council, in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, is now taking applications for public policy interns to join the D.C. office during the summer of 2023. This in-person internship will run from May 15-Aug. 11, 2023. Application: jobs.keldair.com/ncba. Contact Justyn Tedder at jtedder@beef.org with any inquiries.



THE VIEWPOINT

with Marty Gill

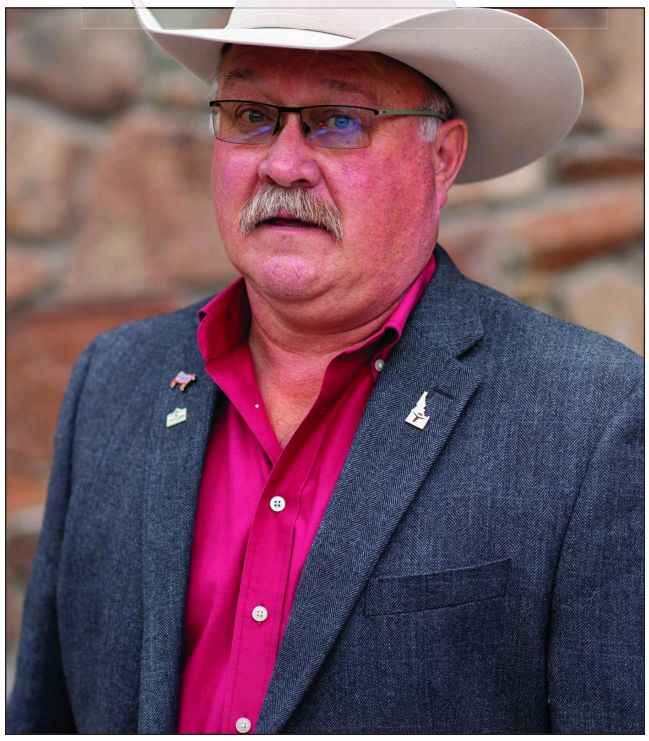
This exclusive column found only in WLJ *features unique perspectives from some of the nation's top producers, marketers, animal health experts, economists and more.*

Marty Gill is an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists certified ruminant nutritionist who has the added benefit of a production background to help in consulting with cow-calf producers and feedlots. Recently, he sat down with *WLJ* to discuss the importance of well-rounded mineral and protein supplementation programs.

Marty grew up on a cow-calf operation in north central Idaho, where his ranching family has been homesteaded since 1878. His college path led him to Treasure Valley Community College on a rodeo scholarship, then to the University of Idaho and Santa Clara University for his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science and business administration, with agribusiness options.

He began his career at Agri Beef Co. in 1989 in the newly established feed and supplement division, and he has been a nutritionist and feed consultant in the Pacific Northwest with the company ever since. Currently, Marty works with cow-calf producers and feedlots through Performix Nutrition Systems, a subsidiary of Agri Beef.

In addition to his work as a nutritionist, Marty has remained heavily involved in industry organizations, having served as the 2019 Idaho Cattle Association president and remaining an active member of the Public Lands Council and several other state cattlemen's associations.



Courtesy photo

Marty Gill

With producers in the West facing a record-breaking drought, Marty emphasizes the importance of a good mineral program for your cow herd. Both feed quality and quantity have declined, and trace mineral profiles and protein needs have changed. Marty sees a lot of deficiencies in zinc, copper and selenium—three key building blocks in the immune system, along with vitamin E.

Cows are coming off dry western ranges with a lower-than-ideal body condition score, and calves are a little lighter and more stressed in some cases.

"I've done some recent liver analysis work with some clients and the vets that we work with," Marty said, "and on some cattle that haven't been on a good mineral program, we are finding deficiencies to the extent that myself—and I think some other scientists—would argue that the calf probably doesn't have enough of a functional immune system to even respond to our vaccines these days," he said. "And there could be huge ramifications there."

Marty stressed the impact of fetal programming and cited research by Oregon State University, which studied the effects of supplementation in late-gestating beef cows on the productive and physiological responses of the offspring. More information on the study can be found online at wlj.net.

"What we do for those cows now in their last trimester sets that calf up for productivity for the rest of his life, including hanging on the rail," Marty said. "It's not cheap, but my take is a good, properly done nutrition program will pay you back down the road." He added, "One of our sayings in our camp is that cost per head per day is not a nutrient requirement."

"If you're doing a lot of synchronization, AI, embryo transfers, etc., having some strong chelated mineral fractions in there has definitely proven beneficial."

The basic formula for success goes back to "You can't manage what you can't measure," Marty said. "You can spend a lot of money not addressing the problem, but if done right—and you look at the research that's out there—you can also spend some money that will pay you back many times over on a return on investment by getting things right."

This may include taking the time and effort (and cost) to analyze hay and feedstuffs and pulling forage and range samples to look at nutrient profiles and important minerals and trace minerals, then looking at the most effective way to address them, he said. Follow-up can include taking bloodwork or a liver analysis, which Marty says is an outstanding measure of true trace mineral status over time.

"It's about getting the metrics, finding out what your operation needs," he said. He noted that most of the West is extremely selenium deficient. He also shared his support of adding organic and chelated minerals in the diet, as they are more bioavailable and get better utilization through the animal. "They can be a lot more efficient and at times quicker in addressing a deficiency going forward," Marty said.

There is a significant value and performance difference in mineral sources today—oxides and sulfates versus chelates—that cattle producers should evaluate in their mineral supplementation program, he said.

"The research is definitely proven on a health front, and especially when you get into the purebred world, the AI world. If you're doing a lot of synchronization, AI, embryo transfers, etc., having some strong chelated mineral fractions in there has definitely proven beneficial." Marty said there is proven data that zinc affects the semen quality in bulls, and there seems to be a real market effect if a producer is running a good chelated zinc and selenium trace mineral program and getting bulls to test.

He said there is enough data to show if a producer is only using oxides and sulfates and increasing mineral concentration, they are "missing the boat" because the oxides and sulfates aren't as effective or efficient. Also, increasing one mineral is only going to lead to an increase in other minerals or an imbalance that affects the other minerals in the formula.

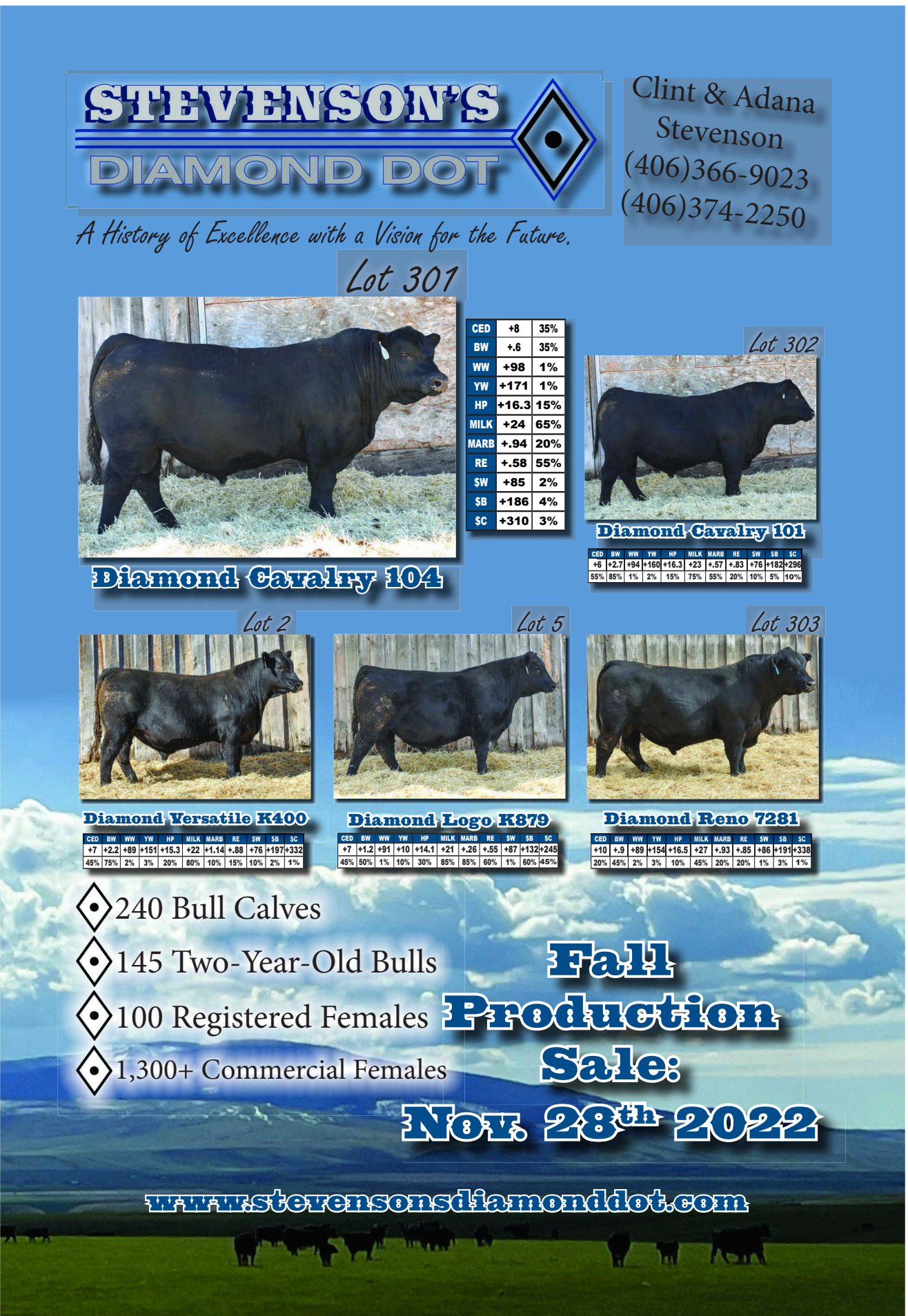
Marty also discussed the importance of protein supplementation. This summer's lack of moisture and high heat led to brown grass and a drop in protein content. A lot of forage is likely testing at only 2-6% crude protein right now, while the 7-8% range is seen as the minimum for functioning microbes in the rumen. Once protein gets below that 7-8% level, you begin to sacrifice the efficiency of the microbial population, Marty said. This leads to a drop in intake, as well as digestion and passage rate.

"I almost look at it like heterosis on the genetic side" by supplementing protein, Marty said. "You'll increase their efficiency of digestion, their passage rate and also their intake so the animals can actually get more out of the old rough forage that's left out there, and they will utilize more of it."

Supplementing more protein during the summer and starting earlier rather than later will allow producers to get more out of the feed resources they have. The same goes for coarse, low-quality grass or meadow hay, he added, because at any cost level, it is always cheaper to keep body condition on a cow in the fall than it is to try to build it back in the winter.

Marty also cautioned producers to be wary of nitrate toxicity during a drought year. He has seen extremely high nitrate levels in the past couple of years in some forages as a result of stressed plants. He recommends producers get a nitrate test on hay, especially on small grains, triticale or sorghum-Sudan type hays, because he has seen several cases of nitrate toxicity.

Marty finished by saying he views the foundation of an operation's success as being a three-legged stool: "It's genetics, it's nutrition and veterinarian health protocol, and it's management. And if all three are not working together in the right direction for an operation, no stool can stand on its own two legs; it's going to take three." — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



Ag equipment strategies get tricky in a post-pandemic world

Buy new or repair used? As input costs continue to climb in ranching and farming, producers need a smart equipment strategy.

The dealership purchase price of a new farm implement, such as a combine, can top $500,000, while a slightly used model can still carry a hefty price tag of around $150,000. Older versions with more years and hours under the hood vary widely in value.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, the value of used farming equipment skyrocketed. Farm sales, estate auctions and private treaty transactions became hotspots for buyers searching for a good deal. Gregg Pickens, owner of Pickens Auctions, said he has noticed a significant increase in auction crowds during the past couple years, including bidders in person and online.

