

INSIDE WLJ



WINTER PROPERTIES, SECTION TWO — The winter edition of Properties Ranch and Farm magazine is finally here! If your magazine is missing in this issue, call 720-370-8275 for a replacement.

BEEF COW SLAUGHTER POTENTIALLY SLOWING — Recent data showed beef cow slaughter was up less than 3% from last year, indicating it may be slowing, but female inventories are already severely depleted. **Page 13**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Many people take the livestock and food-producing industries for granted, but one editor's December 1927 *WLJ* column emphasized just how important those industries, and especially the stockyards, are: "Culture begins in the stock yards. American civilization rests on the stock yards. They are the explanation of it as they are of any modern civilization. The cities explain the civilization and the stock yards explain the cities. Here in Chicago, as elsewhere, the universities, hospitals, museums, improvements, amenities and accomplishments are derived directly from the fact that the stock yards provide meat without requiring all the time of the people who eat it in the effort to get it by going after it themselves. The squeal of the pig in the stock yards is the birth cry of civilization and the highly organized conversion of life into meat products."

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Feds may restore grizzlies to North Cascades

— Experimental 10(j) population

Federal agencies are again considering reintroducing grizzly bears to the North Cascades of Washington, where the animals once thrived.

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the initiation of a new environmental impact statement (EIS) to explore options for restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE).

"This is a first step toward bringing balance back to the ecosystem and restoring a piece of the Pacific Northwest's natural and cultural heritage," said Superintendent Don Striker of North Cascades National Park. "With the public's help we will evaluate a list of options to determine the best path forward."

The new EIS process will consider two alternatives: the no-action alternative of following existing management practices or the proposed action of designating grizzly bears in the U.S. portion of the NCE and surrounding areas as an experimental population under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"By designating bears in the area

as a 10(j) experimental population, the agencies can have more flexible options available for management. This would give authorities, ranchers, and landowners more options for managing bears to reduce or avoid conflicts while focusing on recovery," said Hugh Morrison, acting regional director for

USFWS' Pacific region. "The 10(j) experimental population designation would benefit the people and property in local communities, as well as the grizzly bears."

Under the proposed action, NPS and USFWS would capture bears from either interior British Columbia or the Northern Continental

Divide Ecosystem. Approximately three to seven captured grizzly bears would be released into the NCE each year over roughly five to 10 years, with a goal of establishing an initial population of 25 grizzly bears.

See GRIZZLY on page 16



National Park Service/Kimberly Shields
The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced they are initiating the process for restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem. Pictured here, a grizzly bear in Yellowstone National Park.

USFS unveils Crazy Mountains land swap

— Seeking public comments

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has unveiled a proposal to exchange private lands with federal lands in the eastern portion of the Crazy Mountains in the Custer Gallatin National Forest of Montana.

Two groups worked together on the land swap proposal to consolidate the checkerboard pattern of land ownership. These groups included the Crazy Mountain Access Project, a coalition of ranchers, conservationists and hunters, and the Yellowstone Club, a private residential club, ski resort and golf resort located just west of Big Sky, MT.

According to USFS, the "land-ownership pattern has contributed to a century of complicated management situations on public lands and problematic access issues for both private and public users creating an atmosphere of

confusion, distrust, frustration and at times misinformation."

If the swap is approved, it would involve swapping 10 parcels comprising 4,135 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land for 11 parcels comprising 6,430 acres of private land in the Crazy Mountains west of Melville, MT, and in the Madison Range south of Big Sky.

The proposal would create large areas of contiguous NFS land in the Crazy Mountains to protect sensitive areas, reduce the potential for development on the parcels and improve public recreational access. The swap would also preserve the high-elevation lands of the Crazy Mountains, an important traditional cultural area identified by the Crow Tribe. The Crow Tribe will also have access to Crazy Peak in an arrangement between the Tribe and Switchback Ranch LLC.

See CRAZY on page 9

PLC, USFS enter grazing monitoring agreement

— In effect until 2027

The Public Lands Council (PLC) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote cooperative monitoring of grazing allotments on National Forest System (NFS) lands. PLC said the MOU will help public lands ranchers and local USFS officials cooperate in order to collect and analyze data on rangeland health, ensuring better management of national forests and grasslands.

"As America's original conservationists, cattle and sheep producers are stewards of millions of acres of federal land," said PLC President Mark Roeber. "Data is

key to every decision permittees make on the landscape, and this MOU will allow permittees and the Forest Service to better share key information and strengthen the partnership between producers and agency officials."

Memo details

The MOU, titled "Allotment level monitoring for overseeing livestock grazing on national forests and national grasslands," is intended to promote and enhance allotment level monitoring on NFS lands. PLC members who hold NFS grazing permits may use the MOU to help develop and implement a cooperative monitoring

program on their grazing allotments.

"Monitoring of rangelands is essential to the sustainability of livestock grazing activities on national forests and grasslands," the MOU read.

"Cooperative monitoring enhances working relationships of the parties at the local level when the parties cooperatively acquire, analyze, and approve data collections to assist with creating adaptive rangeland management programs that enhance and improve the condition of rangelands."

In addition, the MOU noted cooperative monitoring could lead to

See MEMO on page 11

Light cash trade steady to \$1 higher

Cash trade was light through Thursday, at steady to \$1 higher than the holiday-shortened jump of over \$3. Live and feeder cattle traded higher throughout most of the week but closed lower compared to the previous shortened *WLJ* press week.

Since Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, live cattle traded lower. The December contract was down 75 cents to \$153.05, and the February contract was down \$1 to \$155.42.

"The live cattle futures market continues to linger within a dollar or two of its recent contract highs, but without the day-to-day volatility of more headline-driven markets," Elaine Kub, DTN contributing analyst, wrote in the Thursday midday comments.

Through Thursday, cash trade was 31,000 head. Live steers traded between \$155-157, averaging \$156.01, and dressed steers sold at \$245.

"Last week's northern dressed business was marked at \$245, which was itself a big \$3 week-over-week jump," Kub wrote in Wednesday's closing comments. "It may be tricky for the market to sustain gains like that two weeks in a row, although the bullish mood spilling over from outside markets could help."

Compared to the previous holiday-shortened week, live

steers in the South traded \$1 higher at \$155. In Nebraska and the western Corn Belt, live and dressed purchases traded steady from \$155-158 and at \$245, respectively.

Cash trade for the holiday-shortened week was 94,864 head. Live steers averaged \$156.12, and dressed steers averaged \$244.98.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 21 to Nov. 28 was the following on a live basis:

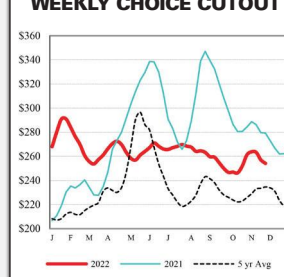
- Negotiated purchases: \$156.16.
- Formula net purchases: \$154.50.

• Forward contract net purchases: \$150.93.

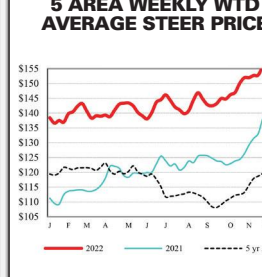
See MARKETS on page 13

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$155.23	\$245.00	\$174.64
WEEK ENDING: 12-1-22		

COMMENTS

Beef margins are changing

The railroad strike has been the big news for the past few weeks. It may be hard for some to understand, but railroads were a major contributor to the success of this nation and industry. The first week of December 1922 was the first edition of the *Western Livestock Journal*.



CROW

This issue marks our 101st birthday, and this is the first issue of the new volume. By the way, the railroad loaned Nelson Crow (Grandpa) the money to start the first *Farm and Ranch Market Journal* for the new Los Angeles Union Stockyards. So, I must thank the Union Pacific Railroad and Arthur G. Leonard for the seed of my publishing heritage and, ultimately, the *Western Livestock Journal*.

The publication spent 100 years under the Crow family, and three generations have embraced the livestock industry and its people. If you were at an important meeting, it was more than likely that a Crow was in the background taking notes and bringing you the industry news. And you know as well as I do that there was always something to report.

The cattle industry is in a state of flux. Drought conditions have forced producers to reduce cow herds in a large area of the West. Cattle prices are rising on reduced supplies. Beef demand has been great the past few years, and it's because we're producing better beef that consumers want, and they want the good stuff: Prime. Have you looked at the spread between Prime and Choice on the beef cut-out? Last week, Prime was at \$336.69 while Choice was at \$255.05; that's an \$81.64 spread. Typically, we talk about the Choice/Select spread, which is at \$27. How much more are your calves going to be worth if they have the potential to produce Prime beef on a consistent basis?

It looks to me as though going forward, producers of fine cattle should be getting closer to the consumer. Some already have. Many outfits are supplementing their income by selling their own processed beef. I have folks ask me all the time about buying a side of beef. I usually say you should go to Costco and buy the cuts you like. That way you don't have 100 pounds of hamburger in your freezer.

We're going to see more direct marketing of beef and other meats. The mail order business has proven we can sell beef anywhere. There are more and more Christmas catalogs featuring beef at extraordinary prices.

The beef cutout has remained in a trading range between \$2.50 and \$2.70 for Choice, so beef prices have been stable. Fewer cattle coming down the pipe will influence retail margins first and packer margins later. We have proved that folks will pay handsomely for a good piece of beef, but there is a limit to what they will pay.

Packer margins have been pared down. Last week, John Nalivka at Sterling Marketing Inc. told me that packer margins were a negative \$26 per head, which might mark the end of their profits or perhaps be a bright star in the history of the meatpacking industry. A year ago, they were making \$1,000 per head. How's that for a turnaround? Now we'll see who is going to get the profits; it'll probably be the feeders and then the cow-calf guys.

Packers have kept slaughter levels high most of this fall. The rib market is carrying the beef cutout because of the holidays. Other primals are not moving as well. Packers will be forced to reduce beef production soon to raise the cutout, especially if they are starting to lose money. Some of the market analysts have suggested that there will be 900,000 fewer fed cattle for the year. Now we're hitting the winter months, which seasonally mark the low spot in the beef market, and folks generally turn to cooking roasts.

All we can really say is the beef and cattle cycles are still at work. Mother Nature always has a hand in our cattle inventory and has for over 100 years. The best thing the cattle industry has done is realize that quality sells. We started doing the research around 1990, and the breed associations started measuring cattle much earlier. But today, we produce over 85% Choice beef and 9% Prime.

Major drought always liquidates the lower end of the cow herd, and when they are replaced, they are generally better-producing cattle. It's not a great way to have genetic improvement, but it works. Let's look forward to the next 100 years with *WLJ*, which will change in an ever-changing industry. And don't forget to pray for rain. — **PETE CROW**

KAY'S KORNER



"Where's the beef?" is a slogan coined by hamburger chain Wendy's and is one of the most successful ad campaigns of the past few decades. But in light of a big decline in U.S. beef production next year,

global beef users might be asking the same question about U.S. beef. U.S. production is expected to decline to 12.02 million metric tons (mt), down just over 6% from the expected 2022 total of 12.82 million mt.

Drought conditions in much of the U.S. in 2022 have resulted in high culling rates and earlier-than-normal placements of cattle in feedlots, says USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). This will result in a smaller cattle herd in 2023. Another USDA agency says that as of Nov. 1, 76% of the U.S. cattle inventory continued to be mired in varying degrees of drought. Through the latest reporting period, weekly beef cow slaughter was up 12.3% from a year ago.

FAS forecasts that U.S. exports will be 14% lower than 2022's record volume. Tighter cattle supplies and potential heifer herd retention will be reflected in lower beef production, thus constraining exportable supplies. Nevertheless, U.S. exports are expected to remain historically elevated on firm demand in key markets, FAS said. Global buyers, it seems, will have to turn to using more Brazilian beef, although it is of a very different quality to U.S. beef.

Global beef production in 2023 is forecast fractionally lower, as falling North American and European Union production offsets gains in Brazil, China and Australia, FAS says. Brazil production is expected to increase 1% to 10.45 million mt based on firm global demand in key markets, although higher input costs and a weak domestic market will constrain growth. In China, higher cattle inventories are anticipated to support a 5% increase in beef production. Meanwhile, Australian production is expected to surge 13% to 2.21 million mt on improved pasture conditions, FAS says.

Global exports in 2023 are forecast down 1% due to lower import demand, particularly in China, FAS says. Nevertheless, lower total exports from North America and India are expected to benefit Australia and Brazil. Reduced North American competition in East Asia and rebounding Australian production will allow Australia to boost its shipments and increase its market share. Meanwhile, Brazil's exports are forecast to be record high, as aggregate exports from its main competitors (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and India) are expected to fall 3%. Smaller cattle inventories are expected to weigh on the exportable sup-

WHERE'S THE US BEEF?

plies of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. As for India, exports are expected to be unchanged from 2022, with limited growth to a number of markets, FAS says.

Brazil's beef exports in 2023 are forecast up about 1%, FAS says. It will maintain its position as top exporter, accounting for approximately 25% of beef exports by major traders. China is expected to remain Brazil's largest market despite lower total beef imports due to increased domestic supplies. Argentina and Uruguay, Brazil's main competitors in China, will have tighter supplies of cattle, limiting their exportable supplies. Furthermore, Brazil exports only frozen, boneless beef to China and at more competitive prices than New Zealand and Australia, making its shipments more attractive amid the economic slowdown. In addition to China, Brazil's shipments to the Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian markets are expected to climb while India's exports are expected to be stagnant, FAS says.

Meanwhile, the latest export data reveals that U.S. beef exports in September declined year over year in value and volume, while Australian exports in October again performed poorly. The value of U.S. beef exports in September slid below year-ago levels, below \$1 billion for only the second month this year. Exports totaled 115,487 mt, valued at \$890.3 million, down 7% from a year ago in both volume and value. But for the first nine months of 2022, beef exports were still 4% above last year at 1.12 million mt. Export value reached \$9.12 billion, up 20% and already achieving the second-highest total for any calendar year, trailing only the 2021 record of \$10.58 billion.

