

INSIDE WLJ

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS—It's that time of year! Use the holiday insert in this issue to order discounted WLJ gift subscriptions for your friends and family.

CANCER COMBATANT?—Scientists find potential cancerous tumor fighter in beef, lamb and dairy products. Page 4

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

While many issues affect the cattle market, in 1953 Nelson Crow said: "The most controversial issue now faced by cattlemen is the matter of government assistance, whether it be price supports or some other form of aid. There is no mistaking the fact that in the coming session of Congress there will be a strong case presented in favor of government supported cattle prices. Most of the Western beef cattle organizations have come out strongly against beef cattle price supports and membership polls indicate that the associations have the backing of the cattle people."

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CCA wolf subcommittee discusses compensation

— Asks for additional funding

Compensation for ranchers in the state's wolf compensation program and cattle DNA in wolf scat were some topics presented by University of California (UC), Davis economists at the recent California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) annual convention in late November.

Dr. Tina Saitone, professor of UC Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Ken Tate, professor of plant science at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis, discussed their multi-year study on the indirect impacts of wolf presence on cattle and the potential impact it could have on the state's wolf compensation program.

Saitone said since wolves entered the state, the population has grown in geographic scope and population. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), there are seven packs within the state, including the recent identification of four unnamed packs. Saitone continued the unnamed packs are probably offshoots of the existing packs.

Saitone said that CDFW estimates a minimum of 39 wolves, but that number is probably higher. The population is expected to grow exponentially if the expansion continues, such as in the case of Oregon. In Oregon, there were 48 minimum wolves in 2012, and currently there are over 175 wolves. If California experiences the same growth rate, the state could have over 100 wolves in three years.

Saitone said as the population grows there is a concern wolves will establish a territory inbetween existing packs, posing a problem for ranchers as the wolves will be present in winter and summer grazing areas. According to Saitone, this is occurring with the Whaleback Pack in Siskiyou County.

Saitone and Tate placed trail cameras on nearly 100,000 acres in Lassen and Plumas counties as part of their research. Besides the predation of

See WOLF on page 7



Jim Peaco/NPS

Experts recently discussed California's wolf compensation program at the 2023 California Cattlemen's Association annual convention held in late November.

Frye joins Western Livestock Journal as commercial advertising representative



Western Livestock Journal is pleased to welcome Lanette Frye to the team as its commercial advertising representative. With a considerable background in the advertising industry, Frye will play a critical role in expanding the publication's commercial relationships and enhancing its advertising portfolio.

"Lanette's experience and ex-

pertise are invaluable, but her genuine kindness and caring nature fits so well with the culture at WLJ," said Logan Ipsen, WLJ president. "She is a natural leader, and we look forward to what she will add to an already talented team. We couldn't be more excited to have her aboard!"

Frye was raised in Worland, WY, where she grew up on a commercial cow-calf operation. She attended Northwest College and the University of Wyoming, competing on the livestock judging teams before earning her agricultural business degree.

Frye has three decades of experience in the print advertising industry. She played an instrumental role in the development and growth of Working Ranch Magazine during her 15-year tenure. She also brings a wealth of experience from the newspaper sector, having worked with the Wyoming Livestock Roundup for an extensive

period. Prior to joining WLJ, she served as the director of marketing and sales for the Grant Company.

Frye currently resides in Three Forks, MT, with her husband, Ron, and has three children, Randy, Kyle and Jillian. She and Ron operate a small herd of registered Angus cattle, and jointly run Ron Frye Marketing. In her personal time, she enjoys showing and riding cow horses.

"I am excited to work with this team and what I can offer people," Frye said. "I truly believe in helping people and the success of their business. I think integrity in this business is all you have and that's important."

Frye's role began Dec. 4. She may be reached at lanette@wlj.net or 406-855-3172.

Western Livestock Journal has been the nation's leading source for livestock news since 1922. To learn more, visit wlj.net. — WLJ

Nichols Farms releasing BRD genetic prediction

— More than 6,000 head analyzed

Dave Nichols was one of the industry's true visionaries, and part of his legacy is that Nichols Farms will be the first to release a genetic prediction for bovine respiratory disease (BRD). As this is a new prediction, Nichols Farms will be simplifying its interpretation by identifying only the top one-third of the bulls for the trait.

Cattle health was a frontier Dave realized needed to be tackled after attending the Beef Improvement Federation meeting around 2014 or 2015, when the cost of cattle health was discussed at length. BRD itself causes a \$1 billion-plus loss to the industry each year through morbidity and mortality, and the loss of performance, grade and increased incidence of sudden death syndrome in finished cattle.

Like Nichols Farms always does, they started collecting data on the next calf crop, data that improved every year as the Nichols crew implemented better technology for categorizing the trait. All cattle that were showing signs of sickness were pulled and their temperature taken, and anything with a 103.5 F temperature was treated with antibiotics.

Nichols Farms has a saying that you often hear Ross Havens quoting, "We don't just claim to make you more money, we're doing the research

See NICHOLS on page 5

Futures selloff continues, cash trade falters

The selloff of futures contracts continues in the marketplace, with traders anxious about life-of-contract lows thanks to unknown circumstances.

Live cattle futures plummeted over the week, with the December contract down over \$8.50 to \$162.35 and the February contract down over \$9 to close at \$162.52.

"Many, if not most, are still wondering how this dramatic end to at least this phase of the long-term bull market came to such a quick and bloody end," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "Today's action is entirely unconvincing that a bottom is imminent."

Cash trade sold several dollars lower than a week earlier. Total cash trade through Thursday was about 57,000 head. Live steers sold from \$166-171, and dressed steers sold from \$266-272.

"The cattle and beef market fundamentals are sloppy this week, but their weakness is not even close to the weakness in futures," Fish said.

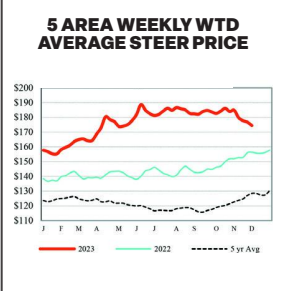
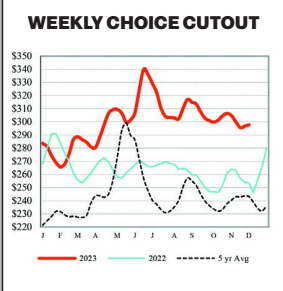
Cash trade through Dec. 3 totaled 71,464 head. Live steers averaged \$174.53, and dressed steers averaged \$274.86.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 4 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$174.48.
 - Formula net purchases: \$179.95.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$177.43.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$182.60.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$275.07.
 - Formula net purchases: \$285.79.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$280.28.

- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$292.60.

See MARKETS on page 9



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$170.47	\$269.69	\$222.31
WEEK ENDING: 12-7-23		

Time Sensitive
PERIODICAL : Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Consistent volatility

Before I get into this week's topic, I wanted to take a quick moment and welcome a new staff member to the *WLJ* family. Lanette Frye of Three Forks, MT, has joined our team, and we are elated for her to add to the legacy this publication has built. Lanette will specialize in commercial advertising sales but brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership to our staff.



IPSEN

As *WLJ* goes forward, we truly feel that a team of people is working for a common goal and the group will always be smarter than the individual. Each person at *WLJ* brings their own skill set to the table, but what we've noticed is how personal stances are set aside for the betterment of the company. Each time we make a decision, we ask ourselves how this decision would help our readership. From quality editorial to a skilled sales staff, we feel we are headed in the right direction but without the people reading *WLJ* we have nothing, so we are thankful to be where we are today and that's because of you reading this publication we all have dedicated ourselves to. Thank you!

Steadiness and reliability are a bit too much to ask for right now in not only our industry, but across most financial trading outlets. We all understand there's risk associated with investing in any form. We hear this in commercials, and we even sign off on the legal statement every time we place our positions. However, fundamentals that aren't aligning perfectly with inexplicable swings need to be explained to a lot of us.

In review, our industry was completely united not too long ago and a major run was about to take flight in the markets. While it held off longer than most anticipated, it did finally arrive. We knew the cow herd was historically light. We knew drought was impacting a large percentage of North America. We knew cattle on feed wouldn't sustain itself. All of these things we knew. We just had to wait it out.

We find ourselves in a bit of a rut (or market correction depending on your stance) and for the last six weeks that's been the headline across every ag publication available. So, here's why volatility plays such a key role in our livelihoods.

If literally everyone from producer to packer knew this run was going to happen in early 2023, why didn't anyone know there'd be such a drastic selloff of contracts to finish 2023?

I've read nearly every reasoning you can imagine. From Livestock Risk Protection insurance policy kick-back, heavier carcass weights, influx on Mexican and beef-on-dairy cattle to the chain, and so on. Everyone has a suggestion, but so far no one has the answer.

I do want to add to the conversation that the algorithm usage in high-frequency trading is playing a factor in this as well. Trust is low in stock trading and traders have been looking for places to position themselves. I do think we've seen how paper trade versus cash trade isn't matching even remotely right now, which makes sense as investors are repositioning. Computers aren't trained for consistency, they are programmed to react to signals.

It's simply a culmination of factors right now. I don't think any of the experts are factually wrong in their assessments. Packers have tried to slow down their production and are juggling inputs and outputs, and the slowing has added to the heavier carcass weight trend as well. The industry recently set a record with steer carcass weights averaging 936 pounds, and the next week should set a new record.

Paul Dykstra of Certified Angus Beef said that the “average feedlot days on feed have slowly increased year over year. In the short term, feeder cattle replacement costs in a time of declining supplies incentivize cattle feeders to opt for more days on feed for their current inventory when breakevens show net losses in the future.” I couldn’t agree more with this. He mentions in his article prior to this statement that genetics are helping push this needle forward and it’s absolutely true. We’ve built cattle for the feeder and packer to manage any way they’d like. Couple this with better nutritional science and cattle can be grown at any speed they’d like and since we’ve concentrated our industry on a high-marbling product, the cattle can hit several markets, or as we’ve seen lately, hold a market up too.

All in all, we can't blame this market correction on one lone factor. We are slowly being adapted to the consistent volatility that plays in today's trading world. Markets swings are normalcy and in today's world, bigger market swings are going to happen. Looking at inventory stacked up behind recent reports and seeing how cow slaughter has maintained and the high number of heifers on feed, this market won't be stalled for long in my opinion. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

 GUEST OPINION

Did you hear the news? The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is on the cusp of approving a breakthrough in human health that may have profound implications for agriculture.

It's the first medical therapy that uses gene editing to treat a disease. It was successfully used to treat sickle cell disease and prevent the excruciating pain that sickle cell patients experience. It worked in 29 of 30 patients over 18 months, according to the FDA. The results were so convincing that a committee of independent FDA advisers—trained to be skeptical—reportedly praised the treatment, which opens the door for FDA approval.

So, what does this have to do with agriculture? Everything.

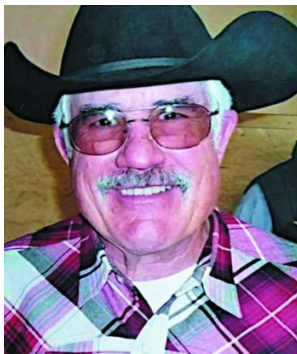
Gene editing is a method of selective breeding, a practice as old as our need to grow our own food. Farmers have always bred crops and animals to draw out traits that make them more wholesome and sustainable. Gene editing allows breeders to speed up nature's process by making changes to plants and animals more precisely than through conventional plant breeding methods. It can unlock tremendous benefits for consumers and the environment, helping farmers grow healthier, more sustainable food.

How is food made healthier by gene editing? It can remove allergens, reduce saturated and trans fats, and enrich nutrients in popular crops and commodities, such as peanuts, eggs and wheat. For the environment, scientists use gene editing to breed crops resistant to disease, drought and insects, allowing farmers to reduce pesticide use and conserve water. On the animal health front, gene editing can eliminate the threat of diseases like porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (a devastating illness in pigs), create natural immunity to other diseases and improve the overall health of livestock, reducing the need for antibiotics.

A great example of the benefits of gene editing in agriculture is the widely held belief among scientists that gene



OBITUARY



Jon Phillip Cox; 1945-2023

Jon Phillip Cox, 78, lifelong Whitman County registered Angus cattle rancher/wheat farmer passed away Nov. 24 from complications of Parkinson's disease.

Jon was born Feb. 7, 1945, in Colfax, WA, the son of Dallas and Lena (Lust) Cox and younger brother of Sandra Filan and Du-rand Cox. Jon grew up in Colfax, where he was a standout high school athlete. Following graduation, he followed his friend, Frank Garrett, to Cal Poly. They both had hopes of walking on for the football team and studying animal science. After realizing most college football players were taller than 5'10, Jon transferred to Washington State University and joined his much loved first cousins. Jon returned to his fourth-generation ranch in Hay, WA, never graduating from college; he was still likely the smartest person you'd ever meet. If you knew Jon, you knew he was also a "story-teller," with a sense of humor. It was never a bad idea to check what story he told you.

Much to his mother's chagrin and his daughter's delight, Jon was an animal lover. He loved each

and every dog on the farm, whether it was a cow dog, or a lap dog. But his favorite animals were his Angus cows. He was a natural cattleman. With some prodding by his longtime friend, Frank Garrett, Jon started his registered Angus herd in 1963 at only 18 years old. He established Pioneer Angus Ranch into a registered black Angus cattle herd. It was a well-respected operation that grew popularity throughout the U.S. He grew this registered herd while serving in various capacities with the Washington and Western States Angus Association. The friendships he made within the cattle business were cherished, especially his 60-plus year friendship with Gary Kendall. Many of those cattle friendships attended his yearly bull sales, along with the final 2013 dispersion cattle sale. This was when Jon sold most of the cattle to breeders all over the U.S.

One of Jon's other loves was flying airplanes. His brother-in-law, Willie Filan, taught him to fly. This was a hobby he enjoyed throughout most of his life. He loved to fly, watch movies and also read books about planes. There was always an airplane at Pioneer Angus Ranch, as Jon had his own airstrip. And in the last days of his ability to fly, he was a partner owner of a plane with his nephew, Dallas Filan.

Jon was a man of many talents. He was also an accomplished trap shooter (in the footsteps of his father, who died when he was 13). He was a very talented golfer that could beat most people, even well after his Parkinson's diagnosis.

Jon's family is his legacy. After dating for an extended period of

editing is the solution to save a popular variety of bananas. Why? Because a deadly fungus is plaguing the crop. As a Nature.com article reports, gene editing might be the banana's only hope. Researchers are using the gene editing tool to boost the fruit's defenses and prevent its extinction. By the way, if you like oranges and orange juice, you might want to look into reports that gene editing may save the day to stop citrus greening, too, when no other solution exists.

Now you begin to see why scientists, farmers, nutritionists and environmental advocates have all been eager to welcome the advancements that gene-editing can bring.

That said, we've learned an important lesson about consumer acceptance. It doesn't matter how beneficial a particular technology might be if consumers don't trust it. Consumer skepticism is understandable. As a mom, I'm skeptical when anyone tells me what is or isn't good for me or my kids. Ready to connect the dots?

That's the beauty of the FDA research into the benefits of gene editing to human health.

Extensive consumer research shows that connecting the technology to human health benefits eases or eliminates concern about the technology's use in food. You can find a plethora of information on BestFoodFacts.org. It includes a great 3-part video series about the potential of gene editing. In part 2, we meet Shakir Cannon, who had battled sickle cell disease his entire life and was a passionate advocate for a gene editing tool called CRISPR to save lives.

Sadly, Shakir passed away before we reached this moment when FDA is nearing approval of the technology. We can all honor Shakir's passion by advancing a greater understanding of the potential of gene editing to transform lives ... and crops. Let's seize this moment. — **Terri Moore, vice president of communications, American Farm Bureau Federation**

time, he and Shirley joined their families together on Jan. 20, 1990. This family has been the cornerstone for the last nearly 40 years. He and Shirley enjoyed traveling, including the trip of a lifetime to Costa Rica, as well as numerous trips to Arizona, Mexico and Belize. Jon really enjoyed navigating his jet boat up Hell's Canyon, camping on the beach and fishing. The entire family also spent a lot of valued time at the family's lake cabin on Coeur d'Alene Lake. He really enjoyed playing cards (Jon was a card shark), boating, jet skiing and enjoying the company of his family.

Jon is survived by his wife, Shir-

ley, at their home in Hay; children Katie (Len), Jason (Audra), Michelle and Melissa (Loren); grandchildren Philip, Lynden, Sheridan, Clara, Karen, Jordyn, Talon, Jaden, Olivia, Cassius, Julius, Lucius, Cayla, Avery and Brody; two great-grandchildren; as well as many well-loved cousins and nieces and nephews. His parents; siblings; a grandson, Jude; and a great-grandson, Mylze, preceded him in death,

Jon is a man that will be missed daily. Forever. The family suggests memorial gifts in his memory be made to the Washington State Angus Association for their youth programs.

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"Honest, Dad,.....yew've gotta believe me,.....
I TURNED THE WATER TROUGH OFF!"



Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Dr. Katie Rein

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.

Dr. Katie Rein started her veterinary practice, Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service, in 2007 as an ambulatory practice consisting of just herself and her vet truck. More than 15 years later she has grown the practice to include three additional full-time vets at two locations in Harlowton and White Sulphur Springs, MT. The practice primarily serves beef cattle producers, but also offers small animal and equine services.

Katie grew up south of Harlowton on her family's cow-calf operation in Melville that has been in the family since 1893—so she has longstanding roots in the industry. She worked towards her undergraduate degree at Montana State University and headed west to Washington State University for vet school. Following a yearlong internship at Texas A&M University, she worked at a Harlowton vet clinic for two years before starting her own practice.

"I started out with just word of mouth advertising, and I would basically go anywhere to work on a cow," Katie told WLJ. "We have a very wide practice region and as it keeps growing, I just keep adding more vets."

Health protocols

This past summer, vets at the practice saw many incidences of foot rot and pinkeye thanks to the spring moisture and taller grass. Heading into fall, respiratory outbreaks picked up and now as we approach winter, vaccination protocols and nutritional management should be top of



Dr. Katie Rein

Courtesy photo

mind for producers.

Katie said more producers in the area are transitioning to vaccinating their cow herd in the fall just because springtime can be so busy. "We haven't noticed that much of a difference between the breed up in the herds that vaccinate in spring versus those that vaccinate in fall," she said.

Recommended parasite control measures have also evolved over the past few years, changing from deworming everything going into the winter to testing random fecal samples to see if cows are shedding many parasites. Some producers are even opting to not deworm the mature cow herd and only deworm the two- and three-year-olds.

"The idea behind refugia—where you don't deworm part of the herd—is that over time it should help decrease resistance to our dewormers," she said. "We're not really coming out with any new dewormers, and we need to make sure that the ones we're using are going to keep working and we don't have as many problems with resistance in cattle as they do with sheep."

For stress management, Katie noted the growing use of a new product called FerApease, which is essentially a maternal hormone that is topically applied above an animal's nose and back of head to decrease stress. The product has been touted for its benefits during the weaning process but can be used in all ages of cattle during periods of stress. Katie said that she has heard of some studies that show the pheromone didn't have much effect at weaning, but that numerous studies showed great results later during the feeding period.

"I think it deserves more research," she said, "But anecdotally it does seem like the calves bawl less and if they're spending less time bawling, they're spending more time eating and drinking and getting used to their pen and getting on feed."

