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INSIDE WLJ

BLM CHANGES — President Donald Trump nominates new BLM head. Page 4

MEXICO SCREWWORM — USDA travels to Mexico for trade mission; announces sterile fly dispersal facility. Page 13

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Congress has delayed mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) another two years. However, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD, has announced a new tactic aimed at distinguishing beef produced in the U.S. from imported beef-producing countries. Johnson's bill, which he announced last week, labeled the 'Truth in Quality Grading Act for Meat,' is similar to legislation the Senator introduced in 1999 prior to authoring the more involved and as yet, unimplemented, COOL language passed in the 2002 Farm Bill," wrote John Robinson, *WLJ* co-editor in the Nov. 21, 2005, issue.

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Trump calls on DOJ to investigate packers

—Ranchers applaud effort

The country's top meatpacking companies are under presidential scrutiny for alleged price fixing and collusion.

On Nov. 7, President Donald Trump wrote in a Truth Social post that he directed the Department of Justice (DOJ) to immediately investigate meat packing companies "who are driving up the price of Beef through Illicit Collusion, Price Fixing, and Price Manipulation."

"We will always protect our American Ranchers, and they are being blamed for what is being done by Majority Foreign Owned Meat Packers, who artificially inflate prices, and jeopardize the security of our Nation's food supply," Trump wrote.

He added that action must be taken immediately to protect consumers, combat illegal monopolies and ensure the packers aren't "criminally profiting" at the expense of Americans.

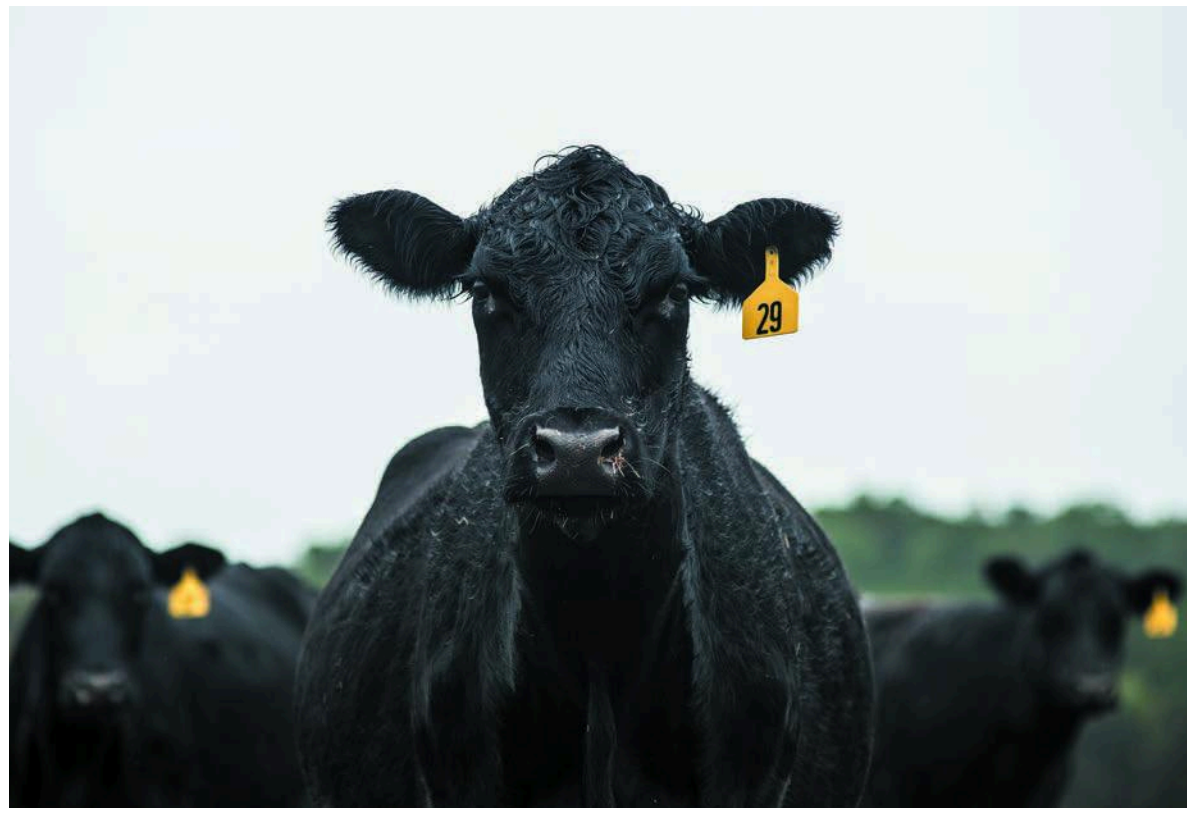
U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi and Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins each confirmed the DOJ will investigate beef packers for antitrust issues.

"Our investigation is underway! My Antitrust Division led by (Abigail Slater) has taken the lead in partnership with our friend (Rollins) at @USDA," Bondi wrote in a post on social media platform X.

"(Trump) is cracking down on the foreign-owned meat-packing cartels that have been ripping off American ranchers and driving up prices!" Rollins wrote in an X post of her own. "This is a HUGE win for our ranchers, our consumers, and anyone sick of foreign businesses fleecing Americans."

The White House said in a news release that Trump's order to the DOJ targets foreign-dominated conglomerates that control the U.S.

See PACKER PROBE on page 11



Lance Cheung/USDA

President Donald Trump ordered the Department of Justice to investigate the largest beef packers in the country for alleged price fixing and market manipulation.

USFWS stops work on gray wolf recovery plan

—Supports delisting

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that a recovery plan for gray wolves is not needed, concluding that wolves no longer meet the criteria for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The finding follows years of scientific review and comes just one year after the Biden administration announced its intent to develop a first-ever National Recovery Plan for gray wolves.

The USFWS examined two listed entities: gray wolves across 44 states and those in Minnesota. Both groups were found to have stable, well-distributed populations and robust genetic diversity. "Listing these entities is no longer appropriate under section 4(a)(1) of the Act," the agency wrote, adding that "measures provided pursuant to the Act are no longer necessary." Consequently, USFWS will not develop recovery plans, finding that such plans "would not promote the conservation of the gray wolf."

The agency's latest findings integrate comprehensive Species Status Assessments (SSAs) completed in 2023 and 2025 for gray wolves in the western and eastern U.S. The 2023 Western SSA confirmed that habitat and prey remain abundant from Washington to Colorado, allowing wolves to expand and maintain genetic connectivity. Despite regulated harvest and lethal control, wolf abundance and range "have continued to increase since reintroduction in the 1990s," with populations projected to remain viable for the next 100 years.

In the eastern U.S., where wolves occupy the Western Great

See WOLF RECOVERY on page 17

Cattle industry balances profit, costs amid market pressures

—Imports threaten balance

For the first time in years, cattle ranchers, backgrounders, stockers and cow-calf producers are seeing dependable economic returns. According to Bernt Nelson, economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation, this long-awaited profitability has created a rare opportunity for producers to rebuild working capital and consider restocking America's beef herd. Yet, he cautions, record-high production costs and market interventions aimed at curbing consumer beef prices threaten to erase these gains.

Cattle cycle and drought

Nelson noted the U.S. cattle industry moves in roughly 10-year expansion and contraction phases—known as the cattle cycle—responding to profitability and resource availability. Nelson said that the U.S. is currently in year 12 of the cycle and year seven of contraction.

On Jan.1, cattle inventories totaled 86.7 million head, the lowest in 74 years. While the current price environment provides incentives to rebuild herds, Nelson warns that if cattle prices drop and profitability fades, producers will have no reason to retain breeding stock, prolonging the contraction.

"Right now, positive economic returns could provide farmers and ranchers incentives to rebuild the cattle herd, but if prices fall, and returns disappear, the cattle herd could continue contraction," Nelson said.

Pasture conditions are a foundational factor in herd health and cost control. When pastures thrive, feed costs decline; when drought persists, costs skyrocket. Nelson underscored that pasture deterioration between 2021 and 2023 forced many producers to send female cattle to feedlots rather than keep them for breeding.

Ranchers faced hard choices—hauling water for miles or buying hay at record prices, sometimes spending more on freight than the feed itself.

See CATTLE MARKET on page 13

Cattle markets defined by another week of volatility

Futures found their footing earlier in the week before tumbling lower by Thursday, as market uncertainty and a lack of fundamental support continued to pressure traders.

"Buyers and sellers both lack any confidence in the stability of the market and both parties want to shorten their exposure to the volatility that has become a characteristic of everyday trading," the Cattle Report said on Thursday.

Live cattle futures traded steadier over the week after hitting limit up on Monday but crashed lower on Thursday. The December contract gained 33 cents to close at $219, and the February contract gained a little over $2 to close at $218.95.

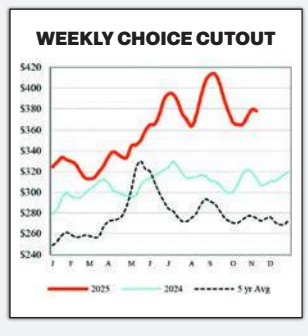
"Without fundamental support rising to comfort traders, it's likely that a downward trend will remain with the market at least today, and potentially into Friday as well," noted ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 37,000 head. Live steers sold from $222-228, and dressed steers sold from $347-355.

"Since packers own a lot of fed cattle inventory, most expect this week's negotiated fed cattle price to be no more than steady with last week," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday.

Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 9 totaled 79,188 head. Live steers averaged $228.69, and dressed steers averaged $358.13.

Slaughter through Thursday was about 471,000 head, compared to 456,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier was estimated at 560,000 head, similar to levels seen at the same time last year. USDA was not releasing its actual slaughter report during the government shutdown.



See MARKETS on page 15

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Stock show significance

MURNIN

A few weeks ago, we wrapped up a tradition in Montana that has been happening for nearly six decades: the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE). This stock show brought producers from across the region together for camaraderie, and to showcase their cattle and market their genetics to the region and to the world.

The NILE this year was a great event with various sales for the different cattle breeds and horses, and capped off with a great ranch rodeo to end off the week, which pinned ranches from across the region to display their talents. One of the unique things that I have always appreciated about NILE is that it draws a variety of producers to town to display cattle; producers who may only dust off their halters and clippers one time a year participate in the shows and sales.

Now, maybe some of the current trends in the show ring don't exactly line up with everyone's breeding programs, but I still think there's a lot of benefits to a stock show. It is a chance for smaller producers and larger producers alike to get more eyes on their product. This was certainly highlighted when the World Hereford Conference attended the NILE to see what genetics our country has to offer.

The NILE is one of kickoff shows for many producers in a busy fall of displaying cattle. The National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO, is the end goal for a lot of the producers who attend. For me personally, making that trip down across wintry Wyoming from Montana to take in the National Western has become somewhat of a tradition of my adult career. It has been something that I have looked forward to, getting to see producers and friends from across the nation and checking out to see what this year's calf crop has done, and seeing what genetics are working for everybody in different regions.

Recently, I have seen some blowback against participation in the National Western on social media due to some of politics around the state of Colorado and the city of Denver. I completely disagree with some of the policies and comments that have come out from the government in that state. The 2021 announcement of the "Meat Out Day" was truly a slap in the face to one of the largest beef-producing states in the nation. News articles have come out recently about Denver Mayor Mike Johnston recommending eating less beef to help the climate. Our farmers and ranchers certainly know better.

This does raise the question of "Why show cattle in a city like Denver?" Personally, I think now more than ever it is important to showcase the beef industry in a city where the political climate may not be the most favorable to the cattle industry. One of the most important things to me about cattle shows like the NILE or the National Western is that it exposes cattle and the beef industry to the public that may not ever be exposed to ranching in any aspect.

It's a chance for people who may never see a cow in their city life to see some of the best cared for animals in the world; a lot of these show cattle get pampered better than their beloved house dog. It's a chance for the beef industry to highlight itself, show that we do raise our cattle humanely and safely. It's a chance to show the public that cowboys do exist, and that we are trying our best to feed the world with safe and nutritious products. A lot of times you see the city crowd at the shows and sales at these stock shows with their phones out recording. I always think to myself, "I really hope they share that," so their friends and family can see how cool our industry is, too.

If you are one of those who show cattle at these stock shows, don't get frustrated when the public is standing in the aisle as you are trying to rush to make it to your class. If that family shows up at your stall with a little kid who really wants to pet a cow, maybe find time to take them over and help them scratch that gentle heifer. If we keep running from cities with policies we don't agree with, I am worried at some point we will run out of places to run to. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

DITTMER'S TAKE

AMERICAN CATTLEMEN MUST FACE FACTS

Americans love ground beef. It's been our budget, versatile and convenient cut—our secret weapon. But America's appetite for ground beef long ago outstripped our production capacity. In the mid-70s, we were slaughtering 11 million cull cows annually. Now, it's about 5.5 million. Americans spent $15 billion in 2024 on ground beef alone. Our cow slaughter produces around 1 billion pounds of lean ground beef. We import about 4 billion lbs. of lean beef for grinding to mix with our fed cattle trim—four times our domestic production. Consumers are unhappy that a trip through the drive-thru for two cheeseburger meals runs $25-30 these days. Without any imported lean beef, our ground beef supply would shrink by 70-80%, vastly increasing prices. The price of ground beef could triple or more, as we lost economies of scale and companies. How many people could afford the drive-thru trip at $50-60 or more? Overall demand for beef would crater because few families could afford to live only on steak and prime rib, ground beef would be expensive, and many young people don't know how to cook or have the time for roasts.

Even today, a 600-lb. cull cow carcass will yield about 200 lbs. of lean beef. Imagine the drop credit if packers were sending lots of fed carcass trimmings to rendering because we had so little lean to mix with the trim and trim had less value. We consume about 27 lbs. of ground beef per capita now. Imagine cutting that figure by the loss of 80% of our lean beef supply. The lean imported beef amounts to 10% of our total U.S. beef production.

I have been a big supporter of President Donald Trump's work, but his attack on the beef production chain by ordering the Department of Justice to investigate the packers is misguided.

The nation's Big Four don't have a monopoly. A monopoly—"mono"—means one company having an entire market to itself (see local utilities). We've also added capacity. If the big packers manipulate the beef markets, why are they losing hundreds of millions? If they were smart and powerful enough to manipulate the markets, they wouldn't be. With competitive procurement and contracting, radio and newspaper reporting, reports on cattlemen's computers and phones, and Mandatory Livestock Reporting multiple times a day, the beef production chain is the most open and competitive it's ever been.