"At an estate auction in Oklahoma earlier this spring featuring midsize farm and ranch equipment, a tractor with 1,100 hours in excellent shape brought more used than it did when the family bought it brand new," Pickens said.

Auction crowds are also growing, with buyers coming from beyond the state and region. Pickens said four-wheel drive tractors between 15 to 20 years old with less technology and fewer diesel exhaust fluid requirements are a hot commodity.

"We hosted a construction and farming auction in March where one tractor went to a buyer in Minnesota, and the other went to Pennsylvania," he said.

From used to new, dealerships like P&K Equipment in Stillwater, OK, are low on new inventory, which dropped off during the pandemic.

"Two to three years ago, we could place orders and have certain models here relatively quickly," said site manager Seth Kline. "Now, you can't even place an order with some product lines, and other models are probably a good six months out."

Some less common parts are difficult to find in stock in P&K's service department, but overall, equipment sales numbers are holding strong.

"Demand is still high. Everything coming in is going right out," Kline said. "We don't have the luxury of having a lot of stock to choose from, but if we don't have it here, we may have it somewhere else."

One advantage to purchasing new equipment versus used is the favorable financing rates and availability of parts for newer models. The reliability of a warranty is also a big factor, and as long as repairs stay within a brand's specifications, Kline said warranties are guaranteed with repairs performed by certified technicians.

Roger Sahs, an Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension specialist in agricultural economics, said the best way to determine whether to buy new equipment, purchase used equipment or repair current equipment is to keep good production and financial records. When comparing new to old, consider cost minimization.

"There are producers out there who are over-mechanized and have unproductive debt," Sahs said. "They could get by with less. They're spending too much money on owning a piece of machinery, new or used, as opposed to hiring a custom operator, which may be the least cost option."

Precision agriculture technology streamlines fieldwork, and newer implements with all the bells and whistles can address those needs. On the other hand, equipment can be retrofitted with fewer expenses if producers with smaller operations have the time and skills to make repairs themselves.

"Farmers and ranchers don't realize how much money they have wrapped up in machinery and how much it's costing them on a per acre or per hour basis," Sahs said. "They need to record costs, then compare those to custom farm and ranch rates. That will help them decide if it's better to own and operate that machine or get the job done cheaper with a custom operator."

The latest OSU Extension Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Custom Rates fact sheet provides more information on custom harvest costs. The Machinery Ownership versus Custom Harvest fact sheet, co-authored by Sahs, also offers insight on how to determine equipment needs.

While dealerships continue to play catch-up following the pandemic, industry leaders, such as Ryan Dolezal, sales manager at TractorHouse magazine, say people shouldn't expect any discounts or price drops anytime soon.

"Prices will remain strong overall due to low inventory, higher commodity prices and stressed supply chains," he said. — **OSU Extension**

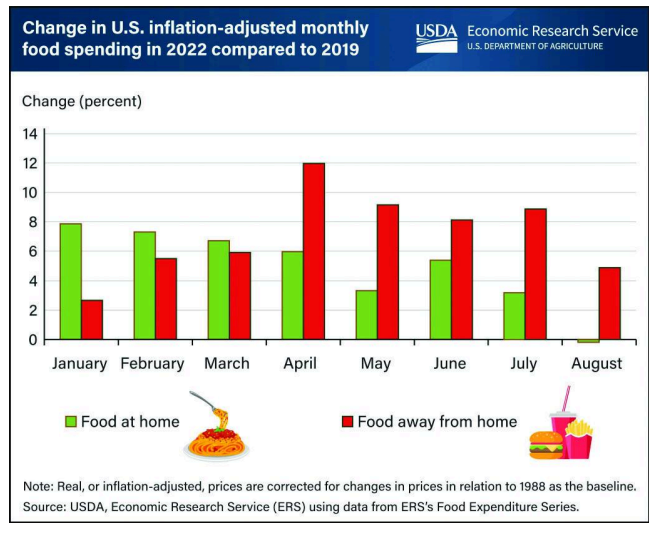
Consumers have spent more on food in 2022

— Compared to 2019

Real, or inflation-adjusted, monthly food spending in the U.S. has increased in 2022 compared to the same period in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Inflation-adjusted food spending measures the quantity of food spending after removing price increase effects.

Real monthly food-at-home spending, or food intended for off-premise consumption from retailers such as grocery stores, increased each month through August 2022 compared to 2019, except in August, with the highest increase in January, at almost 8%. This increase may be the result of U.S. consumers purchasing more foods or choosing more expensive grocery store options (such as precut vegetables and fruits, imported out-of-season foods, organic products and prepared dishes) than they did in 2019.

Real monthly food-away-from-home (FAFH) spending, or food consumed at outlets such as restaurants or cafeterias, also increased each month so far in 2022, with the highest increase in April, at 12%. Similarly, the increase seen in 2022 in real FAFH spending may be the result of U.S. consumers purchasing more FAFH in general or shifting toward more expensive options, such as foods at full-service restaurants. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



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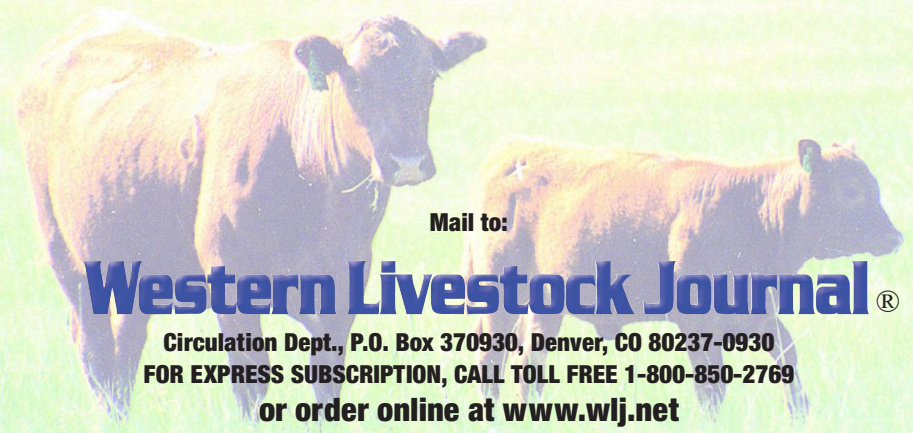

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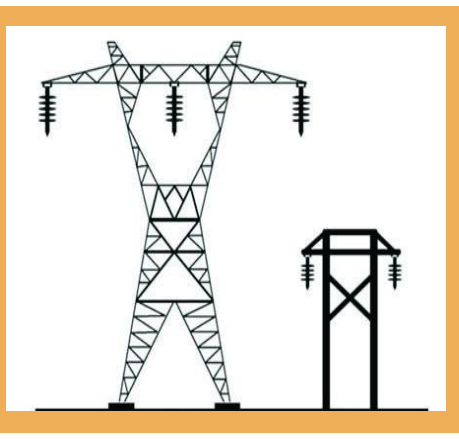

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New publication to help livestock producers manage risks

The Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University recently released a new publication to help livestock producers address a variety of risks that may affect their operations.

The new publication, "Where's the Risk?: A Livestock Risk Management Handbook," was authored by Bart Fischer, Ph.D., co-director of the AFPC in Texas A&M's Department of Agricultural Economics. Co-authors were Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., assistant professor and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist; and Amy Hagerman, Ph.D., assistant professor and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service agriculture and food policy specialist.

"Agricultural producers face a litany of risks, from natural disasters to market forces that are far beyond their control," Fischer said. "At the moment, over half the United States is facing some level of drought, and the cost of inputs (has) wreaked havoc on agricultural producers over the past year.

"Unfortunately, in particular, livestock producers historically have had few tools at their disposal for managing risk, largely relying on maintaining animal health and managing costs to stay afloat, in addition to limited use of futures and options."

He noted futures and options, exchange-traded contracts that provide price protection for cattle producers, are one risk management option.

"While use of futures and options by cattle producers continues to be quite low, a number of other risk management tools have been made available to livestock producers," Fischer said. "In this handbook, we endeavor to provide an overview of those tools."

He said while most of these tools are broadly applicable to a number of different species, the focus is primarily on cattle.

"And because livestock ownership and forage production often go hand in hand, this handbook covers both topics," Fischer said.

Publication contents

Chapters in the new 47-page publication include:

• "Programs Offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA)." This chapter addresses the variety of FSA programs available to livestock and mixed crop/livestock producers to address production risks from natural disasters. This includes programs that address the impact of adverse events on land, including the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP.)

The chapter also addresses disaster response programs that deal with adverse death loss, such as the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program, which covers losses not addressed in LFP, NAP or LIP. The chapter provides an overview of these alternatives and is intended to provide educational information for producers as of the program guidelines in 2021.

"It is important to understand these programs can and do change, and producers who are interested in participating should contact their local Farm Service Agency office to learn about current eligibility and terms," Hagerman said.

• "Programs Offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA)." Federal crop insurance, administered by RMA, provides coverage for agricultural producers, with producers paying for a share of the premium. Row crops have long been covered by multi-peril crop insurance policies, such as Revenue Protection and Yield Protection, which are familiar to crop producers.

"Under the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980, spending on livestock policies was limited to $20 million per fiscal year," Fischer said. "As a result, while RMA offered crop insurance policies for livestock producers, participation was very limited. The $20 million limitation was eliminated in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and the impact could be seen almost immediately."

For example, Fischer noted the change resulted in a drastic increase in the liability insured by livestock policies at RMA—increasing from just over $500 million in 2018 to just over $6 billion in 2019. By 2021, the liability insured by livestock policies had grown to more than $14 billion.

He noted a new policy currently under development would provide revenue coverage for weaned calves.

"One insurance product that will soon come on the market that we mention in the publication, Weaned Calf Revenue Protection, is being developed by AgriLogic here in College Station," he said.

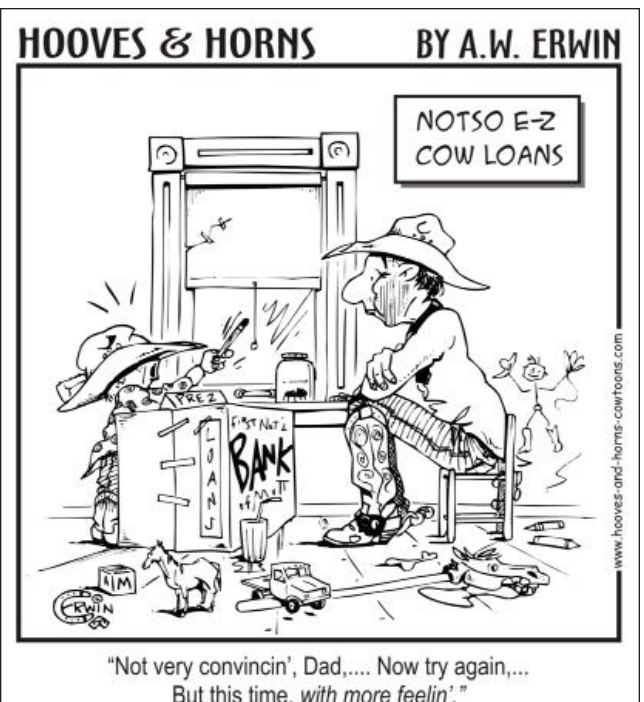
• "Risk Management Using the Futures Market." Trading futures has evolved over time to serve as a pillar of risk management in agricultural production, as well as one of agriculture's primary methods of price discovery. Futures contracts originated as a mechanism to reduce the risk of trading grains from harvest to delivery, and now futures contracts exist for a variety of commodities, including grains, livestock, energy, metals and financial derivatives that represent companies and financial instruments.

"Futures markets provide buyers and sellers of commodities with the opportunity to establish prices for future delivery," Benavidez said. "It is a means of mitigating risk through a central marketplace that serves as a clearinghouse and establishes the rules of the game for buyers and sellers."

