

Western Livestock Journal®

"The Industry's Largest Weekly Circulation"

The National Livestock Weekly

November 18, 2024 • Vol. 102, No. 51

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

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— Uncertainty looms as Congress debates farm bill's fate. Page 4

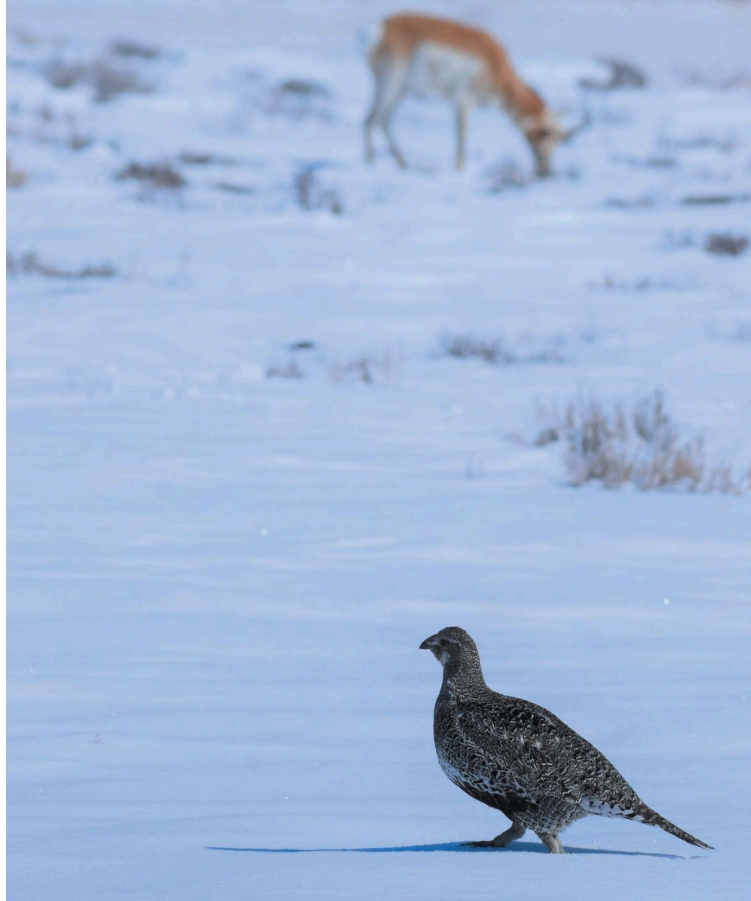
JUDICIAL PAUSE — Court mandates review of grizzly management impacts. Page 15

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

As working dogs continue to support ranchers today, this 1945 piece captures the enduring bond between humans and their loyal canines: "Working dogs have been regarded as indispensable to the sheep industry for many centuries. Likewise, husbandmen engaged in other kinds of livestock production have found many uses for dogs. Throughout all ages and among nearly all nations, the dog has been the friend, the companion, the silent, willing servant of man," wrote D.S. Bell in the November 1945 issue of *WLJ*.

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Tom Koerner/USFWS
The BLM has released its final plan to guide greater sage-grouse management in the West. Pictured here, a greater sage-grouse on Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming.

Final greater sage-grouse plan released for the West

— Outlines plans for 65 million acres

The Bureau of Land Management rolled out in early November its final plan for greater sage-grouse conservation and management on public lands in the West. The proposed plan updates a draft released earlier this year, and tightens restrictions on oil and gas, mineral and clean energy development.

The plan outlines management across nearly 65 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitat, and updates 77 resource management plans. It also builds on the agency's Public Lands Rule, renewable energy rule and Western Solar Plan—plans that have garnered controversy in the agriculture industry.

"Our environmental analysis, aided by a wealth of information from our partners, indicates that these proposed updates—which are the result of decades of sustained collaborative efforts—are the best way to ensure the health of these lands and local economies now and into the future," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning.

The final environmental impact statement (EIS) was developed with the consideration of 38,000 public comments on the draft EIS, along with information garnered in more than 100 meetings held over two years. States also submitted data and scientific info to help inform management and habitat areas.

"The U.S. Geological Survey analyzed state-collected lek data and reported estimated range-wide population declines of nearly 80 percent from 1966-2021 and of 41 percent from 2002-2021," according to BLM's executive summary of the plan.

Final plan

The draft plan released this spring included six alternatives based on plans adopted in 2015 and revised in 2019. The preferred alternative, Alternative 5, balances sage grouse protections while maintaining a balance of public land uses, the agency said. The alternative considered options with fewer restrictions

See SAGE GROUSE on page 11

BLM releases OR rangeland management plan

— Addresses multiple uses

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released an updated resource management plan (RMP) for Lake and Harney Counties in southern Oregon, addressing rangeland health issues and wilderness characteristics.

The RMP and final environmental impact statement, covering approximately 3.2 million acres, analyzed seven alternatives and incorporated about 1,300 comments.

The proposed alternative incorporated components from the other alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement. The preferred plan would designate approximately 373,132 acres to protect wilderness characteristics over managing other resources and multiple uses. BLM plans

to balance wilderness characteristic management with other resources and multiple uses across roughly 738,665 acres. BLM would prioritize other resources and multiple uses over wilderness protection on approximately 495,332 acres.

Livestock grazing would continue under the current land use plan, with over 2.9 million acres remaining accessible. Based on prior evaluations, areas deemed incompatible with livestock grazing remain closed to grazing use. An appendix in the management plan shows that since 1998, land health assessments have determined 126,614 acres of BLM-managed lands have failed to meet standards due to livestock grazing. The BLM anticipates that more areas could face similar outcomes

See BLM OREGON on page 14

Montana Stockgrowers intervenes in CAFO lawsuit

— Effects will cause uncertainty

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit filed by a trio of environmental groups against the state over its statewide water pollution permit for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, Food & Water Watch and the Center for Food Safety filed a complaint in December 2023 challenging the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). They alleged DEQ issued a permit for CAFOs across the state without the necessary water pollution monitoring to ensure compliance with permit terms and water quality standards.

According to the complaint, this lack of monitoring could degrade water quality statewide, undermine

the Clean Water Act's permit framework and prevent DEQ from protecting Montana's right to a clean environment.

"DEQ's failure to issue a permit capable of identifying, or preventing, CAFO discharges that can cause or contribute to degradation or violations of water quality standards also violates Montanans' Constitutional right to a 'clean and healthful environment' and leaves Montanans without an 'adequate remedy at law' to protect that right," the lawsuit read.

The lawsuit said CAFOs produce various pollutants, including pathogens, pharmaceuticals and concentrated animal waste, that require careful management to protect water quality. The waste, often stored in lagoons or accumulating in feedlots, can contain harmful substances like E. coli, antibiotics, hormones

and nutrient-heavy runoff, which can impair water quality if mismanaged, the groups continued. Additionally, contaminants from animal feed, rainwater runoff and other pollutants stored at CAFO sites pose significant risks to public health and the environment.

MSGA said in a statement that CAFO operators dedicate significant resources to meet the requirements of the CAFO General Permit. This includes submitting a comprehensive Notice of Intent package that outlines facility design, operational protocols and monitoring practices. The permit mandates detailed monitoring within and around CAFO facilities, and operators must notify DEQ within 24 hours of any pollutant discharge.

See MSGA on page 16

Futures fall as cash trade lags

The cattle market softened over the week as cash trade activity was slow for the second consecutive week. However, demand continues to remain strong.

Live cattle futures were a couple dollars lower over the week, with the December contract down about \$2 to \$182.95 and the February contract down about \$2 to \$185.10.

"Even though it was assumed cash cattle prices would be steady at best this week, the live cattle complex is trading lower as traders are disgruntled by the light trade that developed Wednesday afternoon in the North at \$290, which is \$3 lower than last week's weighted average," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 52,000 head. Live steers sold from \$182-185, and dressed steers sold from \$287-290.

Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 10 totaled 50,010 head. Live steers sold for \$186.60, and dressed steers sold

for \$293.30.

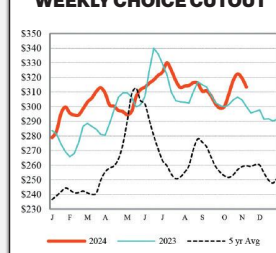
"Packers have been forced to reduce production as margins veer back into the red as boxed beef values make yet another new low for the move today," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 483,000 head, about 11,000 head less than a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 619,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 2 was 615,990 head. The average steer

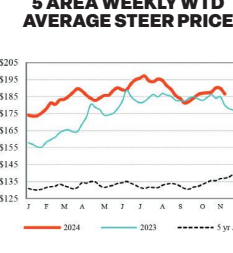
See MARKETS on page 19

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



↓	↑	↑
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$185.09	\$292.40	\$251.04
WEEK ENDING: 11-14-24		

COMMENTS

Strength through storms

Winter has made a dramatic entrance this year! The snow totals in Colorado and New Mexico were impressive, with areas receiving up to 40-plus inches of snow. Many areas also received much needed moisture in the form of rain. Even if the timing of the moisture was not optimal, delaying weaning or setting back harvest crews, it is hard to argue the relief it brought to many areas dealing with drought and dusty fall working conditions. By the time you read this article, the northwest U.S. could find themselves in similar situations with a forecasted significant amount of snow.



GROSHANS

As I reflect on the dramatic swings in weather the High Plains receive, I find myself reflecting on those that came before us and the resilience they exhibited settling a land roamed and ruled by the Comanches and at the mercy of Mother Nature. Historical books and movies don't spare when it comes to depicting the conditions the High Plains dealt those in its path. S.C. Gwynne's book, "Empire of the Summer Moon," offers a fascinating, vivid and unique perspective of the environment and the people. It gives you a level of appreciation for those brave enough to venture into the adverse climate.

The idea that this was "the last part of the continent conquered" also speaks to the immense challenges of colonization and settlement. The High Plains were remote, difficult to navigate and hostile to the unfamiliar, making it the final frontier for settlers and the U.S. Army. It paints a picture of a rugged, wild place that even the army was reluctant to engage with until absolutely necessary.

The High Plains, where the Comanches roamed, were indeed unforgiving. The book describes it as a combination of extreme heat and droughts, followed by brutal winter storms. This created a landscape that was both challenging and often deadly. Many of the "common place" storms like the recent blizzard in eastern and southern Colorado we encounter are so uniquely extreme they have their own specific cultural identity.

The Comanches no longer pose immediate threats, and technology has allowed prosperity in areas once rugged and wild, but weather still shapes day-to-day life for those that call the High Plains home. Anyone hauling feed to unweaned calves still on the cow at summer grass, waiting for snow to thaw and mud to clear, know that Mother Nature does not read the same calendar and planner they have. It is easy to become overwhelmed, frustrated or even angry, but let us not forget hardships those before us endured with the hope that this would be the better life, the beginning of their legacy. Let us be grateful for the lessons learned from previous generations to progress forward and persevere.

Maybe we have these historical weather patterns to thank for the advancement of cattle marketing. It was out of sustainability necessity that cattle transportation evolved from cattle drives to rail cars, to trailers and semis crossing the country on interstates. Marketing from trades between neighbors to cattle yards, to auctions, to online videos and photographs. Breeding and genomic information from word of mouth to print, to magazines, to online catalogs readily and easily accessible on your cell phone for the most informed breeding choices.

Whether you live in this region by choice or chance, we can all learn from the generations before us. Hard work, perseverance and resilience passed down through generations can create a legacy of strength and character. It's true that hardships often shape not only our survival but also our memories. When kids look back on stories of those tough winters, they might remember the challenges and snows days off school, but also the lessons of grit, determination and community. Those snowstorms are more than just weather events—they're moments that define how people respond to adversity, and that becomes part of their identity.

In a way, the hardships we face today serve as steppingstones for future generations to learn from, as they look back on how their parents and grandparents met those challenges head-on. They might see not just the snowdrifts, but the spirit that allowed the family to thrive through them. — **TY GROSHANS**

DITTMER'S TAKE



Rural America finally got help from other parts of the electorate, voting for a president who recognizes the importance of food producers and who won some important beef trade battles in Japan, South Korea and China.

President-elect Donald Trump and Mexico will quickly have to thrash out the border situation. Trump got Mexico's last president to enforce their border security. Will their new president cooperate? From the huge flow of drugs and people through Mexico, the country and cartels have been doing a booming business. Will that gravy train end?

Trump has selected Lee Zeldin to run the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA is a major trouble source for agriculture, but the voters have realized many other industries have been put through needless regulatory hoops. Those hoops—or destruction of whole industries—have costs that consumers have paid. They've noticed. They've even realized critical supplies are threatened.

Zeldin will restore the EPA's original purpose, to protect air and water from obvious threats. Common sense stuff. It was never intended to regulate every aspect of life on Planet Earth, from heat, propulsion and electricity to stoves, washing machines, water heaters and light bulbs.

Trump is not nominating bashful, tentative, go-along-to-get-along types. He wants to make major changes to government operations.

As of this writing, a USDA nominee hasn't been made. We need someone who can protect beef from the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. That adversary has announced they are trying again to banish meat consumption from nutrition recommendations for school lunch, nutrition programs, the military and everyone for a plant-based dietary regimen.

Trade was a major topic of the campaign. Critics painted Trump as a threat to world trade and American consumers. They never understood Trump as a negotiator and businessman. What he will threaten and what will happen are two very different things.

Beef has free-trade agreements with our top two overseas export customers, Japan and South Korea. Canada and Mexico are both suppliers and major customers. Trump will lean on China to live up to their commitments. President Xi Jinping may not want to disrupt supplies of meat and grain to a suffering population.

Trump's intention is to make America a business-friendly country with lower taxes and regulation in the world's biggest, richest market. The last time, exporters cut prices, cut margins and importers did the same so as not to lose market share.

Politicians and economists who fear inflation under Trump tariffs are not supply-side economists. Increased supply and lower costs are not inflationary. The Federal Reserve's theory of conquering inflation through killing demand is slow pain. Increasing the supply of goods through cutting taxes and regulations normalizes markets and unleashes innovation and business investment. A year or so after adjustments, government tax revenue increases. It is Congress' spending policies that create inflation, putting more money into the marketplace—which it takes from taxpayers and businesses.

Having congressional majorities means the Republicans will select committee chairs, have more members on committees and set the political agenda, working with Trump.

A reconciliation budget bill could cut spending the country

can't afford and hopefully, repurposing and recapturing money.

Trump and the Republicans have an obvious voter mandate, so they will have that political and psychological edge in cajoling reluctant Republicans.

Last time, there were more establishment Republicans who considered Trump an interloper and unworthy of support. This time, they will also feel the heat of Trump's voter support.

Trump has support from usual sectors but also made serious headway with non-traditional voting blocs, like blue-collar workers, union members, younger male voters and cultural and racial groups. The political opposition will find it harder to play certain groups off against him.

Another key factor: preparation and experience. Trump is picking people he can trust, people with only one face and people determined to serve America.

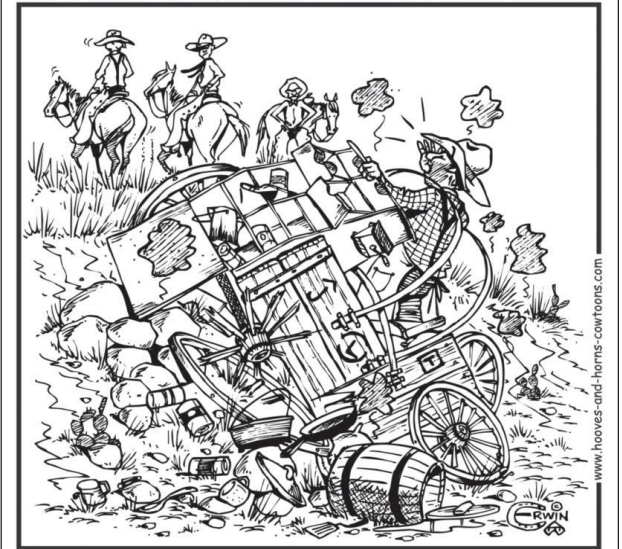
His guts, his doggedness and obvious love of country should also give him more heft in Washington. He also has the advantage of not facing reelection. That gives him freer rein to do what the country needs. He could engineer a fix to Social Security and Medicare before they require annual transfusions of general revenue to stay alive.

The Fed cut interest rates, but bond traders don't believe in supply-side economics. Bonds went up after the cuts. There is some educational work there.

Trump's victory speech said that it was the work of a movement, not something he personally won. He labeled it common sense, setting the table for an American Golden Age. He believes God gave him extra years for the job. — **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.)

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"SO... I RECKON THAT'S A BIG-FAT NO ON THE SUSHI???"

OBITUARY



Craig Louis Vejraska;
1947-2024

Craig L. Vejraska passed away unexpectedly Oct. 23 while doing one

of his favorite chores of watering his black Angus cows. Craig was born in a blizzard by flashlight in Pawnee City, NE, Dec. 4, 1947.