Tyson Foods is publicly traded. Cargill is a privately owned family American business. JBS is a publicly traded company, with headquarters in Greeley, CO, and home offices in Brazil. JBS and National Beef have Americans at or near the top of their management chains. Swift wasn't sold for years until JBS brought capital and expertise here.

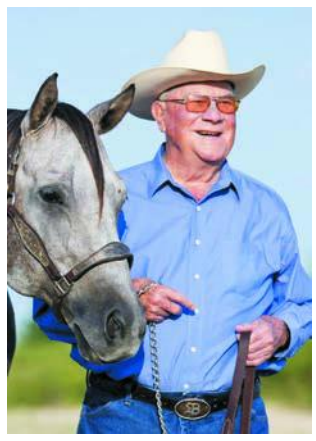
The U.S. beef industry needs imports of lean beef to make the volume of ground beef that Americans love. The beef we import is processed under USDA-equivalent safety standards. The beef we import is sourced and purchased by our processors. We do not need the U.S. government to purchase beef from any country to dump on our market to lower prices to the production chain. No foreign country could get away with dumping like that. "Illicit collusion," "price fixing" and "price manipulation" are irresponsible allegations used by anti-free market types in ill-advised lawsuits that prove nothing because there's no evidence.

Droughts in Australia and New Zealand provided a new opening for Brazil to provide much more lean beef. Putting big tariffs on Brazilian products has made the supply situation more complicated and expensive. We do need the U.S. government to continue and accelerate everything to keep the New World screwworm out. We need supplies of Mexican feeder cattle as soon as safely possible. President Joe Biden's antitrust acolytes failed to find evidence of misdeeds by packers. Trump's free market advisers can explain the number of primary players in the market does not automatically imply unfair competition. Besides, there are dozens of midsize and many smaller processors.

I remember the beef boycotts of the '70s. We understand frustration with higher food prices. Consumers' ire over food supplies and prices is real. But food production is complex, plagued by higher costs and exacerbated by uncontrollable weather. We understand Trump's responsiveness to consumer complaints. But we can't have direct intervention in our free-market beef production chain. It's unfair, fails and worsens the future. Beef prices are a delicate balance. Disease misperceptions, ill-advised government actions or prosecution could wreck prices. Cattlemen would love to produce more at these prices, but Mother Nature must cooperate. Drought, the resurrection of old pests and government persecution or intervention are not what we need. — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

(Steve Dittmer is the author of the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation newsletter. Views in the column do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of* WLJ *or its editorial staff.)

OBITUARY



R.A. 'Rob' Brown, Jr; 1936-2025

R.A. "Rob" Brown, Jr. of Throckmorton, TX, passed away peacefully on Nov. 7. Rob was born on April 4, 1936, to Valda (Thomas) Brown and R.A. Brown Sr. He was the fourth generation raised on the family's R.A. Brown Ranch, where his love of the land and livestock began. His children and grandchildren loved hearing him reminisce of his childhood adventures of cowboying, hunting and fishing.

He graduated from Throckmorton High School in 1954, where he enjoyed athletics, stock showing and rodeoing. At the age of 15, he met the love of his life, Peggy Donnell. Rob and Peggy pursued their degrees at Texas Tech University in the 1950s where they were both active leaders in multiple student organizations. They married in 1957. Rob earned his Bachelor of Science in animal husbandry in 1958 while battling dyslexia before much was known about its challenges. He attributes his diploma to the help of his beloved Peg. Their love and service to Texas Tech has been passed down through generations and recently earned the family the inaugural Texas Tech Davis College Family Legacy Award.

After graduation, they returned to the family ranch and raised their four children. Over the decades, Rob cemented the diverse legacy of the R.A. Brown Ranch with a Quarter Horse breeding program focused on meeting a cowboy's needs; seedstock herds of various cattle breeds; commercial cow-calf herds; as well as stocker, cattle feeding and wheat farming operations. While they were busy running a ranch and raising a family, they modeled service and leadership. Rob was a leader and innovator in the ranching industry holding national roles including AQHA president and director, NCBA director, TSCRA director, American Simmental Association president, among others. Rob received industry honors including being inducted into the Livestock Industry Hall of Fame Saddle and Sirloin Club, the AQHA Hall of Fame, honored as the nation's top rancher with the Golden Spur Award, and many other recognitions in the agriculture industry. He helped establish the Texas Ranch Roundup, the world's first ranch rodeo, as an effort to maintain the traditions of cowboys and working horses, while raising money for local charities.

Rob was an avid outdoorsman and had many memorable hunting and fishing adventures with family and friends. He shared this love with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren leaving them with many special memories and life lessons. Always a dog lover, Rob raised many a ranch terrier and bird dog. Rob was passionate about the ranch, and "making a circle" in his red Ford pickup was a daily necessity even in his later years. Checking his mares and foals was his favorite circle to make, proudly pointing out his prized gray horses.

Above all, Rob adored his wife, Peggy. Out of all of his many achievements, his greatest pride was his family. He loved them deeply and never hesitated to express his love in words and an occasional "whisker kiss" for the grandkids.

A lifetime member of the First Methodist Church, Rob's deep voice could be heard each Sunday reciting the Lord's Prayer from his regular pew. The large mesquite cross hanging in the front of the sanctuary was handmade by Rob. He had a strong faith that carried him through life's challenges. His signature mealtime blessing is imprinted on his family's hearts, "…guide us and direct us. Help us to be of Thy service and do Thy will. Amen." In his later years he shared that he knew his time was coming, and he would be with Jesus soon.

Rob is preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Marianne Merrick Bachman. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Peggy Brown; and children, Betsy Bellah and husband Jody of Throckmorton, Rob A. Brown and wife Talley of Stinnett, Marianne McCartney and husband Todd of Throckmorton, and Donnell Brown and wife Kelli of Throckmorton. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, brother-in-law George Donnell, and many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

The family expresses gratitude for the love and care provided to Rob by his caregivers Rachel, Sarah, Monna and Jackie.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Methodist Church PO Box 686 Throckmorton, TX 76483, Ranching Heritage Association 3121 Fourth St. Lubbock, TX 79329, or West Texas Rehab 4601 Hartford Abilene, TX 79605.

WLJ

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words and must include the writer's name, location and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Obituaries must be no longer than 700 words. Send a letter to the editor or obituary by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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WY to weigh making landowner tags 'transferable'

A controversial proposal that could help Wyoming landowners make money from elk, deer and pronghorn that use their property has passed muster with a legislative committee and will be up for debate when lawmakers convene February in Cheyenne, WY.

At issue are reforms that would make Wyoming's landowner licenses "transferable," or able to be sold. Landowner licenses, which date to 1949 in Wyoming, are special hunting tags awarded for elk, deer and pronghorn if property owners possess at least 160 acres and can demonstrate certain thresholds of animal use.

Some other western states have already made landowner licenses transferable to varying degrees. The change has led to non-residents paying top dollar for the hunt of their choice, at the expense of diminished opportunities for locals. The website Huntin' Fool, for example, is currently marketing a $30,000 Nevada elk hunt alongside a $12,000 Colorado mule deer hunt.

There have been previous efforts to follow suit in Wyoming, including during the last legislative session. Sen. Laura Pearson, a Kemmerer Republican, brought but then withdrew a bill that she hoped would create a new revenue stream for ranchers. In early November, she helped talk the balance of the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee into sponsoring a similar proposal, arguing the bill would allow landowners to generate "a small but meaningful income stream to help offset the costs of supporting wildlife."

The proposition of making Wyoming landowner licenses sellable has been met with stiff resistance from public hunters each time it's come up.

In 2022, the Wyoming Wildlife Taskforce took on the issue, aiming to address what one member described as "outright abuses," including landowners subdividing property to acquire more tags. No changes were agreed to then. Related reforms considered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission were also unpopular with landowners and pulled back. Attempts at making some landowner licenses transferable, meanwhile, have met overwhelming public opposition since at least 1998.

"Those were some of the most contentious meetings that we had in the last 25 years, when we started talking about landowner licenses," Wyoming Game and Fish Department Chief Warden Dan Smith told members of the Agriculture Committee. "When they presented that idea, they got over 2,100 comments from the public that were adamantly opposed to having transferable licenses."

Judging by some recent public comments, sentiments haven't changed much.

Sabrina King, a lobbyist for the Wyoming chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, asked members of the committee what public hunters stood to gain from the proposal. In Wyoming's complicated hunting license lottery system, landowner tags are distributed first, leaving rank-and-file sportspeople vying for a diminished pool of opportunities.

"There is nothing about creating this kind of a program, the way this bill is written, that generates good feelings between hunters and private landowners," King told the committee. "This is not a solution. This is going to create a pay-for-play system that is going to hurt the public hunter."

Game and Fish Director Angi Bruce also expressed concern that creating a private market for Wyoming licenses could diminish opportunities and hurt hunter recruitment. Currently, many landowners don't hunt, she said, and therefore don't apply for a landowners license—about 3,600 are issued annually.

"We anticipate that number going up," Bruce said. "If they are able to transfer or sell a hunting license, we think that there will be more interest."

Lawmakers also heard testimony from landowners eager to sell licenses.

Jason Thornock, who farms in the Cokeville area, complained about elk and deer numbers on his land, which he claimed eat $60,000 in alfalfa each year. He called landowner coupons that yield him cash for hunter-killed animals on his land "an insult" and the state's damage program "a joke."

"If you allow us to transfer these tags and get some compensation for them, yeah, use is going to go up," Thornock said. "But so what? Let me get something out of that $60,000 that I'm putting into the wildlife."

Members of the Agriculture committee voted seven to five to sponsor the bill.

Ayes included Pearson, Cowley Republican Rep. Dalton Banks, Cheyenne Republican Rep. Steve Johnson, Riverton Republican Rep. Pepper Ottman, Douglas Republican Rep. Tomi Strock, Thermopolis Republican Rep. John Winter and Casper Republican Sen. Bob Ide.

Opposing were Buffalo Republican Sen. Barry Crago, Cheyenne Republican Sen. Taft Love, La Barge Republican Rep. Mike Schmid, Baggs Republican Rep. Bob Davis and Laramie Democrat Rep. Karlee Provenza.

Lawmakers will also consider two other competing bills—one from the Agriculture Committee, another from the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee—that concern caps on landowner licenses. Currently, Game and Fish doesn't have the statutory authority to impose a cap. — **Mike Koshmrl, WyoFile**

Trump nominates Steve Pearce to lead BLM

President Donald Trump nominated Steve Pearce, a Republican former member of Congress from New Mexico, to lead the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the White House announced recently.

Pearce would be in charge of an agency that oversees 245 million acres of public lands, including for recreation, cattle grazing and extraction of oil and natural gas.

His nomination drew swift criticism from environmental groups in New Mexico and across the country. They urged Congress to reject Trump's nomination.

"Pearce's entire political career has been dedicated to blocking Americans' access to public lands while giving the oil and gas industry free rein to drill and frack anywhere they wanted," said Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, in a statement.

Pearce, who founded an oilfield services company before getting into politics, represented New Mexico's second congressional district in the southern part of the state between 2003 and 2009, then again from 2011 to 2019. He was most recently chair of the state Republican Party until late last year.

The nomination occurred during the federal government shutdown, when neither chamber of Congress was meeting.

According to the Center for Western Priorities, Pearce amassed a "lengthy anti-public lands record" while in Congress, including co-sponsoring bills undermining the Antiquities Act and opening national forests to industry.

If the Senate confirms him, Pearce would take over at an agency that is seeking to boost domestic oil and gas production and roll back the "Public Land Rule," which sought to ensure conservation of public lands received due consideration along with mining, timber, grazing, recreation or other uses.

The BLM controls about 13.5 million acres of federal land in New Mexico.

"It's appalling that Trump would nominate a political has-been who so despises the natural world to oversee millions of acres of our public lands and waters," said Brian Nowicki, Southwest deputy director of the Center for Biological Diversity, in a statement.

While environmental groups were unified in condemning Pearce's nomination, National Cattlemen's Beef Association Executive Director of Government Affairs and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover said in a statement that Pearce's "experience makes him thoroughly qualified to lead the BLM and tackle the issues federal lands ranchers are facing." — **Patrick Lohmann, Utah News Dispatch**

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Teat 0.92 Udder 0.81 Marb 0.75 RE 1.03 $M 99

SITZ Prevail 10114 REG# 20915887
S: SITZ Continuity MGS: SITZ Accomplishment 720F
CED 12 BW 0.0 WW 85 YW 151 SC 1.43 HP 16.6 Milk 30
Teat 0.65 Udder 0.65 Marb 0.51 RE 1.17 $M 90

SITZ Apex 10554 Reg# 20915907
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Teat 0.62 Udder 0.60 Marb 0.57 RE 0.56 $M 101

SITZ Craftsman 9924 Reg# 21016359
S: Connealy Craftsman MGS: SITZ Accomplishment 720F
CED 4 BW 2.6 WW 82 YW 137 SC 0.71 HP 13.4 Milk 35
Teat 0.70 Udder 0.62 Marb 0.82 RE 0.95 $M 107

SITZ Logo 12214 Reg# 20905850
S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: SITZ Intuition
CED 9 BW 0.0 WW 84 YW 145 SC 1.83 HP 12.8 Milk 21
Teat 1.01 Udder 0.84 Marb 0.66 RE 1.02 $M 83

SITZ Heritage 10024 Reg# 20915883
S: SITZ Heritage 8732 MGS: SITZ National 1238
CED 5 BW 0.9 WW 69 YW 121 SC 0.73 HP 16.7 Milk 35
Teat 0.69 Udder 0.54 Marb 0.81 RE 0.55 $M 116

SitzAngus.com

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Selling Saturday, November 29 at 11:00 AM

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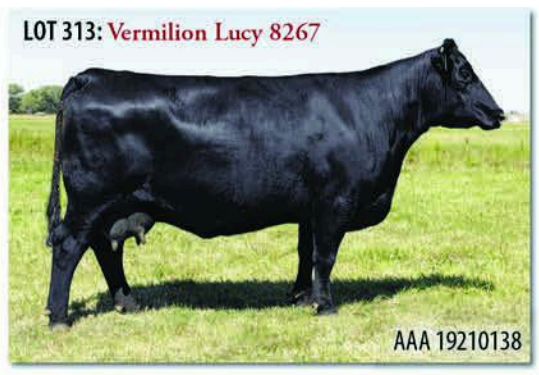
Special Feature! All 2018 born registered Angus cows. Proven producers that all sell – No Exceptions. Bred to Unified, Jameson, Prosper, Irish Whiskey, Haynes Papa and Congress.