Australian beef exports continue to perform poorly. For the year to the end of October, exports reached 708,778 mt, down 3.7% from the same period last year, Jon Condon of Beef Central says. Barring a miraculous turnaround in the last two months of the year, which seems unlikely, full-year exports for 2022 may struggle to reach 850,000 mt. That will come on top of a 36-year record low export volume of 887,679 mt last calendar year. But according to FAS, Australian exports will start to rebound next year. That means the U.S. will start to see more Australian manufactured beef going into the food service channel. — **Steve Kay**

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

GUEST OPINION

Multigenerational family farms and ranches face important decisions about their futures. Some decisions focus on how the business will grow or adapt to changing markets or new opportunities. Some decisions have to do with who will eventually lead the business. Yet another set of decisions determines how the business—the land, livestock, inventory and equipment—will be owned in the future. Here are the ownership conversations you should have with your spouse and as a family.

1. Who will own the business? There are two levels upon which to consider this question. The first is on-farm owners versus off-farm owners. Should all siblings inherit business assets equally regardless of their involvement in the enterprise? This may solve the parents' goal of treating the next generation equally while simultaneously creating problems and conflict by mandating a business relationship between your adult children who don't work together.

The second level of ownership relates to the differing amounts of time spent by the younger generation working in the family business. Should everyone own equal portions of the business, even if some have worked there longer than others? Equal ownership may create resentment by those who have invested more time in the business, but a differentiated ownership structure can feel punitive to those who were born later and, by no fault of their own, can't catch up to their older siblings' years of service.

2. How will the ownership transfer occur? Outside of agriculture, small businesses are often sold to finance the senior generation's retirement. But in agriculture, the capital intensity and generational buildup of wealth, the opportunity for land rent to provide retirement income and the potential estate tax lead most families to gift assets to the next generation. When families don't specifically talk about this "gift or sale" question, people end up guessing or assuming an answer. The assumption of a gift can give an impression of entitlement. And, with an intended sale of some assets (equipment, for example), a window of time for

4 OWNERSHIP CONVERSATIONS YOU NEED TO HAVE WITH HEIRS

tax planning and financial preparation is beneficial. A conversation well ahead of a transition is helpful to all.

3. When will the ownership transfer occur? If the ownership transition will happen upon the death of the senior generation, the "kids" who inherit the business may be at retirement age before they become owners. Many family members resent the fact that when they inherited the business, it was time for them to consider passing it on to their kids. They never felt like owners. But, if the ownership transition happens before death, the senior generation may find it hard to give up control. Finding the right time to start the transition is hard.

4. How do partners get out of business together? When business ownership transitions from a two-person parent structure to a next-generation sibling partnership (with in-laws nearby), the odds are high that someone will eventually want to exit the partnership. A thoughtful approach to potential exits is one of the best gifts the senior generation can offer. Should a selling partner's equity be discounted? What terms protect the business while not creating animosity between siblings? How will assets or company shares be valued? There are no cut-and-dried, easy answers to these questions, but there are models and examples that can help you create a strategy that fits your goals as a family business.

These discussions are difficult but necessary, and a "right" answer is elusive. Your job for many years has been to run the farm or ranch or to manage the family assets. Now, your job also includes leading your family through an ownership transition. Tackling the four questions mentioned here with help from your professional advisers, if needed, can prepare your family business for a successful transition. — **Lance Woodbury, DTN farm business adviser**

(Write Lance Woodbury at Family Business Matters, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209, or email lance.woodbury@pinionglobal.com.)

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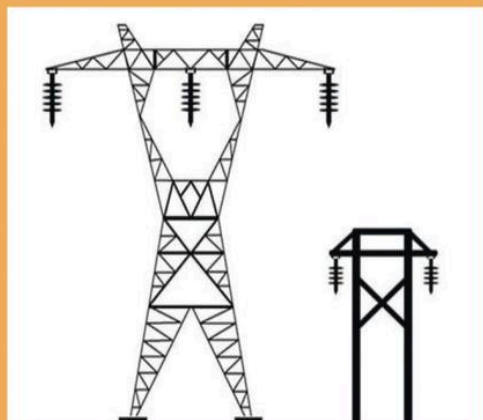
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Vilsack expects corn remedy after Mexico meeting

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack met with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Nov. 28 to discuss genetically modified corn, a sign of how alarming the Biden administration considers López Obrador's plans to ban biotechnology corn and other biotech products by January 2024.

Following growing concerns about a potential ban on U.S. biotech corn exports to Mexico, Vilsack said the Mexican president reiterated the value of yellow corn imports for his country.

"For example, President López Obrador reaffirmed the importance of yellow

corn imports for Mexico's food security," Vilsack said. "He also discussed a potential process in which we can exchange information and engage in dialogue, assuring the safety of biotechnology products."

Vilsack said he expects a proposal from the Mexican government soon to resolve the situation.

"While we do not have a solution in hand, we will continue to engage with Mexico on this important issue," Vilsack said.

Over the past marketing year, Mexico bought 16.8 million metric tons of corn, keeping it as the top export market for corn, with sales

valued at just over \$5 billion, according to the U.S. Grains Council.

"The meetings provided a venue to raise the United States government's and our producers' deep concerns around President López Obrador's 2020 decree to phase out the use and importation of biotech corn and other biotechnology products by January 2024," Vilsack said. "The president's phase-out decree has the potential to substantially disrupt trade, harm farmers on both sides of the border and significantly increase costs for Mexican consumers."

"We must find a way forward soon and I emphasized

in no uncertain terms that—absent acceptable resolution of the issue—the U.S. government would be forced to consider all options, including taking formal steps to enforce our legal rights under the (U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement)."

Vilsack added, "We made it abundantly clear that Mexico's import ban would cause both massive economic losses for Mexico's agricultural industries and citizens, as well as place an unjustified burden on U.S. farmers."

Vilsack added the biotechnology decree would have a significant impact on the U.S.-Mexico trade relation-

ship, which involved more than \$63 billion in two-way trade in 2021 and is expected to be higher for 2022.

"The phase-out of biotechnology products, as outlined in the decree, could also stifle the important innovations we need to help our farmers adapt to a changing climate."

"The United States Department of Agriculture and the wider U.S. government have consistently and proactively pursued cooperation and consultation with Mexico to resolve this issue and time is now running short. Some progress was made today."

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) said

the trip "showed how strongly Secretary Vilsack feels about this issue."

"We are very appreciative of Secretary Vilsack for taking the lead on this issue that is so important to American corn growers," said NCGA CEO Jon Doggett.

"Today's meeting shows that the Biden administration is listening to NCGA and American corn grower leaders and that Secretary Vilsack is willing to go to the mat for America's farmers. This is an extremely important development." — **Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent, and Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Considerations for backgrounding calves

Feed costs are always a concern for cattle producers, but 2022-2023 numbers have shown some of the highest feed costs in over a decade. In fact, according to the USDA feed price index, overall feed prices for livestock and poultry are up 26.6% from September 2020 through September 2022.

"Feed costs are only part of the equation when it comes to backgrounding, however," said Bryon Parman, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension agriculture finance specialist. "The (prices) of weaned calves and backgrounded calves are extremely important."

A recent USDA Agricultural Marketing Service North Dakota Weekly Cattle Auction Summary report showed a wide range in North Dakota's calf prices. For example, 550-600 pound, medium and large No. 1 steer prices ranged from \$188/cwt to \$225/cwt, with a \$198.64 average.

"So, from a backgrounding standpoint, it may be advantageous to consider the average and below-average priced steers to add value in a backgrounding program," said Tim Petry, NDSU Extension livestock marketing specialist.

Heifer calf prices are discounted relative to their steer counterparts. The North Dakota Agricultural Marketing Service report showed 550-600 lb. heifers averaging \$175.74/cwt, almost \$23/cwt less than steers. Heifers gain in price relative to steers, with 850-900 lb. heifers at close to the same value. Many heifers are backgrounded each year in North Dakota, and the budgets show that has potential again this year.

The feeder cattle futures market can be a guide for price expectations for backgrounded steers marketed in January through March. January feeder cattle futures currently are trading at \$179/cwt, with March futures contracts at \$182/cwt.

Because the cattle market is volatile with all the fundamental factors affecting the market, Extension specialists encourage ranchers to consider price

risk management strategies in calf backgrounding marketing plans.

"Not only are feed prices high, but with the rise in energy costs, interest, labor, hauling and repair fees, overhead costs have risen and can erode profits for cattle set to gain at slower rates," Parman said. "For instance, with a yardage cost of \$0.45 per day on top of interest accumulation, an animal in the yard for 100 days would incur an interest and yardage cost total of \$67.73, while an animal in the yard for 167 days would incur a cost of \$112.40. This explains much of the difference between the 1.8 lb. average daily gain for steers and the 2.8 lb. average daily gain scenario."

According to NDSU Extension livestock systems specialist Karl Hoppe, lighter calves gaining 1.8 lbs. per day would need a 0.34 megacalorie (Mcal) per pound net energy ration. Steers gaining 2.8 lbs. per day need a 0.45 Mcal/lb. net energy ration. To reach a 3.6 lb. average daily gain, the final ration would require an average of 0.55 Mcal or better. If the calves are fed to finish, the final ration needs to be 0.62 Mcal or higher during the final months on feed.

Ration cost per day increases as the energy density of the ration increases. Using diets consisting of grass hay, corn silage, corn grain and distillers grains, the cost per day is \$1.41 for 0.34 Mcal ration, \$1.76 for 0.45 Mcal ration and \$2.50 for 0.55 Mcal ration.

"Feed cost of gain provides more insight to efficiency than feed cost per day," Hoppe said. "Feed cost per pound of gain is \$0.78 for 1.8 lbs. daily gain, \$0.63 for 2.8 lbs. daily gain and \$0.69 for 3.6 lbs. daily gain."

While feed costs for energy are usually based on the corn grain price, local prices and costs vary.

"Keeping feed costs low, calf gain and feed conversion performance high, and purchase cost affordable can make backgrounding an opportunity for the winter season of 2022-2023," Hoppe said. — **NDSU Extension**

82nd Annual



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**Fri. January 27: Stock Dogs - Final Work
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**Sat. January 28: 82nd Annual Red Bluff Bull Sale
Red Bluff Bucking Battle**



Photos by Tracy





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LEGAL LEDGER

Japan approves beef safeguard

On Nov. 22, the Upper House of Japan's Diet approved the updated beef safeguard mechanism under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, which completes the Diet's process to finalize the agreement. Once in effect, the agreement will amend the beef safeguard trigger level with a new three-trigger safeguard mechanism, according to a news release from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). This will allow U.S. exporters to meet Japan's growing demand for high-quality beef and reduce the potential for higher tariffs in the future, the agency said. The agreement was signed on June 2 by USTR Katherine Tai and Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Koji Tomita. The two countries are working to finalize all domestic procedures for the agreement to go into effect. "The Protocol will ensure our farmers and ranchers continue to have access to one of the world's most dynamic markets," Tai said. "We are excited that Japan's consumers can enjoy high-quality U.S. beef that is a staple of our agricultural industry."

USDA extends P&S Act comments

USDA has added 45 days onto its comment period regarding its proposed rule on competition and market integrity under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The rule, titled "Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity Under the Packers and Stockyards Act," originally had a comment deadline of Dec. 2, but USDA has extended the deadline until Jan. 17, 2023. The proposed rule would revise regulations under the P&S Act "by prohibiting certain prejudices and disadvantages against covered producers in the livestock, meat, and poultry markets," the department said. The purpose of the rule is to promote inclusive competition and market integrity in the livestock, meat and poultry markets, according to USDA. "While we appreciate the additional time to submit thorough comments, overall USDA should tap the brakes on this rulemaking effort," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association Senior Director of Government Affairs Tanner Beymer. "This is a significant undertaking rooted in decades of legislative, regulatory, and judicial history. Stakeholders must be afforded the opportunity to holistically evaluate the effects of both this rule and those which the Department has suggested are forthcoming." Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by searching for docket number AMS-FTPP-21-0045.

Booker presents animal welfare bill

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) recently introduced the Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act, legislation that he says will place the liability for responsible disaster mitigation on corporations and industrial operations. These entities would be required to register with USDA, submit disaster preparedness plans and pay a fee to establish a fund focused on disaster events. "This new fund, the High-Risk AFO Disaster Mitigation Fund, will be utilized to enforce disaster mitigation plans and ensure that the most humane practices are used if depopulation is absolutely necessary," according to a news release. The bill would also end line-speed increases and meatpacker self-inspection programs for slaughter, prohibit the slaughter of all downed animals and require "more humane treatment of livestock transported for long periods." In addition, the legislation would invest in higher welfare slaughter technology in processing facilities and establish a pilot program to train and employ more part-time inspectors for small plants.

2019 ESA rules will remain in effect

A federal district court has ruled the Trump administration's 2019 Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations may remain in place with no set timeline for the Biden administration to propose new rules. Conservation groups sued to challenge the 2019 rules, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service filed a motion in December 2021, asking to partially rewrite the rules while keeping them in place during a rule-making process. "The Trump-era rules allowed economic considerations to influence whether species were provided life-saving protections, allowed agencies to sideline impacts to endangered species from climate change, and reduced protections for species listed as threatened, among other harmful changes," Earthjustice wrote in response to the ruling.

Another phase of USDA aid

USDA is rolling out additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance for producers. The department will be providing aid through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two, along with the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP). "These new programs apply a holistic approach to emergency assistance—an approach not focused on any one disaster event or commodity but rather one focused on filling gaps in assistance for agricultural producers who have, over the past few years, suffered losses from natural disasters and the pandemic," said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement. ERP Phase Two will assist producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freezes (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture and qualifying droughts in 2020 and 2021. PARP will aid commodity producers who experienced revenue decreases in 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Using alfalfa as a supplemental protein

Choosing the right protein may help bring the cost of feed down and more accurately meet the needs of our cattle. In some rations, alfalfa might be that choice.

Whether cattle are on winter range, are on cornstalks or are being fed prairie/grass hay, they often will need extra protein in their diet. Protein sources vary in cost and effectiveness. Protein is important because it is used by the rumen microbes to help break down low-quality forage, and it is then used by the animal itself as microbial protein within the digestive tract. It's essentially used twice.