After reviewing hedging, discussing budgets and break-even prices, and detailing the structure of futures and options contracts, this section provides brief examples of hedging strategies using futures and options, he said.

The publication also includes a checklist for producers to use in evaluating the various options at their disposal.

"Our hope is that producers will take the opportunity to avail themselves of the litany of tools that are available," Fischer said. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**





Interior warns it may impose CO River cuts

The Interior Department warned on Oct. 28 that it is initiating a revision to the current interim operating guidelines for the operation of the Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam to address the likelihood of continued low runoff conditions across the Colorado River Basin.

The announcement from Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Commissioner Camille Touton comes after the Lower and Upper Basin states on the Colorado River failed to agree on a plan by the August deadline to reduce 2-4 million acre-feet (an acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons) of water for the 2023 water year.

BOR expects to publish a draft SEIS, which will include a proposed action, by spring 2023, and a decision could come by that summer.

"Revising the current interim operating guidelines for Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams represents one of many critical departmental efforts underway to better protect the system in light of rapidly changing conditions in the Basin," Haaland said in a statement.

The BOR unveiled three options in its notice of intent.

- The first option would build on the commitments developed by the Basin states, Tribes and nongovernmental organizations as part of the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The 2019 DCP requires the Upper Basin states to maintain levels in Lake Powell through releases from upstream federal reservoirs and Lower Basin states to conserve water to maintain levels at Lake Mead.
- In the second option, BOR would impose unilateral action that it threatened during the summer. Touton said at a Senate hearing the Basin states need to adopt a plan to conserve 2-4 million acre-feet to ensure that water deliveries and hydroelectric power production are not disrupted.
- The last option would stay the course, and the Basin states would continue to operate under existing agreements. "Intensive ongoing efforts to achieve water conservation actions in the Basin are underway through a number of programs, including the recent Inflation Reduction Act," the statement read. The Inflation Reduction Act allocated $4 billion in funding for conservation measures, including the payment of up to $400 per acre for water conservation measures.

BOR published a notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the 2007 Interim Guidelines, which dictate how much water is withdrawn from Lake Mead and Lake Powell based on their current surface elevations.

BOR expects to publish a draft SEIS, which will include a proposed action, by spring 2023, and a decision could come by that summer. The public can comment on the three options through Dec. 20, but as of *WLJ* press time, information had yet to be published in the Federal Register. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

American Prairie able to graze on other allotments

BISON
(from page 1)

American Prairie is authorized to graze bison on two other allotments in the meantime.

"We would like to thank Governor (Greg) Gianforte and his administration for their leadership and continued perseverance on this issue," said Jim Steinbeisser, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) president. "We stand with the state and agree there are deficiencies within the BLM Environmental Assessment (EA) and final grazing decision. The decision to not approve grazing on the two allotments based on the BLM EA is the right decision."

Background

In late July, American Prairie was given final approval to graze bison on 63,500 acres of federal public lands in Phillips County. The final record of decision allows the group to graze bison behind fences on six BLM allotments and also allows the group to remove about 30 miles of interior fencing.

One common allotment grazed with another livestock operator would remain approved for cattle-only grazing, while seasonal grazing would be permitted on four of the allotments, and year-round grazing would be authorized on three allotments—two of which have been previously authorized for year-round grazing.

The group estimated the final decision will allow their herd of bison to grow from 800 animals to 1,000 animals by 2025. "By comparison, the majority of American Prairie's land base is leased out to local cattle ranchers and supports over 10,000 head of cattle," the group said.

In August, MSGA, two grazing districts, Gianforte and the state attorney general filed appeals on BLM's record of decision. In mid-October, an administrative judge denied their petitions for stay.

"Appellants have failed to meet their burden of demonstrating the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if a stay is not granted," Veronica Larvie, a Department of the Interior administrative law judge, wrote in the order.

"We are disappointed in this decision as we believe it is important that bison remain off the allotments until the appeal can be heard," Steinbeisser said at the time. "We know this process is a marathon and not a sprint and this hurdle will not stop us and our partners from continuing to fight for Montana ranchers who graze livestock on public land."

Earlier in October, MSGA and two Phillips County grazing districts were successful in their request to deny Western Watersheds Project's motion to intervene on the appeal.

To support MSGA's legal appeal, donations can be made at www.protectopenspaces.com. MSGA said the advocacy fund creates a collective voice for ranchers advocating for change and accountability at the state and federal levels. The fund supports issues such as promoting the benefits of cattle grazing, protecting grazing on public lands and holding agencies accountable.

"We are asking everyone who is concerned about BLM's favorable decision towards the (American Prairie) and who is passionate about public land grazing, holding federal agencies accountable, and protecting and conserving Montana's iconic open spaces to please consider donating to our advocacy fund," Steinbeisser said. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



NOAA outlook: La Niña here to stay this winter

— Drier West and South

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) late last month projected La Niña will return for the third consecutive winter, leading to drier-than-average conditions in the West and southern Plains.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. NOAA projects there is a 75% chance of La Niña starting in December and running through February and a 54% chance of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral during February-April 2023.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center predicts drier-than-average conditions across much of California, the Southwest, the southern Rockies and the southern Plains. Wetter-than-average conditions are projected for areas of the Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Great Lakes and Ohio valley. The remainder of the U.S. falls into equal chances for below-, near- or above-average seasonal total precipitation.

"This is the third time in our historical record of ENSO, which dates back to 1950, that we have had three La Niña winters in a row."

Due to La Niña conditions, extreme drought will continue to persist across much of the West, the Great Basin and the central to southern Great Plains. Drought conditions are expected to improve across the northwestern U.S. over the coming months.

"Drought conditions are now present across approximately 59% of the country, but parts of the western U.S and southern Great Plains will continue to be the hardest hit this winter," said Jon Gottschalck, chief of the Climate Prediction Center's Operational Prediction Branch. "With the La Niña climate pattern still in place, drought conditions may also expand to the Gulf Coast."

Temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average in the central Great Basin, in the Southwest and through the southern Plains and lower than average in the Northwest.

"When you combine the characteristic temperature pattern of La Niña with recent trends, you end up with a warmer-than-average pattern during November-January over nearly the entire contiguous U.S.," NOAA wrote in the ENSO blog. "Also, the southern plains tend to be drier than average, with more rain and snow falling in the northwest."

This La Niña began in September 2020 and will be the third consecutive winter of La Niña conditions.

"Call it what you like—triple-dip, three-peat, three-bean salad—we are facing the third La Niña winter in a row," NOAA wrote. "This is the third time in our historical record of ENSO, which dates back to 1950, that we have had three La Niña winters in a row. The other stretches were 1973-1976 and 1998-2001."

There may be some good news, as Australia's Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a "return to ENSO-neutral in early 2023." ENSO-neutral typically marks a transition from La Niña to El Niño, when ocean temperatures and atmospheric winds over the Pacific Ocean are near their long-term average. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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89	Angus Heifers	AI	Bull Calves	Feb. 9-13	King Air
89	Angus Heifers	AI	Heifer Calves	Feb. 9-13	King Air
81	Angus Heifers	AI	Bull Calves	Feb. 20-23	Vermilion Leo
68	Angus Heifers	AI	Heifer Calves	Feb. 20-23	Vermilion Leo
67	Angus Heifers	AI	Bull Calves	Feb. 24-26	King Air
59	Angus Heifers	AI	Heifer Calves	Feb. 24-26	King Air
135	Angus Heifers	AI	Bull Calves	March 9-12	King Air
154	Angus Heifers	AI	Heifer Calves	March 9-12	King Air
65	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	March 1-31	LBW Vermilion Bulls
212	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	March 1-31	King Air & Bomber Sons
90	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	March 17-31	King Air Sons
24	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	March 21-31	Bomber Sons
38	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	April 1-30	LBW Vermilion Bulls
109	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	April 1-30	Bomber Sons
68	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	April 1-30	King Air Sons
86	Angus Heifers	Pasture Bred	Mixed Sex	April 1-30	King Air & Bomber Sons

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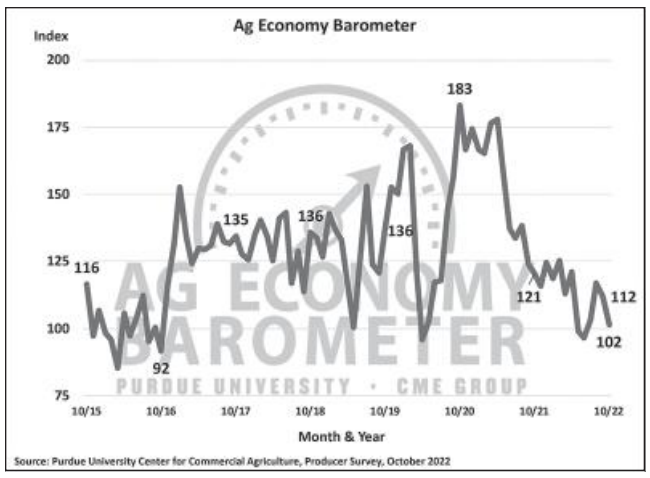
Producers express concern about interest rate policy

Farmer sentiment weakened again in October as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer dropped 10 points to a reading of 102. Both of the barometer's subindexes also declined this month. The Current Conditions Index dipped 8 points to a reading of 101, while the Future Expectations Index dropped 11 points to a reading of 102. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. October's survey was conducted Oct. 10-14.

"Concern over rising interest rates grew once again in October and is adding to the unease among producers who are worried about its impact on their farm operations," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

"Additionally, challenging shipping conditions throughout the Mississippi River valley have hampered exports recently, and the corresponding widespread weakening of corn and soybean basis levels could be contributing to heightened unease about financial performance."



Producers' concerns about the financial performance of their farms were one of the primary drivers of weakening sentiment in October. The Farm Financial Performance Index fell 13 points this month to 86 and was a distillation of producers' concerns about high input costs combined with weaker commodity prices. Looking ahead to next year, over 40% of producers viewed high input costs as their top concern, followed by 21% who chose rising interest rates, 13% who chose lower output prices and 13% who chose input availability.

After dipping to a new record low last month, the Farm Capital Investment Index improved 7 points this month to a reading of 38. Producers who viewed this as a bad time for large investments revealed that increasing prices for farm machinery and new construction (40% of respondents) were the primary reason for their negative outlook, followed by rising interest rates (20%) and uncertainty about farm profitability (17%).

Producers' expectations for short- and long-term farmland values rose this month. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectation Index rose 10 points to a reading of 133, while the Long-Term Farmland Value Expectation Index rose 5 points to 144. The strength in both indexes comes on the heels of reports from farmland auctions around the Corn Belt that land values are setting new record highs again this fall. Even with this month's rise, both indexes remain weaker than a year earlier. The short-term index was 15% lower, and the long-term index was 11% lower than in October 2021.

Farm policy discussions are underway as Congress prepares for debate on a new farm bill in 2023. As a result, several farm policy related questions were included in this month's barometer survey. Crop producers were asked which two policies or programs would be most important to their farm in the upcoming five years. More than one-third (36%) of crop producers chose interest rate policy as the most important policy issue for their farming operation, followed by the crop insurance program (27%), environmental policy (16%), conservation policy (11%) and climate policy (10%). When asked how effective the current Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs are at providing a financial safety net, 72% of respondents rated the two programs as either "somewhat effective" (61%) or "very effective" (11%). When the same question was posed relative to crop insurance, 84% of respondents rated them as either "somewhat effective" (56%) or "very effective" (28%). — **Purdue University**

Program provides funds for farmers to install tractor safety equipment

A Kansas State (K-State) University official says a program that offers rebates to farmers could help "close the gap" on more Kansans installing safety kits on tractors and other equipment—and, more importantly, save lives.

Tawnie Larson, state coordinator of the National Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program, said an estimated 30,000 Kansas farms—nearly one-half—have at least one tractor without the available safety features.