80 April-Calving Registered Cow Dispersion
75 Registered Bred Heifers

Sire: Riverside Birth Date: 8/10/24
CED +12 WEPD +87 YEPD +146 Marb +.82 $M +85

Sire: Vermilion Bomber G017 Birth Date: 8/21/24
WEPD +90 YEPD +146 M +14 Marb +.52 $M +87 $C +284

Sire: Connealy Countdown AI Bred to Circle L Unified.
A tremendous donor cow. Dam of Genex sire Vermilion Currency



Sire: Connealy Spur AI Bred to Basin Jameson.
Progeny WR 102; YR 101.

Sire: Vermilion Growth Fund K343 Birth Date: 3/13/24
CED +5 BEPD +.8 M +20 $M +67 WW 801 YW 1347

Sire: Rise Above Birth Date: 7/31/24
CED +4 WEPD +81 YEPD +133 M +20 Marb +.67 $M +104

Sire: Vermilion Leo Birth Date: 3/4/24
CED +8 BEPD +1.7 M +28 $M +78 WW 795 YW 1288

Sire: Basin Jameson Birth Date: 9/6/24
WEPD +116 YEPD +187 Marb +.78 $M +82 $C +315

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LEGAL LEDGER

FL fake meat ban back in court

Upside Foods, a California-based company producing cultivated chicken, was back in court to challenge Florida's ban on lab-grown products. The company asked the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals on Nov. 4 to allow its challenge to proceed after a lower court ruled against its case. District Judge Mark Walker initially allowed the case to move forward, but later dismissed most of its claims last fall, saying that any potential Poultry Products Inspection Act violations would have to be brought by the federal government. On Nov. 4, the three-judge appellate panel seemed to agree with the lower court, with District Judge Paul Huck reportedly saying, "You don't have the right to bring this because the government has the exclusive right to bring cases with regard to the violations of the [Poultry Products Inspection Act] or to enforce the act."

DIRECT Act reintroduced in Senate

In early November, Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) reintroduced the Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transactions (DIRECT) Act, which would give flexibility to small producers and butchers for interstate sales. The DIRECT Act would authorize the sale of state-inspected beef across state lines in limited quantities and through e-commerce, direct to consumers. The bill is co-sponsored by Sens. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS). The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced its continued support for the legislation. "The increased market exposure for those cattlemen and women who are selling beef direct to consumers adds value and provides tremendous benefit for our farmers and ranchers," said NCBA President Buck Wehrbein.

Ag groups call for USMCA renewal

A coalition of more than 120 ag industry groups penned a letter to the Office of the United States Trade Representative asking for a full 16-year renewal of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). "Trade cooperation between the United States, Mexico, and Canada affords multifold benefits, underscoring the need to uphold and maintain the agreement text of USMCA as written without major adjustment," the groups wrote. "Without the economic might that this trilateral agreement affords, farmer incomes would be harmed, as the industry would be saddled with additional and burdensome costs related to transportation and compliance measures." Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA (R-CALF) also submitted a letter of its own, outlining reforms to the agreement. "USMCA failed to correct harmful provisions inherited from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and continues to disadvantage U.S. cattle producers," the group said.

MT groups challenge 'exempt well loophole'

A coalition of Montana organizations representing municiplalities, farmers and ranchers, landowners and conservation groups filed a challenge against the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation over its "exempt well loophole." The groups said the loophole allows unregulated groundwater development outside the state's permitting system. The lawsuit seeks to protect senior water rights holders and "restore fairness and accountability," the groups said. "The exempt well loophole has allowed developers to drill thousands of new groundwater wells without permits, even in basins that are legally closed to new appropriations," they wrote. "The unchecked proliferation of these wells has reduced streamflows, impaired senior water rights, and undermined the state's constitutional obligation to manage and protect Montana's waters for the benefit of its people."

Greens attack USDA's beef industry plan

Environmental groups criticized the USDA's recent release of its plan to "fortify the beef industry," saying the plan weakens environmental oversight, expands grazing in sensitive habitats and reduces species protections. The greens pushed back against USDA's plan to work with the Department of the Interior to open up more public lands grazing allotments, along with USDA's plan to reform depredation compensation. "The administration is advancing a broad-scale giveaway to a handful of politically-connected public lands commercial livestock operators—a sweetheart deal for public land profiteers at the expense of everyone else," the groups asserted. The plan received mostly positive feedback from industry groups.

USCA supports ongoing MCOOL effort

The U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) continues to support efforts to reinstate mandatory country-of-origin-labeling (MCOOL). In late October, Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY-At large) reintroduced the Country-of-Origin Labeling Enforcement Act. Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT-01) announced his support for the bill in early November, saying that "shoppers should be 100% confident at the point of purchase that what they are getting is what they meant to buy." USCA commended Zinke for his co-sponsorship of the legislation. "Mandatory country-of-origin-labeling has been a central conviction of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association's advocacy for nearly two decades," said USCA founder Leo McDonnell. "From our earliest days, USCA has fought for transparent, truthful labeling so that consumers know when they're purchasing genuine American beef."

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Lawmakers urge Interior to protect Public Lands Rule

Colorado Democrats in Congress asked the U.S. Department of the Interior to keep in place a 2024 rule that allows federal public lands to be leased for environmental protection, which the Trump administration intends to rescind.

The Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, commonly referred to as the Public Lands Rule, directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to identify and support landscapes in need of restoration and created leases that focus on protecting natural areas. The BLM manages more than 8 million acres of land in Colorado.

BLM already had leasing processes in place for extractive industries including energy development, mining and livestock grazing, and the Public Lands Rule balanced those priorities with conservation efforts, rule supporters say.

U.S. Democratic Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and U.S. Democratic Reps. Diana DeGette of Denver, Joe Neguse of Lafayette, Jason Crow of Aurora and Brittany Pettersen of Lakewood asked Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and BLM Acting Director Bill Groffy to reverse course on a proposal to rescind the Public Lands Rule, which the Democrats say would make it easier to sell off public lands for mining and drilling.

"The Public Lands Rule was developed to provide balance in how the BLM fulfills its multiple-use and sustained yield mission," the letter says. "It ensures that conservation, recreation, and local input are appropriately considered alongside grazing, energy development, and other uses. The rule updates BLM management for the 21st century and puts in place important safeguards to ensure that land health is accounted for in management decisions."

Hickenlooper led a separate letter from a larger group of congressional Democrats asking Burgum and the BLM to end its plans to overturn the Public Lands Rule.

Nov. 10 was the last day for members of the public to submit comments on whether they support rescinding the rule. A Center for Western Priorities analysis found that 98% of the more than 40,000 comments submitted as of that morning opposed the Trump administration's plan to rescind the rule.

Conservation groups including Rocky Mountain Wild, the Western Slope Conservation Center, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Conservation Lands Foundation support keeping the Public Lands Rule in place. More than 100 local elected officials from across Colorado also signed a letter opposing its repeal.

"In La Plata County, our public lands are the backbone of our economy and the heart of our outdoor way of life," Matt Salka, a La Plata County commissioner, said in a statement. "We celebrated when BLM recognized that conservation of these irreplaceable landscapes deserves equal standing alongside agriculture, energy development, and other uses. We are deeply concerned to see that hard-won balance now at risk."

The energy industry and agriculture producers support rescinding the rule, according to the Interior. Several farming and mining organizations sued the BLM challenging the rule shortly after it was implemented last year.

The Democrats said that Colorado ranchers, sportsmen, small business owners and gateway communities depend on access to healthy public landscapes, and rescinding the Public Lands Rule could "jeopardize these livelihoods by increasing the likelihood of land degradation, reduced recreational access, and economic instability for rural communities."

The rule also strengthens the BLM's ability to protect water resources in Colorado, the letter says, empowering land managers to make watersheds more resilient against wildfire, drought and other threats.

"Eliminating it would leave our water resources more vulnerable at a time when resiliency is urgently needed," the letter says. — **Lindsey Toomer, Colorado Newsline**

COMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 21-22 – The Montana Stockgrowers Association is proud to announce the Agriculture Labor Summit at the Northern Hotel in Billings. This event was created to address the ongoing labor shortage. Details: mtbeef.org/event/laborsummit.

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Prescribed burns a focus as bill moves through Congress

A bipartisan piece of legislation that could have big impacts on the nation's forest land continues to move quickly through Congress, pushing through a Senate committee last month.

The Fix Our Forests Act was introduced in the Senate in April and co-sponsored by Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT), along with senators from California, Utah and Colorado.

The legislation seeks to promote prescribed burns, expand the state-federal Good Neighbor Authority program, increase collaboration among fire agencies and improve reforestation efforts after fires. It also makes some rule changes that could impact how areas designated as high fire danger are managed and how projects in those areas proceed.

"Better stewardship of our forests is not a partisan issue; it's an imperative to securing a stronger economy, healthier forests, and safer communities," Sheehy said in a press release. "I'm proud to see the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act move forward in the legislative process, and I'll continue fighting alongside my colleagues to enact commonsense reforms that ensure proper forest management, unleash the resource economy, and protect American communities from the threat of wildfire."

The governors of those four states, including Gov. Greg Gianforte (MT), signed on to a letter in support of the legislation in late October. The bill has already worked its way through the U.S. House, though doesn't include new appropriated funds.

The legislation has received some support from environmental and outdoor advocacy groups, with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership calling it a "comprehensive" approach to tackling forest health and wildfire issues. The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society are also in support of the legislation.

But there has also been some concern with it, namely around how it could change the process of forest projects, especially those in a declared "emergency fireshed management" area. That's a Biden-era designation which essentially prohibits projects from exploring alternatives on forestry projects—the only options are what's called an "action" or "no action." It essentially shortens the review period for projects within that designation.

Forestry actions falling within that designation are usually small in scope, but the federal legislation would push that number to include projects as large as 10,000 acres.

Even with the renewed interest in prescribed burns and other forestry projects to help with forest health, there's still a lack of action, said Riva Duncan, the vice president of Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, an advocacy group made up of former firefighters.

According to U.S. Forest Service data, hazardous fuels reduction work across their lands was down 38% in 2025 when compared with the same period during the previous four calendar years.

Federal cuts and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) actions caused chaos last winter and some mitigation projects never happened or were delayed. Between the cuts and needs for firefighters around the country, the work just isn't getting done, she said.

And while DOGE actions mostly spared firefighters, supporting positions around fire mitigation work were not.

"There's a huge network of specialists and biologists and things behind the scenes that do the environmental work to allow these fuels projects to continue," Duncan said. "And so they were hit really hard by (DOGE cuts) and by the deferred resignations and things like that. A lot of issues are exacerbated by this administration, who has been very open about not supporting a Federal workforce."

Prescribed burns can help mitigate risk by removing fuel that otherwise might add to the intensity of a fire. During the last 100 years, the Forest Service has consistently embraced suppression as its main method of fire defense.

Land management policies "vilifying" fire have led to overgrowth and climate change continues to impact forests, Duncan said, adding suppression has been a renewed focus this summer. U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, who spent 14 years with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, has said the nation's forests are in trouble because they're not being logged enough.

"Every year the Chief of the Forest Service puts out their fire season letter, and it made pretty clear that suppression was going to be the primary focus," Duncan said. "And I think when you look at the chief and his background coming from the timber industry, there are a lot of people who have commercial timber lands, commercial timber interests, who don't like fire, who still will not recognize the value it brings. All it does is hurt their bottom line, right?"

Duncan also pointed out not all logging is necessarily fuel mitigation work and added she's not specifically against logging; however, saying logging alone will solve the issue is disingenuous.

"A lot of people who want us to log more, want more trees to come off national forest lands, will try to make that argument," Duncan said. "Sometimes it is, sometimes it's not. Often it's not."

Grassroots Wildland Firefighters did submit a comment on the Fix Our Forests bill and she said it's an acknowledgment that more fuel work needs to be done.

"Fire is non-partisan. It doesn't recognize boundaries or recognize if it's private or federal land, if it's commercial versus being managed for ecological reasons," Duncan said. "And so we need a comprehensive solution with everybody at the table who has a stake, and everybody has a stake." — **Jordan Hansen, Daily Montanan**

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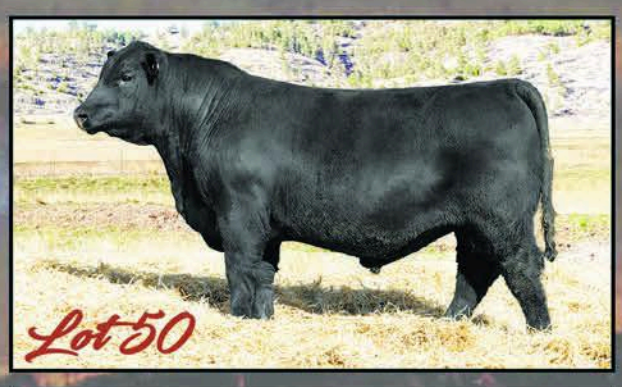

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REA	$M	RFI
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$M	$W	$C
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WTAMU breaks ground on research feedlot

West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) broke ground Nov. 10 on a $15 million research feedlot and education complex designed to advance beef production science and training. Funded by donors, USDA grants and a 42-acre land gift, the project includes a feed mill, processing facility and high-tech monitoring systems. "This facility embodies the Panhandle's innovation and collaboration," said President Walter Wendler. Construction begins this winter, with completion expected in 2026. According to the university, the WTAMU Foundation Research Feedlot and the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation Feedlot Education Facility will strengthen the university's role in large-animal teaching and research through the Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences.

Walmart to sell 44 Farms Angus hot dogs

44 Farms announced that its All-Natural Angus Beef Franks are now available in more than 460 Walmart stores across Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, Meat+Poultry reported. "Few things are more American than the hot dog," said Bob McClaren, president and CEO of 44 Farms. "It all begins with the best Angus beef raised without added hormones or antibiotics." The uncured, nitrate-free, MSG-free and gluten-free franks are made from USDA Choice and Prime Angus cuts. The launch marks another milestone in 44 Farms' growing partnership with Walmart, expanding access to its beef products in portions of Texas, western Louisiana and northwest Arkansas.

Mexican wolf returned to recovery zone

Male Mexican wolf 3065 was captured Nov. 7 north of Interstate 40 near Gallina, NM, and returned to the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area in the Gila National Forest. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish conducted the capture by helicopter under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery permit. The wolf had dispersed north of the recovery area in July and showed no sign of returning. Officials said such movements are common when wolves search for mates, but isolation and potential encounters with domestic dogs posed serious risks. Relocation ensures the wolf's safety and supports ongoing recovery efforts.