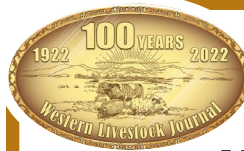
Many times, alfalfa is one of the cheapest natural sources of protein, it is easy to use and it doesn't require additional equipment. Non-protein sources of nitrogen such as urea may be cheap, but they won't be as effective with low-quality forage. The first steps to finding out how much extra protein your cattle need include testing your feeds and forages for

protein and estimating the consumption rate. Then, determine the amount of supplementation needed, which will depend on if you are dealing with weaned, growing calves; dry, pregnant cows; or lactating cows and nursing calves.

Some winter diets such as winter range, cornstalks or grass hay may require approximately 1 pound of extra protein per day. This can be supplemented every day or every other day and still keep cows productive,

healthy and meeting requirements.

Feeding the right amount and choosing the right protein can save money. Alfalfa might just be the golden ticket. — **Brad Schick, Nebraska Extension**



Dec. 7, 1922, Vol. 1, No. 1

NEVADA FEEDING USUAL NUMBER OF CATTLE AND SHEEP

Recently secured estimates show that Nevada has about the usual number of cattle and sheep being fed for market, according to the latest report from the Nevada Live Stock Association, of which Vernon M. Metcalf, Reno, Nevada, is secretary.

Mr. Metcalf's report in part follows: Winnemucca reports few beef steer sales at 6c, with offers of 5½c for cows, main cattle demand apparently being for two-year-olds and under. Elke reports beef steer sales on a basis of 6@6¼c, and later in week offers up to 6½c for best fat steers, December 5

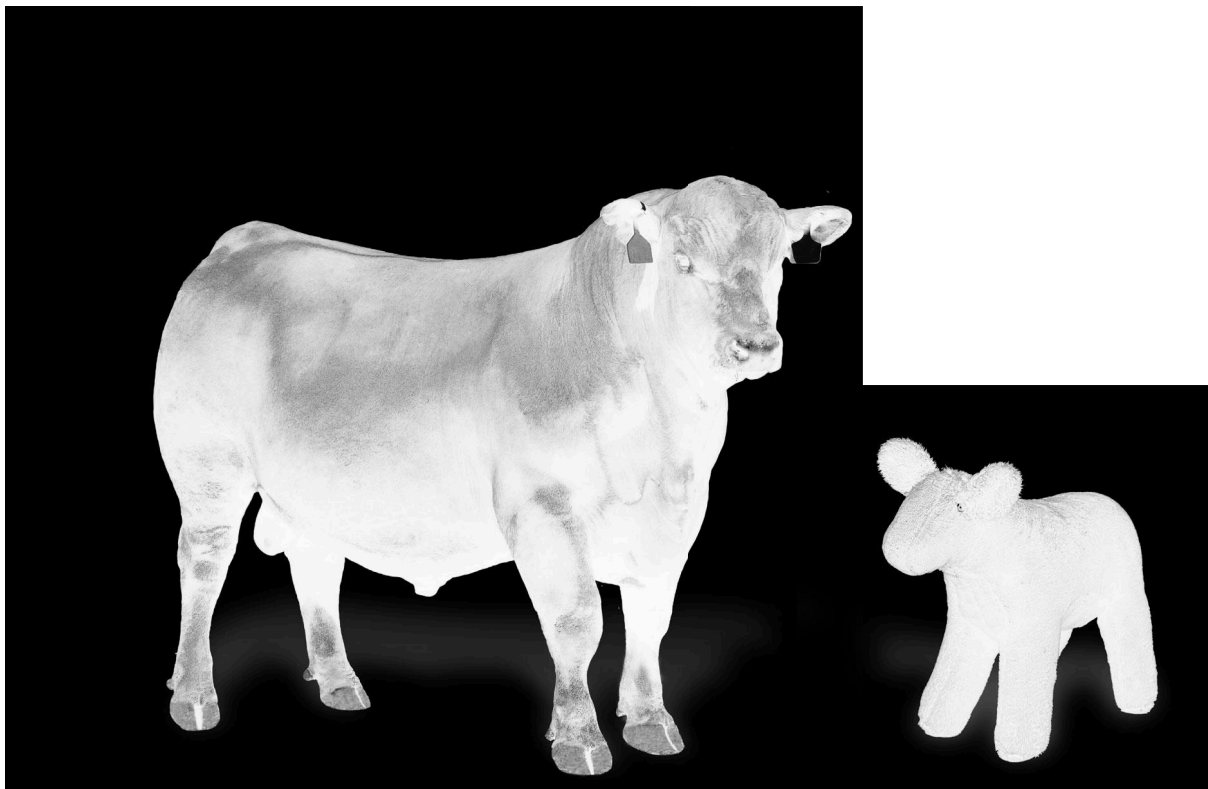
delivery, two loads being reported sold on that basis. Eureka reports sale of about 400 stock cattle, fair condition, cows and calves going at \$50 and others at \$35 per head.

Winnemucca reports wether lambs at \$6.50 to \$7.00 per head, most ewe lambs being held. Stock ewe sales reported on basis of \$11.00 to \$11.50 per head, these being mostly yearlings, two and threes.

No Nevada contracting of 1923 wool clip reported to date, Standing offer of 38c per pound reported in extreme northeastern California section, but no sales. — **WLJ**

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Celia Gould and Tanner Wagner

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

Celia Gould and Tanner Wagner work to promote Idaho agriculture on a daily basis, but for all producers, they emphasize the importance of creating strong relationships with ranchers in other countries.

Celia is the director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (IDSA) and has been in her position since 2007. She and her husband also operate two cattle ranches in the state. Tanner is an international trade specialist at ISDA. While his promotional emphasis is in livestock and genetics, he also handles what he calls “everything that comes out of the ground and is processed in Idaho or grown in other states and processed in Idaho.”

ISDA is both a regulatory and promotional agency, Celia told *WLJ*. Tanner said they help connect producers from Idaho with other producers in various countries, whether it be with dairy or beef genetics. For beef genetics, the main target market is Mexico.

“Our mantra is that we promote, connect and educate Idaho producers to help them grow their marketplace,” Tanner said.



ISDA
Pictured here on the 2022 trade mission to Jalisco and Aguascalientes, from left, Tanner Wagner, ISDA; Rafael Ramirez, Rancho Posta el Cuatro; Guy Colyer, Colyer Herefords and Angus; Katie Colyer, Colyer Herefords and Angus; Celia Gould, ISDA director; Jeremy Howard, Simplot Animal Sciences; Fabiola McClellan, Idaho-Mexico trade office manager; and Vanessa Salcido, Idaho-Mexico trade office project manager.

U.S. Livestock Genetics Export Inc. (USLGE) is a cooperative that is funded through the MarketAccess Program, Celia said, of which ISDA is a member and works with to put together trade missions.

The majority of work is done with registered cattle, as there is more of a focus on selling genetics, Tanner said. “We’re working directly with those genetic powerhouses that are trying to sell quality genetics to help the ranchers,” he explained. “And they could be commercial cattle ranchers in other countries, but normally, the commercial cattle ranchers here aren’t trying to sell genetics; they’re trying to sell live animals.”

However, he noted that they won’t turn away commercial cattlemen, and there

could also be opportunities for them in these markets.

Recently, Celia and Tanner were able to travel to Mexico on a trade mission to advance the promotional goals of the agency, which, for this trip, involved promoting Idaho cattle genetics. The state of Idaho has a trade office in Mexico, and there is always an in-country representative there to help, which really benefits ISDA, Celia said. As a mission begins to come together and it is decided what ranches want to be toured, the trade offices work with government officials to put the mission together.

On the recent mission, the new governor of Aguascalientes, María Teresa Jiménez Esquivel, came out to one of the ranches where a dinner and a rodeo were hosted. “It helps in these

countries to have government officials recognize it helps their producers, but it also helps our producers going forward so that they know that these programs are legitimate and that they’re important,” Celia said.

The mission took place in two states, Jalisco and Aguascalientes. Jalisco is known not only for its agave production, but also its cattle and other livestock production such as poultry and dairy, Tanner said. The attendees visited six ranches in total: three in each state.

Trade mission participants were also given the opportunity to visit the livestock exposition in Jalisco, Expo Ganadera Jalisco. “This is not the first time for our producers to go down and attend the livestock expo,” Celia said. “Each

time, we’re starting to see our genetics show up at those shows. And when they win, they have our producers come up and stand with them in the pictures. There’s a real affinity and a real close tie because of the missions that we have done.”

For producers wanting to become involved and participate in a trade mission, Tanner said the process is quite simple, and the main requirement is to have a serious interest in exports. “It’s not just a vacation,” he said. “It’s people that are really interested and have exported or are wanting to export. Just get in contact with me, and we will see what we can do.” He added that there is no quantity requirement of genetic production to attend a trip.

He noted that there may not be enough producers from Idaho or other states to do a mission for a specific breed, and the last trip they did was a combination of Angus and Hereford breeders.

Celia added that while they most recently led a mission to Mexico, they can expand market opportunities to many other markets and into countries that show potential. In the past, USLGE has taken producers to Russia.

Celia cautioned that you can’t always be chasing a new market because so much of what they do is built on relationships. “For a small state like Idaho that has world-class products, we’ve found that building the relationships is much more productive than always chasing the hot, new market,” Celia said.

She emphasized the im-

portance of also hosting inbound missions, having producers from other countries visit Idaho and tour Idaho ranches.

“They’re always impressed with our producers,” Celia said. “We’ve got world-class genetics in this state, so we have the opportunity to bring those folks in to see what we have available.”

Tanner added that when producers in other countries have seen an operation for themselves and know they can trust that a producer has the quality they’re looking for, it makes sales a lot easier.

While Mexico is the most active market through USLGE for beef and Vietnam is the most active market for dairy, the cooperative is looking into working with several new countries in the future. This includes Argentina, mainly because they have a good knowledge of quality genetics, Tanner said, but there are some trade barriers, as Argentina doesn’t allow the sale of live animals into the country. Colombia also has some areas conducive to the kind of livestock produced in Idaho thanks to the higher elevation in some regions of the country, he said.

“Making friends and seeing those relationships develop and seeing the mutual love and connection between two countries, between two people and cultures, it is absolutely beautiful,” Tanner concluded. “And it’s all shared over livestock, all over genetics, all over the heart of our countries. And it’s exciting to see.” — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



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CATTLE: Over 2 years 1 mL/per 200 lbs. bodyweight

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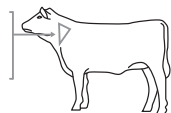
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US cranberry harvest expected to be 5% larger

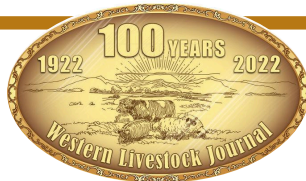
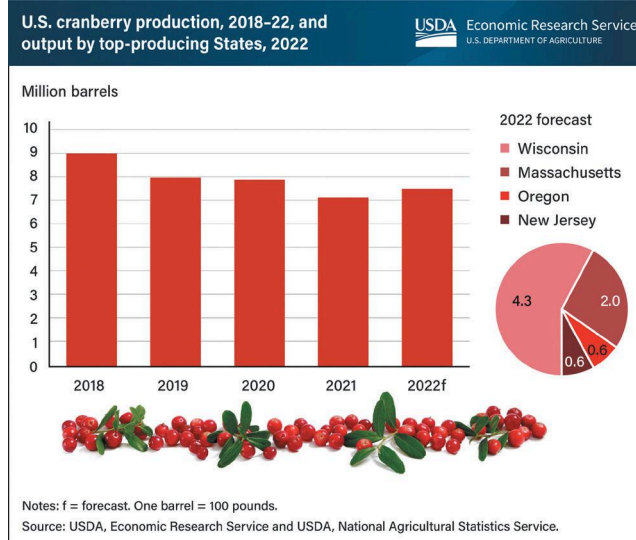
The 2022 U.S. cranberry harvest was wrapping up just before Thanksgiving, and this year's crop is forecast to be 5% larger than last year's crop. The 2022 cranberry crop is estimated at 7.44 million barrels but is expected to be smaller than in any of the previous three years (2018-20).

Cranberry production, as measured by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), comes from four states: Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Oregon and New Jersey. In Wisconsin, the largest growing state, production is forecast at 4.3

million barrels, up 3% from last year.

Larger crops are expected in all states but most prominently in Massachusetts, where production is forecast at 2 million barrels, an 11% increase from last year.

According to NASS, Wisconsin and Massachusetts growers reported the crop experienced cold, wet weather and hail early in the growing season, stalling the planting season. However, warmer temperatures and better weather conditions helped cranberry plants and berries develop. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



Dec. 7, 1922, Vol. 1, No. 1

BEDTIME STORY

By Aunt Mary

Now if you will all keep still, I'll tell you a story. Sh-sh! Jimmie, will you sit down? How would you like to hear about the Princess and the robber?

One bright warm morning, the Princess and her big, faithful dog went out for a walk. They didn't know just where they were going, but that they would go into the big, cool woods, which belonged to her father, the King, and no one was allowed there but the Royal family and their guests.

As the Princess was going down the path into the big, cool woods, her big dog,

Rover, trotted behind her, carrying the lunch basket. He knew he mustn't lose the basket for it had a great big bone in it for him and he was busy thinking where he was going to bury that nice big bone. In fact, he was so busy thinking that he didn't hear or see the little red, fluffy squirrel, who ran right across the path in front of the Princess.

Dog Rover started to chase the squirrel and was so excited that he dropped the lunch basket and out rolled a big yellow orange. So the Princess and Dog Rover ran after it, but it kept rolling on and on, right into the big dark forest, but

the Princess and Dog Rover kept trying to catch it, but the big yellow orange kept rolling on and on until all of a sudden it stopped in front of a great high tree. The tree was so tall that you couldn't see the top of it and was big around as a house. As the Princess reached down to pick up the orange, a great big door opened in the trees and out came a terrible giant. The Princess was so scared that she couldn't scream or run, but Dog Rover wasn't scared for he stiffened his legs and his hair stood straight up on his back, he showed his big, white teeth and growled way down deep, for he didn't

like the looks of the giant. But the bad giant only laughed and told Dog Rover to stop growling or he would kick him. Dog Rover wasn't afraid, so he growled more and more, which made the giant very angry, and just as he started to kick Dog Rover who should jump out of the orange but Jack the Giant Killer, and the giant was so scared when he saw him that he started to run and didn't stop until he stubbed his toe on a hill and fell into the ocean and was drowned. So the Princess and her big dog Rover ran all the way back to the castle to tell the King and Queen all about it.

