

INSIDE WLJ

PAINTBALL FIGHT — CDFW approves paintballs as new hazing option for gray wolves. Page 6

LEGAL WOES — Center for Biological Diversity informs USFS and USFWS of intention to sue agencies for failure to protect California frogs and toads. Page 8

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

“Reconversion by industry is much more rapid than anyone had dared to hope for. There is a lot of talk about millions of unemployed but almost any farmer or cattleman, or any employer making civilian goods, wonders where all of the millions of unemployed war-workers we hear about over the radio are keeping themselves. Fact is, there is little unemployment and it is apparent that anyone who really wants to work and is able to work can get a good-paying job,” wrote Nelson R. Crow, in his Sept. 1945, “Observations by the Editor.”

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President Donald Trump announced Sept. 4 two executive orders aimed at supporting the ranching industry. Pictured here, ranchers and leaders gather with Trump at a signing in the Oval Office.

Brooke Rollins/USDA

Trump executive orders address packers, MCOOL and wolves

Shortly after formalizing plans to increase foreign beef imports by 300,000 metric tons, President Donald Trump announced two executive orders intended to support American ranchers and promote market competition. Gathered in the Oval Office with Secretary of Agriculture

Brooke Rollins and a group of ranchers, Trump signed two orders Sept. 4 to implement new policies that he called “the largest ever government effort to change all federal rules and regulations necessary to support our ranchers and our farmers.” The two executive orders—

Supporting America’s Ranchers, and Promoting Fair Competition in Livestock Markets and Expanding Market Access for American Meat Producers—address gray wolves, country-of-origin labeling (COOL), Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement and meat processing expansion,

among other actions. During the executive order signing, Trump also confirmed to reporters that the increase of lean beef trimming imports with no above-quota tariff would be coming from Brazil and Argentina, and potentially other countries. Trump was also ques-

tioned on the status and timeline of COOL, which he said was going to be up to Congress to decide. “Congress has something to do with that one. So, we’re putting it in front of Congress right away,” he said, adding

that “we’re working hard on getting the farm bill passed.” In addition to Trump’s executive orders, USDA also announced four additional actions to follow up on the October 2025 USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef

See TRUMP ORDERS on page 13

Groups seek to revive UT monument lawsuits

Environmental groups and Tribes are asking a federal court to revive lawsuits over the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments after President Donald Trump sharply reduced both Utah monuments for a second time. The groups filed motions in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia asking the court to

reopen litigation over Trump’s 2017 monument reductions. They also want to update the lawsuits to challenge his latest boundary reductions, announced on July 13. The proclamations Trump signed in July reduced Bears Ears from about 1.36 million acres to about 121,096 acres, and

See LAWSUITS on page 12

Court blocks BLM removal of American Prairie bison

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from requiring American Prairie to remove more than 900 bison from three federal grazing allotments in Montana while a lawsuit challenging the agency’s decision moves forward. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris granted in part American Prairie’s request for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order, allowing its bison to remain on the Telegraph Creek, Box Elder

and Whiterock allotments in Phillips County, MT. Morris declined to extend the injunction to three other allotments where American Prairie currently does not graze bison. The ruling puts on hold portions of BLM’s May 8 decision that rescinded bison grazing authorizations and required the organization to remove the animals from federal allotments by Sept. 30.

See BISON RULING on page 8

Cattle markets steady onward after holiday

(Editor’s note: This report contains information available as of Thursday morning due to an earlier WLJ press schedule.) The cattle market traded steady to higher following the Labor Day holiday weekend. Live cattle futures saw some modest gains over the week. The October contract gained about \$2 to close at \$216.40, and the December contract also gained about \$2 to close at \$218.52.

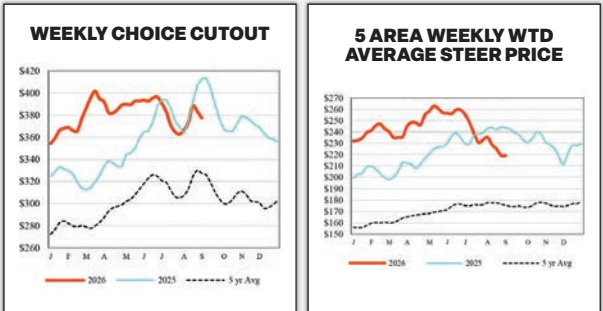
Cash trade for the week through Thursday morning totaled about 1,000 head. No market trends were noted. Trade through the afternoon was not yet reported by WLJ press time. Cash trade for the week ending Sept. 6 totaled 65,193 head. Live steers averaged \$219.54, and dressed steers averaged \$344.98.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 329,000 head compared to 412,000 head a week earlier, lighter in volume due to the holiday-shortened slaughter week. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 526,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Aug. 29 was 546,000 head. The average steer dressed weight was 969 lbs., up 2 lbs. from the prior week.

“This past week the slaughter volume declined as packers attempted to stem the decline seasonally caused by post Labor Day demand for beef,” the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. “Profits have returned to the packers and they are hoping for a continuation rather than a brief respite.” Boxed beef prices were higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained about \$4 to close at \$380.77, and the Select cutout gained about \$2 to close at \$352.34.

“It is important to remember that spot box prices are much like spot cash prices for live cattle. Most boxes are sold under formulas and do not

See MARKETS on page 11



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
N/A	N/A	\$327.43
WEEK ENDING: 9-10-26		

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Cat and mouse game

For the last several weeks, the cattle industry has found itself watching Washington with one eye on the market and the other on the White House.

On Aug. 21, President Donald Trump announced plans to allow additional lower-tariff beef imports to bring relief to consumers facing record-high beef prices. Five days later, the administration made that move official, expanding the tariff-rate quota by 300,000 metric tons of lean beef trimmings over a 90-day period.

The reaction from cattle country was immediate. Cattle markets turned sharply lower, producer groups pushed back, and questions surfaced about what increased imports might mean at a time when the U.S. cattle herd sits near a 75-year low. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, Livestock Marketing Association and U.S. Cattlemen’s Association all urged the administration to reconsider the move. For once, I was encouraged to see major membership organizations come together around a unified concern.

Then, almost as quickly, the conversation changed. On Sept. 4, Trump met with a small group of ranchers and independent industry voices at the White House and signed executive orders aimed at supporting the domestic cattle business. Those orders addressed wolf management, Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement, opportunities for smaller and regional processors, interstate meat sales, country-of-origin labeling and a broader review of federal policies affecting ranchers.

Many of those are issues cattlemen have asked Washington to address for years. And that is where this becomes difficult to understand.

There are parts of the administration’s recent actions that deserve credit. Ranchers across the West understand firsthand the challenges surrounding predators, federal grazing policy and limited processing options. Greater competition in meatpacking, stronger opportunities for regional processors and a serious discussion about labeling American beef are all conversations worth having.

But cattle producers are also being asked to rebuild a national cow herd that did not disappear overnight and will not return overnight.

That takes confidence. A rancher retaining heifers today is making a decision that may not pay for years. He is betting on grass, feed, weather, interest rates, labor and cattle markets long into the future. A young producer buying cows at today’s prices is putting tremendous capital at risk. A family deciding whether to expand is not making that choice based on next Tuesday’s market. They are making a multi-year commitment.

That is why government intervention designed to soften beef prices sends such a powerful message back through the cattle chain.

Consumers absolutely matter. We need beef to remain something American families can afford to put on the table. No cattle producer should celebrate a retail price that eventually drives customers away from our product. Yet beef demand remains historically strong. The more we tell consumers beef is “too high,” the more we risk convincing them it is—even while they continue to show us they value the product.

But the cattle business is not a factory where somebody in Washington can simply turn up production when prices get high.

You cannot manufacture another calf crop in 90 days. You cannot rebuild the cow herd with a press release. And you cannot encourage producers to expand while simultaneously creating uncertainty about whether government will step into the market when prices become politically uncomfortable.

That is what the last few weeks have felt like from cattle country: a game of cat and mouse.

One day the message is that beef prices are too high and imports need to increase. A few days later, a small group of ranchers—several with large social media followings—are standing in the White House while the administration announces plans to strengthen the American cattle industry. We talk about rebuilding the domestic herd, then introduce policies cattlemen fear could weaken the very market signals encouraging that rebuilding.

It feels less like a straight road and more like a political roundabout—with everyone entering from a different direction and nobody quite sure which exit we are supposed to take.

I truly believe the intention to help is real. But helping the cattle industry requires understanding how slowly this business moves, how much capital producers have at risk and how deeply confidence matters.

Cattlemen do not need Washington to manage every turn of the market.

We need consistency. We need competition. We need access to land. We need consumers who trust and value American beef. Most of all, if we are serious about rebuilding the American cattle herd, producers need enough confidence to do what cattlemen have always done best: make long-term decisions, take the risk and raise the cattle. —

JARED PATTERSON



PATTERSON



DITTMER’S TAKE

General chaos is one thing. The beef industry being abused politically is typical. We’ve all appreciated that President Donald Trump’s policies have usually benefitted our industry. But undercurrents circulating now could not only discourage any herd rebuilding but damage the very foundations of the production and marketing chain that’s achieved record success.

If those with very narrow vision from within our industry convince politicians, in an election year, to implement the radical views they’re espousing, there are serious pitfalls. While Trump and his team have accomplished great things, he understandably has little experience with the complex beef production chain. He appreciates the importance of the cattle industry. But some folks he listens to are not free market people. The within-industry radicals savvy little about economics and nothing about processing beef at tremendous scale.