Tyson forecasts growth despite beef strain

Tyson Foods projected its annual revenue above analysts' estimates, relying on steady chicken demand to offset weakness in beef sales, Foodmarket reported. The company said fourth quarter net sales were $13.86 billion, with chicken volumes up 3.8%. Beef volumes fell 8.4%, but sales rose 4.3% as prices surged 17% amid record cattle prices. Tyson said drought-driven herd reductions have left U.S. cattle supplies at their lowest in nearly 75 years, driving up beef prices for consumers. CEO Donnie King said ranchers have begun rebuilding herds, though supplies will remain tight. Tyson expects 2026 revenue to rise 2-4% as it balances higher beef costs with poultry demand.

Believer Meats gets nod from USDA

Believer Meats has received the USDA's first-ever inspection grant for a large-scale cultivated meat facility, clearing the way for commercial production at its new 200,000-square-foot plant in Wilson County, NC, Food Safety News reported. The Israeli-founded company, formerly known as Future Meat Technologies, had already received the Food and Drug Administration's "no questions" letter in July. With USDA label approval, Believer Meats can now sell its cultivated chicken in the U.S. and abroad. CEO Gustavo Burger called it a major milestone. Using fibroblast cells from chicken eggs, the facility can produce up to 12,000 tons of cultivated chicken products annually—cementing its status as the world's largest cultivated meat factory.

duBreton warns of cloned meat in Canada

Canadian pork producer duBreton is alerting consumers to a regulatory change that will allow beef and pork from cloned animals to enter Canada's food supply without safety reviews or labeling. According to duBreton, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency plan to exclude cloned animals from the "novel foods" definition, eliminating pre-market assessments. "Consumers have the right to decide for themselves," said CEO Vincent Breton. "Without labeling, there's no way to tell which brands use cloned animals." duBreton is urging food companies to adopt voluntary, verifiable labels to preserve transparency and consumer trust while ensuring responsibly raised pork remains accessible to Canadians.

Cargill deploys AI robot to boost safety

Cargill has introduced Boston Dynamics' four-legged robot, Spot, at its Amsterdam Multiseed crush and refinery plant to enhance safety and reliability. Equipped with AI-driven sensors, Spot performs 10,000 autonomous inspections weekly, detecting hazards such as overheating, leaks or ventilation faults. The robot has already prevented costly downtime by identifying equipment running above safe limits, the company said. "Spot gives us peace of mind overnight and helps us wake up to data—not surprises," said plant superintendent Martin Blommestijn. Beyond maintenance, Spot improves workplace safety by scanning for hazards and freeing employees to focus on data-informed decisions. Cargill plans to expand Spot's deployment across Europe, advancing predictive, digital-first manufacturing and investing in safer food production.

Trump order follows earlier USDA investigation

PACKER PROBE
(from page 1)

meat supply, and that have been accused of artificially increasing prices at the expense of ranchers, farmers and working families.

"For too long, a handful of giant meat packers have squeezed America's cattle producers, shrunk herds, and jacked up prices at the grocery store," the White House said. By investigating the companies for antitrust violations through coordinated pricing or capacity restrictions, the investigation will root out any collusion while restoring fair competition and protecting food security, the White House added.

The news release continued that industry consolidation has "crushed competition and hammered cattle producers," citing that the Big Four purchased one-third of all cattle in the 1980s, but the number grew to more than 80% by the mid-90s and only continues to grow.

"This has led to the exploitation of American consumers, farmers, and ranchers," the statement concluded. "In fact, mounting evidence shows this monopoly power has slashed payments to ranchers, reduced herd sizes, driven up consumer prices, and threatened America's food supply chain."

The announcement comes only about two weeks after the White House announced it planned to increase Argentina's beef import quota from 20,000 metric tons to 80,000 metric tons, which resulted in pushback from ranchers.

Industry reactions

The Meat Institute contended that beef packers have been losing money because of record-high cattle prices, and have been operating at losses for more than a year due to tight supplies and demand.

"U.S. beef processors welcome a fact-based discussion about beef affordability and how best to meet the needs of American consumers, who are the industry's most important stakeholders," said Meat Institute President and CEO Julie Anna Potts in a statement. "Beef packers rely on cattle producers and cattle producers rely on beef packers. The entire beef value chain is strongest when supply is balanced by demand."

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA (R-CALF) CEO Bill Bullard said in a statement that the group appreciates Trump's announcement. "There has long been a disconnect between cattle prices and beef prices, and we believe this is evidence of market failure," Bullard said. "We welcome this investigation to ensure that cattle producers receive competitive prices for their cattle, and that consumers pay prices set by a competitive market rather than a monopolistic one."

> *"We welcome this investigation to ensure that cattle producers receive competitive prices for their cattle, and that consumers pay prices set by a competitive market rather than a monopolistic one."*
>
> *— R-CALF USA*

The U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) wrote in a Facebook post that the organization will continue to say that beef prices in the grocery store are not too high and are a direct reflection of consumer demand. However, "USCA appreciates President Trump taking a closer look at the industry and exploring ways to support U.S. ranchers," the group said. "We look forward to providing the producer's voice and perspective in discussions regarding the supply chain and retail sector moving forward."

Several lawmakers expressed their support following Trump's directive.

"For years, I've been calling for DOJ to investigate the four large meat packing companies," Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) wrote on X. "President Trump has started that ball rolling!"

Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MT), who was at a meeting with Trump ahead of the announcement, posted on X, "President Trump stands with AMERICAN ranchers!"

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), who was also present at the meeting, wrote in an X post of her own, "The path forward we discussed will bring tremendous benefits to rural America, and I couldn't be prouder to stand up for and represent the hardworking men and women who feed our nation."

Shortly before Trump's announcement, North Dakota Republican Sen. Kevin Kramer called on the DOJ to follow up on its 2020 investigation into packers and beef prices. "If the conclusion is they are too concentrated, that they have violated antitrust laws, that they have violated collusion laws, then if a breakup is necessary, so be it," Kramer said in an interview with local North Dakota TV station KVVR.

Déjà vu?

Under the first Trump administration in 2020, the DOJ began an investigation into potential Big Four antitrust violations, price fixing and market manipulation. The fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic pushed cattle producers to further scrutinize the Big Four's market control, and the DOJ and USDA began an investigation into whether packers conspired to fix beef prices during pandemic volatility.

USDA and the DOJ released an investigation report in July 2020, summarizing market conditions, fed cattle prices, boxed beef values and effects of "black swan events" experienced in recent years. The report did not examine potential violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

"While we're pleased to provide this update, we assure producers that our work continues in order to determine if there are any violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act," then-Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said at the time. "If any unfair practices are detected, we will take quick enforcement action."

Two years later, a further update on the investigation had yet to be given, and cattle producers and lawmakers alike called on the government to release its findings or give an update on its probe into the cattle markets.

"While family farmers are being squeezed, families across the country are paying more for their beef and the Big Four are reaping record profits," lawmakers wrote in a letter dated July 28, 2022.

In October 2024, USDA released an interim report identifying potential problematic fees and unjust or anticompetitive pricing strategies in the beef market as a case study. USDA said the report was interim because "industry cooperation was only partial." The department also said at the time it was continuing an investigative study and enforcing subpoenas when necessary. No further updates were given. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

CattleCon prepares next generation

College students and recent graduates are encouraged to attend CattleCon 2026 in Nashville, TN, Feb. 3-5, 2026, to help them prepare for careers in the cattle industry. Future agricultural leaders will have the opportunity to engage with potential employers during the new "Career Crawl" at the NCBA Trade Show on Thursday, Feb. 5.

"The largest cattle industry event of the year is a great place for the next generation to network with some of our industry's most impactful companies," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Buck Wehrbein. "We hope this new career event opens doors for future leaders."

Attendees can visit participating "Career Crawl" companies at the NCBA Trade Show on Thursday to explore internships, job openings and career opportunities while engaging in meaningful conversations with agriculture professionals. In addition, the first 250 FFA members and 250 4-H members to register will receive complimentary One-Day Thursday Registration, courtesy of Culver's and Nationwide.

Collegiates are also invited to join American National CattleWomen for an engaging and educational session dedicated to shaping the future of the cattle and beef industries. During the Emerging Leaders event on Thursday morning, attendees can connect with industry leaders, gain valuable insights and explore exciting career and networking opportunities.

Education is a cornerstone of CattleCon and, in 2026, all registration options include Cattlemen's College sessions and demonstrations. In addition, while roaming the NCBA Trade Show attendees can stop in the Learning Lounge to enjoy informal, face-to-face talks and listen to Cattle Chats, which will feature beef industry educational sessions.

National Block and Bridle will be hosting their annual convention in conjunction with CattleCon 2026. Block and Bridle members will be able to attend select CattleCon activities.

To receive free One-Day Thursday Registration, FFA members must use the code FFACULVERS, and 4-H members, 4HNW. In addition, children 12 and under receive free One-Day admission with a paid guardian. A variety of other registration options are also available, and all include Cattlemen's College education sessions and demonstrations. For more information and to register and reserve housing, visit convention.ncba.org. — **NCBA**

Cattle disease that causes anemia spreading in Missouri

University of Missouri (MU) Director of Veterinary Extension Craig Payne urges cattle producers to watch for signs of disease associated with Theileria orientalis (ikeda), a protozoal organism recently detected in Missouri.

This organism, which primarily affects cattle, infects red blood cells. The immune system attacks the infected cells, resulting in anemia. The disease is primarily spread by the invasive Asian longhorned tick.

It was first diagnosed in a cow-calf herd in Virginia in 2017. The first Missouri case was detected in Howell County in June 2023. Payne says that by the end of June 2024, there were 10 counties in Missouri where cattle tested positive. As of Oct. 1, that number is up to 48.

With mild infections, cattle may show elevated temperature, depression and pale mucous membranes. With severe infections, they can show severe depression, and the mucous membranes around the eyes and the vulva appear jaundiced with a yellow tinge. Pregnant animals may abort, and animals will lose body condition.

Most cattle that become infected never show symptoms, and death loss rates are typically less than 5%. However, Payne notes that some herds experience much higher rates of illness and death loss than is reported in the literature.

Symptoms confused with anaplasmosis

The symptoms are similar to those of anaplasmosis, says Payne. A key difference is that anaplasmosis symptoms are rarely seen in cattle less than 2 years old, but symptoms associated with Theileria can be seen in both calves and adults.

Disease is transmitted several ways. The main route of transmission is through the Asian longhorned tick, an invasive species found in at least 23 states. The tick acquires the protozoa while feeding on an infected animal and later transmits it to other animals through its saliva. Other insects, such as lice, biting flies and other tick species may be involved in transmission as well.

Blood-contaminated equipment can also transfer the organism from infected to uninfected animals. This would include needles and dehorning, castration and tagging equipment.

Once infected, symptoms appear in 1-8 weeks.

Carriers for life

Infected animals will become lifelong carriers of the organism but are unlikely to show symptoms of disease again. Payne recommends discussing with your herd veterinarian whether it's best to keep or cull these carriers.

There are no antibiotics available in the U.S. labeled to treat or control Theileria. Tetracyclines, which are commonly used to treat and control anaplasmosis in cattle, do not appear to be effective against this disease. Recommendations for managing clinical cases include minimizing stress and providing supportive care.

There are currently no vaccines available to prevent the disease, says Payne. The best option is to control Asian longhorned tick populations.

Payne also recommends quarantining and treating new animals for ticks. In herds where the disease is already present, changing needles between animals and disinfecting equipment that may be blood-contaminated is good standard practice.

Finally, seek guidance from your veterinarian, who can recommend the best strategy for preventing or controlling the disease in your herd, says Payne. — **MU Extension**

California surface water costs triple during drought

A new University of California (UC), Davis, economic study finds that drought in California pushes the price of water from rivers, lakes and reservoirs up by $487 per acre-foot, more than triple the cost during an average wet year. The research appears in Nature Sustainability.

"The extreme volatility in prices surprised me," said lead author Madeline Turland, a former graduate student in the UC Davis Agricultural and Resource Economics Department and now an assistant professor of resource economics at the University of Alberta. "During dry years we have really high surface water prices and during wet years we have really low water prices, but we found that groundwater seems to have stable prices over time, despite precipitation swings."

California groundwater basins can store eight to 12 times more water than all the state's reservoirs combined yet are not widely used to store surplus surface water. The study suggests that managing groundwater and surface water together could keep water prices steady and support the state's economy.

"This study shows why coordinating both sources matters—it can lower costs now and help communities and farmers better weather future climate swings," Turland said.