He spent his early years between Nebraska and Texas then to Omak, WA, where he attended Saint Mary's Mission Catholic School and the Omak public school, graduating from Omak High in 1966. He graduated from Eastern Washington University (EWU) in 1970 with a degree in government and was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. While attending EWU, he was initiated into the 1967 class of Pi Kappa Alpha as the 54th member of the ZetaNu Chapter in Cheney, WA.

Craig grew up farming and ranching in Okanogan County, starting with Angus cattle in 1960, having purchased an Angus heifer for his 4-H

project. He liked to say the ranch was his "runaway 4-H project." He was an entrepreneur even in college, selling life insurance while attending EWU. His first official job after college was as a salesman for International Harvester and he continued selling insurance.

The move to the Royal Slope in 1971 was made after a long talk while selling an International Harvester tractor to Mike Brown. Craig and his family spent years farming the ground on the slope and ranching. Craig married Mary K in 1986, and they moved to Omak in the fall of 1988. Craig continued with the insurance business, purchasing North Valley Insurance in 1987. In the fall of 1989, Craig became an owner in the Okanogan Livestock Market and continued to be very involved in the cattle

industry.

Craig enjoyed serving on many boards of various cattle associations and other boards over the years. He was most proud of being a member of the Washington State Beef Commission representing the cow-calf industry, a past Okanogan County commissioner and a graduate of the Washington Ag Forestry Leadership Program.

Left to cherish his memory are his lovely wife Mary K; sons, Jason (Jennifer), Todd (Katlenia), Scott and Ryan (Carlan); grandchildren, Cameron, Jaxson, Kelsey, Caleb, Kacie, Arlee, Kady, Vance, Henry and Jase; and great-grandchildren, Ideya and Dali.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Market Stock Fund with "Craig Vejraska" on the memo line to P.O. Box 1774, Okanogan, WA 98840.

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

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SITZ Architect 9453
Reg# 20692507
S: S Architect 9501 MGS: SITZ Vigilante 11830

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
11	-1.4	77	139	1.42	22.3
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
25	0.47	0.61	91	-3.33	41



SITZ Architect 9473
Reg# 20692420
S: S Architect 9501 MGS: SITZ Logo 12964

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
5	2.0	104	164	2.12	22.0
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
20	0.67	0.61	110	-0.35	38



SITZ RLS Continuity 11553
Reg# 20646761
S: SITZ Continuity MGS: Musgrave 316 Exclusive

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
5	1.1	91	163	1.33	14.9
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
23	0.75	0.74	73	1.82	39



SITZ Rangeland 8243
Reg# 20692601
S: Ellingson Rangeland MGS: SITZ Logo 12964

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
5	2.4	91	150	0.79	18.8
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
29	0.89	0.90	93	-2.44	37



SITZ Prodigy 10323
Reg# 20652224
S: SITZ Prodigy 12000 MGS: SITZ Profile 1160

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
3	3.1	91	158	1.54	17.5
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
31	0.90	1.02	79	0.01	39



SITZ Accomplishment 13003
Reg# 20771954
S: SITZ Accomplishment 720F MGS: Koupals B&B Titan 3013

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP
9	1.5	73	127	1.41	17.5
Milk	MARB	REA	\$M	PAP	Act. PAP
23	0.51	0.78	81	-3.36	40

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Farm bill faces uncertainty amid lame-duck session

Is a farm bill or disaster aid on the table for agriculture to pass before the end of the year?

Congress returned to Washington on Nov. 12 for a lame-duck session of Congress with Republicans debating just how much they want to get done before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.

The big issue for Congress will be passing another government spending bill. Congress hasn't hammered out a full budget for fiscal year 2025, which began in October. The current budget deal expires on Dec. 20. The Washington Post reported recently that lawmakers are looking at passing another budget extension—the same as they did a year ago—that would run until March. That would allow time for both the new administration and Congress to start planning before passing the annual spending bill.

For farmers, the farm bill

is still out there with no definitive rallying cry demanding that Congress complete the bill now.

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), the expected chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee next year, told Brownfield News that getting the farm bill done is the top priority, but time will press lawmakers during the lame-duck session. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), the retiring committee chair, has not weighed in on the possibilities since the election.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), who will likely move into the role of Agriculture Committee ranking member, was quoted by the Red River Farm Network (RRFN) that she would like to get the farm bill done.

"I just think we're going to be better off when we're doing all the disaster relief for the southern states, and we're doing that with good reason," Klobuchar told RRFN. "There's going to be

funding that's spent on that if the farm bill gets jettisoned as kind of an orphan at the end of next year. With an extension, it might be harder for us to get some of the resources that we want."

There's also the question of disaster aid.

In the House, Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL-03), a member of the House Agriculture Committee, said in a statement to the news outlet The Floridian that a farm bill passed under Trump would be more favorable.

"I think we would get a better farm bill if we do (it) under the Trump admin," Cammack stated.

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA-15), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, has not weighed in since the election.

In the coming days, leaders in both the House and Senate will detail their priorities for the lame-duck session.

Disaster package

Lawmakers from states hit by hurricanes Helene and Milton were calling for more specific aid packages before the election. A disaster package in some form or another will likely come out of the lame-duck session.

On Nov. 11, the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) economic team highlighted that farmers have faced a gap of \$20 billion in uncovered disaster losses going back to 2022.

"To date, only one-third of 2022 uncovered losses from natural disasters have been addressed through ad hoc relief programs, and uncovered losses from 2023 and 2024 are still unaddressed," AFBF's Market Intel report stated.

Congress last authorized disaster aid for farmers at the end of 2022, which was \$3.74 billion, but left roughly \$6.74 billion unfunded. That added to the controversy when

USDA changed its disaster funding formula to pay out a higher percentage of aid to smaller farmers who were less likely to carry crop insurance.

In 2023, AFBF stated there were nearly \$10 billion in agricultural losses from disasters that were not covered by insurance. In 2024, there was already more than \$4.1 billion in such losses before Helene, Milton and wildfires in states such as North Dakota.

AFBF's analysis said the partial 2022 payments from USDA under the Emergency Relief Program, along with mounting losses from recent disasters, "highlights the urgent need for a robust, timely disaster relief response that only Congress can deliver."

AFBF pointed to a bill offered by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA-22), the Agriculture Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024. That bill proposed \$14 billion for farmers and ranchers due to 2023 losses.

Boozman told Brownfield there are other options, including the FARM Act, introduced by Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS-01), a member of the House Agriculture Committee. The FARM Act, introduced in late October, would provide aid to farmers when their revenue falls below the costs of production "due to circumstances beyond their control."

Kelly's bill has support from 48 House members, including at least one key

Democrat, Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA-02).

Climate clawback?

As part of those farm bill discussions, Politico reported Republicans will look to roll back any unspent funds from the Inflation Reduction Act at USDA, which would equal roughly \$13 billion in unspent conservation dollars designated for climate-smart practices.

Republicans also will likely put more limits on future nutrition spending, Politico noted.

One key area to watch in any farm bill talks is where the Republican Congress comes down on the Commodity Credit Corp. (CCC) now that a nominee from Trump will control USDA's purse strings.

The House version of the farm bill would freeze the agriculture secretary's access to those funds because USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack used \$3.1 billion for climate-smart grants. Thompson argued the budget savings were significantly higher than the Congressional Budget Office forecast.

Under the first Trump administration, then-Secretary Sonny Perdue spent \$23 billion in 2018 and 2019 to boost farm incomes with trade-aid payments. Given the focus again on another tariff war, the CCC might again be needed to offset lost export sales. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Summit pipeline decision in MN could come soon

An administrative law judge report recommends that Minnesota approve a small segment of the massive Summit Carbon Solutions project that would store millions of tons of carbon dioxide underground in North Dakota.

A final decision from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission could come at its Dec. 12 meeting, a spokesperson for the agency said in an email.

The 28-mile segment in Otter Tail and Wilkin counties would connect the Green Plains ethanol plant at Ferguson Falls in northwest Minnesota to about 2,500 miles of pipeline planned by Summit Carbon Solutions.

If built, the five-state pipeline network would send carbon emissions from ethanol plants to a permanent underground storage area northwest of Bismarck, ND.

The report filed recently by an administrative law judge said an environmental impact statement is adequate and the project is unlikely to pollute Minnesota's natural resources.

CURE, a Minnesota environmental group opposed to the project, said the report "fails to address the many concerns that impacted landowners and hundreds of community members have raised in written comments and public hearings."

The group said the com-

mission "will be setting a dangerously low bar for environmental review for Summit's current project and the other pipelines it has plans to build in the state."

In an emailed statement, Summit said "this report reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in ensuring the project meets rigorous standards."

Summit says it has secured 89% of the 28-mile route through voluntary easements. In Minnesota, Summit does not have the option of using eminent domain to obtain right-of-way for the pipeline.

Eminent domain is a point of contention with landowners in other states.

Summit did not say when it expects to file for a route permit for the larger part of its project in west-central and southern Minnesota.

Summit is awaiting rulings in North Dakota on permit applications for its pipeline route and underground storage.

Iowa has granted Summit a permit, and the company says it plans to try again for a permit in South Dakota. The project also includes Nebraska, which has no state agency in charge of issuing permits for CO2 pipelines.

The report says Summit plans to begin construction in Minnesota in the third quarter of 2025. — **Jeff Beach, North Dakota Monitor**



TK ANGUS

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DECEMBER 16, 2024

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Selling 155 Fall Bulls & 50 Spring Calving Females

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1 T K Goat L752 21045652



ACT BW	77
ADJ WW	899
ADJ YW	1371
ADJ SC	44.8

Schiefelbein GOAT 271 x T K Queen E642 (Baldridge Brick House A011)

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	SW
-1	1.8	78	141	1.32	20	0.23	0.77	62

21 T K Goat L227 20981122



ACT BW	74
ADJ WW	921
ADJ YW	1230
ADJ SC	38.3

Schiefelbein GOAT 271 x T K Edella F575 (Musgrave 316 Stunner#)

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	SW
8	-0.6	79	132	0.84	37	0.72	0.42	88

63 T K Circuit Breaker L370 20981014



ACT BW	79
ADJ WW	776
ADJ YW	1259
ADJ SC	40.9

S A V Circuit Breaker 7136 x T K Madge H242 (Musgrave 316 Stunner)

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	SW
-6	5.0	80	147	1.25	17	0.18	1.22	46

190 T K Eileen Bar H959 20018808



ACT BW	79
ADJ WW	776
ADJ YW	1259
ADJ SC	40.9

S A V Downpour 8794 x T K Eileen Bar Y598 (S A V Prosperity 9131)

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	SW
-1	4.7	83	153	1.69	35	0.45	0.63	67

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Diamond Logo 969M



Lot 1

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
+0.4	+79	+127	+0.46	+0.79	+123	+224

Diamond Bronc M972



Lot 26

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
+0	+82	+137	+0.45	+0.44	+135	+251

Diamond Hobson 0L19



Lot 302

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
+1.6	+89	+149	+1.13	+0.67	+197	+346

Diamond Cavalry M246



Lot 2

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
-1.0	+92	+143	+0.88	+0.55	+166	+296

Diamond Blue Collar 6004



Lot 16

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
+0.9	+82	+140	+0.96	+0.56	+159	+264

Diamond Cavalry 9L03



Lot 301

BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$B	\$C
-0.2	+96	+165	+1.18	+0.81	+194	+327



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Production
Sale
Dec. 2nd**

**235 Bull Calves
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700+ Commercial Females**

Sonoma County farmers celebrate Measure J defeat

The election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president and of new congressional leaders may bring sweeping—and, as yet, undetermined—changes to the nation's agricultural landscape. But for farmers in Sonoma County, a down-ballot result has provided resounding clarity.

More than 85% of the county's voters had voted against a ballot measure that within three years would have banned large dairies and poultry farms in the county. Measure J, had it passed, would have capped the number of animals each farm can raise, banning large farms or forcing them to downsize.

Doug Beretta, owner of Beretta Family Dairy in Santa Rosa, CA, and president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, said he was "ecstatic" so many voters had sided with the county's farmers. The landslide result, he said, capped a 14-month effort by the No on J campaign to defeat the measure.

"The community came together to fight for agriculture," Beretta said. "When those results came in, it really showed."

The measure, seen by both sides as a potential catalyst of a larger movement, drew interest—and funding—from across the state and beyond. It would have made Sonoma

County the first county in the nation to ban large animal farms.

No on J raised more than \$1.7 million, attracting large contributions from the California Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups. The Yes on J campaign raised less money but also relied heavily on contributions from outside the county. Combined, donations topped \$2 million, making Measure J one of Sonoma County's best funded initiatives ever.

"This was their starting point," Beretta said. "We knew if it won here, it could go throughout the state."

Measure J specifically tar-

geted medium and large concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, defined primarily by the number of mature animals farms have. Between 11 and 21 farms in the county could have been directly impacted, according to various estimates.

But farmers warned Measure J posed a threat to the region's entire dairy and poultry sectors, putting at risk a farming model that has gained international acclaim for the farms' dedication to animal welfare, climate action and environmental stewardship.

The county's 42 organic dairies represent more than 40% of California's organic

dairies and produce 13% of the nation's organic milk, according to the USDA. They are supported by a local supply chain of farm service companies and creameries such as Clover Sonoma and Straus Family Creamery.

Had Measure J succeeded in shutting down several large farms, farmers said it could have undercut the economy of scale needed to support a local nucleus of feed stores, veterinarians and other services.

"Everybody is on the edge of losing the critical mass of support services," Albert Straus, owner of Petaluma-based Straus Family Creamery, which sources milk from seven dairies in Sonoma County, said in September. "If some of the larger farms in our community are no longer able to operate, it may lead to a collapse of the entire sector."

The Coalition to End Factory Farming, a group of environmental and animal rights organizations that supported the measure, sought to paint an image of the county's large farms as "factory farms." But the coalition failed to win over groups that support small farmers and sustainable agriculture—and to convince voters.

"Sonoma County is home to some of California's best agricultural stewards," Renata Brillinger, executive director of the California Climate and Agriculture Network, said in a statement. Nearly all the dairies that were targeted by Measure J as large CAFOs are family-owned, pasture-based farms.

During the run-up to the election, Yes on J acknowledged it was unable to form the broad alliance it wanted. It sought support from the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and the Sonoma County Democratic Party, according to Kristina Garfinkel, lead organizer for the Coalition to End Factory Farming.

"We wanted this to be a collaborative thing," she said in September at a Measure J debate held in Santa Rosa, "but we were ghosted, and we never heard anything."

The Coalition to End Factory Farming conceded Measure

J's likely defeat in a statement released Nov. 5, expressing resolve to continue fighting.

"While the opportunity to alleviate animal suffering and move our society in a better direction fell short today, we've always known that this will take time, and we trust that people are going to get there," the coalition said.

Locally, the initiative inflamed tensions. No on J signs outside Sebastopol were vandalized, while Yes on J canvassers were cursed at, according to news reports. On Oct. 21, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau received an email threatening gun violence in response to mailers the No on J campaign had sent out. The Farm Bureau locked its doors the next day.

Measure J was opposed by the Sonoma County Democratic and Republican parties, more than a dozen county Farm Bureaus, and groups representing small farmers, disadvantaged populations, climate action, environmental conservation, realtors, law enforcement, labor unions, food safety and other interests.

Every city council in Sonoma County passed resolutions opposing the measure, as did the county's board of supervisors.

A report by California State University, Chico, estimated the demise of Sonoma County's dairy and poultry production would directly result in the loss of \$259 million in economic output and 700 jobs.

A separate analysis by the University of California Cooperative Extension warned eliminating animal agriculture in the county could cause farmworkers to be displaced from their farm residences and forced out of the county due to a lack of affordable alternatives. Dairies in the county employ around 300 people and provide free housing and utilities to more than 600 workers and their family members.

"There's so many people that trust our local products and our local brands," Beretta said. "That's what really brought everybody together." — Caleb Hampton, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation

ROCK LAKE ANGUS



Top Shelf
Bull Sale



TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2024 1PM

at the Big Red Barn at Rock Lake in Wheatland WY

STATESMAN / AVIATOR



AAA 21014124

LOT 1

CED	BW	WW	YW	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+6	+3	+81	+140	+74	+78	+183	+311

THEDFORD / RESOURCE



AAA 21014129

LOT 20

CED	BW	WW	YW	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+5	+1.9	+95	+170	+51	+85	+168	+269

THEDFORD / JUSTIFIED



AAA 21014133

LOT 23

CED	BW	WW	YW	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+13	-.8	+81	+140	+88	+95	+174	+314

JUSTICE / TEN X



AAA 21013990

LOT 12

CED	BW	WW	YW	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+13	-2.0	+56	+104	+73	+72	+145	+261

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Storing hay to reduce losses

With winter near, now is the time to set up hayyards for easy access if you haven't already done so. While sorting by lots and quality is important, keep in mind how we store can also impact spoilage. Are you storing hay so losses are at a minimum?

Hay stored outside will be damaged by rain, snow, wind and ice this fall and winter. The average round bale may lose up to one-quarter of its original nutrients during storage, but these losses can be reduced to less than 10% or so.

