



### INSIDE WLJ



**COST OF THANKSGIVING UP** — The American Farm Bureau Federation's latest Thanksgiving dinner survey revealed the cost of a feast fit for 10 is up 20% compared to last year. **Page 10**

#### A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Change is a regular part of the livestock industry, but even over a few decades, the nature of those changes can vary widely. In November 1961, the latest industry development was finishing cattle in feedlots, as this *WLJ* article, "Modern Feedlot Puts More 'Eat' in Meat," explains: "Housewives today are becoming more and more demanding in their beef buying, and, because of this pressure, feed lots have assume a very important role in the cattle business. There is an obvious trend toward producing cattle to fit exact specifications and this has made the feeding operations a modern-day necessity to the cattle industry. Sound like the performance of a magician? One would think so. However, there is no place for legerdemain in the feedlot business. Only hard work, diligent planning and proper supervision."

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## Cattle grazing expansion proposed in Alvord Desert

### — 9,000 AUMs suggested

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently issued an adjusted environmental assessment for a new allotment management plan and a proposed decision that would allow for expanded livestock grazing in the Alvord Desert of southeastern Oregon.

BLM previously released an

environmental assessment in July 2021 for the allotment, and a final decision was made in March this year. The decision was appealed by Western Watersheds Project, WildLands Defense and Wild Horse Education. In reviewing the appeals, BLM decided the groups provided comments that were not previously considered for the proposed decision and adjusted the environmental assessment as a

result. The new proposed decision is based on the amended assessment.

The Oct. 21 proposed decision allows a 10-year grazing permit renewal, management changes and range developments for the Alvord Allotment. Specific actions include: approval of the allotment management plan, reinstatement of a portion of land that was previously suspended for use, pasture

establishment, changes to grazing management, water hauling, fence construction, road closure and trough installation, among others.

The proposed decision would allow about 9,000 animal units months (AUMs) on all pastures in the Alvord Allotment. The decision would allow one pasture that was previously suspended for use to

**See ALVORD on page 15**



Greg Shine/Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management issued a proposed decision that would allow for expanded livestock grazing in the Alvord Desert of southeastern Oregon. Pictured here, the Alvord Desert Wilderness Study Area.

## SCOTUS will hear Navajo Nation's water rights case

### — Access to CO River

The Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) agreed earlier this month to review a decision by the 9th Circuit Court allowing Navajo Nation to sue over yet-to-be-determined access to water from the Colorado River.

#### Background

The Tribe sued the federal government in 2003, bringing a claim under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and a breach of trust claim for failing to consider the Tribe's Colorado River water rights. Numerous states, including Arizona, and several water entities intervened in the suit to protect their water rights. A federal judge in Arizona dismissed the complaint in 2014, holding that the Navajo Nation lacked standing to bring its NEPA claim and that its breach of trust claim was barred by sovereign immunity.

The 9th Circuit Court concurred with the district court in 2017 on the NEPA claim but reversed the breach of trust claim, at which point the matter was remanded back to the district court.

The Navajo Nation filed an amended complaint, alleging the federal government failed to "determine the quantities and sources of water required to make the Navajo Nation a permanent homeland for the Navajo People" and "protect the sovereign interests of the Navajo Nation by securing an adequate water supply to meet those homeland purposes."

The district court denied this amended complaint that the federal government breached its fiduciary duties to provide the Nation with sufficient water.

### Latest appeals court ruling

The case then returned to the

9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the lower court's ruling again in 2021, stating that although it is undetermined if the Nation's water rights under the Winters doctrine (a 1908 SCOTUS opinion concerning Tribal water rights) entitle the Nation to the mainstream of the Colorado River, the Nation can base their breach of trust claim on this argument.

The Winters doctrine ruled that water rights were established when the government created the reservation, and the rights cannot be forfeited for non-use. The appeals court said the rights under the Winters doctrine are implied when the government establishes a reservation, and the Nation can bring a breach of trust suit.

"Federal Appellees have an irreversible and dramatically important trust duty requiring them to ensure adequate water for the health and safety of the

**See NAVAJO on page 24**

## Biden signs memo on ag security, resilience

### — Strengthen ag and food sector

The White House recently signed a national security memorandum with the intention to strengthen the security and resilience of the U.S. food and agriculture sector.

The Biden administration said the memorandum will ensure that Americans have access to safe and affordable food, producers are able to send their products to market, and the food and agriculture sector is better prepared for threats.

Agriculture, food and related industries contribute about 5% of the country's gross domestic product, the White House said, which represents over \$1 trillion per year and more than 19 million jobs.

"This critical food and agriculture sector has, in recent years, faced a range of deliberate and naturally occurring threats to its security and resilience," a fact sheet read.

Such threats include the sum-

mer 2021 ransomware attack on JBS USA, the spread of avian influenza across the country and the Russia/Ukraine war.

To strengthen resilience, President Joe Biden approved a national security memorandum that supersedes a 2004 Homeland Security presidential directive and provides presidential guidance to identify and assess threats, strengthen partnerships to enhance workforces and enhance preparedness and response.

### Identify and assess threats

The national security memorandum outlines a process to identify and assess threats. This includes the following:

- Redefining the way chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats are defined in relation to the food and ag sector.
- Focusing on cyber threats and

**See AG SECURITY on page 8**

## Market trades sideways ahead of Thanksgiving

Live cattle futures closed mixed over the week. The December contract lost 32 cents to close at \$152.75, and the February contract gained 38 cents to close at \$155.40.

"This week's cash cattle market has traded mostly steady with last week's weighted averages, but there are a few bids being thrown out at midday," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her midday Thursday comments.

"The market is also taking note of Thursday's strong boxed beef prices. The day is confidently trading higher and isn't downed by the lackadaisical export data that it received Thursday morning."

Through Thursday, about 65,000 head sold on the cash market. Live steers sold from \$148-156, averaging closer to \$152. Dressed steers sold from \$240-242, averaging \$241.

Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 12 totaled 102,284 head. Live steers averaged \$152.93, and dressed steers averaged \$242.16.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 7 to Nov. 14 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$152.91.
- Formula net purchases: \$154.01.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$152.57.

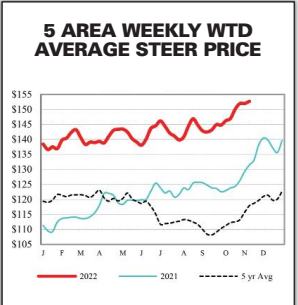
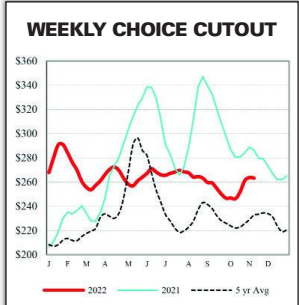
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$153.54.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$241.57.
- Formula net purchases: \$244.80.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$235.22.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$241.76.

Through Thursday, slaughter totaled 515,000 head, a few thousand head higher than a week earlier. Slaughter the week prior is estimated at 671,000 head. Actual slaughter for the first week of November totaled 667,885 head.

"This publication forecast a late year decline this year in cow slaughter from year

**See MARKETS on page 19**

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$152.02	\$241.94	\$175.39
WEEK ENDING: 11-17-22		

# COMMENTS

## Beef demand is real

In an article published in Cornell University's newspaper, The Cornell Daily Sun, sophomore staff writer Kyle Roth begins his op-ed titled "Meatless 'Meat': Animal-Free Eating at Cornell" with this: "It is no secret that consuming various animal proteins comes with many costs related to morals, nutrition, the environment, production ethics and economics. With animal-based meat being widely available and accessible at virtually every restaurant and grocery store along with being deeply ingrained into American and international cultures, the issue of transitioning away from animal products and looking towards alternatives is not as steak-and-potatoes as it may seem."

"Fortunately, meat-alternative proteins are becoming the norm in our grocery stores and fast-food establishments, and they're only growing in popularity as tasty, affordable, 'guilt-free' substitutions to animals." The article goes on to talk about three various forms of meat alternatives and gives a quick sales pitch on each, but the article never says where exactly the alternatives are available, their prices or how they compare nutritionally to actual meat. It also never goes into the ingredients or ramifications that meatless products have on the environment.

Cornell is listed on U.S. News' list of best colleges as the 17th best national university. The irony here is so thick, but it's the naivety that is saddening. The article is agenda-based journalism, which contains zero facts backed by zero science and is published as news. Granted, he's speaking to his audience, and I'm speaking to mine, but I'll use facts and figures and arm our readership with some stats.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) recently held their annual conference in Oklahoma City, OK. During the conference, there were several takeaways, but the biggest summation is that American meat producers—and not just beef producers—are collectively hitting environmental, nutritional and sustainability targets.

Keynote speaker Randy Blach, CEO of CattleFax, said, "The U.S. is the largest high-quality meat producer on the planet. We produce the most beef, the most broiler meat and the third-largest amount of pork in the world." He then went on to compliment the corn and soybean producers for their inputs on our production system and for helping our animals quickly and efficiently convert the corn and soybeans into meat.

He added that the U.S. achieved record beef production in 2022 with 30 million fewer cattle than in the 1970s.

This information is so valuable as we see record export values and demand and double-digit growth in several countries, even with a decreasing national cow herd. We are looking at a 37% reduction from just a few years ago. This drought has been brutal.

Blach continued, "Whenever I ask an audience 'Who's the biggest beef producer in the world?' everyone says Brazil because it has 300 million cattle, but we're producing more beef than Brazil with only one-third the number of cattle. The U.S. has the best carbon footprint of anybody on the list of top beef producers because of the way our production systems work and the amount of production that we get on a per-head basis."

"That's what sustainability is—doing more with less and doing it better with great animal husbandry," Blach said. Well stated, Mr. Blach.

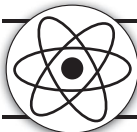
When I looked up the nutritional facts of a meat substitute burger, a direct label comparison shows an 80% increase in sodium if you consume the fake product versus actual beef. What health risks are associated with high sodium intake? High blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. Conversely, what have anti-meat advocates used as their talking points against the health of meat? High blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. Odd.

No business can sustain itself without revenue or profits. Our industry is shifting its margins across different sectors, and we are already seeing packers' margins being shifted over to the feeders, and we're seeing the early signs of higher revenue being shifted over to the cow-calf sector. It won't be long before the highest margins are back in the cow-calf sector. It's simply the cycle and swing based on supply and demand economics. But make no mistake, there is enough demand for pure beef across the globe to drive economic incentives in all phases of our industry at the same time.

We cannot say the same thing for Beyond Meat. I wrote about their stock price in my column last month, but as the USMEF conference was going on, Beyond Meat simultaneously released their earnings report, which reported "wider-than-expected losses." It also announced a 19% reduction in its workforce amid a 22.5% net sales drop and 11.2% net revenue per pound decrease. This all fueled a third quarter net loss of \$101.7 million. In terms of sustainability, this isn't it. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN



# RESOURCE SCIENCE

Climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are perhaps the most important science-based issues affecting agriculture and forestry. I previously wrote about GHG emissions from forest fires versus logging (*WLJ*, June 20), and I estimated that harvesting half of the trees on 100 acres of a forest in the northern Rockies would yield about 1 million board feet (MMBF) of timber, which otherwise might burn and release GHGs. The economic benefits of harvesting timber rather than spending millions of dollars each year putting out forest fires are obvious. There are also benefits of smaller GHG emissions by harvesting timber instead of it burning.

Calculating GHG emissions from forests is complicated, and here I summarize basic information. Wood is composed of carbon-based compounds, including approximately 40% cellulose, 30% hemicellulose and 30% lignin. Most GHGs of concern are also carbon-based compounds, such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that forms when wood is burned or decays.

GHGs in forests are measured from the amount of carbon in wood, not the timber volume (board feet) or total weight of the wood. For example, 1 MMBF of standing timber might weigh 20 million pounds, of which only part is carbon. Wood contains a lot of water and substances other than carbon that don't contribute to GHGs, so the weight of the wood is not used for GHG calculations, but the weight of the carbon in the wood is.

The U.S. Forest Service calculated the amounts of carbon in the national forests and grasslands in different regions of the U.S. In the Gallatin National Forest in the northern Rocky Mountain region (Montana, northern Idaho and the western Dakotas), there's about 60 metric tonnes per acre of carbon. One tonne is 1,000 kilograms, which is 2,205 lbs., so 60 tonnes is 132,300 lbs. of carbon per acre in the Gallatin National Forest. This indicates that forest fires can cause substantial emissions of GHGs.

The Forest Service also assesses the amount of carbon in harvested wood products like lumber and wood in landfills. This wood will not burn or decay for a long time, and it thus doesn't contribute to GHG emissions. A considerable amount of forest carbon is stored in wood products (see Figure 1) and is not susceptible to forest fires and GHG emissions.

Estimates of the amount of carbon actually emitted from forest fires are not in the reports I read but should be forthcoming in other reports. It is important for forest management to know if logging and the production of wood products result in lower GHG emissions than not logging and the forest possibly burning. This of course depends on if, when and how intensely a particular forest stand burns.

The Forest Service also estimates the amounts of carbon in different parts of the forest. Most carbon is in the above-ground parts of trees (trunks, branches and foliage), in material on the forest floor and in soil. How much of this carbon is sequestered with logging, or burned by fire, will depend on many factors, such as slash treatment, logging systems and fire frequency and intensity.

Logging results in much of the carbon in trees being sequestered in wood products, and, importantly, regeneration of new trees sequesters more CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. I

# LOGGING, FOREST FIRES AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

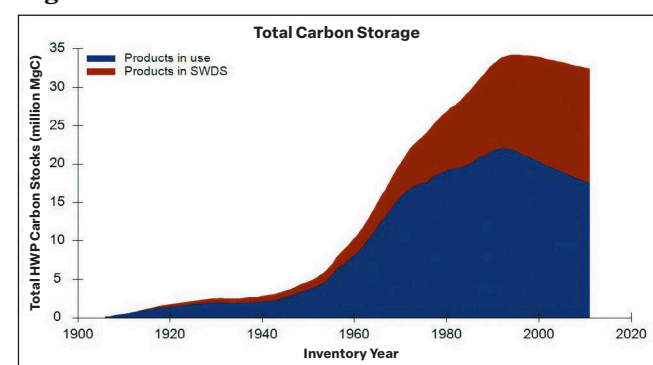
think this will result in overall lower GHG emissions than forest fires, which burn much of the above-ground trees and material on the forest floor. The following statements from the Forest Service acknowledge these and other benefits of harvesting timber:

"Rates of net carbon sequestration in forests may be enhanced through management strategies that retain and protect forest land from conversion to nonforest uses, restore and maintain resilient forests that are better adapted to a changing climate and other stressors, and reforest lands disturbed by catastrophic wildfires and other natural events (e.g., mortality following windthrow). Harvested wood is of additional importance when considering carbon benefits from forests. Forest restoration and other treatments that generate long-lived wood products, such as lumber and furniture, transfer ecosystem carbon to the Harvested Wood Products pool (HWP) where carbon remains stored and not contributing to net GHG emissions. Substitution of wood for more fossil fuel-intensive building materials, such as concrete, steel, or plastic, has a carbon emissions benefit. Forest vegetation treatments also generate excess material (woody biomass) which, if utilized, can be a renewable energy substitute for fossil fuels. Carbon management is, therefore, an increasingly important consideration in (National Forest System) management."

Foresters, range managers, elected officials, court judges and climate change researchers should be made aware of the potential benefits of timber harvest for reducing GHG emissions. Perhaps this will raise awareness of the need for active forest and range management to counter the seemingly incessant attempts to restrict forestry and agriculture in the name of climate change. **Dr. Matt Cronin**

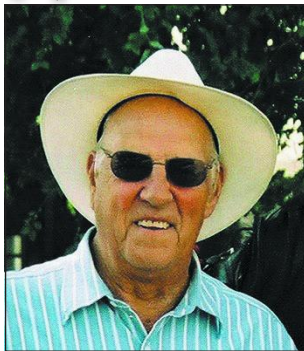
(*Matthew A. Cronin is a scientist with Northwest Biology Company LLC in Bozeman, MT. He can be contacted at [croninm@aol.com](mailto:croninm@aol.com). References can be found at [wlj.net](http://wlj.net).)*

Figure 1.



U.S. Forest Service (2015). Carbon stored in harvested wood products (HWP) manufactured from Northern region timber, including wood products still in use and at solid waste disposal sites (SWDS), such as landfills and dumps (Stockmann et al. 2014). MgC = tonne.

# OBITUARY



## Frank LeRoy King; 1927-2022

Frank LeRoy King passed away on June 29 in Klamath Falls, OR, after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was attended by his longtime caregivers and family members in his last days. Frank was almost 95 years old, having been born July 18, 1927, in Oakland, CA, to Frank LeRoy King Sr. and Mary Downie King.

Frank grew up in Berkeley and Lafayette, CA. He graduated from Acalanes High School in 1945 and joined the U.S. Navy as WWII was coming to an end. He trained at Naval Training Center San Diego and was assigned to the USS Chicago. He was discharged from the service in August 1946 and went back to ranching with his father in the Mt. Diablo area in California. He attended the University of California, Davis from 1947-50. He was encouraged by a fraternity brother to apply for a homestead drawing in the Klamath Basin, and he was awarded a homestead in 1949 in the Cop-pock Bay area. He spent the next two years commuting between Davis and Tulelake. He met Virginia "Ginger" Lee Spencer through mutual friends, and they married on Nov. 1, 1952.

Frank farmed and ranched for the next 48 years on the homestead. He started Hi-Valley Mills, which processed forage and grain crops into pelleted feed for livestock. He custom fed lambs on the homestead, at one time feeding close to 20,000 head. He transitioned to feeding cattle on the homestead and later took a job manag-

ing the Ore Cal feedlot in Malin, OR.

He and Virginia raised three children on the ranch and were very active in their lives. Frank led the 4-H horse club and organized a horse pack trip into the Marble Mountains in Siskiyou County. He served on the Tulelake Butte Valley Fair Board for many years. He was instrumental in developing the horse arena and starting the greased pig contest. Frank also participated in the beef industry at the state and national levels.

Frank loved to hunt and fish. His favorite deer hunting location was his mother's ranch in Texas, and he later hunted elk in the western U.S. His favorite fishing spot was on the Rogue River in Oregon. He landed many a steelhead or salmon and got "skunked" a few times also. One of Frank's cherished activities was camping at Medicine Lake with his children and then his grandchildren.

Frank and Ginger moved to Klamath Falls, OR, in 2000. Frank loved to garden in the lot behind their house and deliver vegetables to family and friends. He helped deliver fresh produce to the Klamath food bank for several years.

Frank was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1995 yet continued to live with a positive attitude. He and his son, David, participated in the Relay for Life in 2000 as cancer survivors. He also contributed to the Cancer Treatment Center in Klamath Falls.

He and Virginia became active supporters of the scholarship program at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) by reviewing applications for scholarships and later endowing three scholarships for single parents attending OIT in order to help lift the financial burden as they furthered their education. Frank also loved attending the Hustling Owls basketball games.

Frank is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, and son, David. He is survived by his daughters, Holly King (Steve Runyan) of Caldwell, ID, and Laurie (Roger) Piepenbrink; daughter-in-law, Robin King; grandchildren, Amy Piepenbrink, Angie King, Evan (Nicole) Piepenbrink, Cameron King and Whitney (Jason) Cantrell; three great-grandchildren, Blake and Tana King and George Cantrell; and nephew, Hank (Kathie) Thompson of Arlington, TX.

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**Lot 3**

**SITZ Domain 12371** AAA 19974072  
S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: Poss Achievement  
CED 12 BW -0.6 WW 85 YW 158 SC 2.07 HP 19.4 Milk 29  
Claw 0.42 Angle .50 CW 65 Marb .99 REA .75  
\$M 92 \$C 312 Act. PAP 48



**Lot 23**

**SITZ Threshold 9901** AAA 20043616  
S: Musgrave 316 Exclusive MGS: SITZ Invasion 574D  
CED 8 BW 0.0 WW 90 YW 157 SC 1.83 HP 11.5 Milk 25  
Claw 0.39 Angle .50 CW 61 Marb 1.10 REA .63  
\$M 76 \$C 286 Act. PAP 40



**Lot 1**

**SITZ Insignia 12031** AAA 19974049  
S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: LD Capitalist 316  
CED 14 BW 0.0 WW 87 YW 145 SC .70 HP 16.2 Milk 19  
Claw .36 Angle .46 CW 54 Marb .90 REA .82  
\$M 97 \$C 287 Act. PAP 42



**Lot 126**

**SITZ Resilient 1299** AAA 20117643  
S: SITZ Resilient 10208 MGS: #SITZ Upward 307R  
CED 14 BW -1.6 WW 77 YW 127 SC 1.19 HP 11.0 Milk 37  
Claw .34 Angle .40 CW 48 Marb .31 REA .81  
\$M 90 \$C 246 Act. PAP 41



**Lot 163**

**SITZ Stellar 11151** AAA 19980019  
S: SITZ Stellar 726D MGS: Spring Cove Paygrade 5064  
CED 6 BW -1.2 WW 65 YW 115 SC 1.32 HP 14.6 Milk 34  
Claw .22 Angle .45 CW 55 Marb .98 REA .34  
\$M 87 \$C 283 Act. PAP 41

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# THE VIEWPOINT

with Paul Dykstra

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

Paul Dykstra has deep roots in the cattle business, having grown up on a family cow-calf operation in Colorado. His time in the business has led him from the ranch, to working in feedyards, to holding a feedyard management position at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, to his current position as the director of supply

management and analysis at Certified Angus Beef (CAB).

His extensive 20 years of experience at CAB have led him to interact with all players in the production chain, whether it be a seedstock producer or a packer. He shares trends in the quality beef market and the branded beef market and keeps up to date with production and price trends. Paul told *WLJ* his goal is to point people toward more profitable outcomes, whether those relate to feeder or seedstock cattle selection or market direction.

"A lot of that is going to point back toward high-quality carcass output balanced with a good foundation and balanced production at the ranch to the feedyard," he said.

Paul speaks fondly of his work, saying he is blessed to interact with so many people in the

business. "What makes me so happy about what I've been able to do with Certified Angus Beef is to be a



Paul Dykstra

Courtesy photo

part of the progression of the cattle business over the last 15 or 20 years," he said. "A transformation of our product base in total U.S. beef cattle has come such a long way since the early 2000s in a very brief time. And that's the period that I've been fortunate enough to be a part of.

calves that they can achieve these higher grades, to a large extent, there's a whole lot of margin in those Prime and premium Choice carcasses in there." He added that he is excited about what high-quality genetics are going to be able to put on the table from a margin perspec-

*"The reason that I have such a passion for the cow-calf business and trying to drive dollars back to that sector is that the cow-calf operator is the original price taker in our business."*

— Paul Dykstra

So it's been a great ride."

Most recently, the CAB brand has adjusted its hot carcass weight maximum to 1,100 pounds. Paul said carcass weights in the industry are not headed lower, with the exception of seasonal adjustments. In his biweekly column, CAB Insider, Paul says the adjustment means there will be a potential increase of 3-4% in carcasses accepted into the brand, and additional specifications will remain an important parameter in continuing to address optimal final product cut size. For fiscal year 2022, CAB accepted an impressive 5.78 million carcasses into the program.

By capturing more product with the hot carcass weight adjustment, there is a net benefit of a larger supply for the brand's customers, Paul said. This includes a greater premium for licensed partners, along with cattlemen.

CAB does not own any beef cattle or products at any time and is a marketing company by definition. There are no cattlemen or feeders that are licensed to produce Certified Angus Beef—it all begins at the packing plant. The packer is the only licensed partner in the chain that actually pays the brand, which averages about 2 cents/lb. of product sales, Paul said.

"If you think about 2 cents/lb., that seems like nothing, but that totals out to a pretty good sum that gets reinvested to support marketing efforts for our brand partners," he said.

Live cattle that are eligible for the label must be predominantly black and meet the brand's 10 carcass specifications. From there, distributors, grocers and restaurants have the chance to be licensed with CAB, which allows the brand to track purchases and sales.

Paul said price spreads have increased significantly on the quality grade scale in recent years, all the way from Prime down to Select. "These price spreads have widened and stayed wider in the last few years, but today, they're acutely wide," he said. "If a feedyard is calculating a breakeven and they have any kind of confidence in a set of

tive in the near term.

Paul said it also bears repeating that cattle who get sick will not grade to the extent that cattle who have never had a bad day will. "If a feedyard doesn't have some confidence in what the health protocols or the vaccine schedule are going to be for a set of calves, ... well they don't even want to talk about carcass quality," he said. "We've got to get that first step right before we try to put icing on top of that cake."

Paul expressed his fondness for all sectors of the industry—thanks to the people found in all of them—but admits that his upbringing on a cow-calf operation makes him biased toward the cow-calf sector.

"The reason that I have such a passion for the cow-calf business and trying to drive dollars back to that sector is that the cow-calf operator is the original price taker in our business," he said. "They can't demand a higher price for their product."

He continued, "Those are the folks that I identify with, from the standpoint of trying to scratch out a living on a really big day's work every day on sometimes pretty scarce resources and sometimes not too many allies. That's Americana to me. And I want those folks to get paid for what they're producing out there."

He added that he doesn't think anybody gains credibility or long-term success by misleading anyone, and he finds it is his responsibility to speak straight to what he observes happening in the business. Sometimes this means telling a producer they shouldn't focus as much on getting a calf into the CAB program, and they should explore other opportunities based on their circumstances, he said.

"It's not always about winning. Sometimes it's about helping somebody to pursue what's in their best interest. If you've got a good cause behind you, then the virtues of that will come through in the long run, even if there's ups and downs," he finished. — Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor

# 82nd Annual



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## 2023 SCHEDULE

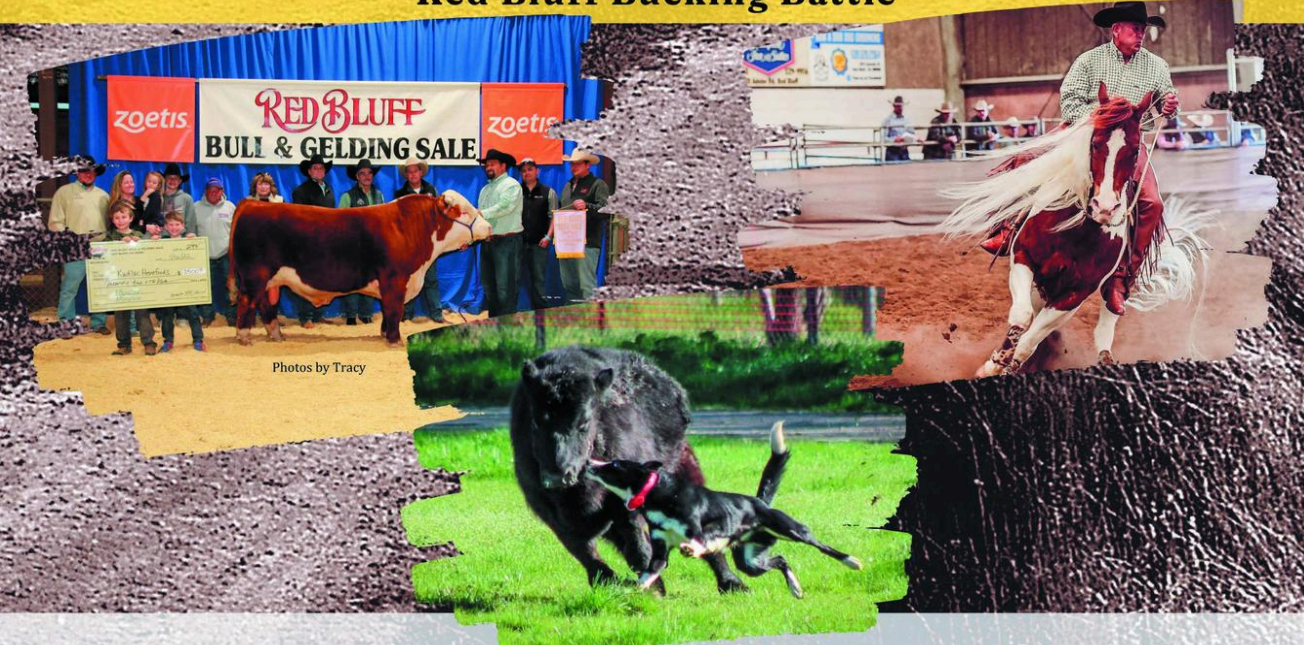
**Tues. January 24: Range-Ready Bull Show**

**Wed. January 25: Halter Bull Show**

**Thurs. January 26: Gelding Sift and Dry Work  
WVM Feeder/Replacement Female Sale**

**Fri. January 27: Stock Dogs - Final Work  
45th Annual Stock Dog Sale & 61st Annual Gelding Sale**

**Sat. January 28: 82nd Annual Red Bluff Bull Sale  
Red Bluff Bucking Battle**



Photos by Tracy



## COMING EVENTS

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

**Nov. 30-Dec. 1** – The 2022 California Cattlemen's Association/California CattleWomen Convention is headed back to the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV, and will be held in conjunction with the Nevada Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention. Attendee and exhibitor registration for the event are now open! Register and get more information at [calcattlemen.org/convention2022](http://calcattlemen.org/convention2022).

**Dec. 7-9** – The Montana Stockgrowers Association's 138th Annual Convention & Trade Show

will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton and the Northern Hotel in Billings, MT. Room reservations must be made by Nov. 22 to receive the block rate. To register and for more information, visit [mtbeef.org](http://mtbeef.org).

**Dec. 8-10** – The U.S. Cattlemen's Association's 15th Annual Meeting and Cattle Producer's Forum will be held at the DoubleTree Nashville Downtown in Nashville, TN. Registration and room reservations are now live at [cattlemensmeeting.square.site](http://cattlemensmeeting.square.site). Contact [usca@uscattlemen.org](mailto:usca@uscattlemen.org) for sponsorship opportunities.

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+10	-.1	+85	+155	+28

AAA: 20037663

*KG Rangeland 1339*



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

AAA: 20125733

*KG Justified 1020*



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

AAA: 20037641

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# Weaning considerations for healthy calves

With the mild fall we experienced this year, many ranchers may still have cow-calf pairs out on pasture. Regardless of whether calves will be retained and back-grounded or sold shortly after weaning, it is important to consider the impacts of weaning strategies on calf health and performance, said Janna Block, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension livestock systems specialist at the Hettinger Research Extension Center.

Many producers wean calves around the same time every year; however, factors that should be considered

include cow body condition, feed resources and the timeline for feeding and marketing the calf crop. If cows are in poor body condition and forage conditions are poor, reducing nutritional demands due to lactation is one of the most effective strategies to improve condition and prepare for the next calving, Block said. Since nursing calves also consume forage at around 2-2.5% of their body weight, weaning can also reduce forage demands and allow producers to extend the grazing season.

Besides birth, weaning is one of the most stressful pe-

riods in a calf's life. Multiple stressors occurring at one time can multiply the negative effects. Types of stress include removal from the dam, commingling with herd-mates, processing (weighing and vaccinations), changes in feed and a new pen or pasture environment. Increased levels of cortisol in the blood due to stress can lower immune function, increase susceptibility to disease and reduce weight gain. Taking steps to minimize stress during this period will optimize the health and performance of weaned calves.

## Weaning strategies

Traditionally, calves are weaned by abrupt separation from the dam. While this method is commonly utilized due to reduced inputs, it results in maximum stress and bawling calves. Some research indicates that calves may walk up to 10 to 12 miles daily and eat less feed when weaned through this method. In addition, a higher percentage of abruptly weaned calves may require treatment for respiratory diseases.

Two-step weaning strategies do not allow suckling but

allow the calf to maintain contact with the dam prior to separation. This method can be implemented using fence line weaning or anti-suckling devices such as nose flaps.

If a producer is considering fence line weaning, the recommendation is to move the cows to an adjacent drylot or pasture and allow the calves to remain in the familiar environment. This strategy requires secure fences in order to work. Additionally, if forage quality or quantity is a concern, producers may need to provide good-quality grass hay to calves to reduce weight loss during the weaning period. Once calves are weaned and eating forage, they can be moved to a drylot or be fed on pasture, depending on feed resources.

"Utilizing nose flaps requires additional handling, but reduced stress and better performance may be worth it," Block said. "Calves can be fitted with nose flaps, vaccinated and turned back out with cows for another four to five days. If left on longer, there is increased irritation in the nose, more lost nose flaps and an increased incidence of 'cheaters' who have learned to nurse around them. To remove the flaps, calves must be run through a chute a second time. These devices can be washed and reused in most cases."

## Health management

If cow-calf pairs were split across multiple pastures this summer and fall, producers should consider weaning by pasture group with no commingling for at least 45 days after weaning. Even if all calves were born and raised on the same ranch, cattle in various groups have likely developed a different social structure and may have been exposed to different organisms or health challenges.

Commingling all pasture groups at the same time into a common weaning pen or pasture can lead to an increased incidence of respiratory disease postweaning. If possible, bring all cows and calves together in a common pasture several weeks prior to weaning to allow them to acclimate.

Other potential risk factors may influence health at this time as well. Lack of passive immunity, temperature fluctuations, heat stress, nutritional stress prior to weaning, dusty pens and handling stress may negatively impact the healthy transition to weaning. The lack of adequate passive transfer of immunity from the birth mother to the calf increases the risk of postweaning morbidity. Temperature fluctuations may compromise the normal respiratory defense mechanisms, as do dusty pen conditions.

Weaned calves are at high risk for parasite infestations, which can impact immune function and reduce feed intake. Calves should be dewormed when they receive their first round of shots if possible. Although vaccine protocols vary, calves should be vaccinated against clostridial and bovine respiratory disease pathogens. Consult with your herd veterinarian to develop vaccine protocols.

## Facilities and stockmanship

Check all facilities, such as gates, chutes, alleys and crowd tubs, ahead of time to ensure everything is in good working order. Make sure surfaces are nonslip and eliminate packed snow or ice to avoid falls. Try to avoid weaning if there is a big cold front coming and reschedule if necessary.

Maintaining vaccines at the required temperatures can be challenging in the cold. Freezing will inactivate modified live vaccines and can create compounds that can increase stress. Use a well-insulated cooler and store vaccine guns appropriately when not in use.

"The importance of animal handling during weaning shouldn't be underestimated," Block said. "Excitement caused by loud and aggressive interactions with humans will add stress and could reduce immune function. Aggressive cattle handling will also slow the rate at which calves adapt to new feed and water resources and could influence temperament throughout the feeding period. This will increase flightiness, decrease time spent at the feed bunk and cause an overall decrease in weight gain, feed efficiency and cost of gain. It is a good practice to have the same person carefully walk (through) pens with newly weaned calves to familiarize them with their new environment."

## Feeding management

Proper nutritional management of weaned calves is critical in ensuring optimal health and performance. For the first few days, calves should be provided with high-quality, long-stem grass hay, similar to what they may have consumed on pasture with their dams. If calves have been consuming creep feed, it should be made available in the weaning pen. Putting familiar feed in bunks is a good way to train calves to eat. Place bunks or self-feeders perpendicular to the fence line so that calves will bump into their feed. Some producers use a palatable molasses-based mineral lick tub to get additional nutrients into the calves and stimulate salivation, which increases feed and water intake.

Clean and highly available water is very important during the weaning period. Ideally, at least 10% of cattle in the pen should have the ability to drink at one time. Water tanks should be checked daily and kept clean to avoid algae growth or contamination from feed and manure. It may be advisable to place additional water tanks in the weaning pen along the fence line until calves have adapted to their new water sources.

There are many different weaning strategies that can help reduce stress and adequately prepare calves for a smooth transition. Implementing some of these strategies can increase the health, resilience and overall performance of calves as they move into the next phase of the production cycle.

For more information on weaning calves, NDSU Extension specialists have produced a backgrounding cattle video series, available at [ndsu.ag/backgrounding](http://ndsu.ag/backgrounding). — **NDSU Extension**

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T K Edella F720 19447751

Due 2/5/23 to Schiefelbein GOAT 271

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$W
0	3.4	63	115	0.85	29	45	0.66	0.33	53

T K Goalkeeper J246 20378702

Baldrige SR Goalkeeper x Musgrave 316 Stunner

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B
6	1.1	97	165	2.17	31	0.87	1.05	91	176

T K Linebacker J480 20378476

T K Linebacker F672 x S A V Paramount 0115

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B
4	2.8	78	141	0.77	25	0.28	0.56	65	112

T K Circuit Breaker J581 20378779

S A V Circuit Breaker 7136 x Baldrige Brick House A011

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B
7	1.5	72	132	1.37	16	0.30	0.47	54	102

T K Stunner J357 20378749

Musgrave 316 Stunner x S A V Circuit Breaker 7136

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B
2	2.9	93	157	2.12	23	0.51	0.67	78	148

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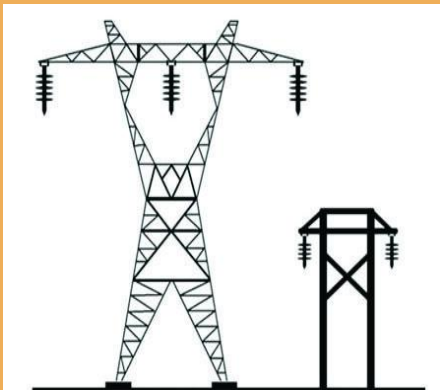
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# Beef demand is holding steady for 2022

The All-Fresh retail beef price in October was \$7.25 per pound, down slightly from \$7.32/lb. in September and down 4% from the record high of \$7.55/lb. one year ago. In 2022, the All-Fresh retail beef price has remained in a narrow range from \$7.25-7.37/lb. and has averaged \$7.33/lb. through October, up from the 2021 annual average of \$6.95/lb. The graph includes All-Fresh retail beef prices since January 2018 and shows the sharp increase in prices in 2021 and steady prices thus far in 2022.

Beef demand considers retail beef prices as well as the quantity of beef consumed. Total commercial beef production for 2022 is projected at a record level of 28.3 billion lbs. After adjusting for beef trade, per-capita retail beef consumption is projected at 59.3 lbs., up year over year from 58.9 lbs. per capita in

2021. The fact that retail beef prices this year are averaging higher at the same time consumption is increasing is an indication of strong beef demand.

Wholesale boxed beef prices, similar to retail prices, have traded in a narrow range for most of 2022. Since March, Choice boxed beef has averaged \$261.77/cwt, with a weekly maximum of \$272.48/cwt and a minimum of \$246.31/cwt, leading to a range of \$26.17/cwt. This follows very strong wholesale demand in 2021, which led to an average Choice boxed beef price of \$279.81/cwt, with a weekly maximum of \$347.02/cwt, a minimum of \$206.73/cwt and a range of \$140.29/cwt for the year.

So far in 2022, Choice boxed beef prices reached a low for the year in October at \$246.31/cwt and have increased to over

\$263/cwt in the most recent two weeks. Prices for numerous wholesale cuts have increased, including the tenderloin at \$15.06/lb., up nearly 38% from the August low and now 12% higher than year-ago levels. This is the highest wholesale tenderloin price since September 2021. Wholesale rib-eye prices normally increase in the fall ahead of holiday demand for prime rib and recently reached \$10.23/lb., the first time the price has been over \$10/lb. since last year. Current rib-eye prices are up nearly 23% from the summer low.

As always, there is a great deal of variance across beef product markets. In addition to the middle meats discussed above, wholesale prices have increased recently for chuck rolls, mock tender, chuck flap and eye of round. Other products continue to have weak or



lackluster prices, including tri-tip, bottom sirloin flap and flank steak. Wholesale brisket prices have been mostly steady this year, averaging \$5.86/lb. after surging to record-high levels of \$8/lb. in the summer of 2021. Wholesale ground beef prices have dropped about 10% since the end of summer

grilling season in September. There is constant jockeying in wholesale product values due to the dynamics of domestic and international beef demand. However, beef demand appears to be generally steady and strong at the end of 2022.

Beef production is expected to decrease sharply in 2023, which will lead to higher beef prices and more beef product market dynamics. Consumers thus far have absorbed large supplies of beef at

record prices. As beef supplies tighten, some consumers may begin to "trade down" as market prices ration a smaller supply of beef. Per-capita beef consumption is expected to decrease in the coming year, not because beef demand is weak, but simply because the available supply of beef will decrease. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

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## NCBA supports 'data-driven decisions'

### AG SECURITY (from page 1)

the consequences of the climate crisis.

- Enhancing threat and risk assessments and sharing information with relevant entities and partners.

- Mandating a continuous process to assess and mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities of the food and ag sector.

### Strengthen partnerships

The memo also outlines the plans to strengthen the resilience of the food and ag workforce by addressing the following:

- Refining the identification of and guidance for essential critical infrastructure workers to continue to work safely while supporting operations during high-consequence or catastrophic events.

- Supporting relevant education at all levels to train the existing workforce and build a pipeline of future workers.

### Prepare for and respond to threats

Finally, the memo outlines plans for the federal government to bolster the country's ability to prepare and respond to agricultural incidents through the following:

- Training partners on how to prepare for and respond to threats.

- Integrating laboratories to increase testing and diagnostic surge capacity and standardizing diagnostic and reporting protocols to share information

quickly.

- Enhancing the National Veterinary Stockpile.

- Strengthening plant disease response capability with the National Plant Disease Recovery System.

### Industry reaction

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) applauded the measure. "Our agricultural sector faces a variety of threats that could inhibit cattle producers' ability to bring beef from pasture to plate," said NCBA CEO Colin Woodall in a statement. "NCBA appreciates the Biden administration's focus on identifying threats and developing new ways to mitigate them. Together, we can protect our industry while ensuring that all Americans have access to wholesome foods like beef."

Woodall attended a pre-briefing meeting at the White House ahead of the signing, which included discussions of key security issues for the cattle industry. The pre-briefing participants discussed tools such as the National Veterinary Stockpile, which helps prevent the spread of disease and aids recovery. In addition, the meeting addressed cybersecurity and worker training programs that support the beef supply chain.

"I am particularly pleased to hear that the administration is making security and resiliency decisions based on data," Woodall said. "These data-driven decisions are the ones we can support." — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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## LEGAL LEDGER

### Retailers join suit against Big Four

A group of large retailers and wholesalers has filed suit against the Big Four packers. The claims are similar to those of Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA), the group said. "Those claims are that the packers' efforts to jointly manage their slaughter volume and their cattle purchasing practices caused beef prices to rise while also pushing cattle prices lower," R-CALF USA said in a news release. The U.S. District Court held a hearing and decided to group those claims with the 2019 suit from R-CALF USA and the National Farmers Union. The plaintiffs' motion for class certification is due in August 2023, when the ag industry groups will ask the court to certify that their claims should proceed on behalf of feeders who sold cattle to the Big Four and those who traded live cattle futures or options, R-CALF USA said. "If the Court grants that motion everyone who did sell fat cattle to one of the Big 4, or traded live cattle, would be included in Plaintiffs' proposed class, without the need to file separate suits or engage separate legal counsel," the group said.

### USFS permittee questionnaire

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is seeking input on its rangeland management program. The agency requests that permittees answer a three-question survey to determine how to improve the program. "We want input on what we are doing right so that we may keep doing that," USFS said in the questionnaire. "We also want constructive input on what isn't working so well and what might be working OK now but might not work so well in the future." The agency asks that "rather than jumping to solutions," permittees focus on identifying what isn't working and why. The three questions in the survey are: "What is the Forest Service Rangeland Management Program getting right as it relates to you as a permittee?" and "What do you see as challenges or roadblocks that stand in your way of a successful relationship with the Forest Service Rangeland Management Program?" and "What issues do we need to address to keep the program relevant, resilient, and sustainable?" Questionnaires are due by Nov. 30 and can be downloaded at [azcga.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=1046469](https://azcga.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=1046469). Answers may be emailed to [SM.FS.RngMgmtWO@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.RngMgmtWO@usda.gov) or mailed to Gilbert Jackson, USDA Forest Service, Rangeland Management Program, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Yates Bldg., 3rd floor, Washington, D.C., 20250-1103.

### BLM conducting prescribed burns

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted prescribed burns throughout Douglas County in southwest Oregon in mid-November and will continue burns through the spring of 2023. "These prescribed fires reduce activity fuels generated by timber harvest operations and hazard tree removal operations, including within the Archie Creek Fire Area," BLM said in a news release. "Fuels have been piled and covered at landings and along roadsides in multiple locations." For more information on prescribed burns, visit [www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire/fuels-management](https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire/fuels-management).

### Lawsuit to protect UT chub fish

The Center for Biological Diversity plans to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for not protecting the least chub under the Endangered Species Act. The group says the fish was once widely distributed in Utah's Lake Bonneville basin, but significant habitat loss and alteration and competition from nonnative species have driven the fish to the brink of extinction. The center filed a petition in 2021 to protect the fish, but USFWS missed its September deadline to make a final listing decision, the group said. "If this desperately imperiled fish doesn't get federal protections, the repercussions could be catastrophic," said Krista Kempinen, a senior scientist at the center, in a news release. The center said more than half of the remaining wild populations of the species are jeopardized by proposed groundwater pumping to support human population growth in Cedar City, UT.

### USDA boost for beginning producers

The USDA announced a nearly \$24 million investment into organizations and institutions that teach and train beginning farmers and ranchers. "Investing in the professional development of our nation's newest farmers and ranchers will help our food and agriculture sectors to flourish from the ground up," said Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics. The funding is part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, which supports a range of professional development activities for new farmers and ranchers. "We recognize that beginning farmers and ranchers have unique needs for education, training and technical assistance," said NIFA Acting Director Dionne Toombs. "Their success, especially in the first 10 years, often hinges on access to reliable, science-based information and the latest educational resources so they can improve their operations' profitability and sustainability long-term."

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# Farm Bureau survey shows Thanksgiving dinner cost up 20%

Spending time with family and friends at Thanksgiving remains important for many Americans, and this year, the cost of the meal is also top of mind. American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) 37th annual survey provides a snapshot of the average cost of this year's classic Thanksgiving feast for 10, which is \$64.05, or less than \$6.50 per person. This is a \$10.74 (20%) increase from last year's average of \$53.31.

The centerpiece on most Thanksgiving tables—the turkey—costs more than last year at \$28.96 for a 16-pound bird. That's \$1.81/lb., up 21% from last year, due to several factors beyond general inflation. AFBF's volunteer shoppers checked prices Oct. 18-31, before most grocery store chains began featuring whole frozen turkeys at sharply lower prices. According to Agricultural Marketing Service data, the average per-pound feature price for whole frozen

turkeys was \$1.11 the week of Nov. 3-9 and 95 cents the week of Nov. 10-16, a decline of 14% in just one week; and the share of stores offering feature prices rose from 29% to 60%. This means consumers who have not yet purchased a turkey should be able to find one at a lower cost than the Farm Bureau average.

"General inflation slashing the purchasing power of consumers is a significant factor contributing to the increase in (the) average cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner," said AFBF Chief Economist Roger Cryan. General inflation has been running 7-9% in recent months, while the most recent Consumer Price Index report for food consumed at home reveals a 12% increase over the past year.

"Other contributing factors to the increased cost for the meal include supply chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine," Cry-



an said. "The higher retail turkey cost at the grocery store can also be attributed to a slightly smaller flock this year, increased feed costs and lighter processing weights." Cryan said the supply of whole turkeys available to consumers should be adequate this year, although there may be temporary, regional shortages in some states where avian influenza was detected earlier this year.

"Farmers are working hard to meet growing demands for food—both here in the U.S. and globally—

while facing rising prices for fuel, fertilizer and other inputs," Cryan said.

The shopping list for Farm Bureau's informal survey includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with plenty for leftovers.

"We should not take our food supply for granted," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Supporting sustainable, productive agriculture in the U.S. and

globally is imperative. As many of us gather with family and friends for a special meal, it's a time for giving thanks and doing our part to help those who can't afford a big holiday feast," he added. "State and local Farm Bureaus across the country have strong partnerships with local food banks, and I'm proud of their collective efforts to help ensure no one goes hungry."

In recognition of changes in Thanksgiving dinner traditions, the Farm Bureau price survey also includes ham, russet potatoes and frozen green beans, in an expanded holiday menu. Adding these foods to the classic Thanksgiving menu increased the overall cost by \$17.25 to \$81.30. This updated basket of foods also increased in price (up 18%) compared to 2021.

This year's national average cost was calculated using 224 surveys completed with pricing data from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers checked prices in person and online using grocery store apps and websites. They looked for the best possible prices without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or purchase deals.

The AFBF Thanksgiving dinner survey was first conducted in 1986. The informal survey provides a record of comparative holiday meal costs over the years. Farm Bureau's

classic survey menu has remained unchanged since 1986 to allow for consistent price comparisons.

- Individual prices:
- 16 lb. turkey: \$28.96 or \$1.81/lb. (up 21%).
  - 14 ounce bag of cubed stuffing mix: \$3.88 (up 69%).
  - Two frozen pie crusts: \$3.68 (up 26%).
  - Half pint of whipping cream: \$2.24 (up 26%).
  - 1 lb. of frozen peas: \$1.90 (up 23%).
  - One dozen dinner rolls: \$3.73 (up 22%).
  - Misc. ingredients to prepare the meal: \$4.13 (up 20%).
  - 30 ounce can of pumpkin pie mix: \$4.28 (up 18%).
  - 1 gallon of whole milk: \$3.84 (up 16%).
  - 3 lbs. of sweet potatoes: \$3.96 (up 11%).
  - 1 lb. veggie tray (carrots & celery): 88 cents (up 8%).
  - 12 ounce bag of fresh cranberries: \$2.57 (down 14%).

AFBF's analysis revealed regional differences in the cost of the meal. The cost for the classic meal was the most affordable in the South at \$58.42, followed by the Northeast at \$64.02, Midwest at \$64.26 and West at \$71.37. The expanded meal (classic meal plus ham, green beans and russet potatoes) was the most affordable in the South at \$74.90, followed by the Midwest at \$81.53, Northeast at \$82.76 and West at \$88.55. — AFBF

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## Forages and time of year influence supplementation

Many people start their day with a multivitamin to supplement their diet in hopes of being as healthy as possible. In much the same way, mineral supplementation can overcome deficiencies in the grasses that cattle graze, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute. Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, the beef cattle experts stressed the importance of minerals in a grazing animal's diet.

"Cattle get the majority of their nutrition from forages, and the quality of what they are grazing will vary widely depending on the maturity of the grass and season of the year," veterinarian Bob Larson said.

In addition, nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said that different forage species will have varied mineral concentrations.

"Across the country, there is a variation in soil types and the ability of plants to take up the minerals from the soil, as well as the concentration of the minerals within the soil," Lancaster said.

Because of that variation, Larson said it is important to consult with local experts to know how to optimally supplement minerals to the animals.

"Good trace mineral nutrition is local, and there

are experts in the area that can recommend the mineral package that you need," Larson said, adding that forages will vary widely when it comes to trace mineral concentrations of copper, zinc, manganese and selenium.

Another factor in creating a mineral supplement plan is where the cow is at in her production cycle. Larson said lactating cows will have a greater nutritional demand than non-lactating females.

"If we look at the cow's requirement, the goal needs to be to supplement as close to that requirement as possible by matching it up with the local forages," Lancaster said.

He added: "In a lot of instances, we are over-supplementing, and that can cause an antagonistic effect."

Larson explained the antagonistic effect is that the animal's body is less likely to use the mineral because of the influence of the other minerals. He gave the example of iron being an antagonist for copper.

"There are a number of things in the diet that can cause antagonisms, so it is important to do the work of optimizing the minerals and not assuming that more is better," Larson said. — K-State Research and Extension

# USMEF conference concludes with overview of current trade landscape

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) Strategic Planning Conference wrapped up Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City, OK, with the election of a new officer team. Dean Meyer, a corn, soybean and livestock producer from Rock Rapids, IA, is the new USMEF chair.

In addition to raising corn and soybeans, Meyer's diversified operation—which he oversees with his three sons—includes a cattle feedlot and a farrow-to-finish hog facility. This provides him with a deep appreciation of the diverse range of agricultural sectors that make up USMEF.

Meyer succeeds outgoing USMEF Chair Mark Swanson of Fort Collins, CO, founder of food safety and management consulting firm Tru Grit KGMS Enterprises LLC. Minnesota pork producer Randy Spronk will serve as USMEF chair-elect in the coming year, while the vice chair is Steve Hanson, a cattle rancher from southwestern Nebraska. The newest USMEF officer is Secretary/Treasurer Jay Theiler, executive vice president of corporate affairs at Agri Beef, based in Boise, ID.

Friday's closing business session offered attendees a comprehensive overview of the Biden administration's current trade initiatives and their potential impacts on red meat exports. Longtime U.S. trade negotiator Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, who is now a trade policy consultant with AgTrade Strategies LLC, praised her successors for their efforts to address trade barriers that limit U.S. agricultural exports. But she questioned the degree to which the Biden administration has prioritized agricultural trade, noting that Congress still has yet to confirm the nominees for the U.S. trade representative's chief agricultural negotiator and the USDA's undersecretary for trade.

*"I think it's important to try and separate food trade and to calm some of the rhetoric we're seeing in our own politics related to China."*

— Sharon Bomer Lauritsen

"So it's hard to get that political push for agriculture when it's not the priority that it has been in prior administrations—including the Obama administration," Bomer Lauritsen said.

She spotlighted tense relations between the U.S. and China but noted that the vast Chinese market still holds tremendous opportunities for U.S. agricultural exports.

"I think it's important to try and separate food trade and to calm some of the

rhetoric we're seeing in our own politics related to China," she said. "While I know that your industry is having some difficulties with China, I would still argue that the Phase One agreement that we negotiated is a huge success."

Bomer Lauritsen closed by emphasizing the critical need for U.S. agriculture to remain engaged in U.S. trade policy.

On Thursday, the conference focused on the 45th anniversary of USMEF's inaugural office in Tokyo. The session showcased the value the U.S.-Japan trade partnership delivers for the U.S. red meat industry, highlighting marketing initiatives and future opportunities. Japan has consistently been the leading value destination for U.S. red meat exports, and 2022 is no exception, with shipments through September topping \$3 billion.

Thursday's activities also included meetings of USMEF's standing committees, which allow members to receive updates on issues impacting specific sectors. Members of the USMEF Feedgrain and Oilseed Caucus were treated to an appearance by Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur. She welcomed USMEF's first-ever meeting in Oklahoma and praised the state's agricultural organizations for their role in expanding global demand for U.S. red meat.

Global production forecasts, export projections, market access challenges and logistics updates were among the agenda items in breakout sessions for the Pork and Allied Industries Committee, Beef and Allied Industries Committee and Exporter Committee. One presentation that received particular attention was a panel discussion by USMEF's directors in Korea, South America and the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations region on convenience-driven trends in product packaging. Former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who spearheaded key trade agreements under the Trump administration, was honored with USMEF's Michael J. Mansfield Award. The USMEF Distinguished Service Award was presented to Where Food Comes From co-founder Leann Saunders. — USMEF

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# Groups threaten to sue for failure to protect streaked horned lark

## — Ag exemption under fire

Two environmental organizations have sent a letter of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), claiming the agency failed to adequately protect the streaked horned lark by ignoring science and providing an exemption to allow agricultural activities.

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Audubon Society of Portland said USFWS violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by listing the lark as threatened rather than endangered, failing to use the best available science and issuing a 4(d) rule exemption to allow take in certain areas.

The streaked horned lark is a small, long-bodied songbird about 7 inches in length with a horizontal posture. Male horned larks are sandy to rusty brown, with a black chest band, a curving black mask and head stripes that extend to the back of

the head, sometimes raised as horns. The face and throat are either yellow or white. Females have similar head and breast patterns that are less defined.

The lark is endemic to the Pacific Northwest and is now found in three regions: the southern lowlands of the Puget Sound region in Washington, the Pacific coast and Lower Columbia River in Washington and Oregon, and the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Currently, the streaked horned lark uses a broad range of habitats, including native prairies, coastal dunes and beaches, wetland mud flats, fallow and active agricultural fields, sparsely vegetated edges of grass fields, military training ranges, airports and industrial sites.

“Although streaked horned larks use a wide variety of habitats, populations are vulnerable because the habitats now used are often ephemeral or subject to frequent human disturbance,” the 2019 draft recovery plan

stated.

According to the 2019 draft recovery plan, a rangewide population of 5,725 larks is needed for the lark’s recovery. The most recent rangewide population estimate showed that the population size is approximately 1,170 to 1,610 larks.

“This tiny bird with feathery horns is rapidly losing the little habitat it has left,” said Ryan Shannon, a staff attorney at CBD. “The streaked horned lark is one of the most endangered birds in western Oregon and Washington and absolutely should have been given full endangered status and protections.”

The lark was considered a candidate for ESA listing in 2001 and was listed as threatened in 2013. Concurrently with the listing, USFWS published a 4(d) rule that exempted agricultural operations in the Willamette Valley, where the majority of the lark population exists.

In 2018, CBD challenged the agricultural

exemption and USFWS’ decision to not list the lark as endangered, stating the decisions were contrary to the ESA and arbitrary and capricious. The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon remanded the matter back to USFWS for consideration. In April 2021, USFWS published a species status assessment report that recommended the lark remain as threatened and made changes to the 4(d) rule.

The letter of intent states USFWS violated the ESA, as the agency did

not use the best available science when reaffirming the lark’s threatened status, and USFWS failed to consider the lark’s population numbers. CBD and Audubon Society of Portland contend that population numbers are declining significantly below the population goal. The groups further state the amended 4(d) rule fails to help the lark and exempts agricultural activity, which threatens the population due to the conversion of grasses to other crops that do not provide

habitat for the lark.

“It is long past time that (USFWS) stepped up to its responsibility to protect this bird,” said Bob Sallinger, conservation director for Audubon Society of Portland. “For far too long the focus has been on shielding known threats from liability under the (ESA). Instead of stepping up, the Service has again doubled down on a failed approach even as the streaked horned lark edges closer and closer to extinction.” — Charles Wallace, WLJ editor

## Is using tech in cow-calf systems a good or bad thing?

In the last few years, buzzwords like “precision livestock management” have been thrown around quite a bit. Although the official name of “precision livestock farming” debuted at a European conference in

2003, the use of technology in beef production systems isn’t a new thing.

Artificial insemination began in the 1950s, use of growth implants became commercially available in 1957 and use of EPDs in bulls started in the 1970s. These three technologies adopted in commercial cow-calf systems would be considered precision livestock management tools. However, technology-based systems sometimes get a similar treatment to what barbed wire received in the 1800s, when it was fondly called “devil’s wire.”

Innovative technologies will continue to drive improvements in production efficiency and sustainability in beef production systems. Digital technologies are already transforming agriculture, also known as digital agriculture, and they particularly focus on precision cropping/farming. The adoption of technology in beef production systems has been slower to evolve, but opportunities are quickly becoming available to increase production efficiency.

In the last 30 years, the genetic potential of the cow herd and production costs have steadily increased; however, production outputs (pregnancy rates and weaning weights) have been stagnant or declined. At the same time, the cost of production continues to rise. Precision livestock management tools have the potential to address these long-term production and cost trends while potentially decreasing the cost of production, increasing output traits and assisting in labor issues.

In the last few years, we have seen an increase in precision technology systems being designed and developed specifically with cow-calf producers in mind. There are pros and cons with these innovative technologies. First adopters to many new technologies take on a big risk. Since so many of these technologies are in a stage ranging from infancy to fully developed, new technologies carry a bigger risk of failure and challenges, and better technologies may come out after the initial investment.

With newer technologies, the cost to establish or maintain these systems can be substantial due to limit-

ed competitive markets. Understanding the current market, specific technologies or companies, and the risk of investment is important in gauging what technology is right for your needs.

Computerized technologies constitute a substantial portion of today’s digital agriculture, regardless of the fact that each computerized system may represent its own challenges. Broadband or connectivity issues in rural communities can limit the adoption, use or overall accessibility of these tools. Affordably and effectively integrating and aggregating data from multiple sources to a usable interface or package can also be a challenge. In these cases, not all technologies are a good investment, particularly for the short term.

When considering investing in a new technology, some guidelines to think through would be: (1) the production goal or gap that this technology addresses on your ranch or farm, (2) the expected return on investment, (3) an understanding of the early adopters’ risk versus reward, (4) the ability of the specific technology to be remotely or otherwise upgraded as technology capabilities/innovations grow and (5) whether the specific tool was developed or validated with grazing beef cows in a similar environment to your ranch in mind.

At the end of the day, technology will not replace the human component and the ability to manage cattle properly at the ranch. Technology can provide the ability to go from reactive to proactive management, may assist in labor issues, may improve animal health and well-being and may increase overall resource (land, feedstuff or people) efficiency. Technology can be a great thing, but it isn’t a silver bullet.

To help the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) better serve your needs, complete a quick survey to get your perceptions on using precision livestock management tools for cow-calf operations. The survey is completely anonymous and is expected to take less than eight minutes to complete. Visit [go.unl.edu/plm\\_cowcalf](http://go.unl.edu/plm_cowcalf) to access the survey.

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# New farmer challenges: Land and capital

Listening to producers and community leaders in southwest Iowa, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux said Congress should look at ways to open the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to livestock production as a way to open up more land for younger producers.

Ducheneaux recently visited Clarinda, IA, to talk to the owners of the local livestock auction and tour the cattle operation of Seth Watkins, who took ground out of CRP and put it into an easement that allows him to graze it but avoids cropping the ground.

A lot of the conversation focused on the role of CRP, as well as the improvements needed for FSA loan programs, especially for young and beginning producers.

Erin Ogle, who works with the Southern Iowa Land Use Conversion Project in Taylor County, helps producers weigh options on marginal land in the county. Ogle noted there is a place for CRP, but producers also see the benefits of programs that would allow them to integrate livestock as well.

"There is a lot of CRP in Iowa, especially in southern Iowa," Ogle said. "I'm not bashing CRP by any means. I know it has its place, but I think (we should be) listening to these producers making that decision on whether they want land in CRP or using that land to keep it productive as well."

Ducheneaux said policy needs to stop the mindset of separating conservation and production.

"That land is becoming more productive if we use it thoughtfully, and it is a better reserve for the future if we use it thoughtfully," Ducheneaux said.

Right now, policy dictates landowners face a 25% rental payment penalty for CRP ground that is hayed or grazed unless the ground is in a county that has a designation of D2 (severe drought) or higher from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"We've got CRP land sitting all over the country," Ducheneaux said. "If we think about incentivizing the proper use of that instead of penalizing the regular use of it, there's a place for you to put some cows. And it builds a relationship between you and the landowner that could turn into a transaction someday."

At the end of September, USDA reported there were just under 22 million acres in CRP involving 315,400 farms. CRP became a focus of debate after Russia invaded Ukraine, which created a need for increased crop production in the U.S. USDA allowed landowners with about 4 million acres whose contracts expired in October 2022 to take land out early if they wanted to plant crops on that ground.

Looking at CRP and USDA's loan programs for young and beginning farmers, Ducheneaux said young producers need to have their voices heard among the various farm and ranch organizations to improve the portfolio of programs at USDA for young and beginning producers. He also

noted USDA doesn't lobby for changes in the farm bill; that has to come from producer voices.

"We have an opportunity now to do some more meaningful things going into a farm bill for young, beginning farmers," Ducheneaux said. "This is the time to have that conversation."

## Loan portfolio

Right now, Ducheneaux added that the paperwork and requirements for USDA's beginning loans are "the same stack of paperwork" for other USDA loan programs. To get into USDA conservation programs, producers also have to find a way to be in production for at least a year before they can even apply.

Ducheneaux also criticized some local FSA loan officers whose mindset is to focus more on how to reject loan applicants rather than approve them. He pointed to a situation in Montana where hired hands are looking to buy land being offered by the landlord, but there have been problems getting

loan work done by the FSA office.

"I have to drag the loan officer to the table instead of him falling over himself to make that happen," Ducheneaux said. "Quite to the contrary, we quite often get in the way of beginning farmers and ranchers. This is the time to have the conversation about what a real beginning farmer loan program looks like because we don't have one."

Gilbert Thomas, a regional president for Bank Iowa in Clarinda, brought up issues with lending he had heard within his bank. At least one banker at a different location had a loan that took six months to get approved by FSA.

"That's not very responsive," Thomas said, adding there should be some standards to get a loan approval when everything is done.

Thomas also said USDA has an "optics problem" when the organization and banks are still charging new borrowers fees for guaranteed loans while covering the payments for producers who are distressed or behind

on their payments. Ducheneaux replied, "To me, that's a better optics problem than having a few thousand farm portfolios gone next year."

The guaranteed loan fees are up for discussion, but Ducheneaux said those fees are how the program is paid for, and right now, FSA makes money on its loan portfolio rather than spending taxpayer dollars.

"Our farm ownership loan portfolio makes the taxpayer money across the board, guaranteed and direct," Ducheneaux said.

Why doesn't FSA do more loans? Ducheneaux pointed to his conversations earlier in the week at the American Bankers Association's (ABA) agricultural meeting in Omaha, NE.

"The conversation that came up at the ABA meeting is, 'You're competing with us,'" Ducheneaux said. "No, we're not. We're competing for the producer. And if you do what we'll do for the producer, we'll guarantee for the producer."

When it comes to operating loans, a producer brought up the need to fac-

tor in health insurance costs, which he said are critical costs that drive a lot of farmers and ranchers to seek off-farm income. Ducheneaux said the FSA loans are set up in a way to force producers to seek commercial credit. Some of that comes from changing mindsets in the loan program. "That doesn't leave room for a living wage for the producer. We have the flexibility to give the terms to do that, but we typically don't."

## Getting Gen Z in the door

Glenna Schantz, a project coordinator for the Southern Iowa Land Use Conversion Project in Taylor County, came up from Missouri to work on conservation practices in Page County. Schantz is interested in programs for farm ownership with livestock, but younger people in general do not have the assets to get those loans.

"As a young person, I don't feel like we are financially stable enough to have the backing to get that started,"

Schantz said.

Matt Russell, the FSA executive director for Iowa, pointed out the vast majority of producers in the state right now also work off the farm or have a spouse who works off the farm. He tied that into the needs of FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office staff as well. USDA jobs can become a career path to begin looking at farm ownership as well, Russell said.

"We're hiring in our county offices," Russell said. "We hired 173 people in the last year at FSA. NRCS is hiring. Rural Development is hiring. We have jobs at our county offices. It isn't a fix-all, but it's a way to think about how you couple career opportunities with the farm program opportunities. We're actually doing that across the state in our county offices. There's that one avenue. There's ag leadership in a community that is a career that gives you that strength to look at how you invest in a farming asset."

—Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor

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# Feds investigate overnight child labor in packing plants

A packer sanitation company allegedly employed at least 31 minors in what the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is calling "hazardous occupations" to do overnight cleaning at JBS USA packing plants in Nebraska and Minnesota, as well as at Turkey Valley Farms in Marshall, MN.

Prompted by an ongoing investigation, the DOL asked a federal court in Nebraska for a temporary national restraining order against the sanitation company.

According to the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska, Packers Sanitation Services Inc. (PSSI), based in Wisconsin, employed children ages 13 to 17 to perform jobs including cleaning power equipment during overnight shifts at JBS plants in Grand Island, NE, and Worthington, MN.

While the legal action was initiated in Nebraska, the DOL said in its com-

plaint an "initial evidence review indicates PSSI may employ minor children under similar conditions at its other 400 operations across the country."

The DOL said it is conducting a full investigation into PSSI's labor practices after receiving a tip from a law enforcement agency in Nebraska.

As part of its investigation, the DOL conducted surveillance, subpoenaed school records and interviewed "confidential" sources about minors working overnight shifts to clean a meat processing facility, according to a brief filed in support of the restraining order.

"On Sept. 2, 2022, (DOL) witnessed multiple workers entering the JBS facility in Grand Island, Nebraska, during the PSSI overnight cleaning shift who appeared to be minors based on their stature and appearance," the brief said.

"On Oct. 3, 2022, (DOL) also conducted overnight

surveillance outside the JBS facility in Worthington, Minnesota, again observing workers entering the facility who appeared to be minors."

The DOL subpoenaed and received school records from the Grand Island and Worthington school districts for middle school and high school students "at risk of working overnight at the local meat-process-

ing facilities," the brief said.

"(DOL) also subpoenaed records and interviewed two minors in Marshall, Minnesota, who worked for PSSI at a Turkey Valley Farms meat-processing facility."

The investigation found a 13-year-old suffered a "severe chemical burn" while cleaning at a JBS plant in Grand Island. Ac-

cording to the brief, two 14-year-old workers were interviewed by the DOL at the Grand Island plant, telling investigators they worked shifts of 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits minors under the age of 14 from working and 14-15-year-old employees from working in nonagriculture jobs past 9 p.m. from June 1 through Labor Day and past 7 p.m. the remainder of the year, according to the DOL.

In addition, those children are not allowed to work more than three hours on a school day, eight hours on a nonschool day or more than 18 hours per week. The law also prohibits minors from operating motor vehicles, forklifts and using other hazardous equipment.

## Company denies allegations

PSSI provides contract sanitation services, chemical innovations, pest prevention and other services for about 700 food processing facilities nationwide and employs about 17,000 workers.

The DOL alleges in the court filing that PSSI "interfered with an investigation by intimidating minor workers to stop them from cooperating with investigators. PSSI also allegedly deleted and manipulated employment files."

In a statement to DTN, PSSI said the company prohibits the employment of anyone under the age of 18.

"PSSI has industry-leading, best-in-class procedures to confirm the identities of its employees—including mandatory use of the government's E-Verify system for new hires, as well as extensive training, document verification, biometrics and multiple layers of audits," the company said.

"While rogue individuals could of course seek to engage in fraud or identity theft, we are confident in our company's strict compliance policies and will defend ourselves vigorously against these claims. We are also surprised the DOL has taken this action given PSSI's corporate office has been cooperating

with their inquiry, producing extensive documents and responses.

"PSSI also worked with the DOL recently and successfully completed multiple audits with the agency that found no issues. PSSI will continue to cooperate with the DOL and will continue to enforce its absolute prohibition against employing anyone under the age of 18."

JBS USA did not respond to DTN's request for comment.

Turkey Valley Farms provided the following statement to DTN: "Turkey Valley Farms takes these allegations very seriously, and we are reviewing the matter internally. We expect all contractors to share our commitment to the health and safety of any individuals working in our facilities and to adhere to these principles that foster a safe work environment as well as to all applicable federal and state labor laws. We are closely monitoring the Department of Labor's actions with regard to Packers Sanitation Services Inc. and will take all appropriate action, based on the outcome of the investigation."

## Investigation began in summer

The DOL said its investigation into PSSI began on Aug. 24, when the Wage and Hour Division received information alleging the company assigned minors to work in hazardous occupations. The DOL executed warrants for the company's operations at the three plants, its local offices and at PSSI's Kieler, WI, corporate office, according to a news release.

"Federal laws were established decades ago to prevent employers from profiting by putting children in harm's way," Michael Lazzari, Wage and Hour Division regional administrator based in Chicago, IL, said in a news release.

"Taking advantage of children, exposing them to workplace dangers—and interfering with a federal investigation—demonstrates Packers Sanitation Services Inc.'s flagrant disregard for the law and for the well-being of young workers." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

*"While rogue individuals could of course seek to engage in fraud or identity theft, we are confident in our company's strict compliance policies and will defend ourselves vigorously against these claims."*

— Packers Sanitation Services Inc.

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# The importance of alfalfa in the face of ongoing drought

With drought conditions continuing to blanket the western U.S. and farmers struggling to find adequate water supplies, competing interests are pressuring the federal government to cut the water supply farm-

ers are using to grow our food, including alfalfa, which is a foundational food chain crop.

In response, the Family Farm Alliance and California Farm Water Coalition have produced a white pa-

per, "Our Food Supply at Risk: The Importance of Alfalfa Production in the American West," detailing alfalfa's valuable role as a principal feed source for the nation's livestock and dairy industries, its envi-

ronmental benefits and its contribution to effective drought management.

Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen said reducing the acreage devoted to alfalfa may seem like an easy fix to save water, but a decision to do so has bigger ramifications for our nation's food supply.

"Alfalfa is grown as livestock feed for the beef and dairy industries, both of which contribute to a balanced diet, including high-protein foods, such as beef, milk and milk products, such as yogurt, butter, cheese, ice cream and cottage cheese," Keppen said. "At a time when consumers are facing record inflation and sticker shock every time they go to the grocery store, it makes no sense to aggravate the problem and drive prices even higher by cutting out

a vital component of our food supply."

Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition, said that Arizona and California lead the nation in per-acre production of alfalfa.

"With crop yields that are double the per-acre yields in most other states, the ability to make up lost production from Arizona and California is very unlikely, which would lead to shortages, higher feed costs for producers and the loss of more family farms when so many are already struggling," he said.

The report outlines many of the additional benefits that come from alfalfa production, including enhanced soil health because of deep rooting and the nitrogen that alfalfa naturally adds to the soil during its growth cycle. This reduces the amount of chem-

ical fertilizers that have to be used to grow crops that follow alfalfa during crop rotation.

Alfalfa also contributes to the health of pollinators, such as bees, when it grows because of the crop's prolific flower production. Bees use alfalfa for honey production, which comes from alfalfa farms more than any other source in the U.S.

And alfalfa is an efficient water user, producing a crop year-round in warmer climates, but it is also able to survive droughts as well as intentional dry downs to make water available for other so-called high-value crops, including fruits, nuts and vegetables, that face drought-driven water shortages. — **Family Farm Alliance and California Farm Water Coalition**

## Horse advocates cry foul over grazing plan

**ALVORD**  
(from page 1)

stock 1,415 AUMs. The permittee would also be allowed to drill wells and install troughs within the pasture.

Environmental groups have once again opposed the proposed decision. "The Allotment Management Plan, if implemented, would increase cattle stocking rates, authorize the drilling of seven new wells, increase grazing pressure inside Wilderness Study Areas, further imperil sage grouse, and allow cattle continued access to damage streams that contain Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act," Western Watersheds Project said in a statement.

The group filed a protest with BLM and plans to ap-

peal the final decision when it is released.

Wild horse advocates claim the proposal does not address horse management.

"The paperwork proves wild horses are just being removed to suit livestock."

— Laura Leigh

"We keep destroying wild horse habitat, blaming the horse BLM claims to manage, yet the agency makes

absolutely zero attempts to create any management plan for wild horses. The paperwork proves wild horses are just being removed to suit livestock," Laura Leigh, founder and president of Wild Horse Education, said in a statement.

The advocacy group also recommended its supporters back the Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act, which would give a limited number of permittees the option to sell their permit for the purpose of retiring an allotment.

"This legislation represents a fiscally-sound approach to addressing permittees and landscapes (affected) by climate change, increasing conflicts under drought, declining productivity of individual livestock operations, etc.," the group said. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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# What we know about buller steer syndrome in feedlot steers

Buller steer syndrome (BSS) is an undesirable behavior characterized by one steer, the buller, being mounted and persistently ridden by other steers, called riders. Although bullers may also participate in mounting other cattle, the bullers are the animals being persistently mounted and ridden. BSS is a stressful and exhausting condition that can lead to reduced body weight gain, injury, secondary illness and possible death.

A Kansas feedlot survey published in 1976 estimated that bullers represented a \$23 loss per case. According to the 2011 National Animal Health Monitoring System feedlot report, nearly 70% of feedlots with 1,000 or more cattle experienced BSS, with it affecting an average of 2.8% of the cattle in these feedlots, with an average treatment cost of \$6.90 per case. The occurrence of BSS can be significantly greater for some feedlots, as Holstein steers have been reported to exhibit BSS more

frequently than beef-breed steers, with some reporting an incidence rate of 10-20%.

Calculating the cost of BSS per case is difficult, as there are many things to account for, such as reduced body weight gain and feed efficiency of bullers and riders, additional labor to process bullers, additional facilities to separate bullers, associated morbidity treatments, animal and feed costs for mortalities and carcass bruising of rider steers. With the increased purchasing costs for animals, feed, medication, facilities and labor, one can expect the estimated cost of BSS to be significantly greater today compared to the past.

Mounting behavior in cattle is complex, as it can be social, sexual or abnormal. Along with other aggressive behaviors, such as head-butting, mounting other cattle is a behavior used to exert dominance over other cattle within the pen. Upon commingling cattle or adding new cattle in a pen, cattle

may demonstrate aggressive behaviors toward each other to determine the dominance hierarchy within the pen. Not surprisingly, a Canadian feedlot study observed that BSS most often occurred during the first 30 days cattle were on feed.

Mounting behavior is commonly recognized as a sexual behavior that is performed by cattle to identify female cattle in estrus and possibly attract a bull for breeding. The detection of buller steers by rider steers appears to be more likely due to changes in posture and behavior rather than pheromones. The male sex hormone, testosterone, and female sex hormone, estrogen, have considerable effects on cattle behavior. Research demonstrated that administering estrogen (estradiol benzoate) increased the dominance and social rank of cattle.

They also demonstrated that androgens, such as testosterone, can increase dominance as well, presumably

by the conversion of testosterone to estrogen via the aromatase enzyme. Other research with freemartin heifers demonstrated that testosterone administration increased vulvar interest, head-to-head fighting and the flehmen (upper lip curl) response, while estradiol administration increased vulvar interest, head-to-head fighting and mounting behavior.

In steers, researchers demonstrated that estradiol injections resulted in the greatest frequency of steers receiving sniffs, giving sniffs, mounting successfully, giving chin rests, receiving chin rests, standing when mounted and refusing to stand when mounted. Testosterone injections to steers also increased successful mounts, chin rests given and chin rests received compared with untreated control steers. Attempted mounts and flehmen responses were greatest for steers that were administered testosterone.

Researchers demonstrat-

ed that steers and heifers administered estradiol benzoate were much quicker to detect heifers in estrus and mounted heifers in estrus more frequently than steers or heifers administered testosterone or untreated controls. Progesterone is known to inhibit the behavior associated with estrus. In cows that had their ovaries removed, standing estrus behavior that was initiated by estradiol injection was reduced with increasing concentrations of progesterone injections, according to research.

Mounting and riding behavior can also be abnormal, as it is speculated cattle might perform this behavior out of boredom. Cattle housed in concentrated areas need to spend less time eating to reach satiety compared with cattle housed in pasture. In addition, this could be a learned or copycat behavior or a form of play in young cattle.

BSS has long been implicated with the use of ear implants, which commonly contain synthetic forms of estrogen, progesterone or testosterone to promote body weight gain. In a University of Nebraska-Lincoln study with mixed pens of steers and heifers, implanted heifers were mounted and mounted others more frequently compared with non-implanted heifers. Heifers were preferentially mounted by both steers and heifers, while steers chose not to mount other steers. However, heifers would mount steers as well.

Estradiol has long been speculated as the cause of BSS in feedlot cattle due to reports of greater concentrations of estrogen in the serum and urine of bullers. Some research studies have reported differences in BSS incidence due to implant type, which may be due to the hormone concentration in the ear implant or the timing of implant administration or readministration. In addition to the first 30 days of feedlot entry, BSS incidence has also been reported to be greater approximately 60 days after reimplanting, according to research conducted at Texas A&M University. Hormone concentrations of bullers, riders and nonparticipant animals have shown mixed results.

Research from the mid 1970s reported lesser serum concentrations of estrogen and testosterone for buller

steers compared with unaffected steers. However, other research from Kansas State University reported lesser progesterone and greater testosterone concentrations for buller steers compared with non-buller control steers. Estrogen concentration did not increase from feedlot entry to the time of bulling, and unfortunately, no direct comparison was made with non-buller controls at the time of bulling.


Interestingly, while off-label use is not permitted, some researchers tested feeding melengestrol acetate (MGA) to nonimplanted steers, which showed a numerical decrease in the incidence of bullers (1.11% versus 0.44%). However, the incidence of BSS was low in general and did not allow them to robustly test the hypothesis that MGA reduced the incidence of BSS.

A summary of these results on hormone concentrations for steers with BSS may indicate that the causative nature of BSS could be linked to estrogen and progesterone metabolism. Future research is needed to test if synthetic progesterone, like MGA, can reduce BSS, which is thought to be brought about by greater concentrations of estrogen.

Though this behavior has been studied for decades, there still aren't great solutions to treat or prevent BSS. The most common practice is to remove bullers from their home pen to be placed in a buller or hospital pen for a few days before being returned to their home pen. Unfortunately, some bullers relapse and are subject to mounting once again and may need to be permanently removed from their home pen.

Another helpful action would be to check the implant in the ear to see if pellets are damaged or crushed. Feed availability may play a factor, as some research documented empty bunks at the time bulling took place. Other environmental enrichment, such as toys and brushes, could possibly help reduce the occurrence of boredom. Bulling rails, which are an extension of the fence, may be an option to provide bullers a place to escape from riders.


As mentioned previously, this is an issue in the feedlot industry that could use more research to help solve this problem. — Michigan State University Extension



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## 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](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

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

[taylor@nmagriculture.org](mailto:taylor@nmagriculture.org).

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

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

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# Industry panel shares insights on future challenges, opportunities

Cattlemen and women from across the U.S. work in different sectors of the beef industry, deal with different environmental issues and have different business strategies. But at the end of the day, all farmers and ranchers work toward the same goal: to continue raising and selling the best beef possible.

Raising top-quality beef comes with both barriers and optimism. During the 2022 Angus Convention's first general session, Exploring Your Potential, five Angus breeders and industry experts spoke on a panel with moderator Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO. The panel took place Nov. 5 in Salt Lake City, UT.

The panel included the following backgrounds and perspectives: Jerry Connealy with Connealy Angus, Mark Gardiner with Gardiner Angus Ranch and U.S. Premium Beef, Ed Greiman with Greiman Brothers and Upper Iowa Beef, Joe Goggins with Vermilion Ranch and Northern Livestock Video Auction, and Matt Perrier with Dalebanks Angus.

Big opportunities lie ahead for the industry, the panelists said. Perrier spoke about the importance of influence and the next generation. Greiman discussed how vital it is for producers to continually improve quality so packers can find new ways to add value to the carcass. The types of supplies and increasing packing capacity brought excitement to Goggins, and Connealy shared his perspective about the value of association tools.

"It's full circle. The American Angus Association provides the tools, and you guys (producers) have obviously done a tremendous job using those tools, making a premium as demand has gone up," Connealy said. "But there is still upside that we can get better. We can always get better."

Vertical coordination is also an answer to improving the beef industry while avoiding vertical integration, Gardiner said. He defines vertical integration as an entity owning things from the cut of beef all the way to the genetics.

"The only way we keep that from happening, in my opinion, is through vertical coordination and passing that information, building those alliances, sharing and being transparent with whoever it is we sell product to and with who they sell product to," Gardiner said.

Perhaps the biggest challenge, the cattlemen said, is ensuring beef industry profitability is spread over all segments of the industry. In the past, when one segment made money, the others lost it—the "skin thy neighbor approach," as Gardiner put it.

The panelists talked about the value and quality of Angus beef creating more profitability. Perrier

mentioned a quote from John Stika, Certified Angus Beef president, who said the only new money in the beef industry comes from the consumer. If that is the case, we must ensure there is an opportunity to make money through consumer demand, Perrier said.

Increasing consumer demand also means increasing consumer trust,

which Connealy said is the most significant barrier to the industry's future success. If we don't do the right things or represent our cattle and our industry correctly, consumer trust could drag us down, he said.

Pull-through demand for Certified Angus Beef is key. As long as we can keep that, he said, "We will come out on top. I am confident in that."

The group's morale was bullish as they considered environmental and economic factors influencing the profitability of producers in the coming years. Considering the market's improvement and opportunity, the group also recognized the effect rising input costs will have on cattle prices. Greiman discussed how producers should use the tools and resources avail-

able to them as prices swing. Risk management was a tool discussed, as well as a genetic hedge—or the ability to protect yourself through the use of good genetics.

The Angus breed is positioned well to help with that, Perrier said. "We have one breed that can do what we do from an end product/growth standpoint and yet still have a pasture full of females

that are going to make the producer money."

As the Angus breed and beef industry work toward a successful future, the panel reminded attendees how everyone is facing the same challenges and opportunities. Regardless of size and shape, there is room for the success and probability of cattle producers. — American Angus Association

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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: 11/17/2022	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	152.02 ▲	151.86	131.93
CME Feeder Index	175.39 ▼	175.51	155.46
Boxed Beef Average	257.10 ▼	263.27	276.16
Average Dressed Steers	241.94 ▲	241.12	207.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,384 ▲	1,376	1,526
Weekly Slaughter**	671,000 ▲	667,000	655,000
Weekly Beef Production***	558.2 ▲	553.9	544.5
Hide/Offal Value	14.86 ▲	14.82	16.52
Corn Price	6.68 ▲	6.54	5.79

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
November 14	6,337	260.46	167	342.17	1,195	268.67	1,795	258.32	841	232.31	2,338	215.76
November 5	6,493	257.01	182	343.23	1,102	267.65	2,097	258.72	901	230.42	2,210	215.83
October 28	6,818	255.28	187	339.98	1,172	263.48	2,139	253.54	806	224.71	2,515	214.95
October 21	7,214	249.24	225	336.59	1,359	257.01	2,239	247.85	932	219.40	2,461	207.15

Cutouts					
----- FED BOXED BEEF -----					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Nov 17	257.10	231.74	192.10	68.59	239.00
Nov 16	257.09	231.35	194.60	66.70	241.97
Nov 15	258.36	231.76	194.74	72.60	N/A
Nov 14	257.98	233.21	195.33	71.16	243.67
Nov 11	258.94	235.27	194.00	70.72	N/A

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	11/11	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/17	High*	Low*
Dec.	15153	15158	15128	15180	15275	15308	13055
Feb.	15325	15255	15305	15425	15540	15703	14003
Apr.	15705	15643	15673	15773	15890	15958	15388
Jun.	15393	15318	15310	15363	15458	15850	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	11/11	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/17	High*	Low*
Nov.	17695	17695	17668	17570	17585	18610	16373
Jan.	17858	17945	17703	17748	17998	18703	16958
Mar.	18115	18178	17980	18025	18250	18748	17595
Apr.	18460	18483	18303	18365	18578	18695	18303

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

FED CATTLE TRADE			
	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
<b>WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES</b>			
Live FOB Steer	12,429	1,512	152.02
Live FOB Heifer	7,613	1,300	151.41
Dressed Del Steer	5,366	976	241.94
Dressed Del Heifer	1,476	867	241.52
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK</b>			
Live FOB Steer	20,687	1,487	151.86
Live FOB Heifer	8,435	1,315	151.53
Dressed Del Steer	8,549	968	241.12
Dressed Del Heifer	3,488	876	242.00
<b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b>			
Live FOB Steer	8,678	1,526	131.93
Live FOB Heifer	2,265	1,301	132.01
Dressed Del Steer	696	971	207.00
Dressed Del Heifer	110	818	205.91

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 13		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	32,547	3,075
Formula	265,491	801
Negotiated Cash	96,859	171
Negotiated Grid	41,239	1,202
Packer Owned	11,640	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>447,776</b>	<b>5,249</b>

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,624
Nov. '22	158,544	Neg. Sales 21+ days	973
Dec. '22	113,968	Formula sales	3,668
Jan. '22	123,312	Forward contract sales	72
Feb. '23	89,738	Domestic sales	5,594
Mar. '23	105,179	NAFTA Exports	207

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		133.44	-0.73
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		130.17	-2.55
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		132.77	-1.44
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		64.37	-5.48

\*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 4, 2022			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	195.44	195.68	191.42
601-700 lbs	184.09	183.99	183.52
701-800 lbs	178.40	178.15	172.69
801-900 lbs	172.89	170.65	173.23
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	173.60	173.47	164.55
501-600 lbs	165.17	165.09	160.58
601-700 lbs	159.99	157.97	152.46
701-800 lbs	155.70	153.46	142.97

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
Feeders	21,959	17,850	677,121	922,457

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
Friday, November 11, 2022			
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 15,000	Week Ago Act: 12,988	Year Ago Act: 17,944	
Compared to last week, steer calves under 500 lbs sold steady; steer calves and yearlings over 500 lbs sold steady to 5.00 lower. Heifers steady. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.			
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 205.00-215; 400-500 lbs 184.00-195.00; 500-600 lbs 165.00-180.00; 600-700 lbs 150.00-165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 190.00-200.00; 400-500 lbs 169.00-179.00; 500-600 lbs 150.00-165.00.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 175.00-185.00; 400-500 lbs 165.00-175.00; 500-600 lbs 155.00-165.00; 600-700 lbs 145.00-155.00.			
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales FOB port of entry.)			

Selected Auction										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
Week Ending November 17, 2022											
STEERS / HEIFERS											
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
November 11 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		175-195 150-173	170-216 150-184	160-209 142-165	155-185 142-165	145-160 140-157	135-154 130-152	58-76 77-88		
November 10 Burley, ID	738	258	238-242 171-183.50	216-236 170-184	189 165.50	171-173 159-165	154-162.50	91-155	61-84 83-85.50		
November 15 Emmett, ID	694			180-200 164-176	184-200 153-171	143.50-156			57-74 87-92		
November 12 Eugene, OR	807		130-156* 121-141*	150-183* 125-145*	145-171* 120-130*	143-165* 117-139*	130-147*	120-134*	60-72 83-88		
November 14 Madras, OR	1,359		200-233	220-249.50 175-200	185-219 165-177	177-187 166-176	168-180 160-170	167-172 145-160	70-83 70-88		
No report available Vale, OR											
November 17 Davenport, WA	1,241	61-150 38-150	62-192 61-169	100-196 91-179	126-201 21-174	110-175 101-154	91-161 41-136	72-148 41-128	30-84 44-119		
November 10 Toppenish, WA	1,650		175* 160*	161* 150*	165* 155.50-157.50*	160.50-165* 144-154*			55-70 74-87.50	1,225-1,525	
November 10 Orland, CA	2,022			160-215 188	140-196 165	140-187 168	125-170 168	120-160	70-82 80-108		
November 16 Escalon, CA	N/A								55-70 80-100		
November 7 Famoso, CA	548		140-150 125-160	160-170 140-160	165-185 130-160	155 150-165	150-168	110-150	60-105 80-97.50		
November 16 Galt, CA	1,580			170-205 150-178	165-185 140-167	145-180 140-165	140-177 125-165	140-165	50-80 90-110		
November 8 Turlock, CA	2,177		170-210 165-185	175-220 160-184	170-208 152-174	155-177 150-167.50	152-166.75 144-160	145-160.25 130-143	57-85 80-100		
November 8 Salina, UT	2,953	185-255.50 165-225	180-240 158-215	175-222.50 150-199	165-206 145-182.50	152-185 140-172.50	147.50-172.50 135-170	135-170 119.25-170	45.25-79.25 78-92.65		
November 14 Iowa	12,427		190-257 150-217	176-242 150-219	161-229 148-198	160-199 137-190.50	157-197 150-184.75	161-182 145-161	64.50-95 62-132		
November 15 Miles City, MT	3,113		255-296 215-225	217-249 188-219	192-223.25 166.50-211.25	171-195.25 153-164	161-168 162	153-168	51-72.25 74-97.50		
November 16 Bassett, NE	2,300		247-250 217-219	228-250 186-229.50	202.50-248.50 176.50-201	182-230.50 168-176.75	177.50-200 164	164.50-168			
November 12 Ericson, NE	4,980		245-256 214-226	212-244 190-217	193-234 173-202.50	179-207.50 169-184	186-195.50 171-182.50	178-196.50 164-184.50			
No report available Imperial, NE											
November 16 Kearney, NE	4,300		242 129-220	213.25-232 181-211.50	195-217.50 176-192	184-199 162.50-179	181-193.50 169-174	170.85-185.35 168.50-167	75-99.50 88-108.50		
November 11 Lexington, NE	2,174		225 211-240	205-218 181-187	190-209.50 176-190.50	175-197.50 169-179	176.75-183.25 170	172.25-177 170		1,575	
November 10 Ogallala, NE	2,885		236-242 183-208	215-246 195-218.50	193.50-230 177-214.50	174-200 171.50-174.50	171.50-180.50	169-178 165.50-176			
November 10 Valentine, NE	3,680		251-255 193.50-221	230-251 176-208	200-233 176-208	187-213.25 169.50-184.50	194				
No report available Herreid, SD											
November 16 Torrington, WY	5,512		249-262 215-225	220-258 195-216	193-222 171-202.50	181-201 175-184	177-190 172-177	170-184.50 177-179			
November 11 Willcox, AZ	N/A	202-205	191-220.50 168-186	167-197.50 148-174	160-176.50 140-151	147-166 135-145.50			50-85 70-92	1,050-1,300	
October 14 Colorado	18,961	220-237 191	219-249 175-214	190-250.50 160-211	174-221.50 150-187.50	166-197 150-177.50	161-187 157.50-169	150-173 138-161	37.50-95 69-104	725-1,675	
November 9 La Junta, CO	4,947		207-239 175-191	185-235 161-175	180-200 152-173.50	166-195.50 150-163	163-176 153-160.50	159-170 151-159	61-80.50 92-102.75		
November 14 Loma, CO	1,625								65-81 88-91		
November 16 Dodge City, KS	2,968	206 194-195	181-237.50 177-209.50	192-234.35 159.85-207	189-209 164-183	165-183.75 157.25-173	156-180.50 166.50	167-173.75 154.50-160.70	60-79 65-103	1,400-1,500 1,060-1,200	
November 17 Pratt, KS	3,300		179-268 229.50	183-233.50 155-207.50</							

# Beef! It's what's for Thanksgiving!

"Beef. It's What's for Dinner" is an American advertising slogan and marketing campaign aimed at promoting the consumption of beef. The ad campaign, originally launched in 1992, has been long-lived, highly effective and award winning. The slogan is said to be recognized by more than 88% of Americans.

Thanksgiving is a time when Americans come together to celebrate a holiday that connects each and every one of us. The holiday was first celebrated in 1621 when the Plymouth settlers joined with the Wampanoag Tribe to enjoy a fall feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. The tradition of Thanksgiving became official when President George Washington declared the nation would celebrate the day on Nov. 26, 1789. President Abraham Lincoln wrote a proclamation declaring all states would celebrate the day in 1863. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a resolution from Congress in 1941 that established the official date of

Thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday in November each year.

While Thanksgiving is observed in varied ways in different nations, in America, the holiday is truly rooted in agriculture. We may bring our own flavors and traditions to the table, but Thanksgiving is a time for all of us to celebrate our nation's harvest and ability to efficiently produce food, to express gratitude for our blessings and to look ahead to the future.

Alexander Hamilton once proclaimed: "No citizen of the U.S. shall refrain from turkey on Thanksgiving Day." With all due respect to Mr. Hamilton, whose ideas are credited with laying the foundation for American government and finance, I encourage you to make plans to enjoy beef this year at Thanksgiving. Please give consideration to the following when planning.

- How much time do you have to spend cooking?

If your answer is "not much," consider grilling or

pan frying. Middle meats from the beef carcass like rib-eye, strip loin, filet and sirloin steaks are very tender and can be cooked quickly at high temperatures on the grill or stovetop to seal in the tenderness, juiciness and flavor. If you intend to grill or pan fry steaks, remember to give them adequate time to thaw. Burgers made from ground beef are also great when grilled or pan fried.

If you have more time to spend in preparation, smoking or oven roasting can result in the same tender, succulent beef flavor. Roasts from the chuck or round can be seasoned and slow cooked to bring out the "melt in your mouth" flavor. Beef brisket is ideal for smoking and slow cooking. An intact rib roast also can work great for smoking or slow cooking.

- What is your budget?

Typically, the steaks or middle meats will be the more expensive cuts to purchase. The cuts that require more cooking time (because they

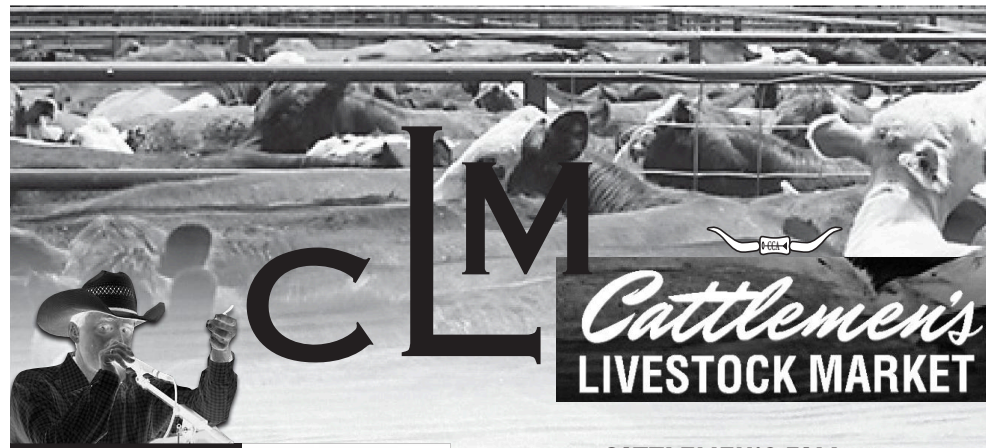
contain more connective tissue) can be purchased at a lower price per pound. Ground beef is also less expensive.

More information about cooking methods, recipes and beef cuts can be found at [www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com](http://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com). Regardless of the cut of beef you enjoy this Thanksgiving,

you will be eating a nutrient-dense, delicious source of protein, B vitamins, iron and zinc that is a healthy diet choice.

This year on Thanksgiving, I want to say thanks to America's farmers, ranchers and everyone in production agriculture who make it possible. Whatever we eat on Thanks-

giving Day, it is the ingenuity, perseverance, efficiency, work ethic and "can-do" attitude of America's ag producers that permit us to spend a relatively small percentage of our income on food. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**



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Jan. 8

Jan. 27

## Feeders lose, corn gains

### MARKETS (from page 1)

over year increases. We were wrong," the Cattle Report wrote. "This has not occurred, and cow slaughter each week has topped last year, meaning when the culling ends, the impact will be more severe than many observers anticipated."

Boxed beef prices dropped ahead of the holiday, with the Choice cutout down over \$6 to \$257.10 and the Select cutout down over \$5 to \$231.74.

### Feeder cattle

"Along with lower corn prices the market is absorbing some spillover support that's coming from the live cattle complex, (it's) market also trades higher as traders are anticipating a strong Cattle on Feed report to be unveiled on Friday," Stewart said.

The November feeder contract lost \$2.77 to close at \$175.85, and the January contract lost \$1.73 to close at \$179.97. (Editor's note: The market report a week earlier in the Nov. 14 WLJ issue incorrectly referred to the November contract as the January contract.)

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 12 cents to close at \$175.39.

Corn futures were higher, thanks to continued uncertainty from Russian grain conflicts. The December contract gained 14 cents to close at \$6.67, and the March contract gained 10 cents to close at \$6.69.

**Colorado:** Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 1,137 head on Tuesday. Compared to a week earlier, steer and heifer calves sold mostly steady on the kinds offered. Feeder steers and heifers were too lightly tested for a comparison. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold for \$171.

**Missouri:** Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers traded steady, and feeder heifers traded steady to \$3 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 758 lbs. sold between \$176-180.50 and averaged \$177.94.

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 10,600 head on Monday. Feeder cattle and calves sold unevenly steady. Demand was moderate to good. A group of benchmark steers averaging 757 lbs. sold between \$173-184.50 and averaged \$178.04.

**South Dakota:** Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 2,200 head

Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold steady to \$4 lower, except those under 600 lbs., which were \$1-4 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$1-5 lower, except those under 550 lbs., which were steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 767 lbs. sold between \$180.50-181 and averaged \$180.77. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

## SAME WIDEBODY, AGE-ADVANTAGE BULLS New December 16th Sale Date

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**125 Age-Advantaged Bulls - Red Angus, Black Angus & Charolais**  
**100 Commercial Red Angus Bred Heifers**



April 21, 2003, Vol. 82, No. 27

## Mexican cattle imports questioned

Requests by Mexican cattle producers for safeguard actions against the U.S. are a misuse of Mexico's interpretation of the World Trade Organization's safeguard provision. Also, they could deal a blow to U.S.-Mexico trade relations, a beef industry coalition told officials with the USDA and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

The American Meat Institute, the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association have formed a coalition opposing this proposed initiation.

Coalition members met with the USTR office and USDA officials last week to argue the move is another unjustified attempt by Mexico to circumvent the North American Free Trade Agreement. The coalition indicated to USTR and USDA any safeguarding action by the Mexican government would be challenged before the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. The USDA/USTR team is expected to travel to Mexico on April 23 to raise this and other trade irritants and resolve other problems the U.S. faces in shipping its agricultural products to Mexico. — **WLJ**



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North American

# BULL GUIDE 2023

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ISSUE DATE

JAN. 9, 2023

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NOV. 28, 2022

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## STORY SHORTS

**Web-based app for limited water**

Kansas producers throughout the entire state are impacted by some form of drought, but a Kansas State (K-State) University web-based application could assist in planning for the future. K-State Extension water specialist Jonathan Aguilar said the K-State Mobile Irrigation Lab could assist producers in deciding the best crop combinations for their fields, then estimate net returns. Aguilar said the tool includes a crop water allocator to help farmers with limited water resources maximize their returns. "If you only have a water allocation of 5 inches in western Kansas, that typically will not get through a corn crop," Aguilar said. "So, you would be better off going to either grain sorghum or wheat in that scenario. But if you have more water than that, then you have more flexibility in terms of looking at what kind of crops you would be able to put in your field." The tool is customizable and can be altered with the seeding rate, the nutrient or fertilizer that will be applied, the labor cost, the yield goal, the number of acres planted for a particular crop and the water allocation. For more information on the crop water allocator, you can visit milab.ksu.edu or contact your local Extension office.

**IICA at UN climate summit**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) convened its first-ever "Sustainable Agriculture in the Americas" pavilion at the United Nations climate summit (COP27) to discuss livestock sustainability throughout the world. A panel organized by the Protein PACT gave presentations on climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and the progress being made to improve environmental sustainability in livestock production. "The livestock sector is moving at full tilt towards sustainability in the Americas and around the world and continues to play a central and invaluable role in global food security," Dr. Manuel Otero, director general of IICA, said. "IICA and its member states will continue to champion at COP27 and future COPs the critical role of sustainable agriculture, including livestock production, in the Americas."

**Processors sued for wage fixing**

A class-action suit has been filed against 11 of the country's largest meat processors and several of their subsidiaries, stating they have conspired to fix and depress the wages paid to employees at processing plants nationwide. The suit alleges since 2014, the companies have engaged in a conspiracy to keep wages low through compensation surveys, the exchange of compensation data, meetings among executives and no-poach agreements. The plaintiffs accuse the processors of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act. Together, the companies process 80% of red meat sold nationwide through 140 processing plants, and the companies include JBS USA, Cargill, Hormel Foods Corp., American Foods Group LLC, Triumph Foods LLC, Seaboard Foods LLC, National Beef Packing Co. LLC, Iowa Premium LLC, Smithfield Foods Inc., Perdue Farms Inc., Washington Beef LLC and Agri Beef Co. The suit also includes consulting companies Agri Stats Inc. and Webber, Meng, Sahl and Co.

**Beyond Meat reports revenue drop**

Beyond Meat Inc. reported a decline in sales and consequently, a drop in revenue for the third quarter. The company reported a \$102 million net loss for the three months ending Oct. 1, while revenue fell to \$83 million, down 23% from the year-ago period. U.S. grocery sales fell 11.8% in the quarter, and international sales dropped 53%, while food service revenue dropped 42%. Beyond Meat said its full-year revenue will decline by about 9-14% to between \$400 million and \$425 million. Beyond Meat President and CEO Ethan Brown said in a press statement the results were disappointing, and "the current economic climate has not been kind to plant-based meat." In October, the company announced it was cutting 19% of its workforce, or roughly 200 employees.

**\$40 million to Trout Unlimited**

USDA announced it would provide up to \$40 million to Trout Unlimited in a five-year agreement to improve watersheds on national forests and grasslands. The National Watershed and Aquatic Restoration Initiative will increase the pace of the restoration of abandoned mines and remove barriers to improve fish passage and stream habitat. "Our agreement with Trout Unlimited continues our joint success as stewards of national forests and grasslands," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "Our partnership is not just about cleaning a stream or increasing fish population. It's life-sustaining work that is as vital to aquatic species as it is to people and communities. When our natural resources are healthy, we are healthy as a nation and as individuals." According to the press release, Trout Unlimited has carried out \$62 million worth of projects, improving forest health and water quality and building partnerships that support hundreds of family-wage jobs in rural communities.



# SALE REPORTS

**HEART K RANCH ANNUAL SALE**  
**Nov. 9, Lewistown, MT**  
**41 Angus bulls . . . . . \$3,106**  
**27 Running age cows . . . 1,685**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS:** HKAR Whitlock 2105, 1/14/22 by Connealy Whitlock 935X; to Lance and Nicole Johnson, Lewistown, MT, \$5,750. HKAR Land Grant 2138, 1/29/22 by Connealy Land Grant 6666; to Mershawn Ranch, Lewistown, MT, \$4,750. HKAR Legendary 2147, 2/1/21 by Connealy Legendary 35; to Eickhoff Ranch, Grass Range, MT, \$4,750. HKAR 38 Special 2164, 2/6/22 by Connealy 38 Special 511T; to Clint Whitney, Roy, MT, \$4,750. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

3/1/23-3/21/23, consigned by Slivka Ag; to Roy, MT, \$2,325. 51 bred heifers, AI'd to GDAR Load Up 7104 to calve 2/20/23, consigned by Wickens Salt Creek Ranch; to Melstone, MT, \$2,300. 15 bred heifers, natural bred to calve 3/1/23-3/21/23, consigned by Slivka Ag; to Rickey, MT, \$2,250. 41 bred heifers, AI'd to GDAR Load Up 7104 to calve 2/20/23; to Belvidere, NE, \$2,200. 14 young cows, natural bred ages 3-4 to calve 3/10/23-3/31/23; to Sand Springs, MT, \$2,100. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**MONTANA RANCH'S THE MONTANA BRED FOR BALANCE SALE**  
**Nov. 12, Big Fork, MT**  
**92 Older bulls . . . . . \$7,298**  
**14 Registered females . 3,700**  
**50 Commercial bred heifers . . . . . 2,050**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**Sale Manager: Dave Mullins**  
**TOPS—Bulls:** Montana Jake 1036, 2/9/21 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Sackman Cattle Co., WA, Cline Cattle Co., KS, and 3R Livestock, AU, \$40,000, 1/2 interest. Montana Jackpot 1100, 2/25/21 by Baldrige Alternative E125; to Grant Jones, NE, \$22,000. Montana Jennings 1001, 2/19/21 by Mill Brae Benchmark 9016; to Yorlum

Cattle Co., MT, \$19,000, 1/2 interest. Montana Atlantis 1257, 7/12/21 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Leadore Angus, ID, \$17,000. Montana Justice 1109, 2/20/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Mystic Hill Farms, VA, \$16,000. Montana Justice 1017, 2/19/21 by SAV Rainfall 6846; to Marty Lawrence, SD, \$16,000. **Females:** Montana Donna 0217, 7/6/20 by SAV Renown 3439, bred to Brooking Can Am 0012; to Mark Tudah, MT, \$8,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**MOHICAN WEST BULL SALE**  
**Nov. 14, Laurel, MT**  
**43 Total bulls . . . . . \$3,750**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS:** Mohican Willaim 52J, 2/10/21 by DM 714 8Y William 514C ET; to Yellowhorn Farms, Custer, MT, \$9,500. Mohican Ridge 213J, 8/28/21 by NJW 139C 103C Ridge 254G; to Clint and Jennett Breeden, Ten Sleep, WY, \$5,750. Mohican 4013 22J, 2/1/21 by Innisfail WHR X651/723 4013 ET; to Jerry Jones, Busby, MT, \$5,000. TDP NJB Poundmaker 225J, 8/23/21 by Innisfail WHR X651/723 4013 ET; to Keltner Ranch, Terry, MT, \$5,000. Mohican Neal 215H, 8/29/21 by NJW 27A Salute 201C; to Clint and Jennett Breeden, Ten Sleep, WY, \$5,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**GARTNER-DENOWH ANGUS RANCH AND BAR JV ANGUS OFF THE TOP FEMALE SALE**  
**Nov. 14, Sidney, MT**  
**1 Pick of the heifer calves . . . . . \$16,500**  
**6 Bred cows . . . . . 6,708**  
**3 Pregnancies . . . . . 4,750**  
**78 Bred heifers . . . . . 4,399**  
**5 Embryos . . . . . 400**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**Sale Managers: Ron Frye**  
**Marketing & Don Ravellette**  
**TOPS:** Pick of the Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch registered 2022 heifer calves; to Basin Angus, Joliet, MT, \$16,500. GDAR Miss Wix 7430, 3/2/17 by KG Justified, bred to Sitz Accomplishment; to Hamilton Angus, Baker City, OR, \$10,000. DJV Kem 8150, 3/21/18 by Bar 69 Motive 6101; to Badlands Angus, Arnegard, ND, \$10,000. GDAR Forever Lady 1170, 2/13/21 by GDAR Load Up 7104, bred to Sitz Accomplishment; to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, \$9,500. GDAR Rain Queen 12, 1/26/21 by GDAR CJD All Pro 9740, bred to Tehama Testament; to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, \$9,000. GDAR Shoshone Lady 177, 2/7/21 by GDAR Justified 914; to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, \$8,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**BIEBER RED ANGUS 2022 FALL FEMALE PRODUCTION SALE**  
**Nov. 10, Leola, SD**  
**Red Angus donors . . \$25,625**  
**Red Angus age-advantaged bulls . . . . . 6,160**  
**Red Angus bred heifers . . . . . 6,054**  
**Red Angus February-March-April calving cows . . . 4,246**  
**Red Angus May-June calving cows . . . . . 4,199**  
**Red Angus commercial bred heifers . . . . . 2,410**  
**Auctioneer: Seth Weishaar**  
**TOPS—Red Angus cows:** BIEBER CL ADELLE 475C; to Pieper Red Angus, Hay Springs, NE, \$67,500. BIEBER ENCHANTRESS 359B; to Edleman Ranch, Willow Lake, SD, \$16,000. BIEBER NATIE 126C; to Raile Red Angus, Eureka, SD, \$10,000. BIEBER MISS BON 183C; to CJ Red Angus, Lucedale, MS, \$9,500. BIEBER SURPRISE 243D; to JLMorris Farms, Douglas, GA, \$9,250. **Red Angus bred heifers:** BIEBER LAURA 467J; to Edleman Ranch, Willow Lake, SD, \$12,000. BIEBER ROSE 122J; to FSC Ranch, Clayton, NC, \$11,000. BIEBER DURHEIM 360J; to FSC Ranch, Clayton, NC, \$10,000. BIEBER SHEBA 251J; to FSC Ranch, Clayton, NC, \$10,000.

BIEBER ENCHANTRESS 135J; to Delornzo & Associates, Middle Grove, NY, \$10,000. BIEBER PRIMROSE 498J; to CJ Red Angus, Lucedale, MS, \$9,500. **Red Angus age-advantaged bulls:** BIEBER ENERGIZE J510; to ABS Global Inc., DeForest, WI, \$45,000. BIEBER MAXIMUS J509; to Bottomley Farms, Sparta, NC, \$9,500. BIEBER ENERGIZE J521; to Middle Creek Red Angus, Schulenburg, TX, \$9,500. BIEBER STOCKMARKET J372; to Andrew & Duane Bueber, Tripp, SD, \$8,500. BIEBER ENERGIIZE J568; to Kevin Biffert, Horace, ND, \$8,500. — **PETE CROW**

**24TH ANNUAL HD DUNN AND SON BULL SALE**  
**Nov. 12, Tetonia, ID**  
**91 Angus bulls . . . . . \$3,777**  
**40 Commercial bred heifers . . . . . 2,024**  
**TOPS:** HD Dunn Resource 1134, 4/10/21 by SAV Resource 1441; to Jarrod Edwards, Laramie, WY, \$11,000. HD Dunn International 1111, 4/8/21 by SAV International 2020; to Jarrod Edwards, Laramie, WY, \$7,500. HD Dunn Resource 1231, 4/15/21 by SAV Resource 1441; to Allen Ranch, Medicine Bow, WY, \$6,000. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

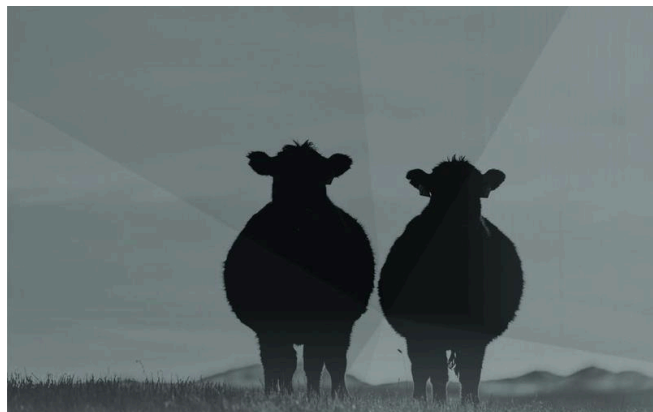
**ARNTZEN ANGUS RANCH 1ST ANNUAL SIGNATURE FEMALE SALE**  
**Nov. 11, Lewistown, MT**  
**108 AI bred heifers . . . \$2,228**  
**44 Young bred cows . . . 2,014**  
**545 Bull bred heifers . . . 1,815**  
**37 Middle age bred cows . . . . . 1,593**  
**170 Replacement heifer calves . . . . . 1,105**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**TOPS:** 60 bred heifers, AI'd to KG Justified to calve 2/6/23; to Kimball, SD, \$2,325. 10 bred heifers, natural bred to calve



## VIDEO AUCTION

**Nov. 3, Hudson Oaks, TX**  
 Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on Nov. 3 from the Superior Livestock Auction studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers offered over 32,000 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 19 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through July 2023. Despite increased input costs and political foreshadowing affecting the market, the auction delivered a bullish market report. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers witnessed wide swings in prices based on quality and flesh conditions. Steers with Superior Progressive Genetics claims were \$5-7 higher, while their counterparts remained steady. Feeder heifers from the same regions also saw a similar market trend. Regions 1 and 2 feeder steers and heifers were only lightly tested but saw strong and steady demand. Beef-dairy crosses were \$10-15 higher on all classes compared to the last auction. Regions 1 and 2 weaned calves were also only lightly tested but were welcomed with strong demand and increased prices. Regions 3/4/5/6 weaned calves under 600 lbs. were \$5-8 higher, with cattle under 500 lbs. witnessing advances as much as \$15 higher. Weaned calves on growing rations were steady. Bred heifers with Superior Progressive Genetics claims were well received at \$2,000 higher than the last offering, providing optimism leading into next year. **TOPS—Feeder steers:** Wolf Land & Cattle LLC, Cameron, TX, sold 140 feeder steers @ 725 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Brangus & a few Braford cows by outstanding Profit Maker Angus (Ultimate Answer, Total Answer, Ten X & Revival) bulls. 100% black hid. \$185, Nov. 10-20 delivery. McNew Farms, Bucyrus, MO, sold 136 feeder steers @ 750 lbs. VAC 45, VAC PRECON, BQA Certified. Angus & Angus cross, some Charolais cross & some Red Angus. Approx. 75-80% black hid. \$186, Nov. 7-15 delivery. Randall Brock, Gainesville, GA, sold 57 feeder steers @ 875 lbs. VAC 60, VAC PRECON, BQA Certified. Out of Angus cross & Angus Charolais cross cows by Angus bulls. \$161, Nov. 7-18 delivery. Darrell Newman/Cole Hendren, Stites, ID, sold 65 feeder steers @ 745 lbs. Owner Certified Natural. Out of pred. home-raised Optimizer Black & Red Angus cross cows by Red Factor Val & Romans Charolais & a few Black Angus bulls. Performance genetics. \$168.50, Nov. 18-19 delivery. TC Ranch LLC, Holden, UT, sold 84 feeder steers @ 750 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Progressive Genetics. Angus & Angus Hereford cross. Sired by sons of Sitz Upward, Sitz Logo, Sitz Investment, SAV Governor, McConnell Altitude & MGR Treasure Angus bulls. 100% black hid. \$170.50, Nov. 15-30 delivery. **Feeder heifers:** TC Ranch LLC, Holden, UT, sold 68 feeder heifers @ 725 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Progressive Genetics. Angus & Angus Hereford cross. Sired by sons of Sitz Upward, Sitz Logo,

Sitz Investment, SAV Governor, McConnell Altitude & MGR Treasure Angus bulls. 100% black hid. \$161, Dec. 1-15 delivery. Darrell Newman/Cole Hendren, Stites, ID, sold 68 feeder heifers @ 725 lbs. Owner Certified Natural. Out of pred. home-raised Optimizer Black & Red Angus cross cows by Red Factor Val & Romans Charolais & a few Black Angus bulls. Performance genetics. \$160, Nov. 18-19 delivery. Eckhardt Farms, Goodland, KS, sold 66 feeder heifers @ 815 lbs. Black & Red Angus cross. Approx. 75% black hid & 25% red hid. \$168.50, Nov. 4-11 delivery. **Beef-dairy crosses:** LJ Beef, Syracuse, KS, sold 120 beef-dairy cross steers @ 400 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of Holstein cows AI'd to SimAngus & Angus bulls. Some w/white underbelly, head, socks & tip on tail. \$226, Feb. 1-March 1 delivery. Kirkman Farms LLP, Kirkman, IA, sold 100 beef-dairy cross steers @ 500 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, Black Angus Verified Beef, NHTC, BQA Certified. Out of Holstein cows by Grimmus Cattle Co. bulls. China & Saudi Arabia approved & approved for no growth promotants. \$206, Nov. 7-9 delivery. **Weaned calves and calves on cows:** Nielson Ranches, Huntington, UT, sold 44 weaned steer calves @ 540 lbs./52 weaned heifer calves \$12/cwt back @ 525 lbs. Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Owner Certified Natural Plus, Beef CARE Certified. Angus & Angus Hereford cross. \$188, Nov. 28-Dec. 3 delivery. Bar 9 Prospects Cattle Co. LLC, Bayard, NE, sold 95 weaned steer calves @ 570 lbs. VAC 60. Angus cross, SimAngus & Hereford cross. Sired by SimAngus & Hereford bulls. Approx. 90% black & BWF, balance red & RWF, 1 black Hereford. \$202, Nov. 7-11 delivery. United Ag, Plainview, TX, sold 41 weaned steer calves @ 430 lbs./67 weaned heifer calves \$15/cwt back @ 460 lbs. VAC 60. Out of Angus, Brangus & Charolais cross cows by Angus, Charolais & Brarford bulls. \$181, Nov. 7-18 delivery. Box M Cattle Co., Allen, OK, sold 103 weaned steer calves @ 440 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC. Out of Black Angus & Red Angus cross cows by reg. Red Angus bulls. \$220, Nov. 4-5 delivery. Double Rock Ranch LLLP, Lorida, FL, sold 122 steer calves @ 400 lbs. VAC 34+. Out of English cross & Brahman cross cows by 80% horned Hereford, 10% Charolais & 10% Brangus bulls. 1/4 or less Brahman influence. \$188, Nov. 14-30 delivery. Gaved Livestock LLC, Elgin, AZ, sold 190 steer calves @ 410 lbs. VAC 34+, Legacy Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved. Out of Beefmaster Red Angus cross cows by Beefmaster & Bar T Bar Red Angus Balancer bulls. \$190, Nov. 15-20 delivery. **Bred stock:** Lee Hardy, Lenora, KS, sold 60 bred cows @ 1,250 lbs. Angus cross cows bred to Sandhill Farms reg. polled Hereford bulls. Start calving approx. 4/1/23 for approx. 75 days. Head counts may vary after preg check on 11/7/22. 4-year-olds or younger. \$1,600, Nov. 7-21 delivery.



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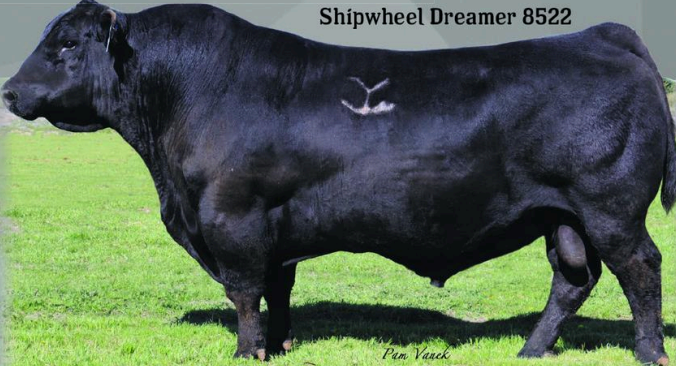
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# Adjusting livestock stocking rates in good years and bad

The long-term ecological and financial health of a ranch requires that the livestock population be balanced with the forage supply. Soils, plants, water quality, wildlife, livestock performance and profits suffer when livestock numbers are too high or too low. Stocking rates that result in moderate grazing intensity (averaged across both grazed and rested pastures in rotational grazing systems) maximize long-term ranch profit and ecosystem health.

In Montana, the stocking rate that results in moderate grazing intensity is often a moving target. Fluctuations in precipitation and temperature cause forage production to vary substantially from year to year. Consequently, the stocking rate that results in moderate grazing intensity is higher in wetter years, when forage production is high, and lower in drier years, when forage production is low.

The stocking rate can be increased in wetter years by

retaining more yearlings, purchasing additional animals or leasing forage to other ranchers. Conversely, in drier years, the stocking rate can be lowered by weaning livestock earlier than normal, culling mature animals more heavily and earlier in the year or retaining fewer yearlings.

The stocking rate also can be reduced in pastures grazed during spring and early summer (May and June) by reducing the amount of time livestock spend in these pastures. In turn, the stocking rate is increased in subsequent pastures by lengthening the grazing periods, but grazing in these pastures occurs after plants have entered summer dormancy and are much less impacted by livestock grazing.

## Establish a base stocking rate

Trying to manipulate the stocking rate exactly according to forage production can be challenging,

especially during dry years and in Montana, where dry years can be very dry. Optimism that it will rain next week often leads ranchers to wait to reduce livestock numbers until after overgrazing has occurred, and emergency livestock sales in dry years (when prices are normally low) and re-purchasing in wetter years (when prices are normally high) can wreak havoc on cash flow.

To mitigate these problems, many successful ranchers establish a long-term, base stocking rate from which they can adjust livestock numbers up or down slightly in response to annual fluctuations in forage supplies. A good target is a stocking rate of about 80-85% of what the forage supply would support in a typical year, when it's not significantly drier than usual. This base stocking rate enables the ranch to withstand one dry year, or perhaps two dry years in a row, without needing to dramatically reduce the herd.

This strategy allows old grass from normal years to be carried over and grazed during subsequent drought years, keeps plants healthy so they can better withstand heavier grazing during drought years, and keeps plants healthy so they can recover faster in subsequent wetter years. However, during extended or extreme droughts, some amount of herd liquidation is likely inevitable.

## How much summer grass?

Stocking rate decisions would be much easier if ranchers somehow knew how much forage would be available during the summer. Reliable estimates can be made by comparing this year's amount of precipitation to the long-term average or long-term median. There are three different but similar methods. One method compares the amount of precipitation received in a "crop year," while another compares the combined total precipitation received in April, May and June.

A third method averages the estimates provided by the crop year precipitation and the April plus May plus June precipitation. For example, if precipitation during the crop year from the beginning of September 2022 to the end of June 2023 equaled 70% of the

30-year average or 30-year median, then forage production will likely be about 70% of normal in summer 2023.

Similarly, if the combined total precipitation received in April, May and June 2023 equaled 80% of the 30-year average or median for April plus May plus June precipitation, then forage production will likely be about 80% of normal in summer 2023. The average of the two methods would predict 75% of normal forage production. The crop year method is best suited to areas in Montana west of the Continental Divide. The April plus May plus June method is best suited to eastern Montana. The average of these two methods is best suited to central Montana.

These methods do not provide perfect estimates because they do not account for many other factors that also affect forage growth, such as air temperature, humidity and wind. However, these simple procedures provide reliable estimates to help ranchers make informed stocking rate decisions.

## Can records manage risk?

Forage production estimates derived from either the crop year method, the April plus May plus June method or the average of

these two methods also can be used to manage risk. For example, if an area normally receives 4 inches of precipitation in April plus May plus June and no moisture was received in April, one can examine the long-term weather records to find how often the area received 4 inches in May plus June alone. The percentage of times this occurred in the past 30 years indicates the chances of it happening this year and, thus, the likelihood that summer forage production will be normal following a dry April.

Continuing with this example, if 2 inches of precipitation were received in May, the long-term weather records could be examined to find how often the area received 2 inches in June alone. The percentage of times this occurred in the past 30 years indicates the odds that the area will receive its normal 4 inches by the end of April plus May plus June and the likelihood that summer forage production will be normal.

Without precipitation records for a ranch, the Western Regional Climate Center has long-term data from hundreds of weather stations across Montana: [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu). The AgriMet system can also provide precipitation records: [www.usbr.gov/gp/agrimet](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/agrimet). — **Montana State University Extension**



## SALE CALENDAR

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### ALL BREEDS

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

### ANGUS

**Nov. 21** — Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE  
**Nov. 22** — Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY  
**Nov. 26** — Vermilion Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Billings, MT  
**Nov. 28** — Stevenson Diamond Dot, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT  
**Nov. 29** — Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT  
**Nov. 30** — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT  
**Dec. 1** — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT  
**Dec. 2** — KG Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Three Forks, MT  
**Dec. 2** — Schurrtop Ranch, Bull Sale, McCook, NE  
**Dec. 3** — Curren Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT  
**Dec. 3** — Reverse Rocking R, Bull & Female Sale, Maxwell, NM  
**Dec. 5** — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT  
**Dec. 5** — TK Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Valentine, NE  
**Dec. 8** — ZumBrunnen Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lusk, WY  
**Dec. 9** — WMR Livestock, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT  
**Dec. 10** — Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT  
**Dec. 14** — Mitchell Angus, Dispersion Sale, Burwell, NE  
**Dec. 14** — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT  
**Dec. 16** — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT  
**Jan. 12, 2023** — National Western Foundation, Female Sale, Denver, CO  
**Jan. 19** — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY  
**Jan. 24** — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale,

Roggen, CO

**Jan. 25** — Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisades, NE  
**Jan. 26** — Marcy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Gordon, NE  
**Jan. 27** — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE  
**Jan. 27** — Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE  
**Jan. 28** — Baldrige Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE  
**Jan. 30** — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE  
**Feb. 3** — Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE  
**Feb. 3** — Spring Valley Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Burwell, NE  
**Feb. 6** — Parry Angus and Simmental Ranch, Production Sale, Sterling, CO  
**Feb. 8** — Jindra Angus, Production Sale, Clarkson, NE  
**Feb. 8** — Meadow Acres Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Echo, OR  
**Feb. 9** — Booth Cherry Creek, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY  
**Feb. 11** — Schaff Angus Valley, Production Sale, St. Anthony, ND  
**Feb. 15** — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID  
**Feb. 20** — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO  
**Feb. 26** — Colyer Herefords, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID  
**Mar. 9** — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Okanogan, WA  
**Mar. 25** — Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE  
**Mar. 30** — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID  
**Apr. 8** — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

### CHAROLAIS

**Dec. 2** — Schurrtop Ranch, Bull Sale, McCook, NE  
**Mar. 14, 2023** — Romans Ranches, Production Sale, Westfall, OR  
**Apr. 8** — Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

### HEREFORD

**Nov. 30** — Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT  
**Dec. 8** — Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY  
**Jan. 16, 2023** — Van Newkirk Herefords, Production Sale, Oshkosh, NE  
**Feb. 2** — Ridder Herefords, Production Sale, Callaway, NE  
**Feb. 4** — Upstream Herefords, Production Sale, Taylor, NE  
**Feb. 15** — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID  
**Feb. 26** — Colyer Herefords,

Production Sale, Bruneau, ID

**Mar. 13** — Holden Herefords, Production Sale, Valier, MT

### MAINE ANJOU

**Jan. 14, 2023** — Western Elite, Female Sale, Denver, CO

### RED ANGUS

**Nov. 21** — Lautenschlager and Sons, Bull & Female Sale, Othello, WA

**Dec. 7** — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT

**Dec. 12** — Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Bertrand, NE

**Dec. 16** — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT

**Dec. 20** — Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE

**Feb. 15, 2023** — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

### SALERS

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

### SIMANGUS

**Dec. 3** — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

**Dec. 3** — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO

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

### SIMMENTAL

**Jan. 14, 2023** — Western Elite, Female Sale, Denver, CO

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

**Feb. 6** — Parry Angus and Simmental Ranch, Production Sale, Sterling, CO

### SOUTH DEVON

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

### STABILIZER

**Dec. 3** — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

**Dec. 15** — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

**Jan. 12, 2023** — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO

### COMMERCIAL

**Nov. 21** — Central Oregon Livestock Auction, 21st Century Female Sale, Madras, OR

**Dec. 3** — T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, La Garita, CO

**Dec. 7-9** — Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings, MT

### HORSE

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

### DOG

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

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# RED ANGUS

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# Hearing loss common in farming, can be prevented

Natural hearing loss comes with age, but exposure to a loud environment—common in agriculture—can

cause noise-induced hearing loss, said a pair of Kansas State (K-State) University safety experts.

Loud machinery, equipment and even animals can play a role in hearing loss related to farming and

ranching, said Bradley Dirks, associate director of the K-State Physician Assistance Program.

“Exposure hearing loss can be from a one-time experience like a loud concert or using a circular saw without protection,” Dirks said. “Cumulative (hearing loss) can happen over time, like working 40-50 years around machinery that (pushes) you above the decibel cutoff of 80-85.”

For reference, Dirks said people talk at about 60-70 decibels, a movie theater ranges from 75-105 decibels and a motorcycle produces 80-110 decibels.

“How close you are to the noise and how long you’re exposed is very important,” Dirks said.

Tractors with a cab are more muffled compared to those without, and the noise from machinery in open spaces will dissipate better compared to machinery in enclosed areas. Tractors normally produce 110-120 decibels.

Animals can also cause exposure hearing loss. Their effect is often overlooked when compared to machinery.

“Pigs squealing can be around 100 decibels, and so prolonged exposure to something like pigs ... in a closed environment can be a problem,” said Tawnie Larson, project coordinator with the K-State Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

She also mentioned the noise from working cattle and calves that are calling back and forth with their mothers as being a cause of hearing loss.

Dirks recommends using earmuffs or foam plugs in your ears as a preventative measure.

“If you really want to protect your ears, do both; use the foam earplugs and then put the headphones or the earmuffs over, and it becomes much more protective in those environments,” he said.

Earplugs are convenient to keep in your pockets, and many earmuffs can be carried around the neck until needed.

“Producers, parents or managers need to think about providing everyone that’s working with them and working on the farm or ranch (with) something that

can protect their ears,” Larson said.

Kids and babies are also at risk of induced hearing loss and should be provided with appropriate protection at an early age.

“It’s a cumulative thing, so the younger you start with that noise exposure, the more years you have to be exposed to high noise levels,” Dirks added.

Hearing safety is important because it is permanent and not something that can be fixed.

“And you can get hearing assistive devices, hearing aids that will amplify (sound), but that vocal range and the high range of those sound waves is gone—and once it’s gone, it’s gone. You can’t bring them back,” Dirks said.

Dirks added that hearing loss can also come from an obstruction in the canal, such as wax or buildup. Those can be solved by a doctor.

“(Hearing loss) is preventable,” Larson said. “You can turn it down, walk away or you can wear hearing protection. (Protection) is pretty easy to find at any hardware store.” — **K-State Research and Extension**



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## SCOTUS will make water decision by June 2023

### NAVAJO (from page 1)

Navajo Nation’s inhabitants in their permanent home reservation,” wrote Judge Ronald M. Gould for the appeals court.

The 9th Circuit Court also rejected the intervenors’ argument that res judicata—the principle that a claim that has been resolved can-

not be pursued further by the same parties—bars the Nation’s claim. The court argued that the Navajo Nation’s claim was over a breach of trust and not a claim seeking judicial quantification of the Nation’s water rights covered by the 1964 Supreme Court decision known as Arizona I. The decision stems from the case Arizona v. California, in which the federal government intervened to protect federal water rights, including reserved water rights held for the benefit of five Native American reservations.

The 9th Circuit Court recognized that no court has quantified the Navajo Nation’s water rights under the Winters doctrine, and the fault lies with the federal government. It also stated that when the Nation attempted to intervene in the Arizona v. California suit, the federal government opposed the motion.

### SCOTUS weighs in on ruling

In response to the 9th Circuit Court’s ruling to allow the Navajo Nation to sue the federal government over a breach of trust, the government and a group of three states (Arizona, Nevada and Colorado) filed writs of certiorari with SCOTUS, requesting a review of the decision.

The states contend the decision reduces the amount of water available to the state of Arizona and its entitlement holders. The states said if the Navajo Nation is successful in directing the federal government to redirect water from rights holders in the Lower Basin of the Colo-

rado River “based solely upon the Nation’s unquantified and unadjudicated rights, the goals of finality and clarity articulated by this Court in Arizona v. California will be undermined. Specifically, this result would upset the priorities and amount of water available to those with existing rights awarded them by the decree in Arizona v. California,” the writ said.

The federal government, in its writ, asserts that SCOTUS has previously ruled a Tribe cannot sue to enforce an asserted trust obligation against the U.S. unless the tribe can “identify a specific, applicable, trust-creating statute or regulation that the Government violated.”

“Nothing in the supposed sources the court of appeals cited imposes any specific and affirmative duties on the federal government on behalf of the Navajo Nation with respect to the water of the Colorado River or the basin more generally, much less a duty to conduct the sort of broad ranging inquiry the Navajo Nation seeks,” the writ stated.

Lawyers for the Navajo Nation, in their objection to the writs, said the appeals court’s decision does not conflict with any of SCOTUS’ decisions.

“The dispute here between the Navajo Nation and the federal government concerns the federal government’s duty to assess the Nation’s water needs and develop a plan to meet them,” the lawyers wrote.

According to the Los Angeles Times, SCOTUS will hear the case early next year and make its decision by the end of June. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

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