

INSIDE WLJ

DRYING UP — U.S. and Mexico agree to share Colorado River water shortages through 2028 as record-low reservoir conditions continue to strain supplies across the basin. Page 3

BISON SUIT — MSGA files motion to intervene in case appealing decision to revoke bison grazing permits in Montana. Page 5

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY
“South Dakotans are learning that having the same goal doesn’t automatically put everyone on the same side. The goal at issue is to protect a unique area of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD, has proposed designating about 48,000 acres of the area as wilderness. The bill under consideration in the U.S. Senate is called Tony Dean Cheyenne River Valley Conservation Act of 2010, in honor of South Dakota conservationist Tony Dean,” read the Sept. 20, 2010, WLJ cover story.

INDEX

Opinion.....	P-2
Markets.....	P-8
Sale Reports.....	P-9
Classifieds	P-10
Sale Calendar.....	P-11



Shawn James/BLM

A federal judge recently ruled that the Bureau of Land Management must keep livestock out of sage grouse research areas in Oregon.

Grazing blocked in OR sage grouse research areas

A federal judge has ruled that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must make its “best efforts” to keep livestock off key research natural areas in Oregon to protect sage grouse research.

On Sept. 8, Judge Michael H. Simon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon determined a 2025 BLM land management decision was in violation of several environmental laws.

The BLM decision reduced protected research natural areas (RNAs) in Oregon from 22,000 acres to 3,700 acres, and authorized grazing to resume in previously closed sites. The RNAs were established in 2015 for “scientists to understand better sagebrush habitat, which is essential to the survival of greater sage-grouse,” according to court documents.

Simon’s decision comes following a challenge by the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), which argued the federal agency’s decision substantially, and unlawfully, reduced the num-

ber of sage grouse research sites in Oregon.

In his opinion, Simon granted the group’s motion in part, remanded agency actions back to BLM and enjoined the agency from taking any action inconsistent with the order.

BLM will be required to reopen the public comment period on its 2025 plan and offer a “better reasoned explanation for its changes.” The agency was also ordered to prepare a supplemental environmental assessment.

“Remand, rather than vacatur, will best ensure that BLM’s resources are dedicated to prompt implementation of this Opinion and Order and protection of the sage-grouse,” Simon wrote.

As part of the order, BLM must make its best efforts to prevent livestock grazing in 2015 plan closure areas, conduct compliance checks of all key RNAs that have not yet been permanently closed, and verify that all livestock have been removed from key RNAs.

See GROUSE GRAZING on page 12

Unions renew challenge to USDA reorganization

— Groups seek halt

Four unions representing USDA employees have returned to federal court seeking to stop the Trump administration from moving forward with a department-wide reorganization that would relocate employees, close offices and restructure several agencies.

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 8 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, names USDA and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins as defendants. The unions are joined by several local governments and nonprofit organizations that contend USDA is implementing the reorganization without required congressional approval.

The plaintiffs include the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), National Federation of Federal Em-

ployees (NFFE), National Treasury Employees Union and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

USDA announced its reorganization plan in July 2025 around four areas: reducing the workforce, moving employees out of Washington, D.C., eliminating management layers and consolidating support functions.

USDA maintains that the broader reorganization is intended to streamline the department and move employees and services closer to the people it serves.

The unions argue USDA cannot carry out key portions of the plan without congressional approval. Their complaint points to fiscal year 2026 appropriations language restricting USDA from using funds to relocate employees,

See UNION SUIT on page 4

Senate Ag Committee advances farm bill

— Ag groups welcome progress

The Senate Agriculture Committee on Sept. 16 advanced the Agricultural Act of 2026, also known as the farm bill, on a 12-11 vote, moving it one step closer to consideration by the full Senate.

The vote came after the bill failed to advance on a 10-11 vote during an Aug. 6 markup. This time, Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) were both present to cast their votes, giving Republicans the 12 votes needed to report the bill. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-AR) specifically thanked McConnell for making a special effort to return for the vote, saying he had put Kentucky farmers “one step closer to the certainty that they need.”

Before the final vote, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) sought to introduce an amendment to bring up the Save Our Bacon Act to address California’s Proposition (Prop) 12 require-

ments for pork production. Ernst argued the amendment had been timely filed, but Boozman ruled it out of order because the committee had already closed consideration of all 12 titles.

“We closed out all of the titles; they’re all closed,” he said, adding that reopening the bill for one amendment would mean allowing others to be considered as well.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) also expressed frustration that the committee did not consider the Prop 12 amendment, noting Iowa’s position as the nation’s largest pork-producing state. Grassley also said he had hoped to offer a bipartisan amendment addressing Packers and Stockyards Act rules intended to protect livestock and poultry producers.

Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) urged members to move the legislation to the Senate floor to continue debating unresolved issues.

“Our farmers and ranchers need help now,” Hoeven said, pointing to low commodity prices and high input costs. “It’s past time. We got to

get to the floor and get this done for our farmers and our ranchers.”

Brief SNAP discussion

A major sticking point remains the changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and when states would begin sharing benefit costs based on payment error rates.

Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said Democrats remain committed to completing the legislation this year but continue to seek additional time before the SNAP cost-sharing requirements take effect. She said Democrats want a two-year delay so states have more time to lower their error rates, while also pointing to areas of bipartisan agreement throughout the legislation.

“I truly believe we are much closer to agreement than we were six months ago,” Klobuchar said. “I appreciate the chairman’s desire to move this process forward.”

See FARM BILL on page 6

Cattle futures pressured by industry rumors

Cattle futures traded sideways compared to numbers reported a week earlier but ultimately traded lower over the week amid industry rumors of another beef plant closure.

Live cattle futures traded mostly sideways over the week. The October contract lost less than a dollar to close at \$215.65, and the December contract lost about \$1.50 to close at \$216.25.

“One sure fire way to cause cattle futures to decline is rumors of a plant closing,” the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. “The recent large movements of futures prices in cattle have been tied to insider trading where some parties know of the planned announcement while the public is unaware. The past three days have featured large downward moves in the futures market for cattle with no reasonable explanation. Now we await an announcement.”

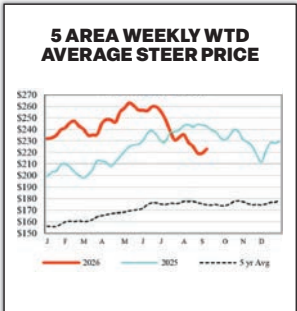
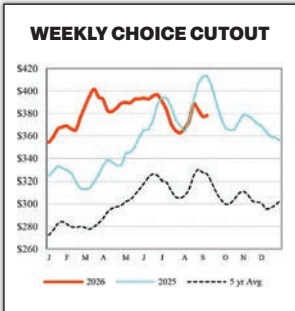
Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 40,000 head. Live steers sold from \$220-223, and dressed steers sold from \$348-355.

Cash trade for the week ending Sept. 13 totaled 66,775 head. Live steers averaged \$223.38, and dressed steers averaged \$350.55.

“Cash trade waited until Friday (last week) to begin in earnest, even continuing on Saturday as packers scrambled to cover cattle inventory needs, buying 67k head and paying up \$3.76/cwt on average from \$219.08 the prior week which was the low for 2026 so far,” said Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Monday. “Expectations for this week are \$1 to \$2/cwt higher.”

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 420,000 head, compared to 329,000 head a week earlier during the Labor Day week. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 505,000 head. Actual slaughter for the

See MARKETS on page 9



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$222.17	\$350.50	\$342.74
WEEK ENDING: 9-17-26		

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

The power of conversation

The official start of fall is just around the corner, much to the relief of many of us in Texas. We can only hope that the new season will bring temperatures under 98 F, and if we're lucky, more than a sprinkling of rain.

With the start of fall also comes the California bull season run, and sales have been in full swing for the past few weeks. Jared Patterson, *WLJ* field representative for the western region, has been busy making the rounds to cover sales across the state. It's been a fantastic sale season so far, and it's encouraging to see strong cattle prices continue to hold. Congratulations to those who have already held their sales, and best wishes to those with sales still ahead. To find timely coverage of sales from our field reps, head over to our Sale Reports page at wlj.net/sale_report, or give *WLJ* a follow on Facebook.

Soon, I'll be heading out West myself to lend a hand at my family's Red Angus sale in Lodi. I'm looking forward to seeing some familiar faces and getting to spend a few days back in California's cattle country. And, I'll admit, lunchtime on sale day is always one of the highlights of my annual trip back for the sale. It's not just the chance to catch up with old friends and customers, but also the opportunity to enjoy a meal of that coveted California beef tri-tip, which Texans haven't yet seemed to learn how to appreciate on quite the same scale.

Speaking of beef, there's been a lot of discussion about our industry in the mainstream media lately. Ranchers are already well-informed on the headlines, but our industry news doesn't usually reach everyday Americans the way it has over the past few months. That increased attention presents an opportunity to highlight our industry and help consumers better understand where their beef comes from and the people who produce it. Regardless of where you stand on some of the issues that divide us, such as beef labeling or foreign imports, there has never been a better time to use this budding attention to ranchers' advantage. That means giving consumers a reason to feel confident about eating beef and helping them better understand the ranchers who produce it.

Part of that opportunity comes from recognizing that a lack of knowledge about agriculture is rarely ill-intended. More often, it's simply a lack of familiarity. I say this from the perspective of someone who grew up in a rural town and now lives in one of the biggest metroplexes in the country, the Dallas-Fort Worth area. I've witnessed firsthand how knowledge of the overall agriculture industry can slip away the farther you get from rural communities.

But I'm often reminded that most people aren't looking to criticize agriculture, they simply want to understand more about a topic they are totally unfamiliar with. People are more eager than ever to support Main Street America and hear directly from the people growing their food. We might want to laugh at the questions that seem so obvious—no, chocolate milk doesn't come from brown cows—but they're usually asked in good faith. It's worth treating those seemingly silly questions with respect and meeting consumers where they are.

One positive interaction with a rancher might forever change how someone views the industry. Ranchers don't need to be policy experts or marketing professionals to have these conversations. And it doesn't even have to be a conversation centered directly around agriculture. It can be chatting with the fellow parents at a Little League game while you're still in your work boots and dusty hat. Every positive interaction is an opportunity to leave someone with a better impression of an industry we already know is full of good people.

Just as those everyday conversations can bring different perspectives to the table, so can the voices within our own industry. You may recall earlier in the summer, in my first Comments piece, I mentioned we would be rolling out a new chapter of this column to include different perspectives from industry members across varying sectors of the cattle industry. With that new chapter now underway, it's time to introduce some of the columnists you'll be hearing from each month. In early September, we kicked off the series with a column by business and risk management consultant Garren Bellis of Compass Ag Solutions. Bellis and his colleague, Cole Rogers, will trade off writing a market perspective each month. In addition to a market column, readers will also have the opportunity to hear from California rancher Dave Daley on public lands issues, along with Wyoming-based attorney Elise Balin Hall on ag policy matters. You'll also continue to hear from our field reps each month, sharing insights and updates from the regions they serve.