If we can't get bales inside or under a tarp, giving space for air to flow around the bale to dry them out is better than placing them side to side where rain, snow and ice will gather and get trapped. Stacking uncovered will create a similar problem. Worst of all is placing round bales on their ends so moisture is able directly enter the bale.

Does snow drift around your bales? Bales placed in east-

west rows often have drifts on the south side. Hay next to fencelines or trees can get extra snow. As snow melts it soaks into bales or makes the ground muddy. Plus, the north side never gets any sun so it's slow to dry. This year, line your bales up north-and-south for fewer drifts and faster drying as sunlight and prevailing winds hit both sides of the row.

Most important is the bottom of your bales. Always put bales on higher, well-drained ground so water drains away from them. If necessary, use crushed rock, railroad ties or even pallets to elevate bales to keep the bottoms dry. This also will reduce problems getting to your hay due to snow drifts or mud.

Plan now to store bales outside right. Use a single row of bales end to end, along with consideration for row orientation, and ground surface drainage for the best outcome. — Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension

KG RANCH Production Sale

DECEMBER 6, 2024
BLACK ANGUS FRIDAY

12PM MST at the Ranch
Three Forks, Montana

Selling **250** COMING 2-YR-OLD BULLS **120** COMMERCIAL BRED HEIFERS

KG Impulse 3003



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+5	+1	+86	+139	+24	+2.20	+15.3	+83	+67

AAA: 20869182
SIRE: SITZ Impulse 732J
MGS: HA Cowboy Kind 8157

KG Cowboy Kind 3018



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+10	+0	+73	+128	+31	+1.33	+14.2	+80	+83

AAA: 20869202
SIRE: HA Cowboy Kind 8157
MGS: KG Justified 3023

KG Cowboy Kind 3024



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+15	-3.0	+70	+131	+42	+1.50	+18.5	+89	+95

AAA: 20869207
SIRE: HA Cowboy Kind 8157
MGS: KG Justified 3023

KG Logo 3034



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+9	+1.5	+78	+144	+22	+0.85	+12.3	+68	+58

AAA: 20868797
SIRE: JCH Logo 0193
MGS: HA Cowboy Kind 8157

KG Justified 3049



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+2	+2.6	+88	+151	+16	+1.96	+15.5	+69	+74

AAA: 20869216
SIRE: KG Justified 3023
MGS: KG Premium Asset 7161

KG Just Cause 3066



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+17	-2.4	+61	+118	+40	+1.32	+20.5	+76	+95

AAA: 20868813
SIRE: KG Just Cause
MGS: Sitz Powerball 737E

KG Logo 3077



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+14	-2.4	+83	+140	+26	+0.98	+19.0	+87	+76

AAA: 20869151
SIRE: JCH Logo 0193
MGS: HA Cowboy Kind 8157

KG Opportunity 3176



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+5	+1.6	+78	+131	+34	+1.79	+15.9	+84	+74

AAA: 20869234
SIRE: HA Opportunity H695
MGS: SITZ Response 405C

KG Incentive 3207



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+13	-.9	+71	+122	+25	+0.60	+17.0	+74	+98

AAA: 20877023
SIRE: SITZ Incentive 704H
MGS: HA Double 07 5007

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CA organized farm equipment theft ring identified

As part of a monthslong investigation known as Operation Tractor Pull, California law enforcement agencies have uncovered an organized agriculture equipment theft ring that targeted San Joaquin Valley farms.

"This is a large-scale theft ring impacting our farmers, our ranchers and our agricultural community," said Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux during an Oct. 29 press conference. "All of the findings led us to a very sophisticated effort of thieves trafficking heavy agricultural ma-

chinery as an organized criminal activity far beyond the Central Valley and across the border into Mexico."

After conducting extensive surveillance operations throughout the San Joaquin Valley, authorities said evidence collected accounted for 24 pieces of stolen equipment valued at more than \$2.25 million. Authorities recovered \$1.3 million worth of equipment.

The investigation began in March, when the county's Ag Crimes Unit detectives learned about a backhoe that

was stolen near Delano. Days later, the stolen vehicle recovery system, known as LoJack, alerted detectives that the missing backhoe was at a truck stop in Tulare, Boudreaux said.

Detectives found the stolen equipment loaded in the back of a semitruck, which he said is not the legal method for transporting large equipment. They also discovered a second backhoe and an excavator reported missing from Kings County. The truck drivers told detectives they were hauling stolen agricultural equipment across the Central Valley and into Mexico, Boudreaux added.

A month later, Stanislaus County issued information about two other suspects connected to large agriculture equipment thefts. The alert broadened the investigation, and by June he said detectives established that a sophisticated network of thieves was responsible for theft of heavy equipment used by agriculture and construction.

As part of the investigation, authorities late last month served six separate search warrants in Los Banos, Hollister, Riverdale and Lindsay.

Detectives recovered more stolen equipment and phones, surveillance cameras and \$46,000 cash. Drugs and guns were also recovered.

Seven suspects were arrested in connection with the operation on suspicion of grand theft, conspiracy to commit a crime and receiving stolen property, Boudreaux said. Five suspects remain at large, he said, adding that the investigation is ongoing.

The multi-agency operation included participation by law enforcement from eight California counties, including district attorneys' offices, city police departments, California Highway Patrol, California Rural Crimes Prevention Task Force and National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Fresno County Sheriff John Zanoni, who spoke during the press conference, said, "We are working hard and doing our very best to ensure that we can provide security for our farmers in our agricultural industry."

"We have to do our job and ensure that we can arrest individuals like this to ensure they're not out stealing from our farmers, making things cost more and making it al-

most impossible for our farmers and ranchers and those in the agriculture industry to do their jobs," Zanoni added.

Tulare County farmer Zack Stuller, who grows citrus, persimmons and other tree crops, said his new, \$150,000 backhoe that was stolen in May was not recovered in the bust.

This past spring, after he noticed that his 2024 Caterpillar 420 backhoe was taken from his equipment yard near Exeter, he said he alerted Tulare County Ag Crimes Unit detectives.

"Monday morning, I went by the yard and I'm like, where's the new backhoe? It wasn't there," said Stuller, who is president of the Tulare County Farm Bureau. "You can see tracks where they drove it across the street and loaded it on a big semitrailer."

Farmers are routinely hit by thieves, but Stuller said the theft of the large machinery required a high level of sophistication.

"They knew what they were doing," Stuller said. "They knew how to start the backhoe. They had a key to start it and knew the default factory passcode and knew how to

remove the tracker, so this wasn't random."

Tulare County Sheriff's Office Ag Crimes Unit Sgt. Joe Armstrong said many thieves know how to disable tracking systems, so it is important to find ways to keep them hidden. The suspects in the large-scale theft, he said, took every effort to remove any factory-installed GPS tracking system. Because thieves are familiar with the equipment, Armstrong said he recommends farmers "harden their targets" by strengthening security measures.

It is not always convenient for farmers to move large equipment out of the field, but he suggests they store equipment in a fenced, locked yard and install lighting, security cameras and "get a big, mean dog." Farmers are also reminded to apply for an Owner-Applied Number, or OAN, to put identifying markings on equipment and property so that recovered property can be traced and returned. Farmers can learn more by visiting crptf.org/oan-info. — **Christine Souza, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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.)

Dec. 31 – Applications are now open for the 2025 Texas

& Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention & Expo internship program held April 8-13, 2025, in Fort Worth, TX. Details: tscra.org/students.

Rolling – Upper Iowa Beef is now accepting applications for its 2025 summer internships across various fields. Details: Jacey Bina at jbina@upperiowabeef.com or 563-566-2202.

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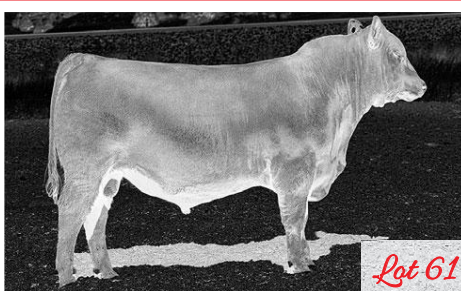
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Milk +29 // Marb. +.70 // REA +.57
\$M +78 // \$C +266



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CED +10 // BW +0.1 // WW +59 // YW +102
Milk +31 // Marb. +.68 // REA +.59
\$M +76 // \$C +226



Sire: Frosty Crk Justified 318
CED +8 // BW -0.1 // WW +76 // YW +130
Milk +32 // Marb. +.376 // REA +.08
\$M +80 // \$C +264



Sire: McD Congress 3153
CED +8 // BW +0.1 // WW +71 // YW +126
Milk +22 // Marb. +.99 // REA +.88
\$M +77 // \$C +299



Sire: Frost Crk Bomber G091-398
CED +12 // BW -0.4 // WW +65 // YW +117
Milk +25 // Marb +.70 // REA +.55



Sire: McD Barricade 3177
CED +5 // BW +0.9 // WW +89 // YW +145
Milk +27 // Marb. +.53 // REA +.26
\$M +90 // \$C +253



Sire: McD 406 Prolific 17L
CED -2 // BW +12.5 // WW +83 // YW +136
Milk +22 // Marb. +.78 // REA +.49
\$M +87 // \$C +285



Sire: McD Architect 3213
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Milk +32 // Marb. +.07 // REA +.61
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TX hay stocks improve cattle winter feeding outlook

Hay stocks for winter feeding of Texas' cattle herd are much improved compared to last year, but the early outlook for cool-season grazing has been dampened by drought, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Winter feeding costs are likely to be lower than last year, but the ongoing dry spell across much of the state has cattle producers cautiously optimistic about sustaining their herds into spring.

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, said hay supplies are better than they have been going into the past two winters, but the quality may be an issue.

Much of the hay-producing areas, especially East Texas, experienced rainy conditions as the first spring cuttings were mature. Soggy conditions delayed many first cuttings and/or post-harvest fertilizer applications, and some hay may

have been rained on before it was baled. Those scenarios all can lead to reductions in hay quality.

"The moisture prevented folks from getting into their fields at the right time to optimize the nutrient value, and if they weren't able to apply timely fertilizer, that will have an effect on future cuttings," she said. "I've seen some hay analyses around East Texas, and while it may be adequate for mature dry cows, any heifers, stockers and cows with calves will need additional protein and energy."

Supplemental feeding prices improve

Fortunately, prices for supplemental livestock rations like liquid feed and range cubes have softened some, said Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in the Department of Animal Science.

For example, a ton of range cubes is about \$40-60 less per ton than this time last year. The higher hay stocks and lower supplemental feed prices translate into lower costs for ranchers through winter.

"Calf prices are still really high, and most producers aren't going to spend as much on hay and supplementation, which means the cost-per-day to winter a cow is down," he said. "That translates into more money in their pocket."

Grazing conditions in decline

Fall and winter grazing conditions may be better than last year, but rangelands and pastures are declining due to drought and above-average temperatures, Corriher-Olson said. Declining soil moisture across much of the state is also impacting producers' ability to establish cool-season annuals like winter wheat, oats and

ryegrass.

In recent weeks, AgriLife Extension agents in counties around the state have shared a mixed bag of results for producers who planted winter wheat and other cool-season grasses for fall grazing. Some producers were moving stocker calves to graze on good, established wheat stands.

However, producers were dealing with challenges or continued to wait for rain before planting cool-season forages. Many acres prepared for wheat and oats are still unplanted due to low soil moisture and a poor rain outlook. On other acres, seeds were dusted in or planted into suboptimal soil moisture resulting in no germination, germinated seeds and poor emergence, or post-emergent failure that will require replanting.

Some fields in a few counties that emerged well were devastated by armyworms and will likely need replanting.

Corriher-Olson said produc-

ers should still consider the value of winter forages and dry-plant now or be ready to plant before any precipitation.

"I'm not surprised producers are delaying planting winter pasture and questioning whether they are going to plant, but I think it's still worth the risk to address the hay quality issue for a lot of folks," she said.

Drought stalling herd rebuild

Overall, Cleere said there is more optimism among cattle producers going into this winter than last year. Winter grazing conditions will continue to be a concern for ranchers until they receive adequate rainfall to support cool-season grass establishment and production.

Ranchers remain cautious when it comes to rebuilding the cow herd due to the dryer conditions they are experienc-

ing, as well as memories of the past two years of serious droughts, he said.

There were 4.65 million beef cattle in Texas in 2019, but the number declined to 4.15 million in January 2024, the lowest point since 1961, after back-to-back years of drought and poor hay and forage production.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics, said he expects the January 2025 USDA cattle inventory report to show further declines based on the high numbers of heifers going to feedlots and cows going to meat packers.

"It's certainly a different situation than last year," Cleere said. "Producers will continue to retain replacement heifers, but it depends on whether they can hold back a number that indicates they are rebuilding their herds to pre-drought levels." — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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BW -1 | WW +65 | YW +90 | Milk +6



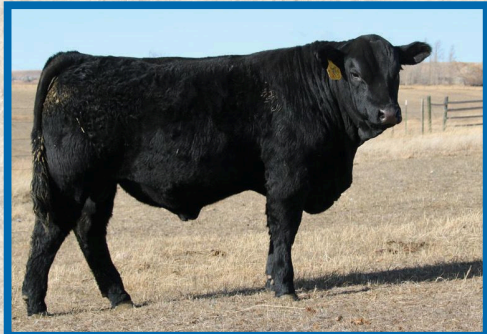
LOT 60: JSR L CHARM 4243M
Act BW: 76 | Adj 205: 865
BW -0.3 | WW +82 | YW +126 | Milk +20



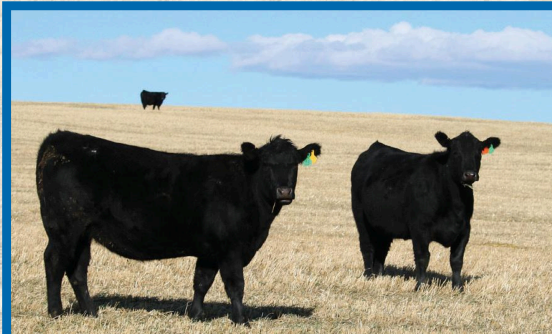
LOT 21: JSR TRAILBLAZER 4315M
Act BW: 86 | Adj 205: 908
BW +2.2 | WW +77 | YW +120 | Milk +16



LOT 89: JR SALVATION 4633
Act BW: 80 | Adj 205: 750
BW +2.6 | WW +77 | YW +127 | Milk +24



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Act BW: 90 | Adj 205: 816
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STORY SHORTS

Argentine beef exports to US increase

Argentina's beef exports reached a 57-year high in the first nine months of this year, Reuters reports, with shipments growing to the U.S. and Chile. Official data shows nearly 700,000 metric tons of beef were exported from January to September, with China purchasing almost 70% of this volume. Following China, the European Union and Israel were the next largest buyers. Argentina's beef exports span 48 countries, with notable increases in shipments to the U.S. by 46%, Chile by 21% and Israel by 11% compared to last year.

Tyson reports mixed earnings

Tyson Foods Inc. reported notable gains in its chicken segment and lessened losses for its pork and beef segments for the fourth fiscal quarter ending Sept. 28. Sales in the chicken segment saw a 2.3% sales increase, though volumes dipped slightly by 0.7%. The company's pork division saw an increase in volume by 3.2%, while prices fell 6.9%. In beef, demand remained high, with a 3.7% rise in volume despite a tight U.S. beef supply and limited herd rebuilding. The beef segment posted an operating loss of \$71 million for the quarter, an improvement from last year's \$323 million loss, while quarterly beef sales reached \$5.26 billion. Tyson projects higher protein production in fiscal year 2025 for its chicken and pork segments and a 2% decrease in beef production.

WY sells land within Grand Teton

Wyoming officials voted to proceed with the \$100 million sale of state-owned land within Grand Teton National Park to the federal government, ending longstanding threats to sell it to private developers. The decision by the state Board of Land Commissioners advances efforts to incorporate the parcel, which offers unobstructed Teton Range views, into the park. According to The Associated Press, Wyoming governors have threatened such sales to compel a federal purchase. The latest deal includes \$62 million from a federal fund, with the remainder funded privately. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's forthcoming plan is expected to meet Wyoming lawmakers' stipulations, advancing the sale without restrictions on oil and gas development.

BLM acquires land in Upper Gold Creek

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) completed the first land acquisition in Montana's Blackfoot River Watershed, securing 3,264 acres of the Upper Gold Creek East Parcel as federal public land on Nov. 6. Funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, this acquisition marks the initial phase of the Gold and Twin Creeks project, aiming to transfer an additional 17,000 acres. The agency also recently signed a co-stewardship agreement with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, strengthening their ongoing collaboration with TNC to restore and manage the historic landscape.

New processing plant in Utah

Utah rancher Korey Wright and his team established the Bar-W Beef facility in Nephi, UT, giving ranchers a new option for processing animals. The 33,000-square-foot facility integrates advanced technology, including a wastewater treatment system and hygienic equipment, to lower contamination risk. According to KSL TV, Bar-W Beef has its own cattle, feedlot and processing plant, which is handled by an on-site USDA inspector. They buy from local ranchers, process custom orders and offer retail and subscription services.