Roll bars, often known as ROPS, are a piece of equipment that can be used to prevent serious injury or death if a tractor overturns.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the tractor is the leading cause of death on the farm. Larson said the most frequent causes of tractor-related deaths are side and rear overturns.

"With tractor rollovers being a significant source of injuries, it just makes sense to install rollover protection on all unprotected tractors," said Aaron Yoder, research director with the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

Larson said it is not the untrained or inexperienced that are overturning the most tractors.

Ten percent of operators will overturn a tractor in their lifetime, and 80% of rollovers happen to experienced equipment operators. "These rollovers take a toll on rural communities by often taking a valued part of the community away," she said.

Rollovers are more likely to occur as a result of tractors operating on excessive slopes, improper hitching of towed

"With tractor rollovers being a significant source of injuries, it just makes sense to install rollover protection on all unprotected tractors."

"If an operator has a tractor that does not have a ROPS device, they can contact their implement dealer to inquire about the cost and installation of the equipment," Larson said. "Yet most producers do not seek the aftermarket equipment."

Larson said ROPS kits typically cost $1,200, but the National ROPS Rebate Program can provide as much as a 70% rebate to eligible farmers—meaning the actual cost is usually less than $400.

"Awareness and education of the safety features of ROPS and now the possibility of a statewide program that offers rebates to producers may close the gap on more Kansans installing ROPS and saving lives," Larson said.

Several states already offer a rebate program for ROPS installation, according to Larson. Kansas, Missouri and Iowa are currently working with the National ROPS Rebate Program to seek funding to offer this nationally proven program that could make a significant difference in reducing tractor overturns. The program's goal is to have a ROPS installed on at least one tractor in each operation.

equipment, hitching tow chains or tow straps too high on the rear of the tractor, and excessive speed when turning a tractor.

Older models have a high center of gravity, which makes them unstable—a factor that can result in the driver being thrown from the tractor and crushed under it.

Yoder said tractor rollovers are avoidable. According to the National ROPS Rebate Program, ROPS are designed to create a protective zone around the operator when a rollover occurs. The use of ROPS and a seatbelt is estimated to be 99% effective in preventing serious injury in the event of a tractor overturn.

Safety equipment also helps to protect the business; Yoder notes that an estimated 70% of farms go out of business within five years of an overturn fatality, and the direct and indirect cost to a family and farm when a death occurs is more than $775,000.

"This estimate only includes medical, benefits and production costs and cannot account for the emotional loss of a family member or worker," Larson said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



Student research details top challenges for bison management

Perry Barboza, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research professor in the departments of Ecology and Conservation Biology and Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, said research into the sustainability of bison in Texas for production and conservation is focused on addressing basic challenges and establishing foundational knowledge.

Barboza has supervised student research related to bison, a species that once ranged the length of the Great Plains, within the two departments in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Bison could become an increasingly important animal option for Texas ranchers, but for now, they represent a niche opportunity, he said. Meat commands a premium—around $9 per pound for ground bison—but production is limited by problems ranging from parasites and disease to temperament.

Most bison are marketed as yearlings between 300-500 lbs., Barboza said. This makes each animal's body condition and maximizing daily weight gain vitally important for producers.

Many of the early projects conducted by undergraduate and graduate students were designed to answer basic questions related to bison management under production conditions.

"There is the possibility of using bison more than cattle if enterprises want to use them at lower stocking rates and to increase the diversity of pasture," he said. "Bison are much more tolerant of drought, so an operation might run separate herds of cattle and bison to balance the economic and ecological goals for the rancher."

Bison research on parasites

Widespread adoption of bison as a livestock production option hinges on researchers like Barboza identifying scientific methodologies to make them a sustainable addition to Texas ranching operations. Internal and external parasites are a major problem, especially in regions with moisture.

"There are some realities we need to address from conservation and production perspectives when it comes to sustainability of bison in Texas," Barboza said. "We're still moving through the basics, but every step we take is helping us better understand the challenges and develop strategies or define limitations."

Blood-feeding insects like flies can directly injure bison, but they can also act as a vector for pathogens, he said. Researchers are not yet certain exactly which species of flies are attracted to bison in Texas, which means there is no reliable means of treating them.

Bison are also difficult to treat for topical pesticides, he said. They are generally more difficult to handle and manage, and their temperament adds another challenge for producers.

A few of Barboza's students have engaged with local ranches with bison to study their body condition scores, the negative impacts of blood-feeding flies and whether bat colonies could be an effective way to control fly populations.

Bridgett Benedict, a graduate student in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, has studied the impacts of flies on northern ungulates, including moose and bison. Her work, "Adverse effects of Diptera flies on northern ungulates: Rangifer, Alces, and Bison," published in Mammal Review, investigated the cumulative damage of bites and vector-borne diseases in relation to body condition and exposure to pests.



Texas A&M AgriLife/Sam Craft

Researchers are studying the sustainability of bison for conservation and ranching production in Texas.

Benedict's work helped lay the groundwork for understanding how flies could impact production, including body conditions and daily weight gains, Barboza said.

Another study by an undergraduate student in the department, Wyatt Stinebaugh, branched from Benedict's research. It focused on whether bats might share a commensal relationship with bison, which might make introduced bat colonies a biological method to control fly populations.

Stinebaugh used acoustic monitoring equipment at seven sites—two with bison present, one site with cattle and four control sites with no bovids present—between March and November 2021. Insects were also trapped at the sites from March to May 2021.

The study did not find a commensal connection between bats and bison or conclude that bats would be an effective control method, but bat colonies near sites with bison and cattle could help keep swarming events in check.

Temperatures also play a factor in the negative impacts pests inflict on bison, Barboza said. Insect activities related to the environment and weather conditions in Texas make insects a nearly year-round problem.

"Some flies are opening the wound up, and some are keeping it open, and some are living on the animal and rarely let go," Barboza said. "We're looking to get the animals to a body condition score sweet spot and provide the solutions to keep them there with some combination of diet, insect control and parasite treatment."

Adaptations to southern climates

Much of the research has been in cooperation with the Texas Bison Association and National Bison Association and other laboratories and researchers at Texas A&M, including the Department of Entomology and the Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

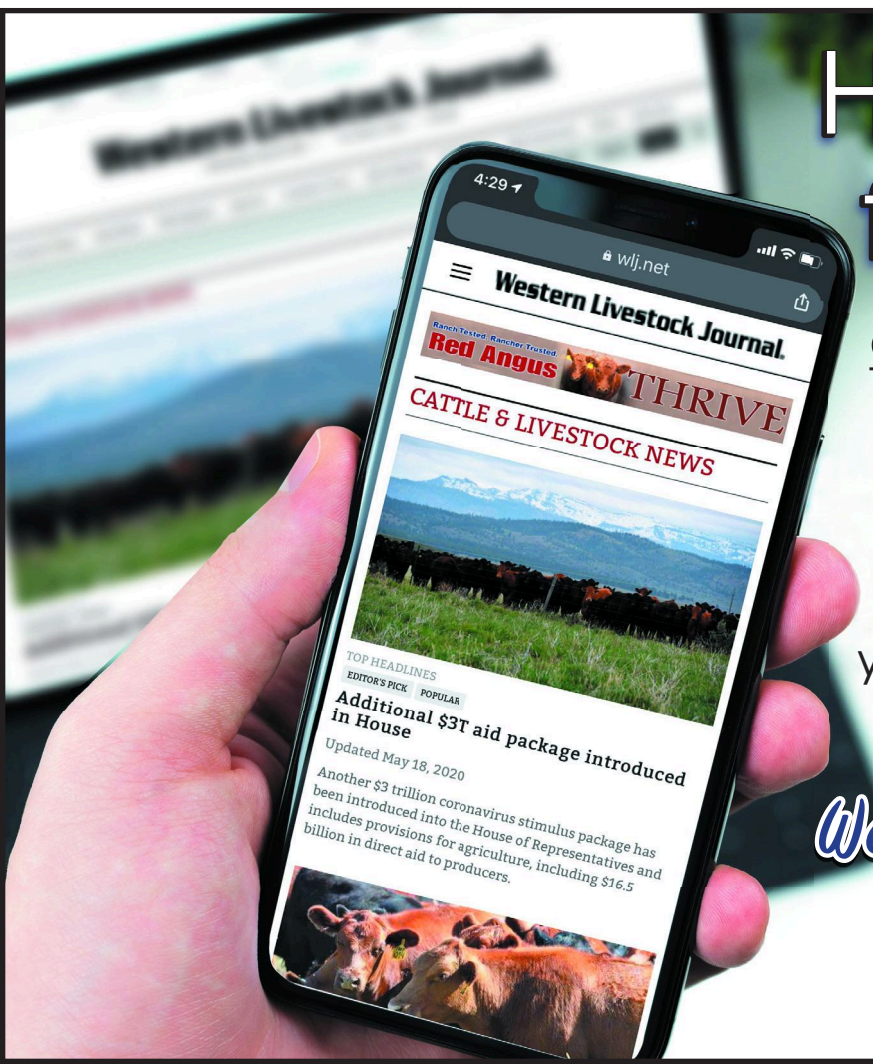
Barboza said the work will be critical for reestablishing bison herds in Texas. Most bison come from northern states like the Dakotas and are acclimated to cooler climates, pests and diseases there.

The loss of southern-adapted bison phenotypes is a hurdle researchers will continue to address. The Great Plains once supported 30 million to 50 million bison, including those that adapted better to southern climates and the pests that thrive in them.

Research and breeding programs could help bison establish new adaptations as bison are selected for attributes better suited for Texas and production, including temperament and parasites, he said.

"Bison is still a niche market, so it is tough for small producers to find value and reliability and consistent performance under normal conditions," Barboza said. "Bison can tolerate a lot of things if we can get past issues with diet, insects and parasites." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**





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Advances in automatic forest mapping technology

How lightning travels from the sky to the ground inspired the concept behind a new algorithmic approach to digitally separating individual trees from their forests in automatic forest mapping.

"When lightning travels from the sky to the ground, it finds the path of least resistance through the atmosphere," said Joshua Carpenter, a Ph.D. student in Purdue's Lyles School of Civil Engineering. That led him to think the same way of his digital forest data, or point cloud.

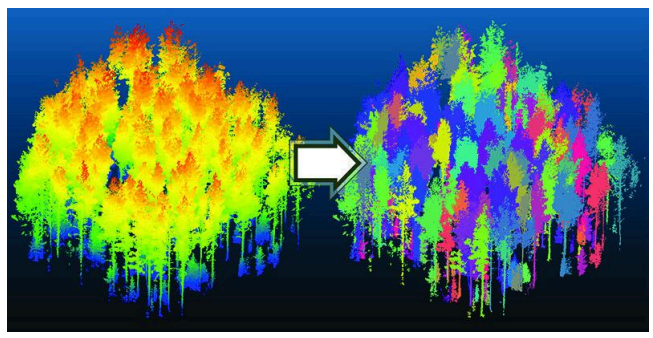
"If I could somehow treat all of the points in this point cloud like a path of least resistance, that will tell me something about where the tree is located," Carpenter said. The concept also works from a plant biology standpoint.

"Every leaf in a tree needs to be supplied with nutrients, and nutrients come from the ground. So, we find the shortest route for tree nutrients from the canopy down to the ground."

Carpenter and four Purdue co-authors published the details of their mapping methods recently in the journal Remote Sensing. The approach means the difference between mapping a few trees and mapping hundreds of acres at a time quickly and with high accuracy. It also could lead to making digital twins of forests, which could improve management planning in the face of climate change, disease outbreaks and population growth.

The work was partially supported by Purdue's Integrated Digital Forestry Initiative. This initiative, one of the five strategic investments in Purdue's Next Moves, leverages digital technology and multidisciplinary expertise to measure, monitor and manage urban and rural forests to maximize social, economic and ecological benefits.

"We developed a new individual tree segmentation algorithm that can be used to do tree inventory for large areas," said article co-author Jinha Jung, assistant professor of civil engineering. Carpenter is a member of Jung's Geospatial Data Science Laboratory, which specializes in mapping and measurement.