There will always be issues to debate, but we should continue sharing our stories and giving others a better understanding of the industry we're proud to be part of.

— ANNA MILLER FORTOZO



MILLER FORTOZO

GUEST OPINION

When I look out on the land my family has farmed for more than 90 years, I see the care and dedication we have put in over the generations to leave the land better than we found it. I know that farmers across the country share that same pride as they care for their soil and protect natural resources that we all depend on. Now, thanks to years of advocacy and standing up for common sense, we have a proposed rule that will allow for farmers and ranchers in every state to be able to look out on their land and know exactly what is a “water of the United States.”

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers released a new proposed Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. The agencies answered farmers' concerns and calls for clarity. Water is the lifeblood of our farms and communities, and farmers take our role as caretakers seriously. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) welcomes a WOTUS rule that protects our natural resources and respects the careful stewardship of the men and women who grow the food, fiber and fuel our country depends on.

For decades, America's farmers have been adopting new innovative practices that keep nutrients in the soil and protect nearby water, including practices like buffer strips and terracing. Farmers know better than anyone that a healthy and productive farm starts with healthy soil. We are the ones with our boots on the ground every day caring for our land, crops, and natural resources.

And we are looking to make every season better than the last. That's why we are always adopting the latest innovations, tools and practices to make our farms more efficient and leave the land better for the next generation. Take a look at regenerative agriculture, for example. Regenerative has become another buzzword in farming, but these practices have been on the rise for years across our nation's farmland, with around 40 million acres now enrolled in regenerative practices.

In addition to careful stewardship, farmers rely on clear regulations from federal agencies like EPA. That's why Farm Bureau has been calling on EPA and the Corps for well over a decade to deliver a rule that farmers and ranchers can follow while keeping up with critical farm practices. Previous WOTUS definitions have reached too far and placed ordinary farm activities under burdensome and costly federal oversight. Farmers should not need to hire a team of lawyers and consultants to know what is regulated on their land, or

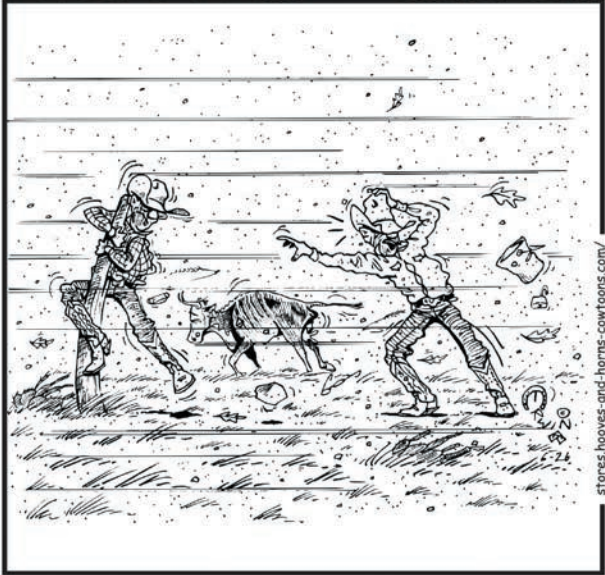
PROPOSED WOTUS RULE BRINGS CLARITY AND COMMON SENSE

to keep up with critical farming practices. Over the years, farmers have faced a regulatory guessing game, where the rules kept changing, but the penalties were steep.

We hope this new proposed WOTUS rule will put an end to the games and allow common sense to prevail. It addresses the concerns farmers have raised and also responds to the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, which reined in regulatory overreach by confirming that primary authority rests with the states. This rule establishes a bright line of jurisdiction, so a farmer can easily discern what is “in” and what is “out” under federal regulation. I'm hopeful that the finalization of this rule will provide the regulatory clarity that our farmers and ranchers have advocated for.

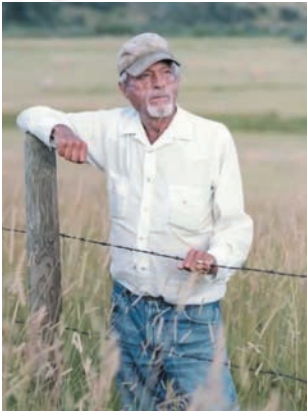
Farm Bureau has long said that clean water and common sense go hand-in-hand. We are glad to see EPA and the Corps agree, and we look forward to this new proposed WOTUS rule becoming permanent. — Zippy Duvall, AFBF president

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"JimBob,....I'm super uncomfortable askin'this,..but,... Would yew please hold my hand!"

OBITUARY



William 'Bill' Wesley; 1946-2026

Routt County, CO, native and third-generation rancher William “Bill” Wesley Gay passed away peacefully on Aug. 25 at his home near the bottom of Rabbit Ears Pass. He was 80 years old.

Bill often quipped that he was a surprise for his parents, Robert “Bob” and Elaine Gay, when he arrived on June 25, 1946, their third child after daughters Roberta and Margaret.

From an early age, Bill surprised his family and community with a unique connection to animals, livestock and pets alike. After a childhood filled

with 4-H, wrestling and academics, Bill graduated from Steamboat Springs High School in 1965 and went on to attend Colorado State University on an academic scholarship, where he became a top livestock judge while completing his degree in agricultural journalism. One of the biggest surprises of Bill's life came when he successfully answered a newspaper ad looking for charismatic, horse-savvy and unattached young men to work for Philip-Morris International as Marlboro Men in Europe. Because he could drive four- and six-horse teams well, Bill ended up driving the Marlboro stagecoach across much of Europe for over a year.

Upon his return to Colorado, he and his dad partnered to buy a small ranch in Orchard to expand the family's ability to run more cattle and calve out heifers in an environment more forgiving than Steamboat Springs. The call to come back to California proved too strong, however, and Bill returned to the San Francisco area to work for the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), a then-burgeoning land conservation group. Bill helped write the first conservation easement in Colorado for TPL, work that he would continue to

advocate for and promote in northwest Colorado when he returned home to the family ranch permanently in 1985.

The next couple of decades saw Bill working with his parents and ranch employees to manage the livestock and land that made up Green Creek Ranch. He became involved in many community activities and reconnected with Routt County 4-H, where he was the livestock judging coach for over 20 years. Bill contributed to the community in a number of ways for many years, surprising no one when he served many of the groups his father Bob had also served, including the Routt County Cattlemen's Association and Routt County Fair Board. He served on the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights advisory committee, the Yampa Valley Land Trust Board of Directors, and the Routt County Multi-Modal Committee, where he made surprising connections to the bicycling community ... which was often at odds with agricultural producers.

Bill also surprised his family when he began changing the family's long-time Hereford-based cow herd to one that had much more Angus influence. While cattle were the ranch's

bread-and-butter, Bill's true passion was keeping alive the foundation Quarter Horse families based in Routt County and the Intermountain West. After the family ranch sold in 2015, he continued to surprise folks when he began raising Short-horn cattle on his then newly purchased Alpen Glow Ranch in the South Valley.

Bill's accomplishments of the past few decades were always tempered by health issues he overcame many times, surprising everyone by beating overwhelming odds on more than one occasion. Complications related to diabetes finally overcame him, however, and he passed this world at peace, knowing he'd made his mark on the world.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Robert “Bob” and Elaine Becker Gay, and brother-in-law Delmar Moellenberg. He is survived by his sisters Roberta Moellenberg of Idalia, and Margaret (Rob) Hagenbuch of Oak Creek; nieces Gay (Jeff) Uhlund of Eads, Joy (Cody) Akey of Wray, Dell Rae (Mike) Ciaravola of Loveland, Heidi (Mike) Dowell of Odessa, FL, nephew Todd (Sarah) Hagenbuch of Phippsburg; several great nieces and great nephews; and numerous cousins.

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.

The national livestock weekly • Since 1922 • Western Livestock Journal LLC • P.O. Box 20605, Oklahoma City, OK 73156 • www.wlj.net

(303) 722-7600 • Fax (303) 722-0155

EDITORIAL@WLJ.NET	CIRCULATION@WLJ.NET	ADVERTISING@WLJ.NET	FIELD REPS
ANNA MILLER FORTOZO Managing Editor (720) 372-2353 • anna@wlj.net CHARLES WALLACE Contributing Editor (303) 722-7600 • charles@wlj.net Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20605, Oklahoma City, OK 73156	HANNAH JACKSON Circulation Manager & Copy Editor (720) 370-8275 • hannah@wlj.net CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET TOM WHITE Classifieds Manager (720) 370-7977 • tom@wlj.net	KIRBY BRINCEFIELD Senior Operations Manager (720) 716-3363 kirby@wlj.net MIKE OLDORN Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design (720) 370-9095 mike@wlj.net TRISTAN MARTIN Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design (720) 372-1763 tristan@wlj.net	JARED PATTERSON Caldwell, ID (208) 312-2386 jared@wlj.net TY GROSHANS Akron, CO (970) 818-6016 ty@wlj.net KEVIN MURNIN Worden, MT (406) 853-4638 kevin@wlj.net

Western Livestock Journal

Western Livestock Journal (ISSN 0094-6710, USPS 678660) is published weekly (52 issues annually) by Western Livestock Journal LLC, 2501 Exchange Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73108. Website: www.wlj.net. Email: advertising@wlj.net or editorial@wlj.net. Subscriptions are \$55/year. Call (720) 370-8275 to subscribe. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western Livestock Journal, PO Box 20605, Oklahoma City, OK 73156.

US, Mexico agree to share Colorado River shortages

The U.S. and Mexico have agreed to share Colorado River water shortages through 2028 as record-low reservoir conditions continue to strain supplies across the basin.

Under the agreement, U.S. Lower Basin water allocations will be reduced by 1.25 million acre-feet annually in 2027 and 2028. Mexico will take a proportional reduction of 250,000 acre-feet each year. If conditions worsen, the two countries will discuss whether additional reductions are needed in 2028. Minute No. 334, approved by both countries under the 1944 Water Treaty, establishes cooperative Colorado River operating measures for 2027 and 2028.

“This Minute makes sure water is shared fairly among our users and protects the health of the Colorado River during these difficult times,” said U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission Commissioner Chad McIntosh. “Both countries deserve a lot of credit for agreeing to these water reductions and other measures.”

The agreement leaves room to increase Mexico’s water deliveries if conditions improve. If forecasts show Lake Mead could reach 1,125 feet or higher in 2027 or 2028, the two countries will discuss providing Mexico with a proportional share

of any additional water available to U.S. users.

It allows Mexico to continue setting aside part of its Colorado River allocation in its Water Reserve for future use.

The agreement establishes a two-year salinity pilot program for 2027 and 2028 that will increase monitoring and coordination between the two countries as water deliveries decline. The program is intended to manage salt concentrations in water delivered to Mexico while limiting impacts to water users and operations on both sides of the border. Officials will collect and share water-quality data, track salinity levels and evaluate whether additional management measures may be needed.

The two countries will also continue studying potential new water supplies, conservation projects and desalination as they look for longer-term ways to stretch the river’s limited supply.

The agreement also includes environmental programs. Both countries, along with a binational coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), will each provide one-third of roughly \$5.58 million to maintain existing habitat restoration sites and support scientific research and monitoring in 2027 and 2028. The agreement also calls for NGOs to

provide the water needed to maintain those restoration areas.

Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River program director at Audubon, said the agreement will support stewardship of more than 1,300 acres of restored habitat in the Colorado River Delta while continuing a cooperative approach developed through earlier agreements.

“The more water users that share in Colorado River water shortages, the less the burden of those shortages on any one user, sector, or geography,” Pitt said.

The Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation said Minute 334 builds on cooperation between the two countries through shared water reductions, salinity management and continued study of new water supplies and desalination. The agencies said that cooperation will remain central to managing the river’s limited supplies.

“Interior and Reclamation remain focused on collaboration, flexibility and continued work with the seven basin states, the 30 basin Tribal nations, and Mexico to sustain the river for farms and ranches, communities, energy, and natural resources. We will continue to build on today’s progress,” the agencies said. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

MT to dismiss Yellowstone bison lawsuit

The state of Montana in mid-September requested to dismiss its lawsuit over bison management in Yellowstone National Park.

In December 2024, Montana filed suit against the National Park Service’s (NPS) 2024 Interagency Bison Management Plan. The bison plan allows for about 5,000 bison in Yellowstone National Park and opportunities for Tribes to restore bison to Tribal lands.

The state’s lawsuit was later consolidated with a similar case from two conservation groups, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Council on Fish and Wildlife. In early 2025, environmental groups and regional Tribes intervened in the case in defense of NPS.

Montana argued that NPS failed to consult the state on its bison management plan and potential disease transmission. The conservation groups claimed the plan failed to use the best scientific analysis for bison management.

“Given the way NPS has ignored feedback from Montana, we have major concerns about potential threats to animal health from the possible spread of brucellosis,” said Mike Honeycutt, director of the Montana Department of Livestock, at the time of the suit’s filing.

Lawsuit dismissal

In a Sept. 14 filing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, the state of Montana and the Department of Interior filed a joint motion to dismiss the case without prejudice.

“With the Federal Defendants’ initiation and subsequent pursuit of a (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, SEIS) that identifies new alternatives and provides additional analysis, there is potential that Montana’s claims will be addressed, if not resolved, by that process,” the state’s motion read. “As such, dismissal without prejudice allows parties to focus resources on that process.”

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Council on Fish and Wildlife were not included in the request for dismissal.

Intervenor groups applauded the state’s move to dismiss the lawsuit.

“Now that the state of Montana has moved to dismiss its baseless lawsuit, we urge Yellowstone to stand by its progress on bison conservation,” said Jenny Harbine, managing attorney for Earthjustice’s Northern Rockies Office. “When the Park Service releases its draft SEIS in the coming months, the public will have yet another opportunity to demand continued protections for our national mammal.”

Earthjustice represents the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, National Parks Conservation Association, Defenders of Wildlife, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and Park County Environmental Council in the intervention.

Lawsuit background

In late April, NPS announced its intent to prepare an SEIS to update the analysis used in the plan.

“Seasonal bison migration out of the park has become less predictable in timing and duration,” the notice read. “This change affects the reliability of management assumptions that informed the 2024 analysis, warranting supplemental review.”

The agency also noted that its review will determine whether additional analysis of any of the issues raised in the lawsuit is appropriate.

The Department of the Interior in May requested a stay on the lawsuit pending NPS’ SEIS, which a federal judge denied on behalf of the plaintiff conservation groups’ claims.

“A stay would fail to simplify the proof or questions of law at issue in this case,” Morris wrote in his order. “NPS’s focus remains independent from Alliance Plaintiffs’ claims in this matter.” — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

A Lasting Legacy Elite Female Sale

BASIN

Angus Ranch

OCTOBER 17, 2026

SATURDAY 11 AM MDT | **BILLINGS LIVESTOCK COMMISSION**
BILLINGS, MONTANA

Basin Legacy 6201 21529801

Basin Rita 6272 21534978

Basin Lucy 6311 21535005

Basin Lucy 5234 21247555

Basin Shorita 5024 21249703

Lot 1

Lot 2B

Lot 7A

Lot 14

Lot 20

Cornerstone Donors • Elite Heifer Calves • Powerful Bred Heifers • Proven Production Cows

Doug Stevenson (406) 350-0350
Trevor Berg (406) 366-3612

Nicole Stevenson (406) 350-2222
Shane Whiteman (406) 366-0688

www.BasinAngus.com

Judge declined to consider earlier union lawsuit

UNION SUIT (from page 1)

eliminate programs or reorganize offices without notifying and receiving approval from House and Senate appropriations committees.

“On behalf of the tens of thousands of USDA employees AFGE represents, I am urging the court to put an immediate halt to this illegal and disruptive reorganization,” said AFGE National President Everett Kelley. “USDA employees keep our food safe, stand behind our farmers, make sure our children are fed, and keep thousands of American businesses running.”

New lawsuit follows judge’s ruling

The new case comes shortly after U.S. District Judge Susan Illston declined to consider an earlier lawsuit brought by AFGE regarding the USDA reorganization.

In a Sept. 2 order, Illston concluded that the USDA claims presented “new and distinct” legal issues and should be pursued in a separate lawsuit. She denied the plaintiffs’ request to supplement their existing complaint and denied their preliminary injunction motion as moot.

Illston did not decide whether USDA’s reorganization is legal. Instead, she found that the dispute over fiscal year 2026 appropriations restrictions

raised separate legal questions that should be considered in a new lawsuit, not as part of the broader federal workforce case.

The unions then filed the new case and renewed their request for a preliminary injunction.

According to court documents, USDA began publicly rolling out parts of the reorganization in late spring and notified congressional committees of planned changes in April and June. The complaint says USDA has since started implementing changes across several agencies, including relocating employees from the Washington, D.C., area and regional offices to new locations around the country.

Court documents said USDA is carrying out many of the relocations through Management Directed Reassignment letters, which give employees a deadline to accept a new duty station and another deadline to report there. Employees have generally been given 30 days to make each decision, with the earliest relocation deadline set for Sept. 21.

The unions argue the reorganization could further drain USDA of experienced employees and institutional knowledge. According to court documents, at least 36% of the more than 700 employees who received relocation notices this summer initially declined to move, and the plaintiffs contend the final attrition rate

could be higher as other employees seek hardship exemptions or accommodations. The complaint also says many of the affected agencies were already understaffed before the relocations began.

“The consequences will extend far beyond Washington,”

said NFFE National President Randy Erwin. “Forcing experienced USDA employees to choose between uprooting their families and losing their jobs will drive out expertise, devastate USDA and its agencies, and disrupt critical services that support farmers and

rural communities, feed families, advance agricultural research, and protect our forests and public lands.”

The unions are asking the court to declare USDA’s reorganization unlawful and block the department from carrying it out. They are also seeking a

preliminary injunction to halt office closures, employee relocations and other actions tied to the plan while the lawsuit moves forward, including the management-directed reassignments already issued to employees. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

States sue over loosened ESA regulations

A coalition of 20 states and the District of Columbia is suing the Trump administration for weakening endangered species’ protections by rolling back regulations guiding the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In early September, 21 attorneys general filed two lawsuits, one against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the other against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and USFWS.

The states seek to vacate and set aside the agencies’ rules that “significantly weaken protections for our nation’s most imperiled species.” The lawsuits claim the revised regulations violate the ESA, Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

“For over half a century, the ESA has stood as a bipartisan example of what it means to protect an irreplaceable part of our planet, but these new rules attempt to destroy longstand-

ing and integral regulatory protections and open the door to further species decline and possible extinctions,” said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. “Today, we are taking action to protect our environment and all those with whom we share the planet.”

The lawsuits were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California by the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Lawsuit details

At issue in the lawsuits are the Trump administration’s “harm rule,” “habitat exclusion rule” and “4(d) rule.”

The USFWS and NMFS had previously determined that the

prior definition of “harm” was unlawful and interfered with private property rights. The critical habitat exclusion rule established a framework for excluding habitat if the benefits outweigh the benefits of including it. The 4(d) rule removed the “blanket rule” option for newly listed species, which created a default management for threatened species unless an exception was made with a specific 4(d) rule.

The attorneys general argue that as a result of the three rules, the protections for endangered and threatened species have been “seriously undermined.”

They contend that the harm rule weakens the ESA’s ability to protect against species’ breeding and feeding grounds, pollution or draining of water sources, or degradation of habitats. The attorneys general also point to the habitat exclusion rule for limiting the USFWS’ ability to protect and

recover species by reducing the extent of protected critical habitat.

They assert that the 4(d) rule leaves threatened species vulnerable because the USFWS will now adopt species-specific regulations with no requirement or timeframe for doing so. The 4(d) rule also requires the agency to consider the economic impacts before creating species-specific rules.

The Department of Interior maintains that the Trump administration has been implementing the ESA as it was written.

“This lawsuit seeks to preserve a decades-old regulatory overreach that expanded the Endangered Species Act beyond the authority granted by Congress,” the Department of Interior told Reuters. “The department will vigorously defend its authority to implement the law according to its plain text.” — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



BOWMAN LIVESTOCK
Horse Sales

FALL HORSE SALE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

Soft Preview: **Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2026 • 6pm @ All Seasons Arena**
Barrels/Team Roping Preview: **Thursday, Oct. 1 • 8am @ All Seasons Arena**
Sale Start: **Thursday, Oct. 1 • 11am @ Bowman Livestock**



OVER 200 HEAD WILL SELL

75 riders and over 160 babies/yearlings/broodmares



Lot 82



Lot 18

Online bidding:



DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions



Amanda Kammerer (605) 484-3784 | Seth Weishaar (605) 210-1124 | Bowman Livestock Marketing (701) 523-5922

NRCS opens conservation funding for western states

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from farmers and ranchers in several western and Plains states for fiscal year 2027 conservation funding.

NRCS recently announced application dates in Texas, Kansas, Montana and Oklahoma for several voluntary conservation programs. Although applications are accepted year-round, producers must meet their state's cutoff

date to be considered for the current funding cycle.

Application deadlines vary by state, beginning Sept. 30 in Oklahoma and Oct. 2 in Montana. Texas producers have until Nov. 13 to apply, while the Kansas deadline is Nov. 20.

The funding is available through several of NRCS' major conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agri-

cultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who want to address natural resource concerns on working lands. Projects can include improvements aimed at soil health, erosion, water and air quality, grazing land and wildlife habitat.

CSP is geared toward producers who already have conservation practices in place and want to take those efforts further. The program provides financial and technical as-

sistance to develop additional conservation practices while maintaining agricultural production.

ACEP takes a different approach by helping protect agricultural land and wetlands through conservation easements. Its Agricultural Land Easement component can help keep working farms and ranches from being converted to nonagricultural uses, while Wetland Reserve Easements help restore and protect wetlands previously affected by agricultural production.

NRCS is also offering additional assistance through its Regenerative Pilot Program, which allows producers to pursue whole-farm regenerative conservation through EQIP and CSP. Producers can tailor practices to the resource concerns and needs of individual operations.

