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INSIDE WLJ

DIVIDED — Newest Rabobank Quarterly report shows divided global beef markets. Page 6

HOPEFUL — Above-average water supply keeps California farmers hopeful. Page 8

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"As we come to the close of 1950, we realize that we have been in a boom period. Everything is higher than ever before: taxes, wages, income, prices of everything we sell and everything we buy. But people are not too happy about it because every sensible person realizes that our so-called prosperity is based upon the terrible threat of another devastating world war in which the people of the United States may have to fight for survival," read the December 1950 WLJ article reflecting on the holiday season.

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CA ballot initiative could decimate ag statewide

— Sets out to ban CAFOs

A coalition of animal rights and environmental justice groups is campaigning to ban concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in California's Sonoma County.

The coalition, coined the Coalition to End Factory Farming, is backed by the San Francisco Bay

Area chapter of the activist group Direct Action Everywhere and aims to put a measure on Sonoma County's 2024 ballot to outlaw CAFO operations.

The group alleges on their website they are launching a campaign to "ban the worst factory farms in Sonoma County in order to protect animals, the planet and public health." They claim CAFOs harm

animals while exacerbating the drought and wildfires in the state, and pollute air and water.

Contending that legislators "won't act to solve the problem," the coalition is taking it upon themselves to collect signatures to put the "Prohibition on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" measure through the ballot measure process.

Ordinance details

The ordinance reads that its mission is to protect the environment, animals and Sonoma County residents by prohibiting CAFOs within the unincorporated areas of the county.

The measure would prohibit

See SONOMA on page 5



Wikimedia

Animal activists are proposing a drastic ballot measure in California that would essentially put a stop to animal agriculture in Sonoma County. Pictured here, cattle grazing in Sonoma County's Tolay Lake Regional Park.

Wyoming ranch appeals corner-crossing decision

— Ag groups file amicus briefs

A Wyoming ranch owner has appealed a case to the federal court seeking to overturn a district court decision that hunters who corner-crossed from one piece of public land to another over the airspace of private property did not constitute trespass.

Lawyers for Fred Eshelman, owner of Iron Bar Holdings LLC, argued to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals that the decision by U.S. District Court Judge Scott Skavdahl faultily relied on a 100-year-old decision by the 8th Circuit Court that is "not binding, persuasive, or even valid today."

Instead, the lawyers argued the Supreme Court in 1979 held that the government does not hold any right-of-way across private land corners to access lands that are

landlocked on the checkerboard, as in the case of Leo Sheep Co. v. United States.

The court clarified that private citizens, as government licensees, do not possess access rights superior to those of the government, especially in cases involving property rights.

Background

The case before the 10th Circuit involved four hunters who crossed over a survey marker and steel posts with "No Trespassing" signs from one piece of public property to another on the checkerboard of private and public land. The Iron Bar ranch manager confronted the hunters, stating they did not have permission to cross, and the sheriff eventually issued a trespassing citation. A jury trial found the hunters not guilty in 2022, and Iron Bar

sought injunctive relief and a declaration that the hunters' actions were unlawful trespassing.

Skavdahl ruled the hunters did not trespass or violate the airspace above the ranch's property, citing two previous decisions. The first involved the 1914 case of Mackay v. Unita Development Co., which concerned driving sheep. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals held that Mackay should have a reasonable right of passage over the company's lands to access public lands. In the second case, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that for someone to trespass into a property's airspace, they had to, in some other way, damage the property or interfere with the use of that property—which was not the case for the hunters.

Eshelman's attorneys argued that

See APPEAL on page 13

Domestic sheep permits retired for bighorn sheep

— Over 101,000 acres retired

A Colorado ranching family has agreed to waive their sheep grazing permits in favor of reducing domestic sheep and bighorn sheep conflicts.

The Etchart family and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) have come to an agreement for the Etcharts to retire sheep grazing permits on 10 allotments totaling more than 101,000 acres. The allotments are located in the San Juan Mountains, a rugged mountain range located in southwestern Colorado. Under the agreement, the Etchart family was paid fair market value compensation for waiving their permits, the NWF said.

"These allotments were good ones for our sheep operation. But with the increasing number of backcountry recreational users and proximity to bighorn sheep, the conflicts were becoming a real chal-

lenge," Ernie Etchart said. "At the end of the day, this was a business decision for us—it was an opportunity we felt like we needed to pursue and it will allow us to diversify our operation."

The NWF said the family's partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service will ensure bighorn sheep are protected for generations to come. The wildlife group estimates Colorado's bighorn sheep population at just 10% of its historical size.

"While retiring the grazing permits on these allotments is a huge win for bighorns, these agreements are still difficult decisions for the livestock producer and the Etcharts have been an incredible partner in every step of the process," said Bob McCready, wildlife conflict resolution program manager with the NWF.

The allotments have been grazed

See BIGHORN on page 9

Pressure develops in market post-Thanksgiving

(Editor's note: This report contains market comparisons to the prior issue's Tuesday press date, not the standard Thursday to Thursday comparison.)

Coming back from a short week, the market failed to find much support higher.

Live cattle futures were several dollars lower. The December contract lost a little over \$4 to close at \$170.87, and the February contract lost \$4.25 to close at \$171.82.

"This market volatility has led to additional market shifts and growing uncertainty about the ability to sustain recent gains," DTN wrote on Thursday. "Also uncertain is just how much additional support can be expected through the end of the year."

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 51,000 head. Live steers sold from \$171-175, and dressed steers sold from \$273-275.

"Although these prices are steady with midweek trade, current trade is \$4 per cwt lower than last week's weighted average in the north, and generally \$2 per cwt lower in the South," DTN said. "It is expected some trade will need to develop in the coming days, but the tone of the market may

have been set already."

Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 26 totaled 51,288 head. Live steers averaged \$176.70, and dressed steers averaged \$278.95.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 20-27 was the following on a live basis:

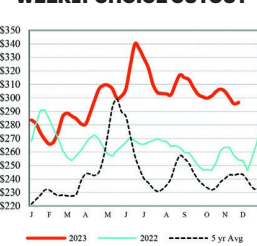
- Negotiated purchases: \$176.83.
- Formula net purchases: \$182.58.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$174.09.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$185.40.

On a dressed basis:
• Negotiated purchases: \$279.05.

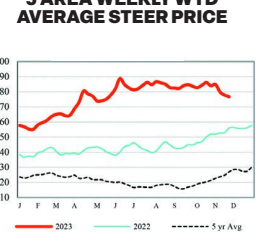
See MARKETS on page 11

Time Sensitive
Priority Handling
PERIODICAL:

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



↑	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$174.76	\$274.69	\$224.77
WEEK ENDING: 11-30-23		

COMMENTS

Black Friday

The long traders have left the building; hopefully Black Friday marked the end of the feeder cattle futures selloff with massive down days. It's kind of hard to figure after we expected the market to pick up a bit after Thanksgiving. 'Tis the season for feeder cattle supplies to decline, estimates are there are 1.2 million fewer feeder cattle available.



CROW

On Nov. 22, Black Friday, the January feeder cattle contract dropped \$7.80, the following Monday it dropped \$6.52 and Tuesday it was back up \$8. All first quarter contracts are in the \$230 zone, and that's about where the cash market was a week ago. It's kind of hard to rationalize a \$56 market swing in two months.

Why the futures markets went crazy the day after Thanksgiving is on everyone's mind; some are saying that the managed money left the feeder cattle markets, and the electronic traders were on autopilot. Some are saying it was covering Livestock Risk Protection contracts that left the market with no buyers and plenty of short sellers.

Where the fed cattle market goes the feeder cattle market goes and we've been warning of front-end fed cattle supplies building for the past couple months. And carcass weights are growing larger which isn't a good sign for orderly fed cattle marketing. Packers don't seem interested in killing more than around 625,000 head per week—they also want to keep the Choice cutout around that \$300 mark. Most fed cattle trade was at \$174-175 and \$280 dressed; cattle traded early in the week, which they often do in a declining market.

"As futures find their footing, Choice boxed beef values are holding about steady in the \$297 area," said Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Wednesday. "Packers will be black this week it appears, since they have saved on cattle costs with cash prices their cheapest since May. But they are faced with the task of gathering more inventory, given they've only purchased 14.4k head as of Wednesday morning and the past three weeks have comprised the three smallest trade volumes combined of the year. True, holiday-shortened slaughters are on tap, but this week is estimated to be 635k to 640k head."

It will be interesting to see where the Choice beef cutout goes from here. The holiday rib market has been slow to develop. Post-Thanksgiving beef features should pick up soon; I would have to imagine the forward purchase of loins and ribs has already occurred. One would think that in the next few weeks we should see much larger slaughter weeks.

Consumer demand is being discussed more often along with the export markets. The word is that consumers are becoming tapped out on credit cards and not saving enough, employment remains strong and mortgage interest is coming down. Recent reports were that consumers were spending big and setting spending records over the Thanksgiving holiday spending spree. Something isn't matching up and it appears that consumers may be moving to cheaper meat choices.

"Growing concerns over a modest post-New Years recession may be partially responsible," said Andy Gottschalk of HedgersEdge.com. "Uncertainty is the enemy of all markets, serving as a catalyst to slow consumer spending. There are no shortages in the U.S. and world economies at this time."

We still have a positive trend for the cattle complex, but we may have seen the trading range for fed cattle established for 2024 at \$174-198. Cattle feeders have a better feed cost forecast than they have had for several years. I realize that some of those summer yearlings they bought last summer have \$200 breakevens built into them.

Inflation has been backing up, gas is under \$3 a gallon, and the average price for all meats is higher. Fed cattle are in plenty supply, for now, but that will change too. Feeders need to market cattle more aggressively to clear front-end supplies so we can get this market moving again; some production costs have come down. Futures markets are oversold and I'm sure the long traders will be back. The long-term fundamentals are strong. But always manage your risk. — **PETE CROW**

KAY'S KORNER



Less than a month remains of 2023, a year that was full of promise until the fourth quarter. The quarter is not quite over but so far it has not treated the cattle and beef complex kindly. The four weeks from the third week of October saw an \$8.33/cwt live decline in fed cattle prices and a \$9.26/cwt decline in the weekly comprehensive boxed beef cutout. Somewhat alarmingly, the buildup to the Thanksgiving holiday failed to give the markets an expected lift.

The beef complex will now be hoping that beef demand at retail, foodservice and export levels will all increase significantly. While there is evidence of a slowing in beef demand, this was exacerbated by the arrival of turkey season, says Andrew Gottschalk, HedgersEdge.com. It is essential that post-Thanksgiving demand shows improvement. Domestic demand for the Christmas and New Year holiday period has been slow in developing. The same can be said for holiday export demand. Growing concerns over a modest post-New Year recession may be partially responsible. Uncertainty is the enemy of all markets, serving as a catalyst to slow consumer spending. There are no shortages of crosswinds in the U.S. and world economies at this time, he says.

The fourth quarter thus far has not treated the cattle complex well, with lower prices across the spectrum, says Gottschalk. The last time fourth quarter prices averaged below third quarter levels was in 2016. Slower than expected beef sales domestically and especially for export underly this weakness. The most recent year when December prices averaged below November levels was in 2017. Additionally, only one year since 2008, 2015, recorded a lower first quarter average price basis western Kansas than the prior fourth quarter price, he says.

Weakness in live cattle futures prices, negative packer margins and smaller-than-expected steer and heifer slaughter all combined to drag down cash live cattle prices last month. The December live cattle contract declined from \$184.67/cwt on Nov. 2 to \$170.42/cwt on Nov. 24. Packer margins have been negative for 10 consecutive weeks since the week ending Sept. 22. Cash live cattle prices have fallen sharply also due to cattle feeders with hedged cattle accepting lower prices to take advantage of the positive basis between cash and futures prices.