Joshua Carpenter

This image shows the input and output data of the tree segmentation algorithm. The input data (left) is colored by elevation. The results of the algorithm (right) use color to segment each tree from the point cloud.

"Another contribution of this paper is how to evaluate the performance of the segmentation algorithm with data collected from the ground," Jung said.

The algorithm has proven more highly accurate according to most metrics, often by a wide margin, when compared to the current methods. Validation involves directly tagging and measuring individual trees in the field to correlate with light detection and ranging (lidar) data collected at the ground level and aerially at different times of the year to capture trees that are leafy and leafless.

The team is still addressing issues arising from their three data collection methods: photogrammetry (creating 3D imagery from 2D photographs) and two types of lidar (aerial and ground-based).

Data in the point cloud has the same structure, but the data from each method contains different anomalies. One might capture tree canopy top details quite well but miss elements of the trunk and vice versa. Sometimes features in the landscape block data collection too.

"The goal is to use all of the different point clouds that are available to make a flexible algorithm," Carpenter explained. "But coming up with a method to work with each of the specific anomalies is challenging."

Working in the 400-acre Martell Forest about 8 miles east of campus, the Purdue team continues to broaden the scope of its technology.

"How can we get from several hundred acres to several thousand or several hundred thousand and then to every tree on the planet? That's the future," said article co-author Songlin Fei, professor and Dean's Chair of Remote Sensing in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. "The issue is how to scale it up."

Taking inventory requires tedious fieldwork to sample 5% or 10% of an area. "A 100% inventory has never been an option. This paper is demonstrating technologies that allow a census of every single tree. We're talking about a tremendous leap," Fei said.

The Remote Sensing paper focuses on forest mapping, but more algorithms will be needed to achieve complete inventories.

"We can do diameter measurements with this data. But how about other key inventory features, like straightness, timber grade or species identification? Those are yet to be accomplished," Fei said.

The technologies now make it possible to produce a digital twin of an entire forest to see the potential effects of an ice storm or high winds.

"If you do a forest management plan, you cannot just harvest the trees and see how it looks," Fei noted. "But in the digital world, you can cut any tree you want, and you can put it back. That allows you to do simulations and better management planning."

In recent decades, geospatial data has vastly increased agricultural production. The Purdue researchers seek to do the same for forestry, a source of important raw materials for construction and fuel. Catastrophic wildfires and invasive species that have wiped out large stands of American chestnut and ash trees have drawn attention to the importance of forests.

"We have applied all these technologies successfully to agriculture," Carpenter said. "But other domains now need our attention." — **Purdue University Extension**



Nominations now open for 2023 ESAP

Applications are being accepted until March 10, 2023, for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award. Established in 1991, the Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) annually recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of cattle producers across the nation.

"Cattle producers, as individuals and as an industry, are actively working to protect and improve the environment because they know environmental stewardship and good business go hand in hand," said NCBA President Don Schiefelbein. "A common trait among all ESAP winners is the desire to leave the land in better condition for future generations and inspire the next generation of land stewards."

Any individual, group or organization is eligible to nominate one individual or business raising or feeding cattle. Individuals and families may not nominate themselves, although nominees may be involved in the preparation of the application. Past nominees are encouraged to resubmit applications; however, previous winners may not reapply.

A typed application, one nomination letter and three letters of recommendation highlighting the nominee's leadership in conservation are required. Nominees do not have to be members of NCBA but should support the objectives of their state and national organizations.

Award winners are selected by a committee of representatives from universities, conservation organizations and federal and state agencies. For guidance, the judges consider the management of water, wildlife, vegetation, air and soil, along with leadership abilities and the sustainability of the business.

Seven regional winners will be recognized at the 2024 Cattle Industry Convention in Orlando, FL, in February 2024, and the national winner will be announced at the Celebration of America's Land Stewards Event in Washington, D.C., in spring 2024. Travel and registration are provided by ESAP for winners.

ESAP is an initiative of the NCBA and the National Cattlemen's Foundation and is funded by Corteva Agriscience, McDonald's and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA, along with a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information and to download the nomination packet, visit www.environmentalstewardship.org. — **NCBA**

COMING EVENTS

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

Nov. 10-12 – The Washington Cattlemen's Association and Washington CattleWomen's Convention and Trade Show will be held in Wenatchee, WA. Registration: bit.ly/3Scywpy. The host hotel will be the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Call 509-662-1234 to get the convention group rate.

Corrientes keep the Purdy Ranch running

It's been said that tough times don't last, but tough people do. So what about wild, uncertain and just plain crazy times?

In times like these, it's the people willing to embrace change and think about ranching in nontraditional ways who will survive. Are they wild and crazy? Not likely. What is likely is that history will look back at this era in the beef business and frame people like Jim Purdy and J.R. Crozier as forward thinkers willing to take a risk and change to meet a new and shifting dynamic.

So, in 2020, Purdy looked to Crozier for something different, and they decided on Corrientes. Yes, Corrientes, the multicolored cattle that team ropers love.

Purdy owns Purdy Ranch, headquartered near Buffalo, WY, which encompasses around 20,000 deeded acres along with around 5,000 acres of state and federal grazing permits at the base of the Bighorn Mountains. Crozier is the ranch manager. Purdy was born on the ranch that his great-uncle on his mom's side started in the 1880s.

Changing with the times

According to Purdy, the ranch had traditionally run around 400 Angus cows bred to Hereford bulls. But the country is rocky and rough and cold in the winter, and the cows never seemed satisfied—even eating 1 to 1.5 tons of hay per cow per season along with protein cubes.

So he looked for something different and decided Corrientes were the answer. "The terrain and the topography, it kind of necessitated a change to the Corriente cattle. They're four-wheel drive cows. They'll go anywhere," Purdy said. "Some of the other cattle didn't find roaming large, rough pastures quite as much fun."

They aren't raising roping steers, however. When they sold the Angus cows, they kept the Hereford bulls and now are producing half-bloods. Ultimately, their goal is to develop their own line of branded beef. "That's our target, but we're a year or two away from getting there I think," Crozier surmised.

In the meantime, "We're thinking we're going to keep the biggest end of those calves right here and go on grass with them," Crozier said. "We don't have all of those parts worked out yet, but we're trying to stay as natural as we can."

However, producing grass-fed cattle from pasture to plate will change their grazing scheme, he said. "The optimum would be to keep them on grass they are born and raised on and grow them on the range. That's going to take a lot of pasture," he said. Although they would prefer to keep everything inside their fences, "We might have to work something out with a feedlot or a place to feed them."

Forward thinking

While forward thinking is the hallmark of Purdy Ranch, in many ways, the ranch is a traditional western operation. The ranch is split in two, with the homeplace on the bottom end at about 5,000 feet. Summer pasture in the Bighorn Mountains is about 7,500 to 8,000 feet. As the crow flies, the two are about 4 miles apart. On the ground over rough country, it's closer to 15.

Traditionally, they would trail the cattle on horseback to summer range at the end of June and trail them home again, usually around the middle of October. The past few years, however, they started trucking the pairs to summer pasture.

"In the past, when we had the beef cows, we would wean them on the mountain and would ship from



Courtesy photo

Corriente cattle on the Purdy Ranch near Buffalo, WY.

right there," Purdy said. Now, with the Corriente half-bloods, they sort the calves off the cows on the mountain and truck them to hay meadows at the homeplace for weaning. The cows stay uphill for another 30 to 45 days, and then they are trailed home.

In 2021, the first year they had the Hereford-Corriente cross calves, Crozier estimates the calves weaned around 350 to 400 pounds on Sept. 20. Keep in mind, however, that Corriente cows aren't very big. "That's half the weight of the cow," Purdy said.

In an effort to ranch in sync with nature, they'll move their calving period, which traditionally began April 15, to May 1 in 2023.

Forward thinking doesn't just apply to the type of cattle they raise. It also applies to their mineral program.

In the cold and snow of a Wyoming winter, the beef cows always lost condition, even while eating a lot of hay. "We started doing some research, found Riomax (and) talked to some folks," Purdy recalls. "We made a decision to try it."

Making a difference

They bought a load of the orange tubs in 2018 and put them in front of their Angus cows. "And in about 10 days, we could start to see a difference in the cows," Crozier said. They cut feed consumption by around 10 lbs. a day, "and our cows put on condition and they were actually satisfied." This was in January and February.

What's more, they discovered they didn't need to feed the protein cubes any longer. "We had 400 Angus cows, and we paid for the tub, plus saved $5,000 a month in feed costs. And we did that for four months in a row," he said.

Typical consumption per day of Riomax is around a quarter of a pound. The Corrientes are consuming half that, Crozier said. Between a smaller animal and the Riomax, "We wintered those cows on a third of a ton of hay last winter (2021) versus feeding a ton and a half normally (to the larger beef cows) on the same footprint of country," Crozier said. And with smaller cattle, they're able to run more animals in a pasture.

Summer grazing is another place where they've seen the benefits of Riomax. "We left probably half in the pastures on the mountain (in 2022), where traditionally in the past, I don't think we did."

In addition to adding Riomax to their management, they tried Rhyzogreen the summer of 2022 on their hay ground. "Coming out of a tough year and another so-so year, we had about a 15-18% increase on tonnage," Crozier said.

The tried and true

Purdy Ranch now keeps Riomax tubs out all year. "We know it works; we've seen the results and benefit of it," Crozier said. "It helps us utilize the forage, number one, but (there are) other cost benefits—cow retention, the bulls testing good, health on the calves. We found it to be very beneficial to our operation."

Purdy agrees: "Looking at the bottom line and trying to make it better, we've made a lot of changes. The one change we did not make was our mineral program. Because we believe in Riomax." — **Burt Rutherford for Riomax**

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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

	This Week: 11/3/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	151.79	▲	150.49	128.10
CME Feeder Index	177.63	▲	174.78	155.81
Boxed Beef Average	265.18	▲	262.49	290.22
Average Dressed Steers	242.47	▲	236.00	201.93
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,380	▲	1,370	1,467
Weekly Slaughter**	668,000	▲	673,000	668,000
Weekly Beef Production***	554.0	▼	557.4	555.6
Hide/Offal Value	14.88	▲	13.92	16.31
Corn Price	6.80	▼	6.83	5.60

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef

WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
October 28	6,818	255.28	187	339.98	1,172	263.48	2,139	253.54	806	224.71	2,515	214.95
October 21	7,214	249.24	225	336.59	1,359	257.01	2,239	247.85	932	219.40	2,461	207.15
October 14	7,298	244.51	199	337.32	1,347	253.86	2,190	245.11	946	217.95	2,616	204.96
October 7	6,840	246.02	180	335.50	1,182	252.93	1,954	244.77	938	219.65	2,586	207.02

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Nov 3	265.18	233.06	194.72	68.44	242.98
Nov 2	263.47	233.16	195.38	75.22	242.82
Nov 1	262.63	232.73	197.63	75.25	248.03
Oct 31	263.65	234.46	198.60	N/A	248.13
Oct 28	263.26	234.49	199.23	66.95	249.09

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	10/28	10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	High*	Low*
Oct.	15038	14678	N/A	N/A	N/A	15168	12525
Dec.	15300	15248	15195	15140	15195	15413	13055
Feb.	15633	15583	15525	15490	15488	15703	14003
Apr.	15923	15908	15888	15850	15830	15958	15388

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	10/28	10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	High*	Low*
Nov.	17788	17763	17693	17893	17800	18610	16373
Jan.	18038	17945	17820	18000	17943	18703	16958
Mar.	18258	18158	18070	18193	18178	18748	17595
Apr.	18648	18553	18430	18518	18475	18648	18430