Producers may also have opportunities through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which brings NRCS together with agricultural producers and partner organizations to

address regional natural resource concerns. RCPP projects can focus on issues ranging from water quality and quantity to grazing lands and wildlife habitat.

Because funding is competitive and application dates vary by state and program, producers interested in participating are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office early to discuss eligibility, conservation priorities and application requirements. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

MSGA intervenes in American Prairie case

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and South Phillips Grazing Districts have filed a motion to intervene in American Prairie's case appealing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) decision to revoke bison grazing permits in Montana.

The case, American Prairie v. U.S. Department of Interior, appealed the BLM's order to uphold the Taylor Grazing Act's production standard on seven allotments in Phillips County, MT.

MSGA asserts that BLM's decision was a result of the correct interpretation of the Taylor Grazing Act and that American Prairie does not meet the production standard required to graze on the allotments.

"Cattle ranchers' voices must be heard in this case and we must highlight the importance of lawful public lands management," said MSGA Executive Vice President Raylee Honeycutt. "This is why we have requested to intervene in this case and to advocate for working ranchers, rural communities, and agricul-

tural production."

In May, BLM determined that American Prairie's bison were primarily managed for conservation purposes rather than livestock production. The agency rescinded the group's bison grazing permits, issued cattle-only permits on some allotments and ordered American Prairie to relocate bison by the end of September.

In early September, a judge temporarily blocked BLM's order while the group's lawsuit proceeds. American Prairie's bison may remain on the Telegraph Creek, Box Elder and Whiterock allotments in the meantime.

"MSGA remains committed to defending ranching families, protecting multiple-use public lands, and ensuring federal agencies follow established law in land management decisions," the group said.

To support MSGA's efforts, visit mtbeef.org and select "BLM Appeal" on the donation form. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

MT FWP kills two grizzly bears near Lincoln

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) staff trapped and euthanized two male grizzly bears near Lincoln, MT, after a series of conflicts with chicken coops, grain and other attractants near the community.

According to a department press release, the conflicts took place during a 10-day period, despite efforts by department staff and community members to limit attractants. The bears remained in the area and continued to get into potential food sources near homes.

Due to bold behavior by the bears, primarily toward unprotected chicken coops near town, FWP staff said the situation created safety concerns for humans.

FWP trapped the grizzlies early Sept. 9, and the decision to euthanize the bears was made in consultation with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service.

"We'll continue to work with residents to address conflicts, and securing attractants is something everyone can do to help avoid issues," said FWP Region 2 supervisor Kendra McKlosky.

FWP said bear conflicts have seen an uptick around Montana this season, in part due to limited sources of natural bear foods such as chokecherries and huckleberries, leading animals to seek alternative foods wherever they can find them.

If Montanans see a bear or sign near their residence that may result in a conflict, reach out right way to FWP for help on next steps, the department said. Find contact information for local bear specialists and review more details and preventative tips at fwp.mt.gov/bear-aware. — **Michah Drew, Daily Montanan**



ARELLANO BRAVO ANGUS

Female Sale

AT THE RANCH ON THE CALIFORNIA DELTA, WALNUT GROVE, CA

Sunday OCTOBER 11

75+ REGISTERED ANGUS FEMALES

Spring Bred Heifers :: Fall Yearling Heifers :: Fancy Open Heifers

Spring 3-n-1 Pairs :: Fall-Calving Pairs

Sale Book: angus.org
arellanobravoangus.com

CATTLE VIDEOS AND ONLINE BIDDING SALE DAY





ANGUSGS
21314397

BRAVO LUCY 5062

Ankonian Stoneman x V A R Payweight 7112

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
15	-2.4	80	81	26	33
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
73	1.09	.78	91	197	332



ANGUSGS
21255579

BRAVO PROPHET 5406

V A R Conclusion 0234 x G A R Home Town

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
10	.9	84	148	26	31
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
48	1.07	.65	90	154	264



ANGUSGS
21310651

BRAVO ELITE BLACKBIRD 5012

V A R Home Town 1026 x V A R Blackstone 9226

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
4	3.3	83	141	32	29
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
72	1.41	.70	89	212	346



ANGUSGS
21314395

BRAVO QUEEN 5045

Bravo Precedent 2454 x SydGen Enhance

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
10	-.2	81	147	33	26
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
73	1.05	1.26	105	206	355



ANGUSGS
21343707

BRAVO ERICA DIANNA 5114

Ankonian Stoneman x G A R Home Town

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
4	2.5	76	139	19	21
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
84	1.96	.97	57	282	426



ANGUSGS
21315308

BRAVO BLACKCAP 5050

V A R Conclusion 0234 x G A R Home Town

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	DOC
10	1.7	94	171	34	21
CW	MARB	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
79	1.01	.78	97	204	313



ARELLANO BRAVO ANGUS

THE ARELLANO BRAVO FAMILY

Adhemar :: Adhemar Jr. :: Rafael :: Tim

Tim 916-826-3063

Adhemar Jr. 916-416-2805

2018 Farm Bill is scheduled to expire Sept. 30

FARM BILL (from page 1)

Boozman said Republicans had offered a compro-

mise that would give states additional time before the SNAP cost-sharing requirements take effect, but the proposal was not accepted.

“The rest of the story is this: we offered a one-year delay with no payment, no cost. It was rejected,” Boozman said. “We’re running out of time,

and we’re rapidly losing a window that we can actually get this thing passed.”

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) called the committee vote an important step forward, saying farmers need certainty. He highlighted year-round E15 and said the bill includes numerous priorities from members of both parties.

“This has been a very bipartisan process,” Thune said. “It is a product that deserves our support.”

Sen. Jim Justice (R-WV) offered a similar message, saying farmers and ranchers are depending on Congress to finish the legislation.

“If we don’t get this done for our farmers and our ranchers, shame on us,” Justice said. “We’ve got to get it across the finish line.”

National Farmers Union President Rob Larew said the legislation contains “real wins for family farmers and ranchers,” highlighting mandatory country-of-origin labeling (MCOOL) and nationwide year-round E15. However, he said producers continue to face rising input costs, concentrated corporate power and a farm safety net that does not fully reflect current conditions.

ultimately restored into law,” Bullard said.

The committee action came as Farm Bureau and other agriculture organizations were in Washington, D.C., for fall fly-ins, where farmers and ranchers met with lawmakers and pressed Congress to complete the legislation.

The House passed its version of the farm bill on April 30 by a 224-200 vote. The Sen-

“We must remain vigilant to ensure MCOOL remains in the Farm Bill through the next steps of this process and is ultimately restored into law.”

— Bill Bullard

Reactions from ag

Agriculture groups quickly welcomed the committee action.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said the organization applauded committee members for recognizing the “critical support the farm bill provides for America’s farmers and ranchers.” Duvall said more than 100 Farm Bureau farmers and ranchers were in Washington over the week urging Congress to advance a bipartisan bill.

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA (R-CALF) also welcomed the bill’s MCOOL provisions for beef. CEO Bill Bullard said the committee recognized that cattle producers should have the opportunity to compete for consumers seeking American beef.

“We must remain vigilant to ensure MCOOL remains in the Farm Bill through the next steps of this process and is

ate must now move the legislation through the full Senate before lawmakers can resolve differences between the two chambers and send a final package to the president.

Time is also running short under the current extension. The 2018 Farm Bill is now in its third consecutive year under an extension, which is scheduled to expire Sept. 30. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor



CLM

Cattlemen's LIVESTOCK MARKET

- WEEKLY SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY -

CLM REPRESENTATIVES

Jake Parnell	916-662-1298
Walter Schalla, Manager	719-252-6607
George Gookin	209-482-1648
Rex Whittle	209-996-6994
Mark Fischer	209-768-6522
Kris Gudel	916-208-7258
Steve Bianchi	707-484-3903
Jason Dailey	916-439-7761
Brett Friend	510-685-4870
Tod Radelfinger	775-901-3332
Bowdy Griffin	530-906-5713

AUCTION MARKET

Address..... 12495 Stockton Blvd., Galt, CA
Office..... 209-745-1515
Fax..... 209-745-1582
Website/Market Report..... clmgalt.com
Web Broadcast..... cci.live

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

WATCH THE WEEKLY AND SPECIAL SALES & BID LIVE ON CCI.LIVE!

FALL FEEDER SPECIALS

- WEDNESDAYS -

SEPTEMBER 23
OCTOBER 7 & 21
NOVEMBER 4, 11 & 18



SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
CLM ANNUAL BRED COW & REPLACEMENT FEMALE SALE & PARNELL'S 58TH ANNUAL CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 'WORLD OF BULLS' SALE

UPCOMING WESTERN VIDEO MARKET SALES

OCT. 18 - WVM HEADQUARTERS, COTTONWOOD, CA
CONSIGN BY OCTOBER 8



FALL FEMALE SALE

OCTOBER 9, 2026

FRIDAY • 11 AM PST



KERN RITA 341

DOB: 08-05-2024 • REG# +*21313195
Sire: *K A Kindred
Dam: *Paf Rita 7096
CED +10, BW -1.0, WW +79, YW +139, PAP +2.65, REA +1.16, Marb +1.57, \$M +100, \$C +423
Due to calve Spring 2027.



KERN BLACKBIRD 518

DOB: 11-28-2024 • REG# +*21646288
Sire: +*Ingram Heisman 0566
Dam: +*Huwa 2902 Payweight 6017
CED +11, BW +.3, WW +88, YW +159, PAP +3.09, REA +1.16, Marb +1.52, \$M +85, \$C +422
Due to calve Spring 2027.



KERN RITA 527

DOB: 12-11-2024 • REG# +*21628150
Sire: +*BYRD Fault Free 6276-2531
Dam: +*Point P Rita 1015
CED +12, BW +.1, WW +82, YW +140, PAP +1.85, REA +.92, Marb +1.55, \$M +93, \$C +371
Due to calve Spring 2027.



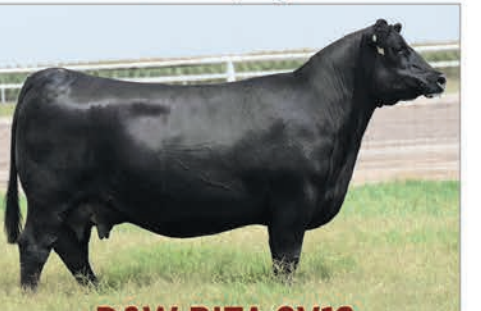
KERN FANNY 270

DOB: 04-22-2024 • REG# +*21013756
Sire: +*Huwa All-N-One 0429
Dam: +*HR Fanny 8653
CED +4, BW +3.1, WW +92, YW +175, PAP +3.10, REA +1.09, Marb +.58, \$M +65, \$C +354
Due September to Basin Keystone 2021.



KERN RITA 280

DOB: 04-27-2024 • REG# +*21130003
Sire: *Basin Jameson 1076
Dam: +*D&W Rita 2V12
CED +7, BW +1.8, WW +100, YW +159, PAP -.91, REA +1.31, Marb +1.58, \$M +84, \$C +399
Sells with WL - HR Sunshine 2778 heifer calf born 8/15/26.