Surface water prices volatile

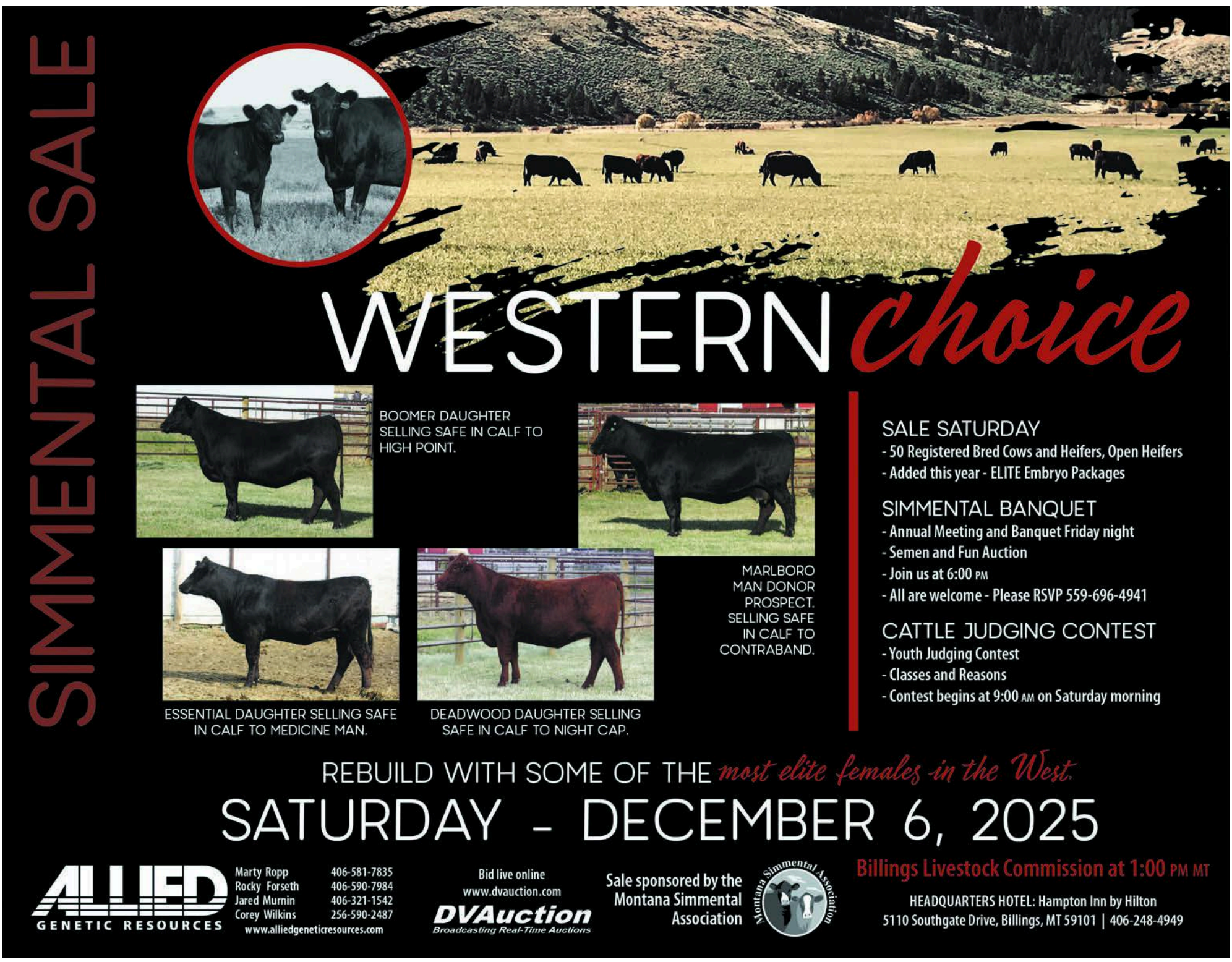
Researchers looked at water transaction data from 2010 to 2022, which spanned both drought and deluge in California. During that time, surface water prices varied with precipitation, while groundwater prices remained stable.

The study also found that more water storage could help protect California from climate-driven price swings. But researchers said building new reservoirs, raising dams and removing sediment from existing reservoirs also come with high fiscal, environmental and social costs and may bring only marginal or temporary increases in storage capacity.

Turland noted that California's system of water rights makes joint management challenging. Surface water is allocated based on seniority of water rights. Except for adjudicated groundwater basins, where courts assign rights in response to legal disputes, there are no formal rights to groundwater.

That could change as groundwater agencies comply with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires that groundwater basins reach sustainability targets by 2040. Courts could play a major role in many of those plans, Turland said.

Other authors of the study include Colin A. Carter, Bulat Gafarov, Jens Hilscher and Katrina Jessoe with UC Davis. The study was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. — **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources**



Beef consumption for 2025 estimated at 28.6B pounds

CATTLE MARKET
(from page 1)

"Selling off breeding cattle wasn't just an economic decision; it was an emotional one, representing years or even generations of herd development lost in a single season," Nelson said. "Drought has forced families to part with genetics they had spent decades refining, knowing it could take years to recover what was sold in a matter of weeks."

Demand and imports

Despite record-high beef prices, U.S. demand remains strong. USDA projects 2025 beef consumption at 28.6 billion pounds, with a modest dip expected in 2026. Nelson emphasized that demand is "the lynchpin helping our nation's cattle farmers and ranchers remain economically viable." Higher beef prices have trickled down from retail to the ranch gate, allowing producers to recover financially. Still, Nelson cautions that these profits are thin and highly sensitive.

"If demand for U.S. beef weakens, whether due to increased beef imports or changing consumer preferences, cattle prices will likely decline," Nelson wrote. "This would create a major obstacle to any meaningful expansion of the U.S. cattle herd."

Beef imports play a complex role in balancing U.S. supplies of lean and fat trimmings used for ground beef. Nelson noted that year-to-date, imports are approaching 1.2 million metric tons, roughly 10% of domestic consumption. Notably, imports from Brazil are up 94% year over year, and recent policy changes could expand imports from Argentina.

On Oct. 23, the administration announced an increase in the tariff-rate quota for Argentine beef—from 20,000 metric tons to 80,000 metric tons—to lower consumer prices. Under the current tariff-rate quota, Argentina may export up to 20,000 metric tons of beef to the U.S. each year at a reduced tariff rate; any volume beyond that threshold faces higher duties. So far in 2025, U.S. imports from Argentina have reached approximately 30,000 metric tons. Expanding the quota to 80,000 metric tons would represent roughly 3.5% of total U.S. beef imports to date and about 0.6% of USDA's projected domestic beef consumption for 2025. However, Nelson warns that such moves can hurt domestic cattle producers.

"This amount will not have a measurable impact on prices consumers pay for beef, but the announcement has already caused future prices for feeder cattle to fall by 7%," Nelson said.

New world screwworm

Adding another layer of uncertainty is the reemergence of the New World screwworm (NWS), a parasitic pest last eradicated in the U.S. in 1966. Detected just 70 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border, it prompted a July 9 border closure to cattle, bison and horses.

Nelson calls NWS "a serious but manageable threat," but he warns of its economic implications. "The U.S. typically imports 1.3 million cattle annually from Mexico," he said. "A prolonged closure adds strain to an already tight supply chain and creates more uncertainty for ranchers planning their operations."

According to Nelson, several consecutive years of drought, low cattle prices and record-high input and supply costs have steadily eroded the nation's cattle herd. That contraction, combined with strong consumer demand for beef, has driven both cattle and beef prices to historic highs. Nelson noted that while ranchers are finally operating in the black, their margins are fragile and could vanish quickly if prices soften.

"Market intervention efforts, including increased imports, would add another barrier to growing the cattle herd and potentially incentivize more contraction in the cattle inventory," Nelson said. "This could drive beef prices even higher and increase U.S. reliance on imported beef to meet domestic demand." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

USDA travels to Mexico for trade mission, NSW talks

— Opens sterile fly dispersal facility

In early November, USDA conducted a trade mission to Mexico to further trade ties and discuss New World Screwworm (NWS) response measures. Led by Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, a total of 41 businesses, 33 co-operators and agriculture advocacy groups, six state departments of agriculture and 150 participants conducted more than 500 meetings over three days, the department said.

"I thank President Claudia Sheinbaum for welcoming me to the Presidential Palace where we had a productive and positive conversation about how we will continue to work closely together to eradicate the NWS which is negatively impacting both our economies, including conducting a comprehensive joint review of our NWS response and efforts to ensure enforcement of our joint responsibilities in the 1944 water treaty," Rollins said in a news release.

Rollins also met with Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality to discuss bilateral efforts to combat the spread of NWS. Rollins was joined by Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Dudley Hoskins and visited the state of Chiapas to review NWS containment practices and enforcement.

USDA also announced the opening of a NWS sterile fly dispersal facility in Tampico, Mexico, which will allow USDA to aerially disperse sterile flies across northeastern Mexico, including in Nuevo León, where NWS cases were found. Until now, aerial dispersal has been limited to southern Mexico.

"The facility will ensure flexibility and responsiveness in northern Mexico, giving us a greater ability to drop sterile flies and continue to push the pest south," Rollins said.

Rollins and Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Luke Lindberg also visited a Walmart Super Center in Mexico City and Bimbo Bakery, which are major importers of U.S. products.

Also on the trip were Chanel Tewalt, director of Idaho State Department of Agriculture; Sherry Vinton, director of Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Derek Sandison, director of Washington State Department of Agriculture; and officials from the California, Tennessee and Wisconsin state departments of agriculture.

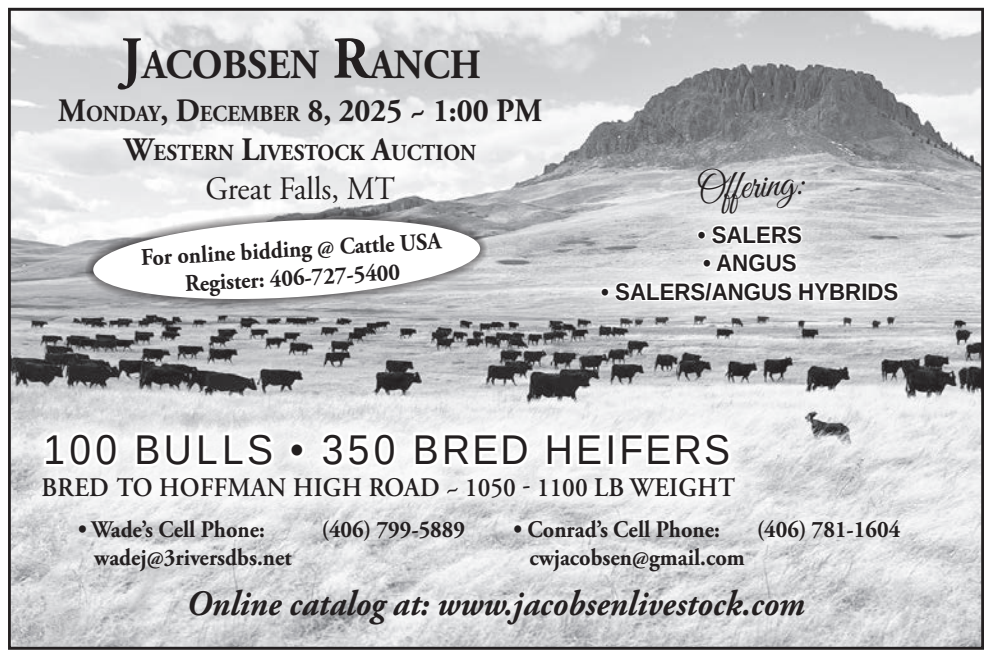
USDA said that Mexico was the top market for U.S. ag exports in 2024, with shipments valued at $30.2 billion. Consumer-oriented products such as meat and dairy products, processed foor, fruits and beverages, accounted for about 50% of that trade. Bulk commodity exports accounted for one-third of all ag exports, valued at $10 billion.

"This week was an incredible opportunity to connect buyers and sellers with over 500 meetings over three days, pushing for American exports into Mexico's ethanol market, and discuss the upcoming review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement," Rollins said. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

March 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation is encouraging students to apply for scholarships through its Heritage Scholarship Program. Applications: mtbeeffoundation.org.



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: 11/13/2025		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	225.58	▼	228.98	185.09
CME Feeder Index	342.42	▼	349.42	251.04
Boxed Beef Average	373.57	▼	377.97	303.80
Average Dressed Steers	355.43	▼	358.36	292.40
Live Slaughter Weight*	N/A	▲	N/A	1,423
Weekly Slaughter**	N/A	▲	N/A	619,000
Weekly Beef Production***	N/A	▲	N/A	536.4
Hide/Offal Value	11.38	▼	11.40	11.22
Corn Price	4.43	▲	4.35	4.28

*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
November 7	6,644	377.86	245	419.18	1,141	382.67	2,116	374.34	591	358.91	2,550	339.31
October 31	6,327	376.26	258	421.13	1,156	380.64	1,939	371.89	639	356.08	2,334	336.55
October 24	6,783	370.86	244	420.67	1,279	374.50	1,937	368.11	695	351.45	2,628	329.63
October 17	6,557	366.52	232	419.13	1,174	370.48	2,112	362.98	622	346.06	2,417	324.87

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
November 13	373.57	355.03	314.18	176.56	398.85
November 12	374.45	359.94	319.27	178.54	410.42
November 11	379.22	360.08	317.78	181.20	404.92
November 10	377.32	359.70	318.77	N/A	405.64
November 7	376.40	361.09	320.01	182.01	407.31

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	11/7	11/10	11/11	11/12	11/13	High*	Low*
Dec.	22135	22855	22960	22833	22505	24678	16853
Feb.	21975	22700	22818	22740	22448	24830	16668
Apr.	21973	22698	22800	22660	22408	25018	17005
Jun.	21305	22030	22130	21950	21713	25093	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	11/7	11/10	11/11	11/12	11/13	High*	Low*
Nov.	32640	33565	34090	34028	34188	38103	21920
Jan.	31958	32883	33348	33093	32760	38280	22268
Mar.	31398	32323	32773	32475	32103	38020	22460
Apr.	31190	32115	32538	32223	31820	37860	24118

*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	6,422	1,594	225.58
Live FOB Heifer	1,074	1,391	226.51
Dressed Del Steer	722	958	355.43
Dressed Del Heifer	176	851	357.00
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	16,288	1,573	228.98
Live FOB Heifer	8,444	1,381	228.96
Dressed Del Steer	11,383	1,032	358.36
Dressed Del Heifer	2,320	879	358.96
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	4,786	1,520	185.09
Live FOB Heifer	1,875	1,324	184.93
Dressed Del Steer	2,657	979	292.40
Dressed Del Heifer	768	865	291.17

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 9, 2025

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	39,324	6,293
Formula	231,775	1,433
Negotiated Cash	70,543	454
Negotiated Grid	29,242	1,682
Packer Owned	9,112	N/A
Total	**379,996**	**9,862**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	2,014
Nov. '25	179,826	Neg. Sales 21+ days	697
Dec. '25	184,818	Formula sales	3,824
Jan. '26	125,872	Forward contract sales	109
Feb. '26	144,264	Domestic sales	5,964
Mar. '26	123,060	NAFTA Exports	69

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	215.12	+0.75
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	213.36	+0.93
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	222.75	-3.85
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	220.89	-3.82
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	135.65	-6.02

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	478.63	476.18	464.28
601-700 lbs	421.67	418.85	436.35
701-800 lbs	382.11	377.04	387.27
801-900 lbs	346.63	350.66	348.93
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	485.61	468.38	440.47
501-600 lbs	420.07	411.63	406.54
601-700 lbs	388.71	368.01	373.74
701-800 lbs	340.61	338.32	335.09

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
	11/3/2025	10/27/2025		
Feeders	0	0	230,638	1,174,056

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

November 13, 2025

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: N/A **Week Ago EST: N/A** **Year Ago Act: N/A**

THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		**Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2**	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A