*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	9,351	1,480	151.79
Live FOB Heifer	1,883	1,333	150.87
Dressed Del Steer	2,051	957	242.47
Dressed Del Heifer	833	862	242.35
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	4,294	1,454	150.49
Live FOB Heifer	1,109	1,315	150.91
Dressed Del Steer	205	1,024	236.00
Dressed Del Heifer	140	827	236.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	10,490	1,467	128.10
Live FOB Heifer	3,108	1,320	127.63
Dressed Del Steer	5,092	993	201.93
Dressed Del Heifer	1,647	863	201.48

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 30

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	27,786	4,663
Formula	275,098	1,693
Negotiated Cash	89,015	184
Negotiated Grid	50,496	206
Packer Owned	10,119	0
Total	**452,487**	**6,746**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS

Delivery Month	
Oct. '22	146,707
Nov. '22	154,544
Dec. '22	113,413
Jan. '22	117,028
Feb. '23	86,391

FORWARD BEEF SALES

Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,703
Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,129
Formula sales	3,671
Forward contract sales	315
Domestic sales	5,917
NAFTA Exports	124

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	131.31	-1.00
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	131.61	-0.72
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	130.41	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	76.41	+2.03

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, October 21, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	193.90	191.65	187.55
601-700 lbs	185.31	185.81	178.03
701-800 lbs	180.03	181.26	170.00
801-900 lbs	173.17	174.34	179.85
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	173.72	171.57	167.59
501-600 lbs	164.36	163.17	161.21
601-700 lbs	160.28	158.66	153.15
701-800 lbs	157.49	153.34	150.56

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
	10/29/22	10/22/22		
Feeders	16,700	12,290	637,312	874,266

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, October 28, 2022

Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 13,000 **Week Ago Act: 11,358** **Year Ago Act: 18,162**

Compared to last week, steer calves under 400 lbs sold 5.00 higher; steer calves and yearlings over 400 lbs sold steady to weak.Heifers steady to 1.00 higher. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good.The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 193.00-215; 400-500 lbs 178.00-194.00, few 195.00; 500-600 lbs 163.00-180.00; 600-700lbs 155.00-165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 178.00-200.00; 400-500 lbs 163.00-179.00; 500-600 lbs 148.00-165.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 165.00-183.00, few185.00; 400-500 lbs 155.00-173.00, few 175.00; 500-600 lbs 145.00-163.00,few 165.00; 600-700 lbs 135.00-153.00, few 155.00.

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

Selected Auction — Week Ending November 3, 2022

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

STEERS / HEIFERS

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 28 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		175-214 145-178	170-210 145-181	155-200 145-169	150-177 140-162	140-166 140-157		58-80 73-100		NORTHWEST
October 27 Burley, ID	672		202	194.50-229 164-174	176-202 169.50-171	168.50-176.25 163-165	65-77 84.50-90.50	142			
No report available Emmett, ID											
October 29 Eugene, OR	937		140-160* 130-156*	145-164* 130-149*	140-185* 130-151*	140-156* 105-127.50*	130-145* 110-135*		68-80 80-106	625-1,260	
October 31 Madras, OR	1,406		200-220 186-196	200-225 180-198	182-214.50 150-180	169-179 155-167	166-177.50 148-160	145-155 125-150	65-82 80-97		
October 26 Vale, OR	718			157-170	174-191 154-168	167-185 151-172	163-176 149-168	160-170.50	71-82.50 81-102		
October 31 Davenport, WA	848		81-219 135-170	140-211 109-166.50	140-182 124-160	130-169 87-156	138.50-159 119-151	68-154 123-140	41-83 79-116.50		
October 27 Toppenish, WA	1,900			170*	180-186* 155-157.50*	140-156*			60-81 89-108.50	1,250-1,500	
No report available Orland, CA											FARWEST
October 31 Escalon, CA	N/A		145-174 125-156		125-161 120-153		120-146 100-135	100-125 95-115	60-71 80-100	800-1,300 700-1,300	
October 24 Famoso, CA	806		150-200 125-199	140-210 150-187	130-186 150-184	150-181 140-167	150	130-150	70-105 85-108		
November 2 Galt, CA	1,660			170-210 150-183	165-203 140-172	145-182 140-165	140-170 125-162	140-169	50-87 90-118	1,600-1,800	
November 1 Turlock, CA	877		160-185	180-214 155-178	175-200 151-169	150-169 140-151	147-160 124-134	142-161	60-77.75 81-100		
October 25 Salina, UT	2,359	180-232.50 180-212.50	175-240 160-210	165-227 150-192.50	160-218 145-177.50	152-195 142-176	145-171.50 135-158	122-169 122.75-156	53.25-84.25 53.25-139		
October 31 Iowa	9,308	265 206	227-249 182.50-214	200-250 160-213	181-228.50 157-198.50	160-213.50 155-191.25	155-196 155-180.50	140-182 128-170.25	68-120 60-105		NORTH CENTRAL
November 1 Miles City, MT	4,493		250-270 215-240	205.50-257 189-219	196-211 186-205	182-202 174		165-170.50	59-77.75 72-102.50	1,125	
November 2 Bassett, NE	2,345		230-236 216-220.50	221.50-250 195-216	198-230.50 180-202.50	196.50-211 175-187.50	193	156-173.75			
October 29 Ericson, NE	3,810		245-265 209.50-232.50	216-269 188-215	189-241.50 176-202.50	183-214 176-181.25					
No report available Imperial, NE											
November 2 Kearney, NE	2,540		220	220-233 192-215	199-219 165-191	187.50-210 171-182.75	179-182 174.50-178.25	168-183 162-169	75-92.25 87-108.50		
October 28 Lexington, NE	3,137		198.50-202	209-233 183.50-206	197.75-221 175-190	185-209 170.50-184	181-193.25 170.50-171.50	154.50-166			
October 27 Ogallala, NE	5,005		237.50-276 213-246	210.50-258 190-216.50	185-231 176-209	172.50-203.50 155.50-173.50		163-164.50			
October 27 Valentine, NE	3,940		265-270 212-233	232-270 197-213	206-234 180-203.50	200-220 173-180	191.50-193 181.25	160-210 169.50-186			
October 28 Herreid, SD	2,520		250	245.50 184-200	200-233.50 183.50-193	183.75-215.25 182.50-190	181 173-180	176.75-194 170.50-178			
November 2 Torrington, WY	5,408		249-260 208-218	219-244 189-209	196-228 172-198	178-190 173-178	171-178 178-184	160-178 154-180			
October 27 Willcox, AZ	1,676	193-204 174-187	173-212 159-187.50	175-193.50 152-172	170.25-185.25 136-159	141-159.50 129-145.50			68-89.50 80-98	1,225-1,400 900-1,400	SOUTH CENTRAL
October 31 Colorado	11,568		202.50-230 176-214	186-242.50 160-202	175-220.50 156-187	167-197 151-173	161-181.50 140-169.50	132-177.25 128-163.50	38-93 65-119	925-1,235	
October 26 La Junta, CO	3,309		200-219 170-185	181-206 160-176	175-194 151-168	166-185 154-167	166-175 157-168	165.50-173.50 155-163.50	62-86 86-100	1,065-1,400	
October 31 Loma, CO	1,359								74-88 92.50-95		
November 2 Dodge City, KS	3,978	192.50-212.50 195	182-211 151-197.50	187.50-217 148-190	184-202 154-174	176.75-185 159-175.25	175-182 166.50-174.25	158-182.50 148-158.85	61-84 86-101.50	700-1,075	
November 3 Pratt, KS	3,000		171-176.50	186-226 160-181.75	160-213 161-183.50	174-194 157-166	161-179.50 160-174.50	161-190 151-171			
No report available Salina, KS											
November 3 Clovis, NM	2,986	227-234	199-233 185-217	185-225 164.50-190	176-196 149-176	152-177.50 130-167	137-166 130-150	117-165 116-130	57.50-76 74.50-94.50	900-1,575 600-1,375	
November 2 El Reno, OK	8,239	230 192.50	215-242.50 173-210	185-232 160-187	169-202 156-180	168-185 153-180	175-184.50 163.50-171	171.50-181 153.50-162			
November 2 McAlester, OK	1,975		208-227 170-187	194-214 152-174	184-200 150-172	168-193 136-154	146-165 125-143	141-145 110-127	61-79 85-102	785-975 725-1,075	
October 31 Oklahoma City, OK	6,500	211 189	194-227 173-194	190-217 160-176	177-211 157-175	168-190.25 151-170	170-179.50 159-169	167-179 156			
October 28 Cuero, TX	1,938	144-178 94-170	140-198 126-170	145-190 131-177	148-176 138-168	139-158 129-152	139-146 128-147		45-74 78-95		
October 27 Dalhart, TX	1,916		222 185	172-208	184-192 156-175	157-180 149-167	169.50-176.50	168.50-173.50	54.50-84 88-93	885	
October 27 San Angelo, TX	1,215	145-213	160-219 152-172	161-197 152-159	151-179 140-158	147-169 140-146	148-156 124-137		42-73 74.50-93	800-1,150 1,050-1,085	
November 3 Tulia, TX	1,156	220-227 190	227-252 206-212	185-220 163-177	170-189.50 158-171	160-175 150-168.50	168-175	156-170 101-145	77-77.50		
October 31 Alabama	12,132	160-168	149-192 145-158	165-181 137-154	148-178 125-149	138-174 117-146	122.50-163 112-117	110-134 113-139	51-79 75-105	750-2,100 400-2,100	EAST
October 24 Lexington, KY	1,217	137.50-162.50*	189-205* 143-161*	164-200* 137-162*	155-177* 140-151*	146-180* 119-146*	163-171* 121-168.25*	115-170* 89-157.75*	63-91 75-116	725 850-1,210	
October 31 Joplin, MO	5,500		222 172-198	175-210 167-186	182-200 161-170	175-184 163-165	177 161				
October 31 Tennessee	6,877	170-200* 133-170*	169-197.50* 127.50-180*	154-210* 124-165*	138-194* 115-163*	129-181.25* 115-146*	132.50-173.50* 110-142*	119-170.50* 92-125*	42-84 68-132	800-1,190 600-1,130	
October 31 Virginia	4,476		144-185 130-155	140-201 110-148	122-190 112-153	142-176 96-143	129-162 100-143	117-167 100-135			

CANADA

No report available Lethbridge, Alberta										

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An update on the Oklahoma cattle market

In the 14 weeks from mid-July to mid-October, the volume of feeder cattle in the combined Weekly Cattle Auction Summary was up 19.7% year over year, an increase of over 66,000 head. As expected, larger summer volumes resulted in smaller volumes for the fall. The feeder volume the past two weeks has been down by 6.1% compared to the same period last year. Feeder volumes are expected to be smaller through November.

Feeder cattle prices at Oklahoma auctions increased counter-seasonally through the summer to August peaks nearly equal to the spring seasonal peaks before dropping through September into early October. A sharp decrease in feeder futures contract prices over this period was the major factor in the cash market decrease. Since mid-October, feeder futures prices and cash auctions have moved higher.

For the week ending Oct. 28, the combined auction price of 480 pound, M/L, No. 1 steers was $190.08/cwt ($912.38/head), and the price of 781 lb. steers was $176.20/cwt ($1,376.12/head). This is an increase in value of $463.74/head and a $1.56/lb. value of gain for 301 lbs. of gain.

Improved futures prices and stronger boxed beef and fed cattle prices are all supportive for feeder cattle markets.

Of course, it takes time to add weight to feeder cattle, and the value of gain is even higher given feeder futures prices for next spring. Feeder futures prices reflect a higher-trending feeder market in the coming months.

Current March feeder futures imply a price of $183/cwt for the 780 lb. steer and a value of gain of $1.71/lb. in March for the 480 lb. steer purchased now. Drought has reduced the availability of wheat pasture and other forages and has made it difficult for stocker producers to take advantage of these attractive stocker margins and arbitrage the markets in the typical fashion. Some producers may be considering more creative backgrounding programs to take advantage of the current feeder market situation.