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(program gives planned dates that can be varied to suit management programs)

DOSAGE TABLE			
ANIMAL WEIGHT (lbs)	CALVES UP TO 1 YEAR 1 ml/100 lb BW	CATTLE 1 - 2 YEARS 1 ml/150 lb BW	CATTLE > 2 YEARS 1 ml/200 lb BW
50	0.5 ml	-	-
100	1 ml	-	-
150	1.5 ml	-	-
200	2 ml	-	-
300	3 ml	-	-
400	4 ml	-	-
500	5 ml	-	-
600	6 ml	-	-
700	7 ml	-	-
800	-	5.3 ml	-
900	-	6 ml	-
1000	-	6.6 ml	5 ml
1100	-	-	5.5 ml
1200	-	-	6 ml
1300	-	-	6.5 ml
1400	-	-	7 ml

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Preventing vitamin A deficiency

A well-balanced diet is a key to good health, and many know the importance of a multivitamin to keep deficiencies at bay.

For cattle, vitamin A is one nutrient that producers need to manage to keep the cattle healthy, said the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"Vitamin A is important for good overall tissue health and really helps support vision," said veterinarian Bob Larson. "Cattle with severe deficiencies can experience night blindness, and their calves can be born weak, but those would be extreme cases."

Larson said most of the signs of vitamin A deficiency are subtle and hard to detect.

"The primary source of vitamin A is through the beta carotene found in green grass," said beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster. "The animal's body can convert that to vitamin A, and since it's a fat-solu-

ble vitamin, it can be stored in the animal's body for three to four months after it comes off the green pastures."

The challenge this year is that for many regions of the country, the pastures experienced drought, and cattle were not able to graze it as long as normal, the experts said.

"And because of the drought, the hay that we made this summer may not have had the same levels of vitamin A as in past years," added veterinarian Brad White.

There are two options for managing this deficiency, according to Larson.

"A lot of mineral supplements will include vitamin A. It is important to feed fresh mineral supplements that haven't been stored for more than a year to make sure the product hasn't been degraded," he said.

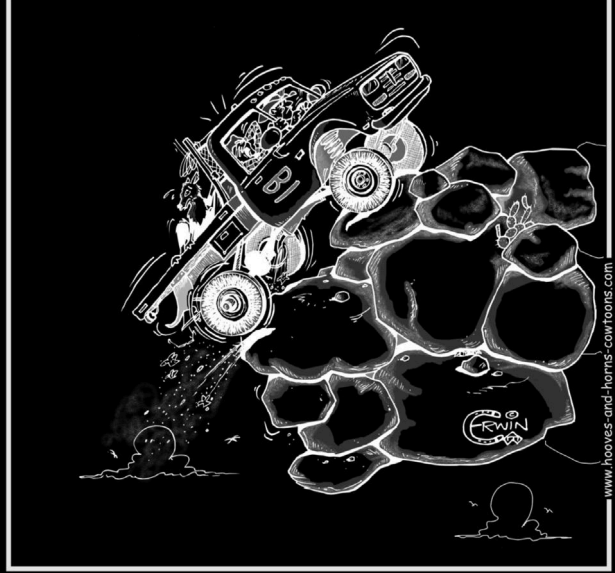
"The second option is to give the cattle a vitamin A injection that will be stored in the liver for a number of weeks."

White shared the importance of consulting with a nutritionist and veterinarian to come up with a plan to manage vitamin A.

"Because of the drought conditions, many of us are

concerned about the earlier-than-normal depletion of vitamin A in the liver, and we need to manage for that situation," he said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"THEY CALL IT A SHORT-CUT 'CAUSE... IT'LL-CUT-YER-LIFE-SHORT!"

STORY SHORTS

R-CALF USA raises nearly \$11,000

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) announced it raised nearly \$11,000 at a fundraiser held at the Platte Livestock Market in Platte, SD, in November. "It was noticed that we had more rancher involvement supporting R-CALF," said Brad Veurink, the auctioneer at Platte Livestock Market. "Businesses stuck with us supporting the fundraiser. It was a good day." Prior to the auction, Veurink spoke about the need for mandatory country-of-origin labeling for beef and how much beef the U.S. imports. For the second year in a row, James Fulwider and Kevin Talsma, both of Iona, SD, donated a steer for the fundraiser. "If we don't save this cattle industry, there is no future in it for young families to come back, and that will continue to affect every main street in every small town," Fulwider said. "Even if we win today, we have to keep fighting because there will always be another fight at our front door."

Ear tag shortage persists

Supply chain disruptions caused by material and labor shortages have continued to create a backlog on ear tag supplies. As of Nov. 14, CattleTags.com stated, "Allflex USA is continuing to experience extensive production delays along with global inventory shortages and transportation challenges." The company posted an update on the estimated time frame for shipping, showing a delay of up to 20 weeks for many of the products. Recently, Allflex announced it was converting an animal health manufacturing plant in Baton Rouge, LA to an ear tag production facility as of September 2022. The Baton Rouge plant will become another ear tag supplier in addition to the existing site in Dallas, TX, to support increased product demand. According to Dairy Herd, PBS Animal Health recently acknowledged the shortage, noting, "Tags are incredibly hard to find, and some farmers have been waiting for months to receive their orders. The shortage makes it more difficult for producers to keep important records." If producers can't find radio-frequency identification tags, state veterinarians can supply them due to USDA's 2020 agreement to purchase up to 8 million tags.

Antimicrobial dashboard funding

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced up to \$3 million in cooperative agreement funding to create antimicrobial resistance dashboards. The dashboards will be used to monitor trends in antimicrobial resistance patterns, detect emerging resistance profiles and better understand the relationships between antimicrobial use and animal health management practices and antimicrobial resistance. The dashboards will be established through a public-private partnership, and the funding will be available through grants.gov from Nov. 16 to Feb. 15, 2023. The dashboard development effort will complement APHIS' ongoing work on antimicrobial resistance.

CREP agreements with Tribes

USDA announced it is partnering with three Tribes in the Great Plains to conserve, maintain and improve grassland productivity, reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Cheyenne River, Oglala and Rosebud Sioux Tribes are entering into CREP agreements with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to enroll eligible grasslands, pasturelands and other agricultural lands within the boundaries of their reservations in the conservation program. The CREP agreements will enroll up to 1.5 million acres from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, 1 million acres from the Oglala Sioux Tribe and 600,000 acres from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. "This is a historic milestone for USDA and will substantially bolster our efforts to deploy climate-smart agriculture and conservation in the Great Plains," Scott Marlow, FSA's deputy administrator for farm programs, said in a statement. "It is vital that programs like CREP are not just available, but also accessible to all agricultural communities. These agreements underscore not only our strong commitment to equity, but also the vital contribution Native communities make to our country's agriculture and conservation efforts."

Groups intervene in monument suits

Conservation groups and multiple Tribal Nations have filed a motion to intervene in lawsuits challenging the restoration of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments of Utah. Heidi McIntosh, managing attorney for Earthjustice—who is representing the conservation groups—filed a motion to intervene to protect the current monument borders after the state of Utah filed suit, stating President Joe Biden exceeded his authority under the Antiquities Act. On Oct. 8, Biden issued two proclamations to restore protections to the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument after then-President Donald Trump rolled back the boundaries in 2017. "These lawsuits seek to destroy the Antiquities Act with a flawed argument that presidents may only designate small monuments," McIntosh said. "The Supreme Court has recognized for one hundred years that the Antiquities Act gives the president broad authority to designate national monuments commensurate in size to the 'objects' that need protection."

Western Livestock Journal

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The swap would affect 6 grazing allotments

CRAZY (from page 1)

The preliminary environmental assessment (EA) stated the need for the land swap arose from disputes over longstanding access issues with the Sweet Grass and East Trunk trails. Following a 2016 trail maintenance workday on the East Trunk Trail, USFS realized any access solutions would need to include six private landowners to determine the

viability of allowing access and conducting trail maintenance. Around that same time, the Yellowstone Club approached USFS to expand ski terrain, and in 2018, the club hired Western Land Group (WLG) to develop a proposal for the land exchange.

In 2020, WLG submitted the land exchange proposal, the East Crazy Mountains and Inspiration Divide Public Access Improvement Land Exchange. The Crazy

Mountain Access Project sought public comments on the proposal, which included provisions to construct new trails and to allow the Yellowstone Club to acquire land for ski access.

After receiving public comments and suggestions from USFS, WLG compiled and submitted the final proposal. WLG and USFS signed an agreement to initiate a land exchange in October 2022 to move forward with the proposed exchange. The most significant change from the original proposal was adding a parcel containing Smeller Lake, which is now included in the exchange, converting it to public land.

In a press release, members of the Crazy Mountain Access Project praised the project and USFS for conducting a formal analysis of the land exchange brought forth by the organization.

"As a fifth-generation rancher our family has come to truly respect and love

these mountains. The East Crazy Mountains Land Exchange is a positive path forward to solving the access issues that have plagued this region for decades," said Nathan Anderson of Billy Creek Ranch near Melville, MT. "It is the end result of many years of collaborative, grassroots efforts between the Forest Service, land owners, recreational and conservation communities. The dialogue and trust that has been created between these entities throughout this process has been invaluable and sets a wonderful example for future projects."

USFS stated in the preliminary EA that six grazing allotments would be affected by the land swap. They include the South Fork American, Sunlight, Basin, Sweet Grass, Otter Creek and Big Timber allotments. There are no allotments affected in the Inspiration Divide portion of the exchange. USFS stated that some permits

might be modified or canceled in whole or part due to the exchange. Permits that are canceled will be given a two-year notice. Suitable lands added to the NFS may be made available for grazing in the future. An authorized officer would make this determination.

Mary Erickson, supervisor of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, held a public meeting in Bozeman, MT, on Nov. 15. According to the Montana Free Press, attendees expressed concerns about trail maintenance, snowmobile access and whether the swap is equivalent in terms of streams and wetlands.

Erickson said USFS would relinquish any claims on the historic Sweetgrass Trail, and the landowner of that parcel has indicated they will still allow access. Still, the arrangement has yet to be codified in the agreement.

Erickson acknowledged the enormity of the proposed land swap and encouraged

the public to read the proposed exchange in its entirety.

"They're really a big deal. They're long-term commitments of resources, long-term choices that affect people and users and habitat forever, really, for decades to come," Erickson said. "Take the time; read the maps; look at the documents."

John Salazar, Montana Wildlife Federation board member, said in a statement that public involvement is vital, and he encouraged everyone to read the proposal. Salazar thanked USFS for "taking the next step in the administrative process."

USFS is accepting comments on the project through Dec. 23, and the public can comment electronically at cara.fs2c.usda.gov/PublicCommentInput?Project=63115 or by mail to ATTN: Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson, PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771. — Charles Wallace, WLJ editor

Got milk? Kansas dairies say yes

When the Hilmar Cheese Company announced in May 2021 that it would be building a cheese and whey processing plant south of Dodge City, KS, it marked another major success for the Kansas dairy industry.

Hilmar's facility, which is expected to be operational in late 2023 or in 2024, will create 247 new jobs. The project and associated dairy farms needed to supply the facility will bring an additional dairy farm and other support positions to the region. Hilmar officials said it represents more than \$1 billion in investments for southwest Kansas.

"Dodge City was selected because it is a supportive agricultural region in close proximity to the local dairy industry," said Hilmar's CEO and president, David Ahlem.

The bottom line is Kansas has been generating plenty of milk production over the past quarter century. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) reported in 2021 that the dairy industry had contributed \$1.39 billion to the state's economy, along with 4,018 jobs when considering indirect and induced impacts.

Over the past 29 years, the Kansas cow herd doubled while milk production quadrupled, according to KDA data.

It begs the question: Why has this sector of the state's agricultural industry exploded over the last three decades, and how did it happen?

"Abundant feed, ag-friendly policies and communities, and room to grow were the main factors in our move to Kansas," said Ken McCarty, a 2005 graduate of Kansas State (K-State) University's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry who was still a teenager when his parents, Tom and Judy, moved the family's dairy from Sugar Run, PA, to northwest Kansas in 1999.

Another factor, McCarty adds, is location: "As my dad always tells us, 'In Kansas, we are halfway to everywhere.'"

The McCarty's processing plant in Rexford, KS, is one of three large processing plants currently operating in the state, with the others in Garden City and Hugoton.

"What was really driving recruiting efforts is that we had the feed supply," said George Blush, who was the dairy program inspection

manager for KDA from 1999-2018. "We had silage; we had corn; we had everything (dairies) needed readily available. There were a couple California dairies that came in and expanded their operations in Kansas. They said that within a few years, they could pay for a dairy just based on the cost (savings) they experienced in feed and transportation."

Mike Brouk's 24-year career as a dairy specialist for K-State Research and Extension has put him smack dab in the middle of Kansas' dairy growth. He remembers the early part of his career when cow numbers were struggling: "That was a real low point," he said.

While marketing efforts were getting dairy producers' attention, K-State specialists went about doing what they do best. Brouk was involved in studies that aided cow comfort, including installing fans in barns and other heat abatement strategies. He worked on strategies to improve nutrition and forage quality and to develop heifers that have been raised for several states and even for producers in Qatar.

Agricultural engineer Joe Harner, who retired in June 2022 after 40 years at K-State, was instrumental in designing facilities on Kansas dairies, including waste and water management systems that used sand to filter manure.

"If you look at work like Mike (Brouk) did with heat stress, everybody could adopt it," Harner said. "Regardless of the size of operation, everyone could benefit from the work we were doing."

The western side of Kansas has been preferred for the so-called mega-dairies—those with 2,000 cows or more. The eastern side of the state has been more common for smaller dairies.