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

Selected Auctions — Week Ending November 13, 2025

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

DATE / MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS / SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS / REPLACEMENTS	
No report available Blackfoot, ID											NORTHWEST
November 6 Burley, ID	1,114		520-555 437-510	438-536 470	380-421 327-361	305-366 305-322	309	286 272	115-232 151-176		
No report available Emmett, ID											
November 8 Eugene, OR	918		330-440* 305-416*	260-393* 290-380*	285-366* 264-370*	235-320* 245-320*	220-274* 200-270*		100-128 156-161	2,000-2,750 1,450-1,975	
November 10 Madras, OR	600		450-500 440-485	440-497 425-452	375-420	345-385 336-369	325-349 300-330		140-185 160-181		
November 5 Vale, OR	1,731		460-505	440-500 375-465	400-450				147-158 165-188	2,475-4,000	
November 13 Davenport, WA	393	365-450	325 315-390	265-412.50 100-380	314-402.50 180-375	300-340 227.50-330	245-310 152.50-277.50	118-265 124-235	136-235 134.50-169	3,600 1,150-3,585	
November 6 Toppenish, WA	1,810			480* 405*	390-395*	345-360* 360*			146-173 159-183.50	2,150-3,000	
No report available Orland, CA											FARWEST
November 10 Escalon, CA	N/A		350-500 300-400		360-440 300-350		300-350 250-320	150-190 180-250	110-160 120-175	1,400-2,500	
November 10 Famoso, CA	852		380-521 350-479	380-475 350-401	380-443 350-401	290-412 300-326	310-329	285-310 290-310	85-230 150-182		
No report available Galt, CA											
November 11 Turlock, CA	568		425-500 405-482.50	405-475 370-439	365-395 354-362.50	304-339 275-301	300-317.50 270-292.50	270-304 251-275	127-167 143-177		
No report available Salina, UT											
November 10 Iowa	12,195	590-600 590	390-572.50 358-550	392.50-570 350-475	355-485 318-425	310-420 285-399	301-375 260-337.50	275-341.50 268-316.50	124-230 110-216		NORTH CENTRAL
November 11 Miles City, MT	3,474		560-620 460-505	480-550 412.50-477.50	402-477.50 375-414	360-412 357-374	365-385.50	292.50	102.50-177 134-187		
November 12 Bassett, NE	4,180		532.50-565 471-500	490-560 432.50-470	422.50-496 390-430	390-439 362.50-395	355-413.50 336-337.50	309-358 315-339			
November 8 Ericson, NE	4,570		532.50-575 485-540	475-540 415-475	415-464 370-437	366-429.50 361-397.50	339.50-346	320-353 296.50-306			
No report available Imperial, NE											
November 12 Kearney, NE	2,500		470	445-527 419-453	407-451 390-432	371-414.58 362-383.50	357-366 327-346	309.50-352.75 275-321.25	160-177.50 160-197		
November 7 Lexington, NE	4,088		608 450-514	462-523 385-447	407-462.50 356-403.50	361-400 341-381	337-365.75	340-370.25 300			
November 6 Ogallala, NE	5,934		570-617.50 470-496	457-570 431-478	406-471 375-438	350-414 321-376	346-350 310-332.50	278-328.50			
November 6 Valentine, NE	2,930		536-542.50 462-532.50	469-522.50 419-460	428-469 390-505	385-430 475-550	364				
November 7 Herreid, SD	4,498		520-570 450-485	475-535 370-471	392-464 345-413	352.50-405.75 317.50-421	38.75 320-339	331-349 309-325.25			
November 12 Torrington, WY	5,830		555-570 505-535	482-550 430-502	419-492 369-456	379-433 339-367	347-365 333-342	330-343 287-338			
November 6 Willcox, AZ	1,693	459-520 412-460	432-515 378.50-435	372-425 345-410	317.50-382.50 297-370	299-335 290-307.50			125-165 150-207	2,500-2,800 3,250-3,575	SOUTH CENTRAL
November 10 Colorado	11,001		525-595 380-480	422.50-535 350-505	377.50-447 325-396	202.50-407 280-381	290-360 270-287.50	225-314 225-270			
November 5 La Junta, CO	1,946		435-565 375-460	382.50-500 352-455	325-430 325-390	312.50-359 370-337.50	290-323 260-287.50	270-310 260-292	160-182 183-194	2,850-3,550	
November 10 Loma, CO	2,546		510-590 485-540	475-550 420-485	420-555 350-445	350-395 335-365	320-360 300-385	225-310 230-300	155-190 170-185	4,000	
November 12 Dodge City, KS	2,097	330	557.50-572.50	455-502.50 391-447.50	383-445 362.50-403	329-387.50 309-332.50	318-345 321-328	320.50-340 288.25-333	135-190 149-207	1,800-3,200	
November 6 Pratt, KS	3,329		472.50-550 395-470	425-542.50 385-430	362.50-457.50 335-405	335-388 306-335	304-340 300-321	310-333.50 294-315	160-185 164-194	2,000-2,900	
November 6 Salina, KS	1,909		470-510 415-450	475-492 350-460	386-435 332-358	341-386 318-346	314-358 312.50-325	312-354.50 287-319			
November 13 Clovis, NM	2,113	350 472-505	435-557 350-450	350-475 283-437	325-385 287-340	310-356 277-335	270-334.50 252-316	140-295 218	142.50-154		
November 12 El Reno, OK	7,815	580-600 460-490	520-570 390-500	460-510 390-510	400-510 325-400	340-410 305-380	327.50-370 300-382.50	220-345 270-317.50			
November 12 McAlester, OK	1,860		371-545 320-480	349-493 342-445	380-450 295-359	355-387 303-360	335-361 260-329	293-305 295-306	141-168 172-196	1,750-2,800 1,425-3,450	
November 11 Oklahoma City, OK	6,113	540 475-570	510-610 445-535	455-530 380-447	371.50-534 323-398.75	321-397 312.50-370	311-359 301-315	303.50-334 240-298			
November 7 Cuero, TX	1,819	484-600 404-470	410-530 383-455	379-452 346-417.50	334-395 312-435	319-354 286-340	304-331 262-290		130-165 182-190	2,550-3,200 1,800-2,900	
November 6 Dalhart, TX	1,735		417.50-422.50 385-455	395-435 327.50-430	335-417.50 270-405	285-417.50 265-400	322.50-343 300-312.50	292-328 277-302	117-168 171-197		
November 6 San Angelo, TX	865			340-465 336-385	306-388 295-325	290-328 272-296	300-327		133-159 174-180		
November 6 Tulia, TX	1,000		555 430-450	450-515 337-400	390-397 280-353	300-327 290-325	280-290 260	260-290 230	140-145	1,900-2,800	
November 7 Alabama	10,773	590-620 405-615	427.50-485 360-430	404-460 335-410	352-430 310-370	318-376 290-375	300-362.50 282.50-327.50	290-337.50 285	128-173 143-214	1,800-3,700 1,025-3,600	EAST
November 10 Lexington, KY	748	407.50*	412.50-427.50* 370-392.50*	375-416* 310-360*	336-356* 323-355*	330-369* 300-327*	317* 262-325*	273* 241-263*	135-167 161-200	2,350-2,800 1,600-2,300	
November 10 Joplin, MO	8,098		450-480 390-420	420-440 367.50-395	375-405 346-375	349-390 335-363	341-389 305.50-351	308-343 305-316			
November 10 Tennessee	8,802	450-690 300-490	400-545 290-442	300-495 270-425	310-422.50 248-400	280-392.50 245-340	290-365 225-321	239-337 214-290	125-182 150-220	1,650-3,900 1,225-3,400	
November 10 Virginia	3,171	315-355	305-421 305-388	340-414 315-376	315-442 235-372.50	310-372.50 250-318	280-350 250-291	182.50-335 235-287.50			
CANADA											
November 12 Lethbridge, Alberta	2,859						427-464	376-438	206-222 237-309	4,700-7,500	

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Maximize profit potential for replacement heifers

In spite of market volatility over the past three weeks, the strong market fundamentals and current status of the U.S. beef industry remain unchanged, and can be distilled down into a few short bullet points:

- The lowest beef cow inventory since the early 1960s.
- The lowest number of feeder calves in the production chain since the 1950s.
- Strongest consumer demand for beef in several decades.
- There is very little evidence (over past several calf crops) of heifer calves being retained to develop as the next generation of cows.

These factors indicate the robust values of all classes of cattle (and beef) we are seeing now should continue for several years. Why? Because of the biological time lag between heifers selected now to develop as replacements, and the 24 months before they would potentially wean their first calf to enter the production system. Furthermore, it is most likely that the beef cow inventory of 2026 will be lower than 2025.

This current status is the result of droughts, the threat of New World screwworm, the resilience of cattle producers, high input cost and the great success story of cattle breeders improving the additive genetic merit of U.S. cattle to consistently yield a high quality, great tasting beef product to meet consumer demand.

The existing cow inventory will age out of production; thereby, replacement heifers are needed! Analysis of your production system, proper breeding objectives, mating decisions and development ensure the replacement heifers you are bringing into production are the right fit for your environment and set your operation up for success over the long-term.

Heifer development

In order to maximize profit potential, it is important to have heifers calving at 2 years of age. Research shows heifers becoming pregnant early in their first breeding season, (specifically the first 21 days) remain in the herd longer and produce more total calf weaning weight over their lifetime in production.

How do we select and manage replacement heifers so that they are having fertile heats and ready to conceive by 14-15 months of age? Genetics, photoperiod, level of nutrition and growth rate all influence when beef heifers reach puberty; that being said, heifers that have reached 65% of their mature weight by this age should have reached puberty and be ready to breed.

Obviously, age should be taken into account, along with other selection criteria covered last week, when selecting replacements, with older heifers having an advantage. Heifer calves born earlier in the calving season are produced by cows that conceived earlier in the breeding season.

After heifers are selected, how do we arrive at the target weight they need to gain from weaning until their first breeding season? First, we need an accurate estimate of the average mature weight of the cow herd that produced the heifers. This can be calculated from weights taken at weaning time on the 4-to-7-year-old cows and adjusting to a body condition score (BCS) of 5. If developing purchased heifers, target an optimum plane of growth having the heifers in a BCS of 6 by 14-15 months of age.

What is the best way to feed to reach that target weight? In a normal Oklahoma year, spring-born heifers weaned in fall can be grown on wheat pasture typically available by late November and gain 1.5 lb. per day (or better) to reach target weight. With wheat pasture conditions currently sporadic in Oklahoma, it is comforting to know that heifers can grow very slowly through the winter months and fed harder for the couple of months going into breeding season in order to reach target weight by breeding season.

For gestating bred heifers due to calve next spring, target a body condition of 6 and 80% of their mature weight at first calving. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

November feeder futures find strong recovery

MARKETS
(from page 1)

"Some might look at slaughter volume that is 10% under prior year and realize placements during last spring were not down 10%," the Cattle Report said. "The observation might be a sign of backed up cattle in the feedyard, but that is not the case."

Two factors are changing the availability of finished cattle, the Cattle Report continued, heavier marketing weights and placements of dairy-beef crosses that are on feed for a year, resulting in slower turnover.

Boxed beef prices traded slightly lower over the week. The Choice cutout lost about $4 to close at $373.57, and the Select cutout lost about $5 to close at $355.03.

"Perhaps once the government reopens and statistical analysis can be 'caught up' with current data there might be some indication that consumer beef demand is weakening," Fish said. "But for now, there is only speculation that the incredible domestic beef demand that was the true engine behind the bull market, has peaked."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were able to recover some of their earlier losses after also hitting limit up earlier in the week, but fell lower on Thursday. The November contract gained about $15 to close at $337, and the January contract gained about $3 to close at $318.45.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about $7 to close at $342.42.

Corn futures saw some gains, up 13 cents on the December contract to $4.41 and up 12 cents on the March contract to $4.55.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,098 head on Monday. Compared to the last sale, feeder steers sold $5-15 lower and feeder heifers sold from $5 higher to $15 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 773 lbs. sold from $341-359, averaging $351.31.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,387 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to $5 lower in a light test. Steer calves were selling $10-15 lower, but the market was improving and could be adjusted at the close. Heifer calves sold unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold from $344-359, averaging $350.29.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional sold 2,490 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, steer and heifer calves were not well tested, but yearling feeder steers and heifers sold $5-15 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 734 lbs. sold from $340-350, averaging $343.92.

Wyoming: Winter Livestock in Riverton sold 2,645 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers were under pressure on an uneven market base, with instances of $5-10 lower on 400-lb. calves. Feeder heifers under 500 lbs. sold $14-16 higher on uneven market, and over 500 lbs. sold steady to $3-5 lower. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

ID says number of livestock killed by wolves is decreasing

The number of livestock killed by wolves in Idaho is on the decline, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Director Jim Fredericks told a committee of Idaho legislators on Nov. 3.

During a meeting of the Idaho Legislature's Natural Resources Interim Committee at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise, ID, Fredericks briefed legislators on predators such as wolves and grizzly bears.

So far in 2025, Fredericks said investigators have found that 23 cattle, 43 sheep and one dog were confirmed, probably or possibly killed by wolves.

That's down significantly from 2022, when Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials reported 84 cattle and 192 sheep losses attributed to wolves.

When wildlife officials investigate a report of a predator killing or injuring livestock, their reports conclude one of four possible outcomes when it comes to likelihood the predator was responsible: confirmed, probable, possible or unknown.

Depredation is the term that state officials and wildlife managers use to refer to livestock that were killed or injured by predators.

"I will say that depredations have continued to decline in recent years—not that it's still not significant in some areas and for some producers—but we have seen a decline in wolf depredations recently," Fredericks said.

One possible reason that livestock deaths have declined is because Idaho's wolf population has declined as the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Idaho Legislature pass policies designed to reduce the wolf population by killing wolves.

According to the USDA, Idaho has about 2.5 million cattle, including calves, and about 235,000 sheep, including lambs.

Fredericks told legislators that the confirmed, probable and possible cattle and sheep losses he presented represent the minimum number of wolf kills. In some cases, investigators may not be able to determine how livestock died or may never be called out to investigate.

"That does not mean those were the only animals that were killed by wolves," Fredericks said. "Those were the ones that we were able to have that determination."

The state of Idaho has a compensation program to financially reimburse ranchers and livestock producers the fair market value of livestock killed by predators such as wolves or grizzly bears. From 2014 to 2022, Idaho's wildlife compensation program paid out just more than $687,000 to 299 livestock producers who suffered verified livestock losses, the Idaho Capital Sun previously reported. — **Clark Corbin, Idaho Capital Sun**

Tribe argues against pipeline lawsuit dismissal

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe argues in new court documents that a federal judge was wrong to dismiss its latest lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Standing Rock filed the lawsuit, which seeks to shut the pipeline down, last October.