Vending machine offers meat options

The E Butchery on Main, started by Nerbas Bros. Angus, combines direct-to-consumer sales with vending machine convenience, making local meat accessible for buyers. "It merges kind of traditional ways of farming and connections to producers but yet incorporates modernization and technology at the same time," Arron Nerbas told news outlet Manitoba Co-operator. Run by the Nerbas family in Shellmouth, Manitoba, Canada, the multigenerational cow-calf operation partners with Cut-Rite Meats, a nearby processing facility that handles the butchering and packaging. The cashless, self-serve vending model lets customers conveniently purchase individual cuts or multiple items. Open since July 15, it has drawn community interest and offers a unique, modern approach to supporting local agriculture, inspiring similar models in small Manitoba towns.

Irrigated farms, acreage down

According to the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 212,714 U.S. farms irrigated 53.1 million acres with 81 million acre-feet of water. The survey completed every five years by NASS showed in 2018, 231,474 farms irrigated 55.9 million acres with 83.4 million acre-feet. The survey noted that groundwater from on-farm wells supplied 54% of irrigation water, with an average well depth of 241 feet. Arkansas, California, Idaho, Nebraska and Texas represented half of the irrigated acres and more than half of the water applied.

LEGAL LEDGER

Beyond Meat settles false advertising claims

Beyond Meat agreed to a \$7.5 million class action settlement over allegations that it overstated the protein content and quality of its products. Consumers alleged they were misled by Beyond Meat's claims about the amount of protein found in its products along with the quality of ingredients used, and were tricked into paying higher prices. Beyond Meat did not admit any wrongdoing but agreed to settle. Consumers who purchased certain products between May 31, 2018, and Aug. 14, 2024, were eligible to receive a one-time cash award of \$2 for each eligible product they purchased, receiving up to \$10.

Canada ends port strikes

Canada ended port strikes in the country's biggest ports in Vancouver and Montreal on Nov. 12. Port workers went on strike on Nov. 4 after raising concerns over wages and working conditions. Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon ordered to end the strike and impose binding arbitration. "As the economic losses threaten the country and begin to mount, it is up to the government to ensure that ... we can get on with the economic life of this country and avoid layoffs and other carnage," MacKinnon said during a press conference, according to a Reuters report. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 514 (ILWU), representing dockworkers on strike, said it will file a legal challenge to the minister's orders. "We will not forget how these employers and this federal Liberal government have attacked not only the ILWU but all of labor," ILWU Local 514 President Frank Morena said.

UN calls for global meat tax

At the 2024 United Nations (U.N.) Climate Change Conference, the True Animal Protein Price (TAPP) Coalition urged countries to begin taxing meat to reduce "animal protein overconsumption" and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The coalition called countries such as the U.S., Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom "laggards" in adopting food pricing policies as the European Union Commission has done. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization released a report on Nov. 8 that weighed the impact of introducing taxes on certain foods, including meat.

Reality star farmer pleads guilty to fraud

Steve A. McBee, a farmer from Gallatin, MO, who stars in the TV series "The McBee Dynasty: Real American Cowboys," pleaded guilty to one count of federal crop insurance fraud. McBee admitted that from 2018-20 he submitted fraudulent documents to a company reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation that underreported his total 2018 corn crop by 674,812 bushels and his total 2018 soybean crop by 155,833 bushels. The Department of Justice said he received \$2,605,943 in federal crop insurance benefits and \$552,980 in federal crop insurance premium subsidies to which he was not entitled, for a total of \$3,158,923. McBee faces up to 30 years in prison and must pay restitution.

BLM allocates \$25M to horse adoptions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced several new partnerships that will receive up to \$25 million in funding to help adopt feral horses and burros. Five new public-private partnership agreements are intended to help place about 11,000 feral horses and burros over and above the existing adoption program. The agency said the agreements could save taxpayers \$160 million by reducing the costs to care for unadopted animals, which costs about \$15,000 per animal over its lifetime. "By working with partners, we can reduce the number of animals in off-range facilities and ensure a healthy balance on public lands," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. The agreements are with Texas-based Forever Branded, Oregon-based Teens and Oregon Mustangs, Colorado-based Meeker Mustang Makeover, California-based Sacramento Sheriff's Office Wild Horse Program and Washington-based Mustang Yearlings Washington Youth.

Suit brought over NV snail

Greens and a Tribal group have notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of their intent to sue the agency over the Kings River pyrg springsnail in Nevada. The groups allege the snail is facing threats from habitat degradation and the Thacker Pass Lithium Mine in northern Nevada. "The FWS has unlawfully delayed its decision on whether to provide protection for the Kings River pyrg and missed the deadline for the required 12-month finding on Western Watersheds Project's petition," said the Western Watersheds Project and People of Red Mountain. Western Watersheds Project initially petitioned the agency in 2022 and the People of Red Mountain submitted public comments during the status review. "Today's notice of intent is a crucial step toward ensuring that the species receives the protections it urgently needs," the groups said.

Mixed reactions to sage grouse plan

SAGE GROUSE (from page 1)

on resource uses and gave more opportunities for considering compensatory mitigation to offset impacts on sage grouse and its habitat.

The preferred alternative will exclude solar and wind energy development and oil and gas leases on priority habitat management areas. The presence of a habitat management area would not affect whether or not livestock grazing was allowed, and the existing areas would be maintained for grazing as long as land health standards are met. Oregon would retain or modify based on site-specific information.

Wild horse and burro management will be incorporated into greater sage-grouse habitat objectives, and monitoring appropriate management levels and

gathers will be prioritized.

Reactions

Environmental groups say the plan doesn't go far enough to protect the species.

"Letting anti-conservation states and extractive interests get their way above all else is something we expect to have to fight in the next administration, and it's disappointing that this is what the Biden administration is leaving us with as well," said Greta Anderson, deputy director of the Western Watersheds Project. "What a squandered opportunity."

Greens said the plans fail to fix problems from draft plans, such as providing adequate buffers for habitat and ensuring livestock grazing "doesn't deplete vegetation." Additionally, the groups said they are disappointed the highest level

of protection is given to 4 million acres of priority sagebrush habitat, compared to 11 million acres in the 2015 plan.


Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (R) criticized the plan, saying it does not adequately consider Wyoming's state-level expertise in sage-grouse management. "Wyoming is the stronghold of sage-grouse in the West, with millions of acres of valuable sage-grouse habitat; we have shown how to successfully manage this bird and do so in a way that allows for protection of core habitat alongside responsible development," he said. "The document offered to Wyoming today is a product of a process that devalued state-generated science and collaboration."

Idaho lawmakers concurred, saying, "Management considerations cannot be rushed simply for the administration's political

convenience. Adequate time, resources, and local input are necessary to ensure the end result is feasible and scientifically sound."

Sportsmen's organizations expressed cautious optimism about the plan. "The collaborative approach reflected in these plans, and now their proper implementation, is critical to ensuring healthy sagebrush ecosystems continue to provide opportunities for sportsmen and women who cherish these public lands and this iconic bird," said Kaden McArthur, government relations manager for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

Protests will be accepted through Dec. 9 at tinyurl.com/mrxtpn2. The entire 486-page plan can be viewed at tinyurl.com/29hdmkxc. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



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SCAN TO VIEW CATALOGS

Coping with low precipitation this season

As the fall continues to provide us with extremely dry conditions, fall growth of forages will be limited this year. Cow-calf producers should be developing a drought plan as we move through the fall and winter. Below are a few tips to consider when navigating these dry fall conditions.

Things to consider during these dry conditions include:

Monitor body condition and record. Be sure to record body condition scores of cattle and monitor condition every

month. Excessive losses in body stores reflect insufficient nutrient intake and should be corrected. Excessive body tissue loss can reduce milk production, lengthen anestrus and reduce herd productivity.

Feed hay early. Total dry matter intake is negatively impacted when forage availability is limited. Providing stored forages such as hay early in the fall when pastures are not growing from lack of precipitation will help reduce body condition loss.

Cull. As market prices remain strong, now may be a time to consider culling opens, cows with structural issues, cows at the bottom of list production-wise, or those with poor disposition.

Early wean. Lactation increases nutrient needs of cows significantly. Weaning calves can be done with confidence as early as 90 days with success but waiting until calves are 120 days will reduce post-weaning management needs. Weaning will lower the nutrient demand

for cows and aid in maintaining body condition.

Substitute forage with grain. Using low-starch, highly digestible fibrous coproduct feedstuffs such as soybean hulls, wheat middlings, beet pulp and others can be used as means to increase energy intake. When providing coproduct or grain supplements, forage intake is not reduced on a 1:1 ratio. The actual forage intake may only be decreased by about 0.5 pound of dry matter for each pound of supplement

dry matter offered.

Consider feeding an ionophore. Research has shown providing beef cows with 200 milligrams of an ionophore such as monensin reduces gaseous energy losses associated with rumen fermentation. Research from Kentucky found that feeding an ionophore to beef cows maintained similar body condition and weights when cows were offered 15% less hay compared to cows that were not provided monensin. Ionophores must be mixed in with at least 1 lb. of grain for beef cows but can be offered free choice in mineral mixtures or tubs to feeders and replacement heifers.

Have municipal water as a back-up. As limited precipitation continues to linger, ponds, streams, creeks, and springs dry up. Cows need 10-20 gallons of water daily. Limiting water intake will result in reduced dry matter intake and production. Having a waterer that is connected to a municipal water supply will ensure that cattle will have access to clean water. Don't forget to ensure the water supply is turned on, tank floats are working, and the tanks have been cleaned.

Consider creep for fall-born calves. Nursing calves will have a fully functional rumen around 6-10 weeks of age. Reduced forage availability and quality will reduce milk production by the dam, but

also limit nutrient intake of the calves. Limited forage nutrient intake and reduced milk consumption will reduce weaning weights and prevent calves from meeting their genetic potential for gain. Creep feeding can provide access to additional feed and increase the nutritional plane of calves. Creep feeding may be in the form of higher quality forages or grain supplementation.

Control internal parasites. Young cattle are most susceptible to internal parasites. Work with your veterinarian to monitor fecal egg counts and develop a protocol to control internal parasites in cattle.

Liquidate. In the event that forage and/or water resources are not available, the best option may be to sell the herd. Starving cattle is unacceptable and not an option. As an owner of livestock, it is your responsibility to ensure cattle are provided access to forage and water. Selling cattle during a high market and waiting for to buy back when prices fall can be a viable option.

Hopefully there is some much-needed precipitation before frost to improve pasture conditions. However, the shortened day lengths and lingering frost will limit forage production. Develop your plans and be ready to act rather than hoping for rain next week. — **Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky Extension**

Enhancing reproductive success in the cow-calf herd

Reproductive management is at the foundation of a successful cow-calf herd. However, enhanced reproductive technologies are not readily incorporated as seen in the results of the 2017 USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System Beef Cow-calf study.

Results of this study indicated that of heifers bred for calving in 2017, 76.8% were bred only by bulls, and 15.1% were bred by a combination of artificial insemination (AI) and bull breeding. Of cows bred for calving in 2017, 92.9% were bred only by bulls, and 5.5% were bred by a combination of AI and bull breeding. Estrus synchronization was utilized in only 7.3% of all operations.

As producers approach

breeding season, plans should be developed to fit the needs of the operation in coordination with veterinary input. Breeding soundness evaluations and pregnancy detections should be standard in all breeding herds. Reproductive technologies when used appropriately improve herd health, efficiency, genetics and overall profitability. Enhanced reproductive protocols can be utilized for operations incorporating AI as well as exclusively bull bred herds.

Estrus synchronization involves manipulating the estrous cycle of heifers and cows so that a large group of females come into heat at the same time. Various hormone-based protocols are used to achieve estrus synchronization, making

it easier to manage breeding and improve pregnancy rates.

By synchronizing estrus, producers can breed multiple cows simultaneously, potentially reducing the time and labor required for heat detection and insemination. Although this technique is most often used in conjunction with AI to maximize reproductive efficiency, advantages can also be seen in bull-bred herds. Estrus synchronization allows for more precise timing of calving.

AI is one of the most widely used reproductive technologies in the beef industry. AI allows producers to access superior genetics enabling them to improve a variety of traits in the resulting calf crop. More-

over, AI reduces the need for keeping a large number of bulls on-site, thereby lowering bull maintenance costs, decreasing disease transmission, and improving animal and human safety.

Great resources exist for producers seeking to integrate or improve their reproductive strategies. Notable examples are those provided by the Beef Reproduction Task Force. The task force offers a variety of free resources including webinars, synchronization protocols and decision tools such as the Estrus Synchronization Planner and AI Cowculator. More information on these resources can be found at www.beefrepro.org. — **Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, Oklahoma beef cattle Extension specialist**

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Wildlife cause challenges for Colorado ranchers

Awareness has elevated at Silver Spur Ranch Kiowa Creek division, as a wolf caught by a licensed trapper on their ranch this spring makes them even more aware of what lurks in the woods.

This wolf, of the Great Lakes population, has different genetics than those which were released in late 2023 in north-central Colorado following the passage of Proposition 114 in November 2020.

Silver Spur Ranch Kiowa Creek division is participating in DTN's View From the Range series, where DTN will follow a year at the ranch to give readers an inside look at how the ranch operates and cares for its animals.

This seventh segment in the series looks at how wildlife can affect the everyday happenings and management of the cattle ranch.

"When voters get to make decisions that won't affect them directly, those who are affected, like us ranchers, suffer," said manager Decky Spiller speaking of the measure passed by Colorado voters to reintroduce wolves to the state.

While the wolf found at Silver Spur Kiowa Creek wasn't from the recent wolf release north of Boulder, CO, the concern has certainly built. Spiller received a call in early April from the man who is licensed to trap coyotes on their ranch. The ranch gets a government-approved trapping permit during their spring calving season to prevent loss of calves to the predators.

"He called and asked where I was and said he needed to see me right away," Spiller explained. "I could hear the con-

cern in his voice and got to him as soon as I could. I thought the cows in that pasture had acted a bit strange when I rode through them that morning, but I wasn't sure why."

When Spiller arrived, they went to the trapping area and that's when he saw the very large canine, which he thought could have been a wolf-dog cross. People have the hybrid animals for pets and often can't handle them, thus releasing in the wild. The canine had been caught by its paw in the trap and from what they could tell from the ground around the animal, it had been killed by the cows after causing a commotion when not being able to get out of the coyote trap.

An immediate call to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) was made to report the animal, which had been identified as an 89-pound male, approximately 2 1/2 years old and in good condition. The CPW officer collected tissue samples for DNA analysis, which revealed this animal was a gray wolf from the Great Lakes population, distinctly different from the population of the northern Rockies.

"We are concerned about how a wolf from the Great Lakes region could have found its way to Kiowa," Spiller said. The city is 50 miles southeast of Denver. "It surely didn't travel here on its own and it didn't have a tracking collar. There really is no answer to that, but the fact that it happened is a problem."

Spiller said being a young male, it could have been someone's pet. If it is from a pack, often the younger males are pushed out; but regardless, he

is concerned that the wolf may not be running by himself, which triggers concern for their cowherd.

More wildlife concerns

Other wild animals that cause concern about losing calves include mountain lions. Spiller said this hunting season is a lot more closely managed. Hunting dogs are used to tree the mountain lions, so they are sure to be getting the mature males, and this is only done during hunting season which starts in the fall and continues into the spring.

Mountain lion tags are available over the counter, but only to those who have taken and passed an exam to acquire a Mountain Lion Education Certificate issued by the CPW.

The main animal causing problems at Silver Spur Kiowa Creek division is elk. They have nearly 1,800 elk total in three groups on the ranch. Elk cause issues with feeding on grass and hay, consuming water needed for cattle and destroying fences. Spiller said they don't have many health problems associated with the elk, thankfully.

"The elk in Colorado are a problem. The population dynamic is out of control. Where the people are, the populations are closely watched, but out on the range, we have issues," he said. "Since we are part of the Ranching for Wildlife Program, we must follow the program's regulations."

Ranching for Wildlife started as a pilot program in 1986 with the intent to improve public hunting access to private land

and to form a wildlife management partnership with participating landowners according to the CPW website.

The program provides Colorado residents a unique opportunity to hunt on private ranchland normally closed to the public. Participating ranches provide public hunting recreation access to their land free of charge to those who draw licenses.

Spiller said the hunting season for this program is different than on public lands. Silver Spur hired an outfitter to take care of the hunting on the ranch to be sure those attaining the licenses are following these guidelines and are in the right spot. "When people go elk hunting, they want to shoot the big bulls, but our problem tends to be with the number of elk cows and calves that are running on the ranch," he added.

The wear and tear the elk cause is tremendous. When they move from one pasture to the next, the first few will jump the fence and the remaining

animals run through it. Spiller said they always check perimeter fences before moving cattle to a new pasture and every time they are in an area they know the elk have been. He said it is easier to mend the fences than to build a completely new fence.