A ROUGH ENDING

Meanwhile, the outlook for reduced live cattle supplies in the first quarter has been reversed because of smaller feedlot marketings than expected. October marketings at 1.758 million head were 2.6% below last year and were 0.6% smaller than analysts' average forecast. More important, they were 7% below last year after taking into account one more slaughter day this year than last year. The slow pace means the front-end supply of cattle will remain above year-ago levels into the second quarter next year.

October placements at 2.164 million head were 2.3% lower than forecast and the Nov. 1 cattle on feed total of 11.931 million head was 0.2% higher than forecast. The total was 195,000 head higher than a year ago and was the fourth largest total for the date (only 42,000 head below the record).

October marketings represented a decline of 46,000 head from a year ago and a decline of 88,000 head versus the previous five-year average, says Gottschalk. Needless to say, lack of aggressive marketings is the principal cause of the ongoing build-up in front-end cattle supplies. During the past two months, marketings fell 243,000 head below the same time frame of a year ago, with total harvest days being the same. Marketings must accelerate to limit eventual selling pressure, he says.

Front-end supplies (those on feed 150 days or more) project to remain above year ago levels and above the previous five-year average going into the second quarter, says Gottschalk. They will likely trend like this throughout the entire quarter. The change in this category of cattle from Nov. 1 to April 1 is projected to increase by 462,000 head. This compares to an increase during the same period a year ago of 199,000 head and the previous five-year average gain of 400,000 head, he says.

The bottom line is that stronger beef demand at home and abroad will be crucial if the cattle and wholesale beef markets are to perform better in the coming two quarters than they did in 2023's fourth quarter. — **Steve Kay, WLJ columnist**

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

GUEST OPINION

It's the season for giving thanks but many Americans aren't feeling thankful. The nation is in a miserable mood. Many fear the country is speeding toward disaster.

Left and right alike share the feeling, though for different reasons. The right is convinced the left hates America and is determined to do away with the American way of life. The left is sure the right hates democracy and wants to replace it with strongman rule.

Even people of moderate persuasion are gloomy. A friend in New York City, a thoughtful man of the middle, is thinking of taking his remaining savings and buying land in Canada.

Civilizations rise and fall, he reasons. Their average lifespan is 250 years. The U.S. will reach 250 in 2026. He hopes having a few acres in Canada on which several houses could be built would give his children and grandchildren a place to flee.

Why this pervasive pessimism? It is, at least in part, a byproduct of the extreme polarization that has come to characterize our politics. This polarization has distorted Americans' perceptions of those who disagree with them.

Each side sees the other as so radical, so alien, so bent on transforming society in catastrophic ways that every election becomes a life-and-death struggle. They're convinced society is on the brink of disaster because they think the worst of each other. Those in the middle, like my New York friend, are in despair. They can't imagine a civilization this polarized continuing.

Well, here's a ray of hope, a seed that if watered and nourished could grow into a solution: The left and the right are wrong about each other. Neither side is as extreme as the other thinks; there are even issues where their views overlap.

More in Common, a nonprofit group, has provided a key piece of evidence. The group did a detailed study of Americans' views on an issue that has seemed particularly divisive, how American history should be taught. The study included surveys, focus groups and in-depth interviews. The study's surprising finding: The divisiveness is more a matter of perception than reality.

It turns out big majorities of Americans at both ends of the spectrum favor a balanced, nuanced approach to the teaching of history. To cite one example among many in the study, more than 75% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats agreed with

MORE COMMON GROUND IN SOCIETY THAN WE THINK

the following four statements:

- "It's important that every American student learn about slavery, Jim Crow and segregation."
- "Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks should be taught as examples of Americans who fought for equality."
- "Schools should teach both our shared national history and the history of specific groups such as Black, Hispanic and Native Americans."
- "George Washington and Abraham Lincoln should be admired for their roles in American history."

As I said, more than 75% of Republicans and Democrats agreed with all four. This convergence of views flies in the face of what cable-television and social-media partisans preach. They win elections and make livings stoking anger at the dangerous extremists who supposedly dominate the other side.

Many Americans believe them. The result is a dangerous gap between perception and reality. Take that statement about Washington and Lincoln. According to More in Common, 87% of Democrats agree with it. That's the reality. The perception? Republicans figured only 42% of Democrats would agree.

Or take the first statement, the one about slavery, Jim Crow and segregation. According to More in Common, the reality is that 83% of Republicans agree every student should learn this. The perception? Democrats thought only 32% of Republicans would agree.

We've been taught, it seems, to think the worst of each other. To imagine that no common ground exists. To think the gap is so wide that compromise is impossible.

It's not true. Many of us, I suspect, know deep down that there are good, well-intentioned people at almost every point along the ideological spectrum. And thanks to studies like More in Common's, we know that at least on some divisive issues the differences between people at different points aren't as big as partisan politicians and pundits want us to think.

Yes, there are extremists on both sides, people who fit the stereotypes that the partisans insist cover everyone on the other side. But they're not the majority. Not by a long shot. That's something to be thankful for. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

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Court sides with farmers against John Deere

Antitrust lawsuits filed by more than 17 farmers across the country against John Deere will be allowed to continue after a federal court in Illinois on Nov. 27 denied a company motion that would have ended the case.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Illinois denied a Deere motion to issue a ruling in an ongoing right-to-repair antitrust case based on the pleadings in the case. The lawsuits allege the company monopolized the repair service market for John Deere brand agricultural equipment with onboard central computers known as engine control units (ECUs).

John Deere essentially asked the court to rule on the facts already presented before a trial could be held. In its motion filed in December 2022, Deere alleged the farmer plaintiffs lack legal standing to sue, fail to identify a "plausible relevant market" to base their claims, fail to "plausibly allege" Deere has monopoly power in the repair-services market and fail to "plausibly allege" any "anticompetitive" conduct.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston said the farmers' complaint "alleges both constitutional and antitrust standing, relevant markets and all the

necessary requirements for each count in the complaint."

The judge said he expects the case to be a "long and expensive" process despite "this court's goal of bringing this litigation to a just, speedy and inexpensive resolution. This order is the first major step on that journey."

The lawsuits allege Deere violated the Sherman Antitrust Act and are seeking damages for paying for repairs from Deere dealers beginning on Jan. 12, 2018, to the present.

John Deere did not respond to DTN's request for comment.

"Less than an hour's drive from the Stanley J. Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse down Illinois Route 2 between Oregon and Dixon, Illinois is the John Deere Historic Site," Johnston said in his order.

"Free of charge, visitors can learn much about John Deere, the man. The takeaway from a visit to this historic site is that John Deere was an innovative farmer and blacksmith who—with his own hands—fundamentally changed the agricultural industry. This multi-district litigation concerns allegations of non-competitive behavior by Deere and Co., a multi-billion-dollar international corporation.

If—and that's a big if—the claims against Deere and Co. are meritorious, then the court assumes the man lionized at the historic site would be deeply disappointed in his namesake corporation."

Johnston said the farmers' complaint meets all the legal requirements for antitrust litigation.

"The complaint contains

allegations showing that Deere has monopoly power—which exists because of Deere's lack of forthrightness and/or the lack of consumer information to calculate life-cycle costs—in the relevant aftermarket," the ruling said.

"No other competitors exist, which is monopoly power. And Deere's alleged conduct excludes competitors

at the cost of Deere's customers' choices to perform their own repairs or have a local repair shop perform the repairs, even when they could perform the repairs faster, better, and cheaper, which is anticompetitive conduct. So, the complaint alleges a monopoly and anticompetitive conduct."

Though more states are considering right-to-repair

legislation there is a growing call for Congress to act on a national level.

Agriculture interest groups have been reaching agreements with equipment manufacturers, to ensure increased access of necessary diagnostic and other tools to farmers and independent repair shops. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Adding purchased bred heifers to the herd

Sickness can spread when cattle originating from different operations co-mingle too soon, said Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle experts on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"Whenever a new animal is added to the herd, even if it is coming from a reputable operation, it is important to isolate them from the rest of the herd for at least a couple of weeks," said K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers, adding that isolating means no nose-to-nose contact with other animals in the herd.

He said that this isolation period also allows the new herd additions to get comfortable in their surroundings and learn where the feed and water are located.

"It is important to get

them acclimated to the new location as well as monitor them for disease," Lubbers said.

While these principles apply to all new cattle, the focus of the experts' discussion was about adding purchased bred heifers to the herd.

To keep the disease risk to a minimum, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson said it is important to learn the seller's vaccination protocols to see how they align with the purchaser's herd health plan.

"It is important to make sure bred heifers are well protected with vaccinations for diseases that can cause abortions," Larson said. "And sometimes it is worthwhile to vaccinate them one more time as they approach

calving to make sure the health protocols fit with the herd they've been added to."

Larson also stressed that purchasers pay close attention to the expected calving date of the female they are considering.

"It is important to select bred heifers that are due to calve before the rest of the cowherd starts calving or at least in the first couple of weeks of the calving season," Larson said. "If they calve late compared to the cows, they will not fit into the herd long term regardless of the other criteria."

K-State veterinarian Brad White agreed, adding: "Heifers will have a longer postpartum interval, calving them early gives them a greater opportunity to breed back and calve at the right

time in the next calving season."

Additionally, it is important to assess the body condition of the bred heifers and manage them accordingly because their nutritional needs are often different from the cows, said K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster.

"Bred heifers are at a different growth stage than cows, so in the last trimester of the pregnancy when the fetus is gaining weight, she should also be adding about half a pound per day to meet her own growth needs," Lancaster said. "We don't want her to be thin going into the calving season, so the goal is to maintain her at a body condition score of six." — **K-State Research and Extension**



December 19, 2023

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CED **14**
BW **0.5**
WW **104**
YW **161**
MB **0.69**
RE **1.02**
\$API **185**
\$TI **109**

J1017 >> LBRS GENESIS G69 Daughter.



CED **18**
BW **-2.3**
WW **74**
YW **123**
MB **0.73**
RE **0.91**
\$API **170**
\$TI **92**

J1010 >> IR CAPITALIST E041 Daughter.



CED **16**
BW **-0.9**
WW **103**
YW **159**
MB **0.54**
RE **1.04**
\$API **164**
\$TI **103**

J1021 >> HOOK'S EAGLE 6E Daughter.



CED **18**
BW **-4.1**
WW **81**
YW **125**
MB **0.62**
RE **1.14**
\$API **168**
\$TI **95**

K2004 >> JC MR TALON 403G Daughter.



CED **12**
BW **-1.9**
WW **76**
YW **124**
MB **0.74**
RE **0.61**
\$API **157**
\$TI **89**

J1044 >> TJ DIPLOMAT 294D Daughter.



CED **13**
BW **-0.6**
WW **68**
YW **106**
MB **0.81**
RE **0.78**
\$API **176**
\$TI **87**

K2026 >> CLRS HOMELAND 327H Daughter.

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Judge halves MT wolf trapping season to protect grizzlies

A federal judge has directed Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to cut much of Montana's wolf trapping season in half due to evidence that traps and snares set for wolves unintentionally capture grizzly bears, which are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In a 25-page order, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy wrote that the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force and WildEarth Guardians established "a reasonably certain threat of imminent harm to grizzly bears should Montana's wolf trapping and snaring seasons proceed as planned."

Molloy directed the state to scrap its current season plans for most of the state in favor of more conservative start and end dates. The state's Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2021 adopted a floating start date to provide some assurance that grizzly bears would be in their dens before traps and snares are set inside occupied grizzly bear habitat.

Molloy heard oral arguments on the conservation groups' preliminary injunction request on Nov. 20. The plaintiffs filed the lawsuit against the state of Montana, Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) and Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair Lesley Robinson on Sept. 22.