D&W RITA 2V12

DOB: 07-07-2022 • REG# +*20391312
Sire: +*HPCA Veracious
Dam: +*FF Rita 8532 of 5B63 7986
CED +11, BW -.3, WW +73, YW +125, PAP -.49, REA +1.38, Marb +1.71, \$M +81, \$C +401
Due February 2027 to Hoffman Heisman. Two Direct Daughters Sell.



Layton Auction Service, LLC
Dustin Layton 405-464-2455
www.laytonauction.com



Myers Cattle Services, LLC
Matt Myers 405-315-7258
myerscattleservices@gmail.com

Owners - Josh & Kaitlin de Jong
Manager - Chad Davis 559-333-0362



LEGAL LEDGER

SPUR Program deadline extended

The application deadline for the Strengthening Processing for U.S. Ranchers (SPUR) Program has been extended to Sept. 30. The program provides temporary support for small- and mid-size beef slaughter facilities under federal inspection that are U.S. owned and not owned by an entity that is nationally dominant in beef slaughter. Eligible facilities are required to register with sam.gov and return the application to spurapplications@usda.gov by the new deadline. Application information was sent directly to eligible beef slaughter facilities using information on file with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service. Questions may be directed to spur@usda.gov.

UT to offer ag loan interest, payments relief

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is offering financial relief for farmers with active loans to help offset impacts from drought, wildfires and rising operating costs. Beginning Nov. 1, every active UDAF loan will be interest-free from Nov. 1-Oct. 31, 2027. Rates will drop automatically with no application required. Rates will return to original terms on Nov. 1, 2027. In addition, loan users will have the option to defer payments for up to 12 months with flexibility offered for payment schedules. If 2026 installments have already been paid, the 2027 payment may be deferred instead. The deadline to apply for deferral is Oct. 31. Requests may be submitted at tinyurl.com/bd5sjbsm.

Beef grading comment period extended

The deadline for public input on USDA's beef grade standards is being extended through Dec. 7. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking comments on how U.S. beef grade standards could be updated to better serve beef producers, packers, wholesalers, volume food buyers, retailers and consumers. The American Wagyu Association requested the agency review the grade standards. A 60-day comment period was set to end Sept. 8, but AMS granted an industry request to extend the comment period by an additional 90 days. Comments may be submitted through Dec. 7 by searching for Docket ID AMS-LP-25-0485 at regulations.gov.

BLM to remove horses from WY's Bighorn Basin

In mid-September, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was set to gather wild horses from the Fifteenmile Herd Management Area (HMA) in Wyoming's Bighorn Basin. The HMA includes nearly 81,000 acres of mostly public lands and is estimated to support approximately 100-230 horses, but the agency estimates the horse population to be at 386 head. "With too many horses competing for diminishing forage and water, the landscape is no longer able to meet the basic needs of the herd," BLM said. The agency planned to remove about 286 horses to help stabilize conditions. Removed horses will be placed into BLM's Adoption and Sales Program. As of Sept. 16, a total of 238 animals had been gathered.

USDA plans to modernize data collection

In early September, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced a Data Modernization Plan to improve the timeliness and accuracy of agricultural data collection. "This plan puts Farmers First by cutting burdensome red tape, using modern tools, and ensuring producers have a stronger voice in how USDA collects and reports agricultural data," Rollins said. After issuing a request for information and conducting data modernization listening sessions across the country, USDA released a four-pillar Data Modernization Plan. Pillars include modernizing the data reporting experience, enhancing acreage and yield estimation, integrating data and technology platforms, and expanding trust and transparency with producers. USDA will expand the use of administrative data, improve mobile access to surveys and use prefilled information when appropriate. USDA will also conduct a pilot to evaluate the use of satellite imagery, geospatial tools, crop models and other technologies to use in combination with producer-reported information about acreage and yield estimations. The department will modernize its technology infrastructure, expand data-sharing capabilities and evaluate the use of tools like artificial intelligence. Finally, USDA plans to improve communication about information privacy. The plan was set to take effect immediately.

Texas updates NWS infested zones

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) released two additional New World screwworm (NWS) infested zones while modifying another. The agency released infested zones 01.B and 05, which covered Uvalde and Zavala counties. Releasing zones removes NWS-related movement requirements for livestock and pets within the area. TAHC also modified Infested Zone 06 by removing the portions of Kimble County previously included in the zone, along with portions of Schleicher and Sutton counties. However, the agency redesignated the remaining affected areas of Schleicher and Sutton counties as Infested Zone 06.A. For an up-to-date map depicting current NWS infested zones, visit tinyurl.com/2wn2sk44.

New Mexico's plan to reduce wildfire risk currently 'nowhere near enough'

New Mexico's top forest administrator Sept. 8 warned legislators that the state is behind on wildfire risk reduction goals, and provided six possible bills ahead of the next legislative session that could improve planned targets.

The state's Forest Action Plan aims to treat 125,000 acres a year by thinning and prescribed burns to meet a 1.7 million acres decade-long target to improve forest health and wildfire resilience.

In the past year, however, only 22,000 acres were treated, State Forester Laura McCarthy told state lawmakers during an Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee meeting in Las Cruces, making New Mexico "way below

where we need to be."

The poor treatment rates, according to McCarthy, stem from forest landowners and contractors lacking the necessary capital for tree thinning. Landowners need money to pay tree thinning contractors upfront before being reimbursed through federal and state programs. The contractors need the money to buy the machinery and equipment.

The state also lacks sufficient workforce for tree thinning and burns, and has high transportation costs to move the wood, McCarthy added.

McCarthy, flanked by ecological economists and investors, put forth a six-point plan to address the poor risk reduction rates while also promoting

a "biomass economy."

In order to address these issues, McCarthy and ecological economists outlined legislation they hope lawmakers will consider in next year's session.

Those bills would: provide loan guarantees to landowners and contractors, finance companies building biomass infrastructure, create cooperative wood yards, grant funding for biomass research, create procurement preferences for state construction and purchasing, and establish a data initiative to update statewide wildfire risk analysis and mapping.

State Rep. Anita Gonzales (D-Las Vegas) noted that the proposed solutions did not

address workforce shortages that hinder wildfire risk-reduction efforts.

The presenters said that they've been relying on the Wildfire Resilience Training Center at Luna Community College to train the future wildfire workforce, but that they "don't want to get people trained and then not have jobs for them." They added that another bill to build up the workforce would be necessary.

"We're not going to get there overnight," McCarthy said. "If we can only get from 12,000 acres a year to 22,000 in the seven years that I've been State forester, that tells me we need a different approach." — **Matthew Mondschein, Source New Mexico**



THE STAGE IS SET

FALL BULL SALE

650 RANCH-RAISED, PERFORMANCE ANGUS BULLS

ANGUS STRONG® GENETICS

OCTOBER 24, 2026
10:00 AM
CAMERON, TEXAS

TO RECEIVE A SALE BOOK, PLEASE VISIT [44FARMS.COM](https://www.44farms.com)

TYLER GRAY

208.590.6167

KIEFER PECKHAM

512.705.6633

JEFF CALLAWAY

325.665.2285

MASON HOLMES

979.676.6064

BRAD GJERMUNDSON

701.290.3121

SCOTT SELL

912.682.9590



Walmart

A PROGRAM *to* SADDLE UP WITH

We invite you to consider being part of Prime Pursuits, a paradigm-changing program with Walmart. Designed to bring together top producers with industry-leading genetics to deliver the best Angus beef to America's table.

To learn more, visit [PrimePursuits.com](https://www.PrimePursuits.com) or contact Warren White at 806.344.2923.

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: 9/17/2026	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	222.17	▲	N/A
CME Feeder Index	342.74	▲	327.43
Boxed Beef Average	372.15	▼	380.77
Average Dressed Steers	350.50	▲	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,446	▲	1,442
Weekly Slaughter**	505,000	▼	526,000
Weekly Beef Production***	448.0	▼	465.7
Hide/Offal Value	15.51	▲	15.05
Corn Price	5.37	▲	5.21
*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						
	9/11	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17	High*
Oct.	21968	22258	22283	22098	22023	25873
Dec.	22223	22543	22550	22338	22180	25598
Feb. '27	22400	22660	22658	22470	22240	25120
Apr. '27	22548	22795	22773	22593	22360	25093
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	9/4	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	High*
Sep.	33783	34398	34320	34130	34050	38103
Oct.	33250	33820	33780	33405	33238	38280
Nov.	32818	33325	33333	32893	32550	38020
Jan. '27	32070	32510	32463	32083	31688	37860
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	2,768	1,590	222.17
Live FOB Heifer	480	1,487	223.00
Dressed Del Steer	7,294	1,020	350.50
Dressed Del Heifer	1,906	903	350.83
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	1,121	1,541	237.49
Live FOB Heifer	323	1,342	237.29
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: SEPTEMBER 13, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	15,764	1,787
Formula	218,643	3,440
Negotiated Cash	74,994	115
Negotiated Grid	31,648	395
Packer Owned	9,140	N/A
Total	350,189	5,737

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,479
Sep. '26	86,180	Neg. Sales 21+ days	872
Oct. '26	115,327	Formula sales	3,484
Nov. '26	109,720	Forward contract sales	113
Dec. '26	93,148	Domestic sales	5,191
Jan. '27	53,284	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	214.91	-0.65
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	212.44	-1.20
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	214.25	-2.66
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	212.89	-2.30
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	138.18	-5.37
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, September 15, 2026			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	451.54	N/A	429.58
601-700 lbs	406.19	N/A	410.23
701-800 lbs	367.66	N/A	360.65
801-900 lbs	347.77	N/A	330.31
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	452.02	N/A	399.07
501-600 lbs	391.13	N/A	400.68
601-700 lbs	366.21	N/A	375.90
701-800 lbs	331.81	N/A	293.69

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
Feeders	9/7/2026	8/31/2026	6,479	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
September 16, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 2,750	Week Ago EST: 1,700	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	305-315

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

Selected Auctions Week Ending September 17, 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	
No report available Blackfoot, ID											
September 17 Burley, ID	260		467-472 430	462 390	385-410			266 292-314	132-162 173-190		
No report available Emmett, ID											
September 12 Eugene, OR	1,644		357-425* 320-467*	330-409* 300-375*	290-390* 300-360*	280-382* 265-337*	240-336* 218-290*	220-309*	150-177 185-208	1,900-4,150 1,200-2,875	
September 14 Madras, OR	193								137-169 160-181		
September 9 Vale, OR	342		480-510	440-470 410-460	362-405 320-335	340-360	300-341	240-263	150-159 170-195	3,625 2,200-2,800	
September 15 Davenport, WA	236		375-390 350-390	275-415 335-365	255-387.50 327.50-361	285-342.50 192.50-321	275-326 254-285	176-287 109-268	107-198 150-232.50	3,700-4,400 1,900-2,900	
September 10 Toppenish, WA	1,010			405-442.50* 420*	395* 295-339*	340-365*			159-168.50 150-189.50		