The volume of cull cows in Oklahoma auctions continues to run well above last year. The volume of cull cows and bulls in auctions has averaged double the level of one year ago since mid-July and has been higher nearly every week of the year. This increase has added roughly 50,000 head of cull cows above year-ago levels in the seven federally reported Oklahoma auctions. Other cull cows are marketed through smaller auctions and directly to cow packers.

These numbers contribute to the national total of beef cow slaughter, up nearly 13% for the year to date through mid-October. Cull cow prices dropped about 25% from late August to mid-October but did increase slightly recently. Average dressing breaker cows were priced at $71.99/cwt, boning cows were at $67.26/cwt and lean cows were at $60.82/cwt.

Market fundamentals are generally positive for cattle markets going forward. Improved futures prices and stronger boxed beef and fed cattle prices are all supportive for feeder cattle markets. Cattle slaughter is still running large but should taper off toward the end of the year. Unless unexpected external market pressure develops, cattle prices are expected to finish the year strong, and the highest prices of the year may be recorded before the end of the year. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeder cattle traded sideways

MARKETS
(from page 1)

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $233.19.

Slaughter through Thursday is projected to be 513,000 head, 1,000 head above the prior week. Slaughter volumes for this past week were 668,000 head—down 5,000 head from the previous week and even with the same week last year. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 22 was 674,927 head. Steer dressed weights were 925 lbs.

"Thankfully, slaughter speeds and beef demand continue to support the market, but it's this week's cash cattle market that traders want to see trade," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in Wednesday's closing comments. "Packers are pulling cattle ahead in order to avoid participating in this week's cash cattle market, but even so, it's likely that they'll have to show the market some support come Thursday, and with front-end supplies of cattle as thin as they are, higher prices are fully anticipated."

Boxed beef prices were higher, with the Choice cutout up $2.69 to $265.18 and the Select cutout up $1.15 to $233.06.

USDA's Weekly Export report for the Oct. 21-27 period showed net sales of 9,200 metric tons (mt), primarily for Japan (3,000 mt), South Korea (1,900 mt), Taiwan (1,800 mt) and Canada (1,100 mt). Exports were 18,000 mt, primarily to South Korea (5,200 mt), Japan (3,900 mt), China (2,800 mt), Mexico (1,700 mt) and Taiwan (1,300 mt).

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle closed mostly sideways, with the November contract down 12 cents to $178 and the January contract down $1.03 to $179.42. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was up $2.85 to $177.63.

"The market continues to hover around its 40-day moving average, showing that traders are uncertain about the near future as well," Stewart wrote on Thursday. "If the cash cattle market can show some support through higher cash sales and influence the live cattle contracts to trade higher, then feeders may contemplate trading higher but it likely won't be done unless support from the live cattle arena seeps over into its market."

Corn closed lower, with the December and March contracts each down 3 cents a bushel to $6.79 and $6.84, respectively.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,978 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 400-950 lbs. sold $5-8 higher. Feeder heifers 400-875 lbs. sold $3-6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 761 lbs. sold between $177-180 and averaged $179.44.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, in early trading, feeder steers and heifers sold $2-3 higher. A small group of benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold for $177.

Nebraska: Bassett Livestock Auction in Bassett sold 2,345 head on Wednesday. There were limited comparable offerings compared to a week earlier, with 550 lb. steers trading $4 higher. There were no comparable offerings for heifers. A group of unweaned steers averaging 710 lbs. sold for $193.

New Mexico: Clovis Livestock Auction in Clovis sold 2,986 head Wednesday. Since there has not been an auction in the last few weeks, a comparison could not be established. A group of steers averaging 725 lbs. sold between $160-166, averaging $163.91.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady to $3 higher, but weights over 800 lbs. were not well tested. Feeder heifers sold steady to $2 lower. Steer calves sold $3-6 higher, and heifer calves under 500 lbs. sold unevenly steady, while those over 500 lbs. sold $2-4 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 763 lbs. sold between $175-179.50, averaging $178.40.

South Dakota: Hub City Livestock Auction in Aberdeen sold 4,304 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, the best test on yearling steers 900-950 lbs. sold steady, with other weight classes of yearling steers and heifers not well compared. A group of steers averaging 658 lbs. sold between $186-194.50, averaging $192.36. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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SALE REPORTS

FINK BEEF GENETICS FALL BULL & FEMALE SALE
Oct. 15, Randolph, KS
70 Fall 2021 Angus bulls.....$6,971
22 Fall 2021 Red Angus Charolais bulls.....6,420
116 Fall 2021 Charolais.....5,745
48 Charolais females ..4,224
Auctioneer: Matt Lowery

TOPS—Angus bulls: Fink 139 of 5050 Just, 8/12/21; to Frankie Holloway, KS, $12,000. Fink 129 of H837 Just, 8/16/21; to Wickstrum Farms, KS, $10,500. Fink 159 7324 11127, 8/16/21; to Shan Hullman, KS, $9,500. Fink 190 6921 Cool, 8/24/21; to Wickstrum Farms, KS, $9,500. Fink 1018 7407 Stellar, 9/5/21; to Frankie Holloway, KS, $9,000. Fink 191 6922 Cool, 8/25/21; to Wickstrum Farms, KS, $9,000. **Red Angus Charolais bulls:** LCC 1611 9276 WL; to Hilliard Brothers, FL, $8,500. Fink 1646 9316 Brave; to Hilliard Brothers, FL, $8,500. Fink 1642 9303 W; to Kent Vanderford, MO, $8,000. **Charolais:** Fink 1616 of 3834 MAR, 8/15/21; to Jeff Romans, OR, $10,500. Fink 1810 of 320 GS, 8/18/21; to Dennis Poss, NE, $9,500. Fink 1726 of 7982 GS, 9/6/21; to Keith Colter, KS, $9,000. Fink 1625 8852 L&L, 9/14/21; to Tyson Hann, TX, $9,000. Fink 1750 of 8852 GS, 9/16/21; to Buddy Westphal, MT, $8,500. LCC 1607 982 GS, 8/26/21; to Mike McCracken, OK, $8,500. **Charolais females:** LCC Miss Lady 0308 653 BF, 9/30/20 by One Penny Blanco Flash, bred to LCC 923 of 6868 FL; to Aristo Farms, Topeka, KS, $8,000. Fink Perfection 7758 429 GS, 10/2/17 by Fink Gold Standard, bred to LCC Hondo 0283; to Reeves Charolais, Greenville, TN, $7,750. Fink Lady 7757 428 GS, 8/28/17 by Fink Gold Standard; to Ty Wickline, Union, WV, $7,500. Fink Lady 0252 5804 FL, 8/30/20 by VPI Free Lunch, bred to LCC Hondo 0283; to Elliot McClure, Stotts City, MO, $7,000. — **JIM GIES**

HUWA CATTLE FEMALE SALE
Nov. 2, Roggen, CO
56 Total registered females.....$4,137
5 Fall pairs.....12,310
7 Bred cows.....8,678
11 Bred heifers.....3,204
1 Open cows.....3,000
32 Open heifers.....2,223
Auctioneer: Wes Tiemann
Sale Manager: CK6 Consulting

TOPS—Bred heifer: Huwa 9193 F Disclosure 1030, 12/25/20 by Huwa Full Disclosure, bred to Poss Ratified to calve 2/12/23; to Kern Cattle LLC, Visalia, CA, $40,000. **Fall pair:** Huwa 2902 Payweight 6017, 3/9/16 by Basin Payweight 1682 with an 8/18/22 calf by GAR Home Town at side; to Lancaster Angus, TN, $47,500. — **JIM GIES**

THOMAS ANGUS RANCH 50TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Oct. 20, Baker City, OR
174 Total lots.....$5,805
105 Registered Angus bulls.....7,364
69 Registered Angus females.....3,433
Auctioneers: Trent Stewart & Rick Machado
Sale Manager: Cotton & Associates

TOPS—Bulls: Thomas Gunsmoke 1218, 5/19/21 by GB Fireball 672; to Gunsmoke Associates, Baker City, OR, $50,000, 2/3 interest. Thomas Home Town 1419, 8/14/21 by GAR Home Town; $12,000. Thomas Fireball 1311, 6/7/21 by GB Fireball 672; $11,000. Thomas Fireball 1309, 6/6/21 by GB Fireball 672; $11,000. **Females:** Thomas Eisa Erica 0410, 8/10/20 by Poss Maverick; to Ricks Ranch, Eagle, ID, $24,500. Thomas Queen Mother 1180, 5/14/21 by GB Fireball 672; to Paradox Farms, Towanda, KS, $15,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BIRCH CREEK ANGUS BULL & FEMALE SALE
Oct. 28, Ruby Valley, NV
36 Registered Angus bulls.....$4,132
6 Red Angus bulls.....3,366
200 Commercial bred heifers.....2,000
Auctioneer: Rick Machado

TOPS: Birch Creek Rainfall 1217, 2/21/21 by S A V Rainfall 6846; to Maureen Weishaupt, Fallon, NV, $6,500. BCF Reliant 1165, 9/7/21 by G A R Reliant; to Neff Livestock, Ruby Valley, NV, $6,300. Birch Creek Charm 152, 2/16/21 by BUBS Southern Charm AA31; to Groves Cattle Co., Wells, NV, $6,000. Birch Creek Plus 103, 2/24/21 by Connealy Confidence Plus; to Neil McQueary, Ruby Valley, NV, $5,800. — **JARED PATTERSON**

LUDVIGSON STOCK FARM'S ANNUAL FALL HERDBUILDER BULL SALE
Oct. 29, Shepherd, MT
92 Red Angus bulls...$4,615
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS: LSF SRR Guardian 1183J, 1/30/21 by LSF SRR Guardian 8005F; to Turkey Track Livestock, Douglas, WY, $9,500. LSF SRR Merlin 1285J, 2/24/21 by WFL Merlin 018A; to Whismon Red Angus, Palco, KS, $8,500. LSF SRR X-Factor 1110J, 1/20/21 by LSF MEW X-Factor 693D; to Sieto Mellema, Dalhart, TX, $7,500. LSF SRR Commander 1151J, 1/27/21 by LSF SRR Commander 5906C; to Fitzhugh Ranch, Douglas, WY, $7,500. LSF SRR Rancher 1302J, 3/2/21 by LSF SRR Rancher 7190E; to Mark Burchfield, Cody, NE, $7,250. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

NANSEL'S FLYING N ANGUS DISPERSION
Oct. 30, Miles City, MT
118 Sale total.....$5,737
53 Bull calf spring pairs.....6,818
2 Herd bulls.....6,250
43 Heifer calf spring pairs.....5,076
15 Bred heifers.....4,250
2 Bull calves.....4,250
3 Bred cows.....4,200
Auctioneer: Col. Al Conover
Sale Manager: Conover Auction Service Inc.

TOPS—Pairs: Flying N Eisa Pride 8027, 1/13/18 by SAV Replica 4215, bred to Baldridge Drag Iron with a January bull calf by Mill Brae Benchmark 9016 at side; cow to Bill & Shaylee Gaskill, Volborg, MT, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $10,900. Flying N Miss Leena 6024, 1/16/16 by SAV 004 Predominant 4438, bred to Baldridge Drag Iron with a January bull calf by SAV Certified at side; cow to Michael Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, and bull calf to Daniel Gaskill, Volborg, MT, $10,500. Flying N Blackbird 0001, 1/13/20 by Montana End Run 7247, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208 with a January bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0001 at side; cow to Jay Olson, Grenora, ND, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $9,100. Flying N Princess 9085, 2/2/19 by SAV Symbol 6342, bred to Baldridge Dray Iron with a February bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0006 at side; cow to Dale & Pamela Bileu, Ballantine, MT, and bull calf to Reginald Billing, Miles City, MT, $8,750. Flying N Entense 6034, 1/19/16 by SAV Prosperity 9131, bred to SAV Scale House 0845 with a January bull calf by Flying N Ebony 9022 at side; cow to Michael Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, and bull calf to Clayton Heitz, Brockway, MT, $8,500. Flying N Blackbird 7101, 3/8/17 by SAV Idol 5582, bred to Flying N Ebony 9022 with a February bull calf by Flying N Ebony 9022 at side; cow to Bo Slovek, Philip, SD, and bull calf to Reginald Billing, Miles City, MT, $8,500. Flying N Eisa Pride 9002, 1/12/19 by Werner Flat Top 4136, bred to Baldridge Dray Iron with a February bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0006 at side; cow to Garrett Jones, Miles City, MT, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $8,350. Flying N Diamond Lassie 9018, 1/17/19 by SAV Symbol 6342, bred to Baldridge

Drag Iron with a February bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0006 at side; cow to Yellowstone Angus, Miles City, MT, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $8,000. Flying N Eline 1317, 1/17/13 by Sitz Upward 307R, bred to Flying N Commander 7077 with a January bull calf by SAV Certified 0849 at side; cow to Bo Slovek, Philip, SD, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $8,000. Flying N Kelly 7039, 1/21/17 by SAV Referee 4456, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208 with a January bull calf by Mill Brae Benchmark 9016 at side; cow to Bill & Shaylee Gaskill, Volborg, MT, and bull calf to Cord Murray, Jordan, MT, $7,600. Flying N Everelda 0080, 2/5/20 by Montana End Run 7247, bred to Flying N Frontier 0006 with a February bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0006 at side; cow to Jay Olson, Grenora, ND, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $7,600. Flying N Emma 7038, 1/20/17 by SAV Replica 4215, bred to Flying N Commander 7077 with a February bull calf by Flying N Commander 7077 at side; cow to Dale & Pamela Bileu, Ballantine, MT, and bull calf to Pfaff Ranch, Miles City, MT, $7,500. Flying N Eisa Evergreen 1540, 1/21/15 by SAV Prosperity 9131, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208 with a January bull calf by SAV Abundance 6117 at side; cow to Michael Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, and bull calf to Kenneth & Teresa Bird, Volborg, MT, $7,450. Flying N Blackbird 6010, 1/14/16 by SAV 004 Predominant 4438, bred to Flying N Commander 7077 with a February bull calf by Flying N Commander 7077 at side; cow to Harvey & Patrice Kountz, Brockway, MT, and bull calf to Tryan & Staci Ketchum, Miles City, MT, $7,400. Flying N Miss Shermont 8018, 1/9/18 by SAV Symbol 6342, bred to Baldridge Drag Iron with a January heifer calf by SAV Certified 0849 at side; cow to Michael Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, and heifer calf to Bo Slovek, Philip, SD, $7,250. Flying N Eisa Pride 7031, 1/18/17 by SAV Referee 4456, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208 with a January bull calf by SAV Abundance 6117 at side; cow to Michael Pilakowski, Arthur, NE, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $7,050. Flying N Vixon 8011, 1/6/18 by SAV Referee 4456, bred to Flying N Commander 7077 with a January bull calf by Flying N Frontier 0006 at side; cow to Reginald Billing, Miles City, MT, and bull calf to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $7,000. Flying N Vixon 8003, 1/2/18 by SAV Referee 4456, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208 with a January bull calf by Mill Brae Benchmark 9016 at side; cow to John Carrel, Columbus, MT, and bull calf to Watt Inc., Jordan, MT, $7,000. **Bred heifers:** Flying N Princess 1013, 1/8/21 by SAV Quarterback 7933, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208; to Willow Creek Cattle, Pierce, NE, $7,500. Flying N Eisa Pride 1039, 1/17/21 by LD Capitalist 316, bred to Sitz Resilient 10208; to Steve Smith, Lehi, UT, $5,500. **Herd bulls:** Flying N Ebony 9022, 1/18/19 by Werner Flat Top 4136; to John Carrel, Columbus, MT, $7,000. Flying N Frontier 0006, 1/15/20 by LD Capitalist 316; to Roger Schofield, Biddle, MT, $5,500. **Bred cow:** Flying N Blackbird 1504, 1/12/15 by Connealy Capitalist 028, bred to Baldridge Drag Iron; to Bo Slovek, Philip, SD, $6,000. **Bull calf:** Flying N Halo 2021, 1/11/22 by Mill Brae Benchmark 9016; to Pfaff Ranch, Miles City, MT, $5,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

A 10-year milestone of using GE-EPDs for AHA

Better genetics are quickly becoming the hero for developing sustainable, efficient cattle herds. As producers seek reliable genetics to improve efficiency and carcass quality, animals with genomic information provide opportunities to reach these goals at a faster pace.

In 2022, the American Hereford Association (AHA) reached a milestone of 10 years for using genomic-enhanced (GE) EPDs in its genetic evaluations. By blending conventional EPDs with genomic data gathered from DNA testing, GE-EPDs have a significantly higher success rate in predicting progeny performance. Shane Bedwell, director of breed improvement for AHA, explains the benefits.

"Commercial producers, they're buying a well-rounded bull that has the guesswork taken out of it. The amount of breed improvement those producers can make in buying a bull that has its data captured at an early stage in life, they have a great leg up," Bedwell says. "The possible change of a young sire becomes minimized drastically when you're buying a bull that has all of the phenotypic and genomic data included in its EPDs."

Commercial cattlemen who buy bulls with GE-EPDs—or producers who request cattle to be genotyped—will mitigate future risk in their breeding programs. The more genomic information they have, the more accurate genetic predictions and expressed phenotypes become. The accuracy of GE-EPDs on unproven animals is equal to 20 progeny records on average, depending on the trait.

"When our producers request an animal to be genotyped, they get lots of information," says Jack Ward, AHA executive vice president. "If all of the parents are there, they get a parent verification. They get all of the genetic abnormalities tested for. And then, we produce a genotype that is used in the evaluation to help predict the EPDs and make them more reliable."

AHA was one of the first organizations to develop and market genomic predictions, and Hereford breeders saw the improvements after applying the technology to their herds. Since then, the Baldy Maternal Index (BMI$) increased 43%, the Brahman-Influenced Index (BII$) increased 55% and the Certified Hereford Beef Index (CHB$) increased 10%.

But 10 years is only the beginning for applying genomic technology to trait selection. Ward expects there to be more EPDs added in the future that will help the breed and its producers select for sustainable genetics in the industry.

"When you talk about sustainability and effects on the environment, I believe there is either going to be a trait in terms of an economic index or an EPD that will help us predict those genetics that are less harmful to the environment or have a better effect on it," Ward says. "I think the sky is the limit on what we might do."

To learn more about GE-EPDs, visit hereford.org. — **AHA**

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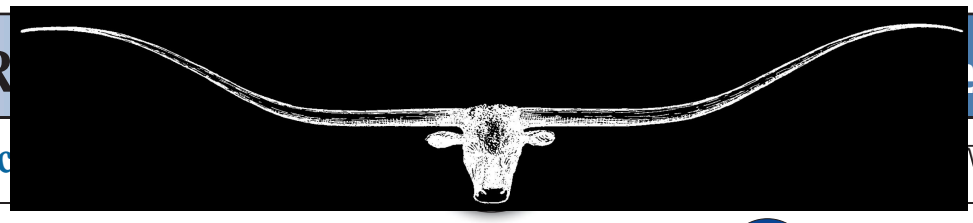

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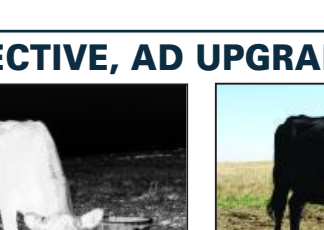

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Sale Calendar is a service to our advertisers. There is a minimum advertising requirement to be eligible to be listed in the Sale Calendar. Contact your fieldman for more information or to have your date added to the Sale Calendar. We will only run auction sale dates or private treaty start dates.

ALL BREED

Nov. 30 — Utah Cattlemen's Association, Bull Sale, Salt Lake City, UT
Dec. 6-7 — PAYS Blue Ribbon, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 12 — Northland, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Jan. 24-28, 2023 — Red Bluff, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS

Nov. 8 — Wilkes Ranch, Bull Sale, Eastland, TX
Nov. 9 — Heart K Ranch, Bull Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 11 — Arntzen Angus, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 12 — HD Dunn and Son, Bull Sale, Tetonia, ID
Nov. 12 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Nov. 12 — Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Nov. 12 — Rocky Mtn. Angus, Bull Sale, Tremonton, UT
Nov. 14 — GDAR, Female Sale, Sidney, MT
Nov. 14 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 16 — TC Angus, Female Sale, Franklin, NE
Nov. 17 — JR Ranch/Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Nov. 18 — Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Ryegate, MT
Nov. 18 — Rollin' Rock Partners, Production Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 19 — Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 19 — Hollow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Ramsay, MT
Nov. 19 — Redland Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 19 — Sydenstricker Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Mexico, MO
Nov. 19 — Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Nov. 20 — Bear Mtn. Angus, Female Sale, Palisades, NE
Nov. 21 — Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE
Nov. 22 — Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 26 — Vermilion Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 28 — Stevenson Diamond Dot, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT
Nov. 29 — Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT
Nov. 30 — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 1 — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 2 — KG Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 2 — Schurrtop Ranch, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Dec. 3 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Dec. 3 — Reverse Rocking R, Bull & Female Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 5 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 5 — TK Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Valentine, NE
Dec. 8 — ZumBrunnen Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 9 — WMR Livestock, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 14 — Mitchell Angus, Dispersion Sale, Burwell, NE
Dec. 14 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 16 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 30, 2023 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 8 — Meadow Acres Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Echo, OR
Feb. 15 — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 20 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 26 — Colyer Herefords, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID
Mar. 9 — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Okanogan, WA
Mar. 25 — Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE
Mar. 30 — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 8 — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 12 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Dec. 2 — Schurrtop Ranch, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Mar. 14, 2023 — Romans Ranches, Production Sale, Westfall, OR
Apr. 8 — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

HEREFORD

Nov. 14 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 14 — Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT
Nov. 30 — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 8 — Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Feb. 15, 2023 — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 26 — Colyer Herefords, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID
Mar. 13 — Holden Herefords, Production Sale, Valier, MT

MAINE ANJOU

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

RED ANGUS

Nov. 10 — Bieber Red Angus, Female Sale, Leola, SD
Nov. 12 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Nov. 21 — Lautenschlager and Sons, Bull & Female Sale, Othello, WA
Dec. 7 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
Dec. 12 — Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 16 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 20 — Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE
Feb. 15, 2023 — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

SALERS

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

SIMANGUS

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

SIMMENTAL

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

SOUTH DEVON

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

STABILIZER

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

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 18 — Rollin' Rock, Commercial Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 21 — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR
Dec. 7-9 — Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings, MT

HORSE

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

DOG

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

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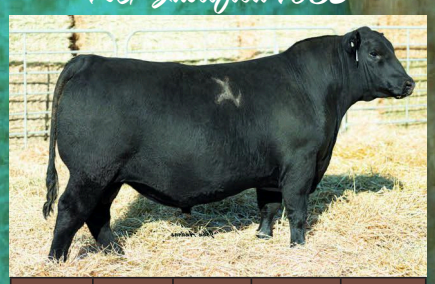


CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK
+14	-1.3	+79	+138	+27

AAA: 20037706

KG Cowboy Kind 1042



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK
+10	-.1	+85	+155	+28

AAA: 20037663

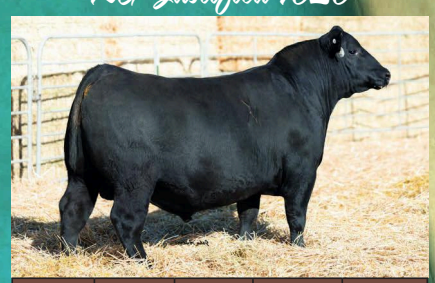
KG Rangeland 1339



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK
+9	+.5	+61	+115	+39

AAA: 20125733

KG Justified 1020



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK
+10	-1.1	+67	+112	+21

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