The Tribe argues the Army Corps flouted federal law by allowing the Dakota Access Pipeline, also known as DAPL, to operate without an easement to cross Lake Oahe. Lake Oahe is a reservoir of the Missouri River that borders the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota state line.

U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg dismissed the case in March, finding that the Tribe was relitigating claims it already brought before his court in a previous lawsuit filed in 2016. At the time of the first suit, Standing Rock was leading a protest movement against the pipeline's construction that brought thousands of demonstrators to rural south-central North Dakota.

The Tribe disputed Boasberg's dismissal in new arguments filed with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"This appeal is a necessary step to hold the Corps accountable for its unlawful actions, to protect our people from the ongoing risks posed by DAPL, and to ensure that our sovereignty is respected," Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chair Steve Sitting Bear said in a statement.

Standing Rock says Boasberg's dismissal should be reversed because the Army Corps of Engineers' yearslong inaction on the easement counts as a separate issue the courts haven't ruled on yet.

"These are not challenges to past decisions but to the Corps' ongoing violations of clear statutory duties," the Tribe wrote in court records.

The Army Corps initially granted the oil pipeline an easement in 2017, but Boasberg revoked it in 2020 after finding the agency had broken the law by not fully evaluating the pipeline's environmental impacts.

Boasberg ordered the Corps to conduct a complete environmental impact study, which is still pending five years later. The agency published a draft in late 2023.

While the judge in court orders has been critical of the Army Corps' failure to move faster, he said this isn't something the Tribe can sue over.

"No matter its frustration with Defendants' sluggish pace, it is not yet entitled to a second bite at the apple," he wrote in his March order.

He said the Tribe may file another lawsuit once the Army Corps finishes its environmental impact study and takes final action on the easement.

The Tribe in the case claims the Army Corps violated a number of other federal laws related to the Dakota Access Pipeline, including that it hasn't enforced regulatory standards for emergency spill response plans.

Standing Rock has said in court filings it has new evidence showing the pipeline is unsafe. The pipeline developer, Energy Transfer, has indicated previously it does not consider the information credible.

"We still need people to stand with us. People think Standing Rock ended when DAPL went online in 2017," said Doug Crow Ghost, Standing Rock's director of water resources.

The Tribe also alleges that the Army Corps failed to investigate reports that sacred cultural sites were destroyed during the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which it says is required under the National Historic Preservation Act. The pipeline company disputes that it desecrated cultural sites.

"These are old, untrue claims the Tribe continues to put out, trying to change the facts of the situation," Energy Transfer said of the lawsuit in an email to the North Dakota Monitor.

The Dakota Access Pipeline passes through unceded land recognized as belonging to the Sioux Nation in 19th century treaties with the U.S. government.

Several states, including North Dakota, have intervened in the lawsuit as defendants. The states have argued that shuttering the pipeline would harm the regional economy, make road and rail transit more dangerous and would violate states' rights.

Dakota Access, the pipeline's owner, also joined the lawsuit on the side of the Army Corps. Dakota Access is owned by subsidiaries and affiliates of Energy Transfer.

The federal government, intervening states and Dakota Access are expected to respond to the Tribe's arguments by early January. — **Mary Steurer, North Dakota Monitor**

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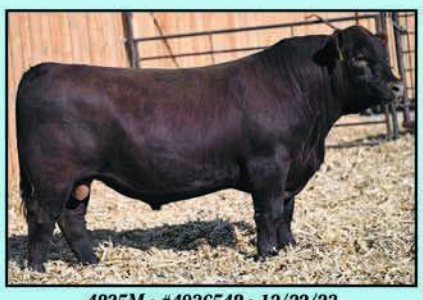
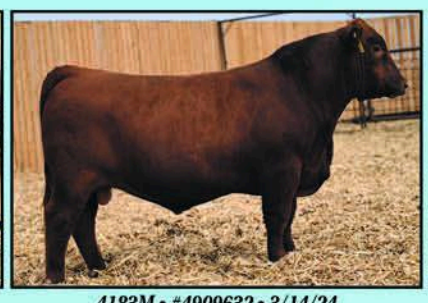


4835M • #4936548 • 12/22/23
CALL OF DUTY X IDENTITY X PROFITBUILDER
151PRO, 87HB, 16CED, -6.4BW, 69WW, 112YW, 25MILK, 13HPG, 10CEM, 20ST, 0.79MB, 0.14RE, $30,980$P, 186R
Big Time $Profit and $Ranch Herd bull prospect!

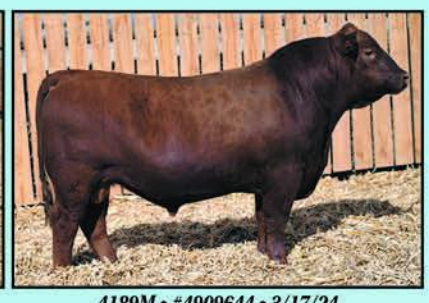
4199M • #4909664 • 3/22/24
NEXTGEN X X-FACTOR X ORACLE
155PRO, 52HB, 15CED, -4.1BW, 74WW, 119YW, 32MILK, 13HPG, 10CEM, 15ST, 1.11MB, 0.34RE, $27,601$P, 124R
Awesome feed efficiency bull with marbling and more!

4192M • #4909650 • 3/18/24
NEXTGEN X COMMANDER X DEFENDER
164PRO, 70HB, 14CED, -3.9BW, 63WW, 101YW, 29MILK, 10HPG, 10CEM, 16ST, 0.91MB, 0.29RE, $26,104$P, 137R
Make as many daughters as you can out this bull!

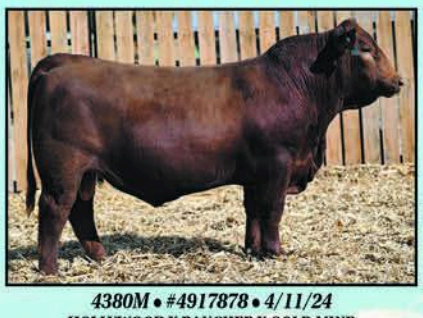
4148M • #4909562 • 2/20/24
IDENTITY X REDEMPTION X EXPECTATION
169PRO, 90HB, 17CED, -5.8BW, 77WW, 122YW, 28MILK, 17HPG, 11CEM, 16ST, 0.88MB, 0.22RE, $26,390$P, 126R
One of the best overall Identity Sons to sell all fall!



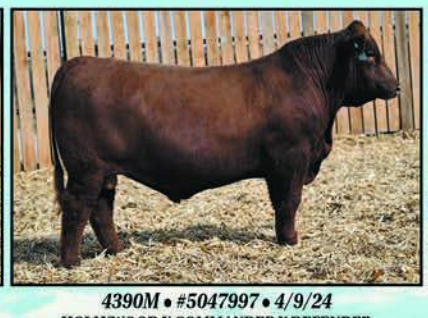
4183M • #4909632 • 3/14/24
NEXTGEN X X-FACTOR X VICTORY
148PRO, 55HB, 13CED, -2.5BW, 73WW, 115YW, 31MILK, 12HPG, 9CEM, 15ST, 1.07MB, 0.38RE, $26,111$P, 129R
Right out of our ET program and ready to go to work!



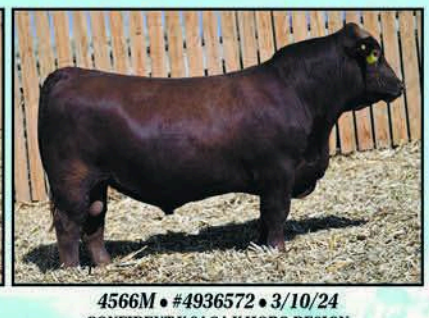
4189M • #4909644 • 3/17/24
NEXTGEN X STATESMAN X PREMIER
138PRO, 54HB, 14CED, -3.1BW, 72WW, 114YW, 31MILK, 12HPG, 10CEM, 14ST, 1.04MB, 0.10RE, $25,680$P, 145R
Balanced bull that puts it all into one package!



4380M • #4917878 • 4/11/24
HOLLYWOOD X RANCHER X GOLD MINE
101PRO, 13HB, 11CED, -1.1BW, 102WW, 173YW, 30MILK, 14HPG, 6CEM, 9ST, 0.83MB, 0.15RE, $14,400$P, 7$R
The #1 Growth bull in the entire sale!



4390M • #5047997 • 4/9/24
HOLLYWOOD X COMMANDER X DEFENDER
121PRO, 24HB, 16CED, -2.3BW, 91WW, 152YW, 28MILK, 10HPG, 8CEM, 10ST, 0.87MB, 0.32RE, $24,817$P, 53R
Full brothers to put together for an superior bull battery!



4566M • #4936572 • 3/10/24
CONFIDENT X SAGA X HOBO DESIGN
111PRO, 24HB, 15CED, -1.3BW, 89WW, 150YW, 34MILK, 12HP, 8CEM, 11ST, 0.72MB, 0.55RE, $7,697$P, 47R
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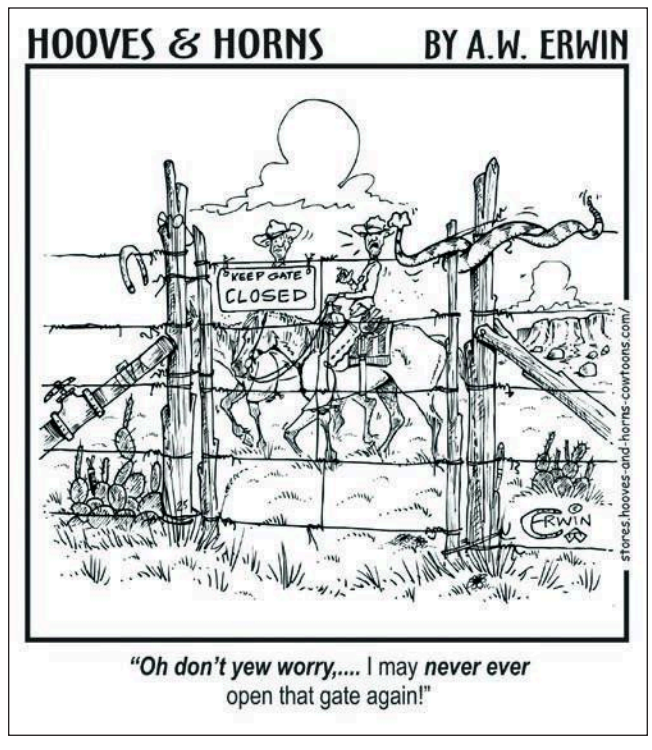


"Oh don't yew worry,.... I may never ever open that gate again!"

Lawmakers call for wolf to be delisted from ESA

WOLF RECOVERY
(from page 1)

Lakes region, the 2025 SSA found that the population is large, genetically diverse and resilient. Modeling showed the metapopulation will remain stable despite human-caused mortality, disease and other stressors. "The gray wolf will successfully maintain populations in the wild in the Eastern United States into the future," the report stated.

The findings reaffirm conclusions from the 2024 12-month review that gray wolves throughout the Northern Rocky Mountains and the western U.S. do not meet ESA definitions of "endangered" or "threatened." While court challenges remain pending, USFWS emphasized that its analyses consistently demonstrate sustained population growth, genetic health and ecosystem stability across wolf habitats.

USFWS' decision follows a recent ruling on Aug. 5 by a federal district court in Missoula, MT, which found that the agency had violated the ESA in its determination that gray wolves in the western U.S. did not warrant federal protection. In its decision, the court vacated the agency's "not warranted" finding and remanded the matter to USFWS for a new determination consistent with the ESA and the best available science.

Shift in strategy

The 2025 findings follow the Biden administration's 2024 announcement of a National Recovery Plan framework—an effort to create a single, comprehensive roadmap for wolf conservation across the lower 48 states. The administration said the plan would recognize that "the national discussion around gray wolf management must look more comprehensively at conservation tools available to federal, state, and Tribal governments."

The goal of the 2024 initiative was to create a long-term and durable strategy—acknowledging that the debate over wolf recovery has been shaped as much by court rulings and politics as by science. USFWS said it would seek to engage communities, including ranchers, conservationists and Tribal governments, in developing solutions that balance livestock protection, wildlife conservation and community security.

At the time, USFWS noted that there were approximately 2,797 wolves across at least 286 packs in seven western states, representing a population with "resiliency, redundancy, and connectivity."

Call for delisting

Following the release of the latest findings, pressure to delist the gray wolf intensified. Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI-01) and a coalition of 24 House members are urging newly confirmed USFWS Director Brian Nesvik to remove the species from the ESA list and return management authority to the states and Tribes.

The lawmakers emphasized that the species' recovery is one of the ESA's greatest success stories, noting that gray wolves have long surpassed federal recovery targets thanks to cooperative efforts among states, Tribes, private landowners and conservation partners.

The letter criticized repeated court rulings that have vacated USFWS delisting decisions and imposed a "a new, unlawful standard" requiring a species to fully recolonize its historic range before being delisted. The members argued that this interpretation defies both congressional intent and the agency's longstanding scientific framework, which focuses on whether a species is self-sustaining in its current range.

"As such, we urge FWS to reissue the rule delisting the gray wolf under the ESA, and to stand firmly behind the authority of states and tribes to manage recovered species, including through regulated hunting and other proven tools that help reduce human-wildlife conflict while sustaining healthy populations," the letter concluded.

Conservationists chime in

Kitty Block, president and CEO of Humane World for Animals (formerly the Humane Society of the United States), condemned the agency's decision as a grave mistake.

"This conclusion flies in the face of the best available science," Block said, arguing that wolves in the lower 48 "have not recovered from the historic killing campaigns that almost wiped them out" as they continue to face threats from poaching, habitat loss and hostile state policies.

Block emphasized that continued federal protections for wolves are essential and warned that without ESA safeguards, wolf management will be left to states with "bad-as-can-be track records when it comes to coexistence." She noted that predators cause fewer than 1% of livestock deaths, and that nonlethal deterrents are more effective than widespread culling. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

Optimism reigns at USMEF conference

Although the U.S. red meat industry faces significant obstacles in the international marketplace, demand remains robust in many key destinations where customers crave the quality and consistency of U.S. pork, beef and lamb. This was the prevailing message delivered by U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) President and CEO Dan Halstrom at the USMEF Strategic Planning Conference, which opened Nov. 12 in Indianapolis, IN.

Halstrom noted that pork exports are modestly below last year's record pace, but the gap stems mostly from a period early this year when China's retaliatory tariffs escalated and the U.S. industry faced uncertainty about plant eligibility. Although export data is only available through July due to the government shutdown, pork shipments are on record pace to leading market Mexico, as well as to Central America and Colombia.