NORTHWEST

No report available Orland, CA											
No report available Escalon, CA											
No report available Famoso, CA											
No report available Galt, CA											
September 15	Turlock, CA	1,125		440-615 420-535	385-539 380-529	367-462.50 370-415	355-399 340-392	337-359 315-337.50	320-340.50 300-336	140-190 162-180	
September 15	Salina, UT	1,327	505-622.50 395-500	400-550 370-480	380-485 345-425	360-442.50 330-380	330-387.50 275-344	300-325 225-290	237.50-305 182.50-290	125-151 165.50-235	

September 14	Iowa	4,767		511-542.50 435-450	431-512.50 400-479	401-449.50 356.50-397	348-387 326-356	320-362 306-352.50	294-362 268-339	125-209 165-235	
September 15	Miles City, MT	1,012						360 356	333-362 304-337.50	122-164 160-205	
September 16	Bassett, NE	N/A				410	393 339.50-365	373-388.50 334-345	341.50-351 283-330.50		
September 12	Ericson, NE	2,290			452	422.50 381	359-393 333-357	356.50-384 335-352	307.50-398 284-330.50		3,450-3,800 3,000-3,300
September 11	Imperial, NE	828						319.50-320	324 296-310.75		
No report available Kearney, NE											
No report available Lexington, NE											
No report available Ogallala, NE											
September 10	Valentine, NE	2,600			401	427-431 372	382.50-404 363-370	362-373.50 317-328	322-382.50 289-338.75		
September 11	Herreid, SD	1,945					376-380 359	320-326	334.50-372.75 306-312.50		
September 16	Torrington, WY	2,462		569-595 488-494	461-560 440-469	422-454		367-372 333-350	318-361 290-326		

September 10	Willcox, AZ	N/A	1,350	493-530 463.50-495	461-490 411.50-460	408-445 378.50-401	367-384 313.50-345			135-160 155-175	3,200-3,750 2,800-3,100
September 8	Colorado	1,749									
September 9	La Junta, CO	1,036		472.50-602.50 415-515	400-487.50 350-450	360-442.50 312.50-357.50	332.50-355 312.50-320	302.50-328	285-309 280-295	150-171 181-193	1,725-2,425 3,500-4,100
September 14	Loma, CO	848		525-620 440-485	425-510 400-460	390-445 350-395	340-380 310-350	300-350 300-330	225-310 220-315	145-165 165-185	2,050-3,150 3,275
September 16	Dodge City, KS	2,484		512.50-527.50 525	465-492 388-451	415-430 354	325-399 320-357.50	325-381 294-337	309-335.75 295-323	135-176 156-212	1,875-2,750 3,050
September 17	Pratt, KS	1,785		512.50-533 493	430-465 395-444	382.50-442 352-383	343-382.50 342-356	334-369 307-340	306-344.50 286-325	140-182 161-245	3,050 1,650-3,075
September 10	Salina, KS	1,962	490-509	485-500 400-405	402.50-473 380-395	399-431 332.50-374	360-387 337	340-365 315.25-337	325.25-357 290-335		
September 17	Clovis, NM	2,746	602 472-502	467-580 395-485	402-500 350-421	337-400 310-407	302-350 300-348	292-327 284-320	250-311 269		
September 16	El Reno, OK	4,281	510	460-520 430-510	415-470 380-460	355-425 335-380	335-395 305-352.50	335-364 302.50-341	267.50-348 265-314		
September 15	McAlester, OK	830		460-625 420-470	420-479 345-425	360-411 338-390	351-390 320-382	315-344 295-303	324 283	135-166 161-176	2,500-3,525 2,050-3,100
September 14	Oklahoma City, OK	5,500	570	520-535 332-525	393-482.50 354-416	359-432 330-377	340-397 317-383	334-377 312-337	285-350 240-319		
September 11	Cuero, TX	1,204	465-600 451-605	430-520 418-610	379-440 364-435	346-385 327-500	329-360 314-347	309-327 289-360		135-156 186-190	2,500-5,350 2,500-4,050
No report available Dalhart, TX											
September 10	San Angelo, TX	629			385-427.50 370-385	342-375 308-352.50	318-342.50 284-306	297-321 275-285	258-297.50 245-250	120-143 150-210	
September 17	Tulia, TX	666			415-427 365-382	325-407 319-361	330-342 305-315	300-343.50		125-130	

September 11	Alabama	3,875	500-580 460-580	450-520 340-460	405-445 325-405	380-412.50 305-378	332.50-377.50 290-335	297.50-331 275-335	310-320	127-176 164-201	2,100-4,100 1,400-6,000
September 14	Lexington, KY	942	540* 450-575*	442-500* 407.50-560*	417.50-450* 360-421*	361-430* 320-387.50*	332.50-380* 307.50-331*	323-340* 295-318*	244-336.75* 211-309*	138-178 170-206	2,775-3,550
September 14	Joplin, MO	9,519		540-600 470-520	420-550 390-445	380-460 350-405	312.50-355 312.50-355	331-374 304-345	290-344.50 280-314		
September 14	Tennessee	3,692	475-510 415-475	405-475 370-460	304-495 290-402.50	317.50-400 300-365	312.50-355 242-344.75	300-339.75 270-312	280-324.50 270-310	122-178 130-208	2,450-3,750 1,100-3,900
September 14	Virginia	2,758		350-440 315-460	350-430 315-390	255-417.50 245-350	260-385 265-377.50	257.50-345 199-317.50	255-319 212.50-285		

CANADA	
--------	--



SALE REPORTS

DONATI RANCH BULL SALE

Sept. 10, Oroville, CA
138 Angus

bulls \$13,601

Auctioneers: Rick Machado & Jake Parnell
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing

TOPS: D R Commerce 5218, 7/16/2025 by Connealy Commerce; to Baker Angus, Vale, OR, \$29,000. D R Exponential 5017, 2/19/2025 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to Ward Ranches, Gardnerville, NV, \$28,000. D R Kindred 5011, 2/15/2025 by K A Kindred; to Billy Grissom, Hilmar, CA, \$24,000. D R Commerce 5395, 7/29/2025 by Connealy Commerce; to Kenny Wilson, Petaluma, CA,

\$24,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

TEHAMA ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

Sept. 11, Gerber, CA
161 Angus

bulls \$15,731

37 Commercial open heifers 5,025
Auctioneers: Rick Machado & Jake Parnell
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing

TOPS: Tehama Diplomat P505, 8/17/2025 by Deer Valley Diplomat 3322; to Spring Cove Ranch, Bliss, ID, and Triple L Angus, Twin Falls, ID, \$25,000. Tehama Diplomat P528, 8/23/2025 by Deer Valley Diplomat 3322; to Maddalena Ranch, Sierra Valley, CA, \$25,000. Tehama

Wildcat P008, 2/3/2025 by Bar R Wildcat 2055; to Bob & Suzy Erickson, Merced, CA, \$24,500. Tehama True Balance P555, 8/11/2025 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Cole Tiscornia and family, Copperopolis, CA, \$23,500. Tehama Practical P432, 8/13/2025 by Tehama Practical M587; to Bill Barboni, Petaluma, CA, and Peter Bussman, Blue Lake, CA, \$22,500. Tehama Justification P031, 2/13/2025 by Boyd Justification; to Bear Valley Ranch, Parkfield, CA, \$24,000. Tehama Architect P068, 2/6/2025 by S Architect 9501; to Hewitson Cattle, Avenal, CA, \$24,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

ARELLANO BRAVO BULL SALE

Sept. 12, Walnut Grove, CA

71 Angus bulls ... \$10,186

Auctioneer: Trent Stewart

TOPS: Bravo Private Ryan 5067, 5/1/2025 by V A R Doc Ryan 2486; to Byergo Angus

Farms, Savannah, MO, \$28,000. Bravo Megalodon 5405, 4/7/2025 by V A R Conclusion 0234; to Roberti Ranch, Loyalton, CA, \$19,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

VISALIA LIVESTOCK MARKET BULL SALE

Sept. 13, Visalia, CA

90 Angus bulls... \$11,875

15 Red Angus bulls 10,476

10 Hereford bulls 9,250

25 Commercial fall pairs 4,282

144 Commercial bred females 4,172

4 Yearling colts ... 6,562

Auctioneer: Randy Baxley

TOPS: DMND Oak Certainty 483-25, 2/19/2025 by De-Su Certainty E349; to Richard Vargas, San Jose, CA, \$20,000. DMND Oak Superpower 381-25, 2/17/2025 by Roseda Powerpoint; to Richard Vargas, San Jose, CA, \$19,000. DMND Oak Conviction 43-

25, 2/15/2025 by De-Su Certainty E349; to Hearst Corporation, Park Valley, CA, \$18,500. SF Veracious 5038, 1/22/2025 by HPCA Veracious; to commercial buyer, CA, \$18,500. Guess Landmark 5018, 2/7/2025 by Mason Landmark 2313; to Mark Wright, Paso Robles, CA, \$18,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

THE CHOSEN BULL SALE

Sept. 14, Turlock, CA

66 Angus bulls \$13,386

Auctioneer: Matt Lowery

Sale Manager: The Judge Source

TOPS: Advantage Grid Maker 5426, 2/27/2025 by G A R Grid Maker L1071; to 6-X Dairy, Oakdale, CA, \$24,000. Advantage Captain 5518, 2/28/2025 by EW A Captain; to Precision Genetic Solutions, Gustine, CA, \$22,000. Advantage Captain 26215524, 3/3/2025 by E W A Captain; to 6-X Dairy,

Oakdale, CA, \$20,000. Advantage Grid Maker 5438, 3/4/2025 by G A R Grid Maker L1071; to Bengard Ranch, Cottonwood, CA, \$20,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

THOMAS ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

Sept. 15, Galt, CA

54 Angus bulls \$13,027

Auctioneer: Jake Parnell

Sale Managers: Cotton & Assoc.

TOPS: Thomas Salvation 5218, 5/15/2025 by SG Salvation; to Roen Livestock, Bishop, CA, \$23,000. Thomas Lifeline 5136, 2/28/2025 by EXAR Lifeline 2621B; to Roen Livestock, Bishop, CA, \$22,000. Thomas Lifeline 5168, 5/7/2025 by EXAR Lifeline 2621B; to Roen Livestock, Bishop, CA, \$20,000. Thomas Veracious 5248, 5/18/2025 by HPCA Veracious; to Rancheria Land & Livestock, Bakersfield, CA, \$20,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

Boxed beef trades lower

MARKETS

(from page 1)

week ending Sept. 5 was 534,523 head. The average steer dressed weight was 973 lbs., up 4 lbs. from the prior week.

“The Cargill Fort Morgan plant is back in operation and processing margins remain positive,” the Cattle Report wrote on Monday. “This will encourage larger weekly volumes of slaughter. Larger slaughter translates into more current feedlot supplies and given the past few months of placements of cattle on feed, the supplies in the feedlot are not yet ready to increase.”

Boxed beef prices traded lower. The Choice cutout lost about \$6 to close at \$372.15, and the Select cutout lost less than a dollar to close at \$351.88.