Besides destroying fences, they must take into account how many elk are in an area when moving cows to a new pasture for grazing. Spiller said he would guess about two elk equals one beef cow, so with 1,800 elk running on the ranch, they really must watch the grass.

"The elk really do a number on our hay crop too. The third cutting of alfalfa is the same time as elk are in rut. They can move into a field, and have it grazed off in a very short time," he said. "And they will destroy hay bales as well. We have to be creative in how we stack hay to prevent as little loss as possible." High fencing doesn't always help as the elk will tear it down to get to the hay behind the wire.

Deer and pronghorn antelope are common in the area also but cause less damage. Both have hunting seasons with purchased licenses in a draw/lottery option. By being in the Ranching for Wildlife program, Silver Spur is notified when hunters are expected, and the outfitter sets the ground rules and takes care of directing the hunts.

While there are several diseases that can be transmitted back and forth between wildlife and beef cattle, the Kiowa Creek Division hasn't had much issue with any. They keep their cattle vaccinated for any diseases that could cause a problem.

Spiller said he would like to find a better way to manage the elk problem, but they have learned how to manage around them.

As for the wolf, he's hoping it's a one-time problem, but is cautious concerning the chances of seeing more of the predators in the future. — **Jennifer Carrico**, DTN senior livestock editor

US-Mexico water agreement could help Texas farmers

The U.S. and Mexico agreed to amend a 1944 water treaty, which might bring some relief to South Texas farmers struggling with scarce water.

The International Water and Boundary Commission (IBWC), a federal agency that oversees international water treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, announced the two countries had signed a highly anticipated agreement that will give Mexico more options to meet its water deliveries to the U.S. Mexico still needs to give the U.S. more than a million acre-feet of water.

South Texas farmers and ranchers have been devastated lately by low rainfall and Mexico falling behind on its deliveries to the region.

Under the 1944 international treaty, Mexico must deliver 1,750,000 acre-feet of water to the U.S. from six tributaries every five years, or an average of 350,000 acre-feet every year. But Mexico is at a high risk of not meeting that deadline. The country still has a balance of more than 1.3 million acre-feet of water it needs to deliver by October 2025.

The new amendment will allow Mexico to meet its delivery obligations by giving up water that was allotted to the country under the treaty. It also allows Mexico to transfer water it has stored at the Falcon and Amistad international reservoirs to the U.S.

Additionally, the agreement gives Mexico the option of delivering water it doesn't need from the San Juan and Alamo rivers, which are not part of the six tributaries.

The amendment also addresses a current offer Mexico made to give the U.S. 120,000 acre-feet of water. South Texas farmers were wary of the offer because they worried that by accepting the water, the state would later force farmers to make up for it by giving up water they have been storing for next year.

But because the amendment allows Mexico to make use of water in its reservoirs to meet its treaty obligations, the farmers hope the country will transfer enough water for the next planting season to make up for any water they might have to give up.

"What's more important is we need water transferred at Amistad and Falcon," said Sonny Hinojosa, a water advocate for Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, which distributes water to ranchers and farmers in the region. "If water gets transferred, they'll know they'll have a little bit of water for next year."

U.S. officials celebrated the signing of the amendment, which was initially meant to occur in December 2023. Mexican officials said they would not sign the agreement until after their presidential elec-

tions, which happened in June.

"The last 30 years of managing over-stretched water resources in the Rio Grande basin have produced broad agreement that the status quo was not acceptable," IBWC Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner said in a statement. "With the signing of this (amendment), Mexico has tools for more regular water deliveries that can be applied right away."

The amendment's provisions that address current water delivery shortfalls expire in five years unless extended. The amendment also establishes longer-term measures such as an environmental working group to explore other sources of water. It also formalized the Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative to address water quality concerns, including salinity.

Hinojosa said he's concerned that by allowing Mexico to deliver water from the San Juan River, which is downstream from the reservoirs, the country won't feel as obligated to deliver water from the six tributaries managed by the treaty and still end up delivering less water to the Big Bend region. But he said he expects the agreement will bring some immediate relief.


"It's going to get us some water, for now," Hinojosa said. "Hopefully." — **Berenice Garcia**, The Texas Tribune

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1 ZA MERCEDES M276 REG 20954620	7	0.9	83	139	25	0.89	1.22	94	202	356
4 ZA MARBLE M242 REG 20959409	9	1.1	74	133	24	1.51	1.06	79	239	389
25 ZA LAZARUS L326 REG 20682542	-3	4.4	84	149	24	1.60	1.19	29	255	360
30 ZA LOGIC L313 REG 20680043	13	0.0	89	154	33	0.96	0.68	81	183	318
121 ZA ISABEL M014 REG 20950090	4	2.2	87	153	22	1.45	0.69	60	235	365
132 ZA BREETA L051 REG 20682301	12	0.8	92	161	31	0.73	1.10	81	185	321

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Planting cover crops still beneficial, even under dry conditions

Many farmers in western North Dakota have planted cover crops like cereal rye or triticale this fall, but as dry as this season has been, many of the plants have yet to emerge, say North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension specialists.

According to the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, much of western North Dakota has seen more than 30 days with less than one-half inch of rain, and some areas in the northwestern region of the state have had no significant rain in about four months. Under the current drought conditions, cover crops and winter cereals have been struggling to take in moisture and germinate.

"Even cover crops that were drilled or disked in, and benefited from the seed-to-soil contact, will have poor emergence if soil moisture is not adequate," said Victor Gomes, NDSU Extension cropping systems specialist at the Dickinson Research Extension Center. "However, most cover crops have the ability to sit dormant in the soil over winter and germinate early in the spring, once they get enough warmth and moisture."

This process is called dormant seeding and is different from frost seeding, which happens late in the winter after the soil freezes.

"One of the concerns that often comes up when cover crop seedlings do not emerge in the fall is that the 'dormant

cy' won't be broken in due time with moisture imbibition by the seed, and therefore the seed will die in the ground over winter," said Chandler Gruener, NDSU Extension soil health specialist at the North Central Research Extension Center near Minot, North Dakota. "In this case, no germination is better than some germination."

If there is enough soil moisture (light rain) to promote seed sprouting but not enough moisture for further seedling growth, the crop will not survive the winter. For successful dormant seeding, farmers should plant seeds after the ground has cooled (35 F) but before it freezes solid or is covered in snow for the winter, recommend the specialists.

If soil temperatures stay below 35 F or the moisture levels are insufficient to start germination, the seed's activity will stay low, preventing it from germinating. Germination kicks in when the soil temperature rises to around 38 to 40 F and enough moisture is present.

Farmers will still be able to reap the benefits of having a cover crop emerge early in the spring even if they do not see any visible growth in the fall. Nevertheless, a few management practices should be considered:

Cover crop choice is crucial for successful emergence in the spring. Appropriate cover crops like cereal rye, winter camelina, hairy vetch, triticale

and winter wheat are winter hardy and have better chances of surviving the winter dormant in the soil and then emerging to protect the soil in the spring. Farmers should determine what to use as their cash crop. The recommendation is to never use cereal rye before a wheat or barley crop.

It is important to incorporate seeds into the ground, not broadcast them. If the goal is improving soil health, then simply getting the seed in the ground is the most important factor to consider. Make sure seeds have good soil contact by drilling, not broadcasting, to avoid losing them to snow

runoff.

Termination timing is important. Because dormant seeded cover crops will have no growth in the fall, letting them grow as long as possible in the spring will ensure farmers get the benefits they are seeking. If planting a summer crop like corn or soybeans, the cover crops will likely benefit from a longer growth period. If planting a spring crop, like a small grain cereal, it is likely that the cover crops will not have much time to produce biomass. Still, some ground cover early in the spring is better than no ground cover. Overall, the recommendation

is to terminate the cover crop 10 to 14 days before planting the cash crop.

Planting green is another choice for termination timing that is adequate when lower biomass is present. This practice consists of planting the cash crop into a living cover crop. If this is done, it is best to terminate within a few weeks after planting to help prevent soil moisture from tying up. When terminating, the selection of the right chemical product is key to make sure the cover crop is effectively killed. It is recommended to follow the product and adjuvant guidelines required to ensure

the cover crop is fully terminated.

"All things considered, dormant seeding still represents a risky choice and like any other planting event it takes careful planning and attention to weather patterns," said Gomes. "While good cover crop emergence and establishment in the fall is preferred, when not enough moisture is available, having some ground cover available early in the spring is still better than no ground cover, and could help with soil dry-down, allowing for an earlier planting of the cash crop in flood-prone areas in the spring." — NDSU Extension

Protest period for OR plan ends Dec. 9

BLM OREGON (from page 1)

as future assessments are completed.

When land health assessments show that grazing practices significantly affect land health standards, BLM will adjust these practices to promote recovery. Possible changes include modifying grazing seasons or intensities, constructing range projects or temporarily excluding livestock. Long-term grazing cancellation, if necessary, would involve careful evaluation and permit adjustments to protect land health.

Solutions focus on adjusting

grazing seasons and livestock distribution rather than reducing grazing levels overall. In cases of significant change, affected parties will have the opportunity to protest and appeal decisions. Other activities like juniper removal or weed treatments may be needed in some locations to achieve the desired conditions. These activities are part of a comprehensive effort combining grazing adjustments and active restoration, which will be essential for long-term success, the agency said.

Due to access, infrastructure and market constraints, few solar energy rights-of-way

(ROWs) are anticipated, though one proposal in northern Lake County is in the early study stages. While several wind energy testing ROWs have been issued over the past 15 years, wind energy projects have yet to advance to development; however, there is currently one preliminary wind testing ROW proposal in northern Lake County.

The management plan said as regional populations and urban areas expand and new energy facilities are built in Oregon, demand for major transmission lines is expected to increase. Although one significant utility line project may be proposed in the long term,

no formal proposal is currently under review by the BLM.

Off-highway vehicle use will be limited to approximately 70,000 acres, including the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes and other specific areas where such activity is already occurring. Vehicle use will be permitted on existing or designated routes across nearly 3 million acres within the planning area.

The release of the management plan initiates a 30-day protest period, ending on Dec. 9. To view the documents or file a protest electronically, visit tinyurl.com/3z32hyej. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor



BD: 8-15-2023 SIRE: V A R Conclusion 0234 MGS: Connealy Doc Neal
BW 72 WW 798 YW 1308 - Maternal brother to Vermilion Leo
MILK +23 BEPD +5 WEPD +86 YEPE +152 PAP 43



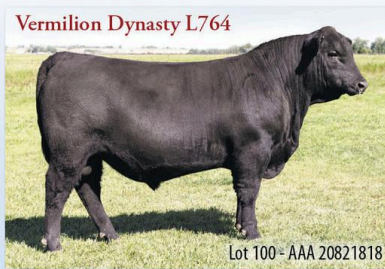
BD: 8-21-2023 SIRE: V A R Conclusion 0234 MGS: Casino Bomber
BW 70 WW 786 YW 1269 MARB +.86 RE +1.23
MILK +35 BEPD -.5 WEPD +84 YEPE +152 SC +328



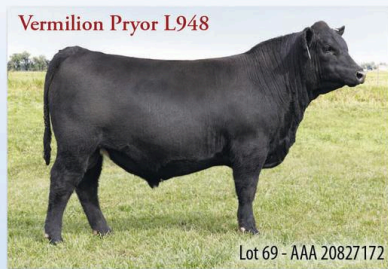
BD: 8-9-2023 SIRE: V A R Conclusion 0234 MGS: Casino Bomber
BW 66 WW 801 YW 1348 - Top 1% WEPE and YEPE
MILK +23 BEPD +2.1 WEPE +96 YEPE +168 PAP 37



BD: 8-12-2023 SIRE: Vermilion Leo MGS: Vermilion Charge On
BW 64 WW 750 YW 1280 CED +15 MARB +.76 RE +.89
MILK +21 BEPD -.7 WEPE +71 YEPE +128 SC +308 PAP 39



BD: 9-4-2023 SIRE: Vermilion Dynasty MGS: Casino Bomber
BW 82 WW 750 YW 1260 - Top 1% WEPE and YEPE
MILK +22 BEPD +3.1 WEPE +103 YEPE +168 PAP 36



BD: 9-27-2023 SIRE: Connealy Pryor L948 MGS: King Air
BW 74 WW 819 YW 1312 CED +15 MARB +.65 RE +1.13
MILK +31 BEPD +7 WEPE +77 YEPE +141 PAP 35

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Court will allow lethal grizzly removal in MT

A federal judge on Nov. 7 told a government agency that while it can continue its practice of capturing and occasionally killing endangered grizzly bears in Montana, the agency must conduct a thorough analysis of how the program will impact the state's bear population after finding it violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In a legal dispute that began in May 2021 when a coalition of environmental and wildlife groups sued the USDA's Wildlife Services over a decision reauthorizing a predator damage and conflict management program in Montana, U.S. federal judge Dana Christensen recently issued a 50-page order that favored the plaintiffs' claims. The court order states that an environmental assessment (EA) prepared by Wildlife Services failed to include critical information about grizzly population connectivity and consider the impact of the program on the state's grizzly bear population, a violation of NEPA.

The agency is required to complete a full environmental impact statement (EIS) within a year.

"In sum, because critical information was omitted from the EA, and much of the evidence before the agency was 'too stale to carry the weight assigned to it,' Wildlife Services could not have made 'a reasoned decision based on its evaluation of the evidence,'" Christensen wrote. "Ultimately, plaintiffs are correct that the EA failed to take a 'hard look' at the effects of Montana's predator damage and conflict management program on grizzly bears and an EIS is required."

WildEarth Guardians, Western Watersheds Project and Trap Free Montana, who brought the lawsuit against Wildlife Services, argued that the agency's assessment lacked specific information about the sex and location of captured and killed bears, and failed to examine how killing grizzly bears could affect the animals' connectivity between the state's designated recovery zones.

Wildlife Services, a division of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, addresses conflicts between predators and livestock. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, problematic predators, including grizzly bears, can be removed from a location of conflict through nonlethal or lethal methods.

For grizzly bears, which gained federal protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, this is an exception to the prohibition on "taking" protected species. Under a special rule developed by USFWS, grizzlies can be lethally removed for specific circumstances including self-defense, defense of others, or in response to significant livestock depredations.

In the EA supporting the predator conflict management program, Wildlife Services stated that the number of complaints related to problems between bears and livestock were increasing, jumping from 25 in 2013 to 157 in 2019. In that year, livestock conflicts resulted in the capture of 16 grizzlies, including one lethal removal.

However, the environmental analysis relied on a 2012 bio-

logical opinion issued by USFWS, which the plaintiffs said contains outdated information, to determine that the program "is not adversely impacting the population." In addition, the analysis lacked specific information about the number of bears killed, their sex and location of capture, which the plaintiffs argued is critical to understanding the impacts of the overall program on the recovering species.

Montana is home to several regional ecosystems and recovery units that support populations of threatened grizzly bears. The largest populations of grizzlies exist in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, while a small population lives in the Cabinet-Yaak. An additional recovery area in the Selway-Bitterroot has no known resident bears, but grizzlies have been spotted in the ecosystem.

A key part of the species' recovery is predicated on having enough genetic diversity in a region, which is naturally maintained by bears traveling between recovery zones. The environmental assessment completed by Wildlife Services contained only minimal discussion about the effects of lethally removing grizzly bears due to conflicts outside of a recovery zone. Even USFWS, the federal agency in charge of the grizzly recovery program, requested additional analysis for grizzlies taken anywhere in Montana, especially in between the identified recovery ecosystems, when the draft EA went out for public comment.

"In some ways, the most important bears are not the ones that stay in Yellowstone or Gla-

cier, but they're the ones that actually make the move and disperse between recovery zones," attorney Matthew Bishop, representing the plaintiffs, said during a hearing before Christensen on Aug. 2. "There's sort of this space where no one's really analyzing the effects of grizzly bear mortality once they leave these areas. And that's what this case is about."

During the hearing, Bishop requested Christensen declare that Wildlife Services violated NEPA and call for a new analysis of the predator removal plan with a "robust" environmental impact statement.

Arguing on behalf of the federal agency, Krystal-Rose Perez said the judge shouldn't put a stop to the killings because lethal removal only occurs after livestock managers have exhausted other methods of keeping animals safe, and tying the hands of the federal agency

would make it more likely for livestock producers to take matter into their own hands. She also argued that under the federal management plan for the species, the critical habitat for grizzlies—the recovery zones—is clearly identified, and areas outside the recovery zones aren't considered "necessary for survival and recovery."

However, in his order Christensen agreed with the plaintiffs that "grizzly bears taken outside or in-between recovery zones—particularly if they are female—are arguably the most important bears because they are critical to establishing natural connectivity, an essential component to species recovery in certain ecosystems and necessary for long-term genetic viability in all isolated grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states."

Christensen's order does not vacate the existing decision by

Wildlife Services and allows the agency to continue operating the predator damage and conflict management program as is. However, the agency is required to complete the NEPA process, including an EIS, by Nov. 1, 2026.

