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INSIDE WLJ

PROP 12 DELAYED — A California judge has delayed the enforcement of Proposition 12 until July 2023 in anticipation of a Supreme Court ruling on the matter in the spring. **Page 4**

HOS EXEMPTIONS DENIED — The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration recently denied an application for an exemption to the hours-of-service rules for livestock haulers. **Page 7**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

The holidays always play an important role in the livestock market, as this *WLJ* columnist described in his December 1928 column: "A holiday is just a holiday for the average salaried worker. However, every holiday is costly to the livestock and meat industry, for in these days of automobiles and entertainment a holiday means that the average American housewife takes a day off right along with the rest of the folks. Take the Thanksgiving Day holiday period, which we have just experienced. Poultry is the most favored portion of the big holiday dinner. After the choicest morsels are devoured in the feast, there are the less desirable parts on the following day and soup or hash on Saturday. This means there are three days when there is little or no beef, pork or lamb consumed. For the livestock producer it means that he loses three days' buying power from the meat packer. It behooves the livestock interests to 'watch their step' in preventing markets from being oversupplied during these holiday periods."

INDEX

USDA finalizes Cattle Contracts Library

— Goes into effect Jan. 6

USDA has finalized its rule to create a Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program. Under the new rule, packers that slaughtered an average of 5% or more of the national number of fed cattle slaughtered in the last five years will be required to submit contractual information for the purchase of cattle.

The library will include information about differents types of contracts and contract terms, including:

- Contract terms on any schedules of premiums or discounts.
- Delivery and transportation.
- Terms and payments.
- Financing.
- Risk-sharing or profit-sharing.
- The number of head purchased.
- Other financial arrangements.

Funding was allocated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to create a pilot program to increase market transparency for cattle producers. AMS has been gathering stakeholder feedback since April for the program and created a working model with inactive contracts for testing purposes.

Preston Keres/USDA

USDA has finalized its rule for the creation of the Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program, which requires packers to report cattle contract information to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Pictured here, cattle in Canyon, TX.

Packer requirements

Under the pilot program, packers will be required to report to AMS with contract information for the purchase of cattle and the number of actual and estimated cattle purchased under active contracts within certain time frames. AMS will only collect contract terms without any personally identifiable information for confidentiality purposes.

According to the rule, "Based on feedback from industry stakeholders, including those who voluntarily submitted contract information, AMS determined the Pilot needed to be mandatory;

See LIBRARY on page 7

Bundy desert cattle the subject of potential suit

— Protecting the Mojave desert tortoise

Western Watersheds Project (WWP) has announced its intent to sue the feds for not protecting the Mojave desert tortoise in southern Nevada, claiming Cliven Bundy's cattle are partly to blame for the tortoise's diminished habitat, along with solar panel development.

The WWP issued an intent to sue on Dec. 1, giving several federal agencies 60 days to respond before the group will launch a formal lawsuit. The environmental group claims the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service and Desert Conservation Program failed to comply with and implement the terms of the biological opinion, violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In the notice, the group alleges the government agencies failed to follow the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and its corresponding incidental take permit and implementing agreement. The notice requires the agencies to reinitiate consultation on the plan to consider new information about impacts to the desert tortoise, especially "rampant solar development on federal lands and the species' dramatically declining population."

The group noted the plan allows for the development of private lands in Clark County but requires the county to implement conservation measures for the desert tortoise, which includes buying out grazing privileges on federal lands.

"Although the County secured the allotment privileges and (BLM) closed the allotments administratively, BLM has allowed

See BUNDY on page 6

Judge lets parts of case stand on former Hammond allotments

— Government moved to dismiss

A federal magistrate judge let stand portions of a lawsuit brought by environmental groups over the allotments in the Steens Mountain of Oregon, once used by the Hammond family.

Judge Andrew Hallman for the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon found the government's motion to dismiss the suit as moot should be granted on certain claims by environmental groups, but the majority of the groups' claims should stand.

Western Watersheds Project and three other environmental groups brought suit against the secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), challenging the issuance of a grazing permit to Hammond Ranches Inc. by then-Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

The groups argued the government violated several provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Administrative Procedure Act and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act.

The groups state the Hammonds overgrazed the allotments during two periods, and they violated the 2019 grazing permit by placing "six times the head of cattle allowed on the Hammond Allotment 10 days before the permit began."

The grazing permit was subsequently withdrawn, and in 2020, BLM announced livestock operators could apply for the grazing allotments. BLM also announced it was beginning the NEPA process and issued a draft allotment plan and environmental assessment (EA). According to court documents, BLM allowed eight days for public comments on the draft documents, "an uncommonly short public comment period," and BLM later ended the protest period before the required 15 days.

"BLM purported to resolve 160 separate protests in a single business day, and then-Secretary Bernhardt issued a final decision to grant grazing privileges to the Ranch on January 19, 2021, the documents state."

The groups filed suit on Feb. 25, 2021, and claimed the government's 2021 grazing decision:

1. Improperly assumed jurisdiction before the decision became a "case" and shortened the protest period before issuing a final grazing decision.
2. Awarded the permit to an unqualified applicant under the Land Policy Act because Hammond Ranches Inc. had a history of violations, and other applicants did not.
3. Based the final decision on a

See SUIT on page 5

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

Boxed beef fluctuates ahead of the holiday

"Smaller show lists, reduced and sometimes negative processing margins, and fewer cows will be the characteristics of the coming weeks as winter demand slows but supplies of live cattle shrink," the Cattle Report wrote. But we're not there quite yet.

Live cattle futures were lower over the week, with the December contract down 63 cents to $152.42 and the February contract down $1.50 to $153.92.

Cash trade through Thursday was about 30,000 head. Live steers sold from $153-158.50, and dressed steers sold from $246-247.

"It is appearing unlikely packers will be able to break prices this week except in a few instances of weak sellers releasing limited amounts of cattle $2 lower," the Cattle Report wrote. "Lower bids only fetched limited sales in both the north and south, forcing packers to raise bids to complete the week's purchases."

Cash trade for the week ending Dec. 4 totaled 77,500 head. Live steers averaged $156.39, and dressed steers averaged $248.58.

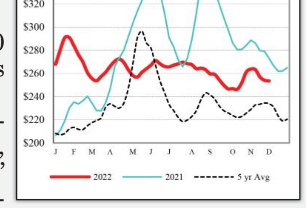
"Packers have three weeks to take money off cash (including this week), which averaged $156.42 last week, before cash will bottom and rally into the first of the year," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote on Wednesday. "Packers will need to resupply their inventory for post-holiday slaughter schedules and cash may not be worse than steady even the week prior to Christmas."

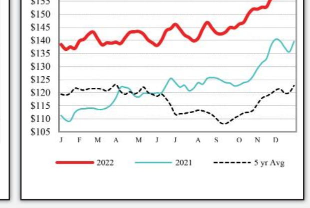
The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 5 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $156.47.
- Formula net purchases: $156.94.
- Forward contract net purchases: $157.02.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $154.46.

On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $248.05.





See MARKETS on page 9

COMMENTS

Markets get ready to advance

CROW

Cattle markets were struggling to hold on to fed cattle gains; the prevailing price was $157/cwt the first few days of December, and this last week, it looks like $155/cwt. It's hard to figure out if feeders are making any money on their cattle trades. The cost of gain is hovering around $1.50 a pound, and corn is still hanging in the $6.50/bushel trade zone, and it doesn't look like lower feed costs will happen anytime soon. Last time I looked, ethanol producers were using about the same amount of corn as the feed industry. There goes that green economy thing.

In early December, boxed beef prices hit the lowest point of the year at $252. Packers have been processing around 660,000 head per week for quite some time. The rib buying season is almost over since Christmas is about two weeks away; chucks and rounds have been dragging the cutout down. Winter months are generally a slower time for beef sales, but large processing speeds are driving the cutout lower, and they have already put packers in the red—they are losing money right now. Perhaps this is a more predictable long-term trend than we remember.

Retailers are holding on to big margins at this point, and the spread between wholesale and retail beef should be remarkably wide. I'm sure those Christmas prime ribs will cost a pretty penny.

I took a look at the difference between grading and the price of various ribs. The comprehensive cutout value for Prime beef was recently $317, and the Prime wholesale rib price was $765. The Choice cutout was at $253, while the rib was at $496. The Select cutout was $226, and the Select rib was $378. There is a lot of price difference between grades of beef—nearly $60 between Prime and Choice and $90 between Prime and Select. This is supply and demand at its best. The latest grading report showed that on a weekly slaughter basis, the industry is producing 8.8% Prime, 73.3% Choice, 15% Select and 3% utility beef.

Even though the market has been moving higher, it's pretty much the holiday rib run creating the momentum. We're not quite there—the heavy front-end supplies of fed cattle are getting smaller, but we have had large beef production to keep beef values in check.

The folks at HedgersEdge.com said, "Just as the darkest days of winter will soon pass and more hours of daylight will occur, so too the period of record high front-end fed cattle supplies is disappearing in the rearview mirror. Front-end fed cattle supplies (150+ days on feed) are in the early stages of trending below the previous year. By April, this supply will also dive below the previous five-year average. These trends should prevail through 2024, provided estimated marketing levels are met."

Over the past three years, we've seen the nation's cow herd decline. Beef cow slaughter levels have been 12-13% higher than the prior year for the past three years. The next Cattle Inventory report is due out Jan. 31, 2023, and will show the cow herd down 4 million head since this drought started three years ago. The replacement heifer situation generally adds 4.5 million head to the beef cow herd, and it is estimated that 1.5 million heifers didn't make it into the breeding herd, so we should have a net loss of 1 million head of beef cows. Fed heifer slaughter is up 5% from a year ago too.

The packing industry has produced 28.3 billion lbs. of beef during 2022—a record—and it is due to cull cow slaughter from drought. It has been estimated that the January inventory report will be somewhere around 29 million head—not quite as low as 2014, but getting close. In 2013, the cow herd was liquidated to a 60-year low, and 2022 will represent the largest slaughter since 1984.

So, the market had a nice move due to Christmas demand. There are still plenty of front-end supplies of fed cattle, but not many. The cow herd has liquidated to the point that we should start to see prices advance to 2014 levels. Packing plant capacity won't be much of an industry issue until the next cattle cycle starts building. Meanwhile, pray for more rain at the right time. We understand friends in California are getting some. — **PETE CROW**

DITTMER'S TAKE

CAPACITIES, GOVERNMENT AND FARMWORKERS

In my last column, I discussed several packing plants under construction, remodeling or in planning. Since then, the economic principle that always rules over the beef chain—supply and demand—made a major change. Fed cattle supplies are tight, boxed beef prices have dropped significantly, fed cattle prices are up and packers are losing money for the first time in years.

There is all that new capacity in the works, and right now, the existing capacity is fighting over the available cattle supply. That is great for cattlemen for now, and it will last for days or weeks, depending on a lot of variables. But many people have pondered about new capacity coming on in a year or two, when cattle numbers are sure to be lower. Continued drought could make the supplies lower yet.

But we have one thing going for us. The industry is making these decisions; private industry is deciding to add capacity, not the government. I note that because you and I as taxpayers are going to be on the hook for the hundreds of millions of dollars Congress pledged this year in the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act of 2022 to help companies build more chip fabrication plants. The economy and chip demand surged after the pandemic; there weren't enough chips to build cars and electronics, and panic set in.

But wait. As usual, when the government goes where it doesn't belong, the system gets messed up. Now, the economy has slowed down, a recession is either here or coming soon and chip makers are slowing production lines and moaning about too many chips and too much capacity. We suspect some of them will ponder canceling new plants and losing government money or going ahead to get government money and adding to the industry's overcapacity for a number of years.

Speaking of that repulsive mix of congressional ineptitude and crafty politicians, the government is scheduled to run out of budget just about now. Just as the Inflation Reduction Act included things few people knew about, like a major attack on private-sector health insurance alongside Medicare, Congress is again contemplating a monster omnibus spending bill that will have nasty surprises in it. Congress is supposed to approve 12 different spending bills out of committee during the year after hearings and debates. Like irresponsible college students, they end up cramming everything into one monstrosity—thousands of pages—at the last minute. But politicians hide all kinds of nasty things in the monster bills, and, as famously explained by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, they have to pass the bill to find out what's in it.

This year, with little time left on the congressional calendar and the Democrats about to lose their House majority, rather than pass another short-term continuing resolution to deal with the Dec. 16 deadline, the Democrats want to extend the current bloated spending levels through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2023. In addition, the parties have been fighting over irrelevant measures to attach or not attach to the defense appropriations bill.

There is another issue the Democrats would like to push through before their majority disappears. Agriculture has been pleading with the government for years to help them get farmworkers and eliminate government obstacles. Agriculture knows well the fallacy of the saying "There is no work Americans won't do."

Farmworker visas are a complex issue. Democrats want to give amnesty to an estimated 1 million farmworkers here illegally. Republicans want farmworkers with skills and work ethic, but they want the opportunity for citizenship to be earned over time, not just handed to illegals.

However, Republicans don't want any immigration legislation until the Democrats stem the tide of invading illegals. The Democrats also want provisions for migrant workers to more easily sue their employers.

To complicate matters further, even Republicans who oppose granting amnesty lean toward allowing a farmworker exemption.

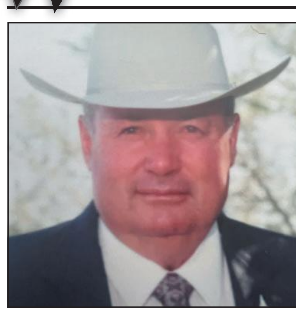
The current law has no seasonal farmworker H-2A cap, but they can only be in the U.S. for 10 months, a problem for employers needing year-round help. The 2021 bill the House passed would create 20,000 three-year slots for year-round farmworkers.

That bill has a complicated system that illegal farmworkers could go through to attain citizenship. One route could allow illegals to work on a "certified agricultural worker" visa for five and a half years, with the possibility of indefinite renewals. Through another route, after working for 14 years, they could apply for a green card.

Time may run out in this Congress.

Also, a California court has extended the enforcement delay of the state's Proposition 12 pork production law. — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

OBITUARIES



Weldon Earl Branch; 1932-2022

Weldon Branch went to be with the Lord on Nov. 30. He passed away peacefully at his Midvale, ID, ranch with family and friends by his side at the age of 90. He lived a full life, and he was loved greatly by his family and friends. Weldon was a faithful husband, great dad, unbelievable grandpa and great-grandpa and a successful rancher.

He was born March 24, 1932, in Weiser, ID, to William Milton Branch and Ellen Hilma (West) Branch. Weldon grew up on the family ranch 13 miles east of Midvale, where his parents were second-generation ranchers. He attended Sweet Home School, a one-room schoolhouse on Crane Creek, and he later graduated from Midvale High School in 1949. Weldon went on to attend the University of Idaho, where he played cornerback on the 1950 Vandals football team.

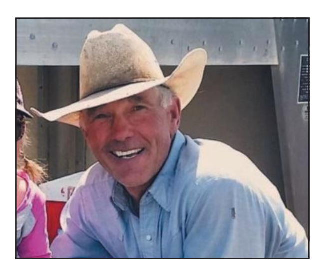
Weldon joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951, and he was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, WA, where he served as a senior athletic specialist. Among other things, his job was to improve the physical condition of pilots on the base, as well as train the military police in judo. He was a brown belt and performed exhibitions on base.

Weldon met Irene Legg as a freshman in high school, and the romance began as he stole the first kiss on the ride home from the Washington County Fair. They would continue to have an affection for each other, and they ultimately married on Sept. 12, 1953.

He spent his first 18 years of marriage on the Bonner place in Midvale, where his ranch and family life started. In 1969, he and Irene bought the Anderson place on North Crane Creek, and in 1971, they moved the family to what is now known as the Branch Keyhole Ranch. Weldon assembled multiple ranches in Washington and Adams counties, state leases, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leases and U.S. Forest Service permits to create their ranch. Weldon and Irene were married and successfully ran the Branch Keyhole Ranch for 70 years.

Weldon served briefly in the Idaho Legislature, served on the Boise District BLM Grazing Advisory Board, was president of the Payette U.S. Forest Service Grazing Advisory Committee, chaired the Public Lands Committee for the Idaho Cattle Association and was active in the Idaho Republican Party, where he served as a committeeman and delegate at the county and state levels. He also served as president of the Indian Mountain Cattle and Horse Allotment for many years. He also served on the school board for the Midvale School District and even found time to manage his sons' little league teams.

Weldon was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Branch; parents, Milton and Ellen Branch; and sister, Shirley Wallace. He is survived by his twin sisters, Lois (Vernon) Sutton of New Plymouth, ID, and Doris (Tom) Wakefield of Fruitland, ID; children, Ric Branch of Kuna, ID, Kathy Branch of Coeur d'Alene, ID, Kerry (Rob) Lundell of Everett, WA, and Ron (Christy) Branch of Redmond, WA; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.



Peter Douglas Bottari; 1952-2022

Peter Douglas Bottari was born to Duilio and EllaMay Bottari of Lamoille, NV, on May 31, 1952. He was a busy little boy who was always hammering on something. At 4 years old, Pete was already helping his dad drive the feed truck, and he didn't stop working on the ranch until cancer stole his ability to do so, just shortly before his death on Oct. 27.

Pete attended grade school at the Lamoille Schoolhouse until 1961, when the school was closed. They were then bused to Elko, NV, to attend school. Pete was very active in FFA, where he held chapter and state offices. Pete graduated from Elko High School in 1970.

In 1971, Uncle Sam had a thing called "the draft." Pete's number was 18, so he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he spent two years serving our country before being released to come home to the ranch and his family that really needed him.

Pete decided to attend farrier school to learn the trade and was very good at his job. He worked the ranch with his dad and shoed horses on the side.

Pete married Jan Alexander and became stepdad to Bill, Chad and Kim. He and Jan later divorced.

One of the highlights in Pete's life every year was the Elko County Fair. He enjoyed going there to visit, having a few adult beverages and dancing the night away. He was a member of the fair board for a few years and was in charge of the stock horse portion.