“The irony of the recent price activity for beef is since Trump’s announcement on beef imports, the lower prices have been borne by cattle owners as processors recovered from \$300/head losses to modest profits of \$100/head,” the Cattle Report said. “Consumers have found little benefit as box prices moved sideways.”

The lean beef trim contracts closed mixed. The 50% lean trim futures closed sharply lower, down about \$15 to \$137.70 on the September contract and down about \$13 to \$132 on the October contract. The 90% lean trim futures closed mildly higher, up about \$2 apiece on the September and October contracts to close at \$442.50 and \$426.70, respectively.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures traded mixed over the week. The September contract gained \$3 to close at \$334.82, and the October contract lost about \$2 to close at \$324.37.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained more than \$15 to close at \$342.74.

Corn futures traded sideways. The December contract lost a penny to close at \$5.30 and the March contract gained 5 cents to close at \$5.44.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,000 head on Monday. Compared to the sale held two weeks earlier, feeder steers and steer calves sold \$15-25 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$10-15 higher, and heifer calves sold \$15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 764 lbs. sold from \$331-344, averaging \$338.73.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,800 head on Monday. Compared to the sale held two weeks earlier, feeder steers and steer calves sold \$15-25 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$10-15 higher, and heifer calves sold \$15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 737 lbs. sold from \$343-377, averaging \$352.04.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 1,205 head on Monday. Compared to the sale held two weeks earlier, there were too few comparable offerings for a market comparison, but higher undertones were noted. Benchmark steers averaging 734 lbs. sold from \$363-369, averaging \$365.23. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



WESTERN STOCKMAN'S MARKET

STOCKER & FEEDER SALES EVERY MONDAY

Featuring Large Runs Calves and Yearlings from Local and West Coast Ranches

61ST FAMOSO ALL-BREEDS BULL & FEMALE SALE

150 BULLS *plus* 250 FEMALES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

WESTERN STOCKMAN'S MARKET

ALL-BREED BULL SALE

featuring

- Angus
- Charolais
- Red Angus
- SimAngus
- Simmental
- Herefords
- Brangus
- Ultrablacks



EARLY BULL CONSIGNORS

- Stepside Farm
- Hertlein Cattle
- HB Cattle Co.
- Rossi Ranches
- Correia Livestock
- Poncetta Farms
- Furtado Angus
- Garone Ranches
- Red River Farms
- Spanish Ranch
- Flying L Red Angus
- Noble Land & Cattle

CALL JUSTIN MEBANE TO CONSIGN FEMALES AND/OR BULLS: 661-979-9894

Your Southwest Livestock Market Leader

WESTERN STOCKMAN'S MARKET

31911 HIGHWAY 46, MCFARLAND, CALIFORNIA

661-399-2981 • WWW.WESTERNSTOCKMANSMARKET.COM

JUSTIN MEBANE 661 979-9894

FRANK MACHADO 805 839-8166



BENNET MEBANE 661 201-8169

HELEN MEBANE 661 399-2981



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

Oct. 1 – The 2026 California Cattlemen's Association Scholarships applications are now open. For more information about and to access the scholarship application, visit calcattlemen.org/scholarship.

Oct. 9 – Applications are now being accepted for the final year of the W.D. Farr Scholarship program, which helps graduate students pursue careers in meat science, animal science and related fields. Application details: tinyurl.com/5n9ytxsh.

Oct. 9 – Students pursuing careers in the beef industry are encouraged to apply for the 2027 CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship through the National Cattlemen's Foundation. Details: nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

 WWW.WLJ.NET

 720-370-7977

 1-303-722-0155

 CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVERTISING RATES
BY THE WORD: 90 cents per word for each insertion.
MINIMUM WORD RATE: 17 words or fewer, \$15.30 one time.
MAD RATES: (Bold headline) \$2 more per insertion for your phone number, email and/or website, plus first 2 or 3 words in bold print. (Applies to word ads only)
BOXED AND BOLD: (Boxed with bold text) \$5 more per insertion. (Applies to word ads only)
BLIND BOX AD: We will assign your confidential number and forward replies to you. **Cost is \$12 per 3 issues** for mail and handling service.
BOXED DISPLAY ADS: \$30 per column inch for each insertion.
MINIMAL ARTWORK: No additional charge.
BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO: \$10, LIMIT OF ONE.
COLOR PHOTO: \$35 EACH.
DISCOUNTS: 5% for running your ad 3 to 5 times; 10% for 6 times or more; up to 35% for 52 times.
SUGGESTION FOR CORRECT WORD COUNT: Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in the count, as well as all initials and abbreviations. Hyphenated words count as two.
TEARSHEETS: Available upon request only. Can be faxed or mailed.
CONDITIONS
EMPLOYMENT WANTED ADS: Must be paid in advance.
DEADLINE: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. MT, the week prior to publication date. Newspaper is published on Mondays.
LIABILITY: Advertiser is liable for content of advertisement and any claims arising therefrom made against the publication.
Publisher is not responsible for errors in phoned-in copy. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with the publication standards.
COMMISSIONS: Classified advertising is NOT agency commissionable.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.....Employment Wanted | 20H.....Northeast Real Estate For Sale |
| 2.....Help Wanted | 20I.....Foreign Real Estate For Sale |
| 3.....Situations Wanted | 21.....Real Estate Wanted |
| 4.....Distributors Wanted | 22...Real Estate Rent/Lease/Trade |
| 5.....Appraisers | 23.....Pasture Available |
| 6.....Auctions | 24.....Pasture Wanted |
| 7.....Auctioneers | 25.....Mineral Rights |
| 8.....Feedlots | 26.....Hay/Feed/Seed |
| 9.....Lost Cattle | 27.....Irrigation |
| 10.....Cattle for Sale | 28.....Ag/Industrial Supplies |
| 11.....Cattle Wanted | 29.....Fencing/Corrals |
| 12.....AI/Semen/Embryos | 30.....Equipment For Sale |
| 13.....Brands | 31.....Equipment Wanted |
| 14.....Dogs for Sale | 32.....Building Materials |
| 15.....Horses/Mules | 33.....Trucks/Trailers |
| 16.....Bison/Buffalo | 34.....Tractors/Implements |
| 17.....Sheep/Goats/Hogs | 35.....Business Opportunity |
| 18.....Livestock Supplies | 36.....Loans |
| 19.....Ranch/Livestock Services | 37.....Insurance |
| 20.....Real Estate Opportunities | 38.....Financial Assistance |
| 20A.....Pacific Real Estate For Sale | 39.....Tech/Books/Art/Etc. |
| 20B.....Intermountain Real Estate For Sale | 40.....Miscellaneous |
| 20C.....Mountain Real Estate For Sale | 41.....Lost/Found |
| 20D.....Southwest Real Estate For Sale | 42.....Personal |
| 20E.....Plains Real Estate For Sale | 43.....Schools |
| 20F.....Midwest Real Estate For Sale | 44.....Auctioneering Schools |
| 20G.....Southeast Real Estate For Sale | |

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

720-370-7977 • Fax: 303-722-0155
www.wlj.net • classified@wlj.net

DO NOT PHONE IN RESPONSES TO BLIND BOX ADS.
ADVERTISERS' NAMES AND LOCATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.
INCLUDE THE AD DEPARTMENT NUMBER IN YOUR EMAIL
RESPONSE OR ON YOUR ENVELOPE AND YOUR REPLY WILL BE
PROMPTLY FORWARDED.



2FOR1

PLACE A CLASSIFIED
AD, SEE IT IN PRINT
& ONLINE

CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!
www.wlj.net

Call & schedule your classified
ad today!
720-370-7977

classified@wlj.net
303-722-0155 Fax

Cattle
For Sale 10



To a pasture near you

2 Bar Angus

Bulls - Females - Embryos - Semen

Prime by Design

Female Sale

OCTOBER 3, 2026

*At the Hereford Vet
Clinic Sale Facility
Hereford, TX*

Spring Bull Sale

MARCH 18, 2026

3rd Wednesday

1-806-344-7444
Hereford, Texas
STEVE & LAURA KNOLL
www.2BarAngus.com



GENTLE AMERICAN BEEF TYPE GRAY BRAHMAN

Loren Pratt
520-709-1554
44996 W. Papago Rd.
Maricopa, AZ 85139

Livestock
Supplies 18

POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.

Best prices with delivery available.
Conlin Supply Co., Inc.
Oakdale, CA

Ask for Larry or Albert
209/847-8977

Real Estate
Pacific 20A



(208) 345-3163
knipeland.com

PRIVATE IDAHO LAKE

Acreage with two nice
cabins and a barn on
a pristine alpine lake,
surrounded by wilderness.
\$3,250,000

MALT FARM - NEW

Irrigated 126± acres
in Idaho with a center
pivot, concrete ditches,
and future development
potential. **\$4,540,000**

Pasture
Wanted 24

WANTED:
Winter/Fall pasture for cow/
calf pairs & yearlings.
CA/NV area.
Established CA/NV operation.
Call/text (530) 304-7575

WANTED:
Summer & Winter
Pasture

Location: Central to
northern California.
Capacity: 60 to 500 cow
calf pairs.
Terms: Flexible, seasonal
leases per acre, per head,
or flat rate. Custom
agreement tailored to
protect your property.

Call or text:
Tiffany (408) 891-8361
Jennifer (408) 891-8463

STAY UP
TO DATE
WITH WLJ



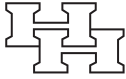
Real Estate
Mountain 20C

GRANT RANCH

JAY, OKLAHOMA

1,580± contiguous acres in northeast
Oklahoma. Turn-key cattle backgrounding
operation with a modern 32,000± square
foot receiving facility, veterinary clinic, 28
ponds, two spring-fed creeks, six water
wells, located six miles from Grand Lake.

—————\$9,800,000—————



HALL AND HALL[®]

JOHN WILDIN | 620.662.0411
jwildin@hallandhall.com
Dedicated to Land and Landowners Since 1946

Irrigation 27



WESTERN POLYPIPE

HDPE PIPE for Ranch Water Systems
Fair Prices • Good Service • Rancher Owned
DELIVERY THROUGHOUT THE WEST
CALL TODAY: 800-718-7784

Loans 36

RATES AS LOW AS 5.5%!
*Business & Financial Consulting.
Designed for the Farmer/Rancher
(Not the Banker)*
www.agrifinancial.com

303-773-3545
You Call Steve, I'll Come to You.

AGRI-one Financial

Visit www.wlj.net today!

Real Estate
Mountain 20C

Schools 43

GET THOROUGH PRACTICAL
TRAINING IN:
**Pregnancy testing—A.I. herd
health—calf delivery and care.**
Many additional subjects.

CATTLEMEN

Our business is to help you
improve your business.
*Learn more by working with live
animals under expert supervision.*

GRAHAM SCHOOL, INC.
641 W. Hwy 31 Garnett, KS 66032
785/448-3119
www.grahamschoolforcattlemen.com
**Over 100 years of
continuous service**

NEED EXTRA INCOME?

Advertise a hunting
or fishing lease!

CALL NOW!
(800) 850-2769

With the
new WLJ
Classifieds
and Property
listings you
can now
upload a video
and up to 10
photos!