Trump’s intentions are good but attacking the big packers through the Department of Justice or attempting to negotiate discounts on beef prices will not help cattlemen or hasten herd rebuilding. The big packers represent 80% of the capacity of an industry that involves quickly processing fresh food with a limited shelf-life and tremendous volume. Our 26 billion pounds annually comes to over 70 million lbs. a day. That’s not easily modified.

Allowing ranchers to process their own meat sounds good to those who don’t understand food safety. But USDA inspection is the cornerstone of food safety and beef consumer confidence. We cannot allow amateur butchers to sell uninspected beef into commerce, as the president seems to think. Archaic. Dangerous.

Tracing outbreaks through recalls and investigation—under one of the world’s safest beef production system—is hard enough now. Adding thousands of amateur suppliers to the system would be untenable.

For mandatory country-of-origin labeling (MCOOL), the issue is both simple and complex. We do not have the capacity to produce as much ground beef as consumers demand. The product’s taste, versatility and the marketing power of American grocers, cattlemen’s beef promotion and the fast food industry have resulted in a great success story. Plus, U.S. population has nearly doubled since 1960 (179 million people) to now (estimated 343 million people). We can’t keep up.

Those who say MCOOL is not expensive and would boost beef prices should reflect that our record cattle and beef prices have occurred without MCOOL—because it is not a primary concern of most consumers. Our industry has managed to satisfy the tremendous demand for ground beef using properly inspected, imported lean beef to supply our customers who depend on us and make our Choice trim worth much more money.

When we gas up our car, do we know what fraction of it came from Canada, Venezuela, Nigeria or Texas? Was the sugar cane in your soda pop grown in Brazil, India, Thailand or Louisiana? Is all beer brewed or whiskey distilled in America?

Trade is often a two-way street. We secure and retain access to foreign markets by allowing access to them. Recall Congress rescinded MCOOL the last time because Canada had billions of dollars of retaliatory prohibitions ready, carefully calibrated to hit certain congressional districts whose constituents exported

UNDERCURRENTS DEMAND CARE AND ATTENTION

to Canada. Forcing the major packers to track every one of hundreds of cuts from each carcass would cost plenty. It would not only raise costs to packers, reduce returns to cattlemen and increase prices to consumers, it would also affect supply chains. Packers coped the last time by limiting what plants could buy from feedyards in certain regions on certain days in assure compliance. We get beef and sell beef to Canada and Mexico every day.

It is ironic that the same cattlemen who want MCOOL are the same people who have fought RFID tooth and nail. They don’t want cattle traced but they want every piece of beef traced?

Retail ground beef labeled 80/20 lean-to-fat ratio is not really 80/20. The penalties are draconian for retailers missing the mark. That 80/20 is more like 82/18. Safety margin. No one risks penalties or consumer confidence. Much ground beef comes in chubs processed at the packing plant, with the most sophisticated equipment for achieving that ratio.

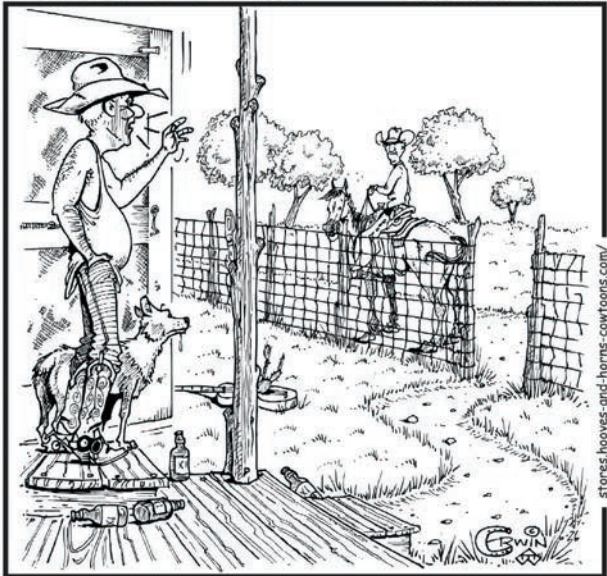
Ground beef is processed under rigid sanitation conditions at processing plants to avoid pathogen problems. Processing plants have testing labs right on site to prevent contaminated ground beef from entering the market. How many ranchers would have a testing lab on the ranch for test-and-hold before shipping ground beef to customers?

Yes, this is a pivotal election year, but these ideas would drastically hurt consumers and the beef industry. — **Steve Dittmer, WLJ columnist**

(Steve Dittmer is the author of the *Agribusiness Freedom Foundation* newsletter. Views in the column do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of WLJ or its editorial staff.)

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"Yep, 3 Hereford,... passed by here yesterday, carryin' buckets an'a garden hose,... I got the impression they're thirsty."

OBITUARY



Jim Sutton; 1935-2026

James Louverne Sutton Jr. was born to James and Flossie (Nystrom) Sutton April 20, 1935, in Hughes County, SD. Hegrew up on the Sutton Ranch beside the Missouri River and was educated in Sully County rural schools, Onida High School and South Dakota State University (SDSU).

High school sweethearts, Jim, and Julie (Nelson) Sutton were married in

June 1953. They lived in Brookings, while Jim was attending SDSU to play basketball and rodeo. Their daughter, Teri, and son, Steve, were born there.

He joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and served as a second lieutenant in the artillery at Ft. Sill, OK. Jim received a degree in animal husbandry at SDSU, where he was an all-conference basketball player for two years and was the national free-throw champion for percentage shot.

The Minneapolis Lakers drafted Jim and he attended their preseason training camp. However, he believed following his father and grandfather in the ranching business made more financial sense than a basketball career.

In 1968, Jim and Julie joined Jim’s father, James, in creating the Sutton Rodeo Company. Edwin Sutton, Jim’s grandfather, produced the first rodeo on the home ranch in 1926. Their daughter, Tanya, was born while living at the ranch. They supplied stock from their Agar, SD, ranch to rodeos across South Dakota and the Northwest. By the late 1970s, the Suttons were raising more than 90% of their own bucking stock and developed a breeding program that is one of the

best in the business.

The program produced three Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Horse of the Year winners: saddle bronc horse Deep Water (1979), bareback horse Big Bud (1985) and saddle bronc horse Chuckulator (2012). Chuckulator also won Top Saddle Bronc Horse of the National Finals Rodeo in 2012. The program also earned Sutton four nominations for PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year, with Sutton Rodeo stock selected to perform at every National Finals Rodeo since it started in 1959 but two.

Jim and Julie won the PRCA Donita Barnes Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. The award was created to recognize PRCA members who have dedicated their lives to the rodeo industry for their commitment, work and contributions. Jim and Julie were perfect candidates for this honor.

Jim served as director and past president of Miss Rodeo America and on the PRCA Executive Council as rodeo committee representative. He valued the friendships made with rodeo committees, personnel and

sponsors. Jim was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame Class of 2020 for Stock Contractor. Jim is past president and director of South Dakota American Quarter Horse Association and National American Quarter Horse Association.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, James and Flossie; wife, Julie; daughter, Teri; and siblings, Delores, Lorraine and Lyle. Jim and Julie enjoyed 68 years of marriage. They were blessed with children, Teri (Monte) Melvin, Steve (Kim) Sutton, Tanya (Todd) Yackley; grandchildren, Amy (Steven) Muller, Blake (Kayla) Yackley, Brent (Roz) Sutton, Sasha Yackley, Brice (Alyssa) Sutton and Wayne Yackley (Rozlynn Murrow); and great-grandchildren, Shaden Muller, Shally Muller; Jett Yackley, Nathan Nelson, Lakyn Yackley, Tracen Yackley, Wesley Yackley; Sid and Scottie Sutton; Briggston, Bevin Bertsche; Ruby Sutton, Stella Sutton, Waylon Sutton; and Vera Jo Yackley.

In lieu of flowers, Jim would like memorials sent to SDSU Athletic-Rodeo/Basketball, Casey Tibbs Hall of Fame, Ft. Pierre, SD, and ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Colorado Springs, CO.

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words and must include the writer’s name, location and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Obituaries must be no longer than 700 words. Send a letter to the editor or obituary by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., P.O. Box 20605, Oklahoma City, OK 73156.

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Lot 8 • Filly • Pending
JA Rooster Rain X JA Lady Three Jay



Lot 83 • JA StarsNFrost (Spade)
14.3H 2022 Bay Gelding
Sun Frost/Gallo Del Cielo/Smart Chic Olena
Fancy Cowhorse Type!



Lot 78 • JA Frosty Cajun Rose (Will)
15.1H 2023 Bay Gelding
Sun Frost/Tufftime Peppy/Country John Red
Rodeo/Arena, Head Horse Type!

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Bar HH Quarter Horses



Lot 84 • JA Frostem Rosebush (Robin)
2021 Bay Roan Gelding
PC Frost Em Peppy X Blues Orphan Drift
He has the mind, pedigree, and the look
and it's generations deep.



Lot 80 • JA Colonel Elliot (Elliot)
15H 2023 Bay Gelding
JA Wily Sunfrost X JA Colonel Frostwood
Gentle, easy-going colt that has a lot of
feel and a lot of try. This guy has it all!



Lot 77 • JA Senor Rooster
14.3H 2024 Bay Gelding
Gallo Del Cielo/Sun Frost
"Do It All" Ranch/Arena Prospect



Lot 90 • JA Boston Pep (Boston)
15.0H 2022 Bay Gelding
JA Bred. Gentle, Family Rancher with a flair!



Lot 9 • Stud Colt • Pending
PC Cajunistic X JA Colonel Audrey



Lot 13 • Filly • Pending
PC Cajunistic X JA Orphan Rain

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LEGAL LEDGER

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to 48 national Conservation Practice Standards (CPS). The agency is updating its CPS to ensure its technical assistance is relevant, flexible and addresses the resource concerns affecting producers' operations, NRCS said. A list of the standards in question may be found at tinyurl.com/ycytxk8. Comments may be submitted at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by searching for docket ID NRCS-2026-0100.

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FSA updates lending rules, reduces borrower paperwork

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is changing how it makes and services farm loans, with several provisions to reduce paperwork, speed access to credit and update requirements for producers.

The final rule, published Sept. 4, takes effect Oct. 1 and permanently establishes FSA's Application Fast Track (AFT) process for qualifying direct loan borrowers. FSA said the program uses financial benchmarks and repayment history to identify lower-risk applicants and streamline underwriting.

During the pilot program, about 23% of direct loan customers qualified for AFT, re-

ducing processing time by an average of about eight days. Applicants must still submit a cash-flow budget, but FSA employees do not have to manually verify projected income and expenses for borrowers approved through the fast-track process. Emergency loans, youth loans and loans made in conjunction with certain servicing actions are not eligible for AFT.

The rule also changes crop insurance requirements for both direct and guaranteed loan borrowers. Under federal law, borrowers must obtain at least catastrophic risk protection coverage for crops when insurance is available. FSA is

removing an outdated provision that allowed borrowers to waive eligibility for emergency crop-loss assistance instead of purchasing crop insurance. Going forward, borrowers receiving direct or guaranteed FSA loans must obtain crop insurance when it is available.

Other changes could shorten the time producers spend waiting on real estate transactions. FSA will allow some direct loans to use existing appraisals more than 18 months old, provided market conditions and the property have not deteriorated and the value has not declined. Appraisals cannot be more than 36 months old.

FSA will also allow less formal real estate evaluations instead of full appraisals for business loans of \$250,000 or less and commercial real estate transactions of \$500,000 or less. FSA said contracted appraisals generally cost \$2,000-3,000 and can take 30 to 45 days, contributing to farm ownership loan closings that sometimes exceed 90 days.

The rule reduces paperwork when an FSA borrower asks the agency to subordinate its lien to another lender. Ranchers will no longer have to provide a separate cash-flow projection and farm operating plan for that request,

although the loan must remain adequately secured and the borrower cannot be in default.

For livestock-backed operating loans, FSA also formalized its longstanding practice of treating animals of the same species as inseparable collateral. Because brands and ear tags establish ownership but do not necessarily distinguish collateral animals individually, FSA generally takes a lien on the entire herd of that species.

Borrowers seeking a quick extension of a balloon payment should also note a new deadline: requests must be submitted at least 30 days be-

fore the installment is due. Requests filed later can still be considered through the longer primary loan-servicing process.

FSA is also reducing the frequency of reviews for borrowers receiving limited-resource interest rates. Those borrowers are currently reviewed every two years to determine whether they can move to the regular loan rate. Under the new rule, those reviews will occur every three years, reducing the frequency of required financial reviews while borrowers remain eligible for the lower rate. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ** contributing editor

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C 2105 MISTY 4375

P44611228 — 09/09/2024 — Dark red, heavily pigmented, deep ribbed, and loaded with brood cow character, she's the kind of female that only gets better with age. As a paternal sister to the previous lot by Denali, she offers the look, power, and maternal quality that define the kind of cattle we strive to produce. Selling 1/2 interest. Heifer calf due 1/16/2027 by C 79H SHERMAN 4202 ET.



C 2105 BLAIR 4279

P44611148 — 08/22/2024 — It's hard to build one much better than this. Powerful, attractive, and exceptionally well marked, she has all the pieces of a true sale feature. Her pedigree is anchored by our two most influential 88X daughters, 2052 and Notice Me 1311, whose influence has helped define the Colyer Herefords breeding program. Add in an outstanding EPD profile, and you have a female with unlimited potential. Selling 1/2 interest. Heifer calf due 1/10/2027 by C OVERTIME 5020 ET.



C 2135 BLAIR 5021

44650300 — 01/07/2025 — This is the kind of female that keeps a breeding program moving forward. Moderate in her frame, deep-bodied, and carrying the unmistakable look of a great cow, she's a mirror image of her dam, 8300, who continues to produce at the highest level. From the renowned Blair cow family and a 3/4 sister to Blair 3005, the dam of Charlie Kirk, she offers the kind of proven maternal pedigree that's difficult to duplicate. Selling 1/2 interest. Heifer calf due 1/10/2027 by SHF LEGION H315 L060.

Special attraction at our fall sale — Your opportunity to pick.

Selling half interest in our young donor cows on the ranch.



C 0321 TRESHA 3126



CCC 1564 CRISTA 3205



EXR LEANNE 1037

P44227633 — 01/20/2021 — We couldn't think of a better female to lead off our pair offering. Stout, attractive, and backed by a near-perfect udder, she combines the kind of phenotype every breeder appreciates with the maternal function that keeps a cow in the herd for years. Add in a balanced genetic profile, and she's the kind of female that gives you tremendous mating flexibility and the opportunity to raise outstanding replacement females and competitive show cattle. Due 1/14/2027 to C CHARLIE KIRK 5141.



Lot 2

C 3210 BAILEE 6212
44748187 — 1/14/2026

Our top horned show prospect, combining an elegant front end with a long, extended neck, a high head carriage, and tremendous presence. Bold-ribbed, deep-bodied, square-hipped, and flawless in her structure, she offers the kind of phenotype that is hard to find. We believe she has an exciting future in both the show ring and the donor pen. Selling 1/2 embryo interest with no possession.



Lot 3

C PRH MERCY ME 6228 ET
P44748201 — 1/6/2026

There are certain matings you look forward to from the day they're made, and this was one of them. As the first daughters by Lifetime to sell, these three full sisters have only increased our excitement about his future. They are powerful, stout-made females with an unmistakable look, plenty of shape and dimension, and the kind of quality that can compete in the show ring today and make influential cows tomorrow. We believe Lifetime has an incredibly bright future, and we couldn't ask for a better group of daughters to introduce him.



Lot 56

CCC Bonnie 6017 ET
+21552674 — 12/28/2025

This feature ET daughter of Boyd Bedrock is backed by one of our proven Angus donors, CCC Renown 7060, a cow that continues to raise the kind of cattle we strive to produce. She combines the extra look, balance, and structural quality expected from this mating with elite performance genetics highlighted by Top 2% Weaning and Yearling EPDs. Supported by both her outstanding donor dam and a proven maternal sister, this is a female with the pedigree, phenotype, and genetic potential to make a lasting impact in any breeding program.



Lot 7

C PRH BAILEE 6131 ET
P44748118 — 2/9/2026

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Paintballs among new tools allowed for hazing CA wolves

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has approved new hazing options for ranchers living in counties with gray wolves present.

State officials have scheduled training sessions throughout impacted areas that, once completed, will qualify ranchers to receive permits to use paint and inert powder projectiles along with sustained pursuit to prevent wolves from attacking livestock.

The newly approved options come after months of conversation between state officials and community leaders living in areas where the protected species has preyed on ranchers' livestock.

Many impacted livestock producers have long held that the non-injurious hazing options given to them to scare off wolves, including shining bright lights and making loud noises, are not effective. Last year, California confirmed 196 livestock killed by the predator.

Earlier this year, law enforcement officials were authorized to use injurious harassment tools that include pepper balls and rubber bullets. This new development marks a shift to allowing livestock producers to use some injurious hazing methods as well, although what's allowed is still considered less than lethal.

Steven Fenaroli, managing director of public affairs and communications for the California Farm Bureau, described the changes as a step in the right direction. But he said the new options come with limitations and are not a complete solution.

"Those have limited ranges, and they're just not the most accurate," Fenaroli said of projectiles. "There's more options that we should pursue that are still less than lethal but go toward creating a better divide between humans and predators."

When used alone, Fenaroli maintained that projectiles can only go so far. He said the "sustained pursuit" approval is part of what can make future hazing more effective.

"The goal isn't to chase it (a wolf) for miles and miles," he said. "The goal is to instill fear in the wolf that the cows are not food."

For many producers living in areas with gray wolves, the goal is to prevent the predators from becoming accustomed to killing livestock for food and encourage them to seek prey elsewhere.

Sierra County Sheriff Mike Fisher said such a goal can be achieved only if wolves preying on cattle face consequences. Last year, CDFW officials confirmed 70 total livestock losses between March 28 and Sept. 10 in his county,

although Fisher said he suspects the actual number may be much higher.

A CDFW strike team was deployed to address wolf-livestock conflicts last summer. But after months of nonlethal management efforts, state officials decided to remove a trio of wolves associated with more than half the confirmed kills, with a fourth wolf mistakenly killed in the effort.

Since then, Fisher described the shift in wolf activity as "night and day." After the removal of the three habituated wolves, he said there were no wolf attacks for several months.

"During that time, we still saw wolves in the valley," he said. "But those particular wolves ... were not habituated to cattle, weren't killing one to five cows a day."

Fisher described the new hazing options as more frustrating than encouraging. He said the limited range and impact of powder projectiles make them useful in only very narrow circumstances. He said he doesn't believe the new tools will be successful against habituated wolves.

"When you're actively working, it's very difficult to have that tool immediately available," he said.

Fisher said many ranchers see more potential in using pepper balls, a nonlethal projectile that contains a chemical irritant. Pepper

balls have already been used by state officials and law enforcement to ward off other predators such as bears.

Unlike powder projectiles, Fisher said pepper balls can still be effective even when they don't hit their target because they release chemical irritant into the air.

Although law enforcement can use pepper balls, Fisher said they're not effective on their own. By the time he gets to the scene after receiving a call about a wolf's appearance, he said he's often unable to get there quickly enough to take action.

"In a year and a half for me personally, being so intimately involved in our wolf problem in the Sierra Valley, I have never been anywhere close to being within range to haze a wolf from our pastures," he said.

But getting pepper balls to livestock producers requires a change to California law, which currently bars civilians from owning or possessing them.

Fisher said he's interested in introducing a bill to change this law next year with the goal of allowing ranchers to use pepper balls for hazing gray wolves after training.

Sierra County Supervisor and rancher Paul Roen said he's also frustrated, describing the potential impacts of

using powder projectiles as "grossly insignificant."

"We're going to jump through every hoop that we can to show that we're going above and beyond to try to utilize whatever tools available, but at some point, somebody has to do what has to be done," he said.

Roen said he'd also support a bill to open the door for ranchers to use pepper balls for hazing. He said it's important to introduce more effective tools that could better prevent wolves from becoming habituated to attacking livestock.

"If we can effectively haze them away, then they stand a better chance of survival, and we stand a better chance of survival," Roen said.

Pamela Flick, the California program director for the conservation nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife, said her thoughts on hazing tools have evolved as she's engaged with impacted community members and has seen the state's wolf population grow.

She said last year's events in Sierra County only emphasized the need to introduce more impactful hazing options "early and often." If wolves face negative consequences and can learn to hunt elsewhere, it could prevent the necessity of future lethal removals and help the wolves' long-term conservation, Flick added.

"By the time the CDFW strike force came out last summer, it was just too late," she said, noting the department "found out that there were no negative consequences to their actions," as the wolves continued their behavior of preying on livestock.

With a dozen gray wolf packs confirmed in the state, Flick said she expects conversations on hazing tools will continue evolving. She said Defenders of Wildlife does not expect to oppose a bill allowing ranchers to use pepper balls for hazing after training, certification and authorization by appropriate authorities, as long as pepper balls are tailored to this specific use.

"The more tools that we can provide to livestock producers to reduce conflicts, including these less-lethal, more aggressive hazing tools and strategies, that's better for wolf conservation in the long run," Flick said.

Fisher said he's "all for exhausting all means of less-lethal hazing." But if a wolf becomes habituated and consistently kills livestock, he said lethal removal needs to be an option to make living in areas with wolves sustainable.

"We cannot go through what we went through last year," he said. — **Manola Secaira, Ag Alert staff writer, California Farm Bureau**



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South Dakota confirms first anthrax case

South Dakota animal health officials have confirmed the state's first anthrax case of 2026 in a Meade County beef herd. State Veterinarian Mendel Miller said cattle began dying while the cow-calf herd was grazing in Butte County, where the animals are believed to have been exposed. The cattle were later moved to Meade County, where symptoms continued. South Dakota State University's Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory confirmed anthrax from samples submitted by the herd veterinarian. Adult cattle have since been vaccinated, and the herd was quarantined. Miller urged ranchers who suspect anthrax to contact their veterinarian or the Animal Industry Board at 605-773-3321. Suspect carcasses should not be moved until a diagnosis is made.

Montana Livestock Auction sold to McCoy's

Barry and Dannielle McCoy, owners of Dillon Livestock Auction, have purchased Montana Livestock Auction in Ramsay, MT, expanding their livestock marketing operation in southwest Montana. The Montana Department of Livestock approved the transfer on Aug. 27. The McCoy's purchased the market from Sandy Nuffer, wife of the late Blake Nuffer. Nuffer said in a Facebook post that her family made the difficult decision after considerable thought, conversations and prayer. She thanked customers and employees for their support following Blake's death and said the McCoy's have her full support as they carry the auction forward. Western Ag Network reported the acquisition will give buyers and sellers more sale day and livestock receiving options while connecting the two markets' established customer bases across southwest Montana and into Idaho.

CPW removes wolves after depredations

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) completed two lethal wolf removals Sept. 7 following livestock depredations in Pitkin and Rio Blanco counties. CPW removed an uncollared male yearling from the Copper Creek Pack in Pitkin County after four confirmed depredations occurred in July, August and September. The agency also removed an uncollared male yearling from the Three Creeks Pack following four confirmed depredations in Rio Blanco County during August and September. CPW said both packs met its definition of chronic depredation despite producers using nonlethal measures, including range riders, cameras, human presence and hazing. CPW said it conducted the removals in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Halter, BLM partner on virtual fencing

Halter has partnered with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Foundation for America's Public Lands to support virtual fencing on BLM-managed grazing lands. The partnership provides \$2.7 million to help ranchers adopt Halter's virtual fencing system for managing cattle and grazing areas. Cotoni-Coast Dairies in California is the first ranch to receive support through the program. Paige and Wayne Pastorino of Cotoni-Coast Dairies graze cattle on BLM-managed land in Santa Cruz County that is becoming a new national monument. The site is expected to receive 250,000 visitors annually, requiring grazing operations and public recreation to share access to the property.

OSU announces vet hospital, agronomy sites

Oklahoma State University (OSU) has selected sites in Stillwater, OK, for a new veterinary teaching hospital and Agronomy Discovery Center. The 275,000-square-foot veterinary hospital will be built on part of OSU's Agronomy Research Station. The \$330 million project received \$250 million in state funding in 2025, with private support planned for remaining costs. Agronomy operations displaced by the hospital will move to the new Agronomy Discovery Center, with the legislature providing \$40 million for the project, including \$10 million that must be matched through private donations by July 2027. As of Sept. 1, donors had pledged \$8.7 million. The Magruder Plots and surrounding farmland will remain at the existing research station.

North Dakota processor seeks buyer

M&W Beef Packers, a federally inspected meat processor in Mandan, ND, is for sale as its owners prepare to retire. Founded in 1974 by Wesley and Vita Moore, the company provides custom fabrication, portion processing, frozen patties and corned beef briskets. It also produces Dakota Trails seasonings, sold at more than 13 regional retail locations. The sale includes the 7,000-square-foot processing facility, a separate garage and shop, equipment and the business. Stillwater Commercial Real Estate is handling the sale. Current owners will provide training and transition support to the buyer.

USDA offers funding for rural power

USDA Rural Development is making \$410 million available through the new Powering Affordable Reliable Technology (PART) Program to support rural electricity generation and grid reliability. Administered by the Rural Utilities Service, the PART Program will provide partially forgivable loans for projects generating electricity from hydropower, geothermal and biomass sources. Funding can also support energy storage systems used with intermittent renewable energy. Individual loans will range from \$1 million to \$100 million and are intended to help finance power generation and storage infrastructure serving rural communities. The Rural Utilities Service began accepting letters of interest on Sept. 8. Applications for consideration under the program are due by Oct. 9.

Capture more of your calves' true value

The price at an auction market is the market's estimate of what a calf is worth that day, based on the information buyers can see and trust. There is very little indication of the calf's future potential for growth, feed efficiency or carcass value.

Calves sired by proven sires may have the potential for high rates of gain, improved feed efficiency and exceptional marbling and carcass quality, but if that calf is sold at weaning, there is no way for the cow-calf producer to capture that future potential.

To get our calves' full value, we first must create value by early castration and dehorning, a sound health program and nutrition that allows genetics to be expressed.

Second, capture value by

marketing uniform groups, documenting genetics and management, choosing a market whose buyers value those traits, or retaining ownership when feed resources, health, finances, risk tolerance and the market outlook justify it. Retained ownership does not create value; it reveals it. Know where the value is, prove it, and sell where buyers recognize it.

How do you capture the value for these calves?

- Marketing: Market calves in uniform lots where buyers recognize the potential value of calves.

- Value-added programs: Preconditioning, all natural and other programs have costs but can be profitable. An analysis of the Superior Auction markets by Kansas State University shows that calves in the

VAC-45 program received an \$8.64/cwt premium over calves in the VAC-24 program, where calves are vaccinated at 2 to 4 months of age but are unweaned at the time of the sale. Calves enrolled in the Oklahoma Quality Beef Network VAC-45 program received premiums of \$23/cwt relative to unweaned non-preconditioned calves with no indication of vaccination status.

- Add weight postweaning: Many price discounts decrease as cattle get heavier and approach feedlot entry weights. While discounts associated with calf sex or mismanagement such as leaving bull intact or excessive flesh from overfeeding increase as calves get heavier, other discounts become less important

for larger calves. Adding weight on pasture or in a well-designed dry lot growing program helps dilute some of the discounts that are more pronounced in lighter weight calves.

- Retain ownership through finishing: Retaining ownership adds much more risk and may be most practical for producers with enough cattle to assemble large groups of uniform single sex groups of calves. However, the only way to fully capture the value of genetic selection for growth, feed efficiency, and carcass quality is to feed cattle through harvest and market cattle based on their actual performance and carcass value. — Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist

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Greens plan to sue over Sierra National Forest grazing

The Center for Biological Diversity in late August notified the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that it intended to sue the agencies for an alleged failure to protect Yosemite toads and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs in California's Sierra National Forest. The group claims livestock grazing in the forest has damaged the species' habitat. "We're launching this lawsuit to push the Forest Service to live up to its own commitments," said Tara Zuardo, a senior advocate at the Center. "These rare frogs and toads

are barely hanging on, yet the Forest Service is allowing cattle to trample the very streams and mountain meadows they need to survive." The notice challenges the agencies' authorization of cattle grazing on six allotments. The Sierra National Forest manages a range grazing program with 25 active allotments totaling nearly 640,000 acres, according to USFS. There are currently 13 vacant allotments on the forest, totaling about 326,000 acres, unavailable to grazing at this

time because they must first undergo environmental compliance. Two of the vacant allotments are currently under an environmental review, which is expected to be completed early next year. The environmental group argues that six of the active allotments contain habitat for the Yosemite toads and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The group claims that livestock grazing has damaged the habitats. The Center for Biological Diversity asked the agencies

to reinstate and complete ESA consultations across the allotments and called for the removal of livestock while consultation is underway.

"If the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service fail to protect these imperiled animals, the Center intends to file a federal lawsuit after

expiration of the Endangered Species Act's 60-day notice period," the group said. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

American Prairie's bison allowed to stay for now

BISON RULING (from page 1)

BLM had concluded that American Prairie manages its bison primarily for conservation and ecological restoration rather than as part of a production-oriented livestock operation. The agency said the Taylor Grazing Act allows grazing permits only for domestic livestock managed primarily for production purposes. Morris disagreed with that interpretation at this stage of the case, finding American Prairie had demonstrated a likelihood of succeeding on the merits of its challenge.

hand with other uses," he wrote. Morris found BLM's "production-oriented" requirement was not supported by the Taylor Grazing Act and that the agency overlooked evidence showing American Prairie's bison are domestic livestock with both economic and production uses. He concluded BLM's reasoning was lacking and found American Prairie had shown it was likely to succeed on the merits of its case.

Court questions BLM interpretation

American Prairie owns approximately 940 bison and 8,000 cattle that graze across leased and deeded properties in Montana. Under Montana law, its bison are classified as livestock and are subject to livestock disease and sanitation requirements, according to court documents. BLM first authorized American Prairie to graze bison on the Telegraph Creek Allotment in 2005 and Box Elder Allotment in 2008. In 2022, the agency approved bison grazing on additional allotments after completing an environmental assessment and finding no significant impact. BLM reversed course this year, concluding that grazing authorized under the Taylor Grazing Act must involve domestic animals used for production-oriented purposes, such as meat, milk, fiber or other animal products. Morris found that interpretation difficult to reconcile with the law and previous court decisions. "No statutory language or judicial precedent exists that requires a livestock operation to focus exclusively on production and entirely ignore conservation, range improvement, preservation, or other values," Morris wrote. He also pointed to evidence that American Prairie uses its bison for production purposes. Since 2016, members of the public have harvested 370 bison, producing approximately 75,000 pounds of meat, while another 645 animals have been transferred to other herds for genetics, food sovereignty programs, herd expansion and other uses. Morris wrote that the Taylor Grazing Act recognizes that livestock management can serve several purposes. "Congress recognized livestock grazing and livestock management often includes and considers preservation, improvement, and thoughtful development, hand-in-

Removal could cause harm

American Prairie argued that without an injunction it would have to cull or transfer approximately 300 bison by Sept. 30, or roughly one-third of its herd. The organization estimated replacement leases could cost about \$105,000 annually, along with more than \$200,000 for fencing and water infrastructure and another \$100,000 for handling and transporting animals. Morris found those potential losses, along with concerns about the herd's genetic diversity and the cost of replacement leases, represented concrete and potentially irreparable injuries that monetary damages could not adequately remedy later. The court also rejected Montana's argument that allowing the bison to remain would create problems with animals trespassing on state trust lands. Morris noted that Montana had not identified specific instances of trespass on the Whiterock Allotment and found the state's claimed harms more speculative. The court also cited BLM records indicating American Prairie's bison grazing had not harmed public lands or increased disease transmission risks. Earthjustice, which represents American Prairie with Cochenour Law Office, called the decision an important victory. "This is an important victory in the fight to ensure American Prairie's bison can continue grazing on Montana's prairie, as they have for over two decades," said Jenny Harbine, managing attorney with Earthjustice's Northern Rockies Office. The injunction does not settle the lawsuit but allows American Prairie's bison to remain on the three allotments while its challenge to BLM's 2026 decision moves forward. Morris said the court will consider the broader legal issues as the case proceeds. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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Rollins: US needs to boost domestic food production

Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins said Sept. 1 that a U.S. decision to lower certain tariffs on ground beef imports has highlighted the importance of working to bring more U.S. food production on-shore.

While at the Farm Progress Show in Iowa, Rollins announced a USDA data modernization program and spoke about the Trump administration's commitment to growing the nation's beef herd and advancing biofuels.

On Aug. 21, President Donald Trump announced he was suspending quota tariffs on ground beef for 90 days, or long enough for 300,000 metric tons of ground beef to enter the U.S. market, in an effort to lower grocery store prices.

The move was opposed by American cattle producers who have had declining herd sizes over the past several years.

While answering questions from the media after a press conference, Rollins said she understands the president's decision to put the "American consumer at the front of the decision matrix" felt like a "gut punch" to ranchers. But, she said, the decision opens up a discussion around the nation's food system.

"If we don't have beef, we don't have freedom," Rollins said. "If we continue to off-shore our American food production, we lose the American experiment—full stop. I think we're teetering on the edge of

that in some ways with some of the offshoring that's happening, some of the big ag consolidation that's happening."

Earlier in the day, in a public address at the Farm Progress Show, Rollins said the Big Four meatpackers—referring to JBS, Tyson, Cargill and National Beef, which Rollins said control more than 80% of meat packing in the nation—have "not been conducive to rebuilding the herd" and supporting independent ranchers.

"With the Make America Healthy Again movement, with the announcements that I made yesterday in Nebraska, we're putting protein, we're putting beef, right back at the center of policymaking in Washington D.C.," Rollins said.

A day earlier, the secretary was in Nebraska where she announced a suite of actions to help rebuild the nation's beef herd.

The "Ranchers First Initiative" included a tool to help ranchers keep their heifers, an expansion in grassland programs to help restore pasture, efforts to boost local processing and assistance to beginning farmers.

The initiative also called for the prioritization of American raised and processed beef in federal food procurement programs.

"All of these big federal agencies have hundreds of millions of dollars that we spend every day on food procurement," Rollins said while speaking

about the initiative. "By just recalibrating a little bit of that, the signal to our beef producers, to our farmers, would be so tremendous that we will continue to build that out to buy locally to get more healthy, nutritious food on the plates of our kiddos, of our veterans, of our soldiers."

Ranchers were also hit in August by the announced closures of two larger beef packing plants. Rollins said the "silver lining" to those closures is that it opens up an area of meat processing "that we can return back to regional and mid-sized processing, while ensuring we're rebuilding the herd."

Rollins said she had a verbal conversation with leadership at Tyson, one of the companies that recently announced a plant closure, to "make sure" the company's closed plant would only be sold to an American company. *(Editor's note: A Tyson spokesperson has since disputed that claim, reporting that the company was open to selling to foreign buyers.)*

Small refinery exemptions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Aug. 31 that it would grant exemptions to renewable fuel mixing requirements for certain small refineries.

Farm and biofuel leaders were disgruntled by the decision, arguing it hurts farmers and the biofuels industry by

allowing these facilities to skimp on the requirements to mix fuel with bio-made fuels.

Rollins defended the action by noting EPA also proposed to reallocate 100% of the awarded exemptions into the 2026 and 2027 renewable vol-

ume obligations. Rollins said Trump has been the "most pro-biofuels president in American history."

Earlier in the day, she highlighted the administration's work in issuing "historic" renewable fuel standards and

finalizing a rule around regeneratively grown biofuel feedstocks.

Rollins was in Iowa in August to attend the Iowa State Fair and said she will be "back in Iowa very soon." — **Cami Koons, Iowa Capital Dispatch**



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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 9/10/2026		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	N/A	▲	217.91	238.98
CME Feeder Index	327.43	▼	329.18	365.47
Boxed Beef Average	380.77	▲	376.90	400.79
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	345.27	376.32
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,442	▲	1,438	1,415
Weekly Slaughter**	526,000	▼	542,000	487,000
Weekly Beef Production***	465.7	▲	478.8	421.7
Hide/Offal Value	15.05	▲	14.93	11.66
Corn Price	5.21	▲	5.18	3.98
*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.				

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	9/4	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	High* Low*
Oct.	21295	N/A	21710	21748	21800	25873 16853
Dec.	21473	N/A	21940	21960	22018	25598 16668
Feb. '27	21658	N/A	22065	22080	22158	25120 17005
Apr. '27	21823	N/A	22215	22230	22308	25093 18068
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	9/4	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	High* Low*
Sep.	32483	N/A	32550	32978	33300	38103 21920
Oct.	32015	N/A	32125	32600	32820	38280 22268
Nov.	31473	N/A	31545	32155	32388	38020 22460
Jan. '27	30800	N/A	30925	31448	31700	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	41	1,425	218.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	6,957	1,586	217.91
Live FOB Heifer	1,803	1,381	218.14
Dressed Del Steer	11,175	1,007	345.27
Dressed Del Heifer	2,127	895	345.20
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	6,666	1,518	238.98
Live FOB Heifer	1,843	1,352	238.28
Dressed Del Steer	4,788	1,000	376.32
Dressed Del Heifer	1,382	885	375.36

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: SEPTEMBER 6, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	18,579	2,054
Formula	227,143	4,157
Negotiated Cash	74,964	127
Negotiated Grid	32,133	971
Packer Owned	13,087	N/A
Total	365,906	7,309

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,715
Sep. '26	86,180	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,004
Oct. '26	114,872	Formula sales	3,628
Nov. '26	109,545	Forward contract sales	138
Dec. '26	92,659	Domestic sales	5,800
Jan. '27	53,214	NAFTA Exports	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		215.56	-9.22
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		213.64	-9.69
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		216.91	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		215.19	-20.86
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		143.55	-13.96
*Price comparison from one week ago.			

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, September 8, 2026			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	N/A	N/A	430.88
601-700 lbs	N/A	N/A	365.84
701-800 lbs	375.64	N/A	357.92
801-900 lbs	345.85	N/A	335.90
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	457.77	N/A	424.47
501-600 lbs	394.69	N/A	368.01
601-700 lbs	385.32	N/A	344.14
701-800 lbs	340.68	N/A	299.58

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
	8/31/2026	8/24/2026		
Feeders	104	2,453	2,557	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
September 9, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 1,700		Week Ago EST: 100	Year Ago Act: N/A
Santa Teresa, NM - N/A		Douglas, AZ - Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers not tested. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers weighing 500-800 lbs.	
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	375-385
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	335-345
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	295-305

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

Selected Auctions Week Ending September 10, 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 SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
September 4 Blackfoot, ID	N/A				350-420	310-380 310-350	290-350 290-330	270-320	140-170 170-189	
September 3 Burley, ID	271			468-471	367-400 373	344-373 329-351		289-320 211-306	138-175 179-194	
No report available Emmett, ID										
No report available Eugene, OR										
No report available Madras, OR										
No report available Vale, OR										
September 2 Davenport, WA	149	285	240-350	345-375 250-370	325-390 300-355	324-347 300-320	230-307.50 220-270	236-306 251-295	50-265 150-200	4,000 2,900-3,200
September 3 Toppenish, WA	1,092			375-410*	420* 300-315*	330*			152.50-169 181.50-207	3,200-3,725

September 3	Orland, CA	1,321			350-497 330-417	325-443 305-433	300-388 280-353	300-356 280-340	280-328	160-181 160-220	2,700-4,200 2,200-3,800
No report available											
Escalon, CA											
No report available											
Famoso, CA											
September 2	Galt, CA	1,107			400-455 400-465	380-420 360-390	370-380 330-345	320-340 300-310	275-310	100-170 180-198	3,500-4,750 3,500-4,500
September 8	Turlock, CA	423		375-400 360-400	372-400 350-400	360-392.50 330-360				140-175 157-175	
No report available											
Salina, UT											

September 8	Iowa	6,802		485-547.50 433-505	366-512.50 350-465	379-500 343-390	348-410 316-387.50	324-375 284-338	290-353 237.50-311	135-189 201-220	
No report available											
Miles City, MT											
September 2	Bassett, NE	1,780						355 314-333	330.50-362.50 279-319		
No report available											
Ericson, NE											
No report available											
Imperial, NE											
No report available											
Kearney, NE											
No report available											
Lexington, NE											
September 3	Ogallala, NE	2,358		570 552.50	503-505 480-532.50	437.50	375-390 360-368	341-361 355-367	301-359.50 273-352		
No report available											
Valentine, NE											
No report available											
Herreid, SD											
September 9	Torrington, WY	2,904		600-637 454-500	470-538 439-480	434-487.50 387-410	376 347	340-375 348	300.50-351 300-332		

September 3	Willcox, AZ	N/A	497-500 1,200-1,350	483-517.50 415.50-425	424-457.50 396-405	360-400 365	337-379 266-295			135-182 108-200	3,450-3,850 2,900-3,450
September 8		1,749									
Colorado											
September 2	La Junta, CO	682		515-612.50 422.50-555	415-535 390-447.50	365-406	352.50-370 301-340	312.50-322.50		152-163 181-199	
No report available											
Loma, CO											
September 9	Dodge City, KS	1,159		495-535 480-492.50	461-465 387.50-440	410-429 345-386	363.50-401.50 336-343	331.50-345.50 322	326.50 279-317	111-161 163-254	1,710-3,500
September 3	Pratt, KS	907		432.50-457.50	460-477.50 368-434	409-434 334-402.50	343-400 338-345.50	304.50-360.50 315-336	306-331.50 288-315	150-202 185-210	2,250-2,700
September 3	Salina, KS	1,286		515 460-470	470-485 367-460	357-387 352-374	357-387 324-326	331.50-366 305-329.50	309-324.50 291-318.50		
September 9	Clovis, NM	1,760	525 485-550	410-560 402-462	405-500 330-405	325-393 300-340	309-331 282-362	300-327 260-302	260-335 152-263		
September 9	El Reno, OK	4,606		390-510 400-500	390-435 350-430	360-400 310-361	340-417.50 305-345	315-351.25 300-342	281-341 270-324		
September 8	McAlester, OK	590		442-492 425-471	334-431 358-407	343-399 337-380	334-376 310-348	315-381 281-381	297-306 240-289	137-160 179-201	1,400-3,400
No report available											
Oklahoma City, OK											
September 4	Cuero, TX	1,203	487-595 406-500	432-530 394-499	362-470 339-500	330-384 323-407.50	319-340 301-355	297-321 291-307		137-168 185-195	3,000-3,600 2,500-3,000
September 3	Dalhart, TX	1,653		440-467.50	395-460 362.50-370	385-422.50 320-345	285-359 310-342	320-343.50 275-307.50	302-327 249-289	132.50-163 152-177.50	2,800-2,850
September 3	San Angelo, TX	709		520 425-430	401-430 372-395	344-376 320-344	320-350 287-308	290-319 292-301	283-290 255	122-165 155-212	2,150-3,450 2,650-3,000
September 3	Tulia, TX	618			417-442 315-322	385-405 300-325	320-337 290-307	311	302 286-292	125-140.50	

September 4	Alabama	7,184	520-640 400-595	430-555 362-475	380-450 320-400	330-390 305-380	317.50-360 265-360	302-340 260-350		136-170 1
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Beef imports and the Brazil roller coaster

Beef imports continue to be the subject of political attention that has resulted in a myriad of variable and inconsistent policies and actions. Cattle and beef markets have been buffeted by a barrage of political interference that has clouded markets and contributed to producer uncertainty and delay in responding to market signals to rebuild cattle inventories.

The latest trade data shows that beef imports continue to increase, up 18.7% year over year in July and up 12.9% for the first seven months of the year compared to one year ago. Australia remains the largest source of beef imports, up 16.1% thus far in 2026, representing a 21.8% share of total imports.

Close behind is Brazil, the No. 2 beef import market.

More on Brazil to follow below. Canada is the third largest source of beef imports, almost unchanged year over year, (up a scant 0.7% this year) and representing a 14.6% share of beef imports. Monthly beef imports were up 18.6% in July from No. 4 Mexico and are up 27.8% for the year to date compared to last year.

Mexico accounts for 12.2% of total beef imports. New Zealand is the fifth largest beef imports source, up 9.3% from last year and representing an 11.3% share of beef imports. Beef imports from No. 6 Uruguay are down 2.4% year over year but still account for 6.3% of beef imports.

Several smaller import markets are in the spotlight as well. Beef imports from Argentina, resulting from an expanded tariff rate quota announced in

fall of 2025, have increased 155.1% in the first seven months this year to a share of 4.8% of total beef imports. From Nicaragua, beef imports are up 36.4% year over year, totaling 3.7% of imports. Similarly, newcomer Paraguay is up 49.1% compared to last year and accounts for 3.6% of beef imports.

Brazil has emerged as a major source of beef imports. For 20 years from 2001-20, Brazil averaged 5.5% of total beef imports, ranging from 2.1-9.2%. Since 2021, Brazil's share of beef imports have averaged 13.7% and Brazil moved into the No. 2 position with 20.8% of 2026 year-to-date beef imports.

Brazil has experienced a roller coaster of impacts amid variable and wildly inconsistent U.S. trade policy. Figure 1

shows the dramatic range of monthly beef imports from Brazil since 2021. In general, Brazil competes for the small “Other Country” quota, which has been filled in the first few days of January in the last five years, mostly by Brazil. This accounts for the January spikes in beef imports since 2022 (Figure 1).

As soon as the quota is filled each year, Brazil has been subject to a 26.4% over-quota tariff. However, in 2025, Brazil was subject to a flurry of arbitrary federal tariff changes that included at least five tariff levels that ranged from zero up to a maximum of 74.6% before dropping back to over-quota

level of 26.4%. Such a quagmire of policy changes disrupts business relationships and supply chains and increases uncertainty for international and domestic producers.

Recently, a federal announcement of an additional 300,000 metric tons of quota-free beef imports appears intended to largely benefit Brazil. It's not clear how much additional beef might be imported as a result because a significant portion of imports would have happened anyway. Most beef imports from Brazil are used in food service, primarily for ground beef, and are unlikely to have any measurable im-

pact on ground beef prices at retail grocery.

The roller coaster continues. Despite recent federal support for increased beef imports, a new executive order signals the intent to revisit the perpetual and controversial issue of mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL). Voluntary labeling is currently available if desired. Ironically, consumers would be unlikely to benefit much because most Brazilian beef is used in food service (e.g. restaurants) and the proposed MCOOL law does not apply to beef in food service. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeder cattle sell higher

MARKETS

(from page 1)

always have the same fluctuations as the spot market," the Cattle Report remarked.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures experienced gains over the week. The September contract gained about \$6 to close at \$331.82, and the October contract gained about \$5 to close at \$326.57.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$1.75 to close at \$327.43.

Corn futures traded lower. The September contract lost 3 cents to close at \$5.12, and the December contract lost 9 cents to close at \$5.31.

"Finally summer heat is transitioning into fall's more moderate temperatures. The next two months are the largest marketing periods of the year for replacement cattle," the Cattle Report said.

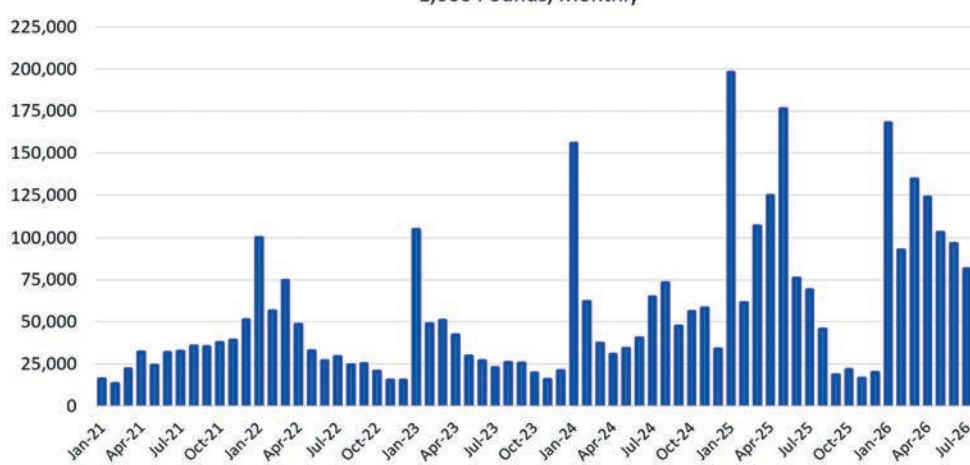
Several auction yards did not hold sales Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

South Dakota: Hub City Livestock in Aberdeen sold 2,565 head on Wednesday. Compared to the previous auc-

tion, steers 950-1,099 lbs. sold \$9-12 higher. The best test on heifers was 950-999 lbs., which sold \$9-11 higher. A lot of steers averaging 874 lbs. sold from \$333-349.25, averaging \$345.02.

Wyoming: Torrington Livestock in Torrington sold 2,904 head on Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers traded \$10-20 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold sharply higher. Benchmark steers averaging 739 lbs. sold from \$372-375, averaging \$373.35. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

Figure 1. Beef Imports from Brazil
1,000 Pounds, Monthly



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ELWOOD BEDROCK 5455

CEU	BW	WW	YW	SB	SC
+5	+1.9	+93	+167	+238	+389
65%	65%	4%	3%	5%	3%

ELWOOD GRANT 5223

CEU	BW	WW	YW	SB	SC
+11	+6	+84	+144	+182	+329
15%	40%	15%	20%	30%	20%

ELWOOD NORTH STAR 5036

CEU	BW	WW	YW	SB	SC
+14	-1.4	+83	+147	+203	+367
5%	10%	20%	15%	15%	10%



SALE REPORTS

VINTAGE ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
Sept. 3, La Grange, CA
225 Angus bulls\$18,218
14 Angus open heifers5,357
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
TOPS: V A R Hallelujah 5177, 1/21/2025 by 44 Faithful 2764; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$290,000. V A R Delivered 5293, 2/16/2025 by 44 Faithful 2764; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$210,000. VARFaithful5084, 1/3/2025 by 44 Faithful 2764; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$100,000. VARVintage 5507, 8/6/2025 by PEAK Draft Pick; to Edisto Pines, Leesville, SC, \$105,000. V A R Winchester 5524, 8/7/2025 by Poss Winchester; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$73,000. V A R Gate Keeper 5487, 8/3/2025 by Boyd Bedrock; to Bar KJ Angus, Wasco, CA, \$85,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BYRD CATTLE CO. PRODUCTION SALE
Sept. 4, Los Molinos, CA
80 Angus bulls \$23,481
120 Angus females 24,329
Auctioneers: Rick Machado & Jayden Byrd
Sale Manager: Parker Friedrich Marketing & Consulting
TOPS—Angus bulls: Byrd True Balance 2639-5514, 7/26/2025 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$80,000. BYRD True Balance 2558-5558, 8/1/2025 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$100,000. Byrd Grid Maker 6276-5589, 8/8/2025 by GA R Grid Maker L1071; to 6-X Dairy, Oakdale, CA, \$75,000. **Fall pair:** BA7 Oaks Erica J04, 1/22/2021 by Connealy Confidence Plus with a True Balance bull calf by side; \$100,000. **Open heifers:** Byrd Rita NO 17155-6072, 2/5/2026 by DE-SU New Order 343G; to Parker Cattle Co., Malad, ID,

\$175,000, 1/2 interest. Byrd Rita G577 17155-6130, 3/6/2026 by DE-SU Do Right G577; to Boston Valley, NY, \$110,000, 1/2 interest. Byrd Blackbird NO 1653-6087, 2/13/2026 by DE-SU New Order 343G; to The Hay Ranch, Red Bluff, CA, \$80,000, 1/2 interest. Byrd Forever Lady 9204-6029, 1/27/2026 by E W A Captain; to The 808 Ranch, Anderson, MO, \$80,000, 1/2 interest. Byrd Supermama TB 6276-5512, 7/25/2025 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Parker Cattle Co, Malad, ID, \$300,000. Byrd Supermama A100 6276-5560, 8/2/2025 by BYRD Bullseye 1186-A100; to Riverbend Ranch, Idaho Falls, ID, \$90,000. Byrd Supermama TB 4056-6023, 1/26/2026 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Katie Colin Farms, Cartersville, GA, \$80,000. Byrd Supermama A100 3527-5561, 8/2/2025 by BYRD Bullseye 1186-A100; to JB Farms, Clarksburg, WV, and Leegan Farms, McEwen, TN, \$100,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

DUNIPACE ANGUS RANCH & BAR KJ BULL SALE
Sept. 5, Farmington, CA
140 Angus bulls \$11,735
Auctioneers: Rick Machado & Jake Parnell
Sale Manager: Parnell Dickinson Inc.
TOPS: Dunipace Kindred 5036, 2/5/2025 by K A Kindred; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$37,000. Bar KJ Tomahawk 5147, 1/11/2025 by EXAR Tomahawk 2836B; to Hopson Angus, OK, \$38,000. Bar KJ Heat Seeker 5017, 1/17/2025 by Baldrige Heat Seeker H925; to ST Genetics, Navasota, TX, \$50,000. Bar KJ Safe Deposit 5104, 3/8/2025 by EZAR Safe Deposit 2140; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$33,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

GENOA LIVESTOCK BULL SALE
Sept. 7, Minden, NV
58 Hereford bulls\$11,844

Auctioneer: Rick Machado
TOPS: Genoa Huth Deluxe K016 25001, 1/17/2025 by Huth CLC WF Deluxe K016; to 6-X Dairy, Oakdale, CA, \$36,000. Genoa 2205 Benton 25004, 2/7/2025 by H Benton 2205 ET; to Schneider-Brown Ranch, Sloughhouse, CA, \$17,500. Genoa 0186 Domino 25042, 3/2/2025 by CL 1 Domino 0186H; to Schneider-Brown Ranch, Sloughhouse, CA, \$18,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

O'NEAL ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
Sept. 8, Madera, CA
71 Angus bulls ... \$11,577
Auctioneer: Jake Parnell
TOPS: O'Neals Magnum 5233, 1/13/2025 by S A V Magnum 1335; to Michelle Lasgoity, Madera, CA, \$17,500. O'Neals Exemplify 4436, 12/22/2024 by Linz Exemplify 71124; to Michelle

Lasgoity, Madera, CA, \$16,500. O'Neals Conclusion 4441, 12/23/2024 by V A R Conclusion 0234; to Mike Blasingame, Clovis, CA, \$16,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

TEIXEIRA CATTLE CO. BULL SALE
Sept. 9, Pismo Beach, CA
65 Angus bulls \$13,500
9 Angus fall pairs8,250
43 Commercial fall pairs5,325
Auctioneer: Jake Parnell
TOPS—Bull: TEX Commerce 5311, 2/24/2025 by Connealy Commerce; to Doug & Janice Burgess, Homedale, ID, \$20,000. **Fall pair:** TEX Empress 4512, 8/25/2024 by Basin Safe Deposit 9324 with a TEX Look-out Calf bull by side; to Erik Steen, Diamond, OR, \$10,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

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UPCOMING SALE DATES		
OCTOBER 16 Consignment Deadline: October 8 WVM Headquarters Cottonwood, CA	NOVEMBER 6 Consignment Deadline: October 29 Embassy Suites Amarillo, TX	DECEMBER 2 Consignment Deadline: November 18 Embassy Suites Amarillo, TX

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Lawsuits question use of Antiquities Act

LAWSUITS (from page 1)
Grand Staircase-Escalante from roughly 1.87 million acres to about 181,541 acres, excluding more than 1.6 million acres.
Trump reduced Bears Ears by about 1.15 million acres and removed nearly 900,000 acres from Grand Staircase-Escalante in 2017. The lawsuits were stayed after President Joe Biden restored the boundaries in 2021.

Groups seek to reopen suits
The Sept. 2 motions argue the new proclamations have changed the circumstances that justified pausing the original lawsuits.
The groups want to amend their complaints so the court can consider the 2017 and 2026 reductions together. They contend doing so would avoid separate lawsuits and duplicative motions because both challenges involve many of the same facts and legal arguments, according to court documents.
The litigation also includes questions left unresolved from the first reductions, including activities and mining claims established on lands removed from monument protection between 2017 and the 2021 restorations. Plaintiffs say the latest reductions again expose excluded lands to potential development. The groups assert that Kimmerle Mining filed seven mining claims one day after Trump signed the proclamation.
“With the filing of these lawsuits, we intend to make sure Trump doesn’t have the final word over the fate of these treasured landscapes,” said Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance Legal Director Steve Bloch.
The lawsuits argue the Antiquities Act gives presidents authority to establish national monuments and reserve fed-

eral land for their protection, but not to abolish or substantially reduce monuments established by previous presidents.
Christy Goldfuss, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), said the central legal question is whether presidential authority to establish monuments also includes the power to dismantle them.
“Presidents have the power to create national monuments to protect what belongs to all of us, but Congress never gave them the power to tear those monuments down,” Goldfuss said.
The Trump administration argues the Antiquities Act gives presidents authority to adjust monument boundaries to ensure they cover the “smallest area compatible” with protecting designated resources.
White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers did not directly address the lawsuit’s allegations in a statement to Utah News Dispatch, instead pointing to monument expansions under Presidents Barack Obama and Biden.
“The Obama and Biden administrations abused the Antiquities Act to lock up millions of acres of Utah’s public lands,” Rogers said. She added that Trump “rightsized the Bears Ears National Monument to allow for common sense land use in these areas.”
Earthjustice represents The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity. NRDC and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance are co-plaintiffs represented by their own counsel. Tribes and other monument supporters also filed motions seeking to renew their litigation. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Wolf pushes into new California territory

A wolf spotted in the Mendocino National Forest in late August has pushed the species into new territory as wolves continue to spread across California.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received two separate reports of a black wolf during the last

week of August near where Mendocino, Glenn and Lake counties meet. At least one detection was in far northern Lake County.

Lake County Supervisor Brad Rasmussen said CDFW's Gray Wolf Program notified county officials after the agency investigated the reports and

confirmed the animal's presence. "Currently CDFW believes this to be a single, dispersing wolf, which may already have left the county or is traveling large distances," Rasmussen said in a Facebook post.

The wolf was reportedly spotted around Aug. 25-26 in

the Mendocino National Forest, west of Interstate 5 and far from California's established wolf packs in the northeastern portion of the state, according to The Sacramento Bee.

CDFW Deputy Director of Public Affairs Alicia de la Garza told The Guardian that the agency received photographs

of the animal and followed up in the field the next day.

"The sighting was verified by a CDFW wolf biologist who confirmed the validity of the photos, conducted surveys in the area and confirmed wolf tracks where one of the sightings was reported," de la Garza said.

CDFW State Gray Wolf Coordinator Axel Hunnicutt told The Sacramento Bee the sighting is the only confirmed detection of the animal west of the Sacramento Valley. Wildlife officials do not know where the wolf originated. It could have traveled south from Oregon or dispersed from one of California's established packs.

"The fact that there is a wolf over there is a sign that they're continuing to expand their range," Hunnicutt said.

Wolf advocates called the sighting significant because it places a confirmed wolf west of I-5 and into an area considered suitable wolf habitat.

"This is incredibly exciting news—the news we in wolf recovery for decades have been waiting for," Amaroq Weiss, a former senior wolf advocate at

the Center for Biological Diversity, told The Sacramento Bee. "For it to get to the west side of I-5, where we know is the best habitat in the state."

The movement into new territory is also prompting local officials to consider how to prepare livestock producers if wolves remain in the region or additional animals follow.

According to MendoLocal News, Mendocino County officials discussed the wolf during a Sept. 1 Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Madeline Cline said CDFW had confirmed its presence, while Agricultural Commissioner Angela Godwin said her office was exploring a bi-county wolf task force to prepare for potential livestock predation.

The sighting comes as California's wolf population continues to spread beyond its established range. CDFW reported 12 recognized packs in its second quarter update, although the Yowlumni Pack in Tulare County has not been detected since early 2026. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

USDA announces additional rancher initiatives

TRUMP ORDERS (from page 1)

Industry and the Ranchers First Initiative released shortly before the executive orders.

Order details

Trump's Supporting American Ranchers executive order directs agency leaders to "assess all regulations, guidance, and any other policy affecting ranchers and prepare further actions to promote ranchers' financial viability and market access."

In addition, the order directs the review of whether gray wolves or Mexican gray wolves meet the criteria for delisting or downlisting under the Endangered Species Act, and to begin the delisting or downlisting process with individual states. The order also directs the Interior and Agriculture departments to update wolf-livestock compensation standards.

Trump's order called for the review of mandatory COOL (MCOOL) for beef products, and the consideration of new regulations and legislative recommendations regarding such labeling.

The second executive order, Promoting Fair Competition in Livestock Markets and Expanding Market Access for American Meat Producers, addresses producers' ability to process and sell their own meat, along with expanding market access.

"American ranchers want to be able to butcher, process, package, and sell their meat to consumers across State lines while maintaining the highest standards of food safety and avoid being overcharged by monopolistic practices by meat processors," the order read.

The order directs the prioritization of investigations into potential Packers and Stockyards Act violations by packers and other entities, and to strengthen protections for producers.

"President Trump is committed to promoting fair competition in livestock and meat markets, protecting producers and small processors from unfair, deceptive, or monopolistic practices, and expanding legitimate market opportunities for American-raised livestock and meat products," the order read.

The order also calls for the modernization of meat inspections to remove unnecessary and burdensome requirements, and to help provide greater interstate market access for state-inspected products. This includes creating a USDA coordinator position to expand federal licensing and connect producers to inspection options, and provide resources for small and very small processors.

"We're creating a program

where small and medium-sized and large ranchers can sell their products directly to consumers so that they don't have to go through the Big Four processors and middlemen," Trump said at the Oval Office signing. "They're not going to be happy when they hear this. I don't know who they are, but they're going to be coming at me."

USDA actions

USDA said its additional actions were timely as the U.S. maintains the smallest cattle herd since the '50s and ranchers are working to rebuild the herd.

"For the past 19 months, USDA has worked tirelessly to defend and promote our nation's ranchers," Rollins said in a statement. "Through our Beef Plan and the Ranchers First Initiative we are working to continue increasing our nation's heifer retention rate."

The additional Ranchers First Initiative actions include:

- Increasing the number of grazing lands involved in the Conservation Reserve Program by enrolling nearly 1 million new acres.
- Increasing the number of producers and plants in the Agricultural Marketing Service Remote Grading Program, which adopts technology to modernize beef grading services.
- Increasing the adoption of the Instrument-Enhanced Grading Program to reduce grader staffing, resulting in cost savings.
- Focusing on combatting instances of agricultural lawfare, "particularly cases involving unfair or excessive eminent domain claims."

Industry reactions

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall was present for the signing of the executive orders, which he said addressed several issues impacting ranchers, but noted that he encouraged the president to reverse the plan to increase beef imports.

"I had the important opportunity today to speak with President Trump after the Oval Office event to let him know that the plan to increase beef imports is hurting farm families," Duvall said. "We'll continue to urge the administration to reverse the decision to increase imports before cattle prices fall further."

The U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) said it appreciated the orders' focus on beef labeling, predator control, Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement and support for meat inspection and small processors.

"Even as we welcome attention to these long-standing priorities, USCA does not ignore the broader market con-

text," the group noted. "Record beef imports and recent import decisions have shaken cattle markets at a time when producers are already struggling with high input costs, drought, wildfire, and trade uncertainty."

The group said it would continue to work with the administration to work on long-term solutions for American cattle producers and consumers.

The Meat Institute said it appreciated the focus on strengthening the beef supply chain and lowering consumer prices but expressed concern

with implementing MCOOL.

"With beef supplies at a 75-year low and demand strong, now is not the time to add unnecessary costs and complexity to the beef supply chain or risk putting further upward pressure on prices," the group said. "Additional consumer costs could jeopardize the strong beef demand the industry has enjoyed. The voluntary label should be given a chance to succeed before Congress repeats a burdensome and costly regulatory mistake."

— **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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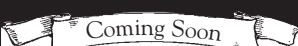


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Sire: PEAK Draft Pick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
12.00	-0.2	79	148	2.17	0.83	64	445



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+21497749
Sire: 44 Faithful 2764

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
11.00	2.2	84	139	2.16	1.14	71	410



Vintage Rita 6153
+21542828
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CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
6.00	1.2	92	155	1.37	1.35	78	422



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+21540619
Sire: G A R Wallace

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Sire: PEAK Draft Pick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
17.00	-1.9	74	121	2.28	1.13	96	441



Vintage Isabel 6328
+21560007
Sire: Wilks Crick 3708

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
7.00	2.5	88	153	1.68	1.35	85	446



Vintage Rita 6414
+21551709
Sire: PEAK Draft Pick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
10.00	1.2	92	154	1.79	0.77	77	434



Vintage Linda 6415
+21551710
Sire: Wilks Crick 3708

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
16.00	-1.4	74	131	1.84	1.50	92	462



Vintage Queenie 5652
21377666
Sire: AAA True Blood 3553

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
3.00	1.8	88	154	1.63	1.21	83	416



Vintage Rita 5492
+21366762
Sire: E W A Captain

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
12.00	-0.4	88	159	1.59	1.20	72	414



Vintage Blackcap 5612
+21362352
Sire: PEAK Draft Pick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
11.00	-1.4	71	119	1.54	1.21	102	439



Vintage Rita 5451
+21350494
Sire: PEAK Draft Pick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
12.00	0.3	92	166	1.71	0.77	86	427



Vintage Blackbird 5200
+21246230
Sire: Baldrige Heat Seeker H925

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
8.00	1.9	92	157	1.33	1.30	80	402



Vintage Lucy 5408
21497804
Sire: Baldrige Heat Seeker H925

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
-1.00	3.1	87	150	1.68	1.21	95	440



Vintage Rita 5197
+21184244
Sire: 44 Faithful 2764

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
13.00	-1.1	83	153	1.42	0.91	91	402



Vintage Rita 5199
+21184246
Sire: FF Rito Ambitious

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$C
6.00	3.1	88	157	1.68	1.12	75	406

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