Beef exports have been hit harder by barriers in China, where U.S. beef not only faces retaliatory tariffs, but also unwarranted plant delistings and China's failure to renew registrations for the vast majority of U.S. beef plants and cold storage facilities. Halstrom emphasized that fully reopening the world's largest beef import market to U.S. beef will require several actions on China's part, and the lockout could extend into next year.

"This is obviously a political card that's being held by the China side," Halstrom said. "One thing I'm very confident in is that [the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative] is well aware of our position, well aware of what's involved, and very well-informed. I do think they'll get it worked out eventually, I just can't tell you when—no one can."

While ongoing negotiations with several trading partners may lead to new opportunities for U.S. red meat, especially in Southeast Asia, Halstrom stressed that protecting and defending existing free trade agreements is an urgent priority. He noted that over the past decade, red meat exports to Free Trade Agreement partner countries have expanded by more than 30%, and exports to these destinations now account for 76% of total shipments.

Invoking the Paul Harvey quote, "In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these," Halstrom reminded USMEF members that the industry has endured tremendous trade setbacks in the past—citing examples such as widespread market closures due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy and plunging consumer confidence and buying power in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

"Remember that we overcame all those obstacles," Halstrom said. "I believe that with the knowledge in this room, and with continued cooperation and collaboration, we can overcome anything."

Following Halstrom's remarks, keynote speaker Jan Lambregts, head of RaboResearch Global Economics & Markets, offered a broad overview of the global economic situation and how it has been impacted by various economic policies embraced by the U.S., China, the European Union and Russia.

Lambregts delivered insights into recent geopolitical developments and international trade policy through the perspective of a high-stakes poker game. In examining "who holds the cards," his presentation discussed the macro strategies of the world's economic and political powers, with a particular emphasis on the complexities of the U.S.-China trade relationship.

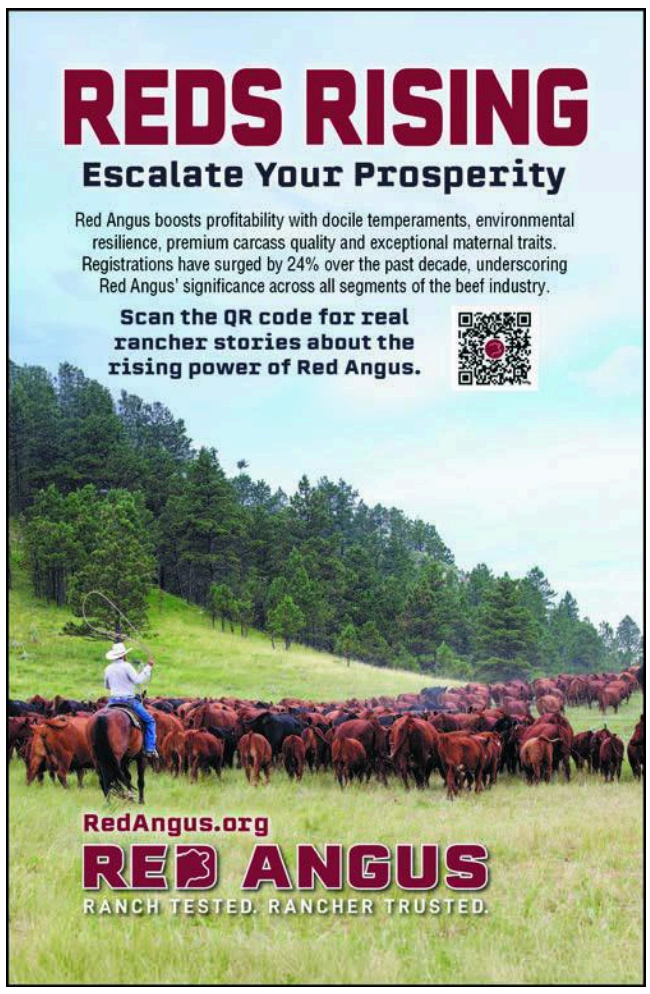
"I'm not quite sure if you will like this news, but I don't think there will be a comprehensive deal coming soon between China and the United States," Lambregts said. "What the U.S. is demanding is access to Chinese markets. What China will never give is access to the Chinese market because that's not how they've been winning in trade during the past 30-40 years."

Lambregts says that while the U.S. is currently working to isolate China, both countries are playing for time. China has been cut off from high-end semiconductors, which he called "the lifeline of the 21st century," and needs time to develop its own semiconductor sector. Similarly, the U.S. needs time to build its rare earths capacity, including development of extraction and processing capabilities.

"In the meantime, the U.S. is basically sending all its allies the same message: What was previously free defense now must be paid for, because we (the U.S.) need to be compensated. And by the way, if you want to trade with China, there are conditions now," said Lambregts.

Lambregts also addressed U.S. financial support for Argentina, which critics argue could harm U.S. exports, particularly of soybeans and other agricultural products.

"It was a mismanaged move, I would say," Lambregts explained. "The Trump administration considers (Argentine President Javier) Milei a U.S. ally, and he wanted Milei to do well in the elections. But this deal had a little bit of a hasty feel to it, and now you see unintended consequences." — **USMEF**



CLASSIFIED CORRAL

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVERTISING RATES

BY THE WORD: 90 cents per word for each insertion.

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DEADLINE: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. MT, the week prior to publication date. Newspaper is published on Mondays.

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Publisher is not responsible for errors in phoned-in copy. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with the publication standards.

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5 ..... Appraisers
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9 ..... Lost Cattle
10 ..... Cattle for Sale
11..... Cattle Wanted
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13 ..... Brands
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15 .....Horses/Mules
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20A .....Pacific Real Estate For Sale
20B . Intermountain Real Estate For Sale
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20F.....Midwest Real Estate For Sale
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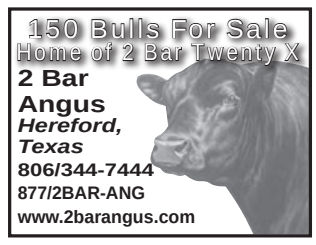

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We need your listings on any types of ag properties in TX, NM, OK & CO.

GUADALUPE CO., NM Escape to wide-open freedom on the Old Route 66 Ranch – 1,540 acres of rolling hills, native pastures, and rugged beauty nestled halfway between Santa Rosa and Tucumcari, New Mexico. Just minutes off I-40 near Newkirk, perfect for ranchers, hunters, and outdoor lovers alike, this Guadalupe County gem offers room to run cattle, space to roam, and unforgettable views in every direction. Sheltering terrain draws in wildlife, making this property the real deal for those who crave privacy, purpose and the outdoors. Privacy, potential, and panoramic skies — give us a call to walk the land and make it yours.

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SALE REPORTS

MONTANA RANCH BULL & FEMALE SALE
Nov. 8, Bigfork, MT
85 Angus older bulls $14,253
13 Angus total registered females 8,346
20 Commercial AI bred heifers 4,150
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Angus bulls: Montana Milestone 4035, 2/10/2024 by Montana Judgement 1038; to Duff Cattle Co., Hobart, OK, $70,000, 1/2 interest. Montana Merit 4253, 6/20/2024 by LT Chiefton 1440; to Sunrise Farms, Nazereth, TX, $29,998, 1/2 interest. Montana Revival 4076, 2/16/2024 by Brooking Revival 0074; to Gordan and Shelia Young, Chinook, MT, $29,999. Montana Method 4255, 6/20/2024 by Montana Judgement 1038; to Little Goose Ranch, Big Horn, WY, $29,000, 2/3 interest. Montana Mandate 4098, 2/11/2024 by LT Chosen 2132; to Connor Barnes, Cody, NE, $26,000. **Bred heifer:** Montana Rose 4111, 3/29/2024 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Rafter B Cattle Co., Hamilton, MT, $13,000.—**KEVIN MURNIN**

GREEN MOUNTAIN ANGUS & ROONEY ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Nov. 10, Billings, MT
42 Angus fall yearling bulls $10,131
36 Angus 2-year-old bulls 10,029
145 Angus bull calves..... 9,831
208 Commercial bred heifers 4,329
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Angus bull calves: GMA Congress N41, 2/13/2025 by Crouch Congress; to Wilson Angus, Watford City, ND, $24,000. GMA Congress N04, 1/2/2025 by Crouch Congress; to Wilson Angus, Watford City, ND, $23,000. GMA Congress N03, 1/1/2025 by Crouch Congress; to Darrel Howard, Dunn Center, ND, $22,000. RAR Rawhide 4047, 4/11/2024 by Poss Rawhide; to Fortune Triangle S Ranch, Interior, SD, $18,998. GMA Congress N28, 2/8/2025 by Crouch Congress; to Darrel Howard, Dunn Center, ND, $18,500. **Fall yearling bull:** GMAR Wrangler 034M, 9/7/2024 by S Wrangler 830; to Fortune Triangle S Ranch, Interior, SD, $18,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

BEARTOOTH ANGUS BULL AND FEMALE SALE
Nov. 11, Billings, MT
67 Angus older bulls $7,897
2 Angus donor cows..... 18,000
6 Angus fall pairs 6,832
23 Angus bred heifers 5,033
25 Commercial bred cows..... 3,602
5 Angus pregnancies..... 5,900
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS—Angus bulls: Beartooth Bougie M52, 4/2/2024 by BNWZ Bougie M52; to Adams Angus, Brigham City, UT, $20,000. Beartooth Nobility M61, 4/4/2024 by BNWZ Nobility 1202; to Jeff and Tammi Berger, Melville, MT, $16,000. Beartooth Spurs up M202, 10/10/2024 by EZAR Spurs Up 1125; to Maxwell Ranch, Lewistown, MT, $14,500. Beartooth Top Gun M144, 6/19/2024 by Schiefelbein Top Gun 522; to Commercial Bull Buyer, MT, $12,999. Beartooth Nobility M59, 4/12/2024 by BNWZ Nobility 1202; to Bootheel 7 Ranch, Lusk, WY, $12,000. **Donor cow:** Linz Inn 3189-7801, 9/10/2017 by MAR Innovation 257; to Wayne Weyerman, Idalia, CO, $23,000, 1/2 interest. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

SALE CALENDAR

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

ANGUS

Nov. 17 – J&L Livestock, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 19 – TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Nov. 21 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Meriden, WY
Nov. 22 – Frank Cattle & Genetics and Baldridge-Tiedeman Angus, Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Nov. 22 – Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Female Sale, Ideal, SD
Nov. 22 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 22 – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 22 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Nov. 25 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 28 – Vermillion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 1 – Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Fall Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec. 2 – Stevenson Angus, Fall Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec. 2 – Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 3 – McDonnell Angus, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 4 – Sitz Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 5 – KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 6 – Reverse Rocking R Ranch, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 8 – Hallow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Pony, MT
Dec. 8 – Shipwheel Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 13 – Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
Dec. 15 – TK Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Valentine, NE
Dec. 18 – Bobcat Angus, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 16, 2026 – Foundation Angus Sale, Denver, CO
Jan. 20, 2026 – Ken Haas Angus, Bull Sale, La Grange, WY
Jan. 23, 2026 – McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 23, 2026 – Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 21 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Meriden, WY

HEREFORD

Nov. 20 – Largent and Sons, Bull Sale, Kaycee, WY
Nov. 24 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Dec. 5 – Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV
Jan. 19, 2026 – Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull Sale, Oshkosh, NE

OPTIMIZER

Dec. 8 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

RED ANGUS

Nov. 21 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Meriden, WY
Nov. 22 – Ludvigson Farms, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY
Dec. 8 – Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Production Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 3 – Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 12 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT

SALERS

Dec. 8 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SIMANGUS

Dec. 5 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 6 – Western Choice Female Sale, Billings, MT

SIMMENTAL

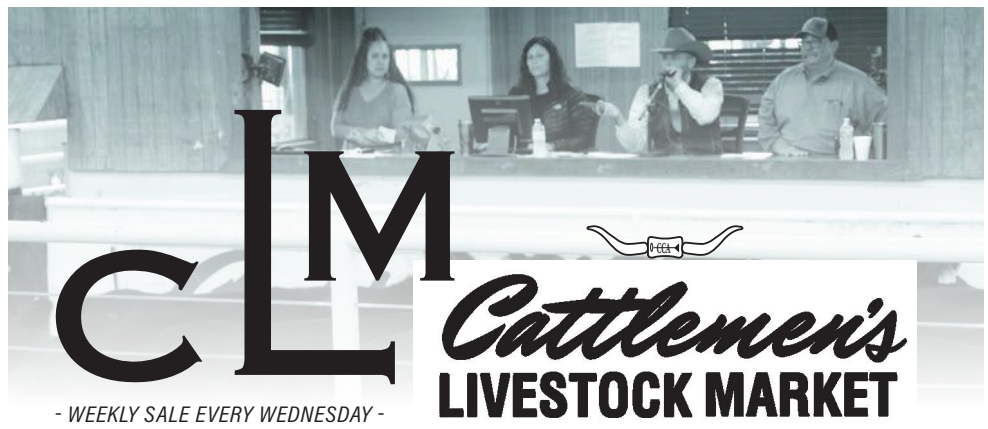
Dec. 5 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 6 – Western Choice Female Sale, Billings, MT

STABILIZER

Nov. 21 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull & Female Sale, Meriden, WY
Dec. 6 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 21 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Heifer Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Dec. 2 – Western Video Market Sale, Reno, NV
Dec. 13 – Sitz Angus, Bred Female Sale, Dillon, MT
Jan. 14, 2026 – Maternal Merit, Bred Heifer Sale, Denver, CO



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Dec. 1st 2025

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8 Embryo Lots
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+8	+0.4	+76	+135	+.75	+.51	+257

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CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
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CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+3	+3.5	+91	+146	+.79	+.81	+331

DIAMOND VERSATILE M304

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+5	+2.0	+82	+82	+1.49	+.22	+316

DIAMOND VERSATILE M387

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+8	+1.4	+80	+137	+1.41	+.30	+311

DIAMOND CAVALRY M356

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+3	+1.1	+90	+154	+.94	+50	+288

DIAMOND CLOVA PRIDE M866

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+3	+1.2	+84	+148	+1.23	+.52	+340

DIAMOND LADY DENVER M328

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+9	+0.5	+84	+136	+1.32	+.20	+305

DIAMOND CHLOE 005M

CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	$C
+8	-0.9	+78	+125	+.66	+.44	+234

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