Technology also has played a critical role in the past 20 years, including systems that recycle water so that it is used multiple times on the farm and automated milking systems—often called robotic milkers—that allow cows access to the milking parlor 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We know that dairies in the area rely on K-State's research to advance the industry," Ahlem said. "Research and education are critical as our industry progresses toward sustainability goals." — K-State Research and Extension

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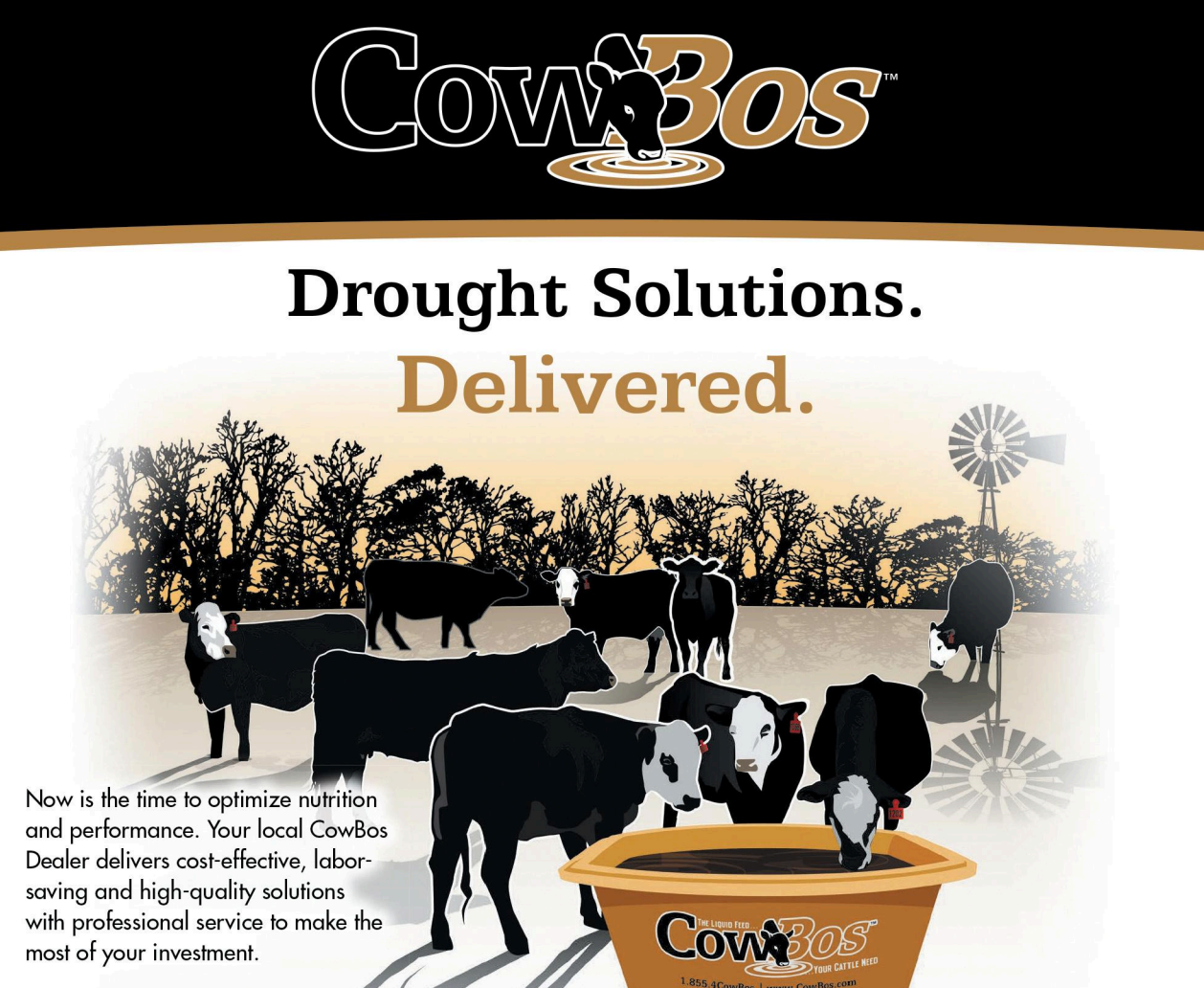


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SALE REPORTS

CONNELY ANGUS FALL BULL SALE

Nov. 21, Whitman, NE
415 Total lots\$9,683
409 Total registered bulls9,588
362 Older bulls9,590
47 Yearling bulls9,574
6 Total registered open heifers16,167
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins

TOPS—Bulls: Connealy Fair-N-Square 816N, 4/11/21 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to McNeil Angus, Cushing, OK, \$50,000. Connealy Exponential 3807, 5/9/21 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to JJ Angus, Connellsville, PA, and Genex Cooperative Inc., Shawano, WI, \$32,500. Connealy Clarity 6251, 5/13/21 by Connealy Clarity; to Grimmus Cattle Company, Hanford, CA, \$30,000. Connealy Payraise 9318, 4/10/21 by Connealy Payraise; to Eagle Hills Ranch, Gothenburg, NE, \$27,500. Connealy Growth Fund 889P, 4/13/21 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Eagle Hills Ranch, Gothenburg, NE, \$27,500. Connealy Clarity 4830, 4/16/21 by Connealy Clarity; to Seevers Angus, Anselmo, NE, \$24,000. Connealy Clarity 5470, 5/2/21 by Connealy Clarity; to McNeil Angus, Cushing, OK, \$22,000. Connealy Emerald 9273, 4/9/21 by Connealy Emerald; to Albert and Marilyn Erickson, Seneca, NE, \$22,000. Connealy Exponential 832E, 4/25/21 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to Albert and Marilyn Erickson, Seneca, NE, \$22,000. Connealy Growth Fund 2290, 4/14/21 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Eagle Hills Ranch, Gothenburg, NE, \$20,000. Connealy Upscale 667P, 5/10/21 by Connealy Upscale; to McNeil Angus, Cushing, OK, \$20,000. **Open heifers:**

Elnaya of Conanga 113K, 11/3/21 by BJ Surpass; to Brad Neat, Dunnville, KY, \$23,000. Elizana of Conanga 125P, 11/14/21 by BJ Surpass; to Linz Heritage Angus, Calumet City, IL, \$21,000. — **JIM GIES**

PAINT ROCK ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE

Nov. 22, Hyattville, WY
192 Bull calves\$5,487
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Paintrock 007-671-2, 1/19/22 by KG Double 07 8538; to Powder River Angus, Spotted Horse, WY, \$20,000. Paintrock Element 506-2, 1/5/22 by Sitz Element 10088; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$16,000. Paintrock Double 07-Blk 1-2, 1/16/22 by KG Double 07 8538; to Johnson Brothers, Laramie, WY, \$14,500. Paintrock Element 657-2, 1/16/22 by Sitz Element 10088; to Charles Price, Daniel, WY, \$12,000. Paintrock Powder B21K, 1/23/22 by TFS Black Powder 6609D; to Steve Dexter, Eldridge, IA, \$11,000. Paintrock 007-268-2, 2/4/22 by KG Double 07 8538; to Powder River Angus, Spotted Horse, WY, \$10,000. Paintrock Top Notch 726K, 1/20/22 by Yardley Top Notch C371; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

VERMILION RANCH FALL PERFORMANCE SALE

Nov. 26, Billings, MT
300 Total bulls\$7,590
149 Fall yearling bulls8,502
151 2-year-old bulls6,690
81 Registered bred cows3,806
60 Registered bred heifers3,425
89 Registered April-calving cows2,742
726 AI commercial bred heifers2,161
15 Diamond Ring 4-year-old

commercial cows2,000
702 Pasture-bred commercial bred heifers1,919
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins, Roger Jacobs, Bill Cook, Greg Goggins & Ty Thompson

TOPS—Bulls: Vermilion Bomber J774, 9/2/21 by Casino Bomber N33; to JC Heiken Angus and Sons, Broadview, MT, \$37,500. Vermilion Flagstone J839, 8/17/21 by Baldrige Flagstone F411; to Spickler North, Glenfield, ND, \$23,000. Vermilion Commerce J843, 8/18/21 by Sitz Commerce 670F; to Clear Creek Angus, Chinook, MT, \$23,000. Vermilion Bomber J759, 8/7/21 by Casino Bomber N33; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$20,000. Vermilion Mcllroy J804, 8/22/21 by Connealy Mcllroy; to Bone Creek Ranch Angus, Eastend, SK, \$20,000. Vermilion King AIR J767, 8/18/21 by Connealy King Air; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$19,000. Vermilion Flagstone J874, 8/17/21 by Baldrige Flagstone F411; to Tim Rice, Mullen, NE, \$19,000. Vermilion Fair-N-Square J269, 2/27/21 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Dikoff Angus Ranch, Onaka, SD, \$18,500. Vermilion Bomber J108, 2/2/21 by Casino Bomber N33; to Bob Stoddard, Newcastle, WY, \$17,500. Vermilion Mcllroy J066, 1/31/21 by Connealy Mcllroy; to Ron and Teresa Bare, Reed Point, MT, \$17,000. **Bred cows:** Vermilion JK Lass 55865, 8/18/15 by Connealy Countdown, bred to Vermilion Bomber G077; to Maher Cattle, Timber Lake, SD, \$12,000. Vermilion Privilege 5267, 2/25/15 by SAV Privilege 3030, bred to Vermilion Bomber G017 carrying a bull calf; to Black Pine Farms, Heron, MT, \$8,250. **Bred heifers:** Vermilion Erica 1059, 2/6/21 by Connealy King Air, bred to

Vermilion Leo carrying a bull calf; to Dustin Focht, Pratt, KS, \$6,250. Vermilion BLK Jestress 1632, 4/6/21 by Connealy O'Malley, bred to Vermilion Mcllroy J027; to Bobcat Angus, Galata, MT, \$5,750. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STEVENSON'S DIAMOND DOT 62ND ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

Nov. 28, Hobson, MT
126 Older bulls\$4,890
226 Bull calves4,722
93 Registered females3,290
982 Commercial bred heifers1,876
342 Commercial bred cows1,788
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Bulls: Diamond Cavalry 104, 1/4/21 by JVC Cavalry V3326; to Carr Angus, Hobson, MT, \$40,000. Diamond Versatile K400, 1/19/22 by Baldrige Versatile; to 2Y Cattle, Dillon, MT, \$20,000. Diamond Cavalry 101, 1/6/21 by Diamond Cavalry 239C; to Bruns Angus, Madison, SD, \$16,500. Diamond Whitewater 7012, 2/19/22 by HCC Whitewater 9010; to Bar CF Livestock, Lusk, WY, \$16,000. Diamond Goalkeeper J160, 3/23/21 by Baldrige SR Goalkeeper; to Arntzen Angus Ranch, Hilger, MT, and Mike Kroupa, Kimball, SD, \$16,000. Diamond Logo K879, 1/21/22 by Sitz Logo 6197; to Bruns Angus, Madison, SD, \$13,000. Diamond Versatile 704K, 1/23/22 by Baldrige Versatile; to Stead Angus, Plymouth, WY, \$12,000. Diamond Logo J105, 3/7/21 by Sitz Logo 6197; to Elmore Angus, Three Forks, MT, \$11,500. **Females:** 2XL

Clova Pride 6230, 2/9/16 by KCF Bennett Southside, open and ready to flush; to K&J Angus, Larchwood, IA, Rich Angus, Hobson, MT, Carr Angus, Hobson, MT, Emerson Ranch, Grants Pass, OR, and Richard Holcomb, Oakland, OR, \$20,000. Diamond Clova Pride 7911, 1/7/21 by JVC Cavalry V3326, bred to Diamond Capitalist 316-9434; to Bruns Angus, Madison, SD, \$9,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STEVENSON ANGUS FALL PRODUCTION SALE

Nov. 29, Hobson, MT
28 2-year-old bulls\$5,429
142 Bull calves4,555
32 Registered bred heifers3,500
97 Registered 7-year-old cows2,670
158 Commercial bred heifers2,089
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Bulls: Stevenson Rawhide 20362, 1/11/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Martens Angus Farms, Bellevue, IA, \$18,000. Stevenson Rawhide 20354, 1/6/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Hobson, MT, \$17,000. Stevenson Turbo Power 10546, 3/18/21 by Stevenson Turbo Power 50010; to a commercial rancher, \$14,000. Stevenson Rawhide 20353, 1/6/22 by Poss Rawhide; to a commercial rancher, \$11,000. Stevenson Turning Point 10553, 2/22/21 by Stevenson Turning Point; to a commercial rancher, \$11,000. Stevenson Broadview 1029, 4/16/21 by Heiken Broadview; to Booth's Cherry Creek Ranch, Veteran, WY, \$10,000. **Females:** Stevenson Heather

Zelda 5089, 2/8/15 by Cudlobe In Focus 5s, bred to Sitz Incentive; to Friendship Farms, Canoochee, GA, \$17,000. Stevenson Heather Zelda 1480, 3/14/21 by KCF Bennett Summation, bred to Bear Mountain Mark II; to Katie Colin Farm LLC, Cartersville, GA, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

BEEF COUNTRY GENETICS SALE WITH MCDONNELL ANGUS, MJB RANCH, FROSTY CREEK ANGUS & JOCKO VALLEY

Nov. 30, Columbus, MT
28 2-year-old Angus bulls\$6,839
91 Fall yearling Angus bulls5,381
52 Registered bred heifers2,202
40 Commercial bred heifers1,800
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins

TOPS: MJB 131J of 789 522C, 8/27/21 by McD Effective 789; to Hine Ranch, Minden, NV, \$23,500. MJB 34J of 822 223D, 3/23/21 by Granger Black Eagle 822; to Maher Cattle, Isabel, SD, \$18,500. MJB 28J of 822 448D, 3/18/21 by Granger Black Eagle 822; to Maher Cattle, Isabel, SD, \$18,000. MJB 54J of 822 232Z, 4/12/21 by Granger Black Eagle 822; to MR Angus, Wheatland, WY, \$17,500. McD Iconic 118D, 8/22/21 by DB Iconic G95; to Six-Ess Ranch, Ekalaka, MT, \$15,000. McD Iconic 1173, 8/16/22 by DB Iconic G95; to Six-Ess Ranch, Ekalaka, MT, \$11,000. MJB 64J of 822 023X, 3/25/21 by Granger Black Eagle 822; to Maher Cattle, Isabel, SD, \$11,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