On Dec. 7, 1994, Pete was finally granted a date with the love of his life, Karen Marvel. Pete had asked Karen out several times and was turned down, but Pete was always very persistent! Karen finally said yes, and from that time on, "Petey" and Karen were a team! The ranch took most of his time, but we always knew that Karen wasn't far from his thoughts.

Pete put his heart, his soul and his time into becoming a good stockman, horseman and rancher. He was up at dawn every day and didn't get done until well after dark. Karen often called Pete "Rip Van Winkle" because if he sat down in a comfortable chair, he was fast asleep!

Pete is preceded in death by his dad, Duilio Bottari; his sister, Peggy Bottari Roberts; all of his grandparents; all of his aunts and uncles; his niece, Allison Bottari; his mother-in-law, Lorraine Urriola; and Karen's aunt, Theresa Paoletti.

Pete is survived by the love of his life, Karen Marvel; her children, Mandi (Darin) and Dusty (Allison); his mom, EllaMay Bottari; his brothers, Paul (Lori), Perry (Kim) and Bart (Jennifer); his sister, Pam (Tom); his nephews, Josh (Tory), Jay (Callie), Jacob (Alex), Brenden and Grysen; and his nieces, Amber (Dave), Abigail (Rob), Sarah, Brooke, Brittany (Ian), Megan (Marc) and Makenna (Kaleb). He is also survived by his stepchildren, Bill (Kim), Chad (Elizabeth) and Kim; stepgrandchildren, Aviana, Bridger, Race, Hunter, Cody, Jessie and Amos; and many honorary family members, as well as many cousins and great friends.

WLJ

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., 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Ryan Rhoades

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.

Ryan Rhoades' first job out of graduate school was with the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management. After serving on the faculty at the institute for seven years, he took a position as an Extension beef specialist at Colorado State University (CSU), and he has been working primarily in producer outreach for Colorado for the last six years.

Ryan told *WLJ* when he started his position at CSU, he sent out a comprehensive needs assessment to 2,500 beef producers in the state, and the No. 1 response was that producers needed help with business management.

"It was clear that the financials were the No. 1 barrier to success for folks, meaning cash flows, cost of production, debt and all those things that go with it," Ryan said.

The second most common response was that while ranchers routinely collected information in their red book, they did not know their break-even price within 10 cents a pound.

Ryan saw that ranchers needed help turning data into information that could assist with making sound business decisions. Through the needs assessment and what his research showed, he developed the Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado (TRAC) benchmark program.

Ryan said the development of TRAC was based on the work of Stan Bevers and his development of key performance indicators (KPIs). The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and others developed the Beef Cow-Calf Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA), and Bevers took that information and integrated business and production numbers to develop the KPIs.

According to Bever's website, KPIs provide a rancher with an analysis of the operation to standardize how beef cow-calf operations are evaluated from both a production and financial standpoint.

Ryan said many of the KPIs used in TRAC are based on the work that Bevers developed, and the indicators in TRAC are growing and evolving over time.

There are over 20 benchmark KPIs in TRAC based on production metrics, financial metrics, cost of production metrics and cost centers.

One of TRAC's reports, the "TRAC 2022 Priority Report," surveys participating ranches to detail production and financial benchmarks for cow-calf operations in Colorado. The 2022 report's benchmarks are based on over 30 ranches annually over a three-year period. Ryan said he sat down with each ranch individually to listen to their unique successes and challenges and collect an array of production and financial data. The data is analyzed to determine critical metrics, and a customized report with benchmarks is given to the ranch. This gives the producers the ability to compare their numbers internally and externally year after year and evaluate trends.

Ryan continued that ranchers who want to compare themselves to the benchmarks in the report could do so with the use of SPA documents to calculate similar metrics for their ranch. However, Ryan noted that even within Colorado, certain costs can vary from the Western Slope to the Front Range and other parts of the state, but it gives ranchers a good place to start.

Ryan said a major profitability trend he sees from the subset of the 30-plus ranches is the need to appropriately match stocking rate with carrying capacity. Ryan noted that ranchers have reduced their herds due to drought and are reluctant to repurchase cattle when things are better. However, Ryan said, "The folks that come back to or match their stocking rate closer to their carrying capacity are way more profitable." Ryan said this is due to the high fixed-cost structures on ranches and the need to spread those costs over more units to reduce the cost per cow.

Courtesy photo

Ryan Rhoades

"We're talking about developing the right enterprise mix, whether that's getting rid of some cows and adding in stockers so you can adjust inventory with a little more flexibility, but just being stocked appropriately when the time is right is really important," Ryan said.

Another driver of profitability is the overhead cost, and Ryan noted that many producers have too much stuff, and depreciation is oftentimes the biggest contributor.

Ryan is also trying to convince ranchers to look seriously at their hay enterprise.

"A lot of places don't need to be making their own hay because it just costs them way more when they get down into the details than they think," Ryan said.

Ryan noted one of the keys to profitability is not to focus on maximizing production parameters, but to think about optimizing them. Ryan continued that while EPDs for growth have gone up dramatically in the last 20 years, weaning weights have been static during that time. Ryan suggests as much as 20% of the variation in weaning weights could be attributed to one factor: rainfall.

"I tell people if you're already at the median or in the top 30% of weaning weights, you should not even be looking at that or focused on that because it's going to be difficult to cost effectively push that number any higher," Ryan said. "It doesn't matter what the genetic potential is; there seems to be a resource limitation preventing us from fully expressing it."

Ryan clarified that some people might have a differing view, but from what he has seen, it makes the most sense.

Ryan said the types of KPIs used in TRAC and SPA documents are universal, and producers from other states can use those in their operations.

"So, a really interesting finding, if calculated using similar methods, is that the average total cow cost, no matter where you go, no matter what state you're in, (is) fairly similar," Ryan said. "But what's different is how you got to that number, like feed versus depreciation versus pasture lease costs. All the individual line item expenses can be very different, but at the end of the day, the average total cost to run a cow is not all that different."

A copy of TRAC can be obtained by contacting Ryan at ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu. For more information on KPIs and Bevers' work, visit www.ranchkpi.com. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Prop 12 enforcement waits for SCOTUS

A California superior court judge has extended a stay on the enforcement of the state's Proposition 12 animal welfare law until July 2023, pending the outcome of an expected ruling by the Supreme Court in the spring.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in October in a legal challenge by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council. The groups argued the proposition is unconstitutional because it violates the dormant commerce clause by regulating economic activity in states outside California.

Judge James P. Arguelles, in the Superior Court of California for the county of Sacramento, granted the request. Arguelles ordered a delay in enforcement in January 2022 after several groups, including the California Grocers Association, the California Retailers Association and the California Restaurant Association, said in court filings the industry was given no time to comply with the law because regulations had yet to be completed.

"The court also finds that the parties have made a sufficient showing that changed circumstances, including the United States Supreme Court's pending review of a case challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 12, warrant an extension of the existing injunction," Arguelles said in his order.

Proposition 12 went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The law bans the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's new production standards. A federal appeals court upheld the law in 2021.

The law requires hog producers to abide by certain regulations to sell pork in California. Voters in the state passed Proposition 12 in 2018, with nearly 63% of voters supporting it. The law forbids the sale of whole pork meat in California from hogs born of sows not housed in conformity with the law. Proposition 12 forbids sows from being confined in such a way that they cannot lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs or turn around without touching the sides of their stalls or other animals.

The National Pork Producers Council argued in briefs filed with the Supreme Court that the law violates the commerce clause by regulating business beyond its borders. California already imports 99.8% of its pork from producers in other states.

The ag groups said the U.S. industry as a whole would be forced to reduce herd sizes or build costly new facilities, as well as make changes in every aspect of caring for sows, including feeding, breeding, medical care and farm labor.

Back in March 2021, Rabobank said in a report the U.S. pork industry faces a daunting task to comply with Proposition 12 if the legal challenge comes up short. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Biden signs bill blocking railroad strike

President Joe Biden on Dec. 2 signed legislation meant to prevent railroad workers from going on strike, saying that such a strike "would have been an economic catastrophe at a very bad time in the calendar."

The legislation signing and brief comments at the White House ended a week of high-stakes drama in Washington, D.C., that saw Congress immediately act in bipartisan fashion to prevent the 115,000 or so rail workers from potentially shutting down major sectors of the economy, including agriculture.

"Our nation's rail system is literally the backbone of our supply chain, as you all well know. And so much of what we rely on is delivered on our rail, from clean water to food and gas and every other good," Biden said before signing the bill. "A rail shutdown would have devastated our economy. Without freight rail, many U.S. industries would literally shut down."

As many as 765,000 people would have been put out of work within the first two weeks of a rail strike, Biden noted. He also nodded to agricultural risks as well. "Farms and ranches across the country would not have been able to feed their supply stock," he said.

Farm groups representing every commodity and sector were in lockstep throughout the fall as the risks of a rail strike came up repeatedly during the negotiations and the 12 unions' votes over the deal struck in September. Biden pointed out rail workers will receive a "historic" 24% wage increase, improved health care and better working conditions.

"And look, I know this bill doesn't have paid sick leave that these rail workers, and frankly every worker in America, deserves," Biden said. "But that fight isn't over."

The decision to block the strike forced Biden, who called himself a pro-union president, to choose the overall economy over the backing of the rail workers who were willing to strike over paid sick leave.

Biden signed the bill one day after the Senate voted 80-15 to pass the bill that included all provisions of the Presidential Emergency Board agreement struck with the union leaders and railroads in September. The Senate, however, had voted 52-43 on a separate bill that would have given the rail workers seven days of paid sick leave. That bill had cleared the House of Representatives on Nov. 30, mainly with Democratic votes.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), thanked the president and Congress for acting together to avert the strike. Duvall said farmers already face high diesel prices and low water levels that have hindered shipping on the Mississippi River.

Colin Woodall, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, reiterated some of Duvall's comments.

"America's cattle producers are grateful for the bipartisan effort that prevented disruptions in critical rail service across the country," Woodall said. "A rail shutdown would have been disastrous to our supply chain, and would have interrupted the essential feed, fuel and fertilizer shipments cattle producers need. We are pleased that this joint resolution was swiftly passed by Congress and signed into law."

The intense national concerns over a strike came after years of negotiations on a labor deal that did not include paid sick leave. Members of four of the largest unions voted to reject the deal, even though members of eight other unions agreed to ratify it. A strike would have hit as early as Dec. 9, but railroads were already preparing to start scaling back shipments of hazardous materials such as fertilizer if Congress was unable to act.

Congress has intervened 18 times since the late 1920s to avert national strikes that would have hindered interstate commerce. The last time Congress stepped in for a rail strike, however, was 1992, and it was only after the workers had shut down the rail lines for two days. **— Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Judge ruled partially in favor of government

SUIT
(from page 1)

significant impact (FONSI).

4. Failed to ensure the issued permit complied with the sage grouse management plan issued under the Land Policy Act.

5. Issued a permit violating the Steens Act by not adequately protecting the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Area and "misinterpreting the Steens Act to include an additional competing purpose of promoting viable and sustainable grazing operations."

Under the Land Policy Act, grazing decisions must comply with resource management plans, and the groups stated that a management plan for the sage grouse requires vegetative standards to be met on the allotments. The act also requires applicants for renewed grazing permits to have a satisfactory record of performance based on substantial compliance with prior permits and applicable rules and regulations.

"Finally, the Land Policy Act has two procedural requirements: first, the government must hold a 15-day protest period before issuing a final grazing decision, and second, the Secretary can only assume jurisdiction over 'cases,'" court documents show.

The Steens Act requires the secretary to prepare "a comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Federal lands included in the Steens Management Area," according to court documents.

After the suit was filed, the 2021 grazing permit was rescinded and remanded back to BLM for consideration. In April 2021, BLM announced it was engaging in the NEPA process and subsequently published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the allotments.

In February 2022, BLM withdrew the FONSI for the allotments.

On June 29, Hallman heard oral arguments regarding the case, and lawyers for the government moved to dismiss the suit as "moot since there is no live controversy between the parties," said Shannon Boylan, the government's attorney.

The environmental groups assert the withdrawal of the FONSI did not include the EA and did not remove all doubt about the mootness of the case.

Hallman, in the findings, stated the government made it clear that the future process of issuing a final grazing permit will include a sufficient time period for protest, and the grazing decision will not be made based on the challenged EA and FONSI. As a result, Hallman ruled in favor of the government on the portion of the first claim regarding the shortened protest period and on the third claim.

However, Hallman let stand the other claims by the environmental groups since the government did not clearly state that it incorrectly issued the permit to Hammond Ranches Inc. despite the ranch's history of violations or that the prior permit violated the Steens Act or the sage grouse management plan. Hallman further stated the government made no representations that it would avoid the challenged acts in the future.

"As a result, the court cannot find that it is absolutely clear that the government will not issue a grazing permit on the allotments to the ranch or issue a permit in line with the alleged violations to the Steen's Act or applicable land use plans," Hallman wrote. "Nor can the court find that the Secretary will not assume jurisdiction over the permit decision before BLM issues a decision."

Hallman denied the government's motion to dismiss the second, fourth and fifth claims, along with the portion of the environmental groups' first claim related to the secretary prematurely assuming jurisdiction of the grazing decision.

Objections to the findings and recommendation issued by Hallman must be submitted by Dec. 13. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Inflation redefines holiday food shopping

Inflation is redefining holiday shopping as consumers make adjustments to their budgets, new research from the Center for Food Integrity (CFI) shows.

"They are looking for opportunities to maintain the comfort and nostalgia of the holidays while being mindful of the impact on their pocketbook at the same time," said Mickie French, CFI executive director.

Consumers especially want high-quality items for a lower price, according to CFI's latest Illuminate Digital Cultural Insights research, which was conducted in partnership with FMI, the food industry association. Illuminate leverages digital ethnography that analyzes millions of online conversations in real time.

In addition, consumers are reevaluating the equation of time versus money as they try to determine how much their time really is worth in an inflationary environment. As a result, they are weighing which shopping conveniences are worth the cost during the busy holiday season.

One way is by considering if online grocery shopping is worth the delivery fee. For families with young children and those working more than one job, delivery could help them save time and gas by eliminating a trip to the store.

"According to FMI's 'U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends: Holiday Shopping' report, 45% of consumers are most concerned about rising meal prices as compared to other holiday expenses," said Steve Markenson, director of research for FMI. "Fortunately, most shoppers indicate they are in control of their grocery budgets, with 71% of consumers making some adjustment to their holiday meal shopping to adapt to the changing economic landscape. This indicates that shoppers are still able to find budget-friendly items to meet their needs."

Shopping patterns were significantly disrupted by the pandemic, and higher food prices are now causing more changes for food retailers and shoppers, he said.

As they prepare for the holidays, shoppers are looking for ways to save money on groceries by choosing discount retailers and store brands. They are also investigating other options, such as buying in bulk and using coupons.

"The insights provide valuable information for the food system to understand and anticipate consumers' needs as the food system works to ensure everyone has access to food that meets their needs and budgets," French said.

The research also shows that inflation is impacting gift-giving, causing shoppers to redefine "luxury."

"They are prioritizing the emotional feelings of luxury, such as comfort and wellness, instead of high price tags," she said.

That means they are making room in their holiday budgets for small, affordable luxuries that stand out from their everyday purchases for themselves and for others. They are also opting toward giving practical gifts this year.

Inflation and higher prices are affecting consumers at all levels, French said. The research showed that low-income to lower-middle-class consumers and those with children are most likely to be talking about this topic. — **CFI**

WWP: Solar panels adding to tortoise decline

BUNDY
(from page 1)

trespass grazing to continue unchecked on the Gold Butte allotment lands in desert tortoise critical habitat that is required to be protected as a term of the (plan)," the notice read, referring to Bundy's cattle, which the group alleges have been grazing on the allotment for decades.

"For almost thirty years, Cliven Bundy has grazed his cattle on public lands without a grazing permit and without paying rent," said Erik Molvar, WWP executive director, in a news release. "These cattle have disturbed the native desert ecosystems and promoted the expansion of flammable annual weed called red brome, resulting in major fires that burned more than 80,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat in 2005 alone. It's time to evict the cattle."

Declining numbers

WWP asserts that the populations of desert tortoises are plummeting. The group contends that solar projects have largely led to the decline, using the example of two recent utility-scale solar projects under construction in the Mojave Desert of California. Tortoises were removed from the solar project sites and moved elsewhere.

According to the group, during clearance surveys on 8,000 acres, no juvenile tortoises were found under roughly 7 inches in shell length. In another area of 5,000 acres, the smallest tortoise found measured about 9 inches in shell length, which is an estimated age of at least 35 years old.

"This indicates a lack of survivorship and no recruitment into adulthood of the tortoise population in this region," the notice read. "Habitat destruction from large-scale solar projects was indicated as a major cause, including indirect effects of project development extending outwards on adjacent tortoise habitat."

The notice concludes by noting the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit is the exception to the desert tortoise's decline and suggests this is a result of most livestock grazing being removed from the critical habitat area. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Feds reject plan for longer livestock hauls on highways

Livestock groups are disappointed about a regulatory decision by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) denying an exemption application over hours-of-service (HOS) rules for hauling livestock.

FMCSA handed down the decision on Nov. 29 to deny an application from several livestock and agricultural groups over the HOS rules.

The livestock groups asked FMCSA back in 2019 to allow haulers to drive a total of 15 hours in a 16-hour period. Right now, livestock haulers are permitted to drive in an exemption zone within a radius of 150 air miles from the source of the commodity, and the time spent driving in that zone doesn't count toward the HOS limits. The livestock groups requested to add the 15-hour drive limit outside of that 150-air-mile radius. The request applied to all livestock, insect and aquatic animal haulers and their drivers.

Typically, HOS rules limit drivers to 11 hours of driving after 10 consecutive hours off duty. Drivers are required to take at least a 30-minute break after driving for eight cumulative hours. Drivers may not drive beyond the 14th consecutive hour after coming on duty.

The groups making the request were the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), American Farm Bureau Federation, American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association and National Aquaculture Association.

The livestock groups said the maximum driving and on-duty limits under the HOS rules could place livestock at risk and impose more burdens on livestock haulers in rural areas of the country.