Winter management

"Now is the time to put pounds on your cows," Katie said. "Cows don't have a calf

at their side and aren't yet in late gestation, so now is the time to act." She advocates for sending in hay samples to get forage analyses and learn what needs to be supplemented through the winter.

"The time between now and the last trimester is where you can really affect change in your herd nutritionally," she said. "Due to drought the last couple of years, many cows have been going into winter thin and we are seeing more sick baby calves."

"I think we're going to have a lot better set up this year because we came off such a tremendous summer," she said. "But I've still seen some thin cows when I was preg checking this fall."

Katie also said that bulls tend to get ignored in the winter but still turned out and expected to get to work in the spring. Bulls need to be fed just like the cows, she said, and given shelter from winter elements.

"There's a lot of newer studies showing that if they're going downhill before the breeding season, it's going to take that much more to come back to make it all the way through breeding season," Katie said. "So now is also the time to get the bulls in shape for the next breeding season."

New regulations

Katie discussed the impact of new federal regulations on the veterinary medicine sector, highlighting the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and

Guidance for Industry #263 as the most significant changes in recent years. The final VFD rule requires clients to be part of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), and the guidance measure made all medically important over-the-counter antibiotics prescription only.

As far as adhering to the new VFD guidelines, Katie said the practice now has a list of ranchers who have a valid VCPR, and the vets go through and update it at least once per year.

"It definitely has changed how we practice on a day-to-day basis," she said. "It's not insurmountable; it is good to have a vet involved in making animal health decisions as far as what antibiotics to use and things like that."

However, she noted, "While this step is not insurmountable, I'm worried about what the next step is going to be, because it feels like it's going to keep progressing."

She voiced concern about the initial measure escalating into more restrictive measures, with the next step potentially restricting her from selling a bottle of antibiotics to a rancher, allowing only a single dose per animal. Taking it a step further could mandate that only a veterinarian could administer the dose.

"I just worry about what the future may lead to if we don't keep an eye on it," she said.

Katie is also a member of the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, where one of her initial achievements was contributing to writing the regulations for licensing veterinary technicians. Montana was one

of the remaining states that did not mandate licensing for vet techs, and the legislature passed a bill in 2021 to begin licensing techs.

One of Katie's current responsibilities on the board is collaborating with the Board of Pharmacy to establish veterinary retail facilities in Montana. After Guidance for Industry #263 was implemented, there were locations in the state selling antibiotics that were no longer able to sell. Recently passed legislation will make it to where stores can apply to be a veterinary retail facility and employees can apply through the Board of Veterinary Medicine to be a licensed veterinary pharmacy technician to dispense the medication.

Katie gave the example of a customer who has a valid VCPR with her but does not live close to her. If the customer lives near a veterinary retail facility, they would be able to get a written prescription from Katie and have the prescription fulfilled at the facility. The facilities would negate the need for a supply store to employ a vet on staff to sell pharmaceuticals.

Katie underscored that the motivation behind the VFD and increased restrictions is grounded in a significant cause: combatting antibiotic resistance. "I think that we still need to use antibiotics as tools to maintain animal health and animal welfare, but we also do need to be cognizant that we don't want to be contributing to antibiotic resistance either," she finished. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Study reveals beef nutrient could help fight cancer

Scientists at the University of Chicago have discovered that a fatty acid found in beef, lamb and dairy products could help the immune system fight cancerous tumors.

The research, titled Trans-vaccenic acid reprograms CD8+ T cells and anti-tumour immunity, was published in the scientific journal Nature on Nov. 22. The study found that a long-chain fatty acid called trans-vaccenic acid (TVA) improves the ability of CD8+ T cells—a group of immune cells—to kill cancerous or virally infected cells.

Patients with higher levels of TVA in the blood responded better to immunotherapy, suggesting that TVA could be a nutritional supplement in the clinical treatment of cancer.

"There are many studies trying to decipher the link between diet and human health, and it's very difficult to understand the underlying mechanisms because of the wide variety of foods people eat," said Jing Chen, Ph.D., one of the study's senior authors.

"But if we focus on just the nutrients and metabolites derived from food, we begin to see how they influence physiology and pathology," Chen continued.

For this study, the researchers created a "blood nutrient" compound library that contained 255 bioactive molecules derived from nutrients. They screened each of the compounds for their ability to influence anti-tumor immunity by activating CD8+ T cells. After evaluating the top six candidates in both human and mouse cells, TVA was determined to perform the best.

TVA is the most abundant trans fatty acid found in human milk, but the body cannot actually produce it on its own, the researchers said. Only about 20% of TVA is broken down in the body, with the remaining 80% circulating in the blood, leading the researchers to believe TVA served a greater purpose.

After conducting further studies, the research team determined that feeding mice a diet with TVA reduced the tumor growth potential of melanoma and colon cancer cells, as well as boosted the ability of CD8+ T cells to infiltrate tumors. After taking blood samples from patients undergoing immunotherapy treatment for lymphoma, it was determined that those with higher levels of TVA tended to respond to treatment better.

The researchers noted that the study shouldn't be used as an excuse to "eat more cheeseburgers and pizza" but rather indicates that nutrient supplements could be used to promote T cell activity.

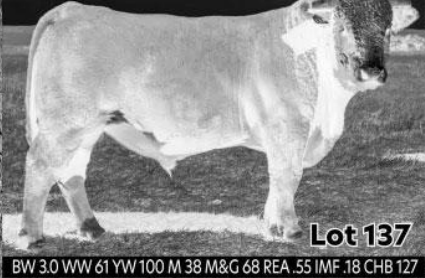
"There is early data showing that other fatty acids from plants signal through a similar receptor, so we believe there is a high possibility that nutrients from plants can do the same thing by activating the CREB pathway as well," Chen said, referring to the pathway involved in cellular growth, survival and differentiation. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor



Lot 1
BW .5 WWW 57 YW 82 M 34 M&G 63 REA .36 IMF .37 CHB 154



Lot 14
BW 3.3 WWW 65 YW 95 M 35 M&G 68 REA .69 IMF .32 CHB 150



Lot 137
BW 3.0 WWW 61 YW 100 M 38 M&G 68 REA .55 IMF .18 CHB 127

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New EPD prediction will further industry advancements

NICHOLS (from page 1)

to make it a reality!" This included monitoring the whole herd visually for BRD using the University of Wisconsin respiratory score sheet to standardize the data. One of the biggest breakthroughs came in 2018-19 when they added a FeverTag to their visual scoring, which alerts their herdsman when an animal has a 103.5 F temperature.

Although pleased with the FeverTag, Nichols Farms switched to the Merck/All-Flex new SenseHub tag system for the last two years, which monitors both temperature and cattle movement. This technology alerts the herdsman when the cattle deviate from their normal activity, as well as the activity of the pen. Add in the C-Lock system they installed, and they also have the ability to see when cattle go off feed.

The bottom line is Nichols Farms has been able to collect phenotypes and genotypes on 6,000 individual animals and has been running a successful BRD EPD for two years under the guidance of John Genho at Neogen. Although a relatively low heritability trait, they are getting good accuracy—which can also be thought of as reliability of the prediction—that will be significantly enhanced as they are now adding the genomic data into the model.

Dave knew that research has shown many times that profitable commercial producers are low-cost producers, but two areas they don't skimp on are buying the right genetics for their operation and health programs. But what if they can be combined? This is exactly what Dave's vision has done.

Stewart Bauck, retired senior director of special projects at Neogen, remembers well when he and J.R. Tait visited Dave and the Nichols crew in 2018 to see what type of research projects they could do together. Dave's first words to Stewart were, "We have to figure out how to use these genomics to get a genetic prediction for cattle health."

Genho is really excited about the new prediction, as it has the variability to rapidly make genetic progress. Even before they have the genomically enhanced EPDs, Nichols has 30 sires with 0.50 accuracy or better.

The prediction is represented as a probability with the higher number the better representing the probability differences calves will need pulled for a temperature of 103.5 F. Among the higher accuracy sires, they have an EPD range of -7 to +13, with the -7 sire having 60% of his calves pulled for treatment, while the 13 BRD EPD bull has only had two of his 73 calves on test needing to be treated. That is a 20% differ-

ence in the probability of the number of calves that will need treated between those two sires.

Genho says the majority of the cattle range from -7 to +7 if they keep 0 as the natural base. However, where to base the cattle, i.e. what is average, will be a decision made later. There are also breed differences that are represented in the new EPD, and a significant amount of heterosis, which is gained beyond the EPD for those using planned crossbreeding.

Dr. Jason Nickell is an experienced DVM and PhD at Merck and sees great things in the future of the technology. Adding both temperature and cattle movement gives the producer that much more information to

keep their cattle healthy; it has also led to this new proprietary genetic prediction at Nichols.

Right now, Genho is using a threshold model similar to how calving ease is calculated. It was first theorized by Dr. Sewell Wright at the University of Chicago in the 1920s, and one of Dave's mentors and heroes, Dr. Jay Lush, worked on its implementation for genetic predictions. Lush was actually trained as a physiologist but learned quantitative genetics and advanced statistics auditing Wright's courses.

Since the BRD prediction is now strictly a threshold on temperature of 103.5 F being yes or no, there are exciting possibilities in the future to look at correlated traits like

the movement data and visual scoring system from the University of Wisconsin. Already, the analysis will take a giant step forward with the genomics being added in the relationship model Genho uses, which is similar to the model used by Angus to predict their EPDs.

Dave was always studying the whole agriculture system and how to make it better. There is an obscure term called a "polymath," which is defined as an individual whose knowledge spans a substantial number of subjects and draws on those diverse bodies of knowledge to solve complex problems. This is often known today as systems thinking.

Dave was a lifelong learner of anything to do with ani-

mals and agriculture, and Dave and his crew were constantly doing research to answer the many questions he and his crew had, something that won't change at Nichols Farms with the loss of Dave. Dave's wisdom ranged from the introduction of this new EPD for BRD resistance to common sense advice, like every seedstock producer should be required to feed a pen of their customers' calves, and if you want to study structure, go to the zoo and study the structure of wild animals.

With new traits like BRD, we are looking at a more profitable, trouble-free industry; an industry that will continue to be led by Nichols Farms. — **Dr. Bob Hough, WLJ correspondent**

Alternative for fighting cattle-pestering flies

When cattle are fighting flies in the summer, they gather in tight bunches, leading them to eat less while experiencing more stress and discomfort. Beef producers have limited options for controlling the flies that pester their cattle. Moreover, existing insecticides are losing their effectiveness as insects develop resistance to repeated use.

Dave Boxler, a Nebraska Extension entomologist at the West Central Research,

Extension and Education Center, has worked with a company for 15 years to develop a new insecticide that is organic and doesn't affect honeybees or bumblebees. The insecticide is based on two fatty acids derived from palm oil.

The new insecticide shows promise for organic producers—who currently don't have many effective, economical fly-control options—and for conventional producers who want to use products that are

safer for people, animals and the environment.

In field trials, where cattle walked through an automatic sprayer that misted them with the insecticide, Boxler and his team found that the flies swerved away from animals that had been treated, as expected. However, they were surprised to find that the spray also killed the target flies on contact, an added benefit.

Boxler's team previously helped develop a version of the insecticide that has

been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on horses. That insecticide, called EcoVet, is commercially available nationwide.

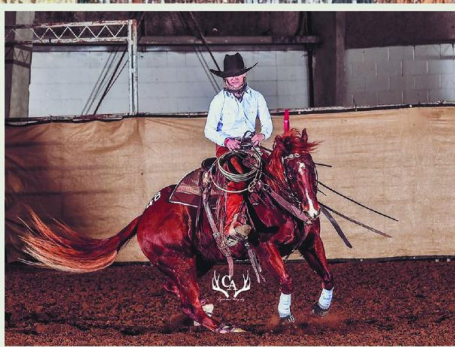
The researchers are now waiting on EPA approval for the cattle-specific version. Boxler plans to continue studies next summer, when the team will test how much it can lower concentrations and achieve the same effectiveness. — **Nebraska Extension**

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Lawmakers oppose allowing beef imports from Paraguay

In bipartisan and bicameral agreement, members of Congress do not want any beef imports from Paraguay. Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) introduced a bill Dec. 4 that would immediately halt the import of beef from Paraguay and create a new working group to examine both the risk to food safety and animal health by importing beef from Paraguay. A group of House members recently wrote Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also opposing the move.

The U.S. has not allowed beef imports from Paraguay in more than 25 years.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Nov. 14 issued a final rule allowing the importation of fresh, chilled or frozen beef from Paraguay.

The controversy here is Paraguay's cattle industry was hit by foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) at the very end of 2011. The country implemented multiple rounds of vaccinations in its herd and the country has not

had any new cases of FMD since 2012. USDA, in its proposed rule last spring, cited that Paraguay has a good system for animal identification and traceability. Yet, APHIS also pointed to challenges with FMD in South America as well. "As long as FMD is endemic in certain areas of South America, there is a potential risk of reintroduction of the disease into the export area," APHIS said.

APHIS in its rule said it recognized FMD is a "high-risk disease," but imports could start from Paraguay "provided certain conditions are met."

Paraguay is the world's eighth-largest exporter of beef with 70 countries open to buying beef from Paraguay, but 90% of its product goes to mainly to five countries: Chile, Russia, Israel, Taiwan and Brazil.

USDA estimated Paraguay could export volumes ranging from 3,250 metric tons to 6,500 metric tons of beef to the U.S. This would result in U.S. producer losses ranging from \$12 million to \$24 million. Yet, the

analysis also indicated consumer gains of \$14 million to \$27 million. Thus, there is an "annual net social welfare gains of \$1.6 million to \$3 million." Some beef coming from Paraguay would likely displace beef imports from other countries.

As specific as that analysis was, USDA's rule did not include any modeling of the potential producer financial losses if FMD were to actually make it into the U.S. According to U.S. Meat Export Federation statistics, for the first nine months of the year, the U.S. exported \$7.5 billion in beef. If FMD hit, a strong percentage of that would immediately be gone.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) have each been focused on blocking Paraguayan beef imports.

NCBA highlighted a letter led by 21 members of the House of Representatives opposing the Paraguay rule. That letter was led by Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS-01) and Rep. Jim

Costa, (D-CA-21), both members of the House Agriculture Committee.

"USDA relied on outdated site visits, irrelevant inspections, and inadequate data to overcome these prohibitions," the members wrote. "Paraguay knows what we all know—the U.S. is the largest, most reliable consumer of beef in the world. We have that reputation because of the tireless work of beef producers to provide the safest and most efficient beef production system in the world. The U.S. should not expand our market to unsafe actors at the risk of the health and livelihood of U.S. agricultural producers and consumers."

Without some action, the USDA rule on Paraguay would go into effect on Dec. 14. Due to the lack of any enforceable "Product of USA" label, it's highly unlikely any meat packer or retailer will be identifying that they are selling beef from Paraguay to consumers. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

LEGAL LEDGER

LA Council in favor of rodeo ban

On Dec. 5, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously (14-0) in favor of banning rodeo events in the city. The council also approved an amendment for the ordinance, which aims to offer "cultural protections" to certain events such as charrería. The city attorney will now draft language for the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee to review before the council gives final approval. Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld has championed the effort for years, escalating to a total ban from banning certain devices like prods from rodeo. Animal activists have campaigned against rodeos for years, calling them inhumane to animals. "Today the Los Angeles City Council sent a message—that an ordinance is needed to protect animals from inhumane practices and suffering that take place at rodeo events," said Animal Legal Defense Fund Campaigns Manager Matt Rossell.

Spadefoot toad up for ESA protection

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to protect the western spadefoot as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Spadefoots are small amphibians that live primarily underground through much of California and Baja California, Mexico. USFWS is proposing to protect both northern and southern populations of the species. "These fascinating amphibians are being pushed to the brink by poorly planned sprawl and agricultural development, and climate change is heightening their risk of extinction," said Sofia Prado-Irwin of the Center for Biological Diversity. Comments are being accepted on the proposal through Feb. 5, 2024, and can be submitted by searching for docket ID FWS-R8-ES-2023-0095 at regulations.gov.

Bill to protect out-of-state producers

Sen. John Hawley (R-MO) has introduced the Protecting Interstate Commerce for Livestock Producers Act to protect producers from regulations made in other states. The legislation is inspired by California's Proposition 12, which bans the sale of pork, eggs and veal that were not produced with specific space requirements. "This law is a common-sense solution to protect family farms from going bankrupt and consumers from shouldering higher costs at the grocery store," Hawley said in a news release. The bill would preempt states and local governments from regulating the raising, production and importation of livestock-derived products from another state or local government; allow states to regulate imports in the event of disease outbreak; and protect farmers from states implementing laws preempted by this bill.

Input sought for Canada lynx recovery

A draft recovery plan for the Canada lynx is now available and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input. The plan addresses the lower 48 distinct population segment, which includes portions of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Colorado, and sometimes Wyoming. The lynx was listed in 2000 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and the recovery plan aims to ensure the species' long-term survival. Recovery plans are non-regulatory documents and outline specific management actions to help species recovery. To view the plan in its entirety, visit tinyurl.com/mt6anxtm. To submit comments on the plan, email CanadaLynxRPCComments@fws.gov by Jan. 30, 2024.

Bill to study mental health barriers

Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced legislation to require the Government Accountability Office to study the barriers that ag communities face to access mental and behavioral health care services. "This bill will help us understand the barriers they face and improve access to care for Americans in rural communities across the country," Bennet said in a news release. The legislation would assess the availability and accessibility of substance use treatment and mental health care geared toward ag communities, the barriers producers face in assessing substance use treatment and health care resources, programs at local levels that can be replicated at the federal level, and best practices among grantees of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. "The limited resources available in our rural areas is statistically evident and profoundly felt among rural communities," said Carlyle Currier, president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. "We believe the study proposed in this legislation would further raise awareness and embolden the work of mental health initiative."

Migratory bird protections withdrawn

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has withdrawn draft migratory bird protection rules aimed at protecting birds by preventable hazards. During the Trump administration, the agency rolled back regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but the Biden administration reinstated them in 2021. The new administration also planned to issue regulations to protect birds from infrastructure but has chosen to withdraw the plans. "Despite the lack of regulations, this agency still has the power to levy fines against parties that cause the death of birds, and federal officials should use their authority to do so," said Tara Zuardo of the Center for Biological Diversity.



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Easterday appeals ruling on Tyson case

Former eastern Washington rancher Cody Easterday has appealed a federal court's Oct. 31 dismissal of a lawsuit he

filed against Tyson Fresh Meats, according to court documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the District

of Eastern Washington.

The court dismissed two lawsuits filed by Easterday, who was convicted of wire fraud and is serving an 11-year prison sentence in Los Angeles for conducting a so-called ghost-cattle scheme. At the end of October, the court dismissed a January 2023 lawsuit by Easterday alleging Tyson Fresh Meats owed him money for breach of contract from selling his beef. Easterday is appealing that decision.

Easterday alleged the company never paid for the use of his name and likeness as part

of a joint venture that involved the marketing and selling of premium beef from his ranch. The former rancher told the court Tyson owes him about \$100 million.

According to court records, briefs are due in the case in January and February.

Easterday pleaded guilty to perpetuating a so-called "ghost cattle" scheme for billing Tyson to the tune of \$233 million for raising cattle that didn't exist. Court documents show Easterday conducted the scheme in an attempt to make up for losses he sustained in

the futures market.

On Aug. 28 the court dismissed another lawsuit filed by Easterday against Tyson alleging the company had committed a number of anti-trust violations and violated the Packers and Stockyards Act during a 10-year business relationship.