FWP has recorded more than 20 instances of grizzlies being caught in traps set for

other animals since 1988, and an expert for the plaintiffs has documented "numerous other examples" of such incidents, according to Molloy's order.

Grizzly bear biologists have demonstrated an increase in the number of bears exhibiting "trap-like injuries" since wolf trapping was legalized, the plaintiffs asserted. Grizzly bear biologists noted that in 2021 alone, four different bears were missing body parts, including forelegs and toes, likely due to trapping. Other injuries that can arise from capture in traps and snares include limb fractures and dislocations, as well as tooth and gum damage.

"Each of these untoward events would violate (Section 9) of the ESA," Molloy wrote, adding that "trapping or capturing an endangered species is an unlawful 'take' even if the action does not cause injury or mortality."

Defendants countered that FWP's floating start date in grizzly-occupied areas has reduced the likelihood of unintentional grizzly bear capture and injury. They also highlighted other protective measures the Fish and Wildlife Commission has adopted such as restrictions on snaring in lynx protection zones and requirements that trappers use breakaway devices on snares and check their traps every 48 hours.

The state argued that there have been no incidences of a

bear caught in a public (i.e., non-research) wolf trap in a decade.

"While Defendants may be correct that there have been no confirmed reports of grizzly bears caught in recreational wolf traps in Montana since 2013, the precise harm at issue in this case has been well-documented in Montana and adjacent states and provinces that share the home ranges of Montana's grizzly bear populations," Molloy wrote.

"The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission remains a clear and present danger to Montana's carnivores and predators and we look forward to reining them in."

The plaintiffs had also argued that evidence suggests grizzlies are likely to be out of their dens through more of the winter and that trend will only increase as climate change brings warmer winter temperatures to the region.

In an emailed press release cheering the order, the plaintiffs expressed optimism that they'll prevail on the larger issues in the lawsuit as the case proceeds.

"We are pleased with this order and remain confident we will prevail on the larger merits of the case," Patty Ames of the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force said. "The Montana Fish and Wild-

life Commission remains a clear and present danger to Montana's carnivores and predators, and we look forward to reining them in."

In a Facebook post, Gianforte argued that Molloy's "sweeping order tramples the rights of trappers."

"Montana has a healthy, sustainable population of wolves and grizzlies, and there has been no incidental takes of grizzlies from wolf trapping in Montana since 2013. And yet misusing ESA protections for the grizzly to thwart the state's wolf management plan, the activist judge has obstructed the state from responsibly managing wolves based on

the sound science of FWP biologists."

Molloy's order narrows the 2023-24 season start and end dates while the lawsuit proceeds. Per his order, wolf trapping and snaring cannot begin until Jan. 1, 2024, and will end on Feb. 15 in FWP's five westernmost regions. It also applies to Hill, Blaine and Phillips counties.

In areas in and near occupied grizzly habitat, the state had been set to open trapping season sometime between Nov. 27 and Dec. 31 and close it on March 15. The state said it will appeal the order. — **Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press**

Mitchell awarded top honors at WLAC qualifier

After a day of competitive bid-calling in Paris, KY, 10 more auctioneers have advanced to the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC). The qualifiers, led by Daniel Mitchell, Cumberland, OH, will next compete in the semifinals, to be held at the Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City, OK, in June 2024.

The bid-caller from the Buckeye State said it was both exciting and humbling to win, especially with such tough competition. But even if he hadn't come out on top, it's still a great time.

"The competition is always exciting," Mitchell said, adding

that he understands why it's such a popular event for spectators both in-person and online. "They say the people that have the best chant are cattle auctioneers because of the rhythmic ability and moving fast and repetition. I think it's so popular with people because it's a very pleasing sound to hear. The people like to hear the speed, the rhythm and try to keep up with that."

Michael Dominique, one of the event's judges, said it was especially fun to see the next generation of livestock auctioneers.

"I think it's good to see the young blood that's coming up and to see what's going to take

over in the future," he said. "These guys are all on the cutting edge of where the industry is going and what they're doing. And for me, that's an exciting thing to watch."

But the contest isn't all fun and games. It's a unique opportunity to spotlight an integral part of the livestock industry. Reserve Champion Preston Smith, Imperial, NE, said the WLAC events are an educational and promotional tool for businesses like his.

"We get to showcase what we can do," Smith said. "A lot of people 20 years ago didn't know what all livestock sale barns went through—especially the auctioneer. And it

just brought us out to the front, and said, this is what we do for our customers. This is what we're doing for our people, our buyers, our sellers."

Neil Bouray, Webber, KS, was named runner-up.

Completing the top 10 and semi-finalist qualifiers for June are: Andy Baumeister, Goldthwaite, TX; Justin Dodson, Welch, OK; Jeremy Miller, Fairland, OK; Ben Morgan, Union, WV; Ross Parks, New Concord, OH; Ethan Schuette, Washington, KS; and Jeff Showalter, Broadway, VA. Kyle Nisly, Montezuma, GA, was named high score rookie. — **Livestock Marketing Association**



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Ordinance needs 30,000 signatures to make ballot

SONOMA (from page 1)

operators from establishing, operating, expanding or maintaining CAFOs in the county, and require existing CAFOs to be deemed as a nonconforming use. Existing operations would also be required to register on a public database held by the county's agriculture department.

Existing CAFOs would be given a phase-out period of three years to modify or terminate their operations so they are no longer classified as a CAFO. During the phase-out period, the ordinance would require the operation to follow "best management practices" created by the agricultural commissioner and a California-based humane society.

Under the ordinance, anyone who continues to operate a CAFO after the phase-out period would face fines of \$1,000 for the first offense, \$5,000 for the second offense and \$10,000 for the third and subsequent offenses. Each day of violation would be considered a separate offense.

The county would also be required to provide a retraining and employment assistance program for current and former CAFO workers during the phase-out period.

"The purpose of this program is to provide individuals who worked at a CAFO at the time of this Ordinance's enactment or who worked at a CAFO at any point during the phase-out period with the training needed to work at a legally acceptable agricultural operation or in a different job sector," the measure read.

At least 30,000 signatures are needed for the ordinance to make it onto Sonoma County's 2024 ballot. If the measure were to pass, it would go into effect immediately as allowable. As of Nov. 30, just over 19,500 signatures had

been collected, according to the coalition.

Industry opposition

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is strongly opposed to the ordinance and called the measure "par for the course" for anti-agriculture groups. "Having failed to pull the wool over lawmakers' eyes, these radical groups are now trying to mislead the voters of Sonoma County to achieve their ends," Kirk Wilbur, CCA vice president of government affairs, told *WLJ* in an email.

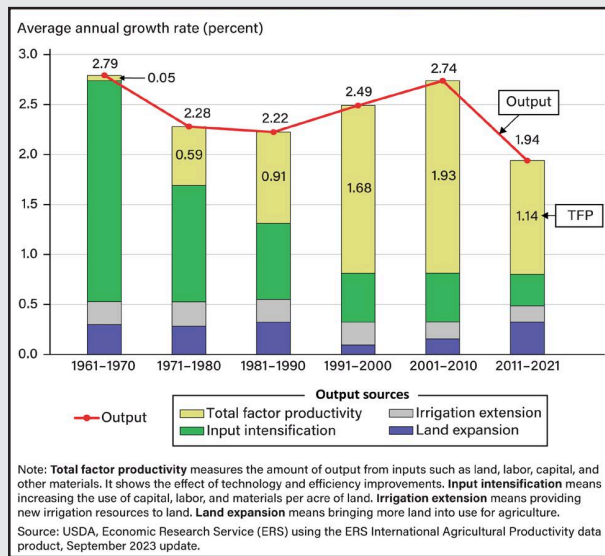
He continued that the initiative makes baseless and unfounded accusations against agriculture, such as saying that treatment of animals in CAFOs regularly violates the state's animal cruelty laws. In addition, Wilbur said the ordinance misleadingly cherry-picks statistics, omitting data specific to California.

"For instance, the initiative alleges that livestock 'contribute 14.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions,' when in California that number is closer to 5% (indeed, all California agriculture is only 8% of in-state emissions) and is declining thanks to voluntary efforts of producers," Wilbur said.

He added that California ranches are among the most heavily regulated and responsibly operated in the world, and this measure won't change meat demand but will result in more beef exported from less-responsible regions, exacerbating the global climate crisis.

"This ballot initiative would harm California livestock producers, the state and its citizens' financial security, and global efforts against climate change, all in the name of demonizing livestock producers," Wilbur concluded. "Sonoma County voters would be wise to reject it." — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

Growth rate of global ag output has slowed



In the last decade, world agricultural output grew at an average annual rate of 1.94% per year, far slower than the 2.74% output growth rate over the previous decade and below the average annual rate of 2.3% over the last six decades (1961-2021).

The slowdown in agricultural growth was primarily tied to a slowing rate of growth in agricultural total factor productivity (TFP), which fell to 1.14% per year in 2011-21 (compared with 1.93% per year the previous decade).

TFP measures the

amount of agricultural output produced from the aggregated inputs used in the production process (land, labor, capital and material resources).

The figure shows four major sources of overall growth: bringing more land into production (holding yields fixed); extending irrigation to land; intensifying the use of capital, labor and material inputs per unit of land; and improving TFP, which reflects the rate of technological and efficiency improvements of inputs. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



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COMING EVENTS

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

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

Jan. 10-13 – Registration is now open for the 2024 American Sheep Industry Association Annual

Convention at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO. Early bird rates apply through Dec. 8 and all online registrations must be completed by Dec. 18. Details: tinyurl.com/33x26zdm.

Jan. 21-Feb. 2, 2024 – Mark your calendars for the 2024 Cattle Industry Convention & National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show, which is heading to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Additional information is available at convention.ncba.org.



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.)*

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

Rabobank: Global beef markets are divided

—Demand may be weakening

The latest Rabobank Quarterly report on the status of global beef markets shows high prices and declining production in the U.S. amid potential weakening consumer demand versus increased production and lower prices in the Southern Hemisphere.

"We continue to see North American cattle prices track at high levels, while in the Southern Hemisphere countries, prices remain soft," said Angus Gidley-Baird, senior analyst of animal protein at Rabobank.

According to Gidley-Baird, the opposing positions have caused a redistribution of beef trade. The contractionary phase in the U.S., following an extended period of herd liquidation, is expected to result in reduced produc-

tion levels, leading to a need for increased imports and a decrease in exports.

Meanwhile, the expansionary cycle in Australia, along with anticipated drier weather and some liquidation of surplus stock, is projected to boost production volumes. Brazil's production is also expected to rise, resulting in increased exports from these countries.

Rabobank said North American cattle prices remained elevated. Cattle prices in the U.S. were steady, while Canadian prices rose 3% between June and October. Prices in Southern Hemisphere countries, such as Australia, have experienced a significant drop, down 28% since June, with New Zealand and Brazil also seeing declines, though by smaller amounts.

Overall beef production in Rabobank's monitored

markets is anticipated to decline by 1% year over year (YOY) in 2023, as the increases in Australia and Brazil are insufficient to offset the declines in Europe, Canada and the U.S. Rabobank expects a similar trend going into 2024.

"The volume balance for the major beef producing and consuming regions of the world (that we track) will remain relatively constant in 2024," Gidley-Baird said.

He continued that while production and consumption remain steady, trade will need to shift according to changes at the individual country level.

"The U.S. will be one of the big movers," Gidley-Baird said. "After shifting to a net-import position in 2023, we expect production to contract further 4.5%, while consumption drops 3% in 2024, increasing the net-import position."