"We are disappointed in FMCSA's decision, especially when the cattle and beef supply chain faces continued stress from driver shortages and a potential rail strike," said Kent Bacus, NCBA executive director of government affairs. "Hauling cattle is very different from hauling consumer goods, which is why NCBA will continue urging congressional leaders to support expanded hours-of-service flexibility for livestock haulers so they can continue making their critical deliveries."

In their application, livestock groups suggested drivers could maintain the same level of safety and awareness by adopting fatigue risk management practices used in countries such as Australia.

"We are disappointed FMCSA denied the request without more seriously considering or addressing the proposed safety measures industry brought forward," said Jara Settles, LMA general counsel and vice president of risk management. "Livestock haulers have an excellent safety record, and our drivers haul a very unique cargo. The Livestock Marketing Association and the groups we work with will continue to seek commonsense flexibilities for these special drivers to make sure livestock get where they need to go in a safe and responsible manner while meeting the ever-growing needs of the American food supply."

The application drew 359 comments filed by various groups, including individual truckers who haul livestock. Livestock groups supported the additional four hours of drive time to get livestock to their destination quicker, especially in warmer weather. Supporters noted livestock typically cannot withstand the stress of being stopped for 10 hours without airflow and the added time in a trailer.

The application by livestock groups was opposed by the National Transportation Safety Board, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, the Truckload Carriers Association, the Iowa Motor Truck Association (IMTA) and the Animal Welfare Institute.

IMTA commented that livestock haulers should be held to the same HOS standards as the rest of the industry. If a load requires more than the normal 11 hours of driving, then a carrier should be required to put a team of two drivers in the vehicle. This would allow them to get the load delivered but also remain in compliance with HOS rules, the group stated.

In denying the application, FMCSA ruled that once the 15 hours of drive time were stacked on the 150-air-mile exemption zone, that would translate into potentially 21 or more hours of driving during a work shift. That type of sustained driving "would not likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent the exemption."

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04) denounced the decision, saying the Department of Transportation (DOT) did not consider the recommendations of farmers and ranchers who transport livestock.

"It will also cause undue harm and leave these animals susceptible to heat, cold, and other extreme conditions," Newhouse said. "With unprecedented supply chain disruptions, a looming threat of a rail shutdown, and a truck driver shortage facing communities across the country, now is not the time to be placing additional stressors on this industry. DOT should reverse this decision and continue working to meet the unique needs of livestock transportation." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Listening session planned before library pilot rollout

LIBRARY
(from page 1)

otherwise, the Cattle Contract Library would be incomplete, and the information would be potentially misleading if packers self-select the contract terms they provide," just as the Swine Contract Library is mandatory for packers.

According to USDA, the following contract clauses must be submitted: contract method, contract start and end dates, base price source and adjustment, selling basis, premiums and discounts, specifications relating to cattle attributes, delivery and transportation terms and payments, financing, risk-sharing, profit-sharing or other financial arrangements, and volume provisions.

On a monthly basis, packers will be required to submit the number of actual cattle purchased under active contracts in the prior month, along with the estimated maximum number of cattle to be purchased under active contracts for slaughter in the current calendar month.

The final rule was posted in the Federal Register on Dec. 7 and goes into effect on Jan. 6, 2023. Beginning on that date, packers must submit the required contractual clauses for each active contract, regardless of whether the contract is written or oral. Packers will then be required to submit the same information for each new active contract, along with any changes to previously submitted active contracts.

"Because the packers prepare these contracts in advance of their offering those contracts to producers, AMS determined these submission timeframes to be reasonable," the rule read.

To view the final rule in its entirety, search for docket number AMS-LP-22-0065 at federalregister.gov. AMS plans to host a cattle industry listening session in early January to discuss the pilot program prior to its official rollout.

Industry support

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed the final rule and said it was looking forward to continuing to work with USDA as the pilot program launches. "We are pleased that USDA listened to feedback from stakeholders like NCBA while crafting the final rule on the Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program," said NCBA Senior Director of Government Affairs Tanner Beymer in a statement.

"We are hopeful that this pilot program will strike an appropriate balance between offering cattle producers additional insight into the market while also protecting their proprietary business information."

Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), lead Republican on the agriculture subcommittee within the Senate Committee on Appropriations and a staunch supporter of the measure, also applauded the rule's finalization.

"This cattle contract library that we worked to secure at AMS will serve as an important resource to America's livestock producers, giving them more of the information they need to get the best price and terms for the sale of their cattle," Hoeven said in a news release.

"At the same time, we continue working to strengthen enforcement of our laws, while opening new opportunities for producers to sell their products. That means more competition in cattle markets, which ultimately benefits both ranchers and consumers." — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Senate version of bill to stop SEC climate rules

Sens. John Boozman (R-AR) and Mike Braun (R-IN) have introduced a Senate version of the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act, which would exempt farmers and ranchers from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting rules proposed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Senate bill is a companion piece of legislation to the House bill introduced by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK-03) earlier this year. Lucas introduced the bill in response to the SEC's announcement of a proposed rule that would require all public companies to disclose GHG emissions from operations a company owns or controls in addition to indirect GHG emissions that occur upstream and downstream in the supply chain.

"The authors of this rule clearly lack an understanding of how agriculture works. The publicly traded corporations overseen by the SEC won't be the ones tasked with complying with these onerous 'value chain' rules," Boozman said in a statement. "That responsibility would fall on America's family farmers and ranchers who would be forced to deal with (an) unprecedented amount of unnecessary paperwork. This is the last thing they need to deal with as they struggle in the face of record high input costs, supply chain bottlenecks, labor shortages, drought and other natural disasters."

The Protect Farmers from the SEC Act is backed by several agriculture organizations, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), which said in a statement the SEC's proposal would increase the burden on ranchers with onerous regulations.

"NCBA is proud to support the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act because it ensures that federal regulators do not overstep their jurisdiction and it protects cattle producers from additional government red tape," said NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart. "We thank Senators Boozman and Braun for their focus on this issue."

NCBA said while the climate rules are aimed at large corporations, producers could be required to comply with the rules since they are part of the supply chain for public restaurants and retailers. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

	This Week: 12/8/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	155.33	▲	155.23	140.05
CME Feeder Index	179.23	▲	178.40	161.63
Boxed Beef Average	247.28	▼	253.57	264.55
Average Dressed Steers	246.95	▲	245.00	220.01
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,385	▲	1,383	1,393
Weekly Slaughter**	663,000	▲	581,000	676,000
Weekly Beef Production***	553.7	▲	497.1	562.5
Hide/Offal Value	13.92	▼	14.72	14.06
Corn Price	6.32	▼	6.50	5.88

*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	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
December 5	7,174	251.42	223	317.25	1,251	257.06	2,127	249.38	765	226.50	2,808	205.84
November 28	6,903	255.74	201	327.37	1,223	262.12	1,981	253.63	715	230.39	2,782	212.92
November 21	6,514	257.95	218	336.69	1,195	265.27	2,185	255.05	777	232.05	2,140	213.84
November 14	6,337	260.46	167	342.17	1,195	268.67	1,795	258.32	841	232.31	2,338	215.76

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Dec 8	247.28	220.55	186.77	77.92	236.00
Dec 7	248.96	219.77	190.00	71.87	240.53
Dec 6	242.65	219.14	192.07	76.33	245.14
Dec 5	243.31	221.11	190.40	75.48	241.54
Dec 2	249.93	224.56	189.16	75.11	239.60

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	12/2	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	High*	Low*
Dec.	15335	15323	15155	15193	15243	15380	13055
Feb.	15588	15583	15363	15355	15393	15703	14003
Apr.	15958	15958	15763	15763	15805	16013	15388
Jun.	15620	15628	15448	15435	15493	15850	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	12/2	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	High*	Low*
Jan.	18245	18378	18180	18090	18348	18703	16958
Mar.	18528	18638	18415	18325	18505	18748	17595
Apr.	18863	18953	18733	18660	18835	18953	18303
May	19158	19225	19020	18970	19153	19225	18755

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

FED CATTLE TRADE

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
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
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	12,454	1,412	155.232
Live FOB Heifer	6,416	1,292	155.11
Dressed Del Steer	78	992	245.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	10,315	1,488	140.05
Live FOB Heifer	3,259	1,319	140.00
Dressed Del Steer	1,540	976	220.01
Dressed Del Heifer	127	823	220.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: DECEMBER 4

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	23,258	4,018
Formula	250,061	1,108
Negotiated Cash	107,727	244
Negotiated Grid	53,957	1,986
Packer Owned	11,707	0
Total	**446,710**	**7,356**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

Delivery Month		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Dec. '22	116,404	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,954
Jan. '23	125,917	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,248
Feb. '23	91,229	Formula sales	3,715
Mar. '23	118,536	Forward contract sales	257
Apr. '23	121,725	Domestic sales	6,111
		NAFTA Exports	114

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	136.77	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	136.49	+1.74
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	140.98	+2.42
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	139.88	+2.35
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	71.74	+0.26

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 25, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	201.66	202.03	195.29
601-700 lbs	186.28	185.76	180.59
701-800 lbs	179.96	179.19	172.25
801-900 lbs	172.67	171.60	171.30
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	177.00	177.44	156.90
501-600 lbs	168.51	166.59	165.70
601-700 lbs	160.11	158.60	147.89
701-800 lbs	153.43	154.47	155.45

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
	12/3/22	11/26/22		
Feeders	32,174	14,623	756,041	1,012,069

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, December 2, 2022
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary
Receipts EST: 25,000 **Week Ago Act: 11,607** **Year Ago Act: 28,211**

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 203.00-213, few 215.00; 400-500 lbs 183.00-193.00, few 195.00; 500-600 lbs 165.00-175.00; 600-700 lbs 150.00-160.00, few 165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 188.00-198.00; 400-500 lbs 168.00-178.00; 500-600 lbs 150.00-160.00.
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 173.00-183.00, few 185.00; 400-500 lbs 163.00-173.00, few 175.00; 500-600 lbs 153.00-164.00, few 165.00; 600-700 lbs 143.00-154.00, few 155.00.

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

Selected Auction Week Ending December 8, 2022

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2

DATE MARKET		STEERS / HEIFERS 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 2 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		180-221 160-187	180-218 160-194	170-213 155-187	155-187 147-168	150-170 145-153	140-161 137-150	56-67 65-80		NORTHWEST
December 1 Burley, ID	N/A		220.50-244 194	195-230 181-196	188-205 171	165-176.50 162-172	167-169 156-165	164.50-166	52-74 76-107		
December 7 Emmett, ID	226				166-179.50	161-166	120-125	87-91.50	63.50-76 81-83		
No report available Eugene, OR											
December 5 Madras, OR	1,414		225-253 200-220	225-245 180-212	195-219.50 170-193	175-183 160-173	160-174 145-160	148-159	65-80 85-93		
November 30 Vale, OR	1,114		190-214 157-188	176-229 150-194	170-201 152-180	160-181.50 147-167.50	154-173.75	147-151	65-75 72-90		
No report available Davenport, WA											
December 6 Toppenish, WA	1,230									1,350-1,525 775-2,325	
December 2 Orland, CA	4,531			180-230 198	160-216 188	140-208 184	130-209 185	120-180	40-79 75-116		FARWEST
December 7 Escalon, CA	N/A								55-75 80-100		
December 5 Famoso, CA	295				140-150	150-180 140-152	145-160 120-155		70-75 85-90		
December 6 Galt, CA	1,365			170-210 160-206	165-205 150-185	145-195 140-175	140-186 125-170		65-90 90-114		
November 29 Turlock, CA	787		150-185	180-200 145-180	170-190 142-161				68-88 78-110		
November 29 Salina, UT	1,281	187.50-245	175-240 150-205	176-226 140-187	152.50-212 135-171	147.50-188 130-163	141-172.50 125-157.50	120-163.50 110-148	56-79.75 65-89		
December 5 Iowa	17,648	222-227 200	190-255 174-205	183-260 156-201	165-244 140-197.50	165-203.75 143-185	160-200.25 140-179	145-184.50 124-169.75	54.50-93 42-107		NORTH CENTRAL
December 6 Miles City, MT	2,325		241-255 201-208	217-256.50 188-208	191-222.75 177.50-204	181-195.50 176	180.50	169 157-167.50	58-67 63-93	900 610-1,260	
December 7 Bassett, NE	4,800		236-259 214	232-246 198-217	208-248 194-209.50	193-223.50 165.50-184	185.50-201.50	146-168.50			
December 3 Ericson, NE	4,710		295 210-238	226-261 198.50-221	201-242.75 181.50-212	183-214 172-181.50	178-204.25 170-174.50	165-182.25			
No report available Imperial, NE											
No report available Kearney, NE											
December 2 Lexington, NE	2,514		241	212-214 189-192.50	200-232.50 180-207.25	187-211 170-185.50	202.50-207.75	170.50-185 170-176.50			
December 1 Ogallala, NE	5,160	302.50	222-291 209-213	241-272 186.50-204	187.50-240 175.50-206	182-213 164.50-184.50	179.50-191.50 165-172	170-175.50 160-175			
December 1 Valentine, NE	3,710		230	221-250 201-226.50	214-229 180.50-207.50	204.75-224 171-202.50	203.25-221 170-193	176.50-194.75 137-179.50			
December 2 Herreid, SD	4,801		249 198-200	229.50-261 188-227	199.75-228 174.50-206	189-215 171	177 175	177.50-189 175.50-180.50			
No report available Torrington, WY											
December 1 Willcox, AZ	1,305	222-235 173-180	212.50-246 168-186	181-217 165-195.50	169-190.50 166-188	156.50-175.50 141-169.50			52-91 72-91	1,100-1,350 925-1,035	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 5 Colorado	11,707		232-256 196-225	197-237 171-210	180.50-220 160-196	167-198.50 158-174.50	162-185 155-170.35	132-178 118-159.25	56-89 70-104	710-1,525	
November 23 La Junta, CO	3,024				183-211 163-181	176-196 155-170	161-181 157-161	158-163 146-158			
December 5 Loma, CO	1,003		220-231 203-219	201-220 192-197.50	197-219 180-192	173-188 161	168-175 157-161	148-170.50 144-159	67-76 84-92		
December 7 Dodge City, KS	4,411	250	185.50-253 189-226	187.50-263 155-236	171-227 150-187.50	163-218 151-176.25	149-186 163-172.75	161.50-184.10 149.75-165	54-78 72-98	1,775 825-1,125	
December 8 Pratt, KS	2,500		219 161-196	161-224 190.50-205	178-204.50 169-191.50	185-213 164-172	176-185 156-165.50	150-179.25 155.50-163.50			
December 1 Salina, KS	3,584		214-240 198-214	205-230 181-208	194.50-221 154-189	162-199.50 160-175	172-186.50 166-172	171-188.60 153.50-170			
December 7 Clovis, NM	2,312	228-240 201-210	215-246 180-203	198-219 169-186.50	181-201 155-179	155-187 150-161	144.50-170 133.50-147.50	133-149 141.50-143	60-72 72.25-95	900-1,500 550-1,400	
December 7 El Reno, OK	10,427	250 227.50	220-252 190-215	188-247.50 177-210	197-226 169-189	178-202.50 161-178.50	167-193.50 164-168	156-186.50 141-165			
December 7 McAlester, OK	1,755		209-230 177-196	195-219 165-181	175-204 150-176	152-187 139-165	140-169 140-145	122-160 120-122	59-78 88-103	1,000-1,475 1,000-1,275	
December 7 Oklahoma City, OK	13,925	232-247 211-219	215-261 180-226	201-244 165-229	180-227 164-190	175-220 158-182	170-195 157-172	153-179 162-166.50			
December 2 Cuero, TX	2,309	185-246 138-240	175-260 153-256	181-230 157-224	159-202 146-194	150-180 139-188	136-160	126-148	50-75 80-100		
December 1 Dalhart, TX	2,945		235-254 196-215	190-232 160-183	184-208 169-188	161-186 149-170.50	150-180 155-170.50	160-180.50 130-163	69-82 73-90		
December 1 San Angelo, TX	855	224-240 194-209	226-242 190-213	206-230 171-182	186-192 161.50	174	148		68-78.50 73-99	825-1,235	
December 1 Tulia, TX			210-220	190-217 165-185	171-202 171-174	168-177 149-168.50	172-180 171.50	150-159	65-70 70-94		
December 2 Alabama	15,240	210 152-178	184-225 148-185	175-205 140-174	156-192 130-160	145-185 118-157	125-168 114-151	120-165.75	55-81 78-100	725-1,700 575-1,850	EAST
December 5 Lexington, KY	2,236	186-194* 143-157.50*	170-196* 140-161*	163-192* 136-157.50*	159-186.50* 134-161*	146-169.75* 130-169*	143-167* 120-135*	112-171.25* 100-121*	56-84 64-108.50	1,300-1,675 850-1,250	
December 5 Joplin, MO	10,522		225-260 184-210	207.50-243 172-196	191-213 167-185	180-191 163-174	178-185 166-171.25	175-187.25 153-165.75			
December 5 Tennessee	9,241	171-207.50* 130-176*	167.50-212.50* 127-180*	160-202* 126-188.50*	138-185* 118-160*	120-183.75* 115-164.75*	122.50-174.50* 120-143*	117-170* 100-138*	48-88 65-125	1,075-1,500 700-1,250	
December 5 Virginia	3,601	121	170-190 100-164.50	145-200 105-159	114-188.50 116-153	138-171 115-142	125-173.50 93.50-140	117-157.50 108-136			
CANADA											
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta											

Feeder cattle markets jump into December

Oklahoma feeder cattle auction prices jumped sharply the week after Thanksgiving. Calf prices, in particular, were $10-15/cwt higher, and all classes were $6-10 higher after Thanksgiving. Several factors contributed to the strength in feeder prices. Improving feeder futures prices, a stronger fed cattle market and limited supplies of feeder cattle all combined to push prices higher.

Oklahoma feeder auction volumes have been smaller five of the past six weeks after being higher year over year all summer and in early fall. The volume of feeder cattle in Oklahoma auctions recently was down 19.4% compared to the same week last year. In the 16 weeks from July 1 through mid-October, the cumulative extra feeder cattle volume over last year totaled 71,397 head. Since mid-October, feeder volumes have been bringing the cumulative total since July 1 down to 52,808 head. In other words, the cumulative total of increased early sales of feeder cattle still far exceeds the reduction in the past six weeks. Smaller volumes will likely persist for the rest of the year at least.