In the months following pleading guilty to wire fraud, Easterday raised tens of millions of dollars through asset sales in an attempt to make restitution to Tyson.

Easterday operated an extensive family farm operation

in eastern Washington involved in cattle feeding as well as 22,500 acres of potatoes, onions, corn and wheat in the Columbia Basin.

Beginning in 2016 and continuing through November 2020, Easterday submitted false and fraudulent invoices and other information to Tyson and another company.

The Easterday Ranches Inc. owner received reimbursement from the companies for the purported purchase and raising of cattle the company never actually bought. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Ranchers ask for more wolves to be collared

WOLF (from page 1)

cows and calves, the cameras reveal wolves persistently chasing and dogging herds and individual animals throughout the day and evening, causing stress. Their research also started looking at scat in 2022. They partnered with the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory to analyze wolf scat for the presence of cattle and identify wolves through DNA and their diets.

Last year, Saitone said they collected 59 samples in an "ad hoc" manner and identified 13 unique wolves from the Lassen Pack—game cameras identified 18 wolves in the Lassen Pack—and 86% of the scat collected had cattle DNA, and every sample had at least one unique animal's DNA present.

"How can we reconcile that with the confirmed kills that we see on CDFW's website?" Saitone asked. "We can't, it's just another way to push the discussion forward that this conflict is so much bigger than (CDFW) wants to recognize."

In 2023, the team collected 310 samples during the summer in areas with other packs. The team looked at the familial relationships of the wolves and whether the expansion was due to population growth or wolves establishing themselves in new territories. The researchers are awaiting the results from the scat collected this year.

Compensation funding

Saitone and Tate hope their research will guide the funding needed for the state's wolf compensation program.

According to CDFW, the legislature approved funding for CDFW to "develop a grant process to allocate funds to pay for the deterrence of wolf presence near livestock, the impacts of wolf presence on livestock, and for verified loss of livestock for participating ranchers."

The compensation pilot program has a three-pronged approach to payment: compensation for depredation loss, non-lethal deterrents for wolf presence and payments for the impacts of wolf presence.

Saitone said the payment for presence program was implemented in May 2023 and covers situations such as lower calf weaning weights, lower conception rates and lower body condition scores due to wolves chasing the herd.

According to Saitone, the legislature allocated \$3 million for the pilot program for claims retroactive to September 2021 and the program will remain in effect until 2026 or when the funds run out. Saitone spoke with CDFW, which indicated that \$1.3 million has been allocated thus far, and there is a large payment backlog. Based on her conversation with producers in the affected areas,

Saitone anticipated the funds would run out well before 2026.

Saitone said as part of their research they conducted "back of the envelope" calculations for the pay-for-presence prong for a lower estimate of 2% of fair market value in the Lassen and Plumas counties. The researchers concluded ranchers within that area should be paid approximately \$916,000.

"If we start thinking about expanding geographies for packs and expanding not only from summer range to winter range, that number is going to get really large really quick," Saitone said. "We need to also think about lobbying for much more than \$3 million going forward."

Lobbying in the future

Saitone expressed there are areas for improvement with the program, including having staff dedicated explicitly to program administration rather than using existing staff, and improved communication from CDFW of the status of applications and justification for their decisions. Saitone continued CDFW needs to better communicate with ranchers where wolves are and increase wolf GPS collaring to accomplish this.

Ranchers at the meeting also emphasized the need to collar more wolves to get accurate information about wolf presence, with one rancher believing it is a deliberate attempt by CDFW to avoid getting the information ranchers need.

Kirk Wilbur, vice president of government affairs at CCA, addressed the crowd and said the largest concern is ensuring the pilot program continues to be funded.

Wilbur said the legislature will be considering budget funding in the coming months and now is the time to begin lobbying ahead of the May revision when adjustments are made to the governor's proposed budget in January. Wilbur noted that it is a deficit year presenting some challenges, and it would not behoove ranchers to make the compensation program permanent as it "will require a pretty big price tag."

Wilbur said the biggest challenges in requesting funding will be the leadership changes in the legislature and the budget subcommittees and whether CDFW will oppose the funding request to continue the pilot program. Wilbur continued in years with a budget surplus the discussion could be whether to make the compensation program permanent, but it would be a policy issue, and the short-term focus should be on continued funding.

The wolf subcommittee decided to ask for \$15 million over five years. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 12/7/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	170.47	▼	174.76
CME Feeder Index	222.31	▼	224.77
Boxed Beef Average	289.84	▼	299.02
Average Dressed Steers	269.69	▼	274.69
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,388	▲	1,382
Weekly Slaughter**	635,000	▲	538,000
Weekly Beef Production***	529.7	▲	447.9
Hide/Offal Value	11.98	▼	18.78
Corn Price	4.69	▲	4.62
* 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 30	6,872	289.86	233	322.59	1,194	300.16	2,100	294.00	803	266.06	2,542
November 24	6,781	291.11	237	325.59	1,322	299.56	2,131	292.69	718	268.97	2,373
November 17	6,463	292.53	218	327.67	1,181	300.78	1,958	294.12	711	270.19	2,396
November 10	6,306	296.75	192	332.38	1,117	305.16	1,901	298.26	776	272.54	2,321
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Dec 7	289.84		258.83		207.27		48.07		252.91		
Dec 6	290.56		259.90		213.41		55.37		265.24		
Dec 5	293.75		259.13		217.60		57.74		271.03		
Dec 4	294.99		262.83		210.60		58.58		257.69		
Dec 1	297.46		265.49		214.92		64.75		0.00		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	12/1	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	High* Low*
Dec.	16928	16725	16850	16345	16235	19183 15388
Feb.	16913	16708	16898	16355	16253	19633 15310
Apr.	17163	16970	17150	16668	16595	19975 16853
Jun.	16750	16628	16750	16428	16365	18270 16668
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	12/1	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	High* Low*
Jan.	21443	21053	21470	21015	21028	26833 21280
Mar.	21723	21358	21748	21175	21118	25723 21630
Apr.	22118	21743	22138	21565	21443	24613 22023
May	22490	22108	22495	21943	21760	23213 22388
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						
FED CATTLE TRADE		Head Count	Avg. Weight		Avg. Price	
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES						
Live FOB Steer		16,640		1,480		170.47
Live FOB Heifer		9,612		1,331		170.71
Dressed Del Steer		11,725		1,002		269.69
Dressed Del Heifer		1,395		849		271.26
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK						
Live FOB Steer		13,765		1,462		174.76
Live FOB Heifer		4,730		1,339		174.74
Dressed Del Steer		597		960		274.69
Dressed Del Heifer		295		804		274.36
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR						
Live FOB Steer		3,394		1,425		155.33
Live FOB Heifer		2,235		1,313		154.91
Dressed Del Steer		7,458		981		246.95
Dressed Del Heifer		2,341		853		246.75
NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: DECEMBER 3						
		Domestic		Imported		
Forward Contract		24,105		4,356		
Formula		275,277		2,260		
Negotiated Cash		72,370		131		
Negotiated Grid		51,514		1,828		
Packer Owned		10,349		N/A		
Total		433,615		8,575		
SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS				FORWARD BEEF SALES		
Delivery Month				Neg. Sales 0-21 days		2,127
Dec. '23				Neg. Sales 21+ days		968
Jan. '24				Formula sales		3,731
Feb. '24				Forward contract sales		46
Mar. '24				Domestic sales		5,928
Apr. '24				NAFTA Exports		129
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					166.69	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs					N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions						
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs					170.68	+0.56
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs					N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs					94.58	-0.19
*Price comparison from one week ago.						
Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 24, 2023						
Steers:		Alberta	Saskatchewan		Ontario	
501-600 lbs		278.60	281.68		242.48	
601-700 lbs		256.27	256.84		232.45	
701-800 lbs		238.83	239.24		213.42	
801-900 lbs		222.77	222.66		211.74	
Heifers:						
401-500 lbs		257.18	255.77		220.03	
501-600 lbs		241.85	239.97		225.14	
601-700 lbs		223.04	223.77		200.73	
701-800 lbs		211.26	210.14		183.22	
USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS						
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.						
Species	Current Week	Previous Week		Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date	
	11/27/23	11/20/23				
Feeders	43,374	15,634		1,126,352	761,218	
USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE						
December 7, 2023						
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary						
Receipts EST: 10,300		Week Ago Act: 11,100		Year Ago Act: 22,647		
Columbus, NM			Santa Teresa, NM			
Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers 2.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.			Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers 2.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2			Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs		213-223		300-400 lbs		213-223
400-500 lbs		203-213		400-500 lbs		203-213
500-600 lbs		193-203		500-600 lbs		193-203
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2			Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs		255-265		300-400 lbs		255-265
400-500 lbs		235-245		400-500 lbs		235-245
500-600 lbs		215-225		500-600 lbs		215-225
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)						

Selected Auction Week Ending December 7, 2023					Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2						
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
December 1 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		260-284 220-250	240-289 210-250	200-287 190-256	195-232 185-224	187-215 182-201	181-202 180-189	75-91 85-112		
November 30 Burley, ID	1,244		308-315 226-240	265-299 222-238	188-279 222-238	221.50-238 194-211	187.50-217.50 186	198-209	78.50-100 104-110		
No report available Emmett, ID											
December 4 Eugene, OR	880		180-231 170-206	197-232 170-206	196-237 155-197	155-180 155-200	160-181		80-102 93-118	600-1,525	
December 4 Madras, OR	2,309		285-323 270-297	282-327 273-295	258-286 236-266	227-257 220-230	215-226 182-206	185-215	85-105 105-116		
December 6 Vale, OR	823				197-207	201-214	189-196		85-96 86-101	1,625-2,350	
December 4 Davenport, WA	417	147.50 125-140	125-217.50 80-180	72.50-225 132.50-200	107.50-233 93-214	164-210 50-187.50	160-187.50 81-162.50	63.50-165 71-105	42-107 60-178	1,500-1,600 875-1,400	
December 5 Toppenish, WA	2,000									1,750-3,300 1,325-2,200	
November 30 Orland, CA	3,927			220-310 200-300	200-292 180-262	180-266 160-233	170-225 150-207	155-201 135-185	95-118 90-139	1,500-2,550	
December 4 Escalon, CA	N/A		200-275 175-225		200-260 175-215		160-215 115-175	115-145 90-120	80-100 80-105	800-1,500	
December 4 Famoso, CA	502		250-260 180-230	240-254 185-234	250-254 185-220	240-258 175-200	190-236 165-175		95-120 110-127		
No report available Galt, CA	662		140-230* 137-220	138-239* 130-230	134-226* 125-220	127-220* 121-200	118-190* 110-186	110-175* 105-170.50	90-106.75 90-118		
December 5 Turlock, CA											
November 28 Salina, UT	1,499	255-290 225-265	220-310 200-265	200-277.50 155-255	195-270 147.50-244	180-252 120-226	172.50-220 120-208	148-196 102.50-191	79-114 102-116		
December 4 Iowa	13,393	286 265	275-335 240-300	250-320 220-276.25	240-309.50 211-264	220-275 190-261.50	210-262 170-230	189-231 160-197	80-117 72.50-138		
December 5 Miles City, MT	2,632		330-357.50 286-311	298.50-331 260-302	250-291 226-264	231-254 211-215.50		181-206	62.50-97.75 80-105.50		
December 6 Bassett, NE	3,105			311-326.50 257-266	275-330 222-253	247-311 216-226	244.50-255 203.25	190-191.50			
December 2 Ericson, NE	3,710		340-355 297-300	288-332.50 256-285	264-319 228-266	242.50-277 217-243	220-252.50 212	231 187			
No report available Imperial, NE											
November 29 Kearney, NE	3,700			310-319 256-277	257.50-291.50 240-261	242.50-262 226-244	246.50-254 217-229.50	225-249.50 194	90-105 96-112		
December 1 Lexington, NE	3,582		303 260-264	301-312 245-281	254-298 235-250	235-259.50 224-235	219.50-238 215-221.50	219.25-238 201.25-210			
November 30 Ogallala, NE	1,930		302.50-325 282.50-310	300-320 271.50-287	272-294 236-273	237-255 220-231	222-236 215-220	196-210			
No report available Valentine, NE											
December 1 Herreid, SD	3,787		319-335 265-272.50	302.50-337.50 250-284.50	250-309.50 229-263	242.50-273 217.50-225		222.50-230.50			
December 6 Torrington, WY	4,309		339-365 290-310	273-343 260-290	251-289 230-268	230-261 215-224	230-240	196-234.50 192-204			
November 30 Wilcox, AZ	2,090	292-337.50 272-31.50	300-350 296-361	269-302 242-267.50	213-264 207-257	180-215 174-194.50			78-104 90-115.0	1,425-1,825	
December 4 Colorado	8,934	322	321-343	285-330 266-302.50	261-302 271-280	227-253 209-215	189-219	183-206 161-200.10	47.50-142.50 71-121.50	1,325-2,025 885-1,950	
November 29 La Junta, CO	2,097		300-343 249-258	270-330 231-261	240-302 206-241	218-241 195-223		198-219 189-192	82-99 104-121.50		
December 4 Loma, CO	1,254		320-340 270-325	265-302 50-275	250-280 210-230	215-230 200-210	205-215 190-215.50	150-210 165-201	84-95 90-105		
December 6 Dodge City, KS	3,630		327-372 277.50-351	285-361 244-305	260-288 228-241	224-260 206-219	217.50-222 197.50-207.50	209-225 184.25-195.50	81-102 88-121.50	1,450-1,575	
December 7 Pratt, KS	3,600			296-327 256-286	255-315 233-256	228-275 204.50-252	214-240 187-209.25	190.50-208 181-190			
November 30 Salina, KS	2,081		286-292 240-244	274-300 222.50-267.50	236-285 227-247.50	200-241 173-214	194-227.50 182-201	203-227.50 168-190			
December 7 Clovis, NM	3,151	306 254-285	295-335 250-288	225-316 225-264	226-277 206-255	187.50-241.50 190-261	190-215 170.50-204.25	170-205 141-180		100	
December 6 El Reno, OK	8,296	240	330-340 270-340	290-340 240-295	244-310 213.50-250	210-270 189-230	211-232 190-205	191-219 174-196			
December 6 McAlester, OK	1,240		310-340 249-268	272-320 235-263	250-286 210-240	211-258 178-208	185-201 170-185	175-183 133	81-106 98-115	1,060-1,625 1,000-1,700	
December 5 Oklahoma City, OK	12,330	366	311-355 265-303	295-341 234-299	256-306 196-260	222-277 201-230	208-237 195-205	199.50-217 181.50-195			
December 1 Cuero, TX	1,844	269-338 217-337.50	272-334 242-332	252-328 215-315	234-280 207-264	210-270 195-238	206-226 175-212		78-100 94-123	1,450	
December 1 Dalhart, TX	1,803		300-334 250-280	272-323 239-260	244-277 220-242	239-259 190-210	207-224 206-208	132-191 129-193	70-104.50 81-110		
November 30 San Angelo, TX	1,150	335 252.50	325-347.50 250-268	287.50-294 236-246	262-280 208-221	233 208			82-102 90-122	1,200-1,900 1,475	
November 30 Tulia, TX	1,365	340 274-285	324 267-277	264-320 228-277	225-302 210-239	219-250 194-220	215-222.50 193-201	191-210	80-90 90	1,200	
December 1 Alabama	9,572	240-250	257-304 210-240	247.50-288 203-238	235-266 190-220	210-240 175-208	180-211 170-174		78-104 85-126	1,050-2,250 625-2,000	
December 4 Lexington, KY	2,777	230-235*	271* 195-245*	232-282* 190-235.25*	230-255.85* 188-223*	202-235.10* 170-213*	180-230.35* 150-206*	140-219* 120-167*	75-110 105-128	1,000-1,075	
December 4 Joplin, MO	8,473		300 255-270	275-317 234-263	260-294 211-241	225-256 212-224.50	217-234 197.50-218.50	203-227.50 192.50			
December 4 Tennessee	8,133	165-295* 190-250*	216-290* 177.50-240*	208-272* 167-235*	163-265* 161-232*	170-230* 160-206.25*	160-209.25* 145-190*	141-214* 118-185*	70-108 95-128	1,025-2,100 730-1,650	
December 4 Virginia	2,953		203-240 160-210	175-240 150-211	180-239 146-200	145-234 146-182	97.50-206 124-165	139-200.50 110-179			
December 1 Alabama	9,572	240-250	257-304 210-240	247.50-288 203-238	235-266 190-220	210-240 175-208	180-211 170-174		78-104 85-126	1,050-2,250 625-2,000	
December 4 Lexington, KY	2,777	230-235*	271* 195-245*	232-282* 190-235.25*	230-255.85* 188-223*	202-235.10* 170-213*	180-230.35* 150-206*	140-219* 120-167*	75-110 105-128	1,000-1,075	
December 4 Joplin, MO	8,473		300 255-270	275-317 234-263	260-294 211-241	225-256 212-224.50	217-234 197.50-218.50	203-227.50 192.50			
December 4 Tennessee	8,133	165-295* 190-250*	216-290* 177.50-240*	208-272* 167-235*	163-265* 161-232*	170-230* 160-206.25*	160-209.25* 145-190*	141-214* 118-185*	70-108 95-128	1,025-2,100 730-1,650	
December 4 Virginia	2,953		203-240 160-210	175-240 150-211	180-239 146-200	145-234 146-182	97.50-206 124-165	139-200.50 110-179			

Weaning weight versus reproductive efficiency

Economic analyses of cow-calf operations show a strong relationship between profitability and percent calf crop weaned per exposed female, along with pounds weaned per exposed female. This “economic analysis” discussion often leads to a debate of what has more value to the profit potential of a commercial cow-calf operation that sells calves at weaning.

Is it reproductive efficiency in the form of a higher percent calf crop weaned? Or is it the weaning weight of the calves? This week we take a look at the value of an extra 50 pounds of weaning weight versus an extra 5% calf crop weaned per exposed female relative to current market values.

We frame the debate as

follows:

Herd A

- 200 cow operation.
- Average mature weight = 1,300 lbs.

• 90% calf crop weaned, resulting in 180 calves (90 steers and 90 heifers at an average of 525 lbs.)

• Herd A is averaging 472.5 lbs. of weaning weight per exposed female.

Herd B

- 200 cow operation.
- Average mature weight = 1,300 lbs.

• 85% calf crop weaned, resulting in 170 calves (85 steers and 85 heifers at an average of 575 lbs.)

• Herd B is averaging 488.8 lbs. of weaning weight per exposed female.

According to the Nov. 17 USDA Oklahoma Weekly

Cattle Auction Summary, we can expect the following results:

Herd A's calves

The 525-lb. steer calves are worth \$294/cwt, or approximately \$1,544 per head. The 525-lb. heifer calves are worth \$243/cwt, or approximately \$1,276 per head.

• 90 steers x \$1,544 = \$138,960.

• 90 heifers x \$1,276 = \$114,840.

Therefore, the total gross value is \$253,800.

Herd B's calves

The 575-lb. steer calves are worth \$273/cwt, or approximately \$1,570 per head. The 575-lb. heifer calves are worth \$235/cwt, or approximately \$1,351 per head.