VISIT WLJ.NET



SALE CALENDAR

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

ALL BREEDS

Oct. 3 – Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Bull Sale, Turlock, CA
Oct. 4 – Cal Poly Bull Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA
Oct. 17 – Western Stockman's Market, Macfarland, CA

ANGUS

Sep. 23 – Westside Connection, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Sep. 24 – Beef Solutions Bull Sale, Lone, CA
Sep. 27 – Traynham Cox, Production Sale, Fort Klamath, OR
Oct. 2 – Elwood Ranch, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Oct. 3 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 8 – Bar KJ Angus, Female Sale, Bakersfield, CA
Oct. 9 – Kern Cattle, Female Sale, Visalia, CA
Oct. 10 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA
Oct. 11 – Arellano Bravo, Female Sale, Walnut Grove, CA
Oct. 13 – 9 Peaks Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Rock, OR
Oct. 13 – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT
Oct. 14 – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Big Fork, MT
Oct. 15 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Oct. 16 – NILE Angus Female Sale, Billings, MT
Oct. 17 – Basin Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Oct. 17 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Oct. 17 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Dinuba, CA

Oct. 24 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Oct. 26 – Dal Porto Livestock, Female Sale, Anselmo, NE
Oct. 28 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Oct. 30 – Birch Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Ruby Valley, NV
Oct. 31 – Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Oct. 31 – Evergreen Exclusive, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Nov. 4 – Hornung Livestock, Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Nov. 9 – Green Mountain Angus & Rooney Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 10 – Beartooth Angus, Bull and Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 11 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Nov. 12 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 12 – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Production Sale, Othello, WA
Nov. 13 – Artzen Angus, Bred Cow Sale, Hilger, MT
Nov. 14 – Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Nov. 16 – Montana Angus Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 20 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Female Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 21 – Baldrige/ Tiedeman & Frank Cattle Co., Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Nov. 21 – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 21 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Nov. 21 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 24 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 27 – Vermilion Angus, Bred Cow Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 28 – Vermilion Angus, Bull and Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 30 – Stevenson's Diamond Dot, Production Sale, Hobson, MT

BRANGUS

Nov. 20 – Cavender Ranches, Production Sale, Jacksonville, TX

HEREFORD

Sep. 25 – Holden Herefords,

Female Sale, Valier, MT
Oct. 2 – Elwood Ranch, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Oct. 3 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 17 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Nov. 12 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 19 – Largent & Sons, Bull Sale, Kaycee, WY
Nov. 23 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

RED ANGUS

Sep. 26 – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA
Oct. 16 – NILE Red Angus Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 7 – Bet on Red Sale, Reno, NV
Nov. 21 – Baldrige/ Tiedeman & Frank Cattle Co., Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE

SIMANGUS

Sep. 23 – Westside Connection, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Sep. 24 – Beef Solutions Bull Sale, Lone, CA
Sep. 27 – Traynham Cox, Production Sale, Fort Klamath, OR
Oct. 17 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Nov. 4 – Hornung Livestock, Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Nov. 12 – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA

STABILIZER

Oct. 17 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Dinuba, CA
Nov. 20 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY

COMMERCIAL

Oct. 3 – Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Bull Sale, Turlock, CA
Oct. 4 – Cal Poly Bull Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA
Nov. 5 – Weaver Ranch, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 13 – Artzen Angus, Bred Cow Sale, Hilger, MT

Nov. 16 – J&L Livestock, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 20 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Female Sale, Pilot Rock, OR

Nov. 21 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 27 – Vermilion Angus, Bred Cow Sale, Billings, MT

HORSE

Oct. 1 – Bowman Livestock, Horse Sale, Bowman, ND
Oct. 8 – Jamison Ranch, Horse Sale, Quinter, KS

TURLOCK LIVESTOCK AUCTION YARD 19TH ANNUAL FALL FEMALE & CALIFORNIA BREEDERS BULL SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 | 9 A.M. FEMALE SALE • 1 P.M. BULL SALE

EXPECTING TOP CONSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING 300 COW-CALF PAIRS & BRED FEMALES ON OUR IN-HOUSE VIDEO & THROUGH THE RING

25 1ST-CALF ANGUS AND BLACK/WHITE FACE PAIRS FROM SL CATTLE.
 FOOTHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED.

35 1ST-CALF ANGUS PAIRS FROM CLAROT RANCH.
 FOOTHILL VACCINATED.

20 2ND-CALF BLACK/WHITE FACE PAIRS FROM GILLILAND LIVESTOCK.
 FOOTHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED.

20 ANGUS BLACK/WHITE FACE FALL-CALVING HEIFERS FROM TERRY ZIMMERMAN.
 FOOTHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED.

15 ANGUS AND BLACK/WHITE FACE FALL-CALVING HEIFERS FROM GILLILAND LIVESTOCK.
 FOOTHILL AND ANAPLAS EXPOSED.

25 OPEN, BREEDABLE 18-24 MONTH F1 BALDIES FROM WIEDEMANN RANCH.
 FOOTHILL AND ANAPLAS VACCINATED.

40 4-5-YEAR-OLD ANGUS AND BLACK/WHITE FACE FALL-CALVING COWS FROM MENEFFEE HILL RANCH.

15 1ST-CALF ANGUS PAIRS AND CLOSE-UP CALVING HEIFERS FROM JV CATTLE.

12 ANGUS FALL-CALVING HEIFERS AND 3-IN-1 PAIRS FROM FOUTS ANGUS.

25 1ST-CALF ANGUS PAIRS AND 25 1ST-CALF BRED HEIFERS FROM TOP LOCAL RANCHES.

FALL ROUND UP SPECIAL FEEDER SALES

TUESDAY, OCT. 6

TUESDAY, OCT. 20

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

TLAY STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE VACCINATION PROGRAM

Healthier calves from your ranch to our market

Elite Level

5 way viral (modified live) 2x
 Clostridial 2x
 Mannheimia / Pasteurella 2x
 Dewormer
 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

Watch live and bid on
LMAAuctions.com

WM WESTERN
 VIDEO MARKET

October 16

WWM
 HEADQUARTERS
 COTTONWOOD, CA
 DEADLINE OCT. 8

December 2

ATLANTIS
 CASINO
 RENO, NV
 DEADLINE NOV. 18

Call today to consign your cattle!

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
 Matt Miller 209-914-5116
 John Luiz 209-480-5101
 Bud Cozzi 209-652-4480

209-634-4326 • 209-667-0811 • WWW.TURLOCKLIVESTOCK.COM



VIDEO AUCTION

Labor Day Video Auction Sept. 3, Hudson Oaks, TX

Cattle backed by documented genetics and management practices drew the strongest bidding at Superior Livestock Auction's Labor Day Video Auction, where producers marketed 54,210 head Sept. 3, even as the broader offering eased from the last test.

Cattle producers sold a total of 362 lots consigned from 27 states, with 136 successful buyers. Cattle sold on contract to deliver immediately through April.

"Today's market at Superior Livestock Auction proves that quality cattle, backed by genetics and a trusted program, are still commanding tremendous demand," said Superior auctioneer Charly Cummings. "And there may not be enough yearlings to meet the needs of the market."

Western and northern feeders were lightly tested, with sales \$10-20 lower than the last test. Most of the calf trade was for future delivery and carried a lower under-

tone, with northern calves steady to \$20 lower. Heifers backed by documented genetics were the exception: 475-pound Red Angus heifer calves out of Colorado brought \$525/cwt, approximately \$2,494 per head; and 845-lb. spayed feeder heifers out of Kansas sold at \$351/cwt, or roughly \$2,966 per head. Southern cattle saw the most pressure as northern buyers turned toward cattle closer to home, a seasonal shift that typically firms as fall delivery approaches.

The auction ran against a market that had spent the previous week under pressure from outside headlines, and buyers stayed cautious with cattle futures still volatile. Cattle futures had consolidated near recent lows for eight sessions before turning higher on auction day. Drought conditions continue to worsen across much of cattle country, pushing some cattle to market ahead of schedule. Superior representatives pointed to better upside potential into September and October.

COLEMAN ANGUS YOUR MATERNAL SOURCE

Orrin Ingram | Jeremy & Jenny Haag Family | Carl & Kelsey Farrand
 Jeremy 406.833.0117 | Carl Farrand 406.565.1790 | www.colemanangus.com
 Office 406-644-2697 | Mailing Address: PO Box 200, Charlo, MT 59824

Your Maternal Source Female Sale TUESDAY • OCTOBER 13, 2026

1PM (MDT) HELD AT THE RANCH IN CHARLO, MT
 40067 Morris Rd, Charlo, MT 59824



COLEMAN DONNA 215 – Reg. 20503318
 Sire: Coleman Charlo 0256
 Dam: Coleman Donna 7221
 Full sister to Coleman Poncho 9426 sells!



COLEMAN DONNA 2108 – Reg. 20503302
 Sire: Coleman Banker 9215
 Dam: Coleman Donna 0161
 The dam of the \$110,000 Coleman Core 5197 sells!



COLEMAN CHLOE 165 – Reg. 20076456
 Sire: Coleman Chloe 0256
 Dam: Lawsons Chloe C815
 A highly productive Chloe sells!

Selling 150 Head!

DONORS | SPRING COW-CALF PAIRS | SPRING ET HEIFERS | BRED HEIFERS



COLEMAN DONNA 8216 – Reg. 19400600
 Sire: Coleman Charlo 0256
 Dam: Coleman Donna 0308
 A highly attractive daughter of the legendary Coleman Donna 0308 sells



COLEMAN CHLOE 1439 – Reg. 20335537
 Sire: Coleman Rock 7200
 Dam: Lawsons Chloe C815
 An excellent donor with great \$M value sells!



COLEMAN DONNA 439 – Reg. 17914042
 Sire: GDAR Game Day 449
 Dam: Coleman Donna 714
 The mother of the \$270,000 Coleman Glacier 041 sells!

LiveAuctionsTV

% BUY FROM THE SOURCE %

BLM ordered to revisit land management plan

GROUSE GRAZING (from page 1)

Lawsuit, order details

ONDA and two other environmental groups first sued the BLM in 2019, arguing that the agency continued to delay action on its 2015 sage grouse conservation plan. The 2015 plan created 15 key RNAs for sage grouse habitat and greater sage-grouse research that closed nearly 22,000 acres to grazing.

BLM failed to keep the protected areas free of livestock, and the ONDA won a 2022 order requiring compliance.

When BLM completed a 2025 plan that reduced protected acreage to just 3,700

acres, the group sued again in March 2025. ONDA asserted that the BLM's 2025 land management plan and 2024 environmental study were in violation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

In April 2025, Simon again sided with ONDA, finding BLM likely in violation of NEPA and FLPMA, and halted grazing on the 22,000 acres.

Earlier this spring, Simon heard arguments over the 2025 land plan but did not make a ruling until his Sept. 8 order.

ONDA argued that BLM violated two FLPMA mandates, but the court only agreed with one. The court found BLM in

violation by failing to discuss the impacts of grazing on the wilderness characteristics of the wilