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INSIDE WLJ

WOLF REMOVAL — CPW lethally removes uncollared wolf in Routt County following series of depredations. Page 4

DROUGHT — USCA holds drought discussion with industry analysts. Page 11

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Dozens of farm workers and immigration reform advocates demonstrated in front of U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy's office on June 18 in hopes of persuading McCarthy to oppose the Agricultural Guestworker Act (H.R. 1773), which was filed by Rep. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-VA, in April," read the June 24, 2013, *WLJ* cover story.

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Ag groups rally behind USMCA during hearing

—Emphasize trade certainty

As renegotiation questions loom around the future of the United

States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), agricultural leaders from across the food and fiber sectors urged lawmakers to preserve the agreement during a June 10 hearing

before the House Agriculture Committee.

Representatives from the meat, dairy, soybean, produce, forestry and business communities testified

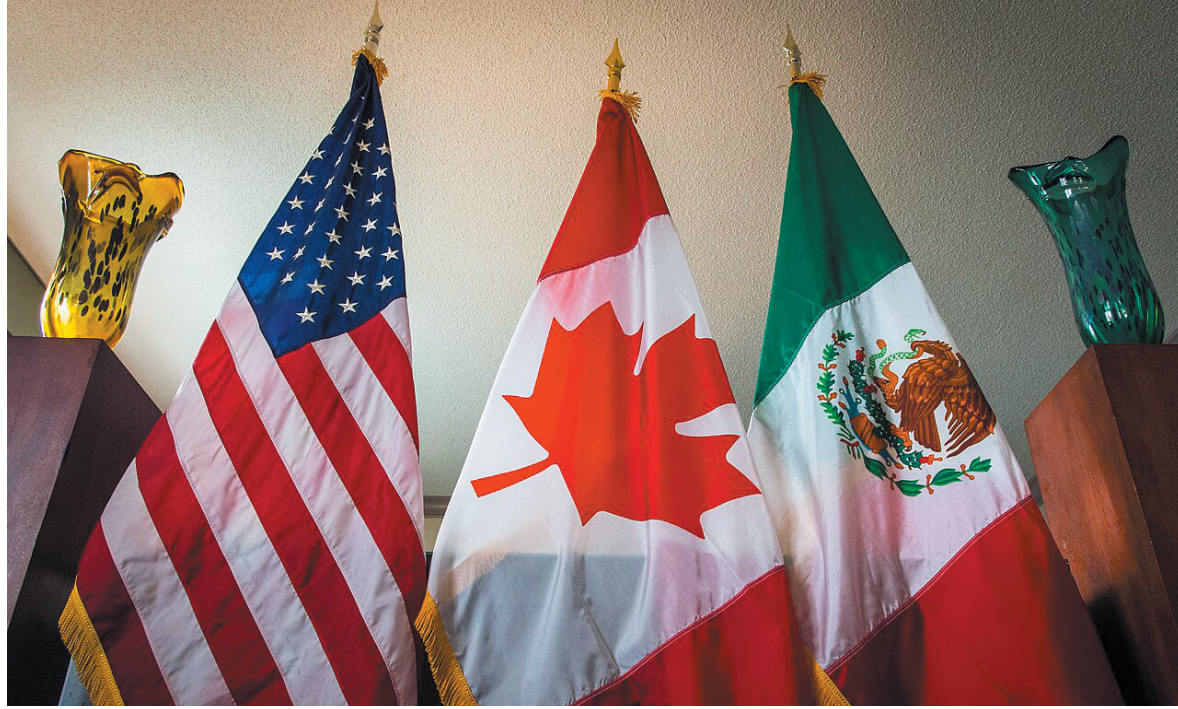
that USMCA has become one of the most important trade frameworks supporting U.S. agriculture. While most witnesses acknowledged improvements could be made during the upcoming review process, they warned that abandoning or significantly weakening the agreement would create uncertainty for producers already facing economic challenges.

The hearing took place amid renewed questions about the agreement's future. According to CBC, President Donald Trump said June 10 he was "not looking to renew" the agreement when it comes up for review on July 1. Although USMCA remains in effect until 2036, any member nation can withdraw by providing six months' notice.

Witnesses at the hearing argued that trade between the nations has become too important to risk disrupting.

Meat Institute calls USMCA crucial

Among those that testified included Michael Schumpp, senior



Preston Keres

Industry leaders testified before the House Agriculture Committee in favor of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

See USMCA on page 12

CBD targets grazing across three areas in Arizona

—Claims failure to protect species

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) has intensified its long-running campaign against livestock grazing on public lands in Arizona, launching three separate legal actions this spring aimed at restricting or halting cattle grazing in riparian areas that the group says harm endangered species and critical habitat.

Between April and June, the organization either filed lawsuits or issued notices of intent to sue federal agencies over grazing management in three regions: the Gila River system in southeastern Arizona, the Upper Verde River in central Arizona and the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area south of Tucson. In each case, CBD argued that federal agencies have failed to adequately protect

endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and have allowed cattle to damage sensitive streamside habitats.

The organization contends cattle are repeatedly entering areas where grazing is prohibited, damaging riparian vegetation, trampling streambanks, degrading water quality and harming habitat for federally protected species. The group also argues the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have failed to consult under the ESA properly or to reinstate consultation despite new evidence of habitat impacts.

The latest filings continue a strategy the organization has pursued for years across Arizona, relying on field surveys, litigation and administrative challenges to pressure federal agencies to tighten

See GRAZING SUITS on page 5

Exploring North Dakota's legendary rough rider country

—A 2026 Livestock Tour recap

The 2026 Livestock Tour presented by *Western Livestock Journal* captured the "legendary" landscapes of North Dakota. The week-long adventure, May 30 through June 6, was planned and managed by Samantha and Devin Murnin and visited 13 ranches with 115 attendees from 17 different states.

Night 1

To kick off the tour, an opening dinner was served at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, ND. Prior to dinner, attendees were able to enjoy the exhibits offered in the museum. The dinner gave everyone a chance to catch up with all their tour friends and hear about the week ahead. Julie Ellingson, vice president of North Dakota Stockmen's Associa-

tion, gave a presentation on the history of agriculture in North Dakota and some historical details about places that tour members would see on the trip.

The attendees also heard from the sponsor of the 2026 Livestock Tour, 701x Autonomous Rancher, a company that creates cattle tags with GPS tracking that also give insight into the cattle's health and breeding. They provided all of the luggage tags for the attendees.

After dinner, everybody was ready to kick off the tour!

Day 1

The buses departed for Schaff Angus Valley Ranch the following morning. The ranch has been in the registered Angus business since 1942 and is one of the oldest ongoing Angus herds in North America. Kelly Schaff, ranch owner, spoke to tour attendees about the opera-

tion's history, philosophy and cattle. He discussed how they heavily focus on the genetics in their herd and how they made their genetics more reliable. They use an extensive embryo transfer (ET) program and market bulls and females through their annual sale every January.

The tour attendees were able to see some of the ranch's AI-bred heifers, several donor females and the recip herd, and their popular calving-ease bull, SAV Courage 3003. Fun fact, Schaff Angus Valley is the second most visited place in all of North Dakota.

The next stop was Froelich Ranch, a cattle and horse operation. On the cattle side, the tour attendees learned about the SimAngus commercial cow/calf herd and how they use native pasture and hay ground to feed, while also

See LIVESTOCK TOUR on page 6

Cattle markets trade mixed during short week

The cattle market traded mixed over the Juneteenth holiday-shortened week.

Live cattle futures experienced some losses over the week. The June contract lost about \$3 to close at \$254.80, and the August contract lost about \$4 to close at \$246.62.

"In anticipation of Thursday afternoon's Cattle on Feed report—and upon seeing no trade yet in the fed cash cattle market—the live cattle contracts are trading lower into the noon hour," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments. "Not to mention, midday boxed beef prices are also lower, which doesn't help matters either."

Cash trade through Thursday totaled less than 2,000 head. There was no market trend noted for live steers, but dressed steers sold for \$410.

Cash trade for the week ending June 14 totaled 49,731 head. Live steers averaged \$256.17, and dressed steers averaged \$404.89.

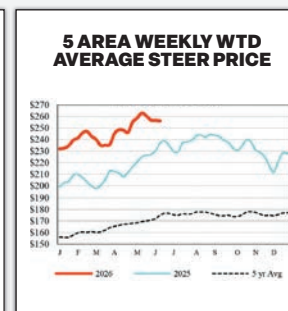
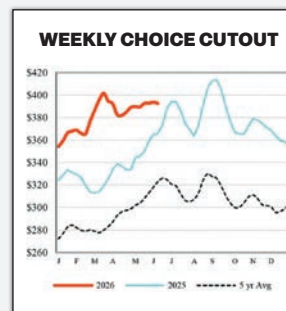
"Packers have pared back the slaughter in the hopes of creating more demand from retailers and building numbers of available cattle in the nation's feedyards," the Cattle Report

wrote on Thursday. "Show lists are larger but inventories the packers have on hand are shorter."

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 426,000 head, compared to 421,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 524,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 6 was 534,560 head. The average steer dressed weight was 969 lbs., 4 lbs. lower than the previous week.

Boxed beef prices traded mostly sideways over the week. The Choice cutout gained 70 cents to close at \$393.92, and the Select cutout gained \$1.50 to close at \$374.75.

See MARKETS on page 9



Category	Price
LIVE STEERS	N/A
DRESSED STEERS	\$410.00
CME FEEDER	\$364.02

WEEK ENDING: 6-18-26

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Summer video season

My travels recently took me to South Sioux City, NE, for Superior Livestock Auction's annual Corn Belt Classic. Cattle were sold across the country from consignments that sampled several sectors of cattle markets ranging from California to Florida.



IPSEN

For producers, the message remains clear: quality matters. Buyers continue to aggressively pursue cattle with health programs, documented genetics and performance records. Those cattle are also consistently commanding the highest premiums in sale barns nationwide. As the industry moves through the summer marketing season, producers who can deliver uniform, high-performing cattle aligned with value-added programs are positioned to capitalize on one of the strongest market environments the beef industry has seen in decades.

It's worth mentioning from my perspective how buyers are paying attention to genetic sources. The obvious players like Riverbend Ranch from Idaho and 44 Farms from Texas, who have been buying customer cattle for the last decade, continued to support those buying into their programs, but I felt that seedstock suppliers are playing an even larger role into the premium gained or discount given. I do believe the buyers of these feeders and yearlings have become educated on what genetics are working for their programs.

To my point, of all the sales speeches to entice more bidding that I've heard in my career, when we talked about a certain lot's ability to "get big and still grade," those were the cattle that earned a few more dollars. I don't think we've seen the carcass weights max out yet.

In the Certified Angus Beef Insider column that Paul Dykstra does a wonderful job putting together, he posted the latest data showing there were 57,000 less cattle slaughtered over the week than the prior week, which is a huge hit, but when carcass weights come back into the equation and 29 pounds more per carcass are added back into production, the scales aren't tipped so one-sided. Now add in the fact that a lot of these cattle are still growing on cheaper inputs, and it's pretty easy to see how the feeders and packers have been able to stay in business. In every tracked value point in this report, the Choice/Select spread was the only spot to see a decrease year over year. The Certified Angus Beef/Choice spread doubled in value.

Fed cattle markets have also maintained remarkable strength in the first half of the year. The Livestock Marketing Information Center reported fed steer prices climbing from roughly \$232/cwt at the beginning of the year to more than \$262/cwt recently, highlighting just how aggressively packers have been bidding to secure inventory. USDA reports have shown negotiated fed cattle trade commonly ranging from the mid-\$250s in recent weeks.

According to Stephen R. Koontz at Colorado State University, while the screwworm has taken most of the headlines, commodities have taken a hit. Ahead of the USDA Acreage report coming out just after this column goes to press, corn is down 20%, meal is down 7.5% and wheat is off about 10%. He claims the futures market is communicating that drought and other production risks are substantially mitigated.

The strength of cattle prices has created challenges further down the supply chain. Several major processors have reported substantial pressure on margins as cattle costs continue to outpace wholesale beef values. Recent announcements from JBS regarding plant closures underscore the severity of the current cattle shortage. Packers are increasingly operating below capacity across all of North America.

While working the earlier-mentioned Superior sale, it's worth calling out how active the Canadian buyers are in the marketplace right now. Had it not been for these buyers, the market would have been different; in certain regions they added \$15-25/cwt. We can't forget that we are collectively marketing cattle and supporting our customer base is good business. If we were to lose that marketplace, it'd hurt thousands of producers. While a lot of people are talking about headlines, sometimes it's worth just sitting back and seeing who is active in the market. We can always talk about issues, but if we don't have someone buying our cattle, there's only one issue left to talk about and that's with your banker.

Looking ahead, market fundamentals remain supportive. USDA economists continue to forecast reduced beef production during 2026 as slower slaughter rates and tight supplies limit overall output. While seasonal fluctuations and market corrections are always possible, most analysts believe cattle prices will remain historically strong until meaningful herd rebuilding occurs. Given the biological realities of the cattle business, that process could take several years. For now, the recommendation is stick to what works. There were a lot of producers hoping for sky-high prices that turned down some of the highest prices ever given. I'd encourage producers to take the profit and reinvest wisely into infrastructure, debt reduction, and ensuring healthy books moving forward. The opportunity is there across the board for the cow/calf producer to have a great year once again. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

GUEST OPINION

In 2005, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation received a troubling call from one of its members. A Fish and Game officer had crossed onto their private land—no warrant, no permission, no notice. Over the years, more ranchers, farmers and landowners came forward with additional, more troubling stories. To prevent ongoing abuse of property rights, Idaho passed the Property Rights Protection Act this March, making clear that private land is not open to government agents.

It's time for other western states to do the same. This isn't an abstract legal issue; it involves real people describing real property rights violations. And it reveals a deeper problem: In much of the West, reality has not kept up with the Constitution's promise.

But how did we get here? The answer lies in a century-old legal doctrine that has, over generations, incrementally empowered government agents to intrude on private property—the "open fields doctrine."

In 1924, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Hester v. United States*, holding that the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches did not extend to the "open fields" area of private property. Sixty years later, in *Oliver v. United States*, the court reaffirmed that rule—even when land is fenced, posted and actively used for agriculture. Under this doctrine, anything outside the immediate area around a home is treated as if it were essentially public in the eyes of the law.

This flawed decision back in 1924 has tacitly created a deeply unfair, two-tiered legal reality. Although a government agent generally can't step into your backyard without a warrant, they can walk a mile into your posted pasture, cross your hayfield or park in your back forty to conduct surveillance without a warrant, probable cause or ever telling you they were there. Government agents know it, and they are unafraid to do it.

Landowners in western states reasonably expect their property to be free from government intrusion. The open fields doctrine does not reflect most citizens' expectations of the property rights protections guaranteed by the Constitution.

This year, with the passage of the Property Rights Protection Act, Idaho became the most recent state to directly confront the open fields doctrine and restore meaningful protections for private landowners. The new law is simple: Government agents—state, local or federal—may not enter private land that is not open to the public unless they have a warrant, face a true emergency or receive the landowner's consent.

These protections have real force behind them. If an agent

IDAHO JUST RESTORED THE PROPERTY LINE

knowingly violates the law, they face a civil penalty. Landowners can also sue for damages and a court order requiring the government to stop the unlawful entry. And if federal agents plan to execute a warrant, they must notify the county sheriff. Idaho's law doesn't interfere with longstanding, legislatively granted authorities. Watermasters can still access ditches and canals. Weed control and abatement districts can still do their work. Emergency responders can still respond. But the days of unauthorized, warrantless entry onto private land are over.

Idaho isn't alone in recognizing the need to modernize protections for private land. In 2021, South Dakota enacted a similar reform, becoming the first state to reject the open fields doctrine statutorily. State supreme courts in New York, Montana, Vermont, Mississippi, Washington and Oregon have also held that their state constitutions provide stronger protections for private land than the federal doctrine allows.

But court decisions alone are not enough. Without clear statutory or constitutional language, protections can shift with judicial interpretation or be undermined by agency practice. Idaho's approach—codifying clear, enforceable rules—provides the certainty landowners need and the clarity agencies require.

Western states share a common landscape and a common challenge. Vast stretches of private rangeland sit alongside large federal holdings. These communities depend on trust that the law will be followed, that property lines will be respected, and that government power will be exercised with restraint.

When government agents feel empowered to enter private land at will, that trust erodes. Idaho has shown that states do not have to accept the open fields doctrine as the final word. They can demand more of their own officials, set clear expectations for federal agents operating within their borders, and restore the basic principle that private land is, in fact, private.

The Fourth Amendment does not end at the residential property line. From the high desert to the mountain pastures, landowners expect laws that are consistent with the Constitution and protect against government overreach—not weak rules written a century ago. It's time for other western states to follow Idaho's lead and fully restore their historic property right protections. — **Rees Empey and Russ Hendricks**

Rees Empey is the state policy manager at Pacific Legal Foundation and Russ Hendricks is vice president of governmental affairs at Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

GUEST OPINION

THE CHANGES WARSH WANTS AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE

The Federal Reserve is under new leadership. Kevin Warsh, President Donald Trump's appointee to succeed Jerome Powell as chair, was confirmed by the Senate on May 13. He presided over his first meeting of the Fed's interest-rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) on June 16 and 17.

Warsh takes the reins at the central bank aiming to make some changes. Pundits are predicting he won't be able to, and it's true he faces significant obstacles. Over time, though, he might well have some success. Farmers and other business borrowers are eager to see one of the changes. Warsh favors lower interest rates. Problem is, the FOMC has cooled on them. Though the committee's April policy statement retains a slight bias in favor of further cuts, it has in fact held rates unchanged in the 3.5% to 3.75% range for three meetings.

And now, after two months of reports suggesting the labor market is strong and a new report putting inflation above 4%, markets are betting the Fed's next move will be to raise rates, not lower them. Even before those reports it wasn't hard to understand the lack of enthusiasm for cuts. Inflation has exceeded the Fed's 2% target for five years. Starting in September of 2024, the FOMC made several interest-rate cuts on the premise that inflation was coming down and on a path to 2%.

But in recent months inflation has been going the other way. In April, the consumer price index rose 3.8% from a year ago. In May, it rose 4.2%. It's not surprising sentiment on the committee is shifting toward the possibility of rate increases.

According to the committee's April meeting minutes, "A majority of participants highlighted, however, that some policy firming would likely become appropriate if inflation were to continue to run persistently above 2%." Faced with these facts, Warsh will be hard pressed to persuade the other 11 members of the FOMC to vote for lower rates.

Some committee members worry that consumers are beginning to expect higher inflation. That could keep the inflation rate elevated even if energy prices fall. Inflationary expectations have a tendency to become self-fulfilling prophecies. Workers demand bigger raises; employers raise product prices to maintain profit margins.

Warsh believes artificial intelligence (AI) will make Ameri-

can workers more productive, which will ease inflation. Maybe someday, his critics respond, but the billions being invested in AI right now are heating up the economy and keeping unemployment low—undercutting the argument for lower rates.

Warsh believes the FOMC looks at the wrong measure of inflation. Rather than excluding volatile food and energy prices in search of "core inflation," Warsh favors so-called "trimmed" measures, which discard the biggest price movers both up and down. One of these trimmed gauges, issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, puts inflation fairly close to the Fed's 2% target.

The Dallas Fed builds its measure off of the government's Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index, the FOMC's preferred measure. The PCE said prices in April were 3.8% higher than a year earlier. Subtracting food and energy, they were up 3.3%. The Dallas Fed's trimmed PCE was up only 2.3%.

Many economists have problems with trimmed measures and some roll their eyes at Warsh picking a politically convenient one. Warsh seems unlikely to convince his fellow FOMC members to switch. He might, though, have some luck getting them to think about alternatives to the PCE and the Consumer Price Index. That will take time, but who knows? The result of that exercise could be support for lower rates.

Time could be on Warsh's side in another way. Top administration economic officials believe energy prices will soon come down, lowering the inflation rate and making interest-rate cuts possible later this year. The hitch: The officials may be overly optimistic. It could take longer for energy prices to come down than they think.

Warsh wants the Fed to be "quieter," and that's a change he may be able to start making right away. His quieter Fed would make fewer speeches, stop issuing forward guidance and get rid of the "dot plot," in which FOMC members give forecasts for economic growth, inflation and interest rates.

A quieter Fed, though, could make Wall Street squirm. The less the Fed says, the more the street will have to guess its intentions. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Guy Colyer

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.

Fresh off the 2026 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium & Convention, Guy Colyer of Colyer Herefords and Angus reflected on the event's takeaways.

The main goal of the event is to share the latest on different research projects in the beef cattle industry conducted throughout the U.S. over the year.

"I think the main takeaway for the last several years is the importance of heterosis within the commercial cattle industry," Guy told WLJ. "If ranchers were not using heterosis, they were losing out on some of the free things that are gained in breeding programs using heterosis."

The 2026 BIF Research Symposium & Convention was held June 1-4 in Boise, ID. Not only was Guy a key member of the steering committee, but he was also recognized at the conference as the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year.

A rich family history in Idaho

The Colyers' family ranch's origins in Bruneau, ID, can be traced back to 150 years ago, when Guy's great-great-grandfather moved westward from Cambridge, OH, and homesteaded in the valley alongside his two sons on neighboring homesteads.

Guy's parents, Ray and Bonnie, ran commercial Hereford cattle on Bureau of Land Management ground in the Owyhee Mountains. In 1976, when Guy and his wife, Sherry, married they began a registered operation. The commercial division was sold in 1992 and added purebred Angus cattle into the mix.

"Our main objective started out as raising registered Angus and Hereford bulls for our area commercial cattlemen, and that still remains our main goal today," Guy said. "I know many people maybe relate to some of the show winnings that we've had in the past, but it's still the commercial ranchers that keep us in business from year to year," he said.

The ranch hosts an annual bull sale each spring, a female sale each fall and a frozen genetics sale in the spring. The Colyers were an early adopter of the internet sale format, conducting their first internet sale more than 20 years ago.

Guy, along with his daughter, Katie, and his grandson, Cruz, were presented the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year award at the annual BIF Awards Luncheon for the family's commitment to improving the beef industry at the seedstock level.

"It was very humbling to be able to win that award," Guy said. "One thing that I am proud of is we have always tried to be on the forefront of genetic improvement."

The Colyers have been pioneers in adopting new tools and technologies to support that effort for decades, dating back to the purchase of their first computer in 1984, which "took up the whole kitchen table," Guy recalled with a laugh.

"I've got to give credit to my son, Kyle, and Katie and Sherry, as they've been the innovators in the industry adopting new technology," Guy said.

Beyond being among the first to own a personal computer, additional advancements have become deeply integrated into how the family manages the herd and makes breeding decisions.

The ranch began using embryo transfer (ET) in 1982 and was also an early adopter of ultrasound data collection for carcass merit in 1984. They have conducted their own ultrasound pregnancy checking since 2000, and nearly all of the ranch's calf crop is now the result of using ET and artificial insemination.

Their embrace of new technology now includes the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI). In the past year, the family has upgraded its ultrasound technology to incorporate AI-assisted evaluation of grading and breeding potential.

"What's really useful is when you're analyzing multiple traits," Guy said of using AI on the ranch. "When you're looking at a pasture full of cattle or bulls and selecting for multiple traits, you can put them all up on a screen and have AI sort them into different categories."

"That can be done in a matter of seconds instead of the hours that it would take to break out each individual and sort them," he added. "I can see that as a huge time saver for anybody."

The ranch uses the GEM cow herd management program, which allows them to track performance records, vaccinations, simulate matings, EPDs and customer records. The CowManager ear tag program is also used to improve the percentage of pregnancy rates by tracking a cow's health activity and detecting when they are cycling to be bred by artificial insemination.

The family's efforts in prioritizing data accuracy have led them to achieving the esteemed Platinum Breeder status for the American Hereford Association's WholeHerd Total Performance Records program, an honor that only 30 additional Hereford breeders achieved this spring.

Reflecting on the BIF event

This year's Symposium and Convention was one of the best-attended in recent years, Guy said, drawing more than



Cassandra Neider Folkman

The Colyer family, pictured (L-R): Piper Colyer, Cruz Colyer, Kyle Colyer, Sherry Colyer, Guy Colyer, Katie Colyer and Tige Skaar.

400 attendees. Attendance on the local ranch tours was also strong, which included the Colyer family ranch.

"The conference brings people in from around the world," Guy said. "All of the major cattle-producing states

were well represented," along with several different countries.

Guy attributes the turnout in part to the event's return to the West after many years, along with the leadership and hard work of Drs. John Hall and Benton Glaze from the University of Idaho, who played a key role in organizing the event.

"I think the committee did an excellent job, both in putting the program together and also the functionality of the program," Guy said. "The event was very smooth and had a lot of excellent comments from around the country."

Guy encourages more producers—both purebred and commercial—to attend up-

coming BIF events to learn more about leading-edge technology that anybody can adapt to.

"I think the BIF conference is something that is oftentimes overlooked from the commercial cattle industry," Guy said, "but I think it's something that could be really utilized and attended by more grassroots people. There's parts of it that give you some insight on what direction the industry is going."

Next year's BIF Symposium and Convention is set to be held in Columbia, MO. For more information on the event, visit beefimprovement.org. — Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor

Early Summer Special



JUNE 25-26, 2026
8:00 A.M. MDT
Thursday and Friday

48,243 CATTLE SELL

- 26,294 Steer calves
- 8,052 Heifer calves
- 2,587 Weaned steer calves
- 95 Immediate delivery pairs (June 25 approx. 2:00 P.M.)
- 429 Weaned heifer calves
- 7,640 Yearling steers
- 3,146 Yearling heifers

4,000 LAMBS (JUNE 26, 8:00 A.M.)

Go to www.northernlivestockvideo.com to view individual lot detail and video.
 Also to view sale online and to register to bid online.

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"We feature the best of the Northern feeder cattle from the nation's outstanding North. Be part of it."



COMING EVENTS

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

June 24-25 – The California Cattlemen's Association 2026 Midyear Meeting will be at the Atlantis Casino Resort in Reno, NV. Details: tinyurl.com/mvmds854.
Sept. 15-17 – The Stockmanship

& Stewardship event in Grand Island, NE, will help ranchers gain practical, hands-on knowledge that strengthens animal care, enhances cattle handling skills and supports the sustainability of their operations. Details: stockmanshipandstewardship.org.

USDA issues directive to restore grazing on national forest lands

In mid-June, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced a directive to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to implement a grazing action plan to streamline and expand livestock grazing on National Forest System lands.

"For too long, bureaucratic overreach and activist-driven lawfare have undermined the multiple-use mandate of our National Forests and Grasslands," Rollins said. "Today, we are empowering line officers with clear direction and reaffirming grazing as an essential tool for healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities."

The notice directs USFS staff to implement the Advancing Grazing on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed this spring, and the USDA-Department of the Interior Grazing Action Plan released last October.

The plans align with the

"By elevating grazing as an Administration priority, USDA is protecting the roughly 23,000 permittees and lessees who rely on public rangelands while delivering more affordable, American-raised protein to consumers."

—USDA

USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry released in October, which includes a list of actions to strengthen the beef industry. The USDA plan emphasizes that "grazing and rangeland management are central to the multiple-use missions of both the USFS and BLM."

"Together, the Grazing Plan and MOU further the commitment to streamline and expand livestock grazing on federal lands, elevate grazing as

an Administration priority, and strengthen support for America's ranchers," Rollins said in her notice.

USFS has initiated several of the actions already, Rollins said, and the directive outlines policy direction to further implement the Grazing Plan and MOU.

The directive includes the following key actions as assigned by Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Michael Boren:

- Expand access to prioritize permitting vacant and closed allotments.

- Maximize grazing flexibilities to keep working lands working.

- Eliminate delays by streamlining permitting and allotment authorizations.

- Elevate rural Americans by giving ranchers a better voice.

- Improve service by setting expectations for positive engagement with ranchers.

The notice directs all USFS staff to expedite the actions related to prioritizing livestock grazing on National Forest System lands, and to fully integrate the plans into multiple-use management to the maximum extent possible.

"By elevating grazing as an Administration priority, USDA is protecting the roughly 23,000 permittees and lessees who rely on public rangelands while delivering more affordable, American-raised protein to consumers," USDA said. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

LEGAL LEDGER

USDA funds NWS projects amid more cases

USDA is investing \$105 million in projects to assist with the country's defense against the New World screwworm (NWS). The investment comes as reported cases of NWS in the U.S. continue to grow. As of June 17, a total of 12 active cases were reported in the U.S. All active cases were found in Texas, although one now inactive case was reported in a dog in southeastern New Mexico. As part of its efforts to prevent the spread of NWS, USDA selected 40 projects to assist in the detection, control and eradication of the pest. "USDA will work closely with these awardees to develop work and financial plans that ensure these projects meet these important priorities and protect critical taxpayer resources," the department said.

JBS announces plans to close two facilities

JBS is planning on closing two of its facilities in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. The closures include a beef production facility in Souderton, PA, and a value-added facility in Memphis, TN. "These decisions are never easy because they directly affect our team members and the communities where we operate," said Wesley Batista Filho, CEO of JBS USA. The company said production from the affected facilities will be absorbed into other operations. "These steps ensure we are better positioned to invest in the future, strengthen our operations, and continue delivering the products people depend on every day," Batista Filho said.

AZ bill would stop Mexican wolf funding

Earlier this year, Arizona state Sen. David Farnsworth (R-Mesa) introduced a bill that would disallow the transport of Mexican gray wolf puppies into the state, and the use of public funds or resources to fund their transport. The bill is now on its way to the governor's desk. "If you want to know why your hamburger is so expensive in the market, it is because of the Mexican gray wolf," Sen. Sylvia Allen, a Republican from Snowflake, said while defending Senate Bill 1280, according to the Arizona Mirror.

OR declares state of emergency for fires

On June 16, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek (D) declared a state of emergency due to the imminent threat of wildfire. The order will remain in effect either until the threat is relieved, the fire season ends or on Dec. 31. "I am declaring a State of Emergency to ensure all available resources—firefighting crews, aerial support, ground resources, and emergency personnel are prepared for deployments—to protect people, property, and our natural landscapes," Kotek said. To date, in 2026 the state has experienced 414 fires that have burned more than 8,000 acres.

Boulder expands targeted-grazing program

The city of Boulder, CO, is once again implementing a cattle-grazing program this summer to help manage grass fuels. Cattle will graze across 65 acres of high-priority wildland-urban interface areas located within 100-300 feet of residential neighborhoods to reduce fine fuels in grassy landscapes. While the project is expected to last up to six weeks, additional projects are planned for August and September in south Boulder. "Projects like this allow us to apply and evaluate science-based mitigation strategies that can help reduce the speed and intensity of fast-moving grass fires near communities while supporting ecological stewardship of public lands," said Wildland Fire Senior Program Manager Paul Dennison.

Pryor Mountain wild horse plan proposed

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service developed an environmental assessment to implement a new joint herd management area plan for the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in southeastern Montana and northern Wyoming. The plan addresses prior federal court mandates to reevaluate appropriate management levels, and sets a new appropriate management level of 90-120 horses. "This population range is designed to balance the herd's needs with available water, vegetation, and wildlife habitat, preventing long-term land deterioration," BLM said. The agency received extensive public comment on a preliminary environmental assessment in the spring of 2023, and the final draft of the document includes comments and noteworthy changes. All documents may be accessed at tinyurl.com/52j34xjw.

Rich appointed as envoy for landowners

In mid-June, USDA announced the appointment of John Rich as special envoy for American landowners. Rich is most notably known as one-half of the country music duo, Big & Rich, and has recently made headlines for his opposition to development on private lands. USDA said Rich's role will be to advocate for landowners facing pressures related to large-scale solar and wind development. "I look forward to representing and advocating for landowners' rights and standing up for the farmers, ranchers, and rural families who work every day to provide for our country," Rich said. "Protecting private property rights and ensuring that landowners are not harassed, intimidated, or pressured by outside interests will be at the heart of this mission."

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CBD challenges reissuance of grazing permits

GRAZING SUITS (from page 1)

grazing restrictions or remove livestock.

Gila River dispute

The first action came on April 23, when CBD issued a notice of intent to sue BLM and USFWS over grazing management in BLM's Gila District, including the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area. According to the notice, the challenge focuses on roughly 70 miles of river designated as critical habitat for numerous endangered species.

CBD argues that six years of field surveys have documented chronic grazing damage throughout the district and claims livestock continue to impact habitat despite restrictions intended to protect sensitive areas. The notice names 11 protected species, including the yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, spinedace, loach minnow, Gila chub, Gila topminnow and Chiricahua leopard frog.

The latest filing builds on a series of challenges CBD has brought against grazing in the area since 2021. The group argues federal agencies continue to rely on biological opinions that downplay the impacts of livestock grazing while failing to address what it says is ongoing unauthorized cattle use in sensitive habitat areas.

"Federal agencies have spent years pretending that cow-trashed streams aren't a

problem, leaving endangered species without a fighting chance at survival," said Chris Bugbee, Southwest conservation advocate at CBD. "These animals and plants are barely hanging on. It's time for the agencies that are supposed to protect them to finally do their job."

Upper Verde River conflict

On April 29, CBD issued another notice of intent to sue, this time targeting grazing management along the Upper Verde River within Prescott National Forest.

The dispute involves six grazing allotments: China Dam, Horseshoe, Muldoon, Perkinsville, Sand Flat and West Bear/Del Rio. The organization alleges that grazing restrictions designed to exclude cattle from riparian habitat are not working and that federal agencies continue relying on biological opinions based on assumptions that livestock are effectively excluded from sensitive areas.

According to CBD, surveys conducted over several years have documented livestock damage in habitat designated for species including the western yellow-billed cuckoo, northern Mexican garter snake, spikedace and loach minnow. The organization says approximately 40% of nearly 34 stream miles surveyed in 2026 showed moderate or significant cattle-relat-

ed damage despite being closed to grazing.

The filing also references a previous lawsuit filed in 2020 after the organization released a report documenting livestock impacts in the area. That litigation resulted in an agreement requiring monitoring and the removal of cattle from closed areas. CBD now contends conditions have worsened since that agreement expired in 2024.

The organization is seeking renewed consultation under the ESA and wants grazing authorizations suspended while new reviews are completed.

Las Cienegas lawsuit

The most recent legal action came on June 8, when CBD and the Maricopa Bird Alliance filed suit in federal court over grazing management within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in southern Arizona.

Congress established the conservation area in 2000 to protect riparian ecosystems and biodiversity while allowing grazing in appropriate locations. The area contains several rare habitat types, including cienegas, cottonwood-willow riparian forests, sacaton grasslands and mesquite bosques.

According to the complaint, CBD has repeatedly documented cattle within nearly 4,000 acres of riparian habitat that the BLM designated as off-limits to grazing in its 2003 management plan. The lawsuit argues BLM failed to reinitiate consultation under the ESA despite new information showing continued habitat degradation.

The complaint also challenges the BLM's 2025 reissuance of grazing permits on the Empire-Cienega Allotment and alleges the agency has failed, for more than two decades, to complete fencing and grazing-management requirements called for in its own re-

source management plan.

Environmental organizations are asking the federal court to declare that the BLM and USFWS violated the ESA by failing to reinitiate consultation on the impacts of livestock grazing and by continuing to authorize grazing activities that allegedly harm protected species and their critical habitat.

They are seeking an injunction requiring the agencies to conduct new consultations, review the impacts of ongoing grazing, and implement additional protections for listed species while that process is completed. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

CPW lethally removes wolf in Routt County

Following a series of confirmed depredation events, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) lethally removed an uncollared wolf in Routt County, CO.

On June 12, CPW and its agents lethally removed a wolf that was originally a member of the Copper Creek Pack but has not been a member of the pack since September 2024. Visual evidence showed that the removed wolf is the same that was depredating in Rio Blanco County in 2025 and early 2026.

Since last summer, the wolf has been involved in 10 different depredation events in-

volving 22 sheep, CPW said. The latest confirmed depredation events took place in Routt County on June 10 and June 11, involving one sheep each day. CPW said the depredations occurred even with producers using substantial non-lethal conflict minimization efforts.

"The decision to pursue lethal actions is never an easy one but the circumstances around this wolf's repeated depredation history made this a difficult but necessary decision," said CPW Director Laura Clellan. "The producers impacted by these depredations have worked diligent-

ly with CPW to identify and deploy all viable and reasonable non-lethal tools and techniques identified through their site assessment and consultation with our field staff."

Conflict reduction efforts included deploying range riders, using livestock guardian dogs and scare devices, applying for injurious non-lethal hazing permits and having an active human presence from herders.

"While the unanimously adopted Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan calls for 10-15 more wolves to be translocated to Colorado, it also calls for le-

thal control of chronically depredating wolves," said Gov. Jared Polis (D). "Colorado remains committed to recovering and maintaining a viable, self-sustaining wolf population in Colorado, while concurrently working to minimize wolf-related conflicts with domestic animals, with non-lethal means as our priority."

The decision to lethally remove the wolf was made in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and in accordance with the USFWS 10(j) rule. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



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Mangante Ranch

Featuring 150 Fancy Fall-Calving Angus Heifers

- Bred to 5L and McPhee calving ease Red Angus bulls
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- Foothill abortion vaccination
- Foothill exposed
- Bulls in November 1 and pulled January 15
- Handled horseback, 4 wheeler, dogs
- Running on native dry east of Oakdale
- Set to calve at 30 months
- Very docile

John Harvey Ranch

Featuring 80 Fancy Fall-Calving Angus Heifers

- Bred to Rancho Casino calving ease Angus bulls
- Vaccinated with Covexin 8 and Ivomec Wormer
- Foothill exposed
- Bulls in November 1 and pulled January 15
- Handled horseback, 4 wheeler, dogs
- Running on native dry east of Oakdale
- Set to calve at 30 months
- Very docile

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Featuring 40 Top-Quality 4-12-Year-Old Angus & Black Baldie 1-Iron Fall-Calving Cows

These cows are foothill and anaplas exposed and are bred to Donati and Diamond Oak Angus bulls from the Coe Ranch

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- Weaned 45 days

2nd vaccinations given 30 days prior to sale date

Premium Level

- 5 way viral (modified live) 2x
- Clostridial 2x
- Mannheimia / Pasteurella 2x
- Dewormer
- Not weaned

2nd vaccinations given 30 days prior to sale date

TLAY REPRESENTATIVES

Max Olvera 209-277-2063
Steve Faria 209-988-7180
Justin Ramos 209-844-6372
John Bourdet 831-801-2343
Celeste Settrini 831-320-1527

Jake Bettencourt 209-262-4019
Tim Sisil 209-631-6054
Travis Johnson 209-996-8645
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JOURNEY THROUGH ROUGH RIDER COUNTRY MAY 31-JUNE 6, 2026

Livestock Tour highlighted legendary landscapes, operations



Tour attendees on Day 5 at Ellingson Angus in St. Anthony, ND.

LIVESTOCK TOUR (from page 1)

running some farm ground. The ranch also has a Quarter Horse program that works to provide their customers with horses that are raised to work on ranches. Attendees were able to see the ranch's beautiful blue roan stallion and cavy mares. Froelich Ranch will hold their 56th annual horse production sale this fall.

The tour rounded out the day at Chad Berger Bucking Bulls, where attendees learned about the rodeo stock and viewed some of their bulls. The family explained their backstory of how they entered the business and told some fun stories about transporting bulls to places like Hawaii. They also talked about the rodeo season and how often they transport bulls—near-

ly every weekend. This ranch has produced some successful bulls like Little Yellow Jacket and Smooth Operator. Chad Berger Bucking Bulls has also won 12 PBR Stock Contractor of the Year titles.

Day 2

The next day took the tour to the eastern part of North Dakota to visit Topp Herefords. Located in the prairie pothole region of the state, the ranch was established in 1945 by Ryan Topp's grandfather. This operation focuses on their commercial customers. Topp discussed how their customers utilize their bulls, with many customers purchasing bulls to produce black baldy cattle. The Topps also provide their bull customers a buyback program for their replacement heifers and contracts on their feeder

cattle. The attendees saw some of their cow herd and yearling bulls.

The second and last stop of the day was Black Leg Ranch, run by the Doan family. They focus on holistic management of the grasslands and farmland to benefit the ground for years to come. The Doans run cattle and a small buffalo

herd, as well as manage a wedding venue, a hunting/outfitting operation and a brewery. The attendees were able to sample multiple brews that were made at the brewery. This ranch does it all!

Day 3

Doll Charolais and Sim-

mental welcomed the tour on Day 3. They started their Charolais operation in 1958, and in 1969, they added Simmental cattle. The group heard about their operation and were able to see their feeder calves and cow herd. This family also farms to produce feed for their cattle, so the attendees were able to hear about the farm-

ing side. A fun story was shared about a tall grain elevator at the ranch that their grandpa bought for \$1 and put wheels on the bottom to move it to their place from town. While not currently in use, it made for a fun conversation piece.

The rest of the day was spent in the historical town of Medora. Attendees were

DAY 1

Schaff Angus Valley, Froelich Ranch, Chad Berger Bucking Bulls



Schaff Angus Valley markets 500-800 registered Angus bulls and females each year through their annual production sale.



Froelich Ranch specializes in blue roan and grullo Quarter Horses, but offers Quarter Horses in a multitude of colors and ages.



Chad Berger Bucking Bulls was established in 2003, winning its first PBR Stock Contractor of the Year title just four years later.

DAY 2

Topp Herefords, Black Leg Ranch



Topp Herefords purchases about 60% of its bull customers' top-end heifers.



Tour attendee Frank Bramwell talks with Jordan Stanton on horseback, who manages the commercial heifer development program for Topp Herefords.



The Black Leg Ranch microbrewery serves ale brewed with local grown and malted barley and water from the ranch's own 230-foot-deep water well.

NIGHT 1

North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum



Attendees explored the museum exhibits, one of which included a well-preserved mastodon skeleton.



Night 1 kicked off with a banquet dinner, where tour attendees were able to hear from local agriculture leaders and mingle with old and new friends.

IT'S LEGENDARY!

LIVESTOCK TOURS

able to enjoy the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, where they also had lunch. They also had the afternoon to explore Medora and browse the little shops. That evening, the group went to a pitchfork fondue dinner where they grilled steaks on pitchforks. Then it was off to see the Medora Musical, which was about America's 250th anniversary this summer. This was a favorite for many attendees.

Day 4

Day 4 began at Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch, where the group heard from Steve Brooks, who served eight years on the Certified Angus Beef board. His family runs 600 registered cows and 180 replacement heifers at their place, and also raises wheat, barley, field peas, oats, corn, safflower and flax. The attendees were able to view the ranch's heifers that had just been AI'd.

The tour then visited Stuber Ranch, which raises Herefords. The family talked about their genetics and how fertility is of the utmost importance. They also discussed their annual sale

and how they have opted to sell their bulls on video displayed in the sale ring instead of running each animal through the ring. The group saw some of their cattle in the corrals and then headed to lunch.

The last stop of the day was Dakota Prairie Beef, which is where the Topps feed their cattle. They took the group around the feedlot and showed them some of the Topps' baldy heifers.

Day 5

Keller Broken Heart Ranch was the first stop on Day 5. The Keller family runs a Simmental operation, and remarked on both the terminal and maternal advantages of the breed. They discussed their tough winters and how they grow their own feed because of the high demand during that season. The group enjoyed exploring their place and saw feeder calves, bulls and the cow/calf herd. The ranch offered great cattle and beautiful views.

The attendees ended the day at Ellingson Angus. The entire family greeted the tour group when they ar-

rived. Chad Ellingson spoke to the group about the importance of their AI and ET program and the marketing of their semen. He also discussed how they manage their cattle and how important it is to have balanced-trait cattle. They have a bull and female sale every year, and also help market Ellingson-sired feeder calves. The group enjoyed seeing a handful of their donor cows and took a big group picture in front of their beautiful mural.

Day 6

CD Acres & Dewitz Feedlot kicked off the last day. This was a different operation than what the group had seen. This family farms, owns a chemical business and has a cattle herd and feedlot. The attendees were able to see every step of this operation, beginning at the chemical business and working their way to the feedlot. The tour group learned about the operation's genetic framework and how herd health is the most important factor. Attendees enjoyed seeing their farm setup and equip-

ment.

The finale for the 2026 Livestock Tour was at Koester Red Angus, where the group heard from Steve and Tracey Koester. They talked about how their heifers are DNA tested, which gives their customers more confidence in their product. The attendees also heard more about 701x tags, which the Koesters use for their cattle. The tour rounded out at the Koesters' neighbor's place, where the group toured his beautiful garden and impressive hunting memorabilia collection.

The "legendary" 2026 Livestock tour in North Dakota was a beautiful week filled with good-looking cattle and kind, welcoming people. This will certainly be a tour that all attendees remember.

Interested in joining the next Livestock Tour? These tours are perfect for people wanting to explore different operations, learn new things and visit different areas of the country. Keep an eye out to see where the Livestock Tour will be going next! — **Charley Maranville, WLJ correspondent**

DAY 5

Keller Broken Heart Ranch, Ellingson Angus



Keller Broken Heart Ranch runs more than 400 head of Simmentals and SimAngus cattle near Mandan, ND.



Ellingson Angus holds a production sale each year at the ranch in St. Anthony, ND.



Pictured (L-R) at St. Anthony Verein Hall for lunch: Mike Moretti, Monique Moretti, John Bles, Marlene Bles, John Taylor, Theresa Taylor, Kim Murphy and Richard Murphy.

DAY 3

Doll Charolais & Simmental, Medora



Doll Charolais & Simmental offers about 160 bulls for sale each year through its annual cattle sale.



Attendees were afforded spectacular views of the Little Missouri National Grassland and Theodore Roosevelt National Park while in Medora, ND.



Samantha and Devin Murnin, Livestock Tours owners and operators.

DAY 4

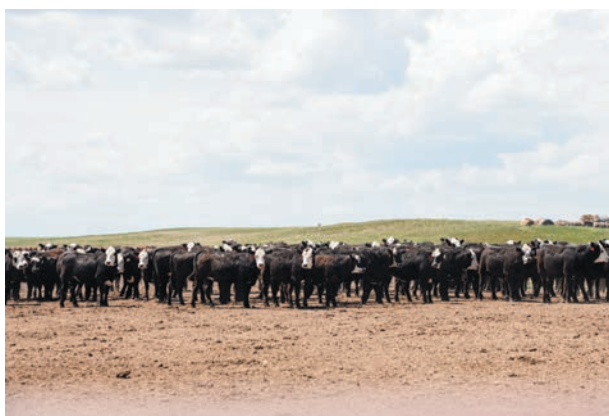
Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch, Stuber Ranch, Dakota Prairie Beef



Linda Ferrasci and Kit Simmie view cattle at Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch.



Stuber Ranch began in 1909 when J.C. Stuber from Ravenna, NE, purchased the section of land where the ranch is located today.



Attendees were able to view black baldy heifers from the Topp Herefords program at Dakota Prairie Beef.

DAY 6

Dewitz Feedlot and CD Acres, Koester Red Angus



CD Acres will produce up to six crops on any given year, with corn, soybeans, small grains and edible legumes being the four primary crops.



Devin Murnin introduced Tracey and Steve Koester at their family ranch in Steele, ND.



Attendees were able to view a set of bulls at Koester Red Angus.

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: 6/18/2026	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	N/A ▲	254.15	236.32
CME Feeder Index	364.02 ▼	368.06	311.04
Boxed Beef Average	393.92 ▲	393.21	393.79
Average Dressed Steers	410.00 ▲	405.60	376.32
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,465 ▼	1,470	1,423
Weekly Slaughter**	524,000 ▼	533,000	558,000
Weekly Beef Production***	468.9 ▼	479.1	484.9
Hide/Offal Value	14.69 ▼	14.78	11.31
Corn Price	4.22 ▲	4.20	4.32

*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	
June 12	5,970	391.76	281	402.33	1,112	398.46	1,846	391.37	514	376.86	2,216	364.09
June 5	6,392	393.97	359	401.40	1,195	398.54	1,907	391.99	473	383.81	2,458	369.93
May 29	5,678	394.37	285	402.42	1,099	398.75	1,790	391.59	420	388.13	2,084	370.66
May 22	6,601	392.82	360	399.79	1,215	396.10	2,129	389.95	504	386.86	2,392	371.21

CUTOUTS						FED BOXED BEEF							
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN	DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN
June 18	393.92	374.75	358.59		185.40	459.57	June 18	393.92	374.75	358.59		185.40	459.57
June 17	394.50	377.26	356.11		180.45	N/A	June 17	394.50	377.26	356.11		180.45	N/A
June 16	399.58	376.85	356.96		N/A	N/A	June 16	399.58	376.85	356.96		N/A	N/A
June 15	395.05	376.41	358.02		187.74	454.84	June 15	395.05	376.41	358.02		187.74	454.84
June 12	391.93	372.72	359.34		183.48	457.50	June 12	391.93	372.72	359.34		183.48	457.50

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	6/12	6/15	6/16	6/17	6/18	High*	Low*
Jun.	24988	25133	25553	25625	25555	25873	16853
Aug.	24118	24345	24945	24985	24888	25598	16668
Oct.	23380	23695	24243	24260	24185	25120	17005
Dec.	23308	23600	24105	24125	24073	25093	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	6/12	6/15	6/16	6/17	6/18	High*	Low*
Aug.	35743	36210	36790	36788	36903	38103	21920
Sep.	35455	35988	36618	36618	36690	38280	22268
Oct.	35093	35640	36328	36338	36390	38020	22460
Nov.	34718	35268	35983	36005	36048	37860	24118

*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	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	76	945	410.00
Dressed Del Heifer	120	882	407.00

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	173	1,508	254.15
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	1,008	1,009	405.60
Dressed Del Heifer	293	888	404.59

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	9,541	1,484	236.32
Live FOB Heifer	3,615	1,354	235.64
Dressed Del Steer	9,965	989	376.65
Dressed Del Heifer	2,702	870	376.32

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JUNE 14, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	31,979	1,768
Formula	206,729	3,434
Negotiated Cash	80,390	47
Negotiated Grid	28,627	1,906
Packer Owned	11,444	N/A
Total	359,169	7,155

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,651
Jun. '26	134,018	616	
Jul. '26	95,378	3,637	
Aug. '26	145,012	66	
Sep. '26	82,829	5,356	
Oct. '26	111,074	118	

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		252.19	-3.03
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		251.96	-1.50
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		247.05	-0.72
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		244.79	-1.06
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		171.77	-0.44

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, June 15, 2026				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	513.40	N/A	487.50	
601-700 lbs	450.37	N/A	444.42	
701-800 lbs	407.27	N/A	415.41	
801-900 lbs	365.44	N/A	382.55	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	482.41	N/A	475.34	
501-600 lbs	440.54	N/A	422.45	
601-700 lbs	402.82	N/A	385.75	
701-800 lbs	365.38	N/A	344.60	

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeders	6/8/2026	6/1/2026	0	230,638

IMPORTS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
June 18, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: N/A	Week Ago EST: N/A	Year Ago Act: N/A	
THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH 2025. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.			

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A

Selected Auctions Week Ending June 18, 2026

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

DATE MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. - up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS
								SLAUGHTER BULLS	REPLACEMENTS
No report available Blackfoot, ID									
June 18 Burley, ID	190		537.50-551.472	415	392	337	229-243	143-183	210-227
No report available Emmett, ID									
June 13 Eugene, OR	1,118	510-533*	343-430*	350-402*	275-320*	260-302*	245-298*	170-209	3,100-4,000
No report available Madras, OR			387-465*	360-420*	310-352*	280-300*		197-234	2,300-2,700
June 10 Vale, OR	1,138	557-673	480-555	440-503	380-440	353-385		175-183	
June 16 Davenport, WA	226	525-589	469-512	410-470	363-392	342-357	314-349	205-231	
June 11 Toppenish, WA	1,278		375-450	390	350	315-369	190-342.50	109-199	2,450-4,700
June 11 Orland, CA	3,061		490	365	242.50-337	190-333	176-314	184-340	3,000-3,800
June 10 Escalon, CA	N/A							174-194	3,825-4,100
June 15 Famoso, CA	293	455-600	430-500	390-490	360-410	315-360	280-340	70-240	
June 10 Galt, CA	3,499	380-540	380-430	335-410	315-375	280-340	280-340	140-206	
June 16 Turlock, CA	2,455	400-500	380-450	370-432	300-375	275-351	100-188	3,000-4,300	
No report available Salina, UT								180-240	2,500-5,700
June 15 Iowa	1,339		375-455	350-455	350-423	325-383	275-359	160-192	2,500-4,300
June 16 Miles City, MT	624		355-421	330-390	330-386	305-344	255-332	180-219	2,300-3,800
No report available Bassett, NE								130-183	
No report available Ericson, NE								130-201	
June 12 Imperial, NE	1,138	610	492.50	474	325-383	305-344	255-332	160-192	2,500-4,300
No report available Kearney, NE								180-219	2,300-3,800
June 12 Lexington, NE	2,193		575	470-516	416-460	390-395	325.25-383.50	160-192	2,500-4,300
No report available Ogallala, NE			531	402-507	381-393	342.50-379	314.75-350	175-232	3,200-3,750
June 18 Valentine, NE	1,295			500-526	416-440	369-397	349-400	205-218	3,450-3,950
June 12 Herreid, SD	2,649		471	425-436	385-418	371.50-381	307.50-345.75	175-232	3,200-3,750
June 17 Torrington, WY	587							175-232	3,200-3,750
June 11 Willcox, AZ	N/A	420	428-475	464.50-495	437-495	373-425		160-195	3,550-4,200
No report available Colorado		393-480	439-495	370-395	339-363.50	322-334.50		190-230	3,400-3,600
June 10 La Junta, CO	1,039	555-655	455-550	380-455	355-390	308-317.50		170-184	3,450-3,950
June 15 Loma, CO	533	500-555	425-482.50	377.50-425	325-382.50			205-218	3,050-3,825
June 17 Dodge City, KS	1,115	565-640	510-580	430-515	375-450	350-405	250-360	165-190	3,500-4,550
June 11 Pratt, KS	1,971	510-600	455-580	415-455	350-405	320-350	250-330	195-250	1,800-3,100
No report available Salina, KS		587.50	585	485-500	437.50-439	369-380	341.85-355.75	135-187.50	2,850-3,850
June 18 Clovis, NM	1,539		502.50-537.50	407-417.50	326-343	326-343		201-262.50	1,800-3,100
June 17 El Reno, OK	8,309	510-600	440-500	410-470	375-457	340-423	305-380.50	295-352	
June 16 McAlester, OK	780	500-645	478-528	420-463	395-443	370-403	284-345	162-187	3,700
June 15 Oklahoma City, OK	4,265	510-600	447-535	402.50-497.50	367-447	353-414	310-383.75	201-228	2,500-3,400
June 12 Cuero, TX	1,257	452.50-520	420-480	375-437	341-392	332-355	307-331		
June 11 Dalhart, TX	1,294	580-800	460-545	415-488	392-416	350-388		157-203	3,650-4,200
June 11 San Angelo, TX	537	512-705	465-590	428-600	389-530	330-370		195-228	1,750-3,000
June 11 Tulla, TX	507		570	510-597.50	415-458	410.50	360-400	327-360	144-184
June 12 Alabama	7,030		500	470-482.50	399-44				

A look at the Mexican beef market

New World screwworm (NWS) issues and the closure of the Mexican border for livestock have focused much attention on the Mexican beef industry. Questions have continued about if and how the Mexican industry could handle the 1 million-plus head of cattle that are typically exported to the U.S. The Mexican beef industry has evolved significantly in the past two decades, rendering many older views of the industry outdated and incorrect.

For the past 15 years, the total Mexican cattle inventory has averaged between 17 and 18 million head, with a total cow herd of roughly 11.5 million head. Cows make up a larger percentage of total cattle inventories (about 65%) compared to the U.S., where the total cow herd is 43% of total cattle.

This is because cattle flow through the Mexican industry faster than in the U.S. More young cattle are typically included in the total U.S. inventory because calves remain on pasture and in feedlots, whereas 14-16% of the Mexican calf crop is usually exported and cat-

tle do not remain in feedlots as long compared to the U.S.

The Mexican calf crop has averaged just over 8 million head in recent years, with a calf crop percentage of roughly 71%, up from about 65% 25 years ago. Mexican cattle exports have averaged 1.2 million head over the last 25 years and typically represent 14-16% of the calf crop.

Beef production in Mexico has increased an average of 2% per year in the last decade. This is the result of increased cattle slaughter, about 1.6% annually, and increasing carcass weights. Average cattle carcass weights have increased from about 600 pounds 25 years ago to roughly 710 lbs. currently.

The Mexican beef industry evolved from predominantly grass-fed production to current production where most cattle are fed in feedlots. This, along with improved cattle genetics and management, has led to increased carcass weights (Figure 1).

Beef consumption in Mexico averages about 24 lbs. per year, retail weight. Beef imports in Mexico are

equivalent to roughly 10% of production in recent years but down from about 22% of production two decades ago. Moreover, Mexico has become a significant beef exporter and has been a net exporter the past 10 years. (Figure 2). Mexico is currently the No. 11 beef-exporting country.

The Mexican beef industry has modernized and developed significant infrastructure the past two-plus decades. Cattle and beef trade between Mexico and the U.S. has evolved from a long history of cattle exports to the U.S. to include Mexico becoming a major beef export destination for the U.S., and recently with Mexico becoming a significant source of U.S. beef imports. The increasingly integrated trade relationship adds value to the beef industries in both countries.

Not exporting feeder cattle to the U.S. means that more cattle are staying in Mexico to be finished for beef production. It also likely means that fewer cattle are being imported from Central America, which has been a source of supple-

mental cattle supply in recent years. Mexican beef imports will likely decrease, and beef exports will in-

crease in the absence of cattle exports. Production systems and supply chains will continue to evolve in

Mexico. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Mexico Cattle Carcass Weight
Lbs., Calculated

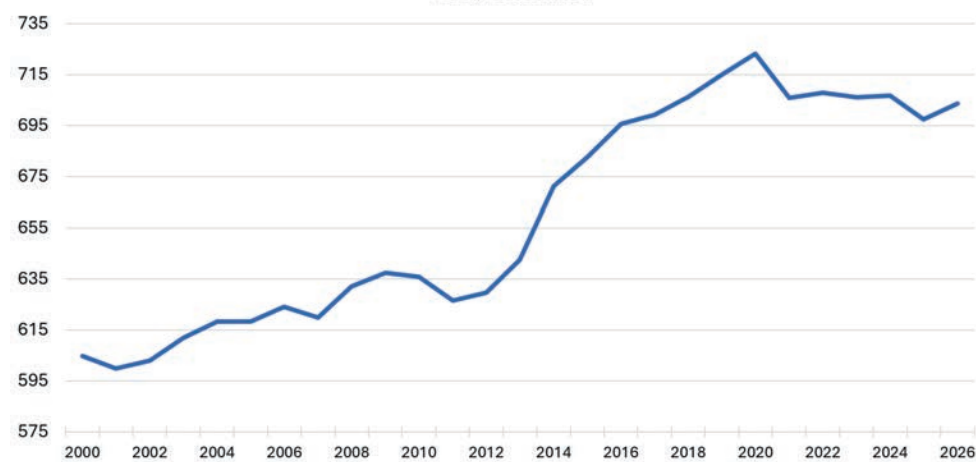
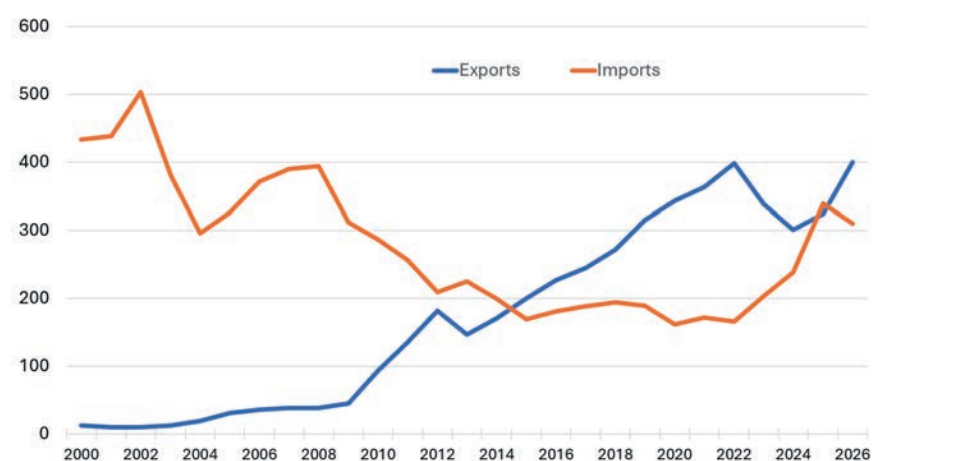


Figure 2. Mexico Beef Exports and Imports
1000 MT



US beef tasting delights top restaurateurs, chefs in Ghana

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) hosted two U.S. beef tastings at the well-regarded Nguni Bar and Grill in Accra, Ghana. The 64 participants included professional chefs, restaurant owners and operators, food influencers and corporate banking relationship executives who work with hotels and hospitality businesses. Over two evenings, they were treated

to U.S. brisket, and sirloin, ribeye and T-bone steaks.

The two-night event helps build on momentum generated by USMEF's trade mission to Accra in 2025, said Chad Carney, USMEF Africa marketing manager.

"The tasting sessions showcased the quality, versatility and culinary appeal of premium U.S. beef cuts while strengthening en-

gagement with key stakeholders in Ghana's food service and hospitality industry," Carney said. "Representatives from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service were also in attendance, underscoring the importance of the engagement."

Funding support was provided by the Beef Checkoff Program and USDA's Regional Agricultural Promotion Program. — **USMEF**

Cattle on Feed report notes lighter May placements

MARKETS (from page 1)

"The processors are hoping to revive beef demand by cutting back slaughter volumes and there should be a response in the coming week for box prices," the Cattle Report said. "Retailers are hesitant to sell beef at a loss—reluctance has slowed movement in the nation's super-markets."

USDA released its latest Cattle on Feed report on Thursday ahead of Friday's Juneteenth holiday. Cattle and calves on feed as of June 1 totaled 11.7 million head, 2% above last year. Placements during May totaled 1.70 million head, 10% below last year. Marketings were 12% lower at 1.55 million head, the second lowest for May since reporting began in 1996. Other disappearance dur-

ing May totaled 55,000 head, 11% below 2025.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were higher over the week. The August contract gained about \$7 to close at \$366.60, and the September contract gained about \$8 to close at \$364.67.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about \$4 to close at \$364.02.

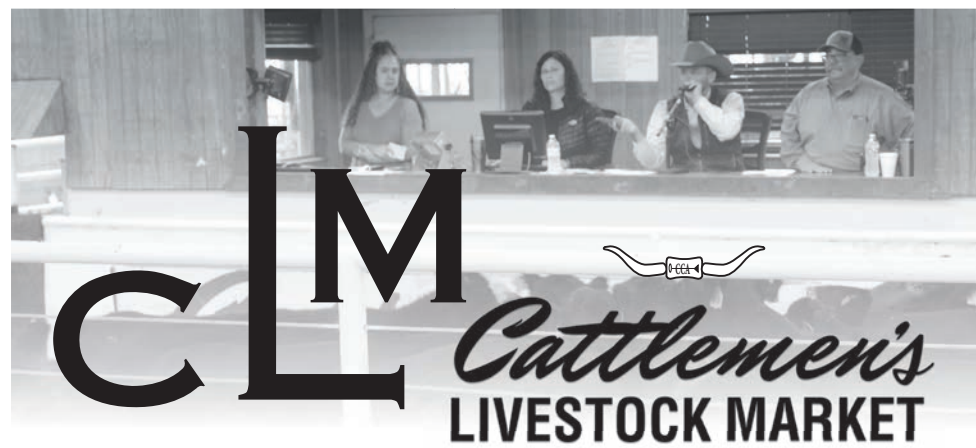
Corn futures traded modestly higher over the week. The July contract gained 6 cents to close at \$4.17, and the December contract gained a penny to close at \$4.40.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold steady to \$12 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$18 higher.

Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold from \$365-394, averaging \$378.55.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 4,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$2-10 higher, with six-weights selling up to \$20 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 775 lbs. sold from \$353-384.75, averaging \$381.95.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 7,570 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale's limited offering, feeder steers and heifers sold with higher undertones on very good demand. Benchmark steers averaging 782 lbs. sold from \$377-409, averaging \$389.63. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



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Drought forces tough choices for cattle producers

For cattle producers across the Great Plains and West, drought is more than a weather event. It is a test of business planning, land stewardship and long-term survival.

That reality was the focus of a recent United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) "Horn Wrap Call," where DTN livestock analyst ShayLe Stewart, Montana rancher Dusty Emond and former Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux discussed the difficult choices ranchers face when forage disappears, stock water dwindles and liquidation pressures mount. Their discussion echoed many of the same themes highlighted in a recent Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ panel titled "When in Drought" on drought management.

Signals reveal drought stress

Stewart said drought impacts often become visible in livestock markets long before they appear in government reports.

She pointed to Torrington Livestock Auction in Wyoming as an example. During one sale this spring, the market handled more than 9,000 head of cattle when weekly receipts typically range between 400 and 500 head.

"That just really echoes the significance of this drought and how producers are having to navigate this marketplace,"

Stewart said.

The same observation was noted during the Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ discussion, when Stewart said that unusually large sales volumes can be one of the clearest indicators of drought-driven liquidation.

Beyond auction receipts, Stewart noted producers can also monitor USDA's Cattle on Feed report for clues. May placements were up 6%, suggesting some producers are choosing to place cattle in feedlots rather than turn them onto drought-stressed pasture.

While selling cattle may provide immediate cash flow, Stewart warned that the biggest financial consequences often appear years later.

"The biggest implication of destocking during a drought doesn't actually financially come during the years of the drought," Stewart said. "It comes after the year, or anywhere up to five to 10 years afterward."

She explained that producers who sell breeding females lose not only those cows but also future calf crops. When conditions improve, rebuilding a herd often requires purchasing replacement females at elevated prices while cattle markets may already be softening.

The same concern was highlighted in the Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ panel, which cited previous research showing that cash-flow deterioration frequently appears after

drought conditions ease rather than during the drought itself.

Protecting grass

For Emond, a fifth-generation rancher near Malta, MT, protecting rangeland remains the top priority.

During the USCA discussion, Emond said he generally errs on the side of preserving grass resources, even if that means reducing livestock numbers. That philosophy mirrors comments he made during the Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ panel, when he said he prefers to destock quickly and protect the range rather than risk long-term damage to forage resources.

Emond's operation includes cow-calf pairs, replacement heifers, stockers, sheep and goats. That diversification gives him flexibility when drought arrives.

During the Horn Wrap Call, he explained that he has already sold his stocker cattle and some young bred cows

while maintaining replacement heifers and sheep.

"We just tried to sell the overvalued and buy back the undervalued," Emond said.

He also stressed that water availability often dictates management decisions. Depending on pasture location and infrastructure costs, the economics may favor hauling water, installing pipelines or simply removing livestock until rainfall returns.

Federal programs available

Ducheneaux argued that many producers are unaware of federal programs designed specifically to help keep cow herds intact.

He pointed to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program, which can help offset transportation costs associated with moving livestock or hauling feed during drought conditions.

"There is no valid reason for

a producer to be selling a cow due to drought right now," Ducheneaux said, noting that program flexibility adopted during the 2021 North Dakota drought remains available.

He also encouraged producers to utilize the Emergency Conservation Program, which can help fund water developments, pipelines, tanks and other infrastructure improvements.

Planning ahead

While drought often forces difficult decisions in the moment, the panelists repeatedly emphasized that preparation begins long before pastures dry up.

Stewart said producers should use the good years to prepare for the difficult ones rather than assume favorable conditions will last forever. Putting up extra hay, improving water systems and maintaining financial reserves can help ranchers weather drought when it inevitably returns.

"The time to plan for drought is not during the drought, it's in the years with the rain," Stewart said during the USCA call. Producers should focus on investments that improve long-term productivity and cash flow rather than short-term purchases that do little to strengthen the operation during difficult times.

Emond agreed, noting that successful drought management often comes down to making decisions based on economics rather than emotion. Diversifying enterprises, monitoring forage conditions early and acting before conditions become critical can provide producers with more options when dry weather arrives.

Whether through better grazing management, stronger financial planning, improved water systems or strategic use of assistance programs, the panelists agreed that drought preparedness is no longer optional. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

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Jul. 25 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Bred Female Sale, Galt, CA
Aug. 1 – Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Bred Female Sale, Turlock, CA
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BY A.W. ERWIN



"OH YEAH, SHE'S CRAZY AWRIGHT! BUT WE'RE CRAZIER,...AIN'T WE, HOSS?...HOSS?"

Utah bid to roll back Grand Staircase-Escalante plan veers off the fast track

A plan from Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT-02) to change how the federal government manages a Utah national monument is facing a steeper road ahead after moving slower than anticipated and missing a deadline.

With support from the rest of Utah's all-Republican congressional delegation, Lee and Maloy in March proposed undoing a Biden-era management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument spanning 1.9 million acres in southern Utah. Their effort drew intense opposition from environmental groups and Native American tribes.

In Lee and Maloy's view, the 2025 guidelines went too far in restricting uses like road access. The lawmakers noted neighboring rural counties opposed the restrictions, saying standards set by the first Trump administration were better for managing the protected land.

Lee and Maloy invoked the Congressional Review Act (CRA), allowing Congress to review and overturn federal rules in an expedited process and by a simple majority of votes in the U.S. House and Senate. But the deadline for those votes came and went, with-

out any action from Congress.

In a joint prepared statement, Lee and Maloy said they're not abandoning their plan.

"While the CRA pathway is no longer available for this measure, our focus on this issue is unchanged," they said in the statement. "This was a procedural outcome, not a reflection of support for the underlying policy, and we are evaluating next steps. We remain committed to restoring our community's voice in the monument's future."

Legal experts told Utah News Dispatch in May that if successful, the effort would have caused immense uncertainty on the ground, leaving federal land managers guessing about how they're supposed to do their jobs. Under the act, they'd be barred from using a "substantially similar" framework in the future, but it's not clear how different their next steps would need to be.

On June 12, a coalition of Native American tribes said the proposal would bring "devastating effects for the monument and for our peoples" and celebrated that the 2025 plan remains intact.

"That plan, for the first time, heeded our voices and our Traditional Knowl-

edge by establishing a framework for Tribal co-stewardship over our ancestral lands," said Autumn Gillard, coordinator for the Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition, and who is Southern Paiute.

Gillard said use of the CRA to overturn the monument guidelines would have been a "a direct strike against the Federal government's duty to consult with Tribes." It would also be the first time Congress used the act to undo a manage-

ment plan for a national monument.

The current plan protects cultural places, petroglyphs, pictographs and structures that remain important for traditions, ceremonies and domestic life, Gillard said, and removing it would have raised the risk of looting and vandalism.

The management plan also sets guidelines for camping, cattle grazing and other uses inside the monument. Changes to

the plan could alter which activities are allowed and where within the monument they're permitted, but would not affect its size.

The coalition said now that the fast-track window has closed, Lee would need 60 votes that he's unlikely to get in order to overcome the Senate filibuster, a procedural maneuver to delay legislation.

The monument was created by former President Bill Clinton in 1996, over

the objections of Utah officials. Clinton used his power under the Antiquities Act, a century-old law giving presidents authority to declare monuments to protect places of cultural, historical and scientific significance.

President Donald Trump drastically reduced the monument's boundaries in 2017, before President Joe Biden restored it to its original size in 2021. — **Annie Knox, Utah News Dispatch**

Ag leaders urge lawmakers to preserve USMCA

USMCA (from page 1)

director of international affairs for the Meat Institute.

Schumpp told lawmakers that Canada and Mexico remain indispensable markets for U.S. meat exports and play a critical role in maintaining a competitive livestock industry.

"In 2025, U.S. meat and poultry exports exceeded \$23 billion and exports to Canada and Mexico accounted for \$8 billion of that trade," Schumpp testified. "That represents 35% of our total U.S. meat and poultry exports."

Schumpp said Canada

ranked as the fourth-largest export market for U.S. beef and pork and the second-largest destination for poultry exports in 2025. Mexico was the top-value market for U.S. pork and poultry and the third-largest destination for U.S. beef. Schumpp added that those markets are especially valuable because they purchase products that often command higher prices abroad than domestically.

According to Schumpp, exports to Canada and Mexico added approximately \$91 per fed steer and more than \$28 per market hog last year.

"Maintaining this robust

U.S. meat trade with Canada and Mexico is crucial to reclaiming America's agricultural trade surplus," he said.

Schumpp warned that withdrawing from or significantly altering USMCA could reduce producers' profitability, increase consumer costs and encourage additional meat-processing investment outside the U.S.

During questioning, Schumpp also stressed the importance of livestock movement across North America, noting that cattle and hogs frequently cross borders multiple times through feeding and processing systems before entering domestic or export markets. Disrupting those supply chains, he said, would affect feedlots, processors and producers alike.

"The integrated supply chains across North America reduce dependence on adversarial countries for critical food and agricultural inputs," Schumpp said.

Other sectors voice support

While the meat industry focused heavily on preserving existing market access, other witnesses echoed that sentiment and highlighted specific provisions they would like strengthened.

Jamie Beyer, an executive committee member of the American Soybean Association, echoed concerns about preserving market certainty.

Beyer said Canada and Mexico purchased approximately \$4 billion worth of U.S. soybean products during the most recent marketing year, accounting for more than 13% of total soybean complex exports.

Beyer called USMCA the "gold standard" of trade agreements and urged policymakers to approve a full 16-year extension.

"As soybean farmers continue to face a challenging economic landscape, failure to renew USMCA would be catastrophic," she said.

Michael Lichte, chief insights and optimization officer for Dairy Farmers of America, described Mexico

as a major success story for U.S. dairy exports. However, he said Canada continues to fall short of fulfilling dairy market-access commitments negotiated under USMCA.

Lichte pointed to Canada's administration of dairy tariff-rate quotas, arguing that access negotiated by U.S. dairy producers has not translated into meaningful commercial opportunities. For example, he testified that less than 10% of available yogurt quota access was utilized in 2025.

"Access that exists on paper is not consistently translating into real market opportunities," Lichte said.

Dave Puglia, president and chief executive officer of the Western Growers Association, stressed the importance of maintaining tariff-free trade in produce while strengthening labor and food-safety enforcement provisions.

Canada and Mexico account for roughly two-thirds of all U.S. fresh produce exports, according to Puglia. He urged negotiators to ensure food-safety oversight in Mexico meets standards comparable to those required of U.S. producers.

Neil Herrington, senior vice president for the Americas Program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, broadened the discussion beyond agriculture, noting that more than 13 million American jobs depend on trade with Canada and Mexico.

Herrington cited a recent Purdue University study estimating North American trade agreements save U.S. households roughly \$700 annually in food costs. He warned that abandoning duty-free trade within North America would likely increase food prices and place additional pressure on consumers already struggling with inflation.

Witnesses argued that the USMCA has provided stability for farmers, ranchers, processors and agribusinesses, enabling long-term investments based on reliable market access and helping North American agriculture remain competitive globally. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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