

INSIDE WLJ

FOOD WASTE — Agencies seeking comment on plan to reduce food waste and loss. Page 4

CROW FAMILY — NWSS to honor Crow family with prestigious award on Jan. 11, 2024. Page 7

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

As the agricultural landscape of the U.S. changes year after year, conservation practices become increasingly important. Let's look back to what was being done in December 1945 to aid the conservation effort in California. "With a total allocation of \$6,300,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the agricultural conservation program in California for 1946, county agricultural conservation committees will, this coming year, authorize allocation of funds for the most needed conservation practices to be performed in their own counties during the year," read the WLJ article.

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Final plan released for California's Delta Project

— Serves Central and Southern CA

California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a final report on a project to send water to houses and farms in the central and southern portions of the state via an underground tunnel bypassing the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The final environmental impact report (EIR) released on Dec. 8 details a plan for a 45-mile underground tunnel that would pipe water from the Sacramento River to the Bethany Reservoir in Alameda County.

The reservoir is the beginning of the California Aqueduct—a portion of the State Water Project (SWP)—which delivers water to Kern County, the Central Coast and Southern California. According to DWR, the SWP provides drinking water to 27 million Californians and irrigates over 750,000 acres of farmland.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and lies just east of where the rivers enter Suisun Bay. The Delta is the core of the state's water deliv-

ery system and, according to the DWR, provides habitat for more than 500 species of fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

DWR said the project will capture and move more water during the wet season and endure dry seasons such as the past three years. The agency stressed that due to climate change, the state will lose 10% of its water supply by 2040.

If the project had been completed during the past winter when the state experienced an atmospheric river, it would have captured 228,000 acre-feet (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) of water, or 40% of SWP's total volume of water exported per year. DWR said the current water infrastructure is not built to withstand these climate effects.

"Climate change is threatening our access to clean drinking water, diminishing future supplies for millions of Californians—doing nothing is not an option," Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said. "After the three driest years on record, we didn't have the infrastructure to fully take advantage of an exceptionally wet year, which will become more and

more critical as our weather whiplashes between extremes. This project is essential to updating our water system for millions of Californians."

Prior efforts

Several initiatives have been undertaken to tackle issues related to

See DELTA PLAN on page 5



Florence Low/California DWR

The California Department of Water Resources has released a plan for a 45-mile underground tunnel that would pipe water from the Sacramento River to the Bethany Reservoir in Alameda County. Pictured here, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Ranchers intervene to delay CO wolf introduction

— Ask for injunction

The clock is ticking for wolves to be brought into the state of Colorado, and ranchers in the state are taking legal action against the agencies responsible for the task.

On Dec. 11, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association (GCSA) filed a complaint in

the United States District Court for the District of Colorado against the state's plan to introduce wolves by the end of the year. The ranching groups are concerned with the potential negative impacts that wolf introduction will bring upon their members and rural communities.

"We believe that much of our input, and that of many others across Western Colorado, was diminished

by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission," said Andy Spann, GCSA president and a rancher from Gunnison, in a news release. "We regret that a course of litigation on this and other issues seems to be the only recourse left to have these concerns legitimately addressed."

The complaint against the U.S.

See WOLF on page 9

Greens threaten to sue over AZ cattle trespass

— Agua Fria Monument

Environmental groups have sent a notice of intent to sue the Biden administration for the continued trespass of cattle on protected habitat in the Agua Fria National Mon-

ument in central Arizona.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Maricopa Audubon Society sent a 60-day notice on Nov. 30 stating the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has failed to

prevent ongoing harm to the Gila chub and Western yellow-billed cuckoo in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The groups also contend grazing harms critical habitat designations and they have documented cattle damage

for the last three years.

The national monument was created in 2000 through a presidential proclamation and encompasses 70,900 acres of BLM-administrated land and 1,444 acres of private land in southeastern Yavapai County, AZ. The

proclamation states the area's cultural resources and biodiversity should be protected, and according to the letter, land managers should ensure proper care and management.

"For three years, our surveys have found cattle graz-

ing tearing up endangered species habitat, and for three years, Biden officials have done nothing to fix the problem," said Taylor McKinnon of Center for Biological Diversity. "The cows need to go

See TRESPASS on page 7

Futures make a turnaround; cash trade steady

Following a week of rapidly falling futures, the board recuperated and closed higher. Cash trade was light through Thursday, but mostly steady with a week earlier.

Live cattle futures bounced back over the week, up about \$5 on each contract. The December contract closed at \$167.50, and the February contract at \$167.92.

"Live cattle trade remains much more sluggish than the feeder cattle complex, although buyer interest continues to slowly develop as traders try to balance technical support with sluggish fundamental market developments at this point," DTN wrote on Thursday.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled less than 20,000 head. Live steers sold from \$165-168, and dressed steers sold from \$267-270.

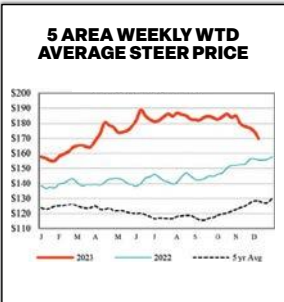
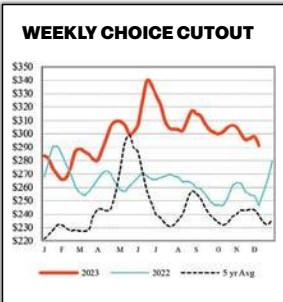
"Packers are developing an interest in building inventory and started with \$168 bids that failed to interest sellers who were pricing cattle several dollars higher," the Cattle Report wrote on Wednesday. "A couple hundred cattle in the North traded at that price. In the South, the possibility of moisture, wet pens and cold is causing some operations

to consider holding off sales until after Christmas. Bid/ask spreads are expected to begin narrowing today and by week's end to establish trading levels."

Cash trade for the week ending Dec. 10 totaled 66,837 head. Live steers averaged \$169.86, and dressed steers averaged \$269.73.

Slaughter through Thursday was estimated at 505,000 head, a couple thousand head more than a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 635,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Dec. 2 was 639,915 head. The average steer dressed weight was 940 lbs., the same as the prior week.

See MARKETS on page 9



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$167.81	\$267.79	\$217.84
WEEK ENDING: 12-14-23		

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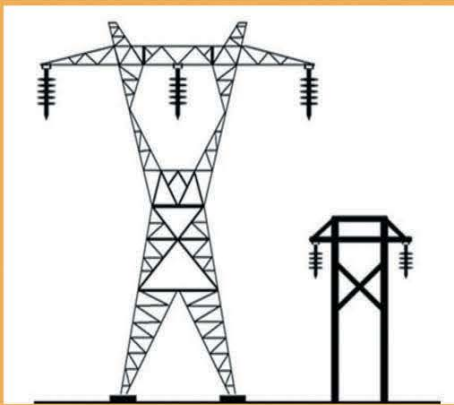
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Feds propose strategies to reduce food waste

— Create a circular economy

Three government agencies have released a national strategy with the goal to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USDA published the draft report “National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics” to reduce 66 million tons of food waste that ends up in landfills.

“Food is also the single most common material found in landfills, comprising 24% of municipal solid waste in landfills and 61% of methane generated by landfilled food waste is not captured by landfill gas collection systems and is released to the atmosphere,” the report stated.

To achieve the goal, the report outlines four objectives, highlighting actions each agency could take to

achieve it.

The first objective focuses on preventing food loss where possible by looking at the production and distribution portions of the supply chain. To address this issue, the draft recommends fostering innovation, collaboration and market development with actions like policy adjustments and innovations.

This can be achieved through enhancing collaboration across various stakeholders, including farmers, fishers, livestock producers, processors, distributors, retailers, schools and emergency food assistance organizations, to create innovative business models and policies that utilize a higher proportion of produced foods. The report suggests this can encompass initiatives such as whole crop purchase, adjusted procurement models for local produce, improved production and processing integration, on-farm storage enhance-

ments and the incorporation of loss-reducing innovations through public-private partnerships.

The plan’s second objective focuses on preventing food waste among consumers and retail and foodservice businesses, which comprise roughly half of U.S. food loss and waste. The report recommends sharing preventive measures, like food storage and meal planning, particularly targeting underserved communities through education and messaging from community stakeholders.

The report also encourages collaboration with retail, food service and food manufacturing industries and food advocates on initiatives such as changes in packaging design, date labeling, marketing promotions and portion sizes.

The third objective is to increase organic waste recycling through the development of infrastructure with grants and other assistance. The report states federal re-

sources should be allocated to furnish tools and enhance capacity in communities for targeted organics recycling and the utilization of end-products where feasible.

Lastly, the fourth objective seeks to support policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention, expand organic recycling and create a circular economy. This includes efforts such as sharing case studies, promoting state and local goal setting, facilitating peer learning and implementing policies like “pay-as-you-throw” programs or landfill bans, which can help prevent food waste and divert organic waste from landfills and incinerators, as seen in many states and cities.

The federal government is accepting comments on the draft report through Jan. 4, 2024. The document can be viewed at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), docket ID EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0415.

— Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

LEGAL LEDGER

USDA accepting online direct loan apps

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has opened up an online application process for direct loan customers. Individuals may now use an online, interactive and guided application that provides additional support features. “Online services are commonplace in commercial lending, and with USDA Farm Service Agency’s new online loan application feature, it is now easier for producers to get the financing they need to start, expand or maintain their farming and ranching operations,” said Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small in a news release. The online application intends to reduce the number of incomplete and withdrawn applications. Applicants will also be able to track the progress of their loan application through FSA’s Loan Assistance Tool. In the first phase of rollout, the online application tool will only be available to producers operating their farm as an individual. For more information, visit farmers.gov/loan-assistance-tool.

BLM updating emergency response rule

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is accepting public input on a proposal to update regulations for announcing temporary closures or restrictions on public lands. “From time to time, BLM needs to issue orders to temporarily close or restrict the use of public lands to protect people, property, public lands, and resources, or to avoid conflict among visitor uses,” said Tom Heinlein, BLM assistant director for National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships, in a statement. The rule changes would remove the requirement to publish temporary closure and restriction orders in the Federal Register and instead allow BLM to use tools such as social media to notify of any restrictions. In addition, the proposed changes would allow orders to take immediate effect upon signature. Input on the rule is being accepted through Jan. 22, 2024, and may be submitted at [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) by searching for docket ID RIN 1004-AE89.

AFA, USDA form partnership

USDA and the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize a partnership. “This agreement reinforces USDA’s commitment to preparing students for future careers in agriculture with an emphasis on federal sector employment,” said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement. The two entities will continue to collaborate on leadership development efforts, and evaluate opportunities in food, ag science, natural resources and related fields. Under the MOU, USDA commits to opening opportunities for AFA members, including internships and other programs. “This agreement reinforces our belief that connecting young leaders with USDA initiatives will enrich their careers and contribute to a more resilient and competitive agriculture industry,” said AFA President and CEO Mark Stewart.

Vulture bill introduced in Senate

Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate for the Black Vulture Relief Act. The House of Representatives introduced the legislation earlier this year in an attempt to protect cattle producers from the impacts of black vulture depredation. The bill would allow the taking of vultures without a permit when faced with the need to protect livestock. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently issues depredation permits to states, which then issue sub-permits to producers, allowing only three takes a year. “With black vultures often attacking in flocks as large as 50, the current permits are insufficient for allowing producers to protect their livestock,” the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association said in a news release. “Black vulture attacks are particularly vicious with the birds usually targeting calves hours or even minutes after birth.” A House Ag subcommittee held hearings on the bill this summer. The Senate version of the bill has been referred to the Environment and Public Works Committee.

USDA revises LIP, ELAP requirements

USDA is waiving certain notice of loss requirements for 2023 for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP). The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is waiving the requirement to submit ELAP or LIP notices of loss within a pre-determined number of days for the year. Producers are now able to submit 2023 notices of loss as soon as possible, once losses are realized, following a natural disaster event or no later than the program payment deadlines. “The ELAP and LIP waivers we are announcing today, in response to historic disasters in 2023, improve efficiencies for producers and our staff, are responsive to feedback about confusion regarding program timelines and are intended to give our staff the time needed to deliver the right support to producers when they need it most,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux in a statement.

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Water project expected to take decades to complete

DELTA PLAN (from page 1)

the water supply, climate change, seismic risk and regulatory hurdles in the Delta.

In the 1960s, an Inter-agency Delta Committee was convened to coordinate water resources planning for the state's water projects. The 1963 Inter-agency Delta Committee report proposed the construction of "overland canals" and other structures to address Delta issues, emphasizing the potential benefits of a peripheral canal for balanced growth. DWR's 1974 Draft EIR for the Peripheral Canal Project outlined plans for a facility conveying fresh water from the Sacramento River to south delta pumping plants, incorporating up to 12 release facilities for distributing water into delta channels.

In 1995, state and federal agencies collaborated to form the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) aiming to devise a comprehensive plan for addressing delta resource challenges. In August 2000, a comprehensive CALFED record of decision was adopted with an alternative for two pipes.

In September 2006, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) signed an executive order to form the Delta Vision Committee, tasked with recommending actions for a sustainable delta region. Among the committee's proposals was constructing new intake structures equipped with fish screens to direct water to the SWP.

Following concerns about long-term permits amid climate change and habitat restoration, then-Gov. Jerry Brown (D) announced two initiatives: the California WaterFix and California EcoRestore. Unveiled in July 2015, the California WaterFix proposed three fish-screened intakes and two 35-mile tunnels, diverting an average yearly total of 4.7-5.6 million acre-feet, contingent on hydrology.

In April 2019, Newsom signed an executive order directing state agencies to build a climate-resilient water system and ensure healthy waterways into the 21st century.

DWR proposed constructing two diversion tubes, with a single tube for conveyance to divert 3,000 cubic feet per second (448.8 gallons per minute).

According to minutes from the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board of Directors meeting in August 2020, the project's cost is estimated to be \$16 billion. The majority of the cost will be due to construction and the remainder in mitigation measures.

Environmental opposition

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta, said in a statement the latest plan by Newsom is a "zombie" version of previous proposals of the project and rejected by voters. Barrigan-Parrilla said the EIR fails to offer alternatives for a climate-impacted state and the region should invest in resilience projects.

"What is new is the claim that Newsom's tunnel is a climate project," Barrigan-Parrilla said. "But that argument is built on incomplete data and faulty analysis. The big pipe engineering solutions of the last century are no longer the way forward in California water's climate-changed reality. We need more underground storage in agricultural regions and

Caring for the bulls in the winter

Many people know maintaining a healthy weight is one factor in an overall health plan, and weight maintenance is also important in the well-being of cattle, according to the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute experts who spoke on this topic on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

For spring-calving cow herds, oftentimes beef nutritionists are focused on maintaining the cows in an optimum body condition through gestation and into the calving season, said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson. But he stressed that it is also important to make sure the bulls are managed to maintain a healthy weight.

"In the winter, a bull's nutritional demands are similar to those of a cow in

mid-gestation," Larson said. "Poor quality forage alone will not meet his nutritional needs and so he may need to be given some protein supplement as well."

Along with maintaining the bull's weight, Larson recommends that producers manage them in a way that also protects their reproductive health from the winter weather.

"If bulls have had a rough winter, we may see scrotal frostbite and poor semen quality from those animals in the spring when we do their breeding soundness exams," Larson said.

To keep this from happening, Larson recommends producers offer the bulls protection from the wind, allow them access to dry bedding and keep

them away from the mud.

For producers who are introducing new bulls into the herd this winter, Larson said it is important to follow a biosecurity plan to reduce potential disease risk.

"I recommend producers quarantine all new animals for about 30 days so that they can watch for signs of illness during that time," Larson said. "Often-times if a disease is going to break, it will show up in that time."

He also offered one additional biosecurity tip. "It is also good to institute a vaccine program to make sure both the new cattle and the ones who have been in the herd for a while are following a similar health protocol," Larson said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

regional stormwater."

Other environmental groups told the Los Angeles Times the water diversion would endanger native fish such as Chinook salmon, longfin smelt, white sturgeon and delta smelt.

John Buse, senior counsel for the Center for Biological Diversity, said the state's final EIR "maintains the same skewed analysis by failing to come to terms with the massive harm this tunnel will bring to the delta and its fish."

Scott Artis, executive director of the Golden State Salmon Association, said the diversion would harm the state's already fragile salmon industry. Artis continued that Southern California ratepayers will be on the hook for the project.

DWR is releasing the EIR prior to certification per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Upon completion of the CEQA process, DWR will decide whether to approve the

proposed project, an alternative or opt for no project.

According to the Sacramento Bee, should it receive approval, the project is anticipated to span several decades for its completion. The permitting process involves a water rights hearing at the state water board, which could extend over several years, and the construction phase is estimated to take an additional 12-13 years to finish. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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How do we improve percent calf crop weaned?

The percent calf crop weaned is of paramount economic importance in a cow-calf operation. As a follow up to a recent topic, this week we address selection, mating and management to improve reproductive efficiency. First, take a look at the included chart. It shows the inverse relationship between heritability and heterosis.

From a standpoint of genetics and animal breeding, reproductive traits are low in heritability (typically 10-20%) but show high levels of heterosis in response to crossbreeding. From a practical standpoint, this means if we are going to take advantage of heterosis in one part of our commercial cow-calf operation, take advantage of maternal heterosis in your cow herd. The crossbred cow has an advantage in "reproductive fitness."

That being said, when selecting seedstock for a well-designed crossbreeding system, consider genetic values. Genetic change is cumulative and

permanent. Selecting bulls with strong EPDs for reproductive traits will result in their daughters having high genetic potential for reproductive efficiency. Yes, these traits are low heritability; however, additive genetic merit pays long-term dividends.

Each beef registry publishes a sire summary that includes several EPDs that fall under the "maternal" heading. Applying selection pressure to EPDs such as Heifer Pregnancy, Maternal Calving Ease and Mature Weight or bio-economic indices like Stayability, Maternal Weaned Calf Value, Baldy Maternal Index or Brahman Influence Index enable you to genetically tailor your cow herd to fit your production environment and thereby maximize reproductive efficiency. This is by no means a complete listing of all the maternal EPDs that could be considered.

From a standpoint of management, herd health

Traits	Heritability	Heterosis
Reproduction	Low	High
Growth	Medium	Medium
Carcass	High	Low

and proper nutrition are essential to maximize reproductive performance. A good working relationship with your veterinarian enables you to tailor a herd health plan best suited to your production environment and cow herd. When it comes to a proper vaccination program and parasite control an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Past articles have stressed the importance of nutritional management and the critically important role it plays in reproductive efficiency. Cows and heifers that go into the calving season at a body condition score of 5.5-6 are optimum.

This ensures they have the energy reserves to deal with the spike in nutritional requirements once lactation starts and have timely breed back.

Optimum reproductive efficiency is getting all our cows to raise a calf to weaning in a 365-day window of time. That means the re-breeding interval needs to stay within 80-85 days of calving. Parasite control, a good vaccination program and proper nutrition all play a vital role in maintaining an optimum rebreeding interval and keeping cows bred. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef cattle breeding specialist**

STORY SHORTS

Funding allocated for for horses, burros

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced the availability of up to \$7.5 million in funding for public and private organizations to support the agency's mission of managing and protecting wild horses and burros on public lands. Through partnerships facilitated by this funding opportunity, critical activities will be supported, including applying fertility control to manage herd growth, monitoring herd and land health, and enhancing rangeland habitat for wild horses, burros and other wildlife. As of March 2023, the current population of wild horses and burros on public lands is estimated to be 82,883 animals, a slight increase from the 2022 estimate of 82,384, and remains over three times the number that would be in balance with available resources. Since 2018, BLM has removed nearly 70,000 animals and treated 5,600 head with fertility control to reduce the threat to rangelands and overpopulation. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2024, and can be found at tinyurl.com/3z5e2nzy.

Agreement to save CO River water

The Biden administration announced an agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) in Southern California to preserve water in Lake Mead and the Colorado River system this water year. The agreement will provide \$77.6 million in funding from the administration's Investing in America agenda to preserve 100,000 acre-feet (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) and invest in water conservation measures. "We are grateful for the Imperial Irrigation District's leadership and partnership as we worked to execute this agreement," said Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. "Addressing the drought crisis requires an all-hands-on-deck moment and close collaboration among federal, state, Tribal and local communities. IID's commitment to system conservation is vital as we work to strengthen the stability of the entire Colorado River Basin." BOR and IID are working on an agreement for 2024 through 2026 to save up to 800,000 acre-feet of water.

Millions of acres returned to Tribes

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has officially concluded the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, a decade-long initiative to consolidate and restore nearly 3 million acres of land to Tribal trust ownership in 15 states. During the program's course, over \$1.69 billion was disbursed to more than 123,000 interested individuals, and the appropriated funding ceased in November 2022, as specified in the Settlement and Claims Resolution Act of 2010. In 2012, DOI established the Land Buy-Back Program to consolidate fractional trust or restricted land interests by facilitating voluntary sales with individual landowners and placing the acquired interests into trust for Tribes. "Land consolidation partnerships with Tribal Nations benefit both landowners and Tribes, including opportunities for increased agricultural operations, economic development, conservation, and cultural stewardship," said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

Wolf captured, paired with a mate

Female Mexican wolf 2754, also known as Asha, was captured north of Interstate 40 near Coyote, NM, by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish using a helicopter on Dec. 9. This recent capture marks the second time Asha has been documented in this region. Following the capture, she was relocated to the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility and paired with a male wolf to enhance the likelihood of successful pup production in the upcoming year. In late October 2023, Asha was observed leaving the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, spending several weeks traversing between the San Pedro Mountains and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Born in the Rocky Prairie Pack in Arizona in 2021, Asha was fitted with a radio collar in the fall of 2022. After dispersing from her natal pack and crossing out of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area in January 2023, she was temporarily held in captivity near Angel Fire, NM. She was eventually translocated back to the wild in Arizona in June 2023.

NIFA tackling antimicrobial resistance

With the support of funding from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a collaborative effort among scientists from land-grant universities has been underway since 2017 to address the intricate challenge of antimicrobial resistance in agriculture. The team's research efforts have shed light on the characteristics of antimicrobial-resistant microbes and resistance genes, providing crucial insights for risk estimation and mitigation. The team has also developed tools for faster detection of antimicrobial resistance, including improved data standardization, sharing among veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and a rapid test for bovine respiratory disease, which supports judicious antimicrobial use by farmers and veterinarians. Additionally, the team has devised strategies to reduce antimicrobial use, drug resistance development and human exposure to resistant microbes. Their extensive outreach and education initiatives have significantly increased awareness of antimicrobial resistance issues and potential solutions among scientists, farmers, veterinarians, communities, policymakers and students. The team has actively shared their findings through various channels, including online courses, websites, experiential learning, videos and the iAMResponsible program, which offers science-based information and decision-support tools related to antimicrobial resistance.



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Crow family to be honored with 2024 Friend of the National Western award

At the 2024 annual Red Meat Club dinner to be held on Jan. 11, 2024, the Crow family will be honored with the prestigious Friend of the National Western award. With over 100 years of service to the industry spanning three generations, the Crows have been stalwarts of the industry, including Dick Crow starting the Red Meat Club in the mid-1970s with the help of longtime Safeway meat buyer, Cecil Hellbusch.

The Crow family is best known for their publication, *Western Livestock Journal* (WLJ), which the patriarch of the family, Nelson R. Crow, started in 1922. In 1968, management of WLJ was passed down to his son, Dick, and in the early 1990s, Nelson's grandson, Pete, took over the reins.

Nelson started his career as a USDA market reporter in the St. Joseph Stockyards in St. Joseph, MO, which at the time was the hub for hog marketing and processing. He was then transferred to the world's largest stockyard and meat producer, Chicago's Union Stock Yards, with his last stop as a USDA market news reporter taking him to San Francisco's terminal stockyards. His timing was right, as a group of railroad companies was opening the last of the nation's great stockyards in Los Angeles, CA, in 1922. In need of a paper for market news reporting, as well as other industry and general news, the Los Angeles Union Stock Yards loaned Nelson \$5,000 to start WLJ.

Producers, commission companies and packers relied on these papers for price discovery, not only in their own market, but also in other major markets around the country. This was especially important in Los Angeles, which had 17 packers, instead of the few major packers—

Wilson, Armour, Swift and Cudahy—that dominated most terminal stockyards of the era. Nelson was quick to expand the business to include a dairy magazine and a Western crops publication.

His son, Dick, started his career after World War II on the dairy magazine. Dick then took over the publication in 1968, which was also when Nelson died. Nelson was on the first board of directors at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, OK, where his hat is on display in the board room.

Seeing the terminal stockyards starting to decline in the 1950s, WLJ had already established a branch office in Denver, CO. The Crows had correctly foreseen the demise of the stockyard system with the LA stockyards closing in the 1960s, and one by one the others followed suit. In 1971, the company consolidated into one office in Denver, and at one time, Crow Publications occupied the entire fourth floor of the Livestock Exchange Building at the National Western Center in Denver.

The next generation, Pete, joined the company in 1982, starting as a fieldman in the Southwest. He then moved to Denver to take on other publishing duties and learned the business the hard way. Pete remarked, "When I took over the business in the early 1990s it wasn't very profitable, until we moved to desktop publishing and computerized the business. The computers saved the entire publishing industry. One of my goals was to get WLJ to 100 years old, which I did."

When asked what has kept WLJ relevant and profitable, Pete is quick to point out that it's a combination of hiring the right people, keeping on top of the markets and having excellent original editorial con-

tent. Both Pete and his dad, as well as two other WLJ staff members, have been awarded the Beef Improvement Federation's Ambassador Award for reporting on and promoting performance testing. The same occurred with the Livestock Publications Council (LPC), with Dick and Pete among four WLJ members to receive the Headliner Award over the years.

The Crow family has

launched a lot of people in their livestock careers—Forrest Bassford, Jerry York, Jim Gies, Jerry Gliko, E.C. Larkin, as well as Stanley Stout, Dwayne Deitz, Delvin Heldermon, Don Doris—most all of whom have been inducted into the Cattle Marketing Hall of Fame.

In 2004, Pete entered and won the LPC awards contest for best regular column, and he also received the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's

(NCBA) Excellence in Agricultural Journalism Award. Pete has also taken a number of principled stands on hot-button issues he thought were important to the future of the industry, knowing it could cost him some circulation. That sums up the Crow family: doing what they felt was right for the industry for over 100 years.

The Jan. 11 dinner welcomes everyone to attend and enjoy their famous prime rib dinner.

There will be a speaker, Mandy Carr Johnson, NCBA senior scientific director. Happy hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the National Western Club. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be ordered by calling the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) office at 303-295-6124. Attendance is limited to 220 people and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. — NWSS

Groups claim cattle destruction to monument

TRESPASS (from page 1)

now. The administration needs to end this chronic failure to protect endangered species from cattle damage, not just in Agua Fria National Monument, but throughout the Southwest."

The letter states the environmental damage documented in 2023 underscores the substantial and ongoing negative impact of BLM's neglect of public land protection despite written seasonal limits and restrictions on grazing. At issue are the Horseshoe, Box Bar, E-Z Ranch, 2Y and Sycamore allotments within the monument. The groups claim surveys revealed grazing on these allotments diminishes the likelihood of successful chub and cuckoo reproduction and directly destroys components of their critical habitat.

The letter continued that despite previous biological opinions and regulations gov-

erning the Horseshoe Allotment, BLM's legal violations persist, and the groups intend to challenge specific actions, including the 2018 Horseshoe Allotment renewal.

In addition to violating the ESA, the letter contends BLM violates the Administrative Procedure Act, with adverse impacts on irreplaceable archaeological treasures, the Antiquities Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

"We assert that permanent exclusion of cattle in chub and cuckoo critical habitat designations is required so that authorized agency actions follow the legal requirements and intent of the Endangered Species Act and fulfill the affirmative duty of the BLM to conserve listed species," the letter read.

The environmental groups are asking BLM and USFWS to address and remedy the violations in 60 days, or they will file suit. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor



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AI Bred Heifer Calving Dates Bred Black Angus

- ◆ Black Angus x LT Firesteel (AN) Due Feb. 19
- ◆ Black Angus x LT Firesteel (AN) Due Feb. 25
- ◆ Black Angus x LT Firesteel (AN) Due March 1
- ◆ Black Angus x LT Confidante (AN) Due Feb. 27
- ◆ Black Baldies x LT Firesteel (AN) Due March 1

AI Bred Heifer Calving Dates Bred Charolais

- ◆ Black Angus x LT Remington (CH) Due March 1
- ◆ Black Baldies x LT Remington (CH) Due March 1
- ◆ Red Angus x LT Remington (CH) Due March 1

Bull Bred Heifer Calving Dates

Black Angus x LT Black Angus Bulls

- ◆ Mar. 10 - (15 Days)
- ◆ Apr. 10 - (15 Days)
- ◆ May 10 - (15 Days)

Black Baldies x LT Black Angus Bulls

- ◆ Mar. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ Apr. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ May 14 - (15 Days)

Black Angus x LT Charolais Bulls

- ◆ Mar. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ Apr. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ May 14 - (15 Days)

Black Baldies x LT Charolais Bulls

- ◆ Mar. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ Apr. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ May 14 - (15 Days)

Red Angus x LT Charolais Bulls

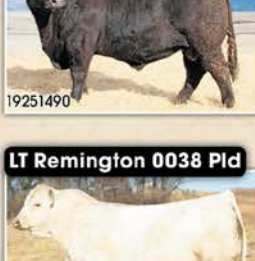
- ◆ Mar. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ Apr. 15 - (15 Days)
- ◆ May 14 - (15 Days)



LT Firesteel 1123
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LT Confidante 8002
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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 12/14/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	167.81	▼	170.47
CME Feeder Index	217.84	▼	222.31
Boxed Beef Average	292.32	▲	289.84
Average Dressed Steers	267.79	▼	269.69
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,390	▲	1,388
Weekly Slaughter**	635,000	▲	635,000
Weekly Beef Production***	532.5	▲	529.7
Hide/Offal Value	11.85	▼	11.98
Corn Price	4.57	▼	4.69
* Average weight for previous week. ** Total slaughter for previous week. *** Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.			

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
December 8	7,254	286.22	232	320.47	1,341	296.38	2,294	290.87	884	260.41	2,504
November 30	6,872	289.86	233	322.59	1,194	300.16	2,100	294.00	803	266.06	2,542
November 24	6,781	291.11	237	325.59	1,322	299.56	2,131	292.69	718	268.97	2,373
November 17	6,463	292.53	218	327.67	1,181	300.78	1,958	294.12	711	270.19	2,396
Cutouts											
FED BOXED BEEF											
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Dec 14	292.32		258.26		201.09		N/A		242.99		
Dec 13	291.64		259.21		207.68		56.75		255.67		
Dec 12	292.78		258.66		203.47		N/A		242.27		
Dec 11	290.43		259.54		215.73		51.78		272.86		
Dec 8	288.01		257.90		216.02		49.19		269.87		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	12/8	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	High*	Low*
Dec.	16545	16698	16770	16695	16750	19183	15388
Feb.	16573	16790	16860	16723	16793	19633	15310
Apr.	16930	17150	17240	17095	17158	19975	16853
Jun.	16633	16825	16948	16828	16875	18270	16668

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	12/8	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	High*	Low*
Jan.	21530	21795	21925	21738	21935	26833	21280
Mar.	21608	21860	21960	21785	22013	25723	21608
Apr.	21920	22200	22335	22183	22433	24613	21920
May	22268	22543	22703	22573	22825	23213	22268
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.							

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	2,247	1,559	167.81
Live FOB Heifer	1,041	1,394	167.95
Dressed Del Steer	5,562	976	267.79
Dressed Del Heifer	1,320	855	267.29
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	16,640	1,480	170.47
Live FOB Heifer	9,612	1,331	170.71
Dressed Del Steer	11,725	1,002	269.69
Dressed Del Heifer	1,395	849	271.26
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	456	1,613	155.00
Live FOB Heifer	210	1,300	153.00
Dressed Del Steer	163	980	245.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: DECEMBER 10		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	30,242	3,853
Formula	261,732	2,218
Negotiated Cash	75,798	296
Negotiated Grid	46,611	942
Packer Owned	11,732	N/A
Total	426,115	7,309

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	
Dec. '23	141,695	Neg. Sales 21+ days	2,203
Dec. '23	141,695	Neg. Sales 21+ days	919
Jan. '24	109,806	Formula sales	3,869
Feb. '24	86,915	Forward contract sales	264
Mar. '24	112,923	Domestic sales	6,528
Apr. '24	145,256	NAFTA Exports	169

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES		
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	93.72	-0.86
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, December 1, 2023			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	282.06	283.63	251.17
601-700 lbs	257.19	258.49	243.86
701-800 lbs	240.11	241.07	223.51
801-900 lbs	222.22	221.19	209.25
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	257.63	256.74	199.74
501-600 lbs	240.33	240.04	204.65
601-700 lbs	223.89	224.38	185.72
701-800 lbs	212.58	214.35	176.95

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
	12/4/2023	11/27/2023		
Feeders	39,343	43,374	1,165,695	797,404

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
December 14, 2023			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 9,300	Week Ago Act: 10,300	Year Ago Act: 14,650	
Columbus, NM		Santa Teresa, NM	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	213-223	300-400 lbs	213-223
400-500 lbs	203-213	400-500 lbs	203-213
500-600 lbs	193-203	500-600 lbs	193-203
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	255-265	300-400 lbs	255-265
400-500 lbs	235-245	400-500 lbs	235-245
500-600 lbs	215-225	500-600 lbs	215-225
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)			

Selected Auction						Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2				
Week Ending December 14, 2023										
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
December 8	Blackfoot, ID	N/A	235-275 227-247	227-285 215-250	195-257 215-231	187-248 185-210	182-210 182-194	180-199	82-96 88-109.50	
December 7	Burley, ID	829	280	259-277 233-241	241-249 215-237	209-219 212	192	182-192 143-146	75-95.50 93-102	
Noreport available Emmett, ID										
December 9	Eugene, OR	985	170-216* 165-199*	175-236* 160-191*	190-231* 145-186*	148-200* 132-160*	165-194*		80-92 84-107	
December 11	Madras, OR	457							80-100	1,350-1,850
No report available Vale, OR										
December 11	Davenport, WA	351	155-180 135-155	132.50-180 154-190	150-223 145-205	132.50-234 153-217.50	130-207 104-202.50	104-145 89-125	40-108 65-108	1,100-1,750
December 7	Toppenish, WA	1,000		260* 210*	200-220* 175-214*	198* 181*			78.50-108 89-96	

Noreport available Orland, CA										
December 13	Escalon, CA	N/A							75-100 90-110	
December 11	Famoso, CA	302	225-250 180-181	230-250 185-210	230-250 170-180	220-249 160-180	190-220 160-170	160-180 160-170	90-140 110-126.50	
December 13	Galt, CA	1,415		200-290	200-270 200-240	200-240 190-220	180-215		85-125 100-128	2,200-3,250
December 12	Turlock, CA	2,236	250-300 210-253	260-306 220-262.50	254-297 215-246	230-260 207-220.50	200-225 170-190	170-190 160-189	92-114 92-110.50	
December 5	Salina, UT	2,057	260-295 200-272.50	255-345 195-285	250-311 175-277.50	210-271 167.50-250	190-269.50 155-239.75	167.50-225 149.50-216	140-204 128.50-200	72.90-104.25 109.15-173.75

December 11	Iowa	17,796	261-325 200-289	222.50-330 200-266	209-300 193-265	194.50-266 178-238	190-240 160-221.75	151-229.75 151-230.50	80-99 70-130	
December 12	Miles City, MT	1,760	366-387.50 295-316	290-356 261-312	261-294 225-259.50	244-252 195-209	238		71.50-91.50 82-110	
December 13	Bassett, NE	3,730	324 285	216.50-332 274-285	279.50-305 259-270	255-305 219.50-253	239-260.25			
December 9	Ericson, NE	4,710	330-340 284-288	287-348 258-286	274-317 236-279	230-273.50 216-245.50		211		
December 12	Imperial, NE	600		306 261	260-271 238.50-240	252-267 220-231	231.25 190	209		
December 6	Kearney, NE	2,100		312-319 251-269	266-318 228-241	268-287.75 215.50-234	257-272.50 196.50-213.50	251-262 207-207.75	91-110.75 105-109.50	
December 8	Lexington, NE	1,507		281 244-264	262-293 225-241	225-266.50 216-234.50	229-239 203-209.50	203 174		
December 7	Ogallala, NE	4,862	336-365 272-315	305-357.50 281-300	257-292 246.50-271.50	244-264 201-239	210.50-232 185.50-195.50	206 169-189.50		
December 7	Valentine, NE	3,590	327.50	309-332 255-264	272-308 249-279.50	250.50-269 233-266	242-257.50 207			
December 8	Herreid, SD	5,917		306-324 252-280.50	274.50-310 240-263	242-274.75 215-235.50	183.50-222 188.50-199.50			
December 13	Torrington, WY	3,228	375 280	360-381 279-281	310-360 269-292	270-297 239-269	239-262 218-227	205-221 205-216.50	227-238 179-214	

December 7 Willcox, AZ	1,749	228-312.50 264-306	265-334 270-312.50	248-275 228-257	225-260 197-222.50	204-221 171-195			75-99 80-112	1,200-1,500 1,075-1,200
December 11 Colorado	15,587	332-341	290-351 275-333	282-330 250-292.50	246-302.50 222-274	215-269 211-237	201-239 185-204	201-223.50 180-196	57.50-180 87.50-137	575-1,800
December 6 La Junta, CO	3,369		301-332 264-284	251-302 226-274	230-272.50 196-250	203-233 194-211	181-215 181-194	186-205	84-96 98-112	
December 11 Loma, CO	1,176		280-325 260-295	260-300 230-270	235-265 213-230	215-230 195-210	205-215 180-205.50	150-200 165-190	84-97 90-101	1,875
December 13 Dodge City, KS	2,296		313 286-292.50	302.50-332 234-293	246-280 222.50-248	216.50-267.50 203-221.50	206-231 190-213.50	201-221.75 198-209	90-101 83-122	1,650-2,700 1,550-2,925
December 14 Pratt, KS	0		331-334	310-315 256-264	269-297 225-238	238-256 212	213.50-217 193-199	210.50 191.75-193		
December 7 Salina, KS	2,369		295-312	288-302 240-276	258-286 225.50-265	228-270 216-231	214.50-229 187-211	184-213.50 175-192.25		
December 14 Clovis, NM	2,316		279-300 256-260	236-295 212.50-270	223-266 195-258	190-246 176-208.50	186-211 169-198.75	140-196 157-175	100-128 65-119	
December 13 El Reno, OK	7,523	285-300	315-345 260-270	287.50-337.50 237.50-280	272-295 227.50-243	233-280 204-227	217-238.50 203.50-210.50	189.50-223 187-203.50		
December 13 McAlester, OK	1,300		304-365 242-267	278-331 230-265	268-291 220-244	238-259 171-206	187-230 159-181	171-189 150-151	78-99 96-114	1,325-1,800 925-1,800
December 12 Oklahoma City, OK	8,383	352	312-358 250-299	275-347 237-288	255-294 205-249	215-260 204-224	205-240 194-209.50	196-222 177-191		
December 8 Cuero, TX	2,383	205-340 182-335	232-322 223-304	236-300 208-295	217-285 193-246	208-237 187-219	183-204 153-211	78-92 94-118		1,325-1,450
December 7 Dalhart, TX	2,278	285	284-323 250-301	261-285 235-275	220-260 200-259	211-240 185-211	208-217.50 185-192	174-216 169-176	70-109 88-111	
December 7 San Angelo, TX	1,421	320 290	315-317 270-297.50	295-304 252-255	280-286 218-238				80-105 90-104	1,350-1,950 1,400-1,735
December 7 Tulia, TX	1,657		305-317 255-276	270-292 225-241	234-277 198-245	216-240 191-211	212-224 190-199.50	215.50	75-104 90-100	

SOUTH CENTRAL

Beef trade reacts as expected under market conditions

Declining cattle numbers has led to a year-over-year decrease in beef production and

higher wholesale and retail beef prices. Under those market conditions, beef exports are

expected to decrease and beef imports should increase ... exactly the outcome observed

thus far in 2023. The U.S. dollar has remained generally strong against most currencies, add-

ing additional headwinds to exports and increasing the import incentives.

The October livestock trade data showed that total beef exports were down 20.5% year over year, leading to a year-to-date total that is down 14.9% compared to the January-October period last year. Total beef imports for October were up 17.4% over one year ago, pushing beef imports thus far in 2023 up 7.9%.

South Korea is the largest beef export market in 2023, with total exports down 17.7% for the January-October period compared to last year. Japan is a close second place with total beef exports thus far in 2023 down 21.3% year over year. China/Hong Kong is the third largest market, only slightly behind Japan, with year-to-date beef exports down 18.8%. Taiwan is the other major Asian market for U.S. beef at the number six place, down 5.5% so far in 2023. The Asian markets combined account for 69.2% of year-to-date U.S. beef exports.

Mexico is the No. 4 beef export destination and is the only major market for U.S. beef with higher exports this year. Beef exports to Mexico are up 13.7% year over year. This may reflect general recovery in the market for U.S. beef in Mexico, which has been lower since 2020, and may also be partially due to the Mexican peso being one of the few currencies that has strengthened to the

U.S. dollar recently.

Canada is the fifth largest market for U.S. beef with the 2023 total unchanged from last year for the first 10 months of 2023. The North American markets (Canada and Mexico) account for 19% of total beef exports thus far in 2023.

Canada is the largest source of beef imports, with year-to-date beef imports up 2.5% year over year. Mexico is the No. 2 beef import source, with total imports thus far in 2023 down 10.5% from last year. These two North American sources account for 44.3% of total imports in 2023.

Australia is the third largest beef import origin and is up 52.3% for the first 10 months of the year. Australia has been down sharply the last two years due to reduced production in the country but has recovered significantly in 2023. New Zealand is the No. 4 beef import source and is up 34.2% year over year. Australia and New Zealand combined account for 31.4% of total beef imports so far this year.

Brazil is the fifth largest source of beef imports and is down 9.6% from one year ago. Brazil accounts for 12.6% of beef imports and combined with Uruguay and Argentina, makes the South American share of beef imports sum to 19.3% of total beef imports this year. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeders make several-dollar gains

MARKETS (from page 1)

"More positive news are expectations of a 640k to 645k slaughter this week, the largest since June, which given the big beef movement last week and holiday shortened production around the corner—makes sense," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Tuesday.

USDA reported "packer submission issues" for Thursday's boxed beef report, delaying the report's release. On Wednesday, boxed beef prices closed slightly higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained \$1.70 to close at \$291.64, and the Select cutout gained 38 cents to close at \$259.21.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also found their footing over the week. The January contract gained over \$9 to close at \$219.35, and the March contract gained nearly \$9 to close at \$220.12.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down nearly \$7 to \$215.33.

"The current shift higher and continued gains over the last few days is positioning for a strong weekly close in all nearby feeder cattle futures," DTN wrote. "This positive market move is likely to help stimulate additional technical support across the complex

despite very little changes in market fundamentals."

Corn futures closed lower, with the December contract down 12 cents over the week to \$4.56 and the March contract down 9 cents to \$4.79.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 9,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 650 lbs. sold \$3-5 higher with heavier weights steady to \$3 lower. Feeder heifers sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 781 lbs. sold from \$214-221.50, averaging \$219.03.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in

Oklahoma City sold 8,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$1-3 higher. Feeder heifers traded fully steady. Steer and heifer calves under 450 lbs. sold \$2-4 higher, and over 450 lbs. sold \$3-6 lower.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 5,573 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, light steers 500 lbs. sold substantially higher. Steers 550-600 lbs. sold \$8-9 lower, 650-700 lbs. were \$10-13 higher and 800-950 lbs. sold \$2-7 lower. Light heifers 450-550 lbs. sold \$11-16 higher. Heifers 600-800 lbs. traded mostly steady to \$2 higher, and 850-950 lbs. were \$7-9 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 719 lbs. sold between \$231-256.50, averaging \$243.35. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

Agencies pause wolf release until hearing concludes

WOLF (from page 1)

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) alleges the agencies failed to resolve members' concerns during the public input process and violated the National Environmental Policy Act by moving forward with an endangered species cooperative management agreement to authorize the release.

"Throughout the state's wolf introduction processes, Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) leadership and members dedicated time and effort to ensuring livestock production and rural communities are protected," said CCA President Robert Farnam in a statement. "We regard this path of litigation not out of a desire for conflict, but rather as a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting Colorado's agriculture community and producers of the western slope."

The litigation contends USFWS should have con-

ducted an environmental impact statement review of its cooperative management agreement and seeks to delay wolf release until "the proper environmental impact review has been conducted," according to the associations' news release.

"In the interim, the associations are grateful for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnership and the finalized FWS 10(j) rule, which went into effect on December 8th, to provide Colorado producers management flexibility for potential wolf and livestock interactions," the release continued.

U.S. District Judge Regina M. Rodriguez scheduled a hearing for Dec. 14 (after WLJ press time) to hear arguments and consider the groups' request. Ranchers are asking the judge to issue an injunction and temporary restraining order on the wolf release plan.

Feds say the livestock groups are unlikely to succeed with their argument that officials did not follow federal law when renewing

the cooperative management agreement. "If CPW's program for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species is 'adequate and active,' the service must enter into the cooperative agreement," USFWS said. "There is no room for the exercise of discretion."

Following the ranchers' complaint, environmental groups were quick to respond.

"Conflicts between wolves and livestock are exceedingly rare, and CPW has gone to great lengths to ensure that ranchers are taken care of," claimed Ryan Sedgeley of the Endangered Species Coalition. "There is expertise and resources on the ground ready to minimize conflict. And the Colorado General Assembly has put money aside for compensation."

Colorado is set to capture five wolves from Oregon and release them in Eagle, Grand or Summit counties. CPW agreed not to release any wolves until after the hearing concluded. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

COMING EVENTS



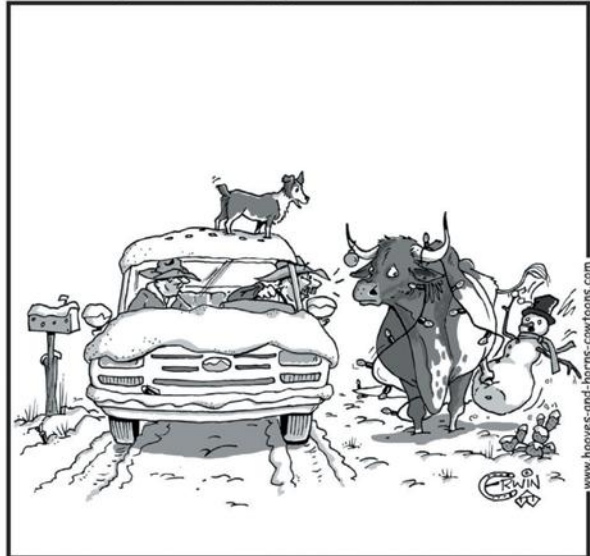
(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wlj.net.)

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

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

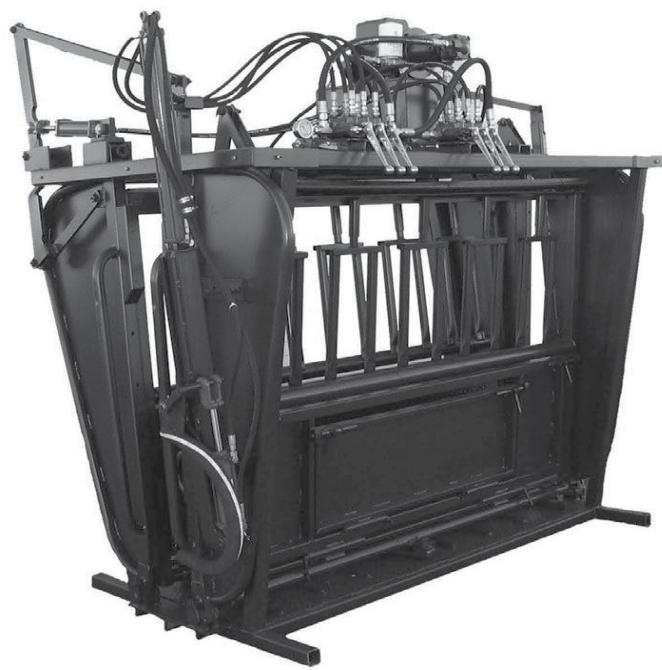
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SALE REPORTS

BIG SKY ELITE FEMALE SALE
Dec. 6, Logan, MT
6 Elites \$6,833
71 Mature cows . . 2,864
32 3-Year-olds . . 2,835
66 Bred heifers . . . 3,165
54 Commercial
bred heifers 2,570
Auctioneer: Kyle Gilchrist

TOPS: Green Mountain Red Angus elite pick; to Todd Hillegas, Montoursville, PA, and Dan Chappell, Mill Hall, PA, \$9,500. Feddes Cherok 4179-2078, by Red MRLA Resource 137E; to Andrea Corbally, Helena, MT, \$6,750. Feddes Cherok 4179-2093, by Red MRLA Resource 137E; to Andrea Corbally, Helena, MT, \$6,750. C-T Larkaba 2026, by Bieber CL Stockmarket E119; to Carson's Red Angus, Blackfoot, ID, \$6,500. Feddes Red Angus elite pick; to Bar Open A Red Angus, Hamer, ID, \$6,500. Feddes Blackana E58-286, by Bieber Fully Stocked H179; to Troy O'Brien, Mount Morris, IL, \$5,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

SITZ ANGUS FALL SALE
Dec. 7, Harrison, MT
438 2-Year-old
bulls \$9,824
372 Commercial
bred heifers 3,113
126 Commercial
bred cows 2,870
Auctioneers: Roger Jacobs and Joe Goggins

TOPS: Sitz Logo 12282, 1/27/22 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Alta Genetics, AB, and Ellingson Angus, St. Anthony, ND, \$50,000. Sitz Centennial 11702, 2/1/22 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Dry Fork Livestock, Kaycee, WY, \$44,000. Sitz Continuity 8732, 2/25/22 by Sitz Continuity 8732; to ABS Global, De Forest, WI, \$42,500. Sitz Resilient 9492, 2/19/22 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, Sidney, MT, Arntzen Angus Ranch, Hilger, MT, and JJ Angus, Connelville, PA, \$40,000. Sitz Logo 10992, 2/9/22 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Lunds B Bar Angus, Wibaux, MT, \$36,000. Sitz LT Virtue 8092, 3/3/22 by

Sitz Virtue 11710; to Fortune Rafter U Cross, Quinn, SD, \$29,000. Sitz Logo 12912, 1/25/22 by Sitz Logo 8148; to Big Dry Angus Ranch, Jordan, MT, \$27,500. Sitz Resilient 10202, 2/14/22 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Gene Harris, Killdeer, ND, \$23,000. Sitz LT Resilient 10412, 2/13/22 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to TNT Angus, Rock Lake, ND, \$22,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

KG ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 8, Three Forks, MT
224 2-Year-old
bulls \$7,347
180 Commercial
bred heifers 2,846
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins

TOPS: KG Asset 2140, 2/14/22 by Sitz Asset 402C; to Hinman Angus, Malta, MT, \$24,000. KG Cowboy Kind 2466, 2/28/22 by HA Cowboy Kind 8157; to Brennan Livestock LLC, Pony, MT \$19,000. KG Logo 2098,

2/6/22 by JCH Logo 0193; to Sharp Angus, Wellsville, UT, \$17,000. KG Asset 2153, 2/17/22 by Sitz Asset 402C; to Dan Vannoy, Salem, OR, \$16,000. KG Logo 2059, 1/29/22 by JCH Logo 0193; to Sharp Angus, Wellsville, UT, \$15,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

GAUGLER ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Dec. 9, Judith Gap, MT

65 Total bulls . . . \$7,854
20 Commercial
bred cows 3,650
50 Commercial
bred heifers 2,930
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: RD Charlo K609, 4/25/22 by Coleman Charlo 9430; to Frank Angus, Hobson, MT, and Hughes Angus, Stanford, MT, \$16,000. RD Honcho L236, 3/30/23 by Duff Honcho 426; to Gus and

Laura Mundt, Belt, MT, \$12,500. RD Renown L549, 4/12/23 by Coleman Renown 0398; to Mikkelsen Ranch, Hobson, MT, \$12,250. RD Rock L466, 4/8/23 by Coleman Rock 7200; to David Dover, Buffalo, MT, \$12,000. Rocking Dot Honcho L622, 4/15/23 by RD Honcho 426; to David Dover, Buffalo, MT, \$11,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



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Jan. 11, 2024 — Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Jan. 23-27 — Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS

Jan. 11, 2024 — Foundation Angus Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 18 — Thomas Angus, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

HEREFORD

Jan. 15, 2024 — Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Feb. 1 — Ridder Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Callaway, NE
Feb. 2 — Elkington Polled Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID

SIMANGUS

Jan 29, 2024 — APEX

Cattle, Bull, Bred Heifer & Fall Pair Sale, Dannebrog, NE

SIMMENTAL

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

COMMERCIAL

Jan. 10, 2024 — Maternal Merit, Bred Heifer Sale, NWSS, Denver, CO
Jan. 25 — Red Bluff, Replacement Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA

HORSE

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

DOG

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

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