SALE CALENDAR

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ALL BREEDS

Dec. 6-7 — PAYS Blue Ribbon, Female Sale, Billings, MT
 Dec. 12 — Northland, Female Sale, Billings, MT
 Jan. 24-28, 2023 — Red Bluff, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS

Dec. 5 — Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
 Dec. 5 — TK Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Valentine, NE
 Dec. 8 — ZumBrunnen Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Lusk, WY
 Dec. 9 — WMR Livestock, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
 Dec. 10 — Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
 Dec. 14 — Mitchell Angus, Dispersion Sale, Burwell, NE
 Dec. 14 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
 Dec. 16 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
 Jan. 12, 2023 — National Western Foundation, Female Sale, Denver, CO
 Jan. 19 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
 Jan. 24 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
 Jan. 25 — Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisades, NE
 Jan. 26 — Marcy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
 Jan. 27 — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
 Jan. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE
 Jan. 28 — Baldrige Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
 Jan. 30 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE
 Feb. 3 — Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
 Feb. 8 — Jindra Angus, Production Sale, Clarkson, NE

BALANCER

Feb. 25, 2023 — Black Gold Genetics, Bull Sale, Pritchett, CO

HEREFORD

Dec. 8 — Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
 Jan. 16, 2023 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Production Sale, Oshkosh, NE
 Feb. 2 — Ridder Herefords, Production Sale, Callaway, NE
 Feb. 4 — Upstream Herefords, Production Sale, Taylor, NE
 Feb. 15 — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
 Feb. 16 — Krebs Ranch, Bull

Sale, Gordon, NE
 Feb. 17 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
 Feb. 24 — Jamison Herefords, Bull Sale, Quinter, KS
 Feb. 26 — Colyer Herefords, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID

MAINE ANJOU

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

RED ANGUS

Dec. 7 — Big Sky Elite, Female Sale, Logan, MT
 Dec. 12 — Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Bertrand, NE
 Dec. 16 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
 Feb. 15, 2023 — Shaw Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
 Feb. 24 — Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE
 Feb. 25 — Black Gold Genetics, Bull Sale, Pritchett, CO

SALERS

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

SIMANGUS

Jan. 30, 2023 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE
 Feb. 24 — Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, La Junta, CO

SIMMENTAL

Jan. 14, 2023 — Western Elite, Female Sale, Denver, CO
 Jan. 15 — National Western, Bull & Female Sale, Denver, CO
 Jan. 30 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE

STABILIZER

Dec. 15 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
 Jan. 12, 2023 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
 Dec. 7-9 — Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings, MT

HORSE

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

DOG

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

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USFS will work with producers to develop plans

MEMO (from page 1)

an increased understanding of resource conditions and management needs, which can lead to more responsive and proactive management practices.

Kaitlynn Glover, PLC executive director and National Cattlemen's Beef Association executive director of Natural Resources, spoke on the new MOU during a federal lands meeting at a recent cattlemen's association convention. The Bureau of Land Management is close behind with their own MOU, and it should be expected

before the end of the year, Glover said at the joint California Cattlemen's Association/California CattleWomen and Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention held in Sparks, NV, on Dec. 1.

Glover said the cooperative monitoring of grazing allotments is critical for collecting data for agencies to utilize. When environmental and conservation groups fight against the benefits of grazing and say there is no data to back it up, these MOUs prove otherwise, she said.

Under the agreement, PLC agrees to:

- Support the program

among its membership.

- Serve as a liaison to address concerns for grazing permittees.

- Provide an update to USFS on cooperative activities prior to the annual PLC meeting.

- Discuss cooperative monitoring activities with its membership at the annual PLC meeting.

In turn, USFS agrees to:

- Identify grazing allotments where cooperative monitoring data is currently collected and analyzed with consenting livestock grazing permittees for their assigned allotments.

- Contact grazing per-

mittees and invite them to participate in the program and establish a cooperative rangeland monitoring program for their allotments.

- Encourage and increase grazing allotments participating in the program each year.

- Provide an update to PLC prior to its annual meeting for any cooperative monitoring activities in place with permittees.

- Participate in discussions about cooperative monitoring activities on NFS lands at the annual PLC meeting.

- Work with permittees participating in the program to develop monitoring plans for their allotments.

- Provide information and updates on rangeland condition changes as they become available to permittees.

- Work with federal

agencies to improve the consistency of rangeland management associated with monitoring protocols, data standards and data management.

- Reserve the management flexibility to establish priorities that would continue cooperative monitoring activities with livestock grazing permittees.

- Coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to inquire and provide soil surveys and/or vegetation correlation information for sites involved in cooperative monitoring.

- Ensure conformance with USFS protocols.

- Ensure permittees and USFS agree on methods for collecting cooperative monitoring data, which must happen prior to implementing the allotment monitoring plan.

- Ensure that permit-

tees have the option to seek assistance from other individuals or institutions for monitoring data collection.

- Ensure this MOU does not prevent other federal land users or interested parties from participating in the cooperative rangeland monitoring program.

"The Forest Service values the importance of cooperative relationships," said USFS Chief Randy Moore. "This MOU signifies our continued commitment to work cooperatively with our permittees and to build trust, while expanding our collective ability to gather important information about the health and productivity of National Forest System lands."

The MOU is in effect from 2022 to January 2027. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

House votes to prevent rail strike

— Pushback over paid sick leave

Pushing legislation swiftly through the House floor, Congress moved on Nov. 30 in a bipartisan vote to avert a national rail strike.

Agricultural groups, along with other businesses, have been clamoring for Congress to prevent a rail strike, which was set to happen in early December. The urgency was ramped up earlier this week when President Joe Biden called on Congress to act.

The House on Nov. 30 debated two resolutions, one of which included the details of the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) agreement that eight of 12 rail unions voted to support. That resolution, House Resolution 100, overwhelmingly passed the House 290-137.

Along with that, to get backing from Democrats, House leaders added a concurrent resolution, House Resolution 119, that would give railroad workers seven days of paid sick leave. At least some liberal Democrats were refusing to support the PEB bill without a vote on paid sick leave as well. That bill passed 221-207, with three Republicans joining every Democrat to back the bill. That provision likely faces a bigger challenge passing the Senate.

Agricultural groups quickly came out with praise for lawmakers voting to block the strike.

Chuck Conner, president and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, praised the House for the vote on the agreement reached by negotiators in September. He also urged the Senate to act quickly as well.

"A labor dispute that disrupts the rail system would have dramatic impacts across the agri-food value chain, from farmers in the fields to consumers here in the U.S. and around the world," Conner said. "We urge (the) Senate to act on this bill immediately so that it can be

signed into law by the president well in advance of the strike deadline on December 9."

The North American Millers' Association (NAMA) said the industry relies on the railroads for its grain as well.

"Even a short-term strike would have an enormous negative impact, leading to supply shortages and higher prices on household staples for consumers," said Jane DeMarchi, NAMA's president. "NAMA thanks the Biden administration and House representatives for moving to avoid a shutdown and urges the Senate to act swiftly."

Also backing the House vote was the National Farmers Union (NFU), a more left-leaning farm group that often supports workers.

"Farmers and ranchers have faced unprecedented uncertainty in the last few years," said Rob Larew, president of NFU. "Further disruptions in an already fragile system would be another hard blow to family farmers. We urge Congress to take swift action to keep our rail lines running."

During the floor debate, Republicans pushed to reflect that their vote was a failure by the Biden administration to reach a deal. Democrats criticized the major railroads for refusing to negotiate on paid sick leave.

Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO-6), ranking member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, said the House vote reflected a "failure of the Biden administration" while pointing out the president had celebrated the negotiations to end the risk of a rail strike back in September. Still, Graves said he had no choice but to vote to prevent a rail strike. "A freight rail strike, it would devastate the supply chain, and it would literally shut down the country again," Graves said.

Graves talked about the risks to farmers if railroads started shutting down shipments of certain

chemicals.

"Anhydrous ammonia is one of those things. When you live in a rural state, when you live in a very agriculture-dependent district, right now is the time when anhydrous is being applied," Graves said.

Democrats blamed the railroads, pointing to their profitability right now and their moves to scale back their number of employees. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18) said she "is standing with the unions," pointing to the revenue major rail lines generated and their ownership by Wall Street.

"How indecent is it they would not provide sick days in the most dangerous professions," Jackson Lee said.

The PEB last summer recommended a five-year deal, retroactive to 2020, that included a 24% pay raise for the 115,000 or so rail workers, as well as \$5,000 bonuses. The PEB did not address the issue of sick days for those workers.

The Kansas City Star on Wednesday reported on the frustration of some rail workers who remain angry over the lack of paid sick leave. Unions called worker attendance policies "punitive" and said the policies risked pushing workers until they were "dangerously fatigued."

"It's not acceptable that anybody in this country should have one day off a month," Nathan Jamerson, a BNSF yard conductor in Kansas City, MO, told the Kansas City Star. "We have guys who work on call 24 hours a day, seven days as well. A lot of other folks in this country have two days off a week." — Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor

(Editor's note: Shortly before WLJ press time, the Senate approved the measure on a vote of 80-15. The Senate rejected an amendment to add seven days of paid sick leave for workers, along with an amendment to extend the 'cooling off' period another 60 days.)

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FRIDAY
16 DECEMBER
2022

18th ANNUAL
PRODUCTION SALE

WESTERN
LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Great Falls, Montana

12:30 PM

SELLING:

- 25 BULL CALVES
- 75 FALL YEARLING BULLS
- 60 2 YEAR OLD BULLS
- 680 COMMERCIAL BRED HEIFERS
- 140 BRED 2 COMING 3 YEAR OLD COWS
- 30 BRED TEN YEAR OLD COMMERCIAL COWS
- 25 8 YEAR OLD REGISTERED COWS

SIRES INCLUDE:

Bobcat Blue Sky (*18880272)
Sterling Pacific 904 (*19444025)
Carter Power Surge (19829429)
Connealy Emerald (*19257149)
Circle L Gus (*17993084)
Mohnen Upstream (*19562466)
Apex Klondike (*19337906)
PGC Force (*19230832)
Vermilion Spur B024 (17841616)
Jindra Megahit (*17731559)
Mytty Natural (17935475)
GMAR Power Guard H367 (*19754679)
Musgrave 316 Exclusive (*18130471)

BOBCAT EXCLUSIVE K5



Lot 1
+20444117
CED +4 | BW +2.8 | WW +74 | YW +128 | MK +25
CW +64 | MB +99 | RE +94 | Fat +.047
\$M +78 | \$W +68 | \$F +113 | \$G +70 | \$B +183 | \$C +315

BOBCAT EXCLUSIVE K2



Lot 4
+20444114
CED +10 | BW +9 | WW +72 | YW +123 | MK +28
CW +54 | MB +1.05 | RE +96 | Fat +.048
\$M +100 | \$W +76 | \$F +92 | \$G +73 | \$B +165 | \$C +314

BOBCAT UPSTREAM J16



Lot 103
20205154
CED +15 | BW -.1 | WW +73 | YW +135 | MK +32
CW +58 | MB +87 | RE +94 | Fat +.017
\$M +79 | \$W +76 | \$F +105 | \$G +67 | \$B +172 | \$C +302



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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: 12/1/2022	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	155.23 ▲	N/A	137.87
CME Feeder Index	178.40 ▲	174.64	161.34
Boxed Beef Average	253.57 ▲	N/A	272.02
Average Dressed Steers	245.00 ▲	N/A	217.75
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,394 ▲	N/A	1,494
Weekly Slaughter**	581,000 ▲	N/A	566,000
Weekly Beef Production***	484.6 ▲	N/A	470.5
Hide/Offal Value	14.72 ▲	N/A	14.39
Corn Price	6.50 ▼	6.57	5.77

*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 28	6,903	255.74	201	327.37	1,223	262.12	1,981	253.63	715	230.39	2,782 212.92
November 21	6,514	257.95	218	336.69	1,195	265.27	2,185	255.05	777	232.05	2,140 213.84
November 14	6,337	260.46	167	342.17	1,195	268.67	1,795	258.32	841	232.31	2,338 215.76
November 5	6,493	257.01	182	343.23	1,102	267.65	2,097	258.72	901	230.42	2,210 215.83

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Dec 1	253.57	225.00	187.29		81.67	236.08					
Nov 30	254.88	225.01	190.69		83.06	240.81					
Nov 29	254.74	225.82	189.81		73.93	N/A					
Nov 28	254.53	228.53	189.95		67.65	237.89					
Nov 25	251.83	234.37	189.91		69.90	N/A					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	11/25	11/28	11/29	11/30	12/1	High*	Low*
Dec.	15308	15258	15268	15308	15305	15380	13055
Feb.	15513	15468	15480	15568	15543	15703	14003
Apr.	15898	15845	15858	15928	15925	16013	15388
Jun.	15543	15503	15530	15558	15573	15850	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	11/25	11/28	11/29	11/30	12/1	High*	Low*
Jan.	17830	17688	17800	18048	18108	18703	16958
Mar.	18155	18060	18118	18345	18430	18748	17595
Apr.	18513	18440	18485	18680	18780	18805	18303
May	18815	18755	18798	18978	19085	19085	18755

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

FED CATTLE TRADE			
Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price	
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

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
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

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	24,256	1,471	155.63
Live FOB Heifer	12,852	1,298	155.61
Dressed Del Steer	6,108	970	244.81
Dressed Del Heifer	1,921	836	244.87

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	6,828	1,494	137.87
Live FOB Heifer	504	1,251	137.86
Dressed Del Steer	150	965	217.75
Dressed Del Heifer	90	841	215.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 27		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	27,399	3,666
Formula	242,479	629
Negotiated Cash	95,460	290
Negotiated Grid	41,566	758
Packer Owned	8,318	0
Total	415,222	5,343

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,575
Nov. '22	158,544	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,618
Dec. '22	116,404	Formula sales	3,588
Jan. '23	125,464	Forward contract sales	121
Feb. '23	90,653	Domestic sales	5,509
Mar. '23	111,037	NAFTA Exports	96

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		134.75	-0.75
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		138.56	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		137.53	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		72.00	+0.98

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 18, 2022				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	200.17	200.89	196.15	
601-700 lbs	184.68	186.41	181.63	
701-800 lbs	178.96	180.22	168.72	
801-900 lbs	170.95	170.60	187.08	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	174.99	175.57	171.12	
501-600 lbs	165.03	164.78	163.55	
601-700 lbs	158.96	157.70	155.55	
701-800 lbs	154.68	152.62	148.59	

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeder Cattle	14,623	32,123	723,867	974,233

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
Friday, November 25, 2022			
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 12,000	Week Ago Act: 20,319	Year Ago Act: 14,512	
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady to 2.00 higher. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.			
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 203.00-213, few 215.00; 400-500 lbs 183.00-193.00, few 195.00; 500-600 lbs 165.00-175.00; 600-700 lbs 150.00-160.00, few 165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 188.00-198.00; 400-500 lbs 168.00-178.00; 500-600 lbs 150.00-160.00.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 173.00-183.00, few 185.00; 400-500 lbs 163.00-173.00, few 175.00; 500-600 lbs 153.00-164.00, few 165.00; 600-700 lbs 143.00-154.00, few 155.00.			
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)			

Selected Auction										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
Week Ending December 1, 2022											
DATE MARKET	STEERS / HEIFERS							SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS		
	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up				
No report available Blackfoot, ID											
November 17 Burley, ID	1,419	240 188-199	192-237 172.75-200	175-200 163-169.25	160-180 158-169.25	157-163.50 155-160.50	150 145	55-73 77-84.50			
November 29 Emmett, ID	439		147-174	157.50-166.50	171.50-184.75			59-73 74-79			
No report available Eugene, OR											
November 28 Madras, OR	2,258	200-233 188-208	200-233 178-207	191-216 165-187	170-184 156-168	162-180 151-165	157-166	60-78 75-91			
November 23 Vale, OR	452		179-191	150-163 140-153	159-168 140-153			63-74.50 75-89	1,000-1,500		
November 23 Davenport, WA	448	180-250	173 35-151	92-174 70-285	121-163 102.50-153.50	100-157.50 78-150	118-138 45-132	82-124 56-101	33-99 50-97		
November 17 Toppenish, WA	1,400			169*	144-146* 137*			59-75 67.50-92.50			
No report available Orland, CA											
November 30 Escalon, CA	N/A							55-72 80-100			
November 21 Famoso, CA	518	140-189 125-164	150-195 140-180	150-179 130-150	152-160 150-165	150-165	110-150	58-105 80-95			
November 30 Galt, CA	1,812		170-230 150-179	165-205 140-178	145-188 140-171	140-176 125-170	140-179	50-80 90-110			
November 22 Turlock, CA								63-79 80-118			
November 15 Salina, UT	2,764	165-250 145-208	157-232.50 140-200	150-222.50 135-188	145-195 133-177.50	140-178 130-159	137-166 128-155	1360-166 122-159	45-81.50 68-91.50		
November 28 Iowa	9,674	175-238 150-210	180-238 149-200	154-223 143-190	160-198.50 137.50-166	150-188 137.50-166	138-175 153-162.50	64-89 44-97			
November 22 Miles City, MT	3,322	245-251 208	215-255 187-210	188-224 171-195.50	170-199.50 165.50-170.50	171-183.50	154	51.50-72 71-96.50	935-1,325		
No report available Bassett, NE											
November 26 Ericson, NE	4,670	212-233	228.50-245.50 196-219	196-230.50 178-212	190-214.50 169-197	185-199.50 187	185.25-194 168-184				
No report available Imperial, NE											
November 30 Kearney, NE	3,900	240	208.50 189	200-208.50 181-191.75	178.50-203.50 163.50-183	184.25-195.50 174.75-179.50	181.50-198 156-179	70-88 85-104			
No report available Lexington, NE											
No report available Ogallala, NE											
November 17 Valentine, NE	3,620	225	226-238 196-215	199.50-240 173.50-202.50	181-222 167.50-175	176-192 163	171				
No report available Herreid, SD											
November 30 Torrington, WY	4,355	252-268 210-235	229-250 200-216	199-226 178-207	180-202 172-184.50	172-184 175	174-179.50 162.50-165				
November 17 Willcox, AZ	1,709	211-251 164.50-185	233-261 172-186	185-213 165-187	171-196 151-165	162-177.50 136-148.50		55-90 75-94	1,050-1,350		
November 28 Colorado	3,145		201-226 175	186-209 160-175	171-194 158-171	162-185 153-168	167-179 166	150.50-175.25 154-165.50	59-77 81-97		
November 23 La Junta, CO	3,383		201-226 161-172	186-209 160-172	173-191 155-168	161-174 155-164	161-169	156-161 149-158	58-77 86-97		
November 28 Loma, CO	1,245		220-231 203-219	195-218 190-201	187-195 177-192	173-182 162	165-174 158-163	148-166 148-159			
November 30 Dodge City, KS	3,512	212.50	200-255 190-205	190-243 178-195	180-220 161-181	172-208 155-181	178-186.75 136-176.25	170-184 112.50-156.75	60-96 74-106	1,500 750-1,700	
December 1 Pratt, KS	5,000	190	203-238 177.50-207	182-231 160-191	204.25-230 161-176	183-214 160-168.50	150-200 155-165.50	170-175 145-156			
November 17 Salina, KS	3,302		217-220 185	180-214 163-185	184-215.50 153-183	172-191.50 155-187.50	175.50-189 165-183	168.75-183.25 157-175			
November 30 Clovis, NM	2,263	250-264 190-192	240-261 184-213	200-243 168-191	180-199 155.25-175	160-183 144-160	156-167 140-147	120-158 141	51.50-75 70.50-95.50	1,350-1,435 550-1,375	
November 30 El Reno, OK	9,698	197.50	217.50-260 170-219	196-242 170-198.50	184-217 160-182	162-202 155-175	168-184.50 150-169.75	148-180.50 141-160.75			
November 30 McAlester, OK	1,880										

Herd liquidation may be slowing down

Weekly beef cow slaughter has been higher year over year for 70 consecutive weeks. In that period, on only four occasions has the year-over-year increase been less than 3%. The latest weekly data shows that beef cow slaughter was up 2.7% year over year, just the second week this year it has been up less than 3%. It's too early to be sure, but beef cow slaughter may be slowing down.

In Oklahoma auctions, the weekly volume of cull cows was double last year from July through early November before declining the past two weeks. Two weeks ago, the weekly cull volume was about equal to last year, and the volume in the latest weekly data is down 9% year over year.

For the year to date, beef cow slaughter is up 12.3% year over year. If beef cow slaughter declined to be just

equal to year-ago levels for the remaining weeks of the year, total beef cow slaughter for the year would be up 10.5% year over year. This would be a net beef cow herd culling rate of 13.1% for the year, a new record level. The actual culling rate is likely to be a little higher.

However, heifer slaughter has not yet shown any signs of decreasing. The Oct. 1 quarterly Cattle on Feed report showed that the number

of heifers in feedlots was still up 1.7% year over year. Since that report, weekly heifer slaughter has continued to be up over 4% year over year, with the most recent week up 5.8% over the same week one year ago. Lower feedlot placements in October presumably mean fewer heifers entering feedlots as well and reduced heifer slaughter eventually.

For the year to date, heifer slaughter is up 4.9% over last

year. By several relative measures, 2022 heifer slaughter is at the highest level since 2003. Similar to the beef cow slaughter speculation, if heifer slaughter dropped to be just equal to last year for the remainder of the year, total annual heifer slaughter would be up 4.3% year over year. Beef cow and heifer slaughter could drop to year-ago levels, or even lower, but it seems unlikely at this point, and the number of weeks remaining in the year is dwindling rapidly.

With drought continuing, it is not clear what to expect for cow and heifer slaughter going forward. It seems likely that many producers have adjusted herd inventories, given hay and feed supplies, to be able to get through the winter. This might mean that cow culling will slow down through the winter. If La Niña persists next spring, more liquidation can be expected

going into the next growing season.

In any event, the damage to the cattle industry's female inventories is already done in 2022. Total cow plus heifer slaughter is over 51% of total cattle slaughter so far this year and is likely to average over 50% for the entire year. This is the highest female slaughter percentage since 1986. The female slaughter percentage varies in a fairly narrow range, and it looks like the percentage for 2022 will be more than two standard deviations above the average of the past 30 years. In other words, the level of cow plus heifer slaughter this year is very rare and indicates the most severe depletion of female cattle inventories in more than three decades. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Managing a postweaning parasite

Tummy troubles can be miserable, and if diarrhea is a symptom, those troubles can lead to a serious illness in people and cattle, said the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"Newly weaned calves can show signs of coccidiosis, which is caused by a parasite that invades the lining of the small intestine and can result in bloody diarrhea," said Bob Larson, K-State veterinarian.

Another sign that calves may be ill is a rough coat, Larson said, adding that calves sick with coccidiosis will just appear ill and will not be thriving.

"Newly weaned calves are going through dietary changes and experiencing stresses that make them more susceptible to disease at this time of life," Larson said.

For producers who have this sickness moving through their calves, Larson advises talking to the local veterinarian to confirm that coccidiosis is the correct diagnosis and then employing management and treatment options.

"First, make sure that you have good sanitation procedures in place, which means that the lots the calves are in are scraped well and they are in a clean environment," Larson said. "Also make sure the calves are eating their feed

and hay from feeders so that calves are not eating feed that could be contaminated by the ground."

Larson also recommended using additives in the feed and water to help reduce the parasite load.

"We have an additive specifically to prevent or treat coccidiosis that can be delivered in water or feed, and we can add ionophores to the feed that can help us control coccidiosis as well as have feed efficiency benefits," he said.

He advises that when producers know they are going to be caring for newly weaned, stressed calves, it is important to start the medication before there is a problem.

"Because of the life cycle of the parasite, it is important to add the medication to the feed or water for a 28-day period," Larson said. "Start the calves on the medication when they are moved to the drylot and then keep them on it for a few weeks."

— **K-State Research and Extension**

Boxed beef prices sharply lower

MARKETS

(from page 1)

- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$153.73.
- On a dressed basis:
 - Negotiated purchases: \$245.11.
 - Formula net purchases: \$245.76.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$237.08.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$244.50.

Slaughter through Thursday was expected to be 512,000 head. Slaughter volumes for the week were 596,000 head—down 83,000 head from the previous week because of the holiday but up 23,000 over the same week last year. According to the Cattle Report, this is the largest Thanksgiving week slaughter since 2006. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 19 was 671,771 head (steers 45.1%, heifers 32%). Steer weights were 930 lbs.

Boxed beef prices closed lower, with the Choice cutout down \$2.93 to \$253.57 and the Select cutout down \$9.18 to \$225.

"Boxed beef values have slumped overall as the strong rib, trading at the highest point of 2022 last week, is not enough to offset significant weakness in the chuck, the largest primal," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote. "The chuck lost \$13 week over week while rib gained \$21, surpassing prices the last two years, setting a record for that week. There are one to two weeks left of the seasonal rib push. Plenty of other items, like the brisket, flank have struggled all fall relative to year-ago pricing."

USDA's Export Sales report for the Nov. 18-24 period showed net sales of 15,400 metric tons (mt) for 2022, primarily for China (7,200 mt), Japan (2,600 mt), Canada (1,900 mt), South Korea (1,700 mt) and

Mexico (800 mt). Exports were 15,800 mt, primarily to Japan (4,200 mt), South Korea (4,000 mt), China (3,000 mt) and Mexico (1,400 mt).

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle also closed lower for the period of Nov. 22 through Dec. 1. The January contract was down 60 cents to \$181.07, and the March contract was down 27 cents to \$184.30. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was up \$3.76 to \$178.40.

Corn closed mixed due to a weak Export Sales report and the Environmental Protection Agency's mandates for corn-based ethanol use in 2023-25. The December contract was down 6 cents to \$6.50, and the March contract was up a penny to \$6.60.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 4,580 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, steer calves sold steady to \$3 higher, except for 500-600 lb. preconditioned weaned calves, which were \$8-10 higher. Heifer calves under 500 lbs. that were preconditioned and weaned for 45 days or longer sold \$10-12 higher, and over 500 lbs. were steady to \$2 higher. Yearling feeder steers sold steady to \$2 higher, and yearling feeder heifers were mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold between \$170-179, averaging \$175.65.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,512 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 400-900 lbs. sold \$5-8 higher. Feeder heifers 400-900 lbs. sold \$4-6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 781 lbs. sold between \$178-182.50 and averaged \$179.03.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage

sold 10,063 head Monday. Compared to a week earlier, steers under 800 lbs. traded steady, with heavier weights trading steady to \$2 lower. Feeder heifers under 475 lbs. traded steady to \$3 higher, with heavier weights trading steady. Benchmark steers averaging 773 lbs. sold between \$178-181.50, averaging \$180.58.

Nebraska: Huss Livestock Market in Kearney sold 3,880 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, steer and heifer calves sold unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 768 lbs. sold between \$184.25-190.50, averaging \$188.90.

New Mexico: Clovis Livestock Auction in Clovis sold 2,263 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves sold steady to \$5 higher. Heifer calves sold \$2-6 higher. Feeder steers traded mostly \$5-10 higher. Feeder heifers sold mostly steady on comparable sales. Benchmark steers averaging 761 lbs. sold between \$156-167, averaging \$163.79.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold \$1-3 higher, with instances of \$6-10 higher. Steer calves sold \$3-7 higher, and heifer calves sold steady to \$3 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 768 lbs. sold between \$173-188, averaging \$184.40.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 3,850 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers and heifers sold \$2-6 lower, except 400-500 lb. steers, which were \$2-4 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 728 lbs. sold between \$172-183 and averaged \$179.47. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

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Ogallala
LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET
OGALLALA, NE ~ 308-234-2071

Special Stocker & Feeder Sale
THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 2022

RUSHCREEK LAND & LIVESTOCK – SOUTH (550) - Ang hfrs, 350-500#
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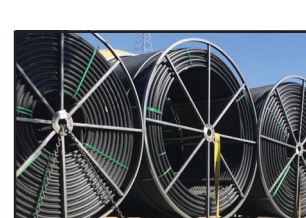
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Michael Thompson receives KS Leopold Conservation Award

Michael Thompson of Almena, KS, has been selected as the recipient of the 2022 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 the 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 Ranchland Trust of Kansas.