• 85 steers x \$1,570 = \$133,450.

conditions, Herd A's advantage of 5% more calf crop weaned results in \$5,515 in extra revenue over Herd B's 50-lb. advantage in actual weaning weight. Reproductive efficiency (in the form of a higher percent calf crop

weaned) is a very economically important trait in a cow-calf operation. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Double-digit losses hit feeders

MARKETS (from page 1)

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 502,000 head, compared to a week earlier at 494,000 head. Projected total slaughter for a week earlier is 635,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 25 was 534,488 head, 105,000 head lower due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The average dressed steer weight was 940 lbs., 4 lbs. above the prior week.

“Boxed beef prices are under pressure as well, with only the rib higher on the week,” Fish said. “Based on the cuts under the most pressure, it suggests that hamburger demand is terrible.”

Boxed beef prices were lower, with the Choice cutout down nearly \$10 to \$289.84 and the Select cutout down nearly \$6 to \$258.83.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures tanked over the week. The January contract lost nearly \$10 to close at \$210.27, and the March contract lost more than \$11 to close at \$211.17.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$2.46 to close at \$222.31.

“Feedlots also have abandoned ideas of the need to background cattle for next spring's placement and are quickly adopting a wait and see attitude for purchasing forward contracts,” the Cattle

Report wrote on Thursday. “Feedlots can now purchase on the feeder board dollars cheaper than taking the grazing risk of low gains, missing cattle, and other hazards of the trade.”

Corn futures traded modestly higher over the week, with the December contract up 7 cents to \$4.68 and the March contract up 3 cents to \$4.88.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 4,676 head on Tuesday. Compared to a week earlier, trade and demand was good. Feeder steers sold \$2-17 higher, and feeder heifers did not have enough comparable trades for a market trend. A group of benchmark steers averaging 762 lbs. sold for \$214.50.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,240 head on Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, steers sold \$4-8 lower. Heifers sold \$5-10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 774 lbs. sold between \$217.50-222, averaging \$219.36.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 9,000 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, feeder steers sold \$5-10 higher and feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 770 lbs. sold from \$220-225, averaging \$223.79.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 1,307 head on Monday. There were not enough sales for an accurate comparison. Benchmark

steers averaging 708 lbs. sold between \$220-227, averaging \$223.14.

New Mexico: Roswell Livestock in Roswell sold 1,514 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves 300-400 lbs. sold \$2-7 higher and 400-500 lbs. sold \$20-21 higher, while 500-600 lbs. were \$4-20 higher. Feeder steers 600-700 lbs. sold \$14-16 higher. Heifer calves 300-450 lbs. were \$11-13 higher, 450-550 lbs. sold \$12-19 higher and 550-600 lbs. were sharply higher. A group of steers averaging 719 lbs. sold between \$200-215, averaging \$206.66.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 12,000 head on Monday. Compared to a year earlier, feeder steers and heifers were lightly tested, although a few trades sold \$1-4 lower. Steer and heifer calves traded \$4-9 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold from \$214-226, averaging \$219.84.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle in Worthing sold 4,301 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers 600-700 lbs. sold \$2-6 lower, with the exception of 650 lb. steers trading \$4 higher. Yearling steers 900 lbs. sold \$5 lower, and 950 lbs. were \$5 higher. Light heifers were mostly steady. Yearling heifers 950 lbs. sold \$2 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 731 lbs. sold between \$225-244, averaging \$230.64. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

• 85 heifers x \$1,351 = \$114,835.

Therefore, the total gross value is \$248,285.

Bottomline

Under current market

OGALLALA, NE ~ 308-284-2071

Special Stocker & Feeder Sale

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

MINOR & SON (480) - Ang str & hfrs, 500-600#

GENE KUMM & PAT GARRETT (390) - SimAng str & hfrs, 450-700#

DARBY & AUTUM JESPERSON (375) - Ang str hfrs, 650-850#

DAVID & KEN KENNEDY (290) - SimAng X str & hfrs, 450-600#

HAYNES CATTLE CO. / GALE & CYNTHIA HAYNES (290) - Ang str, 600-850#
A&S, NHTC, Ang Verif. thru IMI Global, BQA Cert.

GEM VALLEY RANCH / ROY WESTOVER FAMILY (275) - Ang str, 500-575#

GORDON & JAN JONES (260) - Ang str & hfrs, 475-600#

CHUCK & MARY GLASSGOW (256) - Ang str, 500-650#

HAYTHORN LAND & CATTLE (240) - Ang & few BWF hfrs, 400-450#

J.H. MINOR CO. (200) - Ang str & hfrs, 450-550#

Many more valued and high-quality consignments can be viewed at www.ogallalalive.com

Jay Nordhausen 308-289-1548	Lance Van Winkle 308-874-4435	Scott Van Winkle 308-289-0249
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All sales will be broadcast live via the internet on www.cattleusa.com.
Pre-registration for online bidding is required BEFORE sale day.

Happy Holidays!

AND BEST WISHES
FOR THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WLJ!

Western Livestock Journal®

COMING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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SALE REPORTS

HOLLOW TOP ANGUS SALE

Dec. 2, Ramsay, MT
100 Older bulls ... \$4,597
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: HT Continuity 2138, 4/9/22 by Sitz Continuity; to Wade and Theresa King, Coulee City, WA, \$7,250. HT Profound 2203, 4/17/22 by SITZ Profound 680G; to Hansen Livestock, Dillon, MT, \$7,000. HT Thedford 2111, 4/7/22 by Hoffman Thedford; to Hansen Livestock, Dillon, MT, \$7,000. HT Profound 2222, 4/19/22 by SITZ Profound 680G; to TE Ranch, Cody, WY, \$7,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

WESTERN CHOICE FEMALE SALE

Dec. 2, Billings, MT
35 Registered bred cows ... \$2,443
4 Registered heifer calves ... 2,725
32 Registered bred heifers ... 3,608
47 Commercial bred cows ... 2,217
35 Commercial heifer calves ... 1,680
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson



SALE CALENDAR

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

ALL BREEDS

Jan. 11, 2024 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 3 — Klamath Falls, Bull & Female Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

ANGUS

Dec. 13 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 15 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 16 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 18 — Thomas Angus, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Jan. 23 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Jan. 26 — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 26 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 27 — Baldridge Performance Angus, North Platte, NE
Feb. 1 — Bear Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Feb. 2 — Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
Feb. 8 — Booth's Cherry Creek Ranch, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 9 — Bar KD & Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 9 — Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 9 — Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 10 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 12 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 — Jindra Angus, Bull Sale, Clarkson, NE
Feb. 14 — Meadow Acres,

TOPS: Black Summit pick of bred heifers; to Daryl Riley, Arapahoe, NE, \$12,500. LRS MS Broadrange 282K, 3/10/22 by Gibbs 7382E Broad Range; consigned by Lassle Ranch Simmentals, to Steve Eichacker, Salem, SD, \$9,000. Rymo Genesis Power 953K, 1/16/22 by LBRS Genesis G69; consigned by Rymo Cattle to Shannon Carr, Hot Springs, MT, \$6,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

JACOBSEN RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

Dec. 4, Great Falls, MT
68 Salers/Optimizer bull calves ... \$5,180
23 Angus bull calves ... 3,696
319 Commercial bred heifers ... 2,426
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson
TOPS—Salers: JSR Jamaica 324L, 2/24/23 by CMC MR Jamaca M44k; to Elm Creek Ranch, Hebron, ND, \$10,250. JSR Coach 3201L, 3/20/23 by MR Coach 876; to TB Salers, Duante, SD, \$8,750. JSR Electron 3271L, 4/2/23 by ECR

Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 15 — Krebs Ranch, Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Feb. 16 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Feb. 17 — Sandhills Source, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 17 — Schiefelbein Farms, Bull Sale, Kimball, MN
Feb. 19 — Frank Cattle & Genetics, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 19 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 19 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 20 — Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 20 — Rooney Angus/7 Triangle 7 Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Brush, CO
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 23 — RS Angus, Bull Sale, Brownell, KS
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 24 — Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Feb. 24 — RV Bar Angus, Bull Sale, Jensen, UT
Feb. 25 — Buchanan Angus, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 26 — Colyer Angus & Hereford, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 27 — Barker Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 27 — Haynes Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Feb. 27 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 20, 2024 — V-A-L Charolais, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 23 — Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 24 — Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA

GELBIEH

Feb. 5, 2024 — Taubenheim Gelbvieh, Production Sale, Amherst, NE
Feb. 24 — Black Gold Genetics, Bull Sale, Pritchett, CO

HEREFORD

Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk

Electron 712E of 48T; to Ward Ranches, Gardnerville, NV, \$8,000. JSR Cosmic 332L, 2/27/23 by JSR Cosmic 1381; to Chuck Crabtree, Choteau, MT, \$8,000. **Angus:** JSR Payweight 3654, 3/17/23 by Circle L Payweight 05J; to Lane Yeager, Choteau, MT, \$6,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

REVERSE ROCKING R RANCH SALE

Dec. 2, Maxwell, NM
104 Total bulls ... \$6,507
53 Total females ... 4,500
27 Embryos ... 1,174
Auctioneer: Wes Tiemann
TOPS—Bulls: RRR Maverick R0622, 4/3/22 by Poss Maverick; to Diamond D Ranch, Dubois, WY, \$14,000. RRR LA Deadwood RG275, 9/12/22 by Poss Deadwood; to McGill Ranch, Laramie, WY, \$12,000. RRR Rawhide R0752, 4/7/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$11,500. **Open Heifers:** RRR Ellunamere R1542, 7/3/22 by Pine View Premium; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$12,000, 1/2

interest. Choice of three heifer calves; to Kern Cattle, Visalia, CA, \$10,500. RRR Barbaramere R0863, 6/3/23 by Baldrige Headstart; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$10,500, 1/2 interest. **Open cow:** Baldrige Isabel E040, 1/9/17 by EF Cammando 1366; to Capital Angus, White House, TX, \$15,000. **Embryo:** Point P Rita 1021 x Connealy Craftsman; to Loose Arrow Ranch, Trinidad, CO, \$2,000. **Pregnancy:** Hart Whitney 2528 x Pine View Red State; to GMC Genetics, LLC, Fraziers Bottom, WV, \$10,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

TK ANGUS SALE

Dec. 4, Valentine, NE
168 Total bulls ... \$6,360
227 Total females ... 3,748
170 Bred cows ... 3,786
57 Fall pairs ... 3,635
30 Semen (units) ... 145
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: T K Scale House K761, 8/13/22 by S A V Scale House 0845; to Lynden Smith, NE, \$27,500. T K United K262, 7/28/22 by

Chestnut United; to Lynden Smith, NE, \$19,000. T K Steamboat K485, 8/18/22 by T K Steamboat D307; to Soncy Cattle, NE, \$19,000. **Bred Cows:** S A V Duke Girl 6086, 2/23/16 by S A V Renown 3439; to HFS Angus, OH, \$20,000. T K Karen G513, 8/30/19 by Musgrave 316 Stunner; to Lindskov LT Ranch, SD, \$16,000. T K Edella G415, 8/4/19 by Musgrave 316 Stunner; to Arrowsmith Ranch, NE, \$12,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

ZUMBRUNNEN ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE

Dec. 5, Lusk, WY
105 Total bulls ... \$5,113
52 Older bulls ... 5,581



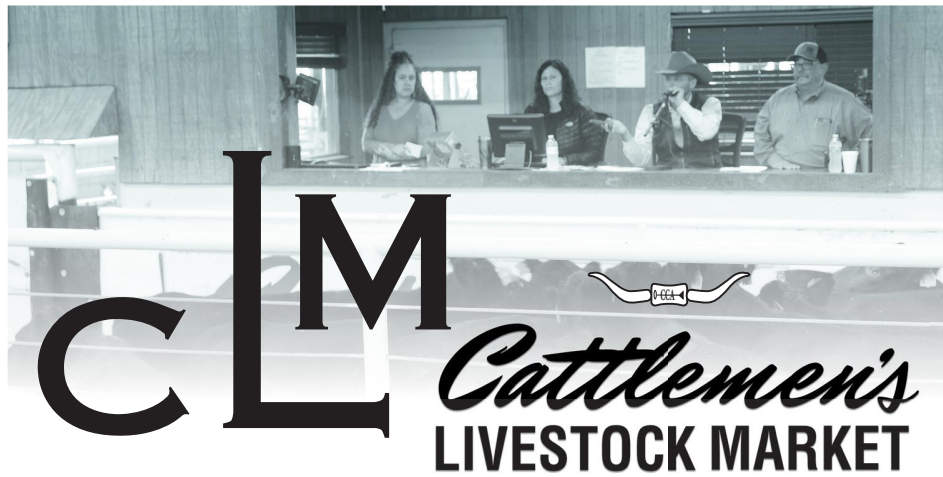
VIDEO AUCTION

Nov. 30, Hudson Oaks, TX
 Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on Nov. 30 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers offered 32,248 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 24 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through August 2024. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers saw a very uneven market. With winter approaching across much of the Midwest, Brahman-influenced steers and heifers were met with some resistance resulting in \$5-9 lower on steers and \$8-10 lower on heifers. British-based breeds of steers and heifers were in strong

demand at levels fully steady to \$4 higher. Regions 1/2 feeders were in short supply but noted on a steady trend with the last auction. Regions 1/2 calves were also in short supply, but demand was strong at fully steady prices. Regions 3/4/5/6 witnessed an uneven trend with calves in lighter weights and grazing condition in very strong demand. Region 5 saw big advances in prices of lightweight calves, suitable for wheat pasture, at \$15-20 higher. Regions 3/4 saw lightweight calves with dependable vaccine programs at \$10-15 higher on steer calves; however, heifer calves remained far back of the steers. Bred stock demand remained fully steady.

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US focuses on production and incentives at COP28

USDA officials and industry stakeholders on Nov. 29 held a send-off rally for this year's United Nations climate conference to prepare for two weeks of "negotiating, cajoling and convincing" delegates and groups from other countries to come around to the U.S. view that "voluntary, incentive-based" climate-smart farming is the pathway forward for agricultural policy and climate change.

This year's United Nations "Conference of the Parties," known as COP28, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), opened Nov. 30 and runs until Dec. 12.

COP28 will put more focus on agriculture and food than any of the previous COP events. That includes an entire day, Dec. 10, to focus on the launch of aggressive action—a "climate policy toolkit for food." The UAE is putting forward the "Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action," which expects commitments from large agricultural countries to commit to new actions that would lower emissions from agriculture and food production.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told USDA staff and a group of industry stakeholders that USDA and the Biden administration will show up to the COP laying out a series of investments in conservation and renewable energy. There will be "significant announcements" and commitments that will be hammered out over the

next two weeks, he said.

At the heart of the U.S. efforts is the \$3.1 million Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities, which USDA expects will reach as many as 60,000 farmers in the next few years of enrollment. Vilsack pointed to 175 farming practices and more than 90 commodities tied to the program. Along with that goes the \$19.5 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act to boost climate-smart practices in USDA's traditional suite of conservation programs.

"America can talk about this and can actually show they are doing it. Many countries can talk about plans they have. We can show what we're doing," Vilsack said.

A COP meeting typically has three tracks. There's the "presidency track" where the lead country helps spotlight certain themes, which include "food systems" this year. There's the knowledge space: the pavilions and expos where every group makes their case about what should be done or not done about climate change. An estimated 70,000 people will attend COP28 in some capacity.

And there's the policy track where leaders from nearly 200 countries are negotiating their next commitments to lower emissions and help underdeveloped countries address climate change. In agriculture, for instance, there are efforts to get greater commitments to lower emissions, such as methane from livestock. Already, groups and corporations are sending notices of major announce-

ments they plan to make about commitments to reduce emissions.

"These negotiations have implications for what we do domestically and how we do it," said Bill Hohenstein, director of USDA's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, stressing the outcomes of COP meetings.

More US farmer voices

Ernie Shea, executive director of Solutions From the Land, will lead a delegation of nine farmers who will split time at the conference. In an interview, Shea said the gameplan for his group at the COP is always to bring the voice of American farmers to the climate summit to offer a counterweight to some of the more extreme environmental arguments.

"These forums are always platforms where all kinds of actors show up wanting to change agriculture," Shea said. "For many of them, their core message is the food and agriculture system is broken, it is contributing massively to greenhouse gas emissions, and we need to turn things around. They typically focus on agroecology as a preferred solution. They shun technology and innovation, and they don't embrace incentive approaches for farmers to help themselves and the planet."

More U.S. agricultural groups are attending the COP

events now, which Shea said, "is refreshing and good." The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, for instance, has gotten more engaged in recent COP events and is sending a group of board members. The U.S. Soybean Export Council, U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Dairy Export Council and the North American Meat Institute are just a few of the groups expected to participate in this

year's conference.

"There's a long list," Shea said. "Many of them have events at the COP this year. That's a new piece of the puzzle that more ag groups are showing up, and we welcome that because agriculture is so diverse that we need multiple voices."

A key for U.S. agriculture is incentivizing action rather than prescribing it. "This is

where the fault lines start to form," Shea said. "We're there saying follow our guiding principles, while others are there saying we need to impose limits such as restricting livestock in certain areas. There are groups that really take a government-centric, command-and-control approach. We're saying there's a downside to doing that." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

DOJ discusses market concentration with South Dakota farmers, ranchers

Supply and demand drive the market. Or do they? Market manipulation was the focus of a panel discussion hosted during the South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) State Convention held in Huron, SD, Dec. 1.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Assistant Attorney General Michael Kades was among the panelists to discuss this challenge with family farmers and ranchers. The timing of this discussion was spot on, explained Buffalo cattle rancher Joe Painter and Gregory cattle farmer Hank Wonnemberg.

Both producers recently witnessed prices driven by forces not connected to supply plummet at two different auction markets.

"Cattle numbers are down, yet I saw calves Nov. 20 only bring \$1,150. These same calves in October would have brought \$1,500," Painter said.

On Nov. 20, Painter was just an observer. But 300 miles away, Hank Wonnemberg's calves had just sold. On Nov. 18, he and his wife, Melissa, took 65 weaned calves to the sale barn.

"They sold for \$300 bucks less a head," shared Wonnemberg during the panel discussion. "If it is a healthy market, with vibrant competition, then it is supply and demand driven. But this year, supply was low, and the prices were great—until November when we sold—and the supply is still low. It feels obvious to me that at some level they are controlling the market."

Wonnemberg and Painter and other South Dakota cattle producers are not alone in thinking that something is not

quite right.

The DOJ is also concerned. "We have concerns about how livestock markets are operating," said Kades, after he qualified that he is not able to discuss specifics on any ongoing investigations. "Anytime people think there is something suspicious going on, we want to hear about it. We feel strongly about this and are committed to promote competitive markets, particularly in agriculture."

Farmers Union State Convention is not the first time Kades spoke with South Dakota cattle producers about market manipulation. He first met with them in fall 2021 during a National Farmers Union D.C. Fly-In.

"It had a ground-breaking effect on our staff—listening to folks talk about their specific problems. Not reading about them, in the way that antitrust often works," Kades said.

Wessington Springs cattle rancher Scott Kolousek remembers the initial meeting with Kades. "I came out of that meeting with a sense of relief that things would happen," Kolousek said. "I have a genuine feeling that things in D.C. are starting to change. My frustration is at the speed of it."

After hearing Kolousek's comments, Kades emphasized the impact of advocacy. "You have every right to demand action as fast as you can," Kades said. "The old adage about more pressure is true in Washington, the squeaky wheel often gets the grease."

And although Kades could not comment on investigations into the packers that are underway, Parade rancher and pan-

el moderator Oren Lesmeister said he knows the DOJ is investigating.

"I have had calls from DOJ agents in Chicago asking questions," Lesmeister said. "They are investigating this."

Wonnemberg said he appreciated the opportunity to speak directly to the DOJ.

"I thought having him available and open for questions on the floor, where we could share our stories and voice our concerns and explain what we are going through was such an awesome opportunity," Wonnemberg said. "And the way it was received by Michael, to me, it did not seem he was surprised by what we had to say. It seemed he was glad to hear the reinforcement of what he knows."

Ahead of the Dec. 1 panel discussion, Kades toured the Mitchell sale barn and on Dec. 2 he visited a couple Jerauld County feedlots.

"He cares about doing his job thoroughly and fairly. That is why he was doing what he is doing, he has never been around anything like a sale barn or a feedlot and he wanted to know what they were like," said Doug Sombke, SDFU president. "He is the right guy for the job because he cares about doing what is right. He cares about the average family farmer."

Kolousek agreed. "After hearing from Kades, I felt reassured," he said.

In addition to Kades, Lesmeister and Kolousek, Scott Blubaugh, president of American Farmers & Ranchers also served on the panel. — **Lura Roti for South Dakota Farmers Union**

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, corn stalks or 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 then used by the animal itself as microbial protein as they pass through the digestive tract. It's essentially used twice.

Many times, alfalfa is one of the cheapest natural sources of protein. It's easy to use and

doesn't require additional equipment. Non-protein sources of nitrogen such as urea may be cheap but won't be as effective with low quality forage as rumen microbes need additional energy to turn the urea nitrogen into protein the animal can use. Alfalfa hay on the other hand is highly digestible, feeding both the animal and rumen, often increasing consumption of low-quality feeds.

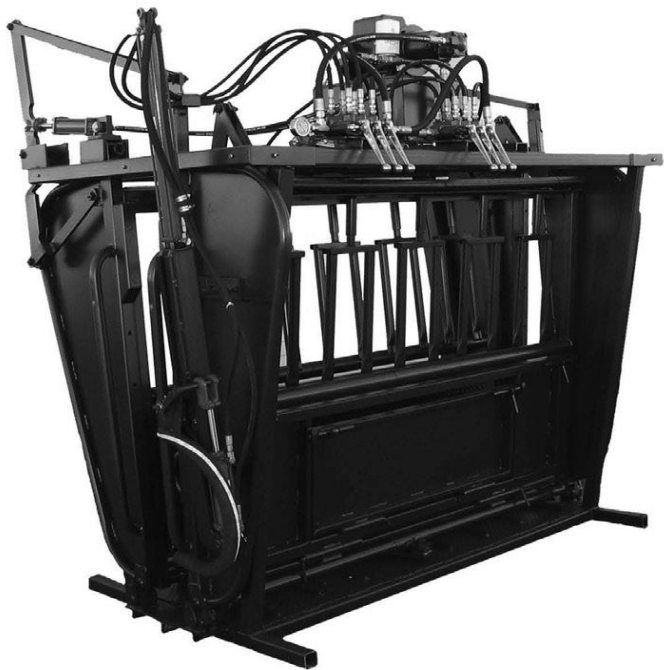
To be effective, alfalfa should be used as a supplement, not the whole diet, with only enough fed to overcome the deficit in protein the cow has from its current diet. A forage test along with knowing the requirements of the class of animal you are feed-

ing, and consumption rate can be used to determine just how much additional protein will be needed.

Some winter diets such as winter range, corn stalks or grass hay may require quite a bit of additional protein supplementation. While supplementing regularly may seem daunting, research has shown supplementing protein three times weekly is just as effective as daily supplementation as long as requirements are being met.

Feeding the right amount and choosing the right protein for your needs can save money. Alfalfa might just be the golden ticket. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**

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COMMENTS

Consistent volatility

Before I get into this week’s topic, I wanted to take a quick moment and welcome a new staff member to the *WLJ* family. Lanette Frye of Three Forks, MT, has joined our team, and we are elated for her to add to the legacy this publication has built. Lanette will specialize in commercial advertising sales but brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership to our staff.

As *WLJ* goes forward, we truly feel that a team of people is working for a common goal and the group will always be smarter than the individual. Each person at *WLJ* brings their own skill set to the table, but what we’ve noticed is how personal stances are set aside for the betterment of the company. Each time we make a decision, we ask ourselves how this decision would help our readership. From quality editorial to a skilled sales staff, we feel we are headed in the right direction but without the people reading *WLJ* we have nothing, so we are thankful to be where we are today and that’s because of you reading this publication we all have dedicated ourselves to. Thank you!

Steadiness and reliability are a bit too much to ask for right now in not only our industry, but across most financial trading outlets. We all understand there’s risk associated with investing in any form. We hear this in commercials, and we even sign off on the legal statement every time we place our positions. However, fundamentals that aren’t aligning perfectly with inexplicable swings need to be explained to a lot of us.

In review, our industry was completely united not too long ago and a major run was about to take flight in the markets. While it held off longer than most anticipated, it did finally arrive. We knew the cow herd was historically light. We knew drought was impacting a large percentage of North America. We knew cattle on feed wouldn’t sustain itself. All of these things we knew. We just had to wait it out.

We find ourselves in a bit of a rut (or market correction depending on your stance) and for the last six weeks that’s been the headline across every ag publication available. So, here’s why volatility plays such a key role in our livelihoods.

If literally everyone from producer to packer knew this run was going to happen in early 2023, why didn’t anyone know there’d be such a drastic selloff of contracts to finish 2023?

I’ve read nearly every reasoning you can imagine. From Livestock Risk Protection insurance policy kick-back, heavier carcass weights, influx on Mexican and beef-on-dairy cattle to the chain, and so on. Everyone has a suggestion, but so far no one has the answer.

I do want to add to the conversation that the algorithm usage in high-frequency trading is playing a factor in this as well. Trust is low in stock trading and traders have been looking for places to position themselves. I do think we’ve seen how paper trade versus cash trade isn’t matching even remotely right now, which makes sense as investors are repositioning. Computers aren’t trained for consistency, they are programmed to react to signals.

It’s simply a culmination of factors right now. I don’t think any of the experts are factually wrong in their assessments. Packers have tried to slow down their production and are juggling inputs and outputs, and the slowing has added to the heavier carcass weight trend as well. The industry recently set a record with steer carcass weights averaging 936 pounds, and the next week should set a new record.

Paul Dykstra of Certified Angus Beef said that the “average feedlot days on feed have slowly increased year over year. In the short term, feeder cattle replacement costs in a time of declining supplies incentivize cattle feeders to opt for more days on feed for their current inventory when breakevens show net losses in the future.” I couldn’t agree more with this. He mentions in his article prior to this statement that genetics are helping push this needle forward and it’s absolutely true. We’ve built cattle for the feeder and packer to manage any way they’d like. Couple this with better nutritional science and cattle can be grown at any speed they’d like and since we’ve concentrated our industry on a high-marbling product, the cattle can hit several markets, or as we’ve seen lately, hold a market up too.

All in all, we can’t blame this market correction on one lone factor. We are slowly being adapted to the consistent volatility that plays in today’s trading world. Markets swings are normalcy and in today’s world, bigger market swings are going to happen. Looking at inventory stacked up behind recent reports and seeing how cow slaughter has maintained and the high number of heifers on feed, this market won’t be stalled for long in my opinion. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN

GUEST OPINION

Did you hear the news? The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is on the cusp of approving a breakthrough in human health that may have profound implications for agriculture. It’s the first medical therapy that uses gene editing to treat a disease. It was successfully used to treat sickle cell disease and prevent the excruciating pain that sickle cell patients experience. It worked in 29 of 30 patients over 18 months, according to the FDA. The results were so convincing that a committee of independent FDA advisers—trained to be skeptical—reportedly praised the treatment, which opens the door for FDA approval.

So, what does this have to do with agriculture? Everything. Gene editing is a method of selective breeding, a practice as old as our need to grow our own food. Farmers have always bred crops and animals to draw out traits that make them more wholesome and sustainable. Gene editing allows breeders to speed up nature’s process by making changes to plants and animals more precisely than through conventional plant breeding methods. It can unlock tremendous benefits for consumers and the environment, helping farmers grow healthier, more sustainable food.

How is food made healthier by gene editing? It can remove allergens, reduce saturated and trans fats, and enrich nutrients in popular crops and commodities, such as peanuts, eggs and wheat. For the environment, scientists use gene editing to breed crops resistant to disease, drought and insects, allowing farmers to reduce pesticide use and conserve water. On the animal health front, gene editing can eliminate the threat of diseases like porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (a devastating illness in pigs), create natural immunity to other diseases and improve the overall health of livestock, reducing the need for antibiotics.

A great example of the benefits of gene editing in agriculture is the widely held belief among scientists that gene

OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING

editing is the solution to save a popular variety of bananas. Why? Because a deadly fungus is plaguing the crop. As a Nature.com article reports, gene editing might be the banana’s only hope. Researchers are using the gene editing tool to boost the fruit’s defenses and prevent its extinction. By the way, if you like oranges and orange juice, you might want to look into reports that gene editing may save the day to stop citrus greening, too, when no other solution exists.

Now you begin to see why scientists, farmers, nutritionists and environmental advocates have all been eager to welcome the advancements that gene-editing can bring.

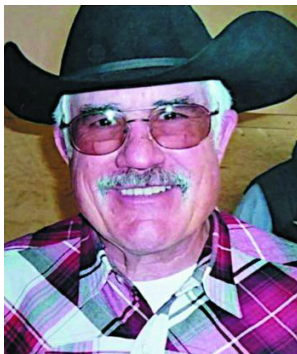
That said, we’ve learned an important lesson about consumer acceptance. It doesn’t matter how beneficial a particular technology might be if consumers don’t trust it. Consumer skepticism is understandable. As a mom, I’m skeptical when anyone tells me what is or isn’t good for me or my kids. Ready to connect the dots?

That’s the beauty of the FDA research into the benefits of gene editing to human health.

Extensive consumer research shows that connecting the technology to human health benefits eases or eliminates concern about the technology’s use in food. You can find a plethora of information on BestFoodFacts.org. It includes a great 3-part video series about the potential of gene editing. In part 2, we meet Shakir Cannon, who had battled sickle cell disease his entire life and was a passionate advocate for a gene editing tool called CRISPR to save lives.

Sadly, Shakir passed away before we reached this moment when FDA is nearing approval of the technology. We can all honor Shakir’s passion by advancing a greater understanding of the potential of gene editing to transform lives ... and crops. Let’s seize this moment. — **Terri Moore, vice president of communications, American Farm Bureau Federation**

OBITUARY



Jon Phillip Cox; 1945-2023

Jon Phillip Cox, 78, lifelong Whitman County registered Angus cattle rancher/wheat farmer passed away Nov. 24 from complications of Parkinson’s disease.

Jon was born Feb. 7, 1945, in Colfax, WA, the son of Dallas and Lena (Lust) Cox and younger brother of Sandra Filan and Durand Cox. Jon grew up in Colfax, where he was a standout high school athlete. Following graduation, he followed his friend, Frank Garrett, to Cal Poly. They both had hopes of walking on for the football team and studying animal science. After realizing most college football players were taller than 5’10, Jon transferred to Washington State University and joined his much loved first cousins. Jon returned to his fourth-generation ranch in Hay, WA, never graduating from college; he was still likely the smartest person you’d ever meet. If you knew Jon, you knew he was also a “storyteller,” with a sense of humor. It was never a bad idea to check what story he told you.

Much to his mother’s chagrin and his daughter’s delight, Jon was an animal lover. He loved each

and every dog on the farm, whether it was a cow dog, or a lap dog. But his favorite animals were his Angus cows. He was a natural cattleman. With some prodding by his longtime friend, Frank Garrett, Jon started his registered Angus herd in 1963 at only 18 years old. He established Pioneer Angus Ranch into a registered black Angus cattle herd. It was a well-respected operation that grew popularity throughout the U.S. He grew this registered herd while serving in various capacities with the Washington and Western States Angus Association. The friendships he made within the cattle business were cherished, especially his 60-plus year friendship with Gary Kendall. Many of those cattle friendships attended his yearly bull sales, along with the final 2013 dispersion cattle sale. This was when Jon sold most of the cattle to breeders all over the U.S.

One of Jon’s other loves was flying airplanes. His brother-in-law, Willie Filan, taught him to fly. This was a hobby he enjoyed throughout most of his life. He loved to fly, watch movies and also read books about planes. There was always an airplane at Pioneer Angus Ranch, as Jon had his own airstrip. And in the last days of his ability to fly, he was a partner owner of a plane with his nephew, Dallas Filan.

Jon was a man of many talents. He was also an accomplished trap shooter (in the footsteps of his father, who died when he was 13). He was a very talented golfer that could beat most people, even well after his Parkinson’s diagnosis.

Jon’s family is his legacy. After dating for an extended period of

time, he and Shirley joined their families together on Jan. 20, 1990. This family has been the cornerstone for the last nearly 40 years. He and Shirley enjoyed traveling, including the trip of a lifetime to Costa Rica, as well as numerous trips to Arizona, Mexico and Belize. Jon really enjoyed navigating his jet boat up Hell’s Canyon, camping on the beach and fishing. The entire family also spent a lot of valued time at the family’s lake cabin on Coeur d’Alene Lake. He really enjoyed playing cards (Jon was a card shark), boating, jet skiing and enjoying the company of his family.

Jon is survived by his wife, Shir-

ley, at their home in Hay; children Katie (Len), Jason (Audra), Michelle and Melissa (Loren); grandchildren Philip, Lynden, Sheridan, Clara, Karen, Jordyn, Talon, Jaden, Olivia, Cassius, Julius, Lucius, Cayla, Avery and Brody; two great-grandchildren; as well as many well-loved cousins and nieces and nephews. His parents; siblings; a grandson, Jude; and a great-grandson, Mylze, preceded him in death,

Jon is a man that will be missed daily. Forever. The family suggests memorial gifts in his memory be made to the Washington State Angus Association for their youth programs.

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN

"Honest, Dad.....yew've gotta believe me.....
I TURNED THE WATER TROUGH OFF!"

WLJ

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Dr. Katie Rein

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.

Dr. Katie Rein started her veterinary practice, Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service, in 2007 as an ambulatory practice consisting of just herself and her vet truck. More than 15 years later she has grown the practice to include three additional full-time vets at two locations in Harlowton and White Sulphur Springs, MT. The practice primarily serves beef cattle producers, but also offers small animal and equine services.

Katie grew up south of Harlowton on her family's cow-calf operation in Melville that has been in the family since 1893—so she has longstanding roots in the industry. She worked towards her undergraduate degree at Montana State University and headed west to Washington State University for vet school. Following a yearlong internship at Texas A&M University, she worked at a Harlowton vet clinic for two years before starting her own practice.

"I started out with just word of mouth advertising, and I would basically go anywhere to work on a cow," Katie told WLJ. "We have a very wide practice region and as it keeps growing, I just keep adding more vets."

Health protocols

This past summer, vets at the practice saw many incidences of foot rot and pinkeye thanks to the spring moisture and taller grass. Heading into fall, respiratory outbreaks picked up and now as we approach winter, vaccination protocols and nutritional management should be top of



Dr. Katie Rein

Courtesy photo

mind for producers.

Katie said more producers in the area are transitioning to vaccinating their cow herd in the fall just because springtime can be so busy. "We haven't noticed that much of a difference between the breed up in the herds that vaccinate in spring versus those that vaccinate in fall," she said.

Recommended parasite control measures have also evolved over the past few years, changing from deworming everything going into the winter to testing random fecal samples to see if cows are shedding many parasites. Some producers are even opting to not deworm the mature cow herd and only deworm the two- and three-year-olds.

"The idea behind refugia—where you don't deworm part of the herd—is that over time it should help decrease resistance to our dewormers," she said. "We're not really coming out with any new dewormers, and we need to make sure that the ones we're using are going to keep working and we don't have as many problems with resistance in cattle as they do with sheep."

For stress management, Katie noted the growing use of a new product called FerApease, which is essentially a maternal hormone that is topically applied above an animal's nose and back of head to decrease stress. The product has been touted for its benefits during the weaning process but can be used in all ages of cattle during periods of stress. Katie said that she has heard of some studies that show the pheromone didn't have much effect at weaning, but that numerous studies showed great results later during the feeding period.

"I think it deserves more research," she said, "But anecdotally it does seem like the calves bawl less and if they're spending less time bawling, they're spending more time eating and drinking and getting used to their pen and getting on feed."

Winter management

"Now is the time to put pounds on your cows," Katie said. "Cows don't have a calf

at their side and aren't yet in late gestation, so now is the time to act." She advocates for sending in hay samples to get forage analyses and learn what needs to be supplemented through the winter.

"The time between now and the last trimester is where you can really affect change in your herd nutritionally," she said. "Due to drought the last couple of years, many cows have been going into winter thin and we are seeing more sick baby calves."

"I think we're going to have a lot better set up this year because we came off such a tremendous summer," she said. "But I've still seen some thin cows when I was preg checking this fall."

Katie also said that bulls tend to get ignored in the winter but still turned out and expected to get to work in the spring. Bulls need to be fed just like the cows, she said, and given shelter from winter elements.

"There's a lot of newer studies showing that if they're going downhill before the breeding season, it's going to take that much more to come back to make it all the way through breeding season," Katie said. "So now is also the time to get the bulls in shape for the next breeding season."

New regulations

Katie discussed the impact of new federal regulations on the veterinary medicine sector, highlighting the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and

Guidance for Industry #263 as the most significant changes in recent years. The final VFD rule requires clients to be part of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), and the guidance measure made all medically important over-the-counter antibiotics prescription only.

As far as adhering to the new VFD guidelines, Katie said the practice now has a list of ranchers who have a valid VCPR, and the vets go through and update it at least once per year.

"It definitely has changed how we practice on a day-to-day basis," she said. "It's not insurmountable; it is good to have a vet involved in making animal health decisions as far as what antibiotics to use and things like that."

However, she noted, "While this step is not insurmountable, I'm worried about what the next step is going to be, because it feels like it's going to keep progressing."

She voiced concern about the initial measure escalating into more restrictive measures, with the next step potentially restricting her from selling a bottle of antibiotics to a rancher, allowing only a single dose per animal. Taking it a step further could mandate that only a veterinarian could administer the dose.

"I just worry about what the future may lead to if we don't keep an eye on it," she said.

Katie is also a member of the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, where one of her initial achievements was contributing to writing the regulations for licensing veterinary technicians. Montana was one

of the remaining states that did not mandate licensing for vet techs, and the legislature passed a bill in 2021 to begin licensing techs.

One of Katie's current responsibilities on the board is collaborating with the Board of Pharmacy to establish veterinary retail facilities in Montana. After Guidance for Industry #263 was implemented, there were locations in the state selling antibiotics that were no longer able to sell. Recently passed legislation will make it to where stores can apply to be a veterinary retail facility and employees can apply through the Board of Veterinary Medicine to be a licensed veterinary pharmacy technician to dispense the medication.

Katie gave the example of a customer who has a valid VCPR with her but does not live close to her. If the customer lives near a veterinary retail facility, they would be able to get a written prescription from Katie and have the prescription fulfilled at the facility. The facilities would negate the need for a supply store to employ a vet on staff to sell pharmaceuticals.

Katie underscored that the motivation behind the VFD and increased restrictions is grounded in a significant cause: combatting antibiotic resistance. "I think that we still need to use antibiotics as tools to maintain animal health and animal welfare, but we also do need to be cognizant that we don't want to be contributing to antibiotic resistance either," she finished. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Study reveals beef nutrient could help fight cancer

Scientists at the University of Chicago have discovered that a fatty acid found in beef, lamb and dairy products could help the immune system fight cancerous tumors.

The research, titled Trans-vaccenic acid reprograms CD8+ T cells and anti-tumour immunity, was published in the scientific journal Nature on Nov. 22. The study found that a long-chain fatty acid called trans-vaccenic acid (TVA) improves the ability of CD8+ T cells—a group of immune cells—to kill cancerous or virally infected cells.

Patients with higher levels of TVA in the blood responded better to immunotherapy, suggesting that TVA could be a nutritional supplement in the clinical treatment of cancer.

"There are many studies trying to decipher the link between diet and human health, and it's very difficult to understand the underlying mechanisms because of the wide variety of foods people eat," said Jing Chen, Ph.D., one of the study's senior authors.

"But if we focus on just the nutrients and metabolites derived from food, we begin to see how they influence physiology and pathology," Chen continued.

For this study, the researchers created a "blood nutrient" compound library that contained 255 bioactive molecules derived from nutrients. They screened each of the compounds for their ability to influence anti-tumor immunity by activating CD8+ T cells. After evaluating the top six candidates in both human and mouse cells, TVA was determined to perform the best.

TVA is the most abundant trans fatty acid found in human milk, but the body cannot actually produce it on its own, the researchers said. Only about 20% of TVA is broken down in the body, with the remaining 80% circulating in the blood, leading the researchers to believe TVA served a greater purpose.

After conducting further studies, the research team determined that feeding mice a diet with TVA reduced the tumor growth potential of melanoma and colon cancer cells, as well as boosted the ability of CD8+ T cells to infiltrate tumors. After taking blood samples from patients undergoing immunotherapy treatment for lymphoma, it was determined that those with higher levels of TVA tended to respond to treatment better.

The researchers noted that the study shouldn't be used as an excuse to "eat more cheeseburgers and pizza" but rather indicates that nutrient supplements could be used to promote T cell activity.

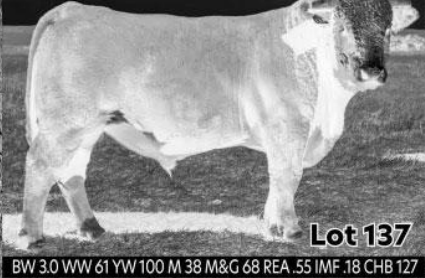
"There is early data showing that other fatty acids from plants signal through a similar receptor, so we believe there is a high possibility that nutrients from plants can do the same thing by activating the CREB pathway as well," Chen said, referring to the pathway involved in cellular growth, survival and differentiation. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor



Lot 1
BW .5 WWW 57 YW 82 M 34 M&G 63 REA .36 IMF .37 CHB 154



Lot 14
BW 3.3 WWW 65 YW 95 M 35 M&G 68 REA .69 IMF .32 CHB 150



Lot 137
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New EPD prediction will further industry advancements

NICHOLS (from page 1)

to make it a reality!" This included monitoring the whole herd visually for BRD using the University of Wisconsin respiratory score sheet to standardize the data. One of the biggest breakthroughs came in 2018-19 when they added a FeverTag to their visual scoring, which alerts their herdsman when an animal has a 103.5 F temperature.

Although pleased with the FeverTag, Nichols Farms switched to the Merck/All-Flex new SenseHub tag system for the last two years, which monitors both temperature and cattle movement. This technology alerts the herdsman when the cattle deviate from their normal activity, as well as the activity of the pen. Add in the C-Lock system they installed, and they also have the ability to see when cattle go off feed.

The bottom line is Nichols Farms has been able to collect phenotypes and genotypes on 6,000 individual animals and has been running a successful BRD EPD for two years under the guidance of John Genho at Neogen. Although a relatively low heritability trait, they are getting good accuracy—which can also be thought of as reliability of the prediction—that will be significantly enhanced as they are now adding the genomic data into the model.

Dave knew that research has shown many times that profitable commercial producers are low-cost producers, but two areas they don't skimp on are buying the right genetics for their operation and health programs. But what if they can be combined? This is exactly what Dave's vision has done.

Stewart Bauck, retired senior director of special projects at Neogen, remembers well when he and J.R. Tait visited Dave and the Nichols crew in 2018 to see what type of research projects they could do together. Dave's first words to Stewart were, "We have to figure out how to use these genomics to get a genetic prediction for cattle health."

Genho is really excited about the new prediction, as it has the variability to rapidly make genetic progress. Even before they have the genomically enhanced EPDs, Nichols has 30 sires with 0.50 accuracy or better.

The prediction is represented as a probability with the higher number the better representing the probability differences calves will need pulled for a temperature of 103.5 F. Among the higher accuracy sires, they have an EPD range of -7 to +13, with the -7 sire having 60% of his calves pulled for treatment, while the 13 BRD EPD bull has only had two of his 73 calves on test needing to be treated. That is a 20% differ-

ence in the probability of the number of calves that will need treated between those two sires.

Genho says the majority of the cattle range from -7 to +7 if they keep 0 as the natural base. However, where to base the cattle, i.e. what is average, will be a decision made later. There are also breed differences that are represented in the new EPD, and a significant amount of heterosis, which is gained beyond the EPD for those using planned crossbreeding.

Dr. Jason Nickell is an experienced DVM and PhD at Merck and sees great things in the future of the technology. Adding both temperature and cattle movement gives the producer that much more information to

keep their cattle healthy; it has also led to this new proprietary genetic prediction at Nichols.

Right now, Genho is using a threshold model similar to how calving ease is calculated. It was first theorized by Dr. Sewell Wright at the University of Chicago in the 1920s, and one of Dave's mentors and heroes, Dr. Jay Lush, worked on its implementation for genetic predictions. Lush was actually trained as a physiologist but learned quantitative genetics and advanced statistics auditing Wright's courses.

Since the BRD prediction is now strictly a threshold on temperature of 103.5 F being yes or no, there are exciting possibilities in the future to look at correlated traits like

the movement data and visual scoring system from the University of Wisconsin. Already, the analysis will take a giant step forward with the genomics being added in the relationship model Genho uses, which is similar to the model used by Angus to predict their EPDs.

Dave was always studying the whole agriculture system and how to make it better. There is an obscure term called a "polymath," which is defined as an individual whose knowledge spans a substantial number of subjects and draws on those diverse bodies of knowledge to solve complex problems. This is often known today as systems thinking.

Dave was a lifelong learner of anything to do with ani-

mals and agriculture, and Dave and his crew were constantly doing research to answer the many questions he and his crew had, something that won't change at Nichols Farms with the loss of Dave. Dave's wisdom ranged from the introduction of this new EPD for BRD resistance to common sense advice, like every seedstock producer should be required to feed a pen of their customers' calves, and if you want to study structure, go to the zoo and study the structure of wild animals.

With new traits like BRD, we are looking at a more profitable, trouble-free industry; an industry that will continue to be led by Nichols Farms. — **Dr. Bob Hough, WLJ correspondent**

Alternative for fighting cattle-pestering flies

When cattle are fighting flies in the summer, they gather in tight bunches, leading them to eat less while experiencing more stress and discomfort. Beef producers have limited options for controlling the flies that pester their cattle. Moreover, existing insecticides are losing their effectiveness as insects develop resistance to repeated use.

Dave Boxler, a Nebraska Extension entomologist at the West Central Research,

Extension and Education Center, has worked with a company for 15 years to develop a new insecticide that is organic and doesn't affect honeybees or bumblebees. The insecticide is based on two fatty acids derived from palm oil.

The new insecticide shows promise for organic producers—who currently don't have many effective, economical fly-control options—and for conventional producers who want to use products that are

safer for people, animals and the environment.

In field trials, where cattle walked through an automatic sprayer that misted them with the insecticide, Boxler and his team found that the flies swerved away from animals that had been treated, as expected. However, they were surprised to find that the spray also killed the target flies on contact, an added benefit.

Boxler's team previously helped develop a version of the insecticide that has

been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on horses. That insecticide, called EcoVet, is commercially available nationwide.

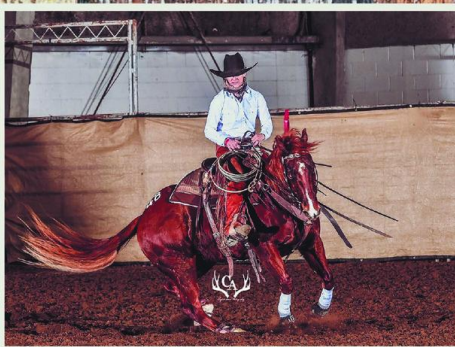
The researchers are now waiting on EPA approval for the cattle-specific version. Boxler plans to continue studies next summer, when the team will test how much it can lower concentrations and achieve the same effectiveness. — **Nebraska Extension**

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Lawmakers oppose allowing beef imports from Paraguay

In bipartisan and bicameral agreement, members of Congress do not want any beef imports from Paraguay. Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) introduced a bill Dec. 4 that would immediately halt the import of beef from Paraguay and create a new working group to examine both the risk to food safety and animal health by importing beef from Paraguay. A group of House members recently wrote Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also opposing the move.

The U.S. has not allowed beef imports from Paraguay in more than 25 years.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Nov. 14 issued a final rule allowing the importation of fresh, chilled or frozen beef from Paraguay.

The controversy here is Paraguay's cattle industry was hit by foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) at the very end of 2011. The country implemented multiple rounds of vaccinations in its herd and the country has not

had any new cases of FMD since 2012. USDA, in its proposed rule last spring, cited that Paraguay has a good system for animal identification and traceability. Yet, APHIS also pointed to challenges with FMD in South America as well. "As long as FMD is endemic in certain areas of South America, there is a potential risk of reintroduction of the disease into the export area," APHIS said.

APHIS in its rule said it recognized FMD is a "high-risk disease," but imports could start from Paraguay "provided certain conditions are met."

Paraguay is the world's eighth-largest exporter of beef with 70 countries open to buying beef from Paraguay, but 90% of its product goes to mainly to five countries: Chile, Russia, Israel, Taiwan and Brazil.

USDA estimated Paraguay could export volumes ranging from 3,250 metric tons to 6,500 metric tons of beef to the U.S. This would result in U.S. producer losses ranging from \$12 million to \$24 million. Yet, the

analysis also indicated consumer gains of \$14 million to \$27 million. Thus, there is an "annual net social welfare gains of \$1.6 million to \$3 million." Some beef coming from Paraguay would likely displace beef imports from other countries.

As specific as that analysis was, USDA's rule did not include any modeling of the potential producer financial losses if FMD were to actually make it into the U.S. According to U.S. Meat Export Federation statistics, for the first nine months of the year, the U.S. exported \$7.5 billion in beef. If FMD hit, a strong percentage of that would immediately be gone.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) have each been focused on blocking Paraguayan beef imports.

NCBA highlighted a letter led by 21 members of the House of Representatives opposing the Paraguay rule. That letter was led by Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS-01) and Rep. Jim

Costa, (D-CA-21), both members of the House Agriculture Committee.

"USDA relied on outdated site visits, irrelevant inspections, and inadequate data to overcome these prohibitions," the members wrote. "Paraguay knows what we all know—the U.S. is the largest, most reliable consumer of beef in the world. We have that reputation because of the tireless work of beef producers to provide the safest and most efficient beef production system in the world. The U.S. should not expand our market to unsafe actors at the risk of the health and livelihood of U.S. agricultural producers and consumers."

Without some action, the USDA rule on Paraguay would go into effect on Dec. 14. Due to the lack of any enforceable "Product of USA" label, it's highly unlikely any meat packer or retailer will be identifying that they are selling beef from Paraguay to consumers. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

LEGAL LEDGER

LA Council in favor of rodeo ban

On Dec. 5, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously (14-0) in favor of banning rodeo events in the city. The council also approved an amendment for the ordinance, which aims to offer "cultural protections" to certain events such as charrería. The city attorney will now draft language for the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee to review before the council gives final approval. Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld has championed the effort for years, escalating to a total ban from banning certain devices like prods from rodeo. Animal activists have campaigned against rodeos for years, calling them inhumane to animals. "Today the Los Angeles City Council sent a message—that an ordinance is needed to protect animals from inhumane practices and suffering that take place at rodeo events," said Animal Legal Defense Fund Campaigns Manager Matt Rossell.

Spadefoot toad up for ESA protection

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to protect the western spadefoot as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Spadefoots are small amphibians that live primarily underground through much of California and Baja California, Mexico. USFWS is proposing to protect both northern and southern populations of the species. "These fascinating amphibians are being pushed to the brink by poorly planned sprawl and agricultural development, and climate change is heightening their risk of extinction," said Sofia Prado-Irwin of the Center for Biological Diversity. Comments are being accepted on the proposal through Feb. 5, 2024, and can be submitted by searching for docket ID FWS-R8-ES-2023-0095 at regulations.gov.

Bill to protect out-of-state producers

Sen. John Hawley (R-MO) has introduced the Protecting Interstate Commerce for Livestock Producers Act to protect producers from regulations made in other states. The legislation is inspired by California's Proposition 12, which bans the sale of pork, eggs and veal that were not produced with specific space requirements. "This law is a common-sense solution to protect family farms from going bankrupt and consumers from shouldering higher costs at the grocery store," Hawley said in a news release. The bill would preempt states and local governments from regulating the raising, production and importation of livestock-derived products from another state or local government; allow states to regulate imports in the event of disease outbreak; and protect farmers from states implementing laws preempted by this bill.

Input sought for Canada lynx recovery

A draft recovery plan for the Canada lynx is now available and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input. The plan addresses the lower 48 distinct population segment, which includes portions of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Colorado, and sometimes Wyoming. The lynx was listed in 2000 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and the recovery plan aims to ensure the species' long-term survival. Recovery plans are non-regulatory documents and outline specific management actions to help species recovery. To view the plan in its entirety, visit tinyurl.com/mt6anxtm. To submit comments on the plan, email CanadaLynxRPCComments@fws.gov by Jan. 30, 2024.

Bill to study mental health barriers

Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced legislation to require the Government Accountability Office to study the barriers that ag communities face to access mental and behavioral health care services. "This bill will help us understand the barriers they face and improve access to care for Americans in rural communities across the country," Bennet said in a news release. The legislation would assess the availability and accessibility of substance use treatment and mental health care geared toward ag communities, the barriers producers face in assessing substance use treatment and health care resources, programs at local levels that can be replicated at the federal level, and best practices among grantees of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. "The limited resources available in our rural areas is statistically evident and profoundly felt among rural communities," said Carlyle Currier, president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. "We believe the study proposed in this legislation would further raise awareness and embolden the work of mental health initiative."

Migratory bird protections withdrawn

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has withdrawn draft migratory bird protection rules aimed at protecting birds by preventable hazards. During the Trump administration, the agency rolled back regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, but the Biden administration reinstated them in 2021. The new administration also planned to issue regulations to protect birds from infrastructure but has chosen to withdraw the plans. "Despite the lack of regulations, this agency still has the power to levy fines against parties that cause the death of birds, and federal officials should use their authority to do so," said Tara Zuardo of the Center for Biological Diversity.



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Easterday appeals ruling on Tyson case

Former eastern Washington rancher Cody Easterday has appealed a federal court's Oct. 31 dismissal of a lawsuit he

filed against Tyson Fresh Meats, according to court documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the District

of Eastern Washington.

The court dismissed two lawsuits filed by Easterday, who was convicted of wire fraud and is serving an 11-year prison sentence in Los Angeles for conducting a so-called ghost-cattle scheme. At the end of October, the court dismissed a January 2023 lawsuit by Easterday alleging Tyson Fresh Meats owed him money for breach of contract from selling his beef. Easterday is appealing that decision.

Easterday alleged the company never paid for the use of his name and likeness as part

of a joint venture that involved the marketing and selling of premium beef from his ranch. The former rancher told the court Tyson owes him about \$100 million.

According to court records, briefs are due in the case in January and February.

Easterday pleaded guilty to perpetuating a so-called "ghost cattle" scheme for billing Tyson to the tune of \$233 million for raising cattle that didn't exist. Court documents show Easterday conducted the scheme in an attempt to make up for losses he sustained in

the futures market.

On Aug. 28 the court dismissed another lawsuit filed by Easterday against Tyson alleging the company had committed a number of anti-trust violations and violated the Packers and Stockyards Act during a 10-year business relationship.

In the months following pleading guilty to wire fraud, Easterday raised tens of millions of dollars through asset sales in an attempt to make restitution to Tyson.

Easterday operated an extensive family farm operation

in eastern Washington involved in cattle feeding as well as 22,500 acres of potatoes, onions, corn and wheat in the Columbia Basin.

Beginning in 2016 and continuing through November 2020, Easterday submitted false and fraudulent invoices and other information to Tyson and another company.

The Easterday Ranches Inc. owner received reimbursement from the companies for the purported purchase and raising of cattle the company never actually bought. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Ranchers ask for more wolves to be collared

WOLF (from page 1)

cows and calves, the cameras reveal wolves persistently chasing and dogging herds and individual animals throughout the day and evening, causing stress. Their research also started looking at scat in 2022. They partnered with the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory to analyze wolf scat for the presence of cattle and identify wolves through DNA and their diets.

Last year, Saitone said they collected 59 samples in an "ad hoc" manner and identified 13 unique wolves from the Lassen Pack—game cameras identified 18 wolves in the Lassen Pack—and 86% of the scat collected had cattle DNA, and every sample had at least one unique animal's DNA present.

"How can we reconcile that with the confirmed kills that we see on CDFW's website?" Saitone asked. "We can't, it's just another way to push the discussion forward that this conflict is so much bigger than (CDFW) wants to recognize."

In 2023, the team collected 310 samples during the summer in areas with other packs. The team looked at the familial relationships of the wolves and whether the expansion was due to population growth or wolves establishing themselves in new territories. The researchers are awaiting the results from the scat collected this year.

Compensation funding

Saitone and Tate hope their research will guide the funding needed for the state's wolf compensation program.

According to CDFW, the legislature approved funding for CDFW to "develop a grant process to allocate funds to pay for the deterrence of wolf presence near livestock, the impacts of wolf presence on livestock, and for verified loss of livestock for participating ranchers."

The compensation pilot program has a three-pronged approach to payment: compensation for depredation loss, non-lethal deterrents for wolf presence and payments for the impacts of wolf presence.

Saitone said the payment for presence program was implemented in May 2023 and covers situations such as lower calf weaning weights, lower conception rates and lower body condition scores due to wolves chasing the herd.

According to Saitone, the legislature allocated \$3 million for the pilot program for claims retroactive to September 2021 and the program will remain in effect until 2026 or when the funds run out. Saitone spoke with CDFW, which indicated that \$1.3 million has been allocated thus far, and there is a large payment backlog. Based on her conversation with producers in the affected areas,

Saitone anticipated the funds would run out well before 2026.

Saitone said as part of their research they conducted "back of the envelope" calculations for the pay-for-presence prong for a lower estimate of 2% of fair market value in the Lassen and Plumas counties. The researchers concluded ranchers within that area should be paid approximately \$916,000.

"If we start thinking about expanding geographies for packs and expanding not only from summer range to winter range, that number is going to get really large really quick," Saitone said. "We need to also think about lobbying for much more than \$3 million going forward."

Lobbying in the future

Saitone expressed there are areas for improvement with the program, including having staff dedicated explicitly to program administration rather than using existing staff, and improved communication from CDFW of the status of applications and justification for their decisions. Saitone continued CDFW needs to better communicate with ranchers where wolves are and increase wolf GPS collaring to accomplish this.

Ranchers at the meeting also emphasized the need to collar more wolves to get accurate information about wolf presence, with one rancher believing it is a deliberate attempt by CDFW to avoid getting the information ranchers need.

Kirk Wilbur, vice president of government affairs at CCA, addressed the crowd and said the largest concern is ensuring the pilot program continues to be funded.

Wilbur said the legislature will be considering budget funding in the coming months and now is the time to begin lobbying ahead of the May revision when adjustments are made to the governor's proposed budget in January. Wilbur noted that it is a deficit year presenting some challenges, and it would not behoove ranchers to make the compensation program permanent as it "will require a pretty big price tag."

Wilbur said the biggest challenges in requesting funding will be the leadership changes in the legislature and the budget subcommittees and whether CDFW will oppose the funding request to continue the pilot program. Wilbur continued in years with a budget surplus the discussion could be whether to make the compensation program permanent, but it would be a policy issue, and the short-term focus should be on continued funding.

The wolf subcommittee decided to ask for \$15 million over five years. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 12/7/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	170.47	▼	174.76
CME Feeder Index	222.31	▼	224.77
Boxed Beef Average	289.84	▼	299.02
Average Dressed Steers	269.69	▼	274.69
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,388	▲	1,382
Weekly Slaughter**	635,000	▲	538,000
Weekly Beef Production***	529.7	▲	447.9
Hide/Offal Value	11.98	▼	18.78
Corn Price	4.69	▲	4.62
* 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 30	6,872	289.86	233	322.59	1,194	300.16	2,100	294.00	803	266.06	2,542
November 24	6,781	291.11	237	325.59	1,322	299.56	2,131	292.69	718	268.97	2,373
November 17	6,463	292.53	218	327.67	1,181	300.78	1,958	294.12	711	270.19	2,396
November 10	6,306	296.75	192	332.38	1,117	305.16	1,901	298.26	776	272.54	2,321
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Dec 7	289.84		258.83		207.27		48.07		252.91		
Dec 6	290.56		259.90		213.41		55.37		265.24		
Dec 5	293.75		259.13		217.60		57.74		271.03		
Dec 4	294.99		262.83		210.60		58.58		257.69		
Dec 1	297.46		265.49		214.92		64.75		0.00		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	12/1	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	High* Low*
Dec.	16928	16725	16850	16345	16235	19183 15388
Feb.	16913	16708	16898	16355	16253	19633 15310
Apr.	17163	16970	17150	16668	16595	19975 16853
Jun.	16750	16628	16750	16428	16365	18270 16668
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	12/1	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	High* Low*
Jan.	21443	21053	21470	21015	21028	26833 21280
Mar.	21723	21358	21748	21175	21118	25723 21630
Apr.	22118	21743	22138	21565	21443	24613 22023
May	22490	22108	22495	21943	21760	23213 22388
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						
FED CATTLE TRADE		Head Count	Avg. Weight		Avg. Price	
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES						
Live FOB Steer		16,640		1,480		170.47
Live FOB Heifer		9,612		1,331		170.71
Dressed Del Steer		11,725		1,002		269.69
Dressed Del Heifer		1,395		849		271.26
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK						
Live FOB Steer		13,765		1,462		174.76
Live FOB Heifer		4,730		1,339		174.74
Dressed Del Steer		597		960		274.69
Dressed Del Heifer		295		804		274.36
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR						
Live FOB Steer		3,394		1,425		155.33
Live FOB Heifer		2,235		1,313		154.91
Dressed Del Steer		7,458		981		246.95
Dressed Del Heifer		2,341		853		246.75
NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: DECEMBER 3						
		Domestic		Imported		
Forward Contract		24,105		4,356		
Formula		275,277		2,260		
Negotiated Cash		72,370		131		
Negotiated Grid		51,514		1,828		
Packer Owned		10,349		N/A		
Total		433,615		8,575		
SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS				FORWARD BEEF SALES		
Delivery Month				Neg. Sales 0-21 days		2,127
Dec. '23		141,695		Neg. Sales 21+ days		968
Jan. '24		109,087		Formula sales		3,731
Feb. '24		86,076		Forward contract sales		46
Mar. '24		112,395		Domestic sales		5,928
Apr. '24		144,538		NAFTA Exports		129
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				166.69	N/A	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs				N/A	N/A	
Ontario Auctions						
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs				170.68	+0.56	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs				N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs				94.58	-0.19	
*Price comparison from one week ago.						
Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 24, 2023						
Steers:		Alberta	Saskatchewan		Ontario	
501-600 lbs		278.60	281.68		242.48	
601-700 lbs		256.27	256.84		232.45	
701-800 lbs		238.83	239.24		213.42	
801-900 lbs		222.77	222.66		211.74	
Heifers:						
401-500 lbs		257.18	255.77		220.03	
501-600 lbs		241.85	239.97		225.14	
601-700 lbs		223.04	223.77		200.73	
701-800 lbs		211.26	210.14		183.22	
USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS						
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.						
Species	Current Week	Previous Week		Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date	
	11/27/23	11/20/23				
Feeders	43,374	15,634		1,126,352	761,218	
USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE						
December 7, 2023						
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary						
Receipts EST: 10,300		Week Ago Act: 11,100		Year Ago Act: 22,647		
Columbus, NM			Santa Teresa, NM			
Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers 2.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.			Compared to Wednesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers 2.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2			Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs		213-223		300-400 lbs		213-223
400-500 lbs		203-213		400-500 lbs		203-213
500-600 lbs		193-203		500-600 lbs		193-203
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2			Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs		255-265		300-400 lbs		255-265
400-500 lbs		235-245		400-500 lbs		235-245
500-600 lbs		215-225		500-600 lbs		215-225
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)						

Selected Auction Week Ending December 7, 2023					Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2					
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
December 1 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		260-284 220-250	240-289 210-250	200-287 190-256	195-232 185-224	187-215 182-201	181-202 180-189	75-91 85-112	
November 30 Burley, ID	1,244		308-315 226-240	265-299 222-238	188-279 222-238	221.50-238 194-211	187.50-217.50 186	198-209	78.50-100 104-110	
No report available Emmett, ID										
December 4 Eugene, OR	880		180-231 170-206	197-232 170-206	196-237 155-197	155-180 155-200	160-181		80-102 93-118	600-1,525
December 4 Madras, OR	2,309		285-323 270-297	282-327 273-295	258-286 236-266	227-257 220-230	215-226 182-206	185-215	85-105 105-116	
December 6 Vale, OR	823				197-207	201-214	189-196		85-96 86-101	1,625-2,350
December 4 Davenport, WA	417	147.50 125-140	125-217.50 80-180	72.50-225 132.50-200	107.50-233 93-214	164-210 50-187.50	160-187.50 81-162.50	63.50-165 71-105	42-107 60-178	1,500-1,600 875-1,400
December 5 Toppenish, WA	2,000									1,750-3,300 1,325-2,200
November 30 Orland, CA	3,927			220-310 200-300	200-292 180-262	180-266 160-233	170-225 150-207	155-201 135-185	95-118 90-139	1,500-2,550
December 4 Escalon, CA	N/A		200-275 175-225		200-260 175-215		160-215 115-175	115-145 90-120	80-100 80-105	800-1,500
December 4 Famoso, CA	502		250-260 180-230	240-254 185-234	250-254 185-220	240-258 175-200	190-236 165-175		95-120 110-127	
No report available Galt, CA	662		140-230* 137-220	138-239* 130-230	134-226* 125-220	127-220* 121-200	118-190* 110-186	110-175* 105-170.50	90-106.75 90-118	
December 5 Turlock, CA										
November 28 Salina, UT	1,499	255-290 225-265	220-310 200-265	200-277.50 155-255	195-270 147.50-244	180-252 120-226	172.50-220 120-208	148-196 102.50-191	79-114 102-116	
December 4 Iowa	13,393	286 265	275-335 240-300	250-320 220-276.25	240-309.50 211-264	220-275 190-261.50	210-262 170-230	189-231 160-197	80-117 72.50-138	
December 5 Miles City, MT	2,632		330-357.50 286-311	298.50-331 260-302	250-291 226-264	231-254 211-215.50		181-206	62.50-97.75 80-105.50	
December 6 Bassett, NE	3,105			311-326.50 257-266	275-330 222-253	247-311 216-226	244.50-255 203.25	190-191.50		
December 2 Ericson, NE	3,710		340-355 297-300	288-332.50 256-285	264-319 228-266	242.50-277 217-243	220-252.50 212	231 187		
No report available Imperial, NE										
November 29 Kearney, NE	3,700			310-319 256-277	257.50-291.50 240-261	242.50-262 226-244	246.50-254 217-229.50	225-249.50 194	90-105 96-112	
December 1 Lexington, NE	3,582		303 260-264	301-312 245-281	254-298 235-250	235-259.50 224-235	219.50-238 215-221.50	219.25-238 201.25-210		
November 30 Ogallala, NE	1,930		302.50-325 282.50-310	300-320 271.50-287	272-294 236-273	237-255 220-231	222-236 215-220	196-210		
No report available Valentine, NE										
December 1 Herreid, SD	3,787		319-335 265-272.50	302.50-337.50 250-284.50	250-309.50 229-263	242.50-273 217.50-225	209.50	222.50-230.50		
December 6 Torrington, WY	4,309		339-365 290-310	273-343 260-290	251-289 230-268	230-261 215-224	230-240	196-234.50 192-204		
November 30 Wilcox, AZ	2,090	292-337.50 272-31.50	300-350 296-361	269-302 242-267.50	213-264 207-257	180-215 174-194.50			78-104 90-115.0	1,425-1,825
December 4 Colorado	8,934	322	321-343	285-330 266-302.50	261-302 271-280	227-253 209-215	189-219	183-206 161-200.10	47.50-142.50 71-121.50	1,325-2,025 885-1,950
November 29 La Junta, CO	2,097		300-343 249-258	270-330 231-261	240-302 206-241	218-241 195-223		198-219 189-192	82-99 104-121.50	
December 4 Loma, CO	1,254		320-340 270-325	265-302 50-275	250-280 210-230	215-230 200-210	205-215 190-215.50	150-210 165-201	84-95 90-105	
December 6 Dodge City, KS	3,630		327-372 277.50-351	285-361 244-305	260-288 228-241	224-260 206-219	217.50-222 197.50-207.50	209-225 184.25-195.50	81-102 88-121.50	1,450-1,575
December 7 Pratt, KS	3,600			296-327 256-286	255-315 233-256	228-275 204.50-252	214-240 187-209.25	190.50-208 181-190		
November 30 Salina, KS	2,081		286-292 240-244	274-300 222.50-267.50	236-285 227-247.50	200-241 173-214	194-227.50 182-201	203-227.50 168-190		
December 7 Clovis, NM	3,151	306 254-285	295-335 250-288	225-316 225-264	226-277 206-255	187.50-241.50 190-261	190-215 170.50-204.25	170-205 141-180	100	
December 6 El Reno, OK	8,296	240	330-340 270-340	290-340 240-295	244-310 213.50-250	210-270 189-230	211-232 190-205	191-219 174-196		
December 6 McAlester, OK	1,240		310-340 249-268	272-320 235-263	250-286 210-240	211-258 178-208	185-201 170-185	175-183 133	81-106 98-115	1,060-1,625 1,000-1,700
December 5 Oklahoma City, OK	12,330	366	311-355 265-303	295-341 234-299	256-306 196-260	222-277 201-230	208-237 195-205	199.50-217 181.50-195		
December 1 Cuero, TX	1,844	269-338 217-337.50	272-334 242-332	252-328 215-315	234-280 207-264	210-270 195-238	206-226 175-212		78-100 94-123	1,450
December 1 Dalhart, TX	1,803		300-334 250-280	272-323 239-260	244-277 220-242	239-259 190-210	207-224 206-208	132-191 129-193	70-104.50 81-110	
November 30 San Angelo, TX	1,150	335 252.50	325-347.50 250-268	287.50-294 236-246	262-280 208-221	233 208			82-102 90-122	1,200-1,900 1,475
November 30 Tulia, TX	1,365	340 274-285	324 267-277	264-320 228-277	225-302 210-239	219-250 194-220	215-222.50 193-201	191-210	80-90 90	1,200
December 1 Alabama	9,572	240-250	257-304 210-240	247.50-288 203-238	235-266 190-220	210-240 175-208	180-211 170-174		78-104 85-126	1,050-2,250 625-2,000
December 4 Lexington, KY	2,777	230-235*	271* 195-245*	232-282* 190-235.25*	230-255.85* 188-223*	202-235.10* 170-213*	180-230.35* 150-206*	140-219* 120-167*	75-110 105-128	1,000-1,075
December 4 Joplin, MO	8,473		300 255-270	275-317 234-263	260-294 211-241	225-256 212-224.50	217-234 197.50-218.50	203-227.50 192.50		
December 4 Tennessee	8,133	165-295* 190-250*	216-290* 177.50-240*	208-272* 167-235*	163-265* 161-232*	170-230* 160-206.25*	160-209.25* 145-190*	141-214* 118-185*	70-108 95-128	1,025-2,100 730-1,650
December 4 Virginia	2,953		203-240 160-210	175-240 150-211	180-239 146-200	145-234 146-182	97.50-206 124-165	139-200.50 110-179		
December 1 Alabama	9,572	240-250	257-304 210-240	247.50-288 203-238	235-266 190-220	210-240 175-208	180-211 170-174		78-104 85-126	1,050-2,250 625-2,000
December 4 Lexington, KY	2,777	230-235*	271* 195-245*	232-282* 190-235.25*	230-255.85* 188-223*	202-235.10* 170-213*	180-230.35* 150-206*	140-219* 120-167*	75-110 105-128	1,000-1,075
December 4 Joplin, MO	8,473		300 255-270	275-317 234-263	260-294 211-241	225-256 212-224.50	217-234 197.50-218.50	203-227.50 192.50		
December 4 Tennessee	8,133	165-295* 190-250*	216-290* 177.50-240*	208-272* 167-235*	163-265* 161-232*	170-230* 160-206.25*	160-209.25* 145-190*	141-214* 118-185*	70-108 95-128	1,025-2,100 730-1,650
December 4 Virginia	2,953		203-240 160-210	175-240 150-211	180-239 146-200	145-234 146-182	97.50-206 124-165	139-200.50 110-179		

Weaning weight versus reproductive efficiency

Economic analyses of cow-calf operations show a strong relationship between profitability and percent calf crop weaned per exposed female, along with pounds weaned per exposed female. This “economic analysis” discussion often leads to a debate of what has more value to the profit potential of a commercial cow-calf operation that sells calves at weaning.

Is it reproductive efficiency in the form of a higher percent calf crop weaned? Or is it the weaning weight of the calves? This week we take a look at the value of an extra 50 pounds of weaning weight versus an extra 5% calf crop weaned per exposed female relative to current market values.

We frame the debate as

follows:

Herd A

- 200 cow operation.
- Average mature weight = 1,300 lbs.
- 90% calf crop weaned, resulting in 180 calves (90 steers and 90 heifers at an average of 525 lbs.)
- Herd A is averaging 472.5 lbs. of weaning weight per exposed female.

Herd B

- 200 cow operation.
- Average mature weight = 1,300 lbs.
- 85% calf crop weaned, resulting in 170 calves (85 steers and 85 heifers at an average of 575 lbs.)
- Herd B is averaging 488.8 lbs. of weaning weight per exposed female.

According to the Nov. 17 USDA Oklahoma Weekly

Cattle Auction Summary, we can expect the following results:

Herd A's calves

The 525-lb. steer calves are worth \$294/cwt, or approximately \$1,544 per head. The 525-lb. heifer calves are worth \$243/cwt, or approximately \$1,276 per head.

- 90 steers x \$1,544 = \$138,960.

- 90 heifers x \$1,276 = \$114,840.

Therefore, the total gross value is \$253,800.

Herd B's calves

The 575-lb. steer calves are worth \$273/cwt, or approximately \$1,570 per head. The 575-lb. heifer calves are worth \$235/cwt, or approximately \$1,351 per head.

- 85 steers x \$1,570 = \$133,450.

conditions, Herd A's advantage of 5% more calf crop weaned results in \$5,515 in extra revenue over Herd B's 50-lb. advantage in actual weaning weight. Reproductive efficiency (in the form of a higher percent calf crop

weaned) is a very economically important trait in a cow-calf operation. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Double-digit losses hit feeders

MARKETS (from page 1)

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 502,000 head, compared to a week earlier at 494,000 head. Projected total slaughter for a week earlier is 635,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 25 was 534,488 head, 105,000 head lower due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The average dressed steer weight was 940 lbs., 4 lbs. above the prior week.

“Boxed beef prices are under pressure as well, with only the rib higher on the week,” Fish said. “Based on the cuts under the most pressure, it suggests that hamburger demand is terrible.”

Boxed beef prices were lower, with the Choice cutout down nearly \$10 to \$289.84 and the Select cutout down nearly \$6 to \$258.83.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures tanked over the week. The January contract lost nearly \$10 to close at \$210.27, and the March contract lost more than \$11 to close at \$211.17.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$2.46 to close at \$222.31.

“Feedlots also have abandoned ideas of the need to background cattle for next spring's placement and are quickly adopting a wait and see attitude for purchasing forward contracts,” the Cattle

Report wrote on Thursday. “Feedlots can now purchase on the feeder board dollars cheaper than taking the grazing risk of low gains, missing cattle, and other hazards of the trade.”

Corn futures traded modestly higher over the week, with the December contract up 7 cents to \$4.68 and the March contract up 3 cents to \$4.88.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 4,676 head on Tuesday. Compared to a week earlier, trade and demand was good. Feeder steers sold \$2-17 higher, and feeder heifers did not have enough comparable trades for a market trend. A group of benchmark steers averaging 762 lbs. sold for \$214.50.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,240 head on Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, steers sold \$4-8 lower. Heifers sold \$5-10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 774 lbs. sold between \$217.50-222, averaging \$219.36.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 9,000 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, feeder steers sold \$5-10 higher and feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 770 lbs. sold from \$220-225, averaging \$223.79.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 1,307 head on Monday. There were not enough sales for an accurate comparison. Benchmark

steers averaging 708 lbs. sold between \$220-227, averaging \$223.14.

New Mexico: Roswell Livestock in Roswell sold 1,514 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves 300-400 lbs. sold \$2-7 higher and 400-500 lbs. sold \$20-21 higher, while 500-600 lbs. were \$4-20 higher. Feeder steers 600-700 lbs. sold \$14-16 higher. Heifer calves 300-450 lbs. were \$11-13 higher, 450-550 lbs. sold \$12-19 higher and 550-600 lbs. were sharply higher. A group of steers averaging 719 lbs. sold between \$200-215, averaging \$206.66.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 12,000 head on Monday. Compared to a year earlier, feeder steers and heifers were lightly tested, although a few trades sold \$1-4 lower. Steer and heifer calves traded \$4-9 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold from \$214-226, averaging \$219.84.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle in Worthing sold 4,301 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers 600-700 lbs. sold \$2-6 lower, with the exception of 650 lb. steers trading \$4 higher. Yearling steers 900 lbs. sold \$5 lower, and 950 lbs. were \$5 higher. Light heifers were mostly steady. Yearling heifers 950 lbs. sold \$2 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 731 lbs. sold between \$225-244, averaging \$230.64. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

- 85 heifers x \$1,351 = \$114,835.

Therefore, the total gross value is \$248,285.

Bottomline

Under current market

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Pre-registration for online bidding is required BEFORE sale day.

Happy Holidays!

AND BEST WISHES
FOR THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR.

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Western Livestock Journal®

COMING EVENTS

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

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

Jan. 10-13 – Registration is now open for the 2024 American Sheep Industry Association Annual Convention at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO. Early bird rates apply through Dec. 8 and all online registrations must be completed by Dec. 18. Details: tinyurl.com/33x26zdm.

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

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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SALE REPORTS

HOLLOW TOP ANGUS SALE

Dec. 2, Ramsay, MT
100 Older bulls . . . \$4,597
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: HT Continuity 2138, 4/9/22 by Sitz Continuity; to Wade and Theresa King, Coulee City, WA, \$7,250. HT Profound 2203, 4/17/22 by SITZ Profound 680G; to Hansen Livestock, Dillon, MT, \$7,000. HT Thedford 2111, 4/7/22 by Hoffman Thedford; to Hansen Livestock, Dillon, MT, \$7,000. HT Profound 2222, 4/19/22 by SITZ Profound 680G; to TE Ranch, Cody, WY, \$7,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

WESTERN CHOICE FEMALE SALE

Dec. 2, Billings, MT
35 Registered bred cows . . . \$2,443
4 Registered heifer calves . . . 2,725
32 Registered bred heifers . . . 3,608
47 Commercial bred cows . . . 2,217
35 Commercial heifer calves . . . 1,680
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson



SALE CALENDAR

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

ALL BREEDS

Jan. 11, 2024 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 3 — Klamath Falls, Bull & Female Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

ANGUS

Dec. 13 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 15 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 16 — Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 18 — Thomas Angus, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Jan. 23 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Jan. 26 — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 26 — Ruggles Angus, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 27 — Baldridge Performance Angus, North Platte, NE
Feb. 1 — Bear Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Feb. 2 — Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
Feb. 8 — Booth's Cherry Creek Ranch, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 9 — Bar KD & Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 9 — Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 9 — Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 10 — EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 12 — BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 13 — South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 — Jindra Angus, Bull Sale, Clarkson, NE
Feb. 14 — Meadow Acres,

TOPS: Black Summit pick of bred heifers; to Daryl Riley, Arapahoe, NE, \$12,500. LRS MS Broadrange 282K, 3/10/22 by Gibbs 7382E Broad Range; consigned by Lassle Ranch Simmentals, to Steve Eichacker, Salem, SD, \$9,000. Rymo Genesis Power 953K, 1/16/22 by LBRS Genesis G69; consigned by Rymo Cattle to Shannon Carr, Hot Springs, MT, \$6,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

JACOBSEN RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

Dec. 4, Great Falls, MT
68 Salers/Optimizer bull calves . . . \$5,180
23 Angus bull calves . . . 3,696
319 Commercial bred heifers . . . 2,426
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson
TOPS—Salers: JSR Jamaica 324L, 2/24/23 by CMC MR Jamaca M44k; to Elm Creek Ranch, Hebron, ND, \$10,250. JSR Coach 3201L, 3/20/23 by MR Coach 876; to TB Salers, Duante, SD, \$8,750. JSR Electron 3271L, 4/2/23 by ECR

Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 15 — Krebs Ranch, Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Feb. 16 — Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 16 — Rees Brothers, Bull Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 17 — Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Feb. 17 — Sandhills Source, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 17 — Schiefelbein Farms, Bull Sale, Kimball, MN
Feb. 19 — Frank Cattle & Genetics, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 19 — Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 19 — Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 20 — Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 20 — Rooney Angus/7 Triangle 7 Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Brush, CO
Feb. 21 — Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 23 — RS Angus, Bull Sale, Brownell, KS
Feb. 24 — Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 24 — Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Feb. 24 — RV Bar Angus, Bull Sale, Jensen, UT
Feb. 25 — Buchanan Angus, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 26 — Colyer Angus & Hereford, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 27 — Barker Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 27 — Haynes Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Feb. 27 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 28 — Price Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 20, 2024 — V-A-L Charolais, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 — Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Feb. 23 — Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 24 — Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Othello, WA

GELBIEH

Feb. 5, 2024 — Taubenheim Gelbvieh, Production Sale, Amherst, NE
Feb. 24 — Black Gold Genetics, Bull Sale, Pritchett, CO

HEREFORD

Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk

Electron 712E of 48T; to Ward Ranches, Gardnerville, NV, \$8,000. JSR Cosmic 332L, 2/27/23 by JSR Cosmic 1381; to Chuck Crabtree, Choteau, MT, \$8,000. **Angus:** JSR Payweight 3654, 3/17/23 by Circle L Payweight 05J; to Lane Yeager, Choteau, MT, \$6,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

REVERSE ROCKING R RANCH SALE

Dec. 2, Maxwell, NM
104 Total bulls . . . \$6,507
53 Total females . . . 4,500
27 Embryos . . . 1,174
Auctioneer: Wes Tiemann
TOPS—Bulls: RRR Maverick R0622, 4/3/22 by Poss Maverick; to Diamond D Ranch, Dubois, WY, \$14,000. RRR LA Deadwood RG275, 9/12/22 by Poss Deadwood; to McGill Ranch, Laramie, WY, \$12,000. RRR Rawhide R0752, 4/7/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$11,500. **Open Heifers:** RRR Ellunamere R1542, 7/3/22 by Pine View Premium; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$12,000, 1/2

interest. Choice of three heifer calves; to Kern Cattle, Visalia, CA, \$10,500. RRR Barbaramere R0863, 6/3/23 by Baldrige Headstart; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, \$10,500, 1/2 interest. **Open cow:** Baldrige Isabel E040, 1/9/17 by EF Cammando 1366; to Capital Angus, White House, TX, \$15,000. **Embryo:** Point P Rita 1021 x Connealy Craftsman; to Loose Arrow Ranch, Trinidad, CO, \$2,000. **Pregnancy:** Hart Whitney 2528 x Pine View Red State; to GMC Genetics, LLC, Fraziers Bottom, WV, \$10,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

TK ANGUS SALE

Dec. 4, Valentine, NE
168 Total bulls . . . \$6,360
227 Total females . . 3,748
170 Bred cows . . . 3,786
57 Fall pairs . . . 3,635
30 Semen (units) . . . 145
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: T K Scale House K761, 8/13/22 by S A V Scale House 0845; to Lynden Smith, NE, \$27,500. T K United K262, 7/28/22 by

Chestnut United; to Lynden Smith, NE, \$19,000. T K Steamboat K485, 8/18/22 by T K Steamboat D307; to Soncy Cattle, NE, \$19,000. **Bred Cows:** S A V Duke Girl 6086, 2/23/16 by S A V Renown 3439; to HFS Angus, OH, \$20,000. T K Karen G513, 8/30/19 by Musgrave 316 Stunner; to Lindskov LT Ranch, SD, \$16,000. T K Edella G415, 8/4/19 by Musgrave 316 Stunner; to Arrowsmith Ranch, NE, \$12,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

ZUMBRUNNEN ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE

Dec. 5, Lusk, WY
105 Total bulls . . . \$5,113
52 Older bulls . . . 5,581



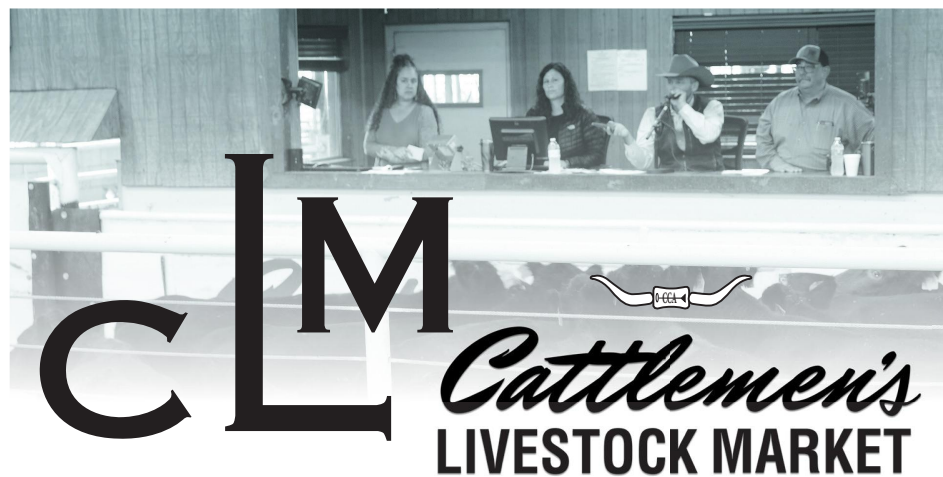
VIDEO AUCTION

Nov. 30, Hudson Oaks, TX
 Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on Nov. 30 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers offered 32,248 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock from 24 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through August 2024. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers saw a very uneven market. With winter approaching across much of the Midwest, Brahman-influenced steers and heifers were met with some resistance resulting in \$5-9 lower on steers and \$8-10 lower on heifers. British-based breeds of steers and heifers were in strong

demand at levels fully steady to \$4 higher. Regions 1/2 feeders were in short supply but noted on a steady trend with the last auction. Regions 1/2 calves were also in short supply, but demand was strong at fully steady prices. Regions 3/4/5/6 witnessed an uneven trend with calves in lighter weights and grazing condition in very strong demand. Region 5 saw big advances in prices of lightweight calves, suitable for wheat pasture, at \$15-20 higher. Regions 3/4 saw lightweight calves with dependable vaccine programs at \$10-15 higher on steer calves; however, heifer calves remained far back of the steers. Bred stock demand remained fully steady.

DOG

Jan. 23-27, 2024 — Red Bluff Stock Dog Sale, Red Bluff, CA



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Butcher Cows 8:30am
 Cow-Calf Pairs/Bred Cows 11:30am
 Feeder Cattle 12pm

FALL FEEDER SALES

DECEMBER 13

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
DECEMBER 20
LAST SALE OF 2023

WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

US focuses on production and incentives at COP28

USDA officials and industry stakeholders on Nov. 29 held a send-off rally for this year's United Nations climate conference to prepare for two weeks of "negotiating, cajoling and convincing" delegates and groups from other countries to come around to the U.S. view that "voluntary, incentive-based" climate-smart farming is the pathway forward for agricultural policy and climate change.

This year's United Nations "Conference of the Parties," known as COP28, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), opened Nov. 30 and runs until Dec. 12.

COP28 will put more focus on agriculture and food than any of the previous COP events. That includes an entire day, Dec. 10, to focus on the launch of aggressive action—a "climate policy toolkit for food." The UAE is putting forward the "Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action," which expects commitments from large agricultural countries to commit to new actions that would lower emissions from agriculture and food production.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told USDA staff and a group of industry stakeholders that USDA and the Biden administration will show up to the COP laying out a series of investments in conservation and renewable energy. There will be "significant announcements" and commitments that will be hammered out over the

next two weeks, he said.

At the heart of the U.S. efforts is the \$3.1 million Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities, which USDA expects will reach as many as 60,000 farmers in the next few years of enrollment. Vilsack pointed to 175 farming practices and more than 90 commodities tied to the program. Along with that goes the \$19.5 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act to boost climate-smart practices in USDA's traditional suite of conservation programs.

"America can talk about this and can actually show they are doing it. Many countries can talk about plans they have. We can show what we're doing," Vilsack said.

A COP meeting typically has three tracks. There's the "presidency track" where the lead country helps spotlight certain themes, which include "food systems" this year. There's the knowledge space: the pavilions and expos where every group makes their case about what should be done or not done about climate change. An estimated 70,000 people will attend COP28 in some capacity.

And there's the policy track where leaders from nearly 200 countries are negotiating their next commitments to lower emissions and help underdeveloped countries address climate change. In agriculture, for instance, there are efforts to get greater commitments to lower emissions, such as methane from livestock. Already, groups and corporations are sending notices of major announce-

ments they plan to make about commitments to reduce emissions.

"These negotiations have implications for what we do domestically and how we do it," said Bill Hohenstein, director of USDA's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, stressing the outcomes of COP meetings.

More US farmer voices

Ernie Shea, executive director of Solutions From the Land, will lead a delegation of nine farmers who will split time at the conference. In an interview, Shea said the gameplan for his group at the COP is always to bring the voice of American farmers to the climate summit to offer a counterweight to some of the more extreme environmental arguments.

"These forums are always platforms where all kinds of actors show up wanting to change agriculture," Shea said. "For many of them, their core message is the food and agriculture system is broken, it is contributing massively to greenhouse gas emissions, and we need to turn things around. They typically focus on agroecology as a preferred solution. They shun technology and innovation, and they don't embrace incentive approaches for farmers to help themselves and the planet."

More U.S. agricultural groups are attending the COP

events now, which Shea said, "is refreshing and good." The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, for instance, has gotten more engaged in recent COP events and is sending a group of board members. The U.S. Soybean Export Council, U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Dairy Export Council and the North American Meat Institute are just a few of the groups expected to participate in this

year's conference.

"There's a long list," Shea said. "Many of them have events at the COP this year. That's a new piece of the puzzle that more ag groups are showing up, and we welcome that because agriculture is so diverse that we need multiple voices."

A key for U.S. agriculture is incentivizing action rather than prescribing it. "This is

where the fault lines start to form," Shea said. "We're there saying follow our guiding principles, while others are there saying we need to impose limits such as restricting livestock in certain areas. There are groups that really take a government-centric, command-and-control approach. We're saying there's a downside to doing that." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

DOJ discusses market concentration with South Dakota farmers, ranchers

Supply and demand drive the market. Or do they? Market manipulation was the focus of a panel discussion hosted during the South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) State Convention held in Huron, SD, Dec. 1.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Assistant Attorney General Michael Kades was among the panelists to discuss this challenge with family farmers and ranchers. The timing of this discussion was spot on, explained Buffalo cattle rancher Joe Painter and Gregory cattle farmer Hank Wonnemberg.

Both producers recently witnessed prices driven by forces not connected to supply plummet at two different auction markets.

"Cattle numbers are down, yet I saw calves Nov. 20 only bring \$1,150. These same calves in October would have brought \$1,500," Painter said.

On Nov. 20, Painter was just an observer. But 300 miles away, Hank Wonnemberg's calves had just sold. On Nov. 18, he and his wife, Melissa, took 65 weaned calves to the sale barn.

"They sold for \$300 bucks less a head," shared Wonnemberg during the panel discussion. "If it is a healthy market, with vibrant competition, then it is supply and demand driven. But this year, supply was low, and the prices were great—until November when we sold—and the supply is still low. It feels obvious to me that at some level they are controlling the market."

Wonnemberg and Painter and other South Dakota cattle producers are not alone in thinking that something is not

quite right.

The DOJ is also concerned. "We have concerns about how livestock markets are operating," said Kades, after he qualified that he is not able to discuss specifics on any ongoing investigations. "Anytime people think there is something suspicious going on, we want to hear about it. We feel strongly about this and are committed to promote competitive markets, particularly in agriculture."

Farmers Union State Convention is not the first time Kades spoke with South Dakota cattle producers about market manipulation. He first met with them in fall 2021 during a National Farmers Union D.C. Fly-In.

"It had a ground-breaking effect on our staff—listening to folks talk about their specific problems. Not reading about them, in the way that antitrust often works," Kades said.

Wessington Springs cattle rancher Scott Kolousek remembers the initial meeting with Kades. "I came out of that meeting with a sense of relief that things would happen," Kolousek said. "I have a genuine feeling that things in D.C. are starting to change. My frustration is at the speed of it."

After hearing Kolousek's comments, Kades emphasized the impact of advocacy. "You have every right to demand action as fast as you can," Kades said. "The old adage about more pressure is true in Washington, the squeaky wheel often gets the grease."

And although Kades could not comment on investigations into the packers that are underway, Parade rancher and pan-

el moderator Oren Lesmeister said he knows the DOJ is investigating.

"I have had calls from DOJ agents in Chicago asking questions," Lesmeister said. "They are investigating this."

Wonnemberg said he appreciated the opportunity to speak directly to the DOJ.

"I thought having him available and open for questions on the floor, where we could share our stories and voice our concerns and explain what we are going through was such an awesome opportunity," Wonnemberg said. "And the way it was received by Michael, to me, it did not seem he was surprised by what we had to say. It seemed he was glad to hear the reinforcement of what he knows."

Ahead of the Dec. 1 panel discussion, Kades toured the Mitchell sale barn and on Dec. 2 he visited a couple Jerauld County feedlots.

"He cares about doing his job thoroughly and fairly. That is why he was doing what he is doing, he has never been around anything like a sale barn or a feedlot and he wanted to know what they were like," said Doug Sombke, SDFU president. "He is the right guy for the job because he cares about doing what is right. He cares about the average family farmer."

Kolousek agreed. "After hearing from Kades, I felt reassured," he said.

In addition to Kades, Lesmeister and Kolousek, Scott Blubaugh, president of American Farmers & Ranchers also served on the panel. — **Lura Roti for South Dakota Farmers Union**

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, corn stalks or 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 then used by the animal itself as microbial protein as they pass through the digestive tract. It's essentially used twice.

Many times, alfalfa is one of the cheapest natural sources of protein. It's easy to use and

doesn't require additional equipment. Non-protein sources of nitrogen such as urea may be cheap but won't be as effective with low quality forage as rumen microbes need additional energy to turn the urea nitrogen into protein the animal can use. Alfalfa hay on the other hand is highly digestible, feeding both the animal and rumen, often increasing consumption of low-quality feeds.

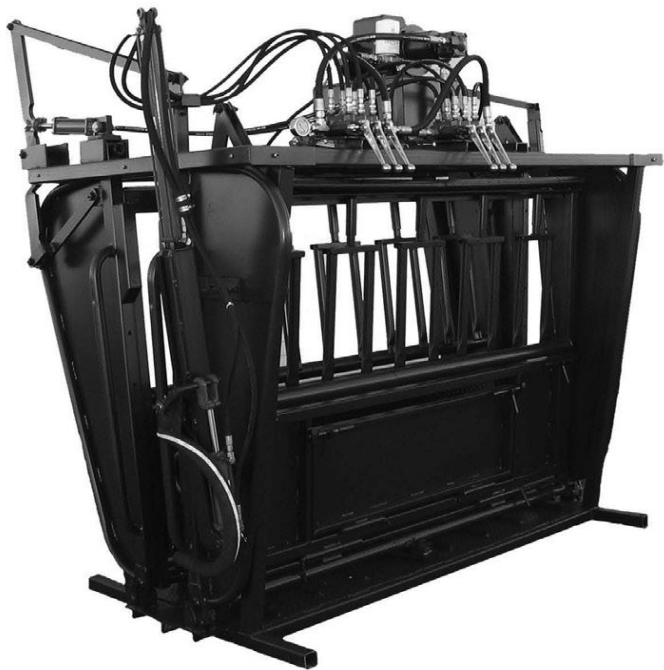
To be effective, alfalfa should be used as a supplement, not the whole diet, with only enough fed to overcome the deficit in protein the cow has from its current diet. A forage test along with knowing the requirements of the class of animal you are feed-

ing, and consumption rate can be used to determine just how much additional protein will be needed.

Some winter diets such as winter range, corn stalks or grass hay may require quite a bit of additional protein supplementation. While supplementing regularly may seem daunting, research has shown supplementing protein three times weekly is just as effective as daily supplementation as long as requirements are being met.

Feeding the right amount and choosing the right protein for your needs can save money. Alfalfa might just be the golden ticket. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**

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