It appears that most winter wheat is up, with stands that vary from spotty to good. The final USDA Crop Progress report of 2022 was issued at the end of November and showed that 95% of Oklahoma wheat is up, equal to the same week last year and 1 percentage point higher than the five-year average. The condition of Oklahoma wheat was rated at 12% very poor, 12% poor, 45% fair, 30% good and just 1% excellent. This shows that the stands are rather lackluster, and almost none are grazable or will be grazable before the end of the year.

Depending on moisture and temperature conditions through December, some wheat may grow enough for turnout after Jan. 1. All in all, wheat grazing will be very limited, and most grazing that does occur will be used to supplement forage supplies for animals on hand.

Cattle slaughter and beef production are tightening in the final weeks of the year. Total weekly beef production was down 1% in the most recent weekly data. This is the largest decline in weekly beef production since the first few weeks of the year. The expectation is to begin seeing consistent week-over-week decreases in beef production. The most recent weekly data showed the continuing contrast in steer and heifer slaughter.

Steer slaughter was down 6.4% compared to the same week last year, while heifer slaughter was up 4.6%. Combined steer plus heifer slaughter was down 2.1%, contributing to the decrease in weekly beef production. Total steer plus heifer slaughter is up 0.8% for the year to date.

Beef production in 2022 has also been boosted by increased cow slaughter. Beef cow slaughter is up 12.1% year over year for the year to date. However, beef cow slaughter has been up only about 3% the past two weeks, suggesting that herd liquidation may be slowing down. For the year to date, cull cow and bull beef production has been up 4.1% year over year. Going forward into the new year, heifer and cow slaughter should decline, thereby allowing total slaughter and beef production to decrease. **— Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeders find momentum higher

MARKETS
(from page 1)

• Formula net purchases: $248.77.

• Forward contract net purchases: $235.74.

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $245.82.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 508,000 head, several thousand head more than a week earlier. Slaughter for a week earlier totaled 663,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 26 was 589,008 head (46.5% steers, 32.6% heifers). Dressed steers were 842 lbs.

Boxed beef prices printed lower, with the Choice cutout down $6.29 to $247.28 and the Select cutout down $4.45 to $220.55.

"Welcome to the world of the volatile holiday rib! USDA estimated boxed beef cutout values are gyrating wildly thanks mostly to the typical swings of the holiday rib market," Fish said. "(Tuesday), the rib primal closed at $479/cwt. Today it printed at $544/cwt!"

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle contracts were modestly higher, with the January contract up $2.40 to $183.47 and the March contract up 75 cents to $185.05.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 83 cents to close at $179.23.

"Feeder cattle traders could be feeling more confident as recent boxed beef prices have found some support, which could incentivize buyers to restock their pens as they believe that packer demand will remain," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in her Thursday midday comments.

Corn futures dropped lower, with the December contract down 18 cents to $6.32 and the March contract also down 18 cents to $6.42.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 7,060 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, steer calves under 600 lbs. sold $5-8 higher, and over 600 lbs. were $2-3 higher. Heifer calves under 550 lbs. sold mostly steady, and over 550 lbs. were $3-5 higher. Yearling feeder steers were steady, and yearling feeder heifers sold steady to $1 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold between $175-184.50 and averaged $181.31.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers traded steady to $3 higher, with feeder heifers trading steady. Benchmark steers averaging 781 lbs. sold between $180-182.25, averaging $181.58.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 14,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers traded unevenly steady and were lightly tested. Steer calves sold $4-7 higher, with instances of $12 higher. Heifer calves over 450 lbs. sold unevenly steady, and under 450 lbs. sold $15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 757 lbs. sold between $173-186, averaging $178.77.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 3,724 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers sold steady to $5 higher, with instances of $13 higher. Steers under 500 lbs. sold steady to $3 lower. Feeder heifers sold $1-5 higher, with instances of $12 higher. Heifers 400-500 lbs. sold $1-5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 740 lbs. sold between $185-196, averaging $187.56. **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Lubbock Stockyards closing after 54 years

After 54 years of serving the area's ranchers, Tony and Judy Mann announced they closed the doors of Lubbock Stockyards in Lubbock, TX, on Dec. 10.

The sale barn was started in 1968 on 50 acres in south Lubbock when Arthur Hamilton built the blue sale barn. Delton Caddell bought the barn, and Mann worked for him until 1983, when he and his wife, Judy, purchased the barn.

"I didn't know anything about running an auction, but I learned pretty quick," Mann told local news outlet Everything Lubbock. "I've been doing it for 39 1/2 years. My wife runs my office, and I run outside."

The Manns' kids and grandkids worked at the sale barn, and Mann told local news outlet KCBD 11 that now that the children had grown, they had a decision to either hire someone or sell the business.

Mann said the decision to sell was based on his and Judy's age, as well as the number of dwindling cattle. Every Tuesday, Lubbock Stockyards held an auction for cattle, sheep and goats, with a horse auction once a month.

"We've been doing it, and we like what we've done," Mann said. "It's had its ups and downs. We started out running a lot more cattle than we do right now, but I'm fixing to be 73 years old in December, and it's kind of time to slow down."

The Manns are grateful for their customers and their role in the livestock industry.

"It was kind of a sad deal and a good deal for my family because we've been doing it for so long," Mann said. "Times are changing, and it's time to change with it." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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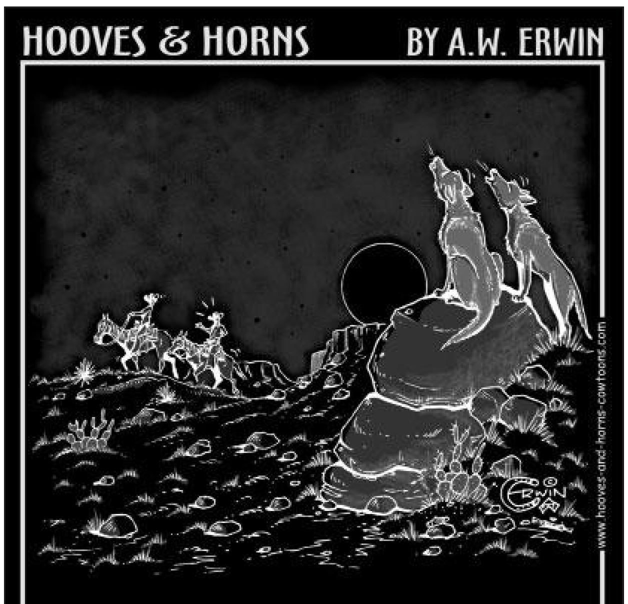

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Cattle For Sale 10

REGISTERED ANGUS SEEDSTOCK: Noah's Angus Ranch, Angus cattle since 1955. Cambridge, ID 208-257-3686, c:208-550-0531, www.noahsangusranch.com.

REGISTERED TEXAS LONGHORNS FOR SALE
Featured in September 2020 American Beef Producer magazine. Gentle pairs, steers, heifers, solid and colorful bulls. Foraging, hardy, low-maintenance cattle, traffic-stopping colors. Cross breed with your herd for easy calving, robust calves resistant to disease. Fascinating, fun to show, simple handling. Westhaven Ranch Tel: 209-274-9917, email: swestmoore@gmail.com, website: www.westhavenlonghorns.com.

Dogs For Sale 14

BORDER COLLIE MCNAB CROSS PUPS. Started working dogs. 530-961-2543 or 530-961-2542.

CATAHOULA MCNAB PUPPIES FOR SALE. Excellent for ranching, hunting and security. 707-406-0250 or email izzypuppies22@gmail.com for pictures/details. Ready December 10th in Humboldt County, CA.

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Livestock Supplies 18

Real Estate Pacific 20A

Real Estate Southwest 20D

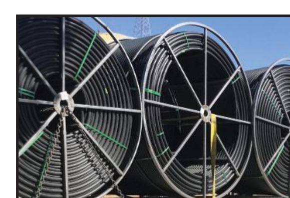
Pasture Wanted 24

WINTER PASTURE wanted in California for yearlings. Large quantities. 541-823-2933.

Equipment For Sale 30

SELL/BUY NEW HOLLAND BALE WAGONS: H9870, BW38, 1089, 1069, 1037, 1033, self-propelled and other pull-type models/parts/tires/manuals. Finance, trade, deliver. 208-880-2889. www.balewagon.com.

Irrigation 27



Schools 43

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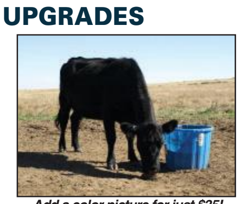

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CURIOUS ABOUT CLASSIFIEDS?

Feeding baled crop residues while wintering beef cows

Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Rancher's Thursday Lunchtime Series on Nov. 17 featured Mary Drewnoski from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who presented on feeding baled crop residues to beef cows as an alternative to feeding normal hay crops. To effectively feed cows through the winter, producers should understand the quality of the forage they are feeding, how it fits the cow's nutrient requirements and how it impacts forage intake.

Crop residues like wheat straw, cornstalks or soybean residue are low-quality roughages, with total digestible nutrient (TDN) content ranging from around 39% for soybean residue to 45% for wheat straw and cornstalks. Protein levels are also very low, at around 3-5%. Also, the bottom end of the corn or sorghum stalk is very low in nutrient quality, so cows will sort out most of this portion, and intake will be very low. Drewnoski stated that grain sorghum residue is actually higher in TDN content and crude protein, with 52-55% TDN content and 5-7% crude protein.

Grain sorghum residue can meet the requirements of a cow in late gestation, the stage most of our spring-calving cows are in from now through mid-February, while other residues from corn, wheat or soybean harvests will need significant supplementation for these cows.

Hay baled from a failed soybean crop is much higher in quality than residues baled after harvest. Soybean hay often reaches 55% TDN content and 14-20% crude protein. It is key to capture the soybean leaf because that is where the best nutrient content is, and the stems are low in energy. Also, the pod adds a lot of protein and energy as it fills because of the high protein and oil content of the soybean seeds. It is very hard to dry down soybean hay because of the stems and pods, so Drewnoski warns of the potential of mold forming in the bales.

Drewnoski gave some final comments:

- The residue bales should be sampled for analysis to determine the feeding value. At least 15 to 20 bales should be sampled from each field.
- Be aware of nitrate issues in these residues and test to ensure levels are below toxic thresholds.
- Feeding waste will be an issue.
- Feeding processed hay and residue on the ground can result in losses of up to 40%, so feeding in a bunk is advisable.
- Open-bottom round bale feeders can have up to 30% waste; sheeted-bottom feeders can reduce this to 20%. Cone feeders reduce the waste to less than 10%.

This webinar and other archived webinars from this series can be found on the OSU Beef Extension website at extension.okstate.edu. — **Paul Beck, OSU Extension beef nutrition specialist**

SALE REPORTS

SITZ ANGUS FALL BULL SALE
Dec. 1, Harrison, MT
460 2-year-old bulls. . .$7,236
295 Commercial bred heifers 3,576
163 Commercial bred cows 2,938
Auctioneers: Roger Jacobs & Joe Goggins

TOPS: Sitz Resilient 1299, 1/29/21 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, $45,000. Sitz Threshold 9901, 2/18/21 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, $42,500. Sitz Domain 12371, 1/25/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to GENEX Beef, Shawano, WI, $38,000. Sitz Stellar 12251, 1/26/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Lunds B Bar Angus, Wibaux, MT, $35,000. Sitz Stellar 12441, 1/23/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Harris Ranch, Killdeer, ND, $19,000. Sitz Insignia 12031, 1/29/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Don Zimbleman, Fullerton, ND, $19,000. Sitz Logo 11421, 2/4/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Hamilton Angus, Baker City, OR, $18,000. Sitz RLJ Stellar 10121, 2/17/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Kenny Lee, Judith Gap, MT, $17,000. Sitz Accomplishment 10801, 2/13/21 by Sitz Accomplishment 720F; to Gary Romey, Hot Springs, SD, $17,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

KG ANGUS RANCH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 2, Three Forks, MT
211 2-year-old bulls. . .$6,229
161 Commercial bred heifers 2,350
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins

TOPS: KG Justified 1020, 1/24/21 by KG Justified 3023; to Fortune's Rafter U Cross, Quinn, SD, $16,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1040, 1/25/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Stevenon's Diamond Dot, Hobson, MT, $16,000. KG Justified 1085, 1/31/21 by KG Justified 3023; to Dry Fork Ranch, Kaycee, WY, $16,000. KG Powerball 1286, 2/18/21 by Sitz Powerball 737E; to Schelske Angus Ranch, Virgil, SD, $16,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1002, 1/18/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Dry Fork Ranch, Kaycee, WY, $15,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1042, 1/26/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Kindred Ranch, Oral, SD, $15,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

CURRANT CREEK ANGUS BULL SALE
Dec. 3, Roundup, MT
64 Total bulls $4,238
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: CCAR Cowboy Up J399, 4/1/21 by VAR Cowboy Up 8273; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $8,000. CCAR Cowboy Up J373, 4/22/21 by HT Cowboy Up 8130; to Rein Anchor Ranch, Melville, MT, $6,750. CCAR Payweight J324, 4/20/21 by WCF Payweight 5228; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $6,250. CCAR Payweight J552, 4/24/21 by WCF Payweight 5228; to Rein Anchor Ranch, Melville, MT, $6,000. CCAR Payweight J552, 4/28/21 by WCF Payweight J556; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $6,000. CCAR Yeti J557, 4/26/21 by CAR Yeti 805; to Sarrazin Ranch, Livingston, MT, $6,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

JACOBSEN RANCH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 5, Great Falls, MT
71 Salers/Optimizer bull calves $4,768
8 Angus bull calves. . . .3,094
296 Commercial bred heifers 1,855
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS: JSR Ferrari 2210, 3/16/22 by JSR Mr Mercedes 723; to TB Salers, Dante, SD, $8,500. JSR Cosmic 2211, 3/16/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Hamilton Ranch, Decker, MT, $8,250. JSR Cosmic 247, 2/27/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Fox Grape Farm, Big Piney, VA, $8,250. JSR Cosmic 2218, 3/17/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Smith Ranch, Lodge Grass, MT, $8,000. JSR Cosmic 2244, 3/22/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Two Dot Ranch, Leadore, ID, $8,000. JSR Cosmic 2157, 3/9/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Star X Ranch, Baker, MT, $8,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

REVERSE ROCKING R
Dec. 3, Maxwell, NM
133 Sale total $5,486
107 Total registered bulls. 5,462
26 Total registered females 5,586
4 Pregnancies 6,137
16 Embryos 606

TOPS—Bulls: RRR Illuminati, 12/23/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $44,000. RRR Grit, 11/10/21 by Poss Rawhide; to Amdahl Angus, Piedmont, SD, $27,000. RRR Hometown R0281, 3/19/21 by G A R Home Town; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $17,000. RRR Hometown R0261, 3/11/21 by G A R Home Town; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $13,000. RRR Rawhide R7302, 12/20/21 by Poss Rawhide; to McGill Ranch, Laramie, WY, $13,000. RRR Rawhide R7272, 12/16/21 by Poss Rawhide; to Daltons on the Sycamore, Gretna, VA, $10,000. RRR Up Stream R1811, 9/24/21 by PA Up Stream 001; to Adam Zutavern, Dunning, NE, $10,000. **Open heifers:** RRR Rudy Blackcap R1652, 7/20/22 by Poss Deadwood; to GMC Angus, Fraziers Bottom, WV, $16,000. RRR Erica Dianna R7082, 12/22/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $14,500. RRR Erica Dianna R7102, 12/20/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $14,500. RRR Rudy Blackcap R1572, 7/13/22 by Poss Deadwood; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $14,000. RRR Isabel R2272, 9/20/22 by Poss Deadwood; to George Simpson, Hazelton, BC, $13,500. **Bred cow:** CAM Sure Fire A8004, 8/28/18 by G A R Sure Fire, bred to Poss Deadwood to calve 2/2/23; to Scott Croftcheck, Grindstone, PA, $10,000. — **JIM GIES**

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

Dec. 12 — Northland, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Jan. 24-28, 2023 — Red Bluff, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS

Dec. 14 — Mitchell Angus, Dispersion Sale, Burwell, NE
Dec. 14 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 16 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 12, 2023 — National Western Foundation, Female Sale, Denver, CO
Jan. 19 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Jan. 24 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Jan. 26 — Marcy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Jan. 27 — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 28 — Baldridge Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Jan. 30 — APEX Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Dannebrog, NE

HEREFORD

Jan. 16, 2023 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Production Sale, Oshkosh, NE

MAINE ANJOU

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

RED ANGUS

Dec. 12 — Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Bertrand, NE
Dec. 16 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT

SIMANGUS

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

SIMMENTAL

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

STABILIZER

Dec. 15 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
Jan. 12, 2023 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO

HORSE

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

DOG

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

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

Dec. 15 – The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) is hiring two interns for the summer of 2023. The communications intern will assist the RAAA communications team, while the marketing intern will focus on conducting audits for the Feeder Calf Certification Program. For application details, visit redangus.org/careers.

COMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 5-7, 2023 – The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is hosting its annual convention at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, OR. To register, visit orcattle.com/annual-convention-registration. Hotel accommodations are at the Oxford Suites or Best Western Pendleton Inn and must be made by Dec. 14 to receive the special rate.

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The National Livestock Weekly

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INSIDE WLJ

PROP 12 DELAYED — A California judge has delayed the enforcement of Proposition 12 until July 2023 in anticipation of a Supreme Court ruling on the matter in the spring. **Page 4**

HOS EXEMPTIONS DENIED — The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration recently denied an application for an exemption to the hours-of-service rules for livestock haulers. **Page 7**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

The holidays always play an important role in the livestock market, as this *WLJ* columnist described in his December 1928 column: "A holiday is just a holiday for the average salaried worker. However, every holiday is costly to the livestock and meat industry, for in these days of automobiles and entertainment a holiday means that the average American housewife takes a day off right along with the rest of the folks. Take the Thanksgiving Day holiday period, which we have just experienced. Poultry is the most favored portion of the big holiday dinner. After the choicest morsels are devoured in the feast, there are the less desirable parts on the following day and soup or hash on Saturday. This means there are three days when there is little or no beef, pork or lamb consumed. For the livestock producer it means that he loses three days' buying power from the meat packer. It behooves the livestock interests to 'watch their step' in preventing markets from being oversupplied during these holiday periods."

INDEX

USDA finalizes Cattle Contracts Library

— Goes into effect Jan. 6

USDA has finalized its rule to create a Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program. Under the new rule, packers that slaughtered an average of 5% or more of the national number of fed cattle slaughtered in the last five years will be required to submit contractual information for the purchase of cattle.

The library will include information about differents types of contracts and contract terms, including:

• Contract terms on any schedules of premiums or discounts.
• Delivery and transportation.
• Terms and payments.
• Financing.
• Risk-sharing or profit-sharing.
• The number of head purchased.
• Other financial arrangements.

Funding was allocated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to create a pilot program to increase market transparency for cattle producers. AMS has been gathering stakeholder feedback since April for the program and created a working model with inactive contracts for testing purposes.

Packer requirements

Under the pilot program, packers will be required to report to AMS with contract information for the purchase of cattle and the number of actual and estimated cattle purchased under active contracts within certain time frames. AMS will only collect contract terms without any personally identifiable information for confidentiality purposes.

According to the rule, "Based on feedback from industry stakeholders, including those who voluntarily submitted contract information, AMS determined the Pilot needed to be mandatory;

See LIBRARY on page 7

Preston Keres/USDA

USDA has finalized its rule for the creation of the Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program, which requires packers to report cattle contract information to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Pictured here, cattle in Canyon, TX.

Bundy desert cattle the subject of potential suit

— Protecting the Mojave desert tortoise

Western Watersheds Project (WWP) has announced its intent to sue the feds for not protecting the Mojave desert tortoise in southern Nevada, claiming Cliven Bundy's cattle are partly to blame for the tortoise's diminished habitat, along with solar panel development.

The WWP issued an intent to sue on Dec. 1, giving several federal agencies 60 days to respond before the group will launch a formal lawsuit. The environmental group claims the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service and Desert Conservation Program failed to comply with and implement the terms of the biological opinion, violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In the notice, the group alleges the government agencies failed to follow the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and its corresponding incidental take permit and implementing agreement. The notice requires the agencies to reinitiate consultation on the plan to consider new information about impacts to the desert tortoise, especially "rampant solar development on federal lands and the species' dramatically declining population."

The group noted the plan allows for the development of private lands in Clark County but requires the county to implement conservation measures for the desert tortoise, which includes buying out grazing privileges on federal lands.

"Although the County secured the allotment privileges and (BLM) closed the allotments administratively, BLM has allowed

See BUNDY on page 6

Judge lets parts of case stand on former Hammond allotments

— Government moved to dismiss

A federal magistrate judge let stand portions of a lawsuit brought by environmental groups over the allotments in the Steens Mountain of Oregon, once used by the Hammond family.

Judge Andrew Hallman for the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon found the government's motion to dismiss the suit as moot should be granted on certain claims by environmental groups, but the majority of the groups' claims should stand.

Western Watersheds Project and three other environmental groups brought suit against the secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), challenging the issuance of a grazing permit to Hammond Ranches Inc. by then-Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.

The groups argued the government violated several provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Administrative Procedure Act and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act.

The groups state the Hammonds overgrazed the allotments during two periods, and they violated the 2019 grazing permit by placing "six times the head of cattle allowed on the Hammond Allotment 10 days before the permit began."

The grazing permit was subsequently withdrawn, and in 2020, BLM announced livestock operators could apply for the grazing allotments. BLM also announced it was beginning the NEPA process and issued a draft allotment plan and environmental assessment (EA). According to court documents, BLM allowed eight days for public comments on the draft documents, "an uncommonly short public comment period," and BLM later ended the protest period before the required 15 days.

"BLM purported to resolve 160 separate protests in a single business day, and then-Secretary Bernhardt issued a final decision to grant grazing privileges to the Ranch on January 19, 2021, the documents state."

The groups filed suit on Feb. 25, 2021, and claimed the government's 2021 grazing decision:

1. Improperly assumed jurisdiction before the decision became a "case" and shortened the protest period before issuing a final grazing decision.

2. Awarded the permit to an unqualified applicant under the Land Policy Act because Hammond Ranches Inc. had a history of violations, and other applicants did not.

3. Based the final decision on a

See SUIT on page 5

Boxed beef fluctuates ahead of the holiday

"Smaller show lists, reduced and sometimes negative processing margins, and fewer cows will be the characteristics of the coming weeks as winter demand slows but supplies of live cattle shrink," the Cattle Report wrote. But we're not there quite yet.

Live cattle futures were lower over the week, with the December contract down 63 cents to $152.42 and the February contract down $1.50 to $153.92.

Cash trade through Thursday was about 30,000 head. Live steers sold from $153-158.50, and dressed steers sold from $246-247.

"It is appearing unlikely packers will be able to break prices this week except in a few instances of weak sellers releasing limited amounts of cattle $2 lower," the Cattle Report wrote. "Lower bids only fetched limited sales in both the north and south, forcing packers to raise bids to complete the week's purchases."

Cash trade for the week ending Dec. 4 totaled 77,500 head. Live steers averaged $156.39, and dressed steers averaged $248.58.

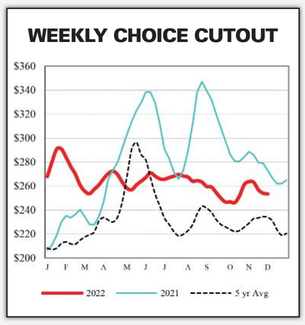
"Packers have three weeks to take money off cash (including this week), which averaged $156.42 last week, before cash will bottom and rally into the first of the year," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote on Wednesday. "Packers will need to resupply their inventory for post-holiday slaughter schedules and cash may not be worse than steady even the week prior to Christmas."

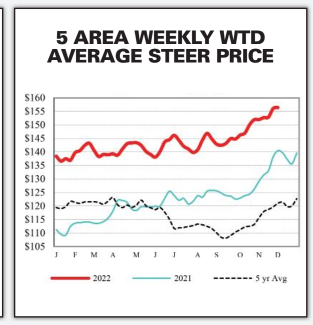
The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 5 was the following on a live basis:

• Negotiated purchases: $156.47.
• Formula net purchases: $156.94.
• Forward contract net purchases: $157.02.
• Negotiated grid net purchases: $154.46.

On a dressed basis:

• Negotiated purchases: $248.05.





See MARKETS on page 9

LIVE STEERS $155.33 | DRESSED STEERS $246.95 | CME FEEDER $179.23

WEEK ENDING: 12-8-22

COMMENTS

Markets get ready to advance


CROW

Cattle markets were struggling to hold on to fed cattle gains; the prevailing price was $157/cwt the first few days of December, and this last week, it looks like $155/cwt. It's hard to figure out if feeders are making any money on their cattle trades. The cost of gain is hovering around $1.50 a pound, and corn is still hanging in the $6.50/bushel trade zone, and it doesn't look like lower feed costs will happen anytime soon. Last time I looked, ethanol producers were using about the same amount of corn as the feed industry. There goes that green economy thing.

In early December, boxed beef prices hit the lowest point of the year at $252. Packers have been processing around 660,000 head per week for quite some time. The rib buying season is almost over since Christmas is about two weeks away; chucks and rounds have been dragging the cutout down. Winter months are generally a slower time for beef sales, but large processing speeds are driving the cutout lower, and they have already put packers in the red—they are losing money right now. Perhaps this is a more predictable long-term trend than we remember.

Retailers are holding on to big margins at this point, and the spread between wholesale and retail beef should be remarkably wide. I'm sure those Christmas prime ribs will cost a pretty penny.

I took a look at the difference between grading and the price of various ribs. The comprehensive cutout value for Prime beef was recently $317, and the Prime wholesale rib price was $765. The Choice cutout was at $253, while the rib was at $496. The Select cutout was $226, and the Select rib was $378. There is a lot of price difference between grades of beef—nearly $60 between Prime and Choice and $90 between Prime and Select. This is supply and demand at its best. The latest grading report showed that on a weekly slaughter basis, the industry is producing 8.8% Prime, 73.3% Choice, 15% Select and 3% utility beef.

Even though the market has been moving higher, it's pretty much the holiday rib run creating the momentum. We're not quite there—the heavy front-end supplies of fed cattle are getting smaller, but we have had large beef production to keep beef values in check.

The folks at HedgersEdge.com said, "Just as the darkest days of winter will soon pass and more hours of daylight will occur, so too the period of record high front-end fed cattle supplies is disappearing in the rearview mirror. Front-end fed cattle supplies (150+ days on feed) are in the early stages of trending below the previous year. By April, this supply will also dive below the previous five-year average. These trends should prevail through 2024, provided estimated marketing levels are met."

Over the past three years, we've seen the nation's cow herd decline. Beef cow slaughter levels have been 12-13% higher than the prior year for the past three years. The next Cattle Inventory report is due out Jan. 31, 2023, and will show the cow herd down 4 million head since this drought started three years ago. The replacement heifer situation generally adds 4.5 million head to the beef cow herd, and it is estimated that 1.5 million heifers didn't make it into the breeding herd, so we should have a net loss of 1 million head of beef cows. Fed heifer slaughter is up 5% from a year ago too.

The packing industry has produced 28.3 billion lbs. of beef during 2022—a record—and it is due to cull cow slaughter from drought. It has been estimated that the January inventory report will be somewhere around 29 million head—not quite as low as 2014, but getting close. In 2013, the cow herd was liquidated to a 60-year low, and 2022 will represent the largest slaughter since 1984.

So, the market had a nice move due to Christmas demand. There are still plenty of front-end supplies of fed cattle, but not many. The cow herd has liquidated to the point that we should start to see prices advance to 2014 levels. Packing plant capacity won't be much of an industry issue until the next cattle cycle starts building. Meanwhile, pray for more rain at the right time. We understand friends in California are getting some. — **PETE CROW**

DITTMER'S TAKE

CAPACITIES, GOVERNMENT AND FARMWORKERS

In my last column, I discussed several packing plants under construction, remodeling or in planning. Since then, the economic principle that always rules over the beef chain—supply and demand—made a major change. Fed cattle supplies are tight, boxed beef prices have dropped significantly, fed cattle prices are up and packers are losing money for the first time in years.

There is all that new capacity in the works, and right now, the existing capacity is fighting over the available cattle supply. That is great for cattlemen for now, and it will last for days or weeks, depending on a lot of variables. But many people have pondered about new capacity coming on in a year or two, when cattle numbers are sure to be lower. Continued drought could make the supplies lower yet.

But we have one thing going for us. The industry is making these decisions; private industry is deciding to add capacity, not the government. I note that because you and I as taxpayers are going to be on the hook for the hundreds of millions of dollars Congress pledged this year in the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act of 2022 to help companies build more chip fabrication plants. The economy and chip demand surged after the pandemic; there weren't enough chips to build cars and electronics, and panic set in.

But wait. As usual, when the government goes where it doesn't belong, the system gets messed up. Now, the economy has slowed down, a recession is either here or coming soon and chip makers are slowing production lines and moaning about too many chips and too much capacity. We suspect some of them will ponder canceling new plants and losing government money or going ahead to get government money and adding to the industry's overcapacity for a number of years.

Speaking of that repulsive mix of congressional ineptitude and crafty politicians, the government is scheduled to run out of budget just about now. Just as the Inflation Reduction Act included things few people knew about, like a major attack on private-sector health insurance alongside Medicare, Congress is again contemplating a monster omnibus spending bill that will have nasty surprises in it. Congress is supposed to approve 12 different spending bills out of committee during the year after hearings and debates. Like irresponsible college students, they end up cramming everything into one monstrosity—thousands of pages—at the last minute. But politicians hide all kinds of nasty things in the monster bills, and, as famously explained by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, they have to pass the bill to find out what's in it.

This year, with little time left on the congressional calendar and the Democrats about to lose their House majority, rather than pass another short-term continuing resolution to deal with the Dec. 16 deadline, the Democrats want to extend the current bloated spending levels through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2023. In addition, the parties have been fighting over irrelevant measures to attach or not attach to the defense appropriations bill.

There is another issue the Democrats would like to push through before their majority disappears. Agriculture has been pleading with the government for years to help them get farmworkers and eliminate government obstacles. Agriculture knows well the fallacy of the saying "There is no work Americans won't do."

Farmworker visas are a complex issue. Democrats want to give amnesty to an estimated 1 million farmworkers here illegally. Republicans want farmworkers with skills and work ethic, but they want the opportunity for citizenship to be earned over time, not just handed to illegals.

However, Republicans don't want any immigration legislation until the Democrats stem the tide of invading illegals. The Democrats also want provisions for migrant workers to more easily sue their employers.

To complicate matters further, even Republicans who oppose granting amnesty lean toward allowing a farmworker exemption.

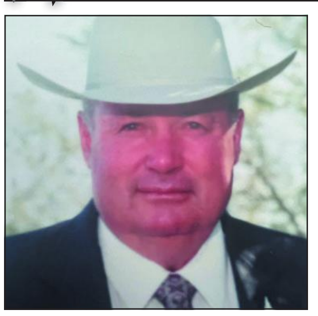
The current law has no seasonal farmworker H-2A cap, but they can only be in the U.S. for 10 months, a problem for employers needing year-round help. The 2021 bill the House passed would create 20,000 three-year slots for year-round farmworkers.

That bill has a complicated system that illegal farmworkers could go through to attain citizenship. One route could allow illegals to work on a "certified agricultural worker" visa for five and a half years, with the possibility of indefinite renewals. Through another route, after working for 14 years, they could apply for a green card.

Time may run out in this Congress.

Also, a California court has extended the enforcement delay of the state's Proposition 12 pork production law. — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

OBITUARIES



Weldon Earl Branch; 1932-2022

Weldon Branch went to be with the Lord on Nov. 30. He passed away peacefully at his Midvale, ID, ranch with family and friends by his side at the age of 90. He lived a full life, and he was loved greatly by his family and friends. Weldon was a faithful husband, great dad, unbelievable grandpa and great-grandpa and a successful rancher.

He was born March 24, 1932, in Weiser, ID, to William Milton Branch and Ellen Hilma (West) Branch. Weldon grew up on the family ranch 13 miles east of Midvale, where his parents were second-generation ranchers. He attended Sweet Home School, a one-room schoolhouse on Crane Creek, and he later graduated from Midvale High School in 1949. Weldon went on to attend the University of Idaho, where he played cornerback on the 1950 Vandals football team.

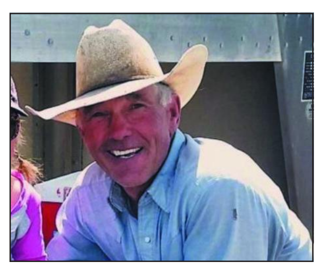
Weldon joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951, and he was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, WA, where he served as a senior athletic specialist. Among other things, his job was to improve the physical condition of pilots on the base, as well as train the military police in judo. He was a brown belt and performed exhibitions on base.

Weldon met Irene Legg as a freshman in high school, and the romance began as he stole the first kiss on the ride home from the Washington County Fair. They would continue to have an affection for each other, and they ultimately married on Sept. 12, 1953.

He spent his first 18 years of marriage on the Bonner place in Midvale, where his ranch and family life started. In 1969, he and Irene bought the Anderson place on North Crane Creek, and in 1971, they moved the family to what is now known as the Branch Keyhole Ranch. Weldon assembled multiple ranches in Washington and Adams counties, state leases, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leases and U.S. Forest Service permits to create their ranch. Weldon and Irene were married and successfully ran the Branch Keyhole Ranch for 70 years.

Weldon served briefly in the Idaho Legislature, served on the Boise District BLM Grazing Advisory Board, was president of the Payette U.S. Forest Service Grazing Advisory Committee, chaired the Public Lands Committee for the Idaho Cattle Association and was active in the Idaho Republican Party, where he served as a committeeman and delegate at the county and state levels. He also served as president of the Indian Mountain Cattle and Horse Allotment for many years. He also served on the school board for the Midvale School District and even found time to manage his sons' little league teams.

Weldon was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Branch; parents, Milton and Ellen Branch; and sister, Shirley Wallace. He is survived by his twin sisters, Lois (Vernon) Sutton of New Plymouth, ID, and Doris (Tom) Wakefield of Fruitland, ID; children, Ric Branch of Kuna, ID, Kathy Branch of Coeur d'Alene, ID, Kerry (Rob) Lundell of Everett, WA, and Ron (Christy) Branch of Redmond, WA; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.



Peter Douglas Bottari; 1952-2022

Peter Douglas Bottari was born to Duilio and EllaMay Bottari of Lamoille, NV, on May 31, 1952. He was a busy little boy who was always hammering on something. At 4 years old, Pete was already helping his dad drive the feed truck, and he didn't stop working on the ranch until cancer stole his ability to do so, just shortly before his death on Oct. 27.

Pete attended grade school at the Lamoille Schoolhouse until 1961, when the school was closed. They were then bused to Elko, NV, to attend school. Pete was very active in FFA, where he held chapter and state offices. Pete graduated from Elko High School in 1970.

In 1971, Uncle Sam had a thing called "the draft." Pete's number was 18, so he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he spent two years serving our country before being released to come home to the ranch and his family that really needed him.

Pete decided to attend farrier school to learn the trade and was very good at his job. He worked the ranch with his dad and shoed horses on the side.

Pete married Jan Alexander and became stepdad to Bill, Chad and Kim. He and Jan later divorced.

One of the highlights in Pete's life every year was the Elko County Fair. He enjoyed going there to visit, having a few adult beverages and dancing the night away. He was a member of the fair board for a few years and was in charge of the stock horse portion.

On Dec. 7, 1994, Pete was finally granted a date with the love of his life, Karen Marvel. Pete had asked Karen out several times and was turned down, but Pete was always very persistent! Karen finally said yes, and from that time on, "Petey" and Karen were a team! The ranch took most of his time, but we always knew that Karen wasn't far from his thoughts.

Pete put his heart, his soul and his time into becoming a good stockman, horseman and rancher. He was up at dawn every day and didn't get done until well after dark. Karen often called Pete "Rip Van Winkle" because if he sat down in a comfortable chair, he was fast asleep!

Pete is preceded in death by his dad, Duilio Bottari; his sister, Peggy Bottari Roberts; all of his grandparents; all of his aunts and uncles; his niece, Allison Bottari; his mother-in-law, Lorraine Urriola; and Karen's aunt, Theresa Paoletti.

Pete is survived by the love of his life, Karen Marvel; her children, Mandi (Darin) and Dusty (Allison); his mom, EllaMay Bottari; his brothers, Paul (Lori), Perry (Kim) and Bart (Jennifer); his sister, Pam (Tom); his nephews, Josh (Tory), Jay (Callie), Jacob (Alex), Brenden and Grysen; and his nieces, Amber (Dave), Abigail (Rob), Sarah, Brooke, Brittany (Ian), Megan (Marc) and Makenna (Kaleb). He is also survived by his stepchildren, Bill (Kim), Chad (Elizabeth) and Kim; stepgrandchildren, Aviana, Bridger, Race, Hunter, Cody, Jessie and Amos; and many honorary family members, as well as many cousins and great friends.

WLJ

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., 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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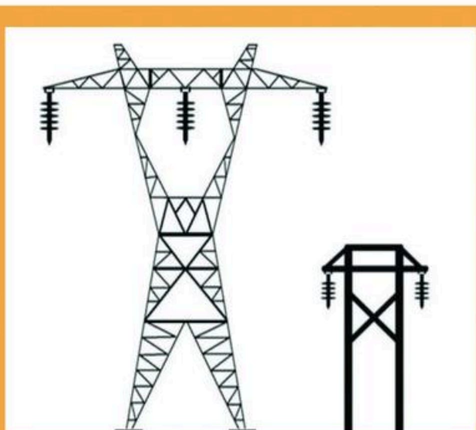

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Ryan Rhoades

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.

Ryan Rhoades' first job out of graduate school was with the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management. After serving on the faculty at the institute for seven years, he took a position as an Extension beef specialist at Colorado State University (CSU), and he has been working primarily in producer outreach for Colorado for the last six years.

Ryan told *WLJ* when he started his position at CSU, he sent out a comprehensive needs assessment to 2,500 beef producers in the state, and the No. 1 response was that producers needed help with business management.

"It was clear that the financials were the No. 1 barrier to success for folks, meaning cash flows, cost of production, debt and all those things that go with it," Ryan said.

The second most common response was that while ranchers routinely collected information in their red book, they did not know their break-even price within 10 cents a pound.

Ryan saw that ranchers needed help turning data into information that could assist with making sound business decisions. Through the needs assessment and what his research showed, he developed the Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado (TRAC) benchmark program.

Ryan said the development of TRAC was based on the work of Stan Bevers and his development of key performance indicators (KPIs). The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and others developed the Beef Cow-Calf Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA), and Bevers took that information and integrated business and production numbers to develop the KPIs.

According to Bever's website, KPIs provide a rancher with an analysis of the operation to standardize how beef cow-calf operations are evaluated from both a production and financial standpoint.

Ryan said many of the KPIs used in TRAC are based on the work that Bevers developed, and the indicators in TRAC are growing and evolving over time.

There are over 20 benchmark KPIs in TRAC based on production metrics, financial metrics, cost of production metrics and cost centers.

One of TRAC's reports, the "TRAC 2022 Priority Report," surveys participating ranches to detail production and financial benchmarks for cow-calf operations in Colorado. The 2022 report's benchmarks are based on over 30 ranches annually over a three-year period. Ryan said he sat down with each ranch individually to listen to their unique successes and challenges and collect an array of production and financial data. The data is analyzed to determine critical metrics, and a customized report with benchmarks is given to the ranch. This gives the producers the ability to compare their numbers internally and externally year after year and evaluate trends.

Ryan continued that ranchers who want to compare themselves to the benchmarks in the report could do so with the use of SPA documents to calculate similar metrics for their ranch. However, Ryan noted that even within Colorado, certain costs can vary from the Western Slope to the Front Range and other parts of the state, but it gives ranchers a good place to start.

Ryan said a major profitability trend he sees from the subset of the 30-plus ranches is the need to appropriately match stocking rate with carrying capacity. Ryan noted that ranchers have reduced their herds due to drought and are reluctant to repurchase cattle when things are better. However, Ryan said, "The folks that come back to or match their stocking rate closer to their carrying capacity are way more profitable." Ryan said this is due to the high fixed-cost structures on ranches and the need to spread those costs over more units to reduce the cost per cow.

Courtesy photo

Ryan Rhoades

"We're talking about developing the right enterprise mix, whether that's getting rid of some cows and adding in stockers so you can adjust inventory with a little more flexibility, but just being stocked appropriately when the time is right is really important," Ryan said.

Another driver of profitability is the overhead cost, and Ryan noted that many producers have too much stuff, and depreciation is oftentimes the biggest contributor.

Ryan is also trying to convince ranchers to look seriously at their hay enterprise.

"A lot of places don't need to be making their own hay because it just costs them way more when they get down into the details than they think," Ryan said.

Ryan noted one of the keys to profitability is not to focus on maximizing production parameters, but to think about optimizing them. Ryan continued that while EPDs for growth have gone up dramatically in the last 20 years, weaning weights have been static during that time. Ryan suggests as much as 20% of the variation in weaning weights could be attributed to one factor: rainfall.

"I tell people if you're already at the median or in the top 30% of weaning weights, you should not even be looking at that or focused on that because it's going to be difficult to cost effectively push that number any higher," Ryan said. "It doesn't matter what the genetic potential is; there seems to be a resource limitation preventing us from fully expressing it."

Ryan clarified that some people might have a differing view, but from what he has seen, it makes the most sense.

Ryan said the types of KPIs used in TRAC and SPA documents are universal, and producers from other states can use those in their operations.

"So, a really interesting finding, if calculated using similar methods, is that the average total cow cost, no matter where you go, no matter what state you're in, (is) fairly similar," Ryan said. "But what's different is how you got to that number, like feed versus depreciation versus pasture lease costs. All the individual line item expenses can be very different, but at the end of the day, the average total cost to run a cow is not all that different."

A copy of TRAC can be obtained by contacting Ryan at ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu. For more information on KPIs and Bevers' work, visit www.ranchkpi.com. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Prop 12 enforcement waits for SCOTUS

A California superior court judge has extended a stay on the enforcement of the state's Proposition 12 animal welfare law until July 2023, pending the outcome of an expected ruling by the Supreme Court in the spring.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in October in a legal challenge by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council. The groups argued the proposition is unconstitutional because it violates the dormant commerce clause by regulating economic activity in states outside California.

Judge James P. Arguelles, in the Superior Court of California for the county of Sacramento, granted the request. Arguelles ordered a delay in enforcement in January 2022 after several groups, including the California Grocers Association, the California Retailers Association and the California Restaurant Association, said in court filings the industry was given no time to comply with the law because regulations had yet to be completed.

"The court also finds that the parties have made a sufficient showing that changed circumstances, including the United States Supreme Court's pending review of a case challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 12, warrant an extension of the existing injunction," Arguelles said in his order.

Proposition 12 went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The law bans the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's new production standards. A federal appeals court upheld the law in 2021.

The law requires hog producers to abide by certain regulations to sell pork in California. Voters in the state passed Proposition 12 in 2018, with nearly 63% of voters supporting it. The law forbids the sale of whole pork meat in California from hogs born of sows not housed in conformity with the law. Proposition 12 forbids sows from being confined in such a way that they cannot lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs or turn around without touching the sides of their stalls or other animals.

The National Pork Producers Council argued in briefs filed with the Supreme Court that the law violates the commerce clause by regulating business beyond its borders. California already imports 99.8% of its pork from producers in other states.

The ag groups said the U.S. industry as a whole would be forced to reduce herd sizes or build costly new facilities, as well as make changes in every aspect of caring for sows, including feeding, breeding, medical care and farm labor.

Back in March 2021, Rabobank said in a report the U.S. pork industry faces a daunting task to comply with Proposition 12 if the legal challenge comes up short. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Biden signs bill blocking railroad strike

President Joe Biden on Dec. 2 signed legislation meant to prevent railroad workers from going on strike, saying that such a strike "would have been an economic catastrophe at a very bad time in the calendar."

The legislation signing and brief comments at the White House ended a week of high-stakes drama in Washington, D.C., that saw Congress immediately act in bipartisan fashion to prevent the 115,000 or so rail workers from potentially shutting down major sectors of the economy, including agriculture.

"Our nation's rail system is literally the backbone of our supply chain, as you all well know. And so much of what we rely on is delivered on our rail, from clean water to food and gas and every other good," Biden said before signing the bill. "A rail shutdown would have devastated our economy. Without freight rail, many U.S. industries would literally shut down."

As many as 765,000 people would have been put out of work within the first two weeks of a rail strike, Biden noted. He also nodded to agricultural risks as well. "Farms and ranches across the country would not have been able to feed their supply stock," he said.

Farm groups representing every commodity and sector were in lockstep throughout the fall as the risks of a rail strike came up repeatedly during the negotiations and the 12 unions' votes over the deal struck in September. Biden pointed out rail workers will receive a "historic" 24% wage increase, improved health care and better working conditions.

"And look, I know this bill doesn't have paid sick leave that these rail workers, and frankly every worker in America, deserves," Biden said. "But that fight isn't over."

The decision to block the strike forced Biden, who called himself a pro-union president, to choose the overall economy over the backing of the rail workers who were willing to strike over paid sick leave.

Biden signed the bill one day after the Senate voted 80-15 to pass the bill that included all provisions of the Presidential Emergency Board agreement struck with the union leaders and railroads in September. The Senate, however, had voted 52-43 on a separate bill that would have given the rail workers seven days of paid sick leave. That bill had cleared the House of Representatives on Nov. 30, mainly with Democratic votes.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), thanked the president and Congress for acting together to avert the strike. Duvall said farmers already face high diesel prices and low water levels that have hindered shipping on the Mississippi River.

Colin Woodall, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, reiterated some of Duvall's comments.

"America's cattle producers are grateful for the bipartisan effort that prevented disruptions in critical rail service across the country," Woodall said. "A rail shutdown would have been disastrous to our supply chain, and would have interrupted the essential feed, fuel and fertilizer shipments cattle producers need. We are pleased that this joint resolution was swiftly passed by Congress and signed into law."

The intense national concerns over a strike came after years of negotiations on a labor deal that did not include paid sick leave. Members of four of the largest unions voted to reject the deal, even though members of eight other unions agreed to ratify it. A strike would have hit as early as Dec. 9, but railroads were already preparing to start scaling back shipments of hazardous materials such as fertilizer if Congress was unable to act.

Congress has intervened 18 times since the late 1920s to avert national strikes that would have hindered interstate commerce. The last time Congress stepped in for a rail strike, however, was 1992, and it was only after the workers had shut down the rail lines for two days. **— Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Judge ruled partially in favor of government

SUIT
(from page 1)

significant impact (FONSI).

4. Failed to ensure the issued permit complied with the sage grouse management plan issued under the Land Policy Act.

5. Issued a permit violating the Steens Act by not adequately protecting the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Area and "misinterpreting the Steens Act to include an additional competing purpose of promoting viable and sustainable grazing operations."

Under the Land Policy Act, grazing decisions must comply with resource management plans, and the groups stated that a management plan for the sage grouse requires vegetative standards to be met on the allotments. The act also requires applicants for renewed grazing permits to have a satisfactory record of performance based on substantial compliance with prior permits and applicable rules and regulations.

"Finally, the Land Policy Act has two procedural requirements: first, the government must hold a 15-day protest period before issuing a final grazing decision, and second, the Secretary can only assume jurisdiction over 'cases,'" court documents show.

The Steens Act requires the secretary to prepare "a comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Federal lands included in the Steens Management Area," according to court documents.

After the suit was filed, the 2021 grazing permit was rescinded and remanded back to BLM for consideration. In April 2021, BLM announced it was engaging in the NEPA process and subsequently published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the allotments.

In February 2022, BLM withdrew the FONSI for the allotments.

On June 29, Hallman heard oral arguments regarding the case, and lawyers for the government moved to dismiss the suit as "moot since there is no live controversy between the parties," said Shannon Boylan, the government's attorney.

The environmental groups assert the withdrawal of the FONSI did not include the EA and did not remove all doubt about the mootness of the case.

Hallman, in the findings, stated the government made it clear that the future process of issuing a final grazing permit will include a sufficient time period for protest, and the grazing decision will not be made based on the challenged EA and FONSI. As a result, Hallman ruled in favor of the government on the portion of the first claim regarding the shortened protest period and on the third claim.

However, Hallman let stand the other claims by the environmental groups since the government did not clearly state that it incorrectly issued the permit to Hammond Ranches Inc. despite the ranch's history of violations or that the prior permit violated the Steens Act or the sage grouse management plan. Hallman further stated the government made no representations that it would avoid the challenged acts in the future.

"As a result, the court cannot find that it is absolutely clear that the government will not issue a grazing permit on the allotments to the ranch or issue a permit in line with the alleged violations to the Steen's Act or applicable land use plans," Hallman wrote. "Nor can the court find that the Secretary will not assume jurisdiction over the permit decision before BLM issues a decision."

Hallman denied the government's motion to dismiss the second, fourth and fifth claims, along with the portion of the environmental groups' first claim related to the secretary prematurely assuming jurisdiction of the grazing decision.

Objections to the findings and recommendation issued by Hallman must be submitted by Dec. 13. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Inflation redefines holiday food shopping

Inflation is redefining holiday shopping as consumers make adjustments to their budgets, new research from the Center for Food Integrity (CFI) shows.

"They are looking for opportunities to maintain the comfort and nostalgia of the holidays while being mindful of the impact on their pocketbook at the same time," said Mickie French, CFI executive director.

Consumers especially want high-quality items for a lower price, according to CFI's latest Illuminate Digital Cultural Insights research, which was conducted in partnership with FMI, the food industry association. Illuminate leverages digital ethnography that analyzes millions of online conversations in real time.

In addition, consumers are reevaluating the equation of time versus money as they try to determine how much their time really is worth in an inflationary environment. As a result, they are weighing which shopping conveniences are worth the cost during the busy holiday season.

One way is by considering if online grocery shopping is worth the delivery fee. For families with young children and those working more than one job, delivery could help them save time and gas by eliminating a trip to the store.

"According to FMI's 'U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends: Holiday Shopping' report, 45% of consumers are most concerned about rising meal prices as compared to other holiday expenses," said Steve Markenson, director of research for FMI. "Fortunately, most shoppers indicate they are in control of their grocery budgets, with 71% of consumers making some adjustment to their holiday meal shopping to adapt to the changing economic landscape. This indicates that shoppers are still able to find budget-friendly items to meet their needs."

Shopping patterns were significantly disrupted by the pandemic, and higher food prices are now causing more changes for food retailers and shoppers, he said.

As they prepare for the holidays, shoppers are looking for ways to save money on groceries by choosing discount retailers and store brands. They are also investigating other options, such as buying in bulk and using coupons.

"The insights provide valuable information for the food system to understand and anticipate consumers' needs as the food system works to ensure everyone has access to food that meets their needs and budgets," French said.

The research also shows that inflation is impacting gift-giving, causing shoppers to redefine "luxury."

"They are prioritizing the emotional feelings of luxury, such as comfort and wellness, instead of high price tags," she said.

That means they are making room in their holiday budgets for small, affordable luxuries that stand out from their everyday purchases for themselves and for others. They are also opting toward giving practical gifts this year.

Inflation and higher prices are affecting consumers at all levels, French said. The research showed that low-income to lower-middle-class consumers and those with children are most likely to be talking about this topic. —**CFI**

WWP: Solar panels adding to tortoise decline

BUNDY
(from page 1)

trespass grazing to continue unchecked on the Gold Butte allotment lands in desert tortoise critical habitat that is required to be protected as a term of the (plan)," the notice read, referring to Bundy's cattle, which the group alleges have been grazing on the allotment for decades.

"For almost thirty years, Cliven Bundy has grazed his cattle on public lands without a grazing permit and without paying rent," said Erik Molvar, WWP executive director, in a news release. "These cattle have disturbed the native desert ecosystems and promoted the expansion of flammable annual weed called red brome, resulting in major fires that burned more than 80,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat in 2005 alone. It's time to evict the cattle."

Declining numbers

WWP asserts that the populations of desert tortoises are plummeting. The group contends that solar projects have largely led to the decline, using the example of two recent utility-scale solar projects under construction in the Mojave Desert of California. Tortoises were removed from the solar project sites and moved elsewhere.

According to the group, during clearance surveys on 8,000 acres, no juvenile tortoises were found under roughly 7 inches in shell length. In another area of 5,000 acres, the smallest tortoise found measured about 9 inches in shell length, which is an estimated age of at least 35 years old.

"This indicates a lack of survivorship and no recruitment into adulthood of the tortoise population in this region," the notice read. "Habitat destruction from large-scale solar projects was indicated as a major cause, including indirect effects of project development extending outwards on adjacent tortoise habitat."

The notice concludes by noting the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit is the exception to the desert tortoise's decline and suggests this is a result of most livestock grazing being removed from the critical habitat area. —**Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Feds reject plan for longer livestock hauls on highways

Livestock groups are disappointed about a regulatory decision by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) denying an exemption application over hours-of-service (HOS) rules for hauling livestock.

FMCSA handed down the decision on Nov. 29 to deny an application from several livestock and agricultural groups over the HOS rules.

The livestock groups asked FMCSA back in 2019 to allow haulers to drive a total of 15 hours in a 16-hour period. Right now, livestock haulers are permitted to drive in an exemption zone within a radius of 150 air miles from the source of the commodity, and the time spent driving in that zone doesn't count toward the HOS limits. The livestock groups requested to add the 15-hour drive limit outside of that 150-air-mile radius. The request applied to all livestock, insect and aquatic animal haulers and their drivers.

Typically, HOS rules limit drivers to 11 hours of driving after 10 consecutive hours off duty. Drivers are required to take at least a 30-minute break after driving for eight cumulative hours. Drivers may not drive beyond the 14th consecutive hour after coming on duty.

The groups making the request were the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), American Farm Bureau Federation, American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association and National Aquaculture Association.

The livestock groups said the maximum driving and on-duty limits under the HOS rules could place livestock at risk and impose more burdens on livestock haulers in rural areas of the country.

"We are disappointed in FMCSA's decision, especially when the cattle and beef supply chain faces continued stress from driver shortages and a potential rail strike," said Kent Bacus, NCBA executive director of government affairs. "Hauling cattle is very different from hauling consumer goods, which is why NCBA will continue urging congressional leaders to support expanded hours-of-service flexibility for livestock haulers so they can continue making their critical deliveries."

In their application, livestock groups suggested drivers could maintain the same level of safety and awareness by adopting fatigue risk management practices used in countries such as Australia.

"We are disappointed FMCSA denied the request without more seriously considering or addressing the proposed safety measures industry brought forward," said Jara Settles, LMA general counsel and vice president of risk management. "Livestock haulers have an excellent safety record, and our drivers haul a very unique cargo. The Livestock Marketing Association and the groups we work with will continue to seek common-sense flexibilities for these special drivers to make sure livestock get where they need to go in a safe and responsible manner while meeting the ever-growing needs of the American food supply."

The application drew 359 comments filed by various groups, including individual truckers who haul livestock. Livestock groups supported the additional four hours of drive time to get livestock to their destination quicker, especially in warmer weather. Supporters noted livestock typically cannot withstand the stress of being stopped for 10 hours without airflow and the added time in a trailer.

The application by livestock groups was opposed by the National Transportation Safety Board, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, the Truckload Carriers Association, the Iowa Motor Truck Association (IMTA) and the Animal Welfare Institute.

IMTA commented that livestock haulers should be held to the same HOS standards as the rest of the industry. If a load requires more than the normal 11 hours of driving, then a carrier should be required to put a team of two drivers in the vehicle. This would allow them to get the load delivered but also remain in compliance with HOS rules, the group stated.

In denying the application, FMCSA ruled that once the 15 hours of drive time were stacked on the 150-air-mile exemption zone, that would translate into potentially 21 or more hours of driving during a work shift. That type of sustained driving "would not likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent the exemption."

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04) denounced the decision, saying the Department of Transportation (DOT) did not consider the recommendations of farmers and ranchers who transport livestock.

"It will also cause undue harm and leave these animals susceptible to heat, cold, and other extreme conditions," Newhouse said. "With unprecedented supply chain disruptions, a looming threat of a rail shutdown, and a truck driver shortage facing communities across the country, now is not the time to be placing additional stressors on this industry. DOT should reverse this decision and continue working to meet the unique needs of livestock transportation." **— Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Listening session planned before library pilot rollout

LIBRARY
(from page 1)

otherwise, the Cattle Contract Library would be incomplete, and the information would be potentially misleading if packers self-select the contract terms they provide," just as the Swine Contract Library is mandatory for packers.

According to USDA, the following contract clauses must be submitted: contract method, contract start and end dates, base price source and adjustment, selling basis, premiums and discounts, specifications relating to cattle attributes, delivery and transportation terms and payments, financing, risk-sharing, profit-sharing or other financial arrangements, and volume provisions.

On a monthly basis, packers will be required to submit the number of actual cattle purchased under active contracts in the prior month, along with the estimated maximum number of cattle to be purchased under active contracts for slaughter in the current calendar month.

The final rule was posted in the Federal Register on Dec. 7 and goes into effect on Jan. 6, 2023. Beginning on that date, packers must submit the required contractual clauses for each active contract, regardless of whether the contract is written or oral. Packers will then be required to submit the same information for each new active contract, along with any changes to previously submitted active contracts.

"Because the packers prepare these contracts in advance of their offering those contracts to producers, AMS determined these submission timeframes to be reasonable," the rule read.

To view the final rule in its entirety, search for docket number AMS-LP-22-0065 at federalregister.gov. AMS plans to host a cattle industry listening session in early January to discuss the pilot program prior to its official rollout.

Industry support

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed the final rule and said it was looking forward to continuing to work with USDA as the pilot program launches. "We are pleased that USDA listened to feedback from stakeholders like NCBA while crafting the final rule on the Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program," said NCBA Senior Director of Government Affairs Tanner Beymer in a statement.

"We are hopeful that this pilot program will strike an appropriate balance between offering cattle producers additional insight into the market while also protecting their proprietary business information."

Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), lead Republican on the agriculture subcommittee within the Senate Committee on Appropriations and a staunch supporter of the measure, also applauded the rule's finalization.

"This cattle contract library that we worked to secure at AMS will serve as an important resource to America's livestock producers, giving them more of the information they need to get the best price and terms for the sale of their cattle," Hoeven said in a news release.

"At the same time, we continue working to strengthen enforcement of our laws, while opening new opportunities for producers to sell their products. That means more competition in cattle markets, which ultimately benefits both ranchers and consumers." **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Senate version of bill to stop SEC climate rules

Sens. John Boozman (R-AR) and Mike Braun (R-IN) have introduced a Senate version of the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act, which would exempt farmers and ranchers from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting rules proposed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Senate bill is a companion piece of legislation to the House bill introduced by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK-03) earlier this year. Lucas introduced the bill in response to the SEC's announcement of a proposed rule that would require all public companies to disclose GHG emissions from operations a company owns or controls in addition to indirect GHG emissions that occur upstream and downstream in the supply chain.

"The authors of this rule clearly lack an understanding of how agriculture works. The publicly traded corporations overseen by the SEC won't be the ones tasked with complying with these onerous 'value chain' rules," Boozman said in a statement. "That responsibility would fall on America's family farmers and ranchers who would be forced to deal with (an) unprecedented amount of unnecessary paperwork. This is the last thing they need to deal with as they struggle in the face of record high input costs, supply chain bottlenecks, labor shortages, drought and other natural disasters."

The Protect Farmers from the SEC Act is backed by several agriculture organizations, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), which said in a statement the SEC's proposal would increase the burden on ranchers with onerous regulations.

"NCBA is proud to support the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act because it ensures that federal regulators do not overstep their jurisdiction and it protects cattle producers from additional government red tape," said NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart. "We thank Senators Boozman and Braun for their focus on this issue."

NCBA said while the climate rules are aimed at large corporations, producers could be required to comply with the rules since they are part of the supply chain for public restaurants and retailers. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 12/8/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	155.33	▲	155.23	140.05
CME Feeder Index	179.23	▲	178.40	161.63
Boxed Beef Average	247.28	▼	253.57	264.55
Average Dressed Steers	246.95	▲	245.00	220.01
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,385	▲	1,383	1,393
Weekly Slaughter**	663,000	▲	581,000	676,000
Weekly Beef Production***	553.7	▲	497.1	562.5
Hide/Offal Value	13.92	▼	14.72	14.06
Corn Price	6.32	▼	6.50	5.88

*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	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
December 5	7,174	251.42	223	317.25	1,251	257.06	2,127	249.38	765	226.50	2,808	205.84
November 28	6,903	255.74	201	327.37	1,223	262.12	1,981	253.63	715	230.39	2,782	212.92
November 21	6,514	257.95	218	336.69	1,195	265.27	2,185	255.05	777	232.05	2,140	213.84
November 14	6,337	260.46	167	342.17	1,195	268.67	1,795	258.32	841	232.31	2,338	215.76

Cutouts

	FED BOXED BEEF				
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Dec 8	247.28	220.55	186.77	77.92	236.00
Dec 7	248.96	219.77	190.00	71.87	240.53
Dec 6	242.65	219.14	192.07	76.33	245.14
Dec 5	243.31	221.11	190.40	75.48	241.54
Dec 2	249.93	224.56	189.16	75.11	239.60

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	12/2	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	High*	Low*
Dec.	15335	15323	15155	15193	15243	15380	13055
Feb.	15588	15583	15363	15355	15393	15703	14003
Apr.	15958	15958	15763	15763	15805	16013	15388
Jun.	15620	15628	15448	15435	15493	15850	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	12/2	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	High*	Low*
Jan.	18245	18378	18180	18090	18348	18703	16958
Mar.	18528	18638	18415	18325	18505	18748	17595
Apr.	18863	18953	18733	18660	18835	18953	18303
May	19158	19225	19020	18970	19153	19225	18755

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

FED CATTLE TRADE

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
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
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	12,454	1,412	155.232
Live FOB Heifer	6,416	1,292	155.11
Dressed Del Steer	78	992	245.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	10,315	1,488	140.05
Live FOB Heifer	3,259	1,319	140.00
Dressed Del Steer	1,540	976	220.01
Dressed Del Heifer	127	823	220.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: DECEMBER 4

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	23,258	4,018
Formula	250,061	1,108
Negotiated Cash	107,727	244
Negotiated Grid	53,957	1,986
Packer Owned	11,707	0
Total	**446,710**	**7,356**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

Delivery Month			
Dec. '22	116,404	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,954
Jan. '23	125,917	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,248
Feb. '23	91,229	Formula sales	3,715
Mar. '23	118,536	Forward contract sales	257
Apr. '23	121,725	Domestic sales	6,111
		NAFTA Exports	114

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	136.77	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	136.49	+1.74
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	140.98	+2.42
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	139.88	+2.35
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	71.74	+0.26

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, November 25, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	201.66	202.03	195.29
601-700 lbs	186.28	185.76	180.59
701-800 lbs	179.96	179.19	172.25
801-900 lbs	172.67	171.60	171.30
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	177.00	177.44	156.90
501-600 lbs	168.51	166.59	165.70
601-700 lbs	160.11	158.60	147.89
701-800 lbs	153.43	154.47	155.45

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
	12/3/22	**11/26/22**		
Feeders	32,174	14,623	756,041	1,012,069

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 25,000 **Week Ago Act: 11,607** **Year Ago Act: 28,211**

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 203.00-213, few 215.00; 400-500 lbs 183.00-193.00, few 195.00; 500-600 lbs 165.00-175.00; 600-700 lbs 150.00-160.00, few 165.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 188.00-198.00; 400-500 lbs 168.00-178.00; 500-600 lbs 150.00-160.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 173.00-183.00, few 185.00; 400-500 lbs 163.00-173.00, few 175.00; 500-600 lbs 153.00-164.00, few 165.00; 600-700 lbs 143.00-154.00, few 155.00.

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

Selected Auction Week Ending December 8, 2022

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2

DATE MARKET		STEERS / HEIFERS 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 2 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		180-221 160-187	180-218 160-194	170-213 155-187	155-187 147-168	150-170 145-153	140-161 137-150	56-67 65-80		NORTHWEST
December 1 Burley, ID	N/A		220.50-244 194	195-230 181-196	188-205 171	165-176.50 162-172	167-169 156-165	164.50-166	52-74 76-107		NORTHWEST
December 7 Emmett, ID	226				166-179.50	161-166	120-125	87-91.50	63.50-76 81-83		NORTHWEST
No report available Eugene, OR											NORTHWEST
December 5 Madras, OR	1,414		225-253 200-220	225-245 180-212	195-219.50 170-193	175-183 160-173	160-174 145-160	148-159	65-80 85-93		NORTHWEST
November 30 Vale, OR	1,114		190-214 157-188	176-229 150-194	170-201 152-180	160-181.50 147-167.50	154-173.75	147-151	65-75 72-90		NORTHWEST
No report available Davenport, WA											NORTHWEST
December 6 Toppenish, WA	1,230									1,350-1,525 775-2,325	NORTHWEST
December 2 Orland, CA	4,531			180-230 198	160-216 188	140-208 184	130-209 185	120-180	40-79 75-116		FARWEST
December 7 Escalon, CA	N/A								55-75 80-100		FARWEST
December 5 Famoso, CA	295				140-150	150-180 140-152	145-160 120-155		70-75 85-90		FARWEST
December 6 Galt, CA	1,365			170-210 160-206	165-205 150-185	145-195 140-175	140-186 125-170		65-90 90-114		FARWEST
November 29 Turlock, CA	787		150-185	180-200 145-180	170-190 142-161				68-88 78-110		FARWEST
November 29 Salina, UT	1,281	187.50-245	175-240 150-205	176-226 140-187	152.50-212 135-171	147.50-188 130-163	141-172.50 125-157.50	120-163.50 110-148	56-79.75 65-89		FARWEST
December 5 Iowa	17,648	222-227 200	190-255 174-205	183-260 156-201	165-244 140-197.50	165-203.75 143-185	160-200.25 140-179	145-184.50 124-169.75	54.50-93 42-107		NORTH CENTRAL
December 6 Miles City, MT	2,325		241-255 201-208	217-256.50 188-208	191-222.75 177.50-204	181-195.50 176	180.50	169 157-167.50	58-67 63-93	900 610-1,260	NORTH CENTRAL
December 7 Bassett, NE	4,800		236-259 214	232-246 198-217	208-248 194-209.50	193-223.50 165.50-184	185.50-201.50	146-168.50			NORTH CENTRAL
December 3 Ericson, NE	4,710		295 210-238	226-261 198.50-221	201-242.75 181.50-212	183-214 172-181.50	178-204.25 170-174.50	165-182.25			NORTH CENTRAL
No report available Imperial, NE											NORTH CENTRAL
No report available Kearney, NE											NORTH CENTRAL
December 2 Lexington, NE	2,514		241	212-214 189-192.50	200-232.50 180-207.25	187-211 170-185.50	202.50-207.75	170.50-185 170-176.50			NORTH CENTRAL
December 1 Ogallala, NE	5,160	302.50	222-291 209-213	241-272 186.50-204	187.50-240 175.50-206	182-213 164.50-184.50	179.50-191.50 165-172	170-175.50 160-175			NORTH CENTRAL
December 1 Valentine, NE	3,710		230	221-250 201-226.50	214-229 180.50-207.50	204.75-224 171-202.50	203.25-221 170-193	176.50-194.75 137-179.50			NORTH CENTRAL
December 2 Herreid, SD	4,801		249 198-200	229.50-261 188-227	199.75-228 174.50-206	189-215 171	177 175	177.50-189 175.50-180.50			NORTH CENTRAL
No report available Torrington, WY											NORTH CENTRAL
December 1 Willcox, AZ	1,305	222-235 173-180	212.50-246 168-186	181-217 165-195.50	169-190.50 166-188	156.50-175.50 141-169.50			52-91 72-91	1,100-1,350 925-1,035	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 5 Colorado	11,707		232-256 196-225	197-237 171-210	180.50-220 160-196	167-198.50 158-174.50	162-185 155-170.35	132-178 118-159.25	56-89 70-104	710-1,525	SOUTH CENTRAL
November 23 La Junta, CO	3,024				183-211 163-181	176-196 155-170	161-181 157-161	158-163 146-158			SOUTH CENTRAL
December 5 Loma, CO	1,003		220-231 203-219	201-220 192-197.50	197-219 180-192	173-188 161	168-175 157-161	148-170.50 144-159	67-76 84-92		SOUTH CENTRAL
December 7 Dodge City, KS	4,411	250	185.50-253 189-226	187.50-263 155-236	171-227 150-187.50	163-218 151-176.25	149-186 163-172.75	161.50-184.10 149.75-165	54-78 72-98	1,775 825-1,125	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 8 Pratt, KS	2,500		219 161-196	161-224 190.50-205	178-204.50 169-191.50	185-213 164-172	176-185 156-165.50	150-179.25 155.50-163.50			SOUTH CENTRAL
December 1 Salina, KS	3,584		214-240 198-214	205-230 181-208	194.50-221 154-189	162-199.50 160-175	172-186.50 166-172	171-188.60 153.50-170			SOUTH CENTRAL
December 7 Clovis, NM	2,312	228-240 201-210	215-246 180-203	198-219 169-186.50	181-201 155-179	155-187 150-161	144.50-170 133.50-147.50	133-149 141.50-143	60-72 72.25-95	900-1,500 550-1,400	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 7 El Reno, OK	10,427	250 227.50	220-252 190-215	188-247.50 177-210	197-226 169-189	178-202.50 161-178.50	167-193.50 164-168	156-186.50 141-165			SOUTH CENTRAL
December 7 McAlester, OK	1,755		209-230 177-196	195-219 165-181	175-204 150-176	152-187 139-165	140-169 140-145	122-160 120-122	59-78 88-103	1,000-1,475 1,000-1,275	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 7 Oklahoma City, OK	13,925	232-247 211-219	215-261 180-226	201-244 165-229	180-227 164-190	175-220 158-182	170-195 157-172	153-179 162-166.50			SOUTH CENTRAL
December 2 Cuero, TX	2,309	185-246 138-240	175-260 153-256	181-230 157-224	159-202 146-194	150-180 139-188	136-160	126-148	50-75 80-100		SOUTH CENTRAL
December 1 Dalhart, TX	2,945		235-254 196-215	190-232 160-183	184-208 169-188	161-186 149-170.50	150-180 155-170.50	160-180.50 130-163	69-82 73-90		SOUTH CENTRAL
December 1 San Angelo, TX	855	224-240 194-209	226-242 190-213	206-230 171-182	186-192 161.50	174	148		68-78.50 73-99	825-1,235	SOUTH CENTRAL
December 1 Tulia, TX			210-220	190-217 165-185	171-202 171-174	168-177 149-168.50	172-180 171.50	150-159	65-70 70-94		SOUTH CENTRAL
December 2 Alabama	15,240	210 152-178	184-225 148-185	175-205 140-174	156-192 130-160	145-185 118-157	125-168 114-151	120-165.75	55-81 78-100	725-1,700 575-1,850	EAST
December 5 Lexington, KY	2,236	186-194* 143-157.50*	170-196* 140-161*	163-192* 136-157.50*	159-186.50* 134-161*	146-169.75* 130-169*	143-167* 120-135*	112-171.25* 100-121*	56-84 64-108.50	1,300-1,675 850-1,250	EAST
December 5 Joplin, MO	10,522		225-260 184-210	207.50-243 172-196	191-213 167-185	180-191 163-174	178-185 166-171.25	175-187.25 153-165.75			EAST
December 5 Tennessee	9,241	171-207.50* 130-176*	167.50-212.50* 127-180*	160-202* 126-188.50*	138-185* 118-160*	120-183.75* 115-164.75*	122.50-174.50* 120-143*	117-170* 100-138*	48-88 65-125	1,075-1,500 700-1,250	EAST
December 5 Virginia	3,601	121	170-190 100-164.50	145-200 105-159	114-188.50 116-153	138-171 115-142	125-173.50 93.50-140	117-157.50 108-136			EAST
CANADA											
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta											

Feeder cattle markets jump into December

Oklahoma feeder cattle auction prices jumped sharply the week after Thanksgiving. Calf prices, in particular, were $10-15/cwt higher, and all classes were $6-10 higher after Thanksgiving. Several factors contributed to the strength in feeder prices. Improving feeder futures prices, a stronger fed cattle market and limited supplies of feeder cattle all combined to push prices higher.

Oklahoma feeder auction volumes have been smaller five of the past six weeks after being higher year over year all summer and in early fall. The volume of feeder cattle in Oklahoma auctions recently was down 19.4% compared to the same week last year. In the 16 weeks from July 1 through mid-October, the cumulative extra feeder cattle volume over last year totaled 71,397 head. Since mid-October, feeder volumes have been bringing the cumulative total since July 1 down to 52,808 head. In other words, the cumulative total of increased early sales of feeder cattle still far exceeds the reduction in the past six weeks. Smaller volumes will likely persist for the rest of the year at least.

It appears that most winter wheat is up, with stands that vary from spotty to good. The final USDA Crop Progress report of 2022 was issued at the end of November and showed that 95% of Oklahoma wheat is up, equal to the same week last year and 1 percentage point higher than the five-year average. The condition of Oklahoma wheat was rated at 12% very poor, 12% poor, 45% fair, 30% good and just 1% excellent. This shows that the stands are rather lackluster, and almost none are grazable or will be grazable before the end of the year.

Depending on moisture and temperature conditions through December, some wheat may grow enough for turnout after Jan. 1. All in all, wheat grazing will be very limited, and most grazing that does occur will be used to supplement forage supplies for animals on hand.

Cattle slaughter and beef production are tightening in the final weeks of the year. Total weekly beef production was down 1% in the most recent weekly data. This is the largest decline in weekly beef production since the first few weeks of the year. The expectation is to begin seeing consistent week-over-week decreases in beef production. The most recent weekly data showed the continuing contrast in steer and heifer slaughter.

Steer slaughter was down 6.4% compared to the same week last year, while heifer slaughter was up 4.6%. Combined steer plus heifer slaughter was down 2.1%, contributing to the decrease in weekly beef production. Total steer plus heifer slaughter is up 0.8% for the year to date.

Beef production in 2022 has also been boosted by increased cow slaughter. Beef cow slaughter is up 12.1% year over year for the year to date. However, beef cow slaughter has been up only about 3% the past two weeks, suggesting that herd liquidation may be slowing down. For the year to date, cull cow and bull beef production has been up 4.1% year over year. Going forward into the new year, heifer and cow slaughter should decline, thereby allowing total slaughter and beef production to decrease. **— Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeders find momentum higher

MARKETS

(from page 1)

• Formula net purchases: $248.77.

• Forward contract net purchases: $235.74.

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $245.82.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 508,000 head, several thousand head more than a week earlier. Slaughter for a week earlier totaled 663,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Nov. 26 was 589,008 head (46.5% steers, 32.6% heifers). Dressed steers were 842 lbs.

Boxed beef prices printed lower, with the Choice cutout down $6.29 to $247.28 and the Select cutout down $4.45 to $220.55.

"Welcome to the world of the volatile holiday rib! USDA estimated boxed beef cutout values are gyrating wildly thanks mostly to the typical swings of the holiday rib market," Fish said. "(Tuesday), the rib primal closed at $479/cwt. Today it printed at $544/cwt!"

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle contracts were modestly higher, with the January contract up $2.40 to $183.47 and the March contract up 75 cents to $185.05.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 83 cents to close at $179.23.

"Feeder cattle traders could be feeling more confident as recent boxed beef prices have found some support, which could incentivize buyers to restock their pens as they believe that packer demand will remain," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in her Thursday midday comments.

Corn futures dropped lower, with the December contract down 18 cents to $6.32 and the March contract also down 18 cents to $6.42.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 7,060 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, steer calves under 600 lbs. sold $5-8 higher, and over 600 lbs. were $2-3 higher. Heifer calves under 550 lbs. sold mostly steady, and over 550 lbs. were $3-5 higher. Yearling feeder steers were steady, and yearling feeder heifers sold steady to $1 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold between $175-184.50 and averaged $181.31.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers traded steady to $3 higher, with feeder heifers trading steady. Benchmark steers averaging 781 lbs. sold between $180-182.25, averaging $181.58.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 14,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers traded unevenly steady and were lightly tested. Steer calves sold $4-7 higher, with instances of $12 higher. Heifer calves over 450 lbs. sold unevenly steady, and under 450 lbs. sold $15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 757 lbs. sold between $173-186, averaging $178.77.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 3,724 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers sold steady to $5 higher, with instances of $13 higher. Steers under 500 lbs. sold steady to $3 lower. Feeder heifers sold $1-5 higher, with instances of $12 higher. Heifers 400-500 lbs. sold $1-5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 740 lbs. sold between $185-196, averaging $187.56. **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Lubbock Stockyards closing after 54 years

After 54 years of serving the area's ranchers, Tony and Judy Mann announced they closed the doors of Lubbock Stockyards in Lubbock, TX, on Dec. 10.

The sale barn was started in 1968 on 50 acres in south Lubbock when Arthur Hamilton built the blue sale barn. Delton Caddell bought the barn, and Mann worked for him until 1983, when he and his wife, Judy, purchased the barn.

"I didn't know anything about running an auction, but I learned pretty quick," Mann told local news outlet Everything Lubbock. "I've been doing it for 39 1/2 years. My wife runs my office, and I run outside."

The Manns' kids and grandkids worked at the sale barn, and Mann told local news outlet KCBD 11 that now that the children had grown, they had a decision to either hire someone or sell the business.

Mann said the decision to sell was based on his and Judy's age, as well as the number of dwindling cattle. Every Tuesday, Lubbock Stockyards held an auction for cattle, sheep and goats, with a horse auction once a month.

"We've been doing it, and we like what we've done," Mann said. "It's had its ups and downs. We started out running a lot more cattle than we do right now, but I'm fixing to be 73 years old in December, and it's kind of time to slow down."

The Manns are grateful for their customers and their role in the livestock industry.

"It was kind of a sad deal and a good deal for my family because we've been doing it for so long," Mann said. "Times are changing, and it's time to change with it." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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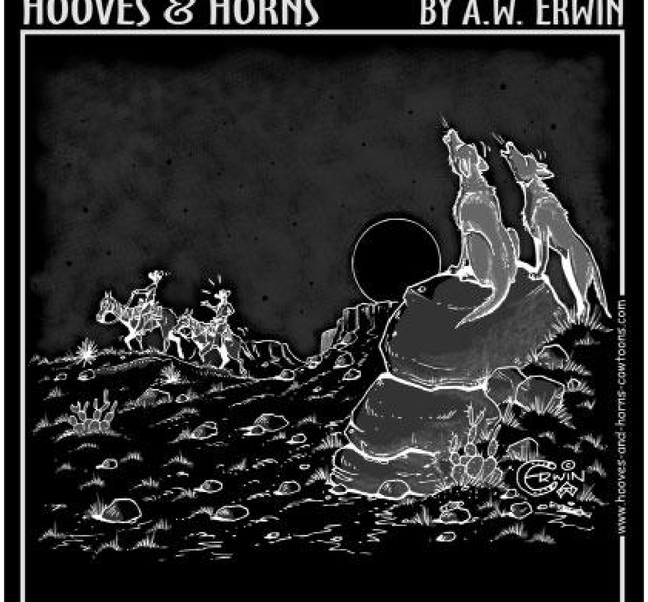
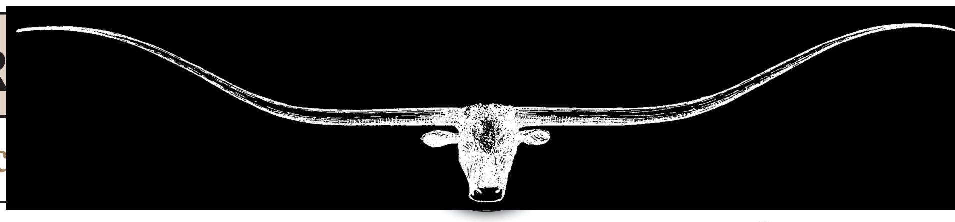


"Hear that? I'm bettin'dey jus'checked their mail an'saw their property taxes too!"

CLASSIFIED CORR



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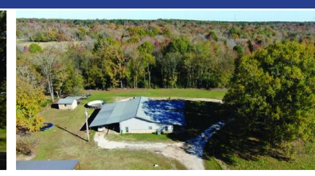

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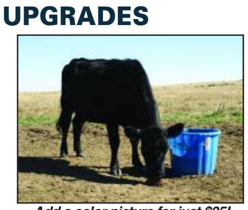

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CURIOUS ABOUT CLASSIFIEDS?

Feeding baled crop residues while wintering beef cows

Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Rancher's Thursday Lunchtime Series on Nov. 17 featured Mary Drewnoski from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who presented on feeding baled crop residues to beef cows as an alternative to feeding normal hay crops. To effectively feed cows through the winter, producers should understand the quality of the forage they are feeding, how it fits the cow's nutrient requirements and how it impacts forage intake.

Crop residues like wheat straw, cornstalks or soybean residue are low-quality roughages, with total digestible nutrient (TDN) content ranging from around 39% for soybean residue to 45% for wheat straw and cornstalks. Protein levels are also very low, at around 3-5%. Also, the bottom end of the corn or sorghum stalk is very low in nutrient quality, so cows will sort out most of this portion, and intake will be very low. Drewnoski stated that grain sorghum residue is actually higher in TDN content and crude protein, with 52-55% TDN content and 5-7% crude protein.

Grain sorghum residue can meet the requirements of a cow in late gestation, the stage most of our spring-calving cows are in from now through mid-February, while other residues from corn, wheat or soybean harvests will need significant supplementation for these cows.

Hay baled from a failed soybean crop is much higher in quality than residues baled after harvest. Soybean hay often reaches 55% TDN content and 14-20% crude protein. It is key to capture the soybean leaf because that is where the best nutrient content is, and the stems are low in energy. Also, the pod adds a lot of protein and energy as it fills because of the high protein and oil content of the soybean seeds. It is very hard to dry down soybean hay because of the stems and pods, so Drewnoski warns of the potential of mold forming in the bales.

Drewnoski gave some final comments:

• The residue bales should be sampled for analysis to determine the feeding value. At least 15 to 20 bales should be sampled from each field.

• Be aware of nitrate issues in these residues and test to ensure levels are below toxic thresholds.

• Feeding waste will be an issue.

• Feeding processed hay and residue on the ground can result in losses of up to 40%, so feeding in a bunk is advisable.

• Open-bottom round bale feeders can have up to 30% waste; sheeted-bottom feeders can reduce this to 20%. Cone feeders reduce the waste to less than 10%.

This webinar and other archived webinars from this series can be found on the OSU Beef Extension website at extension.okstate.edu. — **Paul Beck, OSU Extension beef nutrition specialist**

SALE REPORTS

SITZ ANGUS FALL BULL SALE
Dec. 1, Harrison, MT
460 2-year-old bulls . . .$7,236
295 Commercial bred heifers 3,576
163 Commercial bred cows 2,938
Auctioneers: Roger Jacobs & Joe Goggins

TOPS: Sitz Resilient 1299, 1/29/21 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, $45,000. Sitz Threshold 9901, 2/18/21 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, $42,500. Sitz Domain 12371, 1/25/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to GENEX Beef, Shawano, WI, $38,000. Sitz Stellar 12251, 1/26/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Lunds B Bar Angus, Wibaux, MT, $35,000. Sitz Stellar 12441, 1/23/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Harris Ranch, Killdeer, ND, $19,000. Sitz Insignia 12031, 1/29/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Don Zimbleman, Fullerton, ND, $19,000. Sitz Logo 11421, 2/4/21 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Hamilton Angus, Baker City, OR, $18,000. Sitz RLJ Stellar 10121, 2/17/21 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Kenny Lee, Judith Gap, MT, $17,000. Sitz Accomplishment 10801, 2/13/21 by Sitz Accomplishment 720F; to Gary Romey, Hot Springs, SD, $17,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

KG ANGUS RANCH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 2, Three Forks, MT
211 2-year-old bulls . . .$6,229
161 Commercial bred heifers 2,350
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins

TOPS: KG Justified 1020, 1/24/21 by KG Justified 3023; to Fortune's Rafter U Cross, Quinn, SD, $16,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1040, 1/25/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Stevenon's Diamond Dot, Hobson, MT, $16,000. KG Justified 1085, 1/31/21 by KG Justified 3023; to Dry Fork Ranch, Kaycee, WY, $16,000. KG Powerball 1286, 2/18/21 by Sitz Powerball 737E; to Schelske Angus Ranch, Virgil, SD, $16,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1002, 1/18/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Dry Fork Ranch, Kaycee, WY, $15,000. KG Cowboy Kind 1042, 1/26/21 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Kindred Ranch, Oral, SD, $15,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

CURRANT CREEK ANGUS BULL SALE
Dec. 3, Roundup, MT
64 Total bulls $4,238
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: CCAR Cowboy Up J399, 4/1/21 by VAR Cowboy Up 8273; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $8,000. CCAR Cowboy Up J373, 4/22/21 by HT Cowboy Up 8130; to Rein Anchor Ranch, Melville, MT, $6,750. CCAR Payweight J324, 4/20/21 by WCF Payweight 5228; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $6,250. CCAR Payweight J552, 4/24/21 by WCF Payweight 5228; to Rein Anchor Ranch, Melville, MT, $6,000. CCAR Payweight J552, 4/28/21 by WCF Payweight J556; to Seven Hangin Seven Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $6,000. CCAR Yeti J557, 4/26/21 by CAR Yeti 805; to Sarrazin Ranch, Livingston, MT, $6,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

JACOBSEN RANCH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 5, Great Falls, MT
71 Salers/Optimizer bull calves $4,768
8 Angus bull calves. . . .3,094
296 Commercial bred heifers 1,855
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS: JSR Ferrari 2210, 3/16/22 by JSR Mr Mercedes 723; to TB Salers, Dante, SD, $8,500. JSR Cosmic 2211, 3/16/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Hamilton Ranch, Decker, MT, $8,250. JSR Cosmic 247, 2/27/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Fox Grape Farm, Big Piney, VA, $8,250. JSR Cosmic 2218, 3/17/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Smith Ranch, Lodge Grass, MT, $8,000. JSR Cosmic 2244, 3/22/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Two Dot Ranch, Leadore, ID, $8,000. JSR Cosmic 2157, 3/9/22 by ECR Electron 712E of 48T; to Star X Ranch, Baker, MT, $8,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

REVERSE ROCKING R
Dec. 3, Maxwell, NM
133 Sale total $5,486
107 Total registered bulls. 5,462
26 Total registered females 5,586
4 Pregnancies 6,137
16 Embryos 606

TOPS—Bulls: RRR Illuminati, 12/23/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $44,000. RRR Grit, 11/10/21 by Poss Rawhide; to Amdahl Angus, Piedmont, SD, $27,000. RRR Hometown R0281, 3/19/21 by G A R Home Town; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $17,000. RRR Hometown R0261, 3/11/21 by G A R Home Town; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $13,000. RRR Rawhide R7302, 12/20/21 by Poss Rawhide; to McGill Ranch, Laramie, WY, $13,000. RRR Rawhide R7272, 12/16/21 by Poss Rawhide; to Daltons on the Sycamore, Gretna, VA, $10,000. RRR Up Stream R1811, 9/24/21 by PA Up Stream 001; to Adam Zutavern, Dunning, NE, $10,000. **Open heifers:** RRR Rudy Blackcap R1652, 7/20/22 by Poss Deadwood; to GMC Angus, Fraziers Bottom, WV, $16,000. RRR Erica Dianna R7082, 12/22/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $14,500. RRR Erica Dianna R7102, 12/20/21 by HPCA Vercingetorix; to Stroud Farms, Pueblo, CO, $14,500. RRR Rudy Blackcap R1572, 7/13/22 by Poss Deadwood; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, $14,000. RRR Isabel R2272, 9/20/22 by Poss Deadwood; to George Simpson, Hazelton, BC, $13,500. **Bred cow:** CAM Sure Fire A8004, 8/28/18 by G A R Sure Fire, bred to Poss Deadwood to calve 2/2/23; to Scott Croftcheck, Grindstone, PA, $10,000. — **JIM GIES**

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

Dec. 12 — Northland, Female Sale, Billings, MT

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

ANGUS

Dec. 14 — Mitchell Angus, Dispersion Sale, Burwell, NE

Dec. 14 — Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT

Dec. 16 — Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT

Jan. 12, 2023 — National Western Foundation, Female Sale, Denver, CO

Jan. 19 — Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

Jan. 24 — Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO

Jan. 26 — Marcy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Gordon, NE

Jan. 27 — McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE

Jan. 27 — Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE

Jan. 28 — Baldridge Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE

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

HEREFORD

Jan. 16, 2023 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Production Sale, Oshkosh, NE

MAINE ANJOU

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

RED ANGUS

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

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

SIMANGUS

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

SIMMENTAL

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

Jan. 15 — National Western, Bull & Female Sale, Denver, CO

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

STABILIZER

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

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

HORSE

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

DOG

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

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

Dec. 15 – The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) is hiring two interns for the summer of 2023. The communications intern will assist the RAAA communications team, while the marketing intern will focus on conducting audits for the Feeder Calf Certification Program. For application details, visit redangus.org/careers.

COMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 5-7, 2023 – The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is hosting its annual convention at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, OR. To register, visit orcattle.com/annual-convention-registration. Hotel accommodations are at the Oxford Suites or Best Western Pendleton Inn and must be made by Dec. 14 to receive the special rate.