In a statement to the Daily Montanan, WildEarth Guardians attorney Lizzy Pennock said while the organization is happy with the ruling, the fight for grizzly bear recovery isn't over.

"Grizzly bears need all the help they can get right now, not more 'tools in the toolbox' for killing them," Pennock said. "This decision recognizes that USDA Wildlife Services failed to adequately consider the impacts on grizzly bear recovery from their 'predator removal program.' Our team is considering options for further relief for grizzlies while the agency complies with the law." — **Micah Drew, Daily Montanan**

Illinois Farm Bureau ousted by AFBF

The Illinois Farm Bureau sued the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) on Nov. 13 after the national group voted to oust the Illinois chapter and its 70,000 farmer members. The lawsuit seeks to halt the AFBF's decision, which takes effect on Dec. 20.

The AFBF Board voted to expel the Illinois Farm Bureau after the state chapter's affiliate, Country Financial, decided to eliminate a requirement for non-farm insurance policyholders to become Farm Bureau members.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan said in a statement to DTN that his group believes the AFBF is "choosing to abandon" more than 70,000 Illinois farmer members.

The Illinois Farm Bureau filed its lawsuit against AFBF in the McLean County, IL, circuit court, asking a judge to step in and prevent AFBF from terminating Illinois Farm Bureau's membership. The Illinois Farm Bureau also asked the court to enforce a previous settlement agreement with AFBF to continue using the Illinois Farm Bureau name, to require AFBF to pay monetary damages and to issue an injunction to maintain the status quo until the issue is resolved.

Zippy Duvall, president of AFBF, spoke to reporters in Milwaukee, WI, about the Illinois Farm Bureau decision after he addressed members of the American Bankers Association's annual Ag Bankers Con-

ference.

"We feel like they have broken our membership agreement we had with them by not supporting building membership and other factors in there," Duvall said. "I would want to stay out of the legal discussion, but it's about farmer control and a membership agreement."

Duvall said AFBF learned about the membership change in September. There was a mediation, but Duvall said it did not work.

The lawsuit stated that members pay their annual dues to the Illinois Farm Bureau and their local county Farm Bureau, then the Illinois Farm Bureau pays a portion of the dues to the AFBF.

The Illinois Farm Bureau informed the AFBF of Country Mutual's decision to modify its underwriting rules effective Jan. 1, 2025.

"Weeks after learning about the management decision, AFBF began sending contentious emails to Illinois Farm Bureau accusing Illinois Farm Bureau of taking action 'against AFBF's interest' that AFBF asserted 'threatens immediate, severe and long-lasting harm' with 'devastating financial impact' to AFBF," the lawsuit said.

Country Mutual said it made the decision not to require Illinois Farm Bureau membership for several reasons. Those included that a failure to pay membership dues could leave members without insurance, the cost of insurance has increased

from severe weather, inflation, economic pressures and other factors.

AFBF sent a letter to Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureau officials on Oct. 25, "which again threatened to terminate Illinois Farm Bureau's membership in AFBF," the lawsuit said.

In a statement to DTN, Duncan said the Illinois Farm Bureau believes the AFBF acted because "our affiliate insurance company does not want to force non-farmers to join."

Duncan said the Illinois Farm Bureau is proving its commitment to serving its members, defending county Farm Bureaus and protecting the use of the Farm Bureau trademark in Illinois. An Illinois banker approached Duvall after he spoke at the banker conference to ask about the situation. The banker asked Duvall if farmers could directly become members of AFBF.

"That's something we would have to explore," Duvall said. "Hopefully, we never get to that."



He added, "This is all about farmer control, and it's in your all's hands."

Country Financial had more than 300,000 members who paid dues to the Illinois Farm Bureau, and \$5 of those dues went to AFBF as well. That's roughly \$1.5 million in annual revenue for the national organization affected. — **Todd Neeley, DTN environmental editor, and Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

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Buying corn silage to feed beef cows in winter

Moisture and fall forage growth have been disappointing in 2024. The bumper crop of corn this year has prompted many cattle farmers to consider feeding their cows corn silage.

"We had an outstanding growing season, and hay supplies are plentiful," said University of Missouri (MU) Extension state beef nutritionist Eric Bailey. "But I have received numerous inquiries from cattlemen interested in using corn silage as a winter feed option for beef cows."

There are special considerations for those who do not grow corn and have not previously fed corn silage but want to evaluate it as a winter feeding option, said Bailey.

What should the price of corn silage feed be?

Historically, corn silage is priced at 10 to 12 times the price of a bushel of corn delivered and packed in a bag, bunker or pit. With corn currently hovering around \$4 per bushel, it is reasonable to expect corn silage to be priced in the range of \$45 to \$50 per ton, Bailey said.

Corn silage is a wet feed; when stored correctly, it typically consists of two parts moisture to one part dry feed. Therefore, on a per ton of dry feed basis, a reasonable price is between \$136 and \$151 per ton. This may seem expensive compared to grass hay, which is currently selling for \$40 to \$60 per round bale. However, there is a significant difference in the lbs. of total digestible nutrients obtained in corn silage compared to grass hay.

"Let's assume that fescue hay tests at 55% total digestible

nutrients (TDN), which is optimistic if you harvested round bales in July and are just now picking them up from the field," Bailey said. Every ton of hay testing at 55% TDN will contain 968 pounds of TDN (assuming 12% moisture, which explains why the total is not 1,100 lbs. of TDN). If a bale is assumed to weigh 1,000 lbs. and is priced at \$50 per bale, then the cost of each pound of TDN from the hay is \$0.1033.

Corn silage contains 70% TDN. If a ton of dry corn silage provides 1,400 lbs. of TDN and the purchase price is \$143.50 per ton, then the cost of TDN from corn silage is \$0.1025/lb. Small fluctuations in price on an as-fed or wet basis can significantly affect the cost per pound of TDN for corn silage.

For instance, corn silage priced at \$60/ton equates to \$181.82/ton of dry matter, or \$0.1299/lb. of TDN. A lactating beef cow needs about 18 lbs. of TDN per day during peak lactation, resulting in an increased cost of \$0.4788 per cow per day with a price increase of roughly \$12.50/ton (as fed).

Consider the shelf life of corn silage

The purpose of packing corn silage is to remove oxygen from the feed, facilitating anaerobic fermentation. When proper fermentation occurs, organic acids are produced that inhibit mold and microbial growth, thereby preventing spoilage. However, when the feed is exposed to oxygen again, mold and microbial growth resume.

"If I were purchasing corn silage from a neighbor, I would

prefer to take delivery at least once a week," said Bailey. It is unwise to create a secondary pile on your farm that is replenished monthly or less frequently. The feed will degrade, resulting in a loss of nutritional value. In the worst-case scenario, cows may refuse to eat it.

Corn silage contains both forage and grain. It does not need to be fed in conjunction with dry hay due to the presence of leaves, husks, stalks and cobs in the silage. However, some farmers mix hay with corn silage to extend their feed supplies or to reduce the

energy density of the ration, allowing for a less precise feeding approach (free choice).

"In my opinion, this practice is wasteful, and I generally do not recommend it," Bailey said. If anything, corn silage is slightly deficient in crude protein. A well-balanced ration that can be fed to cows, calves, backgrounders or other livestock consists of nine parts corn silage and one part dried distillers grains on an as-fed basis.

"I have observed operations with limited equipment where corn silage is offered free

choice to beef cows in old tractor tires. I do not recommend this practice due to the potential for waste and the lack of control over the amount of feed provided," he said.

It is important to remember that this feed is not significantly cheaper than dry hay and has a shorter shelf life. Additionally, because corn silage is a wet feed, it is necessary to offer much more than 30 lbs. per day.

"In fact, it would not surprise me to see a large-framed, fall-calving cow consume upwards of 80 lbs. of corn silage per day on an as-fed basis,"

Bailey said. "This feed is most effectively utilized in operations where the quantity provided can be measured and administered daily."

Transportation considerations

"Due to the amount of moisture per ton, I would not want to haul it more than 20 miles. Freight will get pricey otherwise," Bailey said. "If you operate with minimal equipment, buying dry hay at current prices might be the least unfavorable option if you need to purchase feed on the market this fall and winter." — **MU Extension**

MSGA: Litigation will trickle down to all ranchers

MSGA (from page 1)

Additionally, MSGA highlights that DEQ can enforce strict groundwater monitoring measures whenever a potential threat to groundwater is identified.

"MSGA's members who hold CAFO general permits will bear the brunt of increased water monitoring, sampling and reporting," said Raylee Honeycutt, MSGA executive vice president. "The livestock industry in Montana, while large in economic terms, is managed and held up by a relatively small number of family-owned businesses, all of who rely in some way on CAFO operators. The effects of this litigation will trickle down to all ranchers, livestock producers and livestock markets in Montana, causing uncertainty and harm."

Previous lawsuits

Food & Water Watch has previously sued government agencies about monitoring CAFO emissions with mixed results.

In 2021, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a water permit granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Idaho's CAFOs after Food & Water Watch filed suit citing inadequate environmental monitoring requirements.

The court found Idaho's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit lacked sufficient safeguards to prevent CAFO pollutants, such as manure and waste from thousands of confined animals, from contaminating nearby waterways. This decision marked a win for food and environmental groups that sued under the Clean Wa-

ter Act.

The court ruled that the permit did not ensure compliance with "zero discharge" standards, as it lacked necessary monitoring provisions for both production and land-application areas. Although the permit required surface monitoring at production sites, the court found it insufficient, particularly for underground discharges, which had no monitoring requirements. Additionally, while dry-weather discharges from land-application areas were prohibited, the permit lacked any provisions for monitoring irrigation runoff, making it difficult to enforce compliance with discharge regulations.

In 2024, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the EPA's decision to deny a petition from Food & Water Watch and other environmental

groups challenging pollution regulations for CAFOs. The court ruled on Oct. 2 that it did not find the EPA's actions arbitrary, capricious or unlawful in denying the petition.

Food & Water Watch, joined by 12 groups, had requested the EPA revise its regulations on CAFO waste discharge into waterways, claiming current rules were too lenient. The EPA denied the request last fall, stating it would form a stakeholder committee to assess potential regulatory improvements and evaluate the effectiveness of existing rules before considering any further action. The appeals court supported the EPA's approach, noting it hadn't dismissed regulatory changes entirely but chose a more gradual, research-driven path. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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HT TAHOE 3191 LOT 1



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+6	+1.9	+89	+147	+30	+1.33	+171	+91	+94

AAA 20677781 SIRE: Tehama Tahoe B767
MGS: Spring Cove Reno 4021

LOT 43 HT GOAT 3097



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+10	-1.5	+81	+153	+35	+1.49	+12.8	+85	+69

AAA 20616404 SIRE: Schiefelbein GOAT
MGS: SITZ Profound 680G

HT TRUE NORTH 3256 LOT 17



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+4	+24	+78	+143	+37	+0.94	+10.5	+74	+54

AAA 20699560 SIRE: Square B True North
MGS: Sitz Upward 307R

LOT 6 HT PROFOUND 3129



CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	SC	HP	SW	SM
+7	+7	+72	+133	+20	+1.27	+11.1	+60	+45

AAA 20623743 SIRE: SITZ Profound 680G
MGS: HA Outside 7876

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USMEF details market diversification efforts

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) concluded its annual strategic planning conference in Tucson, AZ, with the election of officers for 2024-25. Steve Hanson, a rancher and cattle feeder from Elsie, NE, is the new USMEF chair, succeeding Minnesota pork and grain producer Randy Spronk.

Hanson has previously held many beef industry leadership roles, including chair of the Nebraska Beef Council and Federation of State Beef Councils and president of the Nebraska Cattlemen. He also served on the Beef Promotion Operating Committee, where he came to appreciate the importance of international marketing programs for U.S. red meat.

"The Operating Committee is where I first got my exposure to USMEF, which invests our checkoff dollars so well and adds value to the beef carcass," Hanson said.

Hanson also praised USMEF for bringing together a wide range of agricultural sectors to support a common goal—something he said was fully on display in Tucson.

USMEF's new chair-elect is Jay Theiler, executive vice president of corporate affairs for

Agri Beef Co., a diversified business with operations in ranching, cattle feeding, cattle nutrition and beef processing. He is a past director of the Idaho Beef Council and has served on the Beef Industry Long Range Plan Task Force.

USMEF Vice Chair Dave Bruntz is president of Bruntz Farming & Feeding in southeastern Nebraska, where he raises corn and soybeans and feeds cattle. Bruntz is a past president of the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Cattlemen. He also served as a regional vice president for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The newest USMEF officer is Secretary-Treasurer Darin Parker, director of Salt Lake City-based exporter/distributor PMI Foods.

Meeting sessions

The closing business session also included a USMEF staff panel focused on the importance of market diversification and developing new opportunities for U.S. pork, beef and lamb in emerging destinations.

Scott Reynolds, assistant vice president of marketing programs, described how US-

MEF categorizes markets for beef and pork and showed how allocations of USMEF investments in new and emerging markets has grown by 22% in the past five years. These are markets with less current volume, but greater upside potential. New and emerging markets can also help manage risk when market access issues occur in the leading markets for beef or pork.

In terms of new, untapped markets for U.S. red meat, Africa tops the list. USMEF Africa Representative Matt Copeland focused on population and economic growth and reminded the audience that by 2050, one in four people in the world will be African. It will take time, says Copeland, but we can't underestimate the importance of this economic evolution in Africa.

USMEF Latin America Representative Homero Recio addressed recent initiatives to develop new opportunities in South America, including a new product launch in Colombia. The new product with the most immediate potential in Colombia's foodservice sector

may be a pork burger derived from the Boston butt.

USMEF Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Director Sabrina Yin discussed the diversity of her region and its varying stages of market development, contrasting the highly developed market of Singapore with emerging markets such as Vietnam and Cambodia.

Yin explained that in several ASEAN markets, much of USMEF's work is directed at overcoming technical barriers and working with the trade on supply chain development, capacity building and imaging U.S. product. Where possible, USMEF continues to utilize sampling programs for U.S. beef and pork toward growing retail shelfspace. Yin described how USMEF is evolving to more of a business-to-business approach with promotions, utilizing sales contests for U.S. red meat with importers and distributors.

The previous day's program featured a panel discussion titled Building Connections and Creating Opportunities, in which livestock producers

shared firsthand experiences and insights from engaging with red meat buyers, consumers and government officials in overseas markets.

Randy Spronk, who served as USMEF chair over the past year, kicked off the discussion by recapping his first market visit to Japan 25 years ago, traveling with then-Gov. Jesse Ventura. He highlighted the U.S. pork industry's success in developing the Japanese market while also expanding demand in other Asian markets and the Western Hemisphere.

"One of the biggest takeaways for me was that exports are not something that you do in six months or in 12 months, said Spronk. "It's a long-term strategy to continue to grow a market and to be present in that market."

Cattlemen's Beef Board member Ross Havens, a cattle producer from Iowa, appreciated seeing the popularity of products that have little demand in the U.S.

"Tongues are one of the top beef products we export to Japan," said Havens. "Most people in the U.S. have no in-

terest in trying beef tongue but in Japan, the way they cook it and prepare it, beef tongue is really delicious. It's a great example of how international markets add value to the carcass. Shipping beef products to where somebody really values it is a great return on our Beef Checkoff investments."

Don Pemberton, former president of Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and a participant in a Heartland Team tour of Korea and Japan in 2023, talked about his experience grilling steak for social media influencers in Tokyo and the great interest they showed in his technique. He also shared his surprise at how much attention he received upon his return to Kentucky.

"When I got back to Kentucky, I prepared a trip report and presentation for Kentucky Cattlemen and Kentucky Beef Council. And the next thing I knew, I was on a speaking tour around the state. Because I'd spent 48 hours in Seoul and 48 hours in Tokyo, I was now considered an expert on foreign trade," laughed Pemberton. — USMEF

USDA releases report from 2021 feedlot study

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) released the first report from its 2021 beef feedlot study. The agency worked with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to conduct a study focusing on cattle health and management on feedlots with at least 50 head.

The study was designed to show current feedlot cattle health management practices and allow for the analysis of trends in topics related to cattle health based on previous NAHMS studies. The NAHMS also conducted beef feedlot studies in 2011, 1999 and 1994.

"The NAHMS reports for cow/calf and feedlot have for decades provided solid, non-biased information to rancher and feedlot managers to help them understand how their colleagues in the beef industry manage cattle," said Dee Griffin, DVM, director of the Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach Program at Texas A&M University, in a fact sheet.

NAHMS studies are voluntary and confidential. A total of 22 states participated in the 2021 study. Issues facing the industry were identified via responses from a questionnaire and from discussions with representatives from the feedlot industry.

Study highlights

More than half of feedlots placed at least some cattle

born and raised on the operation, but only about 7% of cattle placed were born and raised on the operation. About 36% of smaller feedlots had all cattle placed being born and raised on the feedlot. Slightly over half of cattle were born and raised on the operation or came from a cow-calf, backgrounding or stocker operation. For cattle obtained outside of the operation, the higher percentage (37.3%) came from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado and Kansas.