Thompson grows crops and raises beef cattle at Thompson Farm & Ranch in Norton County with his father, Richard, and brother, Brian. He's a vocal advocate for soil stewardship among other farmers and ranchers. He was announced as the recipient of the award at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' 78th annual convention in Wichita, and he received \$10,000 and a crystal award for being selected.

"Michael's passion for conservation and improving soil health serves as an inspiration to farmers and ranchers across Kansas," said Mike Beam, secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. "His commitment to sharing his experience and knowledge with others makes him very deserving of the honor of being a Leopold Conservation Award winner."

Like the five generations before him, Thompson grew up knowing the challenges of farming and ranching in northwest Kansas. There were crop failures brought on by harsh weather. He also remembers the scars left by tillage on semi-arid soil.

As young adults, Thompson and his brother were told there wasn't a future for

them at Thompson Farm & Ranch. However, the avid learner and experimenter knew there had to be a different (and more profitable) way to grow crops and raise cattle.

Thompson began researching land stewardship and soil improvement. He knew his family's land could no longer afford to lose more topsoil from wind and rain. After seeking out peer groups across Kansas, he soon saw the benefits of growing a diverse rotation of cover crops, using no-till practices and practicing rotational grazing.

Keeping farm fields covered with growing vegetation year-round would allow water to infiltrate the ground instead of being washed away. Thompson admits he was no fan of cattle in his youth, but he's come to see their role in a holistic, regenerative system. Their manure delivers nutrients to native rangeland and his corn, soybean and wheat fields.

He started small, with a few acres of cover crops and some electric fencing. Grazing cover crops provided another source of feed for his beef cattle and provided an unexpected benefit of giving existing pastures and rangelands more time to rest and grow between grazings. The extra rest produced a more robust and diverse stand of native grass species.

Growing cover crops and the no-till system improved earthworm activity and soil life. An increase in nutrient cycling allowed for less fertilizer use. Improved water infiltration meant crops and forage grew even in years of drought.

Ultimately, rebuilding worn-out soils proved essential in allowing Thompson and his brother to return home to farm with their father, Richard.

Thompson shares his knowledge and lessons learned with other farmers and ranchers. He's a found-

ing member and chair of the Kansas Soil Health Alliance, president of No-till on the Plains and a supervisor on the Norton County Conservation District Board.

Thompson, who worked as a kindergarten teacher for a dozen years before returning to the farm, now shares his conservation experience with thousands of people each year at local, statewide, regional and international conferences and field days.

He also serves as a mentor in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy

program that connects Kansas farmers and ranchers to improve water quality. He encourages those he mentors to examine what goes on underground. In extreme droughts or after heavy rains, Thompson often digs below ground to examine root structure and worm channels. He teaches others that what happens deep within soil determines what grows above ground, and good soil management is key to enduring the weather extremes.

Despite being part of the National Association of Con-

servation Districts' Soil Health Champions Network, Thompson doesn't claim to be an expert. He humbly claims the path to lasting success is often through failure. His peers say this makes him an authentic, accessible and passionate voice for conservation.

Thompson exemplifies the leadership qualities needed in agriculture to better steward its greatest resource, the soil.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Kansas is made possible thanks to the gener-

ous support of American Farmland Trust, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Ranchland Trust of Kansas, Sand County Foundation, Farm Credit associations of Kansas, ITC Great Plains, Evergy, Kansas Department of Agriculture (Division of Conservation), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service, McDonald's, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and a Kansas Leopold Conservation Award recipient. — **Sand County Foundation**

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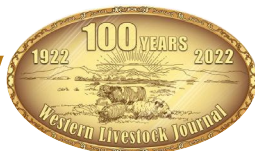


COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 7-9 — The Montana Stockgrowers Association's 138th Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton and the Northern Hotel in Billings, MT. Room reservations must be made by Nov. 22 to receive the block rate. To register and for more information, visit mtbeef.org.

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



Dec. 7, 1922, Vol. 1, No. 1

ARIZONA PRODUCING GOOD STOCK CALVES

Southern Arizona is now producing stocker calves and yearlings on a big scale and purebred bulls are helping to improve the quality so that there is a ready outlet for stock from that section, according to Will Glenn, cattleman of Douglas, who accompanied a five-car shipment of cattle and calves to the yards last week.

"California is our biggest buyer and most of our cattle are going to Los Angeles," said Mr. Glenn. "The country around my home is now pretty well drained of stockers, but we have a good many fat cows and steers ready for market. We had good climatic conditions last summer and fall and our cattle are in good condition." — **WLJ**



Previous grizzly plans faced strong opposition

GRIZZLY (from page 1)

After the initial population of 25 grizzly bears has been reached, an adaptive management phase would allow additional bears to be released into the ecosystem over time to address population issues. Within 60-100 years, the agencies anticipate having a population of approximately 200 grizzly bears.

Grizzly bears are “functionally extirpated” from the NCE. The agencies state that restoration is needed for the ecosystem’s biodiversity and to support the recovery of the species so it can be delisted under the ESA. The grizzly bear was listed as threatened under the ESA in 1975.

Environmental groups said the NCE is one of two bear recovery zones without an established population of bears and would not likely be repopulated by natural bear migration due to its isolation from the other recovery zones.

The most recent confirmed observation of a grizzly bear in the U.S. portion of the NCE was in 1996. One grizzly bear has been confirmed during the past five years in the British Columbia portion of the Cascades, within 20 miles of the U.S. portion.

Background

In 1991, during their winter meeting, the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee identified 9,800

square miles of the NCE as an adequate habitat for grizzly bears.

Following a completed recovery plan for the bear population in British Columbia in 2004, USFWS and NPS announced in 2014 they were drafting an EIS for grizzly restoration in the NCE.

In mid-2017, Department of the Interior officials halted progress on the recovery efforts and provided no explanation for the decision. In 2018, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told a small group at the administrative headquarters of North Cascades National Park that the grizzly bear recovery plan would move forward. Zinke said he was confident an EIS and record of decision regarding the reintroduction could be delivered by the end of the year, and he said he was “confident we can reintroduce the grizzly bear back to this ecosystem.”

The announcement drew the dismay of Ethan Lane, then-executive director of federal lands for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, who said the decision “won’t just impact ranchers—it’s a blow for the entire North Cascades ecosystem, the safety of locals and visitors, and the local economy, too. In fact, the only beneficiaries of an action like this will be the radical environmental activists

that support this type of ill-advised ecosystem tinkering.”

the effort to restore the grizzlies was discontinued in 2020.

“My constituents and I have consistently opposed proposals to do so under multiple administrations because introducing an apex predator to the area would threaten the families, wildlife, and livestock of North Central Washington.”

— Dan Newhouse

In October 2019, NPS announced it was holding a public meeting on the draft EIS evaluating the effects of alternatives for grizzly bear restoration. NPS also stated that comments previously received on the draft EIS during the public comment period in 2017 would be considered. According to NPS,

Reaction

Environmental groups applauded the restarting of the process for reintroducing grizzly bears.

“The grizzly bear is a critical part of the ecological and cultural fabric of the North Cascades. They belong here. With-

out them our wild areas are diminished, less diverse and sanitized. The narrative about Cascades grizzly bear recovery will take decades to unfold. But with science, education and a little human tolerance, it can be one of the greatest conservation success stories of ours and future generations,” said Joe Scott, international programs director for Conservation Northwest, in a statement.

Scott Schuyler, policy representative for natural and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, said in a statement the grizzly has a cultural significance for the Tribe, and the restoration of the bear “will enrich our ancestral lands and help restore the foundations of our cultural practices.”

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04), whose district covers the central third of

the state and encompasses the NCE, said the reintroduction would negatively impact the communities he represents.

“My constituents and I have consistently opposed proposals to do so under multiple administrations because introducing an apex predator to the area would threaten the families, wildlife, and livestock of North Central Washington,” Newhouse said. “It is disappointing that local voices are once again being ignored by federal bureaucrats, even after the last process was discontinued due to overwhelming local opposition.”

Comments for the project will be accepted until Dec. 14 at parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=112008 under the “open for comment” tab. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Preventing calf stress and illness

For ranchers on a fall weaning schedule, considering factors that impact calf health and well-being can help prevent calf loss, according to Dr. Gerald Stokka, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist.

One factor is the changing weather. In the northern Plains, cold rain, snow and mud can be significant stressors to an animal’s well-being.

“If inclement weather is forecast, the best choice is to not wean but to provide for extra feeding for both cow and calf during this time,” Stokka said.

The weaning process itself can also be a stressor for calves. There are two parts to the weaning process: removal of the ability of the calf to nurse and separation of the calf from the cow. Calves at 7 to 8 months of age receive a limited amount of nutrition from nursing. The beef cow at this stage has reduced milking ability due to the length of the nursing phase and a decrease in forage quality.

“Recognize that calves nursing the cow at this stage is simply a calf pacifier; actual separation is the stressor,” Stokka said.

Fortunately, management of the cow herd can moderate stressors. Stokka suggests the following choices to remove complications from the process of weaning and backgrounding:

- Commingle the entire herd prior to weaning, and feed cows and calves together. Commingling calves that have not been raised together in the same pasture during weaning pens upsets the normal social structure and puts unfamiliar calves together in an unfamiliar environment. The most practical strategy is to feed cows and calves together in an environment that allows calves to learn feeding behaviors from adult cows.

The stress of commingling is reduced as new social structures are developed, and a ration palatable to both cows and calves results in calves being more willing to eat than to nurse. Feeding calves this ration in the new, confined weaning environment reduces the unfamiliarity of the new environment.

- Maintain some contact between calves and cows after separation. Some pro-

ducers reduce this separation anxiety by separating cows and calves over time. Separating cows and calves three times over a three-day period can help with this; however, most producers will not voluntarily choose this option due to time constraints. Keeping cows and calves separate but with nose-to-nose contact (fence line weaning) may reduce this stress as well.

- Use vaccines that are necessary, effective, safe and recommended by your herd veterinarian. Vaccination protocols do not define a health program, but they are a tool used to reduce the risk of catastrophic losses due to specific pathogen infections. Vaccine protocols should be based on risk of exposure, efficacy and the safety of vaccines. Viral vaccines that contain infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, bovine respiratory syncytial virus and both types of bovine viral diarrhea virus are commonly used in beef herds and have been demonstrated as being effective and safe when used in healthy calves.

There is less evidence that bacterial vaccines containing bovine respiratory disease pathogens are as effective. Many of these organisms reside naturally in pharyngeal (throat) regions of the animal, and attempts to immunize animals to naturally-occurring organisms appear to be somewhat equivocal. Consult with your veterinarian about vaccine choices and protocols.

- Spend time in the pens of newly weaned calves to familiarize calves and people with each other.

In spite of our best efforts at reducing stress, some calves may become ill. Having people interact with weaned calves is important. Calves become familiar with that person, and the person becomes familiar with the calves. Calves will display different behaviors. Some will allow close contact, and some will respond by finding the limits of the pen.

People involved with this interaction should move

slowly, try not to create sudden movements and avoid eye contact unless they want animals to move. These interactions should result in the ability to move calves calmly and separate animals that need further attention.

Signs and symptoms of illness in calves include lack of appetite, being by themselves, having their head down, drooping ears, nasal discharge and a sense that the calf is not well. Just one of these symptoms by itself is not a reason to separate and further examine the animal, but it may alert the caretaker to further observe the animal.

Give calves the appropriate treatment if a calf is separated following observation and, upon further examination, needs a specific therapy approved by the herd veterinarian.

The number of animals in a pen is also a consideration for symptoms of illness. The greater the number of animals, the more difficult it can be to observe, find and separate animals needing treatment. The ideal pen size has not been identified for weaning calves. However, in the dairy business, calves will leave the hutch and commonly be put into small groups of five. Ideally, groups of 50 calves can be easily observed and identified for wellness. Group sizes over 100 head may complicate this observation process. In addition, sorting heifers and steers at weaning or shortly after weaning will remove steer-heifer interactions.

If an animal is deemed ill and needs further examination, a restraint of some type is needed. Putting the animal into a squeeze chute allows for closer examination. Your veterinarian can help with defining rectal temperature considerations for treatment. If treatment with antibiotics for bacterial infections is indicated, consult with your herd veterinarian for advice on the appropriate antibiotic, route of administration, dose and withdrawal time. — **NDSU Extension**

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STOCK COW & BRED HEIFER SALE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Starting sale with front end young cows at 9 a.m. sharp



VIEW, BID & BUY at www.cattleusa.com must pre-register

EXPECTING **3,500** STOCK COWS & BRED HEIFERS

DISPERSIONS AND ALL BRED HEIFERS SELL AT 1P.M.

Go to www.billingslivestock.com & **CLICK** on Cattle Sales then Consignments for daily consignment updates!

THE COMBINED COMPETITIVE MARKETS OF BILLINGS

Joe Goggins • 406-861-5664 Owner, Auctioneer, Field Rep	Ty Thompson • 406-698-4783 Cattle Sale Manager Auctioneer, Field Rep	Kenny Stahl • 406-654-4278 Field Rep	Jaime Ottun PAYS Office Manager
Bill Cook • 406-670-0689 BLS General Manager Auctioneer, Field Rep	Corey Schultz • 406-690-1150 PAYS General Manager	Dan Catlin • 406-671-7715 Field Rep	Paula Harris BLS Office Manager
Bob Cook • 406-670-0078 Owner, Field Rep	Greg Goggins • 406-200-1880 Auctioneer, Field Rep	Jann Parker • 406-855-1947 Horse Sale Manager	Roy Bookout BLS Yard Foreman

BILLINGS LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
www.billingslivestock.com
(406)-245-4151