Rabobank reported USDA's All-Fresh Beef retail price has increased for the 10th time since November 2022 from a low of \$7.15/lb. to \$7.82/lb. in September. Based on a softer demand outlook, the report anticipates prices could average more than \$8/lb in 2024.

"Consumer income growth is being undermined by inflation and consumer confidence remains shaken by the domestic recession and geopolitical risks," Gidley-Baird said.

With the implementation of the European Union's (EU) regulation on deforestation-free products in 2024, Rabobank suggests that it might impact the flow of beef imports. A decline in cattle numbers within the EU throughout 2023 is expected to result in a 1.5% reduction in EU beef production

in 2024, potentially leading to broader implications across the entire beef trade complex, according to Gidley-Baird.

Rabobank anticipates increases in production and exports from Australia and Mexico. New Zealand is also expected to gain, though its growth is limited by production and export constraints. Brazil is expected to supply substantial volumes again to fulfill the quota for non-specified countries early in 2024. Rabobank anticipates production growth of 1-2% YOY, supporting a 2-3% rise in exports. Argentina is also expected to increase YOY by 5-7% in 2024 to meet the heightened demand.

The biggest recipient in the rise of exports is China, where imports are expected to increase by 5% in 2024, driven by a recovering demand, especially in

the foodservice sector.

"Indications from China are that the type of products in demand is changing, with more attention being paid to value-for-money products and less to premium ones driven by consumer caution," Gidley-Baird said. "This consumer caution may be supported initially by reduced volumes of more expensive North American beef and increased volumes of Australian and South American beef."

Rabobank cautioned the contraction of beef production in the U.S., as higher global prices may result in some pushback from global beef consumers. The report said that margins in the beef supply chain may be squeezed in 2024 to manage higher prices and accommodate consumers.

— Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

Reducing hay feeding losses

Hay is expensive and many long hours go into harvesting, storing and feeding it. Don't waste up to one-third of it by using poor feeding practices.

Believe it or not, cattle can trample, overconsume, manure on, and use for bedding up to 25-45% of your hay when it is fed with no restrictions. Extra control in feeding can pay off big time with that expensive hay.

For starters, don't provide more than one day's supply at a time. Research has shown that when cows are fed a four-day supply, they will overeat and waste 20-30% more hay than when they are fed one day at a time. This adds up to \$50-75 more per cow over a four-month feeding period.

Best of all is to feed only what the livestock will clean up in one meal, so nothing is left over to be wasted. Be sure to provide sufficient

space, though, for all animals to eat at once so boss cows don't stop timid cows from getting their fair share.

Another thing you can do is restrict access to hay. Use bale racks or rings to keep animals off the hay. Especially useful are racks with barriers around the bottom that prevent livestock from pulling hay loose with their feet and dragging it out to be stepped on. If you unroll bales or grind and feed on the ground, position an electric fence alongside or above the hay to keep cows from trampling or bedding down on the hay.

As always, feed a balanced ration that provides sufficient energy and protein, but not too much. Animals that eat more protein than they need will simply excrete it as extra nitrogen in their urine. This is just as wasteful as directly trampling it into the ground. — Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension

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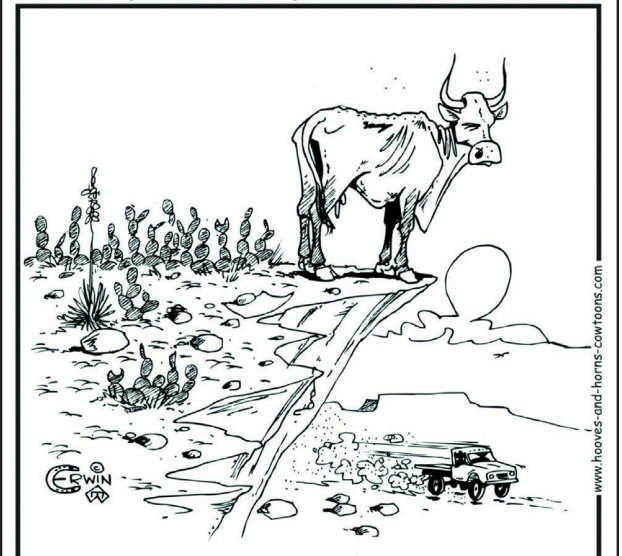
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Wolverine listed under ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially announced on Nov. 29 that it would be listing the wolverine as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The agency also issued an interim rule under Section 4(d) that exempts take related to: research, lawful trapping for other species or forest management activities. The North American wolverine is a medium-sized carnivore found within the northern Rocky Mountains and north Cascade Mountains. "Today's court decision gives this amazing, snow-dependent species a long-overdue lifeline in the face of massive habitat loss due to climate change," said Bonnie Rice, national wildlife campaign manager for Sierra Club, in response to the decision.

Groups ask to halt aerial wolf shootings

A group of environmental groups has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prohibit the aerial shooting of wolves from helicopters in Idaho. The petition follows the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board's decision to allow private contractors to shoot wolves from aircraft. "This is essentially illegal sport hunting from aircraft and there is no reason for the government to allow the state's anti-science bloodlust for wolves to be slaked on federally managed lands," said Talasi Brooks of Western Watersheds Project.

Input sought for grassland monitoring

USDA's Forest Service is seeking input for a policy to monitor the health of national forests and grasslands. The agency said the proposal aims to support and strengthen current policy while minimizing inconsistencies and improving relationships with Tribes. "The proposed monitoring policy is a framework that supports strategic thinking about what questions to ask and how to most efficiently use the answers to conduct adaptive management," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. The policy was developed through government consultation with Tribes. Comments are being accepted through Dec. 27 and can be submitted at [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) by searching for docket ID 2023-26161.

MT Land Board acquires Yellowstone land

The Montana Land Board is acquiring 328 acres on the Lower Yellowstone River to improve public access and protect habitat, according to a Montana Free Press report. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park plans to use the land to create the North Wildcat Coulee Wildlife Management Area. "The process that got us to today's vote is a blueprint for how the state should think about acquiring and managing public lands: with input and support from the community and for everyone's benefit," Noah Marion, Wild Montana's political and state policy director, told Montana Free Press in an email.

Rule to facilitate forest carbon capture

USDA's Forest Service (USFS) is proposing a rule to allow the agency to consider proposals for potential carbon capture and sequestration projects on national forests and grasslands. The agency does not currently have any carbon sequestration proposals under consideration and all potential proposals would still need to pass secondary screening to be accepted as a formal application, the agency said. Any proposals would still have to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and would not supersede existing Tribal treaty rights, agreements, authorities and land use. "A recent analysis by the International Energy Agency projected that globally, 1.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide must be captured and sequestered every year by 2030, to remain on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050," a USFS news release said. To comment on the proposal, visit [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) and search for document ID 2023-24341 by Jan. 2, 2024.

Canada found clear of USMCA violation

A dispute settlement panel under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has determined Canada is not breaching its USMCA commitments by reserving most of the in-quota quantity in its dairy tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for Canadian processors. The U.S. argued that Canada's TRQ measures pose undue restraint on U.S. dairy exporters in the Canadian market. In a recent report, the panel determined that Canada was satisfying its USMCA obligations. In response to the determination, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall said, "AFBF is disappointed in the findings released by the dispute panel. We believe Canada's TRQ policies put America's hardworking dairy farmers at a disadvantage and don't live up to the spirit of agreements put in place under USMCA."

Groups ask for tax provision extensions

A coalition of industry groups recently penned a letter to Congress asking for leaders to extend tax provisions that are set to expire or have already expired. The provisions include: full expensing of investments in new equipment, which will phase out completely by 2026; full expensing of research and development investments, which expired in 2021; and business deductions for interest expenses on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. "These important tax incentives help American businesses maintain access to capital for new investments and expansions," the groups wrote. The letter was signed by seven industry groups, including the U.S. Cattlemen's Association.

Now is the time to make a treatment plan for sick calves

Walk into any kindergarten classroom in the middle of winter and you are bound to find a little person fighting off a cold. In much the same way, young calves are also prone to respiratory disease and pneumonia after they are weaned, say the veterinarians at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, K-State veterinarians Brian Lubbers, Bob Larson and Brad White share why now is the time to stock the medicine cabinet and make a treatment plan with the local veterinarian so that producers are prepared when illness hits the herd.

"That plan should include a case definition that would indicate when the animal would need treatment and what those steps would be," Lubbers said.

In the case of a respiratory illness in calves, some of those signs would be difficulty breathing and/or coughing, a reduced appe-

tite and depressed behavior among others, Lubbers said.

If those signs are observed, the second stage of the plan might include bringing the calf into the chute for a closer inspection in which the person evaluating them could take their temperature, listen to their breathing through a stethoscope and perhaps run other tests.

"Whatever the protocol is, the important thing is that it is consistent across the operation," Lubbers said. "That consistency will allow producers to monitor treatment outcomes in the best way."

He added: "If the case definition is changing over time, then it will confound and confuse the assessment of treatment outcomes."

Regarding treatment, Larson said ideally producers will want to have medicine at the ranch ahead of when sickness hits.

"We have a lot of effective treatment options for respiratory illness, so it is good to

have those on hand and know the dose and route of administration for the products you will need to use when that sickness arises," Larson said. "Most cattle will respond to treatment and show improvement, but some will not, so it is important to talk to the veterinarian ahead of time to plan that next step."

Lubbers said this conversation also establishes the veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR) contract that is legally needed for producers to administer treatment to the animals without the veterinarian performing an exam first.

"Along with having a valid VCPR, producers will also need to keep an accurate record of when treatments were administered," Lubbers said. "All products have a withdrawal time that must be adhered to and so we don't want to send them on for sale or processing if they have residues in their systems."

White agreed and said he recommends producers hold the calves on the property until they've cleared the withdrawal time.

"I don't always know what happens to the calf once they leave my place, so I always make sure the calves are out of the withdrawal time before they leave the ranch," White said.

Lubbers also recommended that producers share those health records with the calf's next owner.

Also, along with antibiotic treatment, Larson said it is important to include comfort care in the illness plan.

"A good nursing care plan includes offering the sick calves dry bedding to lay on, providing them palatable feed and moving them away from others in the herd so they don't have to compete with their penmates," Larson said. "Those attentions to detail are important in the recovery of that animal." — **K-State Research and Extension**

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Stored water gives CA farmers hope for plentiful supplies

As California's weather swings from droughts to floods, farmers say they are planning for either extreme but remain confident knowing the water supply in state reservoirs is well above the historical average for this time of year.

Yolo County farmer Fritz Durst said his crystal ball for the 2024 water year is unclear but added that surface water supplies remain plentiful with more winter weather to come.

"Since the reservoirs are healthy right now, we are predicting—unless it's just an absolute, no-rain-at-all drought—that we will be getting some of our water," said Durst, a Sacramento River settlement contractor who farms rice, alfalfa, sunflowers, tomatoes and cereal crops near Knights Landing.

"I don't know if we'll get all of it. That remains to be seen, but it doesn't look as negative as it looked (going into) last year," he said.

As of Nov. 27, Lake Shasta, the largest federal reservoir in the state's Central Valley Project (CVP), stood at 68% of its capacity and 126% of its historic average.

Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's (SWP) largest reservoir, reached 66% of its capacity and 132% of its historic average.

San Luis Reservoir, which holds water for both the SWP and the CVP, is at 57% of capacity and 113% of average.

The abundant surface water

stored in reservoirs across the state is the result of an El Niño weather pattern that brought soaking atmospheric river storms and flooding early this year. The wet weather arrived after the state faced a third consecutive year of drought in 2022.

"We're at above-average reservoir storage this year because of the wet year we had last year," said Jeanine Jones, interstate resources manager at the California Department of Water Resources. "Even if this year turns out to be dry, that will help us with respect to managing next year."

Jones added, "The coming year could be like a water year 2018 or 2020, which were dry years that followed a wet water year and there was decent reservoir storage."

Since the 2024 water year began on Oct. 1, the state has received little precipitation and snow.

The first moderate precipitation arrived in mid-November, bringing a drop in the bucket of what is needed to carry the state through the year. The low-pressure system was concentrated on the Central Coast and Bay Area and brought light snow to the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada.

While the storm did not materialize into a soaking atmospheric river, Jones said, "It's nice we get a little rain to provide some soil moisture."

She said state water manag-

ers pay closer attention to the period from December through January, when the state receives half of its annual precipitation.

"We're still quite early in the season," said Jones, adding the forecasted El Niño weather pattern does not guarantee soaking rains for the state.

"California's precipitation has wide, annual variability. Any year could be a dry year or a wet year. You should be prepared for either extreme," Jones said.

Farmers are planning for any weather scenario as they develop planting schedules for the coming growing season.

Kings County farmer Ted Sheely, who grows a mix of tree, row and field crops in Lemoore, said he is "always, always" planning for a dry or wet water year.

Sheely farms in the Westlands Water District, which received 100% of its contracted water allotment this year from CVP. It was the first time since 2017 that contractors received 100% water deliveries.

"We actually farmed 100% of our ground this year. We are planning on doing 100% next year, but we've got relief valves in there so we can quit growing something," Sheely said. "We started in September, laying out a crop plan, and it's changed four or five times, and we're still changing it."

Sheely won't know next season's initial water allocation figure until February or March.

As a result, he said, "we have places we can cut all along the way" if he needs to reduce water use. He said he has contingency plans for reducing plantings of wheat, tomatoes, onions and cotton.

In Northern California, Durst said, he is using practices such as no-till and growing cover crops to keep water on the fields and promote soil health.

"I'm interseeding cover crops, such as different peas, beans, vetch and mustard, in the furrows of my asparagus," he said. "It will get taken out in early March, but in the meantime, the cover crops are going to slow down the rainwater, and we'll retain more of that water instead of having it run off."

Durst added, "Having a covering on the soil is really important for me, to save that water when we do get it."

Sheely said farmers subject to local sustainability plans

required under the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) are interested in boosting groundwater aquifers.

If this water year brings flooding from storms, as occurred last winter and spring, Sheely said he hopes to use stormwater to recharge groundwater supplies.

"This year, we have excess water and are filtering our Westland's water, treating it with chlorine and injecting it down our wells and building credits for SGMA," Sheely said. "With SGMA, in years that there is extra water, we're going to have to shut our wells down, and that is how we get the most recovery of the aquifer."

Westlands Water District announced last week that it has recharged 200,000 acre-feet of groundwater into district aquifers and set an updated target to recharge 275,000 acre-feet of groundwater by Feb. 29.

In preparation for winter

storms and to enhance public safety, state and federal officials have begun conducting water releases from reservoirs to increase storage capacity for incoming water.

"Every year, the state is getting better and better at managing reservoirs based upon forecast conditions, because you don't want to spill any more water than you have to in the name of flood control, because whatever you spill, you're going to need for crops the next irrigation season," said Chris Scheuring, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau.

"We hope we have another year in which we replace every bit of what we use this year in the reservoirs, and we go into the next year with full reservoirs," Scheuring added. "We're always planning ahead for the next drought." — **Christine Souza, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

What are alternative feedstuffs for cattle?

The term "alternative feedstuffs" can mean a lot of different things, but in cattle it is often thought of as edibles not

commonly found in the feed bunk.

"Alternative feedstuffs is really a broad and all-encompassing term," said Kansas State (K-State) University Research and Extension beef specialist Justin Waggoner. "Everything from cereal-type breakfast products to chili, salsa-type waste that would come out of a salsa factory, even pecan holes. So, it's a really broad category that I think is sometimes really hard to define."

Waggoner uses soybean hay as an example and says his discussion with producers includes knowing what products were applied to the soybeans and how the product was produced. Cattle producers don't normally feed soybean hay, but recent drought conditions in Kansas and other parts of the country have led to producers utilizing this alternative.

"We really have to understand the process of how the product was produced, including whether there are any artifacts or chemicals from production," Waggoner said. "Maybe it's even the cleaning process of that factory."

When looking for alternative feedstuffs, he said it's important to evaluate if there is something that could be a concern in the product. The other side of evaluation is logistics and knowing how much of the product is going to be produced on a weekly basis and what the expense will be in addition to how the product is handled, stored and delivered.

"A few years ago, a producer was looking at cold produce waste that was gathered out of grocery stores and large metro areas," Waggoner said. "So then you look at whether it is something that we need to feed within a week or is it something that we can create a system to store that product on farm and maybe get a large

volume of that product." Product packaging is also a factor in alternative feedstuff selection. Knowing what the packaging is made of, how to remove it and dispose of it is important, according to Waggoner.

"Some of that packaging would need to be removed prior to feeding, while some of that we can process but it may pass through the animal into manure," he added.

Geography also plays a role in the use of alternative feedstuff. Waggoner said many products are regionalized and not accessible to every producer. Poultry litter is considered one of many regionalized products that some cattle producers have access to in Kansas.

"We do see some bakery product waste that comes out of some factories and the analysis on those is always pretty favorable," Waggoner said. "There's really a gamut of products that are out there and it just kind of depends on the scale and the volume of those products that might be available."

"I really advise producers to do a more thorough and complete analysis of the products that are out there," Waggoner said. "That includes both the macro as well as the micro minerals and, in some cases, we've also had some producers find some interesting elements like some heavy metals that show up there as a by-product of the production process, or some artifact of the processes."

Waggoner suggests producers interested in alternative feedstuffs reach out with their local extension specialist to get in contact with a specialist or a nutritionist that's really familiar with how to evaluate these products and processes. He also recommends visiting KSUbeef.org for more resources. — **K-State Research and Extension**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

First Annual Bred Stock & Replacement Heifer Sale

Expecting nearly 1,000 head of stock born and bred on the Hi-Line, with strong genetics from Peterson Grain & Cattle, Shipwheel Cattle Company and Whistling Winds Angus!

Sale Location:

The Hanson Ranch - Box Elder, MT

Sale Managed by CJ & Katie Hanson and Lewistown Livestock Auction.

CJ: 406-399-1004 • Kyle: 406-366-0472

Heart of the Hi-Line

~ Commercial Female Sale ~



Klint Swanson - Shipwheel Cattle Co.
406-399-2962

Dave Sattoriva - Whistling Winds Angus
406-390-1471

Kim Peterson - Peterson Grain & Cattle
406-945-0544

Chancin & Casey Solomon - Peterson Grain & Cattle
406-262-5257 / 406-945-1355

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS

BRED STOCK

406 Cattle Company, Big Sandy, MT - Complete Dispersion, 400 head of Angus cows, (175) 3-4's, (90) 5-7's, (35) short terms, bred Shipwheel and in excellent rig!

Curry Cattle Company, Valier, MT - 200 Bred Hfrs, (90) AI FEB 25, (54) AI MARCH 10, (30) MARCH 25, (40) APRIL 10. Fancy heifers weighing 1000# with Shipwheel genetics forever!

Shipwheel Cattle Company, Chinook, MT - 78 Bred Heifers, blk bred blk, AI MARCH 28. Complete dispersion of their Jorgenson heifers that have been a part of their operation for over 20 years. Proven hi-line genetics that can go anywhere and add value!

Shipwheel Cattle Company, Chinook, MT - 22 Bred Heifers, blk bred blk, AI MARCH 28

Stephen and Lindsay Boyce, Big Sandy, MT - Bred Hfrs & Young Cows, (22) Bred Heifers, APRIL 1. (20) Young Cows, APRIL 1. PGC sired cattle with the look!

Summit Livestock, Havre, MT - 60 Bred Heifers, black & bwf, AI FEB 25 to Renown son owned by Shipwheel. Black heifers originating from Jon Wood, Galata, MT, long-time Shipwheel customer. Baldies originating from McGregor Ranch, Cascade, MT.

REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

3U Cattle Company, Whitlash, MT - 30 Replacement Heifer Calves, sp & fall shots, weaned, dvlpd on grass & hay barley, cake broke, sale & mineral pgm, BV. Closed herd for generations with heavy Whistling Winds influence!

T Lazy V Ranch, Havre, MT - 25 Replacement Heifer Calves, spr & fall shots, weaned, BV. The Velk family has a long-time AI program, loaded with PGC genetics.

8 X 8 Ranch, Chester, MT - 25 Replacement Heifer Calves, 45 days weaned. Cattle are highly influenced by Whistling Winds Angus.

Jeremy Hofman, Havre, MT - 10 Replacement Heifer Calves, weaned Nov. 1. PCG and Whistling Winds Angus influenced;

Lewistown Livestock Auction

www.LewistownLivestock.com

Flickners receive Kansas Leopold Conservation Award

Ray and Susan Flickner of Wichita, KS, have been selected as the recipients of the 2023 Kansas Leopold Conservation Award.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife resources in their care.

In Kansas the award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust, with state partners Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the Ranchland Trust of Kansas.

The Flickner family farms in McPherson, Hodgeman, Dickinson and Norton counties. Their Flickner Innovation Farm is a collaboration of university, industry and agency partners where new methods to improve soil health and conserve water are demonstrated. They were announced as the recipient of the award at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' 79th Annual Convention in Wichita and received \$10,000 and a crystal award for being selected.

Ray and Susan Flickner compare agricultural conservation to a long road, but it's a journey they've resolved to travel.

The Flickners are lifelong learners with master's degrees. They have channeled their education and experience into innovation on their Kansas farmland and see conservation as critical to its environmental and economic resilience.

Ray has shared his knowledge as a speaker at the governor's conference on the future of water in Kansas, and before a U.S. Senate agriculture subcommittee on making conservation programs user-friendly for farmers.

Amid the 1980s farm crisis, the Flickners bought 220 acres of farmland in McPherson County that has been in Ray's family since the 1870s. They've added another 630 acres, and it's now known as Flickner Innovation Farm where more than a dozen university, industry and agency partners explore new methods to improve soil health and conserve water.

Modern irrigation technology tested at the farm helps make good use of every drop of water in a drought-prone region. Switching from a flood irrigation system to sub-surface drip irrigation showed 40% less water use over a decade, compared to the county average. Real-time feedback on how much water will ben-

efit every slice of a field is provided by plant-based water sensors and a ground-penetrating radar mounted to a center pivot irrigation system.

Crop yields have improved thanks to irrigation technology and the grid soil sampling the Flickners conduct every four years. The sampling shows where to apply nutrients and lime at varying rates to adjust the soil's pH level. Cover crops are grown to suppress weeds and improve soil health. These conservation practices have increased their soil's organic matter over time.

Water and soil conservation has long been a priority at Flickner Farms. Ray and Susan recently rehabilitated shelter belts and windbreaks that his ancestors planted in the 1930s to prevent erosion. Ray credits his father with stopping the use of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer in the 1960s and switching from traditional to minimum and conservation tillage in the 1980s.

Over the years, Ray and Susan bought more farmland in three other counties (Dickinson, Hodgeman and Norton counties), where annual rainfall and topographies vary widely. They have created pollinator habitat in areas not suitable for row crop farming, constructed miles of terraces and built acres of grass waterways. A marginal five-acre tract was taken out of crop production and reseeded with grass to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Other fields have benefited from using the Kansas Forest Service's conservation tree program to build windbreaks.

With assistance from their county conservation district, intermittent streams have been reshaped and seeded to brome grass. Grass waterways previously under an irrigation center pivot were relocated to field edges. Productivity is improved when large farm equipment can be maneuvered to limit hairpin turns where over-application of seed, fertilizer and chemicals are more likely to occur.

Ray and Susan have turned their conservation ethic to 320 acres of Hodgeman County farmland that Susan acquired from her father's estate. In addition to redesigning its terraces, the farm features two playas. The Flickners are coordinating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on how to best rehabilitate these important High Plains aquifer features. It's just the latest step to improve water resources in Kansas on a constantly evolving journey.

"The Flickners have made it a priority to constantly improve soil health and conserve

water, while sharing their experiences and knowledge with neighbors and agricultural

producers across the state of Kansas. They are most deserving of this award," said Mike

Beam, Kansas secretary of Agriculture. — Sand County Foundation

Top quality bred heifers...calves included
DECEMBER 15, 2023

25 yearling bulls	40 fall bulls	105 2 year old bulls	30 8 year old registered cows	750 commercial bred heifers	130 2-coming 3 year old cows	30 10 year old cows
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19th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
WESTERN LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Great Falls, Montana
Lunch: 11:30 Sale: 12:30 PM

CED	+9
BW	+2.3
WW	+91
YW	+163
M	+20
CW	+80
MB	+1.02
RE	+60
FAT	+0.38

SP 904 x Apex Klondike 178-B1

CED	+0
BW	+4.1
WW	+93
YW	+152
M	+22
CW	+72
MB	+1.66
RE	+1.05
FAT	+0.25

MFNS M39 x EXAR Denver 2002B

CED	+6
BW	+3.4
WW	+78
YW	+143
M	+28
CW	+58
MB	+35
RE	+90
FAT	-0.15

Carter Power Surge x Mytty Natural

Son of Reyce for Time
Reyce N Roan Ranger
AQHA 60315323

3 year-old Red Roan gelding with eye appeal. A good start and continues to sort cattle along with daily ranch work. He travels great and will be ready for calving and branding season. 100% gentle and sound with perfect feet. Stands 14.2 hh and weighs 1,000 pounds.





NWF: Grazing retirements will protect bighorn herds

BIGHORN (from page 1)

for over a century and overlap with some of the nation's "most important bighorn sheep herds in the San Juans," the group said. They continued that retiring the grazing permits will safeguard the bighorns and other species on fragile alpine tundra habitat.

The NWF believes that public land grazing retire-

ments can be equitable for ranchers and wildlife interests, and negotiates with ranchers to retire public grazing permits that experienced chronic conflict with wildlife.

"This market-based approach recognizes the economic value of public land livestock grazing permits and fairly compensates ranchers for retiring their leases," the group said. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

ATA CATTLE

11th Annual Bull & Female Sale

DECEMBER 15, 2023

1:00 PM CST • West Point Livestock • West Point, Nebraska

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YOUR ONE STOP BULL SHOP



TAC CAPTAIN K265 #4764085

Dam is a direct daughter of the famed Abigrace L7730 sired by PIE CAPTAIN 057



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Full brothers to build a herd around sired by TAC DRIFTER H10



TAC DRIFTER K194 #4764089



TAC PERFECT STORM K148 #4764079

Several calving ease bulls like him sell! sired by 5L PERFECT STORM 1201-172D



TAC INSIGHT K299 #4764071

Outcross pedigree with Tilly 399W & Marigold 501W! sired by PIE INSIGHT 971



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1/2 SM 1/2 AR • Sim Hybrid Powerhouse! sired by TNT REGAL H367

Plus Selling!

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180 Coming Second Calvers Due March/April

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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 11/30/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	174.76 ▲	N/A	155.23
CME Feeder Index	224.77 ▼	226.76	178.40
Boxed Beef Average	299.02 ▲	N/A	253.57
Average Dressed Steers	274.69 ▲	N/A	245.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,382 ▼	1,388	1,394
Weekly Slaughter**	538,000 ▼	636,000	581,000
Weekly Beef Production***	447.9 ▼	529.2	484.6
Hide/Offal Value	18.78 ▲	12.50	14.72
Corn Price	4.62 ▼	4.70	6.50

*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 24	6,781	291.11	237	325.59	1,322	299.56	2,131	292.69	718	268.97	2,373	250.60
November 17	6,463	292.53	218	327.67	1,181	300.78	1,958	294.12	711	270.19	2,396	253.63
November 10	6,306	296.75	192	332.38	1,117	305.16	1,901	298.26	776	272.54	2,321	257.51
November 3	7,059	299.84	204	337.64	1,198	308.51	2,052	301.94	932	277.75	2,673	258.08

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Nov 30	299.02	264.75	214.71		59.56	267.87					
Nov 29	297.03	264.09	219.54		64.28	275.25					
Nov 28	298.17	266.35	219.58		58.79	275.14					
Nov 27	297.25	267.80	220.56		N/A	285.10					
Nov 24	298.03	268.76	220.56		53.95	274.68					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	11/24	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	High*	Low*
Dec.	17025	16878	17165	17190	17088	19183	15388
Feb.	17098	16883	17283	17348	17183	19633	15310
Apr.	17330	17068	17488	17593	17443	19975	16853
Jun.	16950	16668	17068	17155	17020	18270	16668

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	11/24	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	High*	Low*
Jan.	21933	21280	22105	22220	21995	26833	21280
Mar.	22273	21630	22350	22428	22258	25723	21630
Apr.	22668	22023	22743	22833	22668	24613	22023
May	23048	22388	23120	23213	23050	23213	22388

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

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	13,765	1,462	174.76
Live FOB Heifer	4,730	1,339	174.74
Dressed Del Steer	597	960	274.69
Dressed Del Heifer	295	804	274.36

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	7,671	1,398	177.00
Live FOB Heifer	2,873	1,290	176.84
Dressed Del Steer	2,951	982	280.17
Dressed Del Heifer	565	843	279.53

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	12,454	1,412	155.23
Live FOB Heifer	6,416	1,292	155.11
Dressed Del Steer	78	992	245.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 26		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	26,677	3,261
Formula	236,258	1,941
Negotiated Cash	54,670	602
Negotiated Grid	32,971	1,542
Packer Owned	8,065	N/A
Total	358,641	7,346

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS				FORWARD BEEF SALES			
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,673		Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,106	
Nov. '23	145,226			Formula sales	3,704		
Dec. '23	141,695			Forward contract sales	298		
Jan. '24	108,662			Domestic sales	5,653		
Feb. '24	86,007			NAFTA Exports	95		
Mar. '24	112,255						

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		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		170.12	-1.08
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		94.77	+1.87

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 17, 2023				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	278.68	278.72	238.25	
601-700 lbs	254.42	254.82	224.26	
701-800 lbs	237.75	237.88	205.76	
801-900 lbs	220.71	221.36	210.97	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	255.31	253.48	215.79	
501-600 lbs	240.15	237.15	208.78	
601-700 lbs	224.22	222.22	194.82	
701-800 lbs	214.33	210.52	180.80	

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeders	15,634	40,865	1,082,978	728,939

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
November 30, 2023			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 11,100	Week Ago Act: 9,400	Year Ago Act: 6,700	
Columbus, NM		Santa Teresa, NM	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00 higher. Heifers steady to 5.00 higher. Trade active, demand moderate to good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00 higher. Heifers steady to 5.00 higher. Trade active, demand moderate to good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	300-400 lbs	215-225	215-225
	400-500 lbs	205-215	205-215
	500-600 lbs	195-205	195-205
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	300-400 lbs	257-267	257-267
	400-500 lbs	237-247	237-247
	500-600 lbs	207-227	207-227

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

Selected Auction Week Ending November 30, 2023

DATE	MARKET	Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2							SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS	
		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up			SLAUGHTER BULLS
No report available	Blackfoot, ID										
No report available	Burley, ID										
No report available	Emmett, ID										
No report available	Eugene, OR										
November 27	Madras, OR	2,485	310-350 270-300	285-329 265-305	258-285 240-260	229-259 218-236	202-225		85-105 90-20		
November 22	Vale, OR	366			250-263 225-235	227-238 221-228			75-98 85-110		
No report available	Davenport, WA										
No report available	Toppenish, WA										
No report available	Orland, CA										
No report available	Escalon, CA										
November 20	Famoso, CA	350	250-280 180-230	240-275 185-230	250-275 185-232	220-274 180-214	190-215		110-128 125-128.50		
No report available	Galt, CA										
No report available	Turlock, CA										
November 21	Salina, UT	1,844	305-365 245-320	285-360 242.50-310	230-305 225-280	220-265 220-257.50	217.50-250 185-245	162.50-205 141.25-200	79.25-110 99.95-160.75		
November 27	Iowa	9,005	250-345 210-284	220-360 212-290	230-313.50 200-273.50	220-276.25 190-240	194-248.50 194-231	182.50-232.50 188-202	70-107 60-125		
November 28	Miles City, MT	2,735	320-345 280-316	294-323 264-289	258-302 235-272	245-266.85 204-229	219.50	171-212.50	69-99.50 94-118		
No report available	Bassett, NE										
November 25	Ericson, NE	4,480	328-330 274-287	272-340 246-262	268.50-317.50 230-275	236-281 214-253.25	231-241 216.75-222	220.25-233 209.50-213			
No report available	Imperial, NE										
No report available	Kearney, NE										
No report available	Lexington, NE										
No report available	Ogallala, NE										
No report available	Valentine, NE										
No report available	Herreid, SD										
No report available	Torrington, WY										
No report available	Willcox, AZ										
November 27	Colorado	3,255		307-321 281	272.50-281	236-237.50		171-198 176-193	66-99 90-117	1,400-2,400 825-1,650	
November 22	La Junta, CO	1,992		283-318 251-291	268-321 226-270	251-286 221-242	221-238 196-214	196-208 193-201	180-198	81-96 93-103	
November 27	Loma, CO	1,657		320-330 270-280	280-325 225-260	260-271 210-239	225-241 210-225	205-215 190-215.50	150-210 165-190	92-107 110-116	
November 29	Dodge City, KS	1,287	332.50-342.50 287.50-299	307.50-315 250-277.50	282.50-315 217-255	236.50-255.50 213-218	220 219	213-235.50 176-211	90-110 92-115	1,350-1,775	
November 30	Pratt, KS	1,100					239-245 199.50-215.25	231.50-238.50 187.75-206.50			
No report available	Salina, KS										
November 30	Clovis, NM	1,969	304-316 290	270-328 242-292	258-310 223-259	247-286 215-247	207-248 188-229	185-221 190-204	140-207 120-180	107-131 85-100	
November 28	El Reno, OK	4,500		340-375 300-332.50	295-345 225-290	250-314 210-260	232.50-271 195-224	208-222 190-199	207.50		
November 29	McAlester, OK	1,510		299-319 217-259	283-319 238-258	260-292 216-243	240-259 170-195	188-216 165-180	180-185 130-160		
November 28	Oklahoma City, OK	5,738		311-265 255-310	279-357 220-309	257-313 199-272	224-270 200-222	212-238.50 194-204.50	192-211 200		
No report available	Cuero, TX										
No report available	Dalhart, TX										
No report available	San Angelo, TX										
No report available	Tulia, TX										
No report available	Alabama										
November 27	Lexington, KY	1,096		278* 191-210*	249-275* 189-219*	228.50-250.50* 188-205*	217-236.50* 175-199*	191* 167-180*	146-216.25* 132.50-189.25*	86-119 98-146	1,275-1,625
November 27	Joplin, MO	8,664		305-322 260-282	275-315 235-252	250-287 212-230	224-250 212-226	219.50-234.50 205-211.50	203-230 158-197.50		
November 27	Tennessee	1,330	265* 215-222.50*	245-270* 200-235*	220-265* 190-238*	218-					

Cow, heifer slaughter indicates continued herd liquidation

The Jan. 1 Cattle inventory report included a beef cow herd of 28.9 million head, down 3.6% year over year and the smallest beef cow total since 1962. More importantly going forward, the report also included an inventory of beef replacement heifers of 5.16 million head, down 5.8% from the previous year.

The replacement heifer total included the inventory of heifers expected to calve at 3.17 million, down 5.1% year over year. Both the replacement heifer total and heifers expected to calve were the lowest since 2011.

The available supply of bred heifers (heifers expected to calve), combined with beef cow culling this year will determine the change in the beef cow inventory this year. From the

beginning of the year, the supply of bred heifers meant that beef cow slaughter in 2023 would have to decrease sharply, in excess of 18% year over year, in order to avoid additional herd liquidation this year.

Figure 1 shows that beef cow slaughter has been lower in 2023 compared to last year. Cumulative beef cow slaughter reached a maximum year-over-year decrease of 13.8% in early September, a significant decrease, but not enough to prevent additional herd liquidation. The July Cattle report confirmed that the beef cow herd was down by 2.6% from 2022 levels by midyear.

Since Labor Day, a very strong seasonal increase in beef cow slaughter has narrowed the gap from last

year. In the last 10 weeks, beef cow slaughter has been down 7% year over year, leading to a mid-November year-to-date decrease of 12.1%. This level of beef cow slaughter means that the Jan. 1, 2024, beef cow inventory is likely to be down at least 2.5% from 2023.

The January 2023 Cattle report also included the inventory of heifers available for breeding (calculated as the total replacement heifer inventory minus heifers expected to calve). This category of replacement heifers was just under 2 million head, down 6.9% year over year and the lowest in 23 years of available data.

Typically, some additional heifers (out of the other heifer inventory category) are also bred to produce the

total supply of bred heifers going into the next year. Heifer slaughter is also drawn from the inventory of other heifers. Heifer slaughter has decreased 2.5% thus far in 2023 but remains relatively large. Heifer slaughter was un-

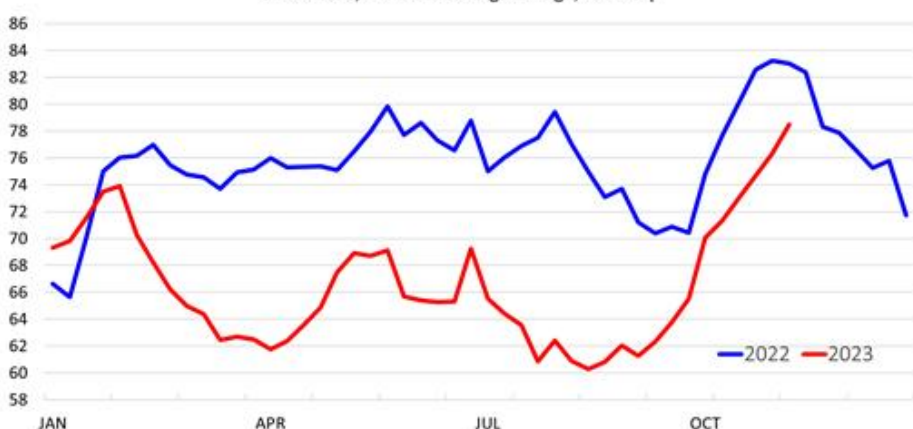
changed year over year in the first half of 2023 but has accelerated since July with a year-over-year decrease of nearly 7% since Labor Day.

Nevertheless, it seems likely that the available supply of bred heifers will

remain limited in 2024. The beef cow herd will be smaller in 2024 and holding the inventory stable next year may be the most likely outcome. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Beef Cow Slaughter

1000 Head, 4-week Moving Average, Fed. Insp.



Feeders plummet lower over the week

MARKETS (from page 1)

- Formula net purchases: \$289.81.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$276.71.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$293.98.

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 494,000 head. Total slaughter for a week earlier (the holiday-shortened week) is projected at 538,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 18 was 639,367 head. The average steer dressed weight was 936 lbs., 1 lb. below the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were mixed. The Choice cutout gained a little over \$3 to close at \$299.02, and the Select lost over \$4 to close at \$264.75.

"Boxed beef prices recovered this morning, Choice up \$0.92 on a strong rib and Select jumping \$3.20 though the spread is still a wide \$30.66. Tis the season," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "The packer is edging back into black ink this week. Still looking for a better harvest this week—635k or higher."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures saw significant losses, with the January contract down over \$11 to \$219.95 and the March contract down \$8.65

to \$222.57.

"Although prices have moved firmly above multi-month lows in the past two trading sessions, the fact is prices are still nearly \$50 per cwt below September and seasonal highs," DTN said.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down about \$2 to close at \$224.77.

Corn futures traded lower, with the December contract down 9 cents to \$4.61 and the March contract down 4 cents to \$4.85.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 2,308 head on Monday. There was a special cattle sale that sold several load lots and many recently weaned calves. Compared to a week earlier, steers under 650 lbs. sold steady to \$3 lower, while steers over 650 lbs. sold mostly higher. Heifers under 500 lbs. sold lower, while heifers over 500 lbs. sold mostly higher. Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold between \$229-240, averaging \$234.20.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 925 head on Wednesday. Compared to the last sale held two weeks prior, all classes sold on a light test. An overall higher undertone was noted, except for feeder heifers, which sold with a lower undertone. Benchmark steers averaging 802 lbs. sold from \$213-235.50, averaging \$233.34.

Missouri: Joplin Region-

al Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold \$6-10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 789 lbs. sold between \$218.50-234.50, averaging \$225.75.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 726 head on Monday. There were not enough sales for an accurate comparison. A group of steers averaging 663 lbs. sold between \$241-246 and averaged \$244.55.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 750 lbs. sold steady to \$3 higher, and a few steers over 750 lbs. and feeder heifers sold \$3-6 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 793 lbs. sold between \$215-227, averaging \$221.96.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 2,486 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, light steer calves, 600-700 lbs. sold \$9-10 higher. Yearling steers 900 lbs. traded \$4 lower. Yearling heifers 950 lbs. sold steady to \$1 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 724 lbs. sold between \$225-253, averaging \$232.18. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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STORY SHORTS

BLM banning use of cyanide bombs

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced it is taking action to stop the usage of M-44 devices that deliver sodium cyanide on public lands. The action would build on existing restrictions in several Western states and extend across all public lands managed by the BLM. The agency has renewed a memorandum of understanding with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Wildlife Services. It will also modify internal guidelines, as needed, to explicitly prohibit the use of M-44 devices. BLM said less than 1% of the M-44s used by APHIS Wildlife Services in 2022 were on BLM-managed lands. There is ongoing legislation to ban M-44 use on all public lands, and their utilization is currently forbidden on national wildlife refuges and National Park Service lands. M-44 cyanide devices have been implicated in various incidents, including one in Idaho in 2017, where a family dog was killed and a child was injured after accidentally triggering a device placed on public land 400 feet from their home.

Hereford blindness defect discovered

The American Hereford Association (AHA), in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, led by Dr. David Steffen and Dr. Jessica Petersen, has identified a novel defect in Hereford cattle known as delayed blindness (DB). This autosomal recessive genetic anomaly manifests in calves with carrier parents, initially exhibiting no apparent vision issues but experiencing vision loss around nine to 12 months. Afflicted cattle struggle with navigation and exhibit limited response to light stimuli. The association noted the condition is not associated with the amount of pigment around the eyes. Pedigree analysis revealed a shared sire on both sides of the pedigree of affected animals, indicating a potential deleterious recessive genetic variant might be the cause for the blindness. Whole-genome sequencing identified a consistent mutation. Breeders can use the "potential carrier" search tool in MyHerd, located under the DNA tab on the platform, to determine which animals to test. Breeders can access real-time search capabilities for their active registered animals and dams. AHA recommends periodic searches over the next few months as more animals are tested. If you suspect a calf may be affected by DB, please alert the AHA or Steffen at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center.

JBS reopens, expands Brazil beef plant

JBS S.A. announced plans to invest just over \$61 million in the first stage to reopen and expand its beef processing plant in Mato Grosso, Brazil to make it one of the largest in Latin America. The plant has been inoperational since a fire damaged the facility in June. According to JBS, the plant located in Brazil's central cattle-producing region will process 3,600 head per day once the expansion is completed. The plant will initially slaughter 600 head per day. "With the completion of the restoration and expansion works of the unit, scheduled for January 2024, JBS will generate 1,600 new jobs in the region," said Gilberto Xando, CEO of the JBS Brazil business unit.

El Niño forecast to last until April

The latest forecast published by the National Weather Service suggests that El Niño is likely to persist through the Northern Hemisphere's spring. According to the most recent forecasts, there is a greater than 55% probability of at least a "strong" El Niño lasting through January-March 2024. Additionally, there is a 35% chance of this event becoming "historically strong" for the November-January season. Above-average sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean were indicative of a strong El Niño, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said the amount of warm water under the surface isn't quite up to the October levels seen during the strong El Niño events in 1982, 1997 or 2015. "The strength of an El Niño event matters because the stronger the event, the more likely we'll see the characteristic changes in temperature, rain and snow, and other impacts," NOAA said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that the impacts themselves will be so much stronger, but it makes the expected El Niño impacts more likely to happen."

USDA will report Prop 12-compliant hogs

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it would include a non-carcass merit premium for hogs raised in compliance with animal confinement legislation (ACL) in the National Weekly Direct Swine Non-Carcass Merit Premium report. "This addition will provide pork industry stakeholders with the information necessary to make informed production and marketing decisions relating to ACL-compliant hogs," AMS said in its statement. The agency said ACL-compliant hogs were previously listed under the "other" category that included other certifications and characteristics like antibiotic-free hogs. In recent years, certain states, including California with its Proposition (Prop) 12 law, have enacted laws limiting the use of gestation crates in hog production. California requires pig products to be from pigs born to a sow house in at least 24 square-feet of space, regardless of where they are raised.

Rancher, ag groups argue in favor of property rights

APPEAL (from page 1)

relying on the Mackay case was an error, as it is no longer “persuasive” and “was rooted in now-obsolete grazing customs on the open range, and the decision has nothing to say about recreational corner crossing.” The plaintiffs further asserted that the access rights did not survive in the Leo Sheep Co. case, which held that the federal government does not have the right to access public land in the checkerboard.

Eschelmann’s attorneys also argued corner crossing is a civil trespass under Wyoming law. They cited a trespasser as someone who enters the land without the owner’s consent and said law stipulates ownership of the space above the land and waters in the state is vested in the owners of the surface beneath.

The lawyers also cited that in the 1980s, the Bureau of Land Management developed a “Wyoming Public Land Access Guide” that explained: “Corner crossings in the checkerboard land pattern area are not considered legal public access.”

According to a report by OnX, a mapping software recreationists use, there are 8.2 million acres across 11 Western states of corner-locked lands. OnX said there are 27,120 land-locked corners and no law explicitly states that stepping over a property corner from public land to public land is illegal.

The lawyers said if the decision is upheld, it would result in one of the most extensive judicial takings of private property in American history. Although in favor of finding ways for people to access land, Iron Bar Holdings argues against forcing private property owners alone—against what the Supreme Court has decided before—to bear all the costs of letting the public use their land. They stressed the importance of respecting existing private property rights and encouraging collaborative initiatives with government authorities.

Amicus briefs filed

United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM), a non-profit dedicated to preserving property rights in Montana and the West, filed an amicus brief stating increasing public access to federal land is a “laudable goal,” and it must be achieved in a way that respects private property rights.

UPOM argued the case holds significance for landowners and hunters in the West. Despite efforts by public access advocates to change state laws in favor of corner crossing, these attempts have failed. Individual hunters seeking to establish a legal precedent have intentionally corner crossed on private property, hoping for criminal charges or civil lawsuits to create a favorable legal outcome, they said. However, prosecutors hesi-

tate to bring charges due to the lack of clear property damage and more pressing criminal matters. Landowners are reluctant to initiate civil litigation due to costs, negative publicity and alternative options for deterring trespassers, the group said.

The brief further states the case gives the first opportunity for an appellate court to consider alternative legal justifications for recreational hunters to corner cross without civil liability. The decision will determine whether hunters can corner cross in the 10th Circuit’s six Western states.

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WYSGA) and Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA) also filed an amicus brief arguing the ruling by the court “will significantly and negatively impact” its members.

The groups argued that the ruling limits a rancher’s right to exclude people from their property and that exclusion will cause significant stress on livestock and result in them congregating on private and state lands, causing parcel degradation. They said the burden of catching trespassers, determining how they reached the checkerboard lands, and absorbing the costs if cattle are stressed or shot will be placed on landowners as the ruling does not require the government to compensate them.

The brief argues the case is more than about hunters and

allows anybody the right to trespass onto private lands or over the airspace. WYSGA and WWGA members are trying to make a living in the

livestock industry and their land happens to be interspersed with public lands, they said. Congress created the checkerboard system,

and it is up to them and not the court to fix it, the brief concluded. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

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Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 3 — Klamath Falls, Bull & Female Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

ANGUS

Dec. 5 — Zumbrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 7 — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 8 — KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 9 — Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
Dec. 13 — Shipwreck Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 15 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 16 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 26 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 27 — Baldrige Performance Angus, North Platte, NE
Feb. 9 — Bar KD & Lambert

Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 9 — Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 9 — Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 10 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 12 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 — Meadow Acres, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Feb. 19 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 19 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 20 — Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 20, 2024 — V-A-L Charolais, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 23 — Cowman’s Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR

HEREFORD

Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Feb. 2 — Elkington Polled Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Feb. 9 — CX Ranch & Dutch Flat Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 9 — Lambert Ranch & Bar KD, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 10 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan UT
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

RED ANGUS

Dec. 6 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
Dec. 8 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 11 — Cross Diamond, Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 15 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Feb. 21, 2024 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID

SALERS

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

SIMANGUS

Jan 29, 2024 — APEX Cattle, Bull, Bred Heifer & Fall Pair Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV

SIMMENTAL

Jan 29, 2024 — APEX Cattle, Bull, Bred Heifer & Fall Pair Sale, Dannebrog, NE

STABILIZER

Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Alma, NE
Dec. 9 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

COMMERCIAL

Jan. 25, 2024 — Red Bluff, Replacement Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA

HORSE

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

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 Commercial Cow/Calf small registered herd plus seasonal yearling operation.
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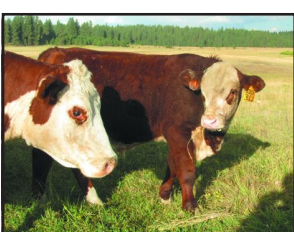
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 - 50 black baldey pasture bred Jorgenson Land and Cattle (long bred)
 - 244 Angus heifers (long bred) to Jorgenson Land and Cattle bulls (Rito and EXT)
 - 17 Angus heifers, black baldes short bred Jorgenson Land and Cattle bulls (Rito and EXT)
49 day calving period
 - 853 Northern Heifers bought, L.D. Barker D.V.M. did "Reproductive Analysis" (80# birth wt)
 - 264 heifers culled and sent to feedlot
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Contact L.D. Barker D.V.M. @ 405-620-2008
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SALE REPORTS

DIAMOND PEAK CATTLE FALL SALE
Nov. 18, Loma, CO
758 Commercial bred heifers..... \$2,700
414 Commercial bred running age cows 2,500
163 Commercial bred short-term cows ... 1,475
Auctioneer: Trent Stewart
— TY GROSHANS

PAINT ROCK ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE
Nov. 21, Hyattville, WY
178 Angus bull calves \$6,119
28 SimAngus bull calves 4,063
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins
TOPS: Paintrock Rainmaker 351-69-3, 2/1/23 by Paintrock Rainmaker 351-0; to Dennis Mercer, Huntley, MT, \$22,000. Paintrock Alliance 564-3, 2/12/23 by Isaacs Alliance 7161; to Audrey Pryor, Kaycee, WY, \$17,000. Paintrock Double 07-706-3, 1/19/23 by KG Double 07 8538; to Centennial Livestock, Dillon, MT, \$15,000. Paintrock Alliance 564-3, 2/12/23 by Isaacs Alliance 7161; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$14,000. Paintrock Element 912-3, 2/5/23 by Sitz Element 10088; to Klade Oleson,

Blackfoot, ID, \$13,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

VERMILION RANCH FALL PERFORMANCE SALE
Nov. 25, Billings, MT
159 Yearling bulls \$8,516
150 Older bulls 7,758
309 Total bulls 8,148
98 Bred cows 4,068
56 Bred heifers 3,758
54 Registered April calving cows 2,979
777-Year-old commercial cows 1,733
789 Commercial AI-bred heifers 2,838
581 Pasture-bred commercial heifers 2,538
131 Commercial bred cows 2,246
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins, Roger Jacobs, Bill Cook and Greg Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: Vermilion E Currency K213, 2/27/22 by Vermilion Currency; to Spickler Ranch North, Glenfield, ND, \$33,000. Vermilion G017 Bomber K790, 8/11/22 by Vermilion Bomber G017; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$30,000. Vermilion Flagstone K899, 8/26/22 by Baldrige Flagstone F411; to Bone Creek

Angus, Eastend, SK, CAN, \$22,000. Vermilion King Air K047, 1/28/22 by Connealy King Air; to Bone Creek Angus, Eastend, SK, CAN, \$20,000. Vermilion G077 Bomber K807, 8/17/22 by Vermilion Bomber G077; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$20,000. Vermilion G017 Bomber K782, 8/14/22 by Vermilion Bomber G017; to Clear Creek Angus, Chinook, MT, \$19,000. Vermilion Pryor K935, 9/9/22 by Connealy Pryor 0544; to Clear Creek Angus, Chinook, MT, \$19,000. **Females: Vermilion Lass 6043, 1/28/16 by Connealy Countdown bred to Basin Jameson; to Dye Ranch, Windham, MT, \$10,000. Vermilion Lucy 6061, 2/8/16 by Sitz Conformation 689A bred to Vermilion Riverside; to Colter Zentner, Bridger, MT, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN****

STEVENSON'S DIAMOND DOT ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Nov. 27, Hobson, MT
82 Older bulls \$5,850
216 Bull calves 5,875
118 Registered females 3,847
24 Embryos 557
653 Commercial bred heifers 2,525

239 Commercial bred cows 2,656
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Roger Jacobs
TOPS—Bulls: Diamond Marvel 8K44, 3/23/22 by Mohnen Marvel; to Elmose Angus, Three Forks, MT, \$20,250. Diamond Cavalry 080L, 2/15/23 by Diamond Cavalry 101; to Mark Wichman, Hobson, MT, \$16,000. Diamond Iconic L892, 1/19/23 by DB Iconic G95; to Rick Bull, Liverpool, IL, \$16,000. Diamond Logo K222, 3/21/22 by Sitz Logo 6197; to Barnes Ranch, Cody, NE, \$14,000. Diamond Marvel 95L5, 1/17/23 by Mohnen Marvel; to Bar CF Livestock, Lusk, WY, \$13,000. Diamond Logo L810, 1/18/23 by Sitz Logo 6197; to Dry Fork Livestock, Kaycee, WY, \$13,000. Diamond Logo 454L, 1/8/23 by Sitz Logo 6197; to Dry Fork Livestock, Kaycee, WY, \$13,000. Diamond Marvel 9L47, 1/18/23 by Mohnen Marvel; to Carr Angus, Hobson, MT, \$13,000. **Females: ICC Lady Confidence 428-050, 12/18/19 by Connealy Confidence Plus bred to Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Wilks Ranch, Eastland, TX, \$12,500. Diamond Clova Pride 6372, 1/18/22 by Baldrige**

Versatile bred to Diamond In the Rough J917; to Bethany Ridge Angus, Oak Harbor, WA, \$10,000. Diamond Clova Pride K126, 4/3/22 by Square B True North 8052 bred to Tehama Patriarch F028; to Calvin Kinney, Grants Pass, MT, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STEVENSON ANGUS FALL PRODUCTION SALE
Nov. 28, Hobson, MT
138 Older bulls \$6,696
113 Bull calves 5,406
34 Bred heifers 4,433
117 Bred cows 3,095
139 Commercial bred heifers 2,530
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: Stevenson Justified 2096, 4/16/22 by GDAR Justified 0192; to Cudlobe Angus, Stavelly, AB, CAN, \$16,500. Stevenson Incentive 2040, 4/9/22 by Sitz Incentive 704H; to Barnes Ranch, Cody, NE, \$15,000. Stevenson Rawhide 2017, 4/7/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Hall Angus Ranch, New Plymouth, ID, \$14,000. Stevenson Versatile 31338, 2/5/23 by Baldrige Versatile; to Mogck and Sons Angus, Olivet, SD, \$13,500. Stevenson Incentive 2016, 4/7/22 by Sitz Incentive 704H; to commercial bull buyer, WY, \$12,500. Stevenson Pacific 31082, 2/6/23 by Sterling Pacific 904; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$11,000. Stevenson Justice 31007, 1/21/23 by RL Justice; to commercial bull buyer, MT,

\$11,000. **Females: Stevenson Heather Zelda 2759, 1/13/22 by Poss Rawhide bred to Ellingson Prolific; to Arntzen Angus Ranch, Hilger, MT, \$6,500. Stevenson Ruby 2618, 2/24/22 by Ellingson Three Rivers 8062 bed to Boyd Justification; to Tyler Hicks, Stanford, MT, \$6,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN****

BEEF COUNTY BREEDERS BULL SALE
Nov. 29, Columbus, MT
25 Older bulls \$8,390
111 Yearling bulls 6,254
46 Bred heifers 3,728
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: Mc D Effective 245, 7/30/22 by Mc D Effective 789; to Rock Creek Cattle Co., Penokee, KS, \$25,000. Mc D Thedford 280; 2/20/22 by Hoffman Thedford; to Lucky 7 Angus, Riverton, WY, \$19,000. Mc D Countdown 2529; 8/3/22 by Vermilion Countdown C001; to McPherson Angus, Marcus, SD, \$17,500. Mc D Eagle 247; 2/15/22 by Granger Black Eagle 822; to Marhar Cattle, Isabel, SD, \$17,000. Mc D Effective 2511; 8/1/22 by Mc D Effective 789; Mike Mallett, Lampasas, TX, \$16,000. Mc D Iconic 2216; 8/26/22 by DB Iconic G95; Vermilion Ranch, Billings, MT, \$14,000. **Female: Mc D 0-2-2 Juanadaleen 274; 2/25/22 by Hoffman Thedford bred to Sitz Resilient; to 4K Livestock, Roy, MT, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN****

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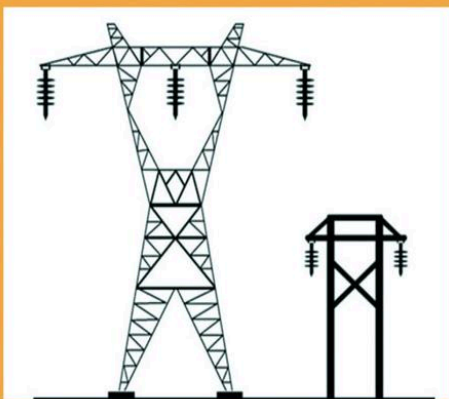
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