More than three-quarters of operations marketed their cattle conventionally, without any claims regarding antibiotics or hormones. About 8-10% of cattle were placed with the intention to meet claims of no or limited antibiotic use, or no hormone use.

About three-quarters of operations used any antibiotics, with 22.4% of operations administering antibiotics as a group. Most feedlots used a veterinarian in 2020 (85%), with the remainder reporting they did not need a vet. More than half of operations used a private veterinary clinic and called as needed.

"Reports published from this study will benefit the U.S. feedlot industry by providing current and scientifically valid estimates," NAHMS said.

To view the report in its entirety, visit tinyurl.com/6w6vbec6. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

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COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 5-7 - The United States Cattlemen's Association will host their 2024 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, at the InterContinental Hotel. Details: uscattlemen.org/

annual-meeting-2024.

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



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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 11/14/2024	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	185.09 ▼	187.71	178.18
CME Feeder Index	251.04 ▲	249.92	228.76
Boxed Beef Average	303.80 ▼	309.46	294.72
Average Dressed Steers	292.40 ▲	N/A	281.97
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,423 ▲	1,382	1,379
Weekly Slaughter**	619,000 ▲	615,000	618,000
Weekly Beef Production***	536.4 ▲	532.1	514.2
Hide/Offal Value	11.22 ▲	11.05	18.74
Corn Price	4.28 ▲	4.27	4.75

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
November 8	6,878	311.45	229	358.81	1,238	323.64	2,116	310.24	799	285.54	2,496	268.39
November 1	6,884	316.14	223	362.28	1,206	323.89	2,088	314.98	785	291.31	2,582	272.57
October 25	7,310	315.41	216	359.26	1,248	323.73	2,068	315.81	807	292.43	2,970	275.73
October 18	7,570	310.98	270	354.94	1,383	316.87	2,339	312.38	783	290.02	2,795	275.53

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Nov 14	303.80	276.66	264.28		79.98	326.65					
Nov 13	306.94	278.66	266.41		73.56	332.65					
Nov 12	308.27	279.92	267.24		N/A	329.77					
Nov 11	308.21	281.84	270.07		78.19	340.56					
Nov 8	307.93	279.19	272.67		65.73	345.30					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	11/8	11/11	11/12	11/13	11/14	High*	Low*
Dec.	18370	18370	18488	18463	18398	19975	16853
Feb.	18530	18538	18653	18655	18605	19000	16668
Apr.	18653	18675	18808	18810	18773	19043	17005
Jun.	18108	18125	18265	18278	18268	18258	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	11/8	11/11	11/12	11/13	11/14	High*	Low*
Nov.	24543	24615	24725	24713	24800	26460	21920
Jan.	24143	24225	24395	24445	24480	27095	22268
Mar.	23938	24005	24203	24290	24300	26625	22460
Apr.	24055	24133	24343	24433	24450	24315	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	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

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	346	1,448	187.71
Live FOB Heifer	340	1,264	187.90
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	531	1,456	178.18
Live FOB Heifer	788	1,359	177.84
Dressed Del Steer	5,432	985	281.97
Dressed Del Heifer	1,222	847	282.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 10, 2024		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	43,126	4,548
Formula	253,697	3,172
Negotiated Cash	74,748	212
Negotiated Grid	45,825	1,882
Packer Owned	10,073	N/A
Total	427,469	9,814

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,970
Nov. '24	176,186	Neg. Sales 21+ days	697
Dec. '24	145,938	Formula sales	3,976
Jan. '25	107,590	Forward contract sales	235
Feb. '25	89,103	Domestic sales	6,178
Mar. '25	93,765	NAFTA Exports	120

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		172.91	-1.20
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		171.59	-1.90

Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		176.13	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		174.61	-1.03
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		113.90	-4.61

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, November 12, 2024				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	313.44	318.14	311.91	
601-700 lbs	288.09	283.55	291.71	
701-800 lbs	266.51	271.42	262.89	
801-900 lbs	241.87	244.71	242.53	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	311.74	312.90	286.07	
501-600 lbs	285.81	276.38	267.02	
601-700 lbs	262.12	258.00	247.55	
701-800 lbs	240.37	242.22	225.94	

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
	11/4/2024	10/28/2024		
Feeders	30,705	31,083	1,176,686	1,026,479

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
November 13, 2024			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST:	Week Ago EST: 6,800	Year Ago Act: 8,850	
Santa Teresa, NM -	Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.		
Douglas, AZ -	Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.		
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		
300-400 lbs	287-297	300-400 lbs	282-292
400-500 lbs	267-277	400-500 lbs	262-272
500-600 lbs	247-257	500-600 lbs	242-252
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		
300-400 lbs	337-347	300-400 lbs	334-344
400-500 lbs	307-317	400-500 lbs	304-314
500-600 lbs	277-287	500-600 lbs	274-284

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

Selected Auctions									
Week Ending November 14, 2024									
Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2									
DATE MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
November 8 Blackfoot, ID	N/A	295-344	285-342	260-315	240-286	220-272	210-265	102-123	
November 7 Burley, ID	816	381-400	380	284-313	242.50-269	220-236	212-213	105-139	
November 9 Emmett, ID	No report available								
November 9 Eugene, OR	966	190-260*	182-270*	200-254*	170-225*	180-214*		85-116	1,025-2,575
November 11 Madras, OR	1,198	234-277.50*	235-277.50*	188-242*	170-216*			120-134	800-1,500
November 11 Vale, OR	No report available							98-124	
November 11 Davenport, WA	374	182.50-270	212.50-277.50	220-267.50	175-252.50	180	164-195	78-149	2,400-2,700
November 7 Toppenish, WA	1,780	200-240	167.50-263	150-246	110-222.50	166-210	138-190	100-128	1,550-2,225

November 7 Orlando, CA	2,500		240-343	230-300	220-270	200-254	185-224	105-124	2,000-3,350
November 11 Famoso, CA	577		250-340	250-315	220-285	200-228	190-210	90-160	
November 12 Turlock, CA	906		290-365	264-345	246-274	220-234	200-217	98-129	
November 12 Salina, UT	2,645	355-450	285-425	260-380	232.50-317.50	215-279	213-254	205-234	90.50-126

November 12 Iowa	8,404	359-396	301-364	270-325	241-298.50	239.50-280	235-258	99-175	
November 12 Miles City, MT	5,052	455-485	382.50-457.50	328-390	288-346	261-294	245-251	92-124.50	
November 13 Bassett, NE	3,520	365-400	340-385	306-360	280-318.50	264-289	249.50-270	116-156	
November 9 Ericson, NE	3,340	322.50-335	209-335	272-306	249-276	248-252	225-236.50		
November 12 Imperial, NE	681	397	325-365	280-319	269-275		217-242		

November 7 Willcox, AZ	1,130	295-350	333.50-382	314.50-353	278-317.50	244.50-266		105-138	
November 12 Colorado	12,504	331-435	370-440	330-380	264-338	236-295	237-263	197.50-251	1,800-2,000
November 11 Loma, CO	1,169	380-410	330-375	275-325	255-285	230-260	210-245	150-240	
November 13 Dodge City, KS	1,490	327.50-345	251-340	243-297.50	231-273	230-246.50	228-232	180-220	125-140
November 7 Pratt, KS	2,302	292.50-382	287.50-383	283-371	256-305	245-274.50	225-231	100-131	1,225-2,175
November 7 Salina, KS	1,970	375	321-358	270-321	247-278	246.50-273	231-257.50	125-158	2,800
November 7 Clovis, NM	1,739	325-352	292-326	260-292	226-270	221-248	222-239	126-152	1,625-1,825
November 12 El Reno, OK	4,700	308-367	298-368	261-305	234-272	214-235	181-226	101-117.50	1,525-2,225
November 13 McAlester, OK	2,100	312-350	265-290	222-288	201-255	200-237	168-190	126-152	800-2,600
November 12 Oklahoma City, OK	6,164	360-430	275-420	262.50-325	244-287.50	237.50-274	244	200-247	
November 8 Cuero, TX	1,584	310-335	314-362.50	260-305	227-283	230-255	223-238	205-224.50	
November 7 Dalhart, TX	876	225-330	261-358	255-320	230-280	220-255	206-236	102-123	1,900
November 7 San Angelo, TX	907	216-300	242-330	227-308	217-307	202-250	191-212	140-154	1,100-1,700
November 7 Dalhart, TX	876		270	230-286	220-250	220-255	239	90-129	
November 7 San Angelo, TX	907		250-270	240-275	217-250	210-230			
November 7 San Angelo, TX	907		315-327.50	271-273	242-245	236		90-121	1,650
November 7 San Angelo, TX	907		290	254-260	236	223	214-223	124-146	1,375-2,250

CANADA									
November 13 Lethbridge, Alberta	2,261	560-630	515-585	426-487	377-421.50	357-399		150-172.50	3,200-4,900

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An update on beef exports and imports

Total beef exports increased 3.6% year over year in September, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to just 2.9% below last year (Figure 1). Japan is the No. 1 export market, up 8.4% in September and up 0.6% year over year thus far in 2024. No. 2 South Korea was up 5.9% in September but remains down 10.3% for the first nine months of the year. China/Hong Kong is the No. 3 export destination, down 12.3% in September and down 10.2% year over year for the January-September period.

Beef exports to fourth-

ranked Mexico were up 11.2% in September and are up 10.9% year over year for the first nine months of the year. Canada is the No. 5 export market and was down 16.6% year over year in September and down 5.5% for the year to date. Beef exports to No. 6 Taiwan were up 35.9% year over year in September, bringing the year-to-date total just 0.7% below one year ago.

Total beef imports remain significantly stronger in 2024, up 23% year over year in September and up 21.1% thus far in 2024 (Figure 2). Canada remains the No. 1 beef import source, just fractionally higher

than Australia. Beef imports from Canada were down 0.7% year over year in September but remain up by 2.7% over last year. Imports from Australia have jumped sharply in 2024, up 60% in September and up 68.4% for the year to date compared to one year ago.

Brazil has also grown sharply as a source of U.S. beef imports, up 87.4% in September and up 44.9% for the January-September period. Brazil is the No. 3 beef import source in 2024, up from No. 5 last year. The No. 4 beef import market is New Zealand, with September imports

down 20% from one year ago but up 6.2% year over year for the first nine months of the year.

Mexico is the No. 5 beef import source, down from

third place last year, with September imports up 6.2% year over year, but down 13.4% for the year to date. Uruguay is the sixth largest beef import source and was up 11.2% in

September and is up 64.8% year over year thus far in 2024. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. U.S. Beef Exports, Jan-Sep 2022-2024

Million Pounds, Carcass Weight

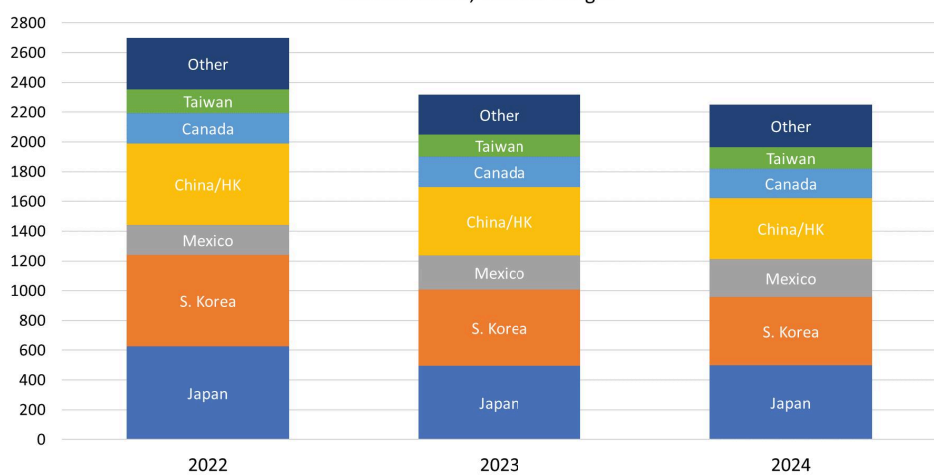


Figure 2. U.S. Beef Imports, Jan-Sep, 2022-2024

Million Pounds, Carcass Weight



Feeders see demand in countryside

MARKETS (from page 1)

dressed weight was 958 lbs., 1 lb. above the prior week.

“Demand has been the star of the 2024 cattle market,” Fish said. “Despite news reports of tight cattle numbers, 2024 fed cattle slaughter will be very close to 2023 and may exceed it by 50k head.”

Boxed beef prices continue to decline. The Choice cutout lost about \$5 to close at \$303.80, and the Select cutout lost about \$3 to close at \$276.66.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures traded mostly steady over the week, with the November contract down 3 cents to \$247.62 and the January contract down about a dollar to \$243.20.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained \$1.12 to close at \$251.04.

Corn futures were down about 10 cents apiece, with the December contract at \$4.19 and the March contract at \$4.30.

“Rainy weather slowed movement of cattle to market and many auction markets reported light receipts,” the Cattle Report said. “The rains may have slowed receipts in many areas but they jump-started prices for light cattle.”

Stewart wrote on Monday: “What was potentially the most impressive note throughout the day for the feeder cattle market was the continued demand in the countryside for feeders and calves. Prices were noted as sharply higher in numerous sale reports, as buyers are still needing more cattle for their pens.”

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 7,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 725 lbs. sold \$5-20 higher with heavier weights selling steady to \$3

higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 769 lbs. sold from \$252-266, averaging \$261.69.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,200 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$2-4 higher, except 600-700 lbs. sold \$10 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$2 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold \$15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 714 lbs. sold from \$252-259.50, averaging \$255.31.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 3,548 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, steer and heifer calves sold with higher undertones compared to a limited test. Yearling steers sold \$5-10 lower, and heifers sold \$4-6 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 715 lbs. sold from \$271-275, averaging \$272.58. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



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K-State selected for project on sustainable intensification of ag

Kansas State (K-State) University officials say a multimillion-dollar award from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will support work by researchers on multiple continents to make agriculture more resilient to varying management practices, climates and extreme weather events.

The university was selected as the management entity for the Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, or CRSIIL, as part of USAID's Feed the Future program, with funding of up to \$50 million over the next five years.

Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development Dina Esposito announced the award during the recent World Food Prize in Des Moines, IA.

"The Feed the Future innovation lab network, including these newly fund-

ed labs, will advance technology development and draw on the expertise of top U.S. universities and host country research institutions to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges in agriculture and food security," said Esposito, who is also assistant to the administrator for the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security at USAID.

She added: "The Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification lab led by Kansas State University will conduct research to develop and adapt technologies that increase agricultural productivity on less land with fewer environmental tradeoffs."

Vara Prasad, the lab's director, university distinguished professor and the R.O. Kruse endowed professor in K-State's agronomy department, said the new project continues the work managed during the

past 10 years by K-State's Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL), a \$75 million project that he also led. The new project, he said, includes an emphasis on climate resilience in crops.

Sustainable intensification is a term that represents researchers' work to develop methods and technologies that increase agricultural yields without negative environmental impacts or cultivating more land.

Funding for the previous SIIL ended earlier this year. The new award is for five years, at which time Prasad said it could be renewed for an additional \$50 million and five years, based on the progress and availability of funds. All told, K-State's support from USAID to study sustainable intensification over a 20-year period could top \$175 million.

"I think what this new

award shows is USAID's trust in Kansas State University, as well as our commitment to our program and what we are capable of doing," Prasad said.

K-State will lead a project with partners in eight countries: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana, Guatemala and Honduras. Prasad said work in these countries will serve as "test beds" for discoveries that can be applied around the world, including Kansas and the U.S.

The partnership includes forming a Digital and Decision Agriculture consortium to develop improved tools to assist farmers in the U.S. and partner countries, "to become more efficient, productive, profitable and equitable," according to Prasad.

He said American and international researchers don't need to look any further than Kansas to see the

value of this work. The state's agricultural economy thrives despite a wide range of variables between the eastern and western borders, including temperature, rainfall, soil, weather and more.

"When it comes to resilience in farming, Kansas is the place," Prasad said. "So what we learn from other countries is going to be extremely valuable for Kansas and other places around the country and world."

Prasad said CRSIIL's work focuses on five areas:

- Climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience.
- Improved use of resources and input use efficiency.
- Soil fertility management and soil health.
- Ecological intensification and nature-positive solutions.
- A circular bio-economy and use of renewables.

K-State President Richard Linton hailed the award, saying the work that will be done over five years symbolizes the university's goal to become a next-generation land-grant university.

"This international proj-

ect represents one of the largest and most collaborative research grants in the history of K-State. It builds on our strengths in research innovation and affirms our global reputation for excellence in agricultural and food systems," Linton said. "Being recognized worldwide enhances our position as a next-generation land-grant university."

Ernie Minton, the Eldon Gideon dean of K-State's College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, said he's "immensely proud of the dedication and innovation of Prasad's team in earning this prestigious grant award."

"It underscores our commitment to advancing agricultural research and addressing the most difficult challenges within the global food system," Minton said. "This work will produce significant global impacts and greatly benefit Kansas by enhancing our knowledge of climate-resilient agricultural practices that improve productivity and sustainability."

— **K-State Research and Extension**

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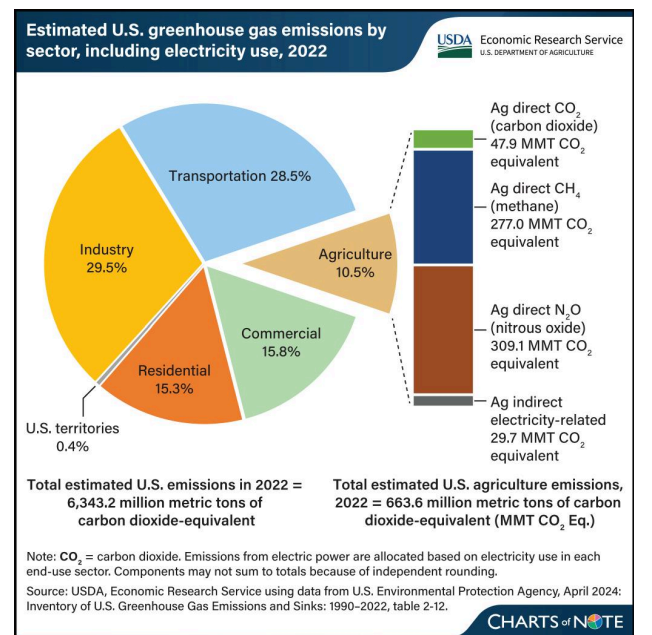


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Ag accounted for 10.5% of GHG emissions in 2022



Farming activities in the U.S. accounted for 10.5% of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2022. From 2021 to 2022, agricultural GHG emissions decreased from 681.6 million metric tons (mt) to 663.6 million mt of carbon dioxide equivalent and decreased from 10.8% to 10.5% as a share of the entire U.S. economy's emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that in 2022, agriculture emitted 309.1 million mt directly as nitrous oxide (N₂O), 277 million mt directly as methane (CH₄), 47.9 million mt directly as on-farm carbon dioxide (CO₂), and indirectly emitted 29.7 million mt through electricity the agricultural sector uses.

Agricultural practices that emit nitrous oxide include nitrogen fertilizer application and manure management. Major sources of agricultural methane emissions include enteric fermentation, manure management and rice cultivation.

The EPA has identified the industrial sector as the largest sectoral contributor to total GHG emissions (29.5%), followed by transportation, commercial, residential, agriculture and U.S. territories (listed as a group because no specific consumption data can be attributed within the territories). Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 0.2% greater than they were in 2021. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

Vet science program makes job-ready high school graduates

Haley Andrews, a veterinary science instructor in Pasadena, TX, follows one guiding principle when it comes to choosing eighth-grade students for the high school veterinary science program: the more curious, the better.

"We're really looking for those kids who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty," she said. "Veterinary science is a unique industry, and we love finding those remarkable kids who want to develop their minds for veterinary science."

Andrews teaches a customized version of the Veterinary Science Certificate Program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service through the Department of Animal Science. At her school, students undergo a four-year pathway that culminates during their senior year with an industry-based certification exam.

The exam, once passed, guarantees graduates are ready and qualified for work as a veterinary assistant. They can then enter directly into a veterinary assistant job and assist in treating animals' injuries and illnesses, or they can apply the knowledge and experience gained for a multitude of other pathways in the life sciences.

When taken through their high school, students achieve certification for nothing more than the \$50 cost of the exam. And the program's approval by the Texas Education Agency has made incorporating the program into new schools easier than ever.

In participating high schools, veterinary or agricultural science teachers lead students through the required coursework as part of a typical day. The students can also receive career and technology or science credits by taking the courses.

"We teach a series of classes, from principles of agriculture and small animal management all the way up to advanced animal science," Andrews said. "The students then take the practicum course, which is where they work directly with DVMs or

licensed veterinary technicians, then sit for their certification exam."

Samantha Valdez, a current veterinary assistant and previous student of Andrews, enrolled in the program already believing—but not quite sure—a veterinary career path would be right for her.

"In high school, what was really appealing was that it was something new," she said. "Every young kid wants to do something to start their career early, to get ahead and get that life experience. I would go to my normal English, math and other classes, then I would go to the veterinary science classes and get to learn all the basics of being a vet assistant."

She said it allowed her to experiment and start early with something she loved, knowing that if it turned out she didn't like it, she would still have the chance to try new things before graduation.

To graduate from the program and earn a completion of program certificate, students must complete 200 hours of coursework and 225 clinical hours, during which students apprentice under professional supervision and gain 100 necessary skills, such as understanding the basics of essential food nutrients and how to obtain a patient's history.

After meeting these requirements, students are eligible to take the veterinary assistant certificate exam. Those who pass the 100-question exam receive a certificate designating them as a veterinary assistant.

"In those 225 hours of clinical apprenticeship, students obtain all of these skills to make them job ready," said Nikki Boutwell, program coordinator of the Veterinary Science Certificate Program. "Once they take their exam, they're able to go straight into the workforce. The certification identifies these graduates as industry ready and job trained. It shows that these people have the knowledge and skills to walk into a clinic and perform the duties of a veterinary assistant."

Statewide certification, worldwide use

Although the program was designed with Texas in mind, it's used in classrooms and for personal study across the U.S. and internationally.

The veterinary science program is one of two programs within AgriLife Extension that meet the industry-based certification standard granted by the Texas Education Agency. The standard ensures the curriculum adequately prepares students for success in the workforce and/or postsecondary education.

Schools also benefit from including industry-based certifications because they contribute to academic accountability ratings, which are a key metric for assessing a school's performance.

Though the veterinary science program standards and requirements are uniform, the actual implementation of the curriculum is intended to be customized. In Pasadena, Andrews uses it as a four-year program, but it can also be set up as a one-year track. Schools can also decide which state-approved courses to include.

"What's really cool about our program is that a school can set up their own pathway and decide how they want to offer it," Boutwell said. "We assist teachers and schools to help them set up their program in a way that works for them."

By working with veterinary professionals, students also build a professional network.

Valdez, for instance, earned hours as a senior intern at a vet clinic that would eventually lead to a full-time job offer. She's been with that clinic for four years now.

Boutwell said the program can be used as a starting point for many different career paths.

She explained that some students opt to use the knowledge and skills for pursuing an associate, undergraduate or graduate degree in veterinary, animal or biomedical sciences. After Valdez earned her certification, she went on to pursue an associate's degree and found she already had a solid foundation for much of the coursework because of the program's classes.

"At my high school, we learned the basics of veterinary assistant requirements like grooming, nail trimming, ear cleaning; and they also added some agriculture," she said. "In college, I had more agriculture classes, and see-

ing some of the material before helped me a lot. It made those classes a breeze."

The hours of hands-on training are also useful for applications to graduate programs. When applying to veterinary school, students are typically expected to already have 500 to 1,000 hours of clinical experience.

The early start also helps students find out for themselves if a veterinary pathway is something they would actually enjoy for a career, as Valdez did.

Andrews said many students might come into this type of program because of their love for animals, but the ones who stick to it are those

willing to get their hands dirty—and who aren't squeamish about performing the medical tasks required. The low cost also makes the program exceptionally appealing for low-income students.

"As the veterinary industry faces a shortage of qualified employees, there's never been a more important time to educate youth in veterinary science and usher them into the world of animal care," Boutwell said. "We're trying to help these students make career choices and gain experience so that they can prepare for after high school and find what they want to do for a career." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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Nov. 7, Hudson Oaks, TX

Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live Nov. 7 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 22,033 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock, totaling 208 lots from 19 states for this offering.

Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 83 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through July 2025. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers were steady to \$12 higher with the most advances seen on lighter weight steers. Feeder heifers from the same regions were \$3-5 lower on heifers 800 pounds and higher, while lighter weight heifers were \$5-10 higher. Regions 1/2 feeder steers and heifers were only lightly assessed. Beef-dairy crosses witnessed a strong demand, steady to \$20 higher. Regions 3/4/5/6 weaned calves were well received with advances of \$10-20 higher.

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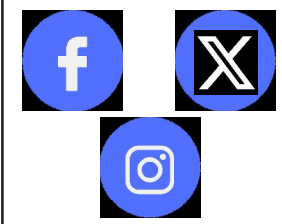
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SALE REPORTS

ARNTZEN ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Nov. 8, Lewistown, MT
660 Total lots \$3,017
52 Commercial bred cows 3,400
346 Commercial AI bred heifers 3,184
262 Commercial bull bred heifers 2,720
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe

TOPS—Commercial AI bred heifers: 35 bred heifers AI'd for Feb. 10; \$3,750. 52 bred heifers AI'd for Feb. 15; \$3,450. 10 bred heifers AI'd for Feb. 25; \$3,375. **Bred cows:** 52, 3-6-year-old cows to calve April-May; \$3,400. —**DEVIN MURNIN**

GREEN MOUNTAIN ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

Nov. 11, Billings, MT
366 Total lots . . . \$6,803
259 Total bulls . . . 8,305
25 Fall yearling bulls 10,460
200 Bull calves . . . 8,295
34 2-year-old bulls 6,780
107 Commercial bred heifers 3,166
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS: GMAR Armstrong M204, 2/6/2024 by S Armstrong; to Wilson Angus Ranch, Watford City, ND, \$35,000. GMAR Armstrong 012L, 8/30/2023 by S Armstrong; to Darrell and Pat Howard, Dunn Center, ND, \$32,000. GMAR Armstrong M063, 1/7/2024 by S Armstrong; to Vision Angus, Amherst, CO, and Beartooth

Angus, Billings, MT, \$27,500. GMAR Harley M001, 12/25/2023 by WSC Harley; to Sellman Ranch, Crawford, NE, \$26,000. GMAR Armstrong M071, 1/8/2024 by S Armstrong; to Darrell and Pat Howard, Dunn Center, ND, \$21,000. GMAR Scale Crusher M289, 2/15/2024 by Marcys Scale Crusher 29; to Wilson Angus Ranch, Watford City, NE, \$20,000. —**DEVIN MURNIN**

MONTANA RANCH BULL & FEMALE SALE

Nov. 9, Bigfork, MT
140 Total lots . . . \$8,293
80 Angus bulls . . . 11,656
60 Total females . . 3,808
4 Angus bred cows 7,625
6 Angus bred heifers 5,416
50 Commercial bred heifers 3,310
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS: Montana Loadmaster 3007, by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Herndon Farms, Lyons, GA, and Circle F Farms, Baxley, GA, \$55,000. Montana Lasso 3029, by Sitz Logo 12964; to Herndon Farms, Lyons, GA, \$36,000. Montana Lifeline 3028, by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Herndon Farms, Lyons, GA, \$32,000. Montana Legacy 3326, by Brooking Revival 0074; to Double M Ranch, Lusk, WY, \$25,000. Montana Level Up 3204, by Brooking Revival 0074; to Vision Angus, Amherst, CO, \$22,000. —**LOGAN IPSEN**



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ANGUS

- Nov. 18** – J&L Livestock, Bred Females Sale, Billings, MT
- Nov. 21** – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
- Nov. 22** – TD Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
- Nov. 23** – Baldridge/Tiedeman & Frank Cattle and Genetics, Female Sale, Chappell, NE
- Nov. 23** – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Female Sale, Loma, CO
- Nov. 23** – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
- Nov. 23** – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
- Nov. 23** – Queen Ann Cattle, Female Sale, Loma, CO
- Nov. 26** – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
- Nov. 29** – Vermillion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
- Dec. 2** – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
- Dec. 2** – Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
- Dec. 3** – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
- Dec. 3** – ZumBrunnen Angus, Production Sale, Lusk, WY
- Dec. 4** – Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

HEREFORD

- Nov. 25** – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
- Dec. 6** – Western States Hereford Sale, Reno, NV

RED ANGUS

- Nov. 18** – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Female Sale, Othello, WA
- Dec. 4** – Big Sky Elite Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
- Dec. 9** – Cross Diamond, Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE

SALERS

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

SIMANGUS

- Dec. 6** – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
- Dec. 7** – T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO

SIMMENTAL

- Dec. 7** – Montana Simmental, Female Sale, Billings, MT

STABILIZER

- Dec. 7** – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

COMMERCIAL

- Nov. 18** – COLA's 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR
- Nov. 23** – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID



Annual Bull and Female Sale

DECEMBER 7 1:00 PM MST

2024

SALE HELD AT THE RANCH
 MAXWELL, NEW MEXICO

SELLING 140 ANGUS BULLS AND 60 FEMALES
 Including Live Animals, Heifer Pregnancies, Embryo Packages
Where the Grasslands Meet the Rockies



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	SM	SB	SC
6	1.6	76	139	28	66	1.42	0.70	79	211	353



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	SM	SB	SC
11	-0.2	70	133	32	76	1.57	1.02	72	240	383



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	SM	SB	SC
8	0.9	90	158	24	92	1.24	1.36	64	231	364



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	SM	SB	SC
9	0.4	74	134	41	67	1.25	0.99	91	198	348

✓ **FREE NATIONWIDE DELIVERY** ✓ **VOLUME DISCOUNTS** ✓ **100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**
 Let us help with the trip! Offering a \$250 credit when you attend the sale in person!



REVERSE ROCKING R RANCH
 358 Laguna Madre Rd / Maxwell, NM 87728

Chris & Krista Earl, Owner
 Schumaker Family, Owner
 630-675-6559 or svfchief@aol.com

REVERSE ROCKING R RANCH.COM

Trent & Emily Earl, Manager 719-557-9915
 Garrett Earl, Herdsman 630-400-1225
 Jeff Earl, Promotion & South Ranch

STERLING FARM & FEEDLOT AUCTION

Logan County, CO

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024
 10:30 am MT - Reck Agri Auction Center

LIVE Auction

947± Total Ac - Feedlot & Pivot/Flood Irrig
 5,000 Hd - CAFO Permit + Pasture - NSID Water & Live Creek Bottom | Possession upon closing
 Located 7.5± miles north of Sterling, CO

QUICK FACTS

- 264.8± sprinkler irrigated ac – 3 pivots
- 278.1± flood irrigated ac – gated pipe
- 404.6± ac pasture, improvement site
- 5,000 hd feedlot – Fully permitted
- 23 feeding pens – commercial well + cattle processing facilities
- 4 Parcels / East - Farm - Single Unit
- 624.74 NSID district acres offered w/ farm
- 286.51 additional NSID district acres to be offered in 15 water lots & combos
- Cedar Creek bottom



For Further Information:
 Marc Reck, Broker
 marcreck@reckagri.com



970-522-7770 or 1-800-748-2589 | reckagri.com



YARDLEY CATTLE CO.

47th ANNUAL FOCUS *on the* FEMALE SALE
OVER 100 BRED HEIFERS AND COWS SELL! 9 ELITE SHOW HEIFER PROSPECTS
SIMMENTAL, SIMANGUS, & MAINE ANJOU



LOT 2, 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
TJ WAR PAINT X TOP NOTCH



LOT 10

3/4 SM 1/4 AN
Yardley Standout X W/C Loaded Up



LOT 11

1/2 SM 1/2 AN
HOC Broker X OCC Jet Stream



LOT 3

PB SM
Yardley Pay the Star X W/C Banchor



LOT 15

1/2 SM 1/2 AN
Real Steel X GCC Gold Standard



LOT 4

PB SM
SFI Conviction X Yardley Standout



LOT 1

1/2 SM X 1/2 AN
TJ Stone Cold X LD Capitalist 316

Yardley Cattle Company is a fifth generation family cattle ranch built on integrity, hard work, and great cattle. Our dedication and devotion to selecting genetics generation after generation for phenotype, performance, and maternal traits shows throughout our entire offering. The genetics available in our sale are the best you can buy anywhere.

We produce beautifully made, moderately framed cattle—loaded with power, performance and fleshing ability in stylish, structurally correct packages. We are confident our cattle will excel in your operation! Whatever your buying budget is and with this many quality cows selling, you will find a bargain. Our top-quality cows will sell at realistic prices the common rancher or farmer can afford.

THE MOTHER COW IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ANY OPERATION. Our cows are run like any top commercial outfit. They winter on desert ranges without hay, calve unassisted, summer in the high mountains and wean a big calf. Our cattle are deep ribbed, thick, and big topped, with clean fronts and sheaths. They are also wide based, with good feet and legs so they can travel.

We've sold cattle into 32 states, Canada and Mexico. We guarantee to ship any cow purchased in the sale within 300 miles of your location in the Lower 48 for \$400. WE'RE JUST THREE HOURS FROM LAS VEGAS OR SALT LAKE ON I-15. BOOK YOUR FLIGHT NOW!

TO REQUEST A CATALOG PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL (812) 525-0359

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 2024



www.yardleycattleco.com • 2pm MST in Beaver, UTAH

Steven Yardley (435) 310-1725 • Gib Yardley (435) 691-8688

View the auction live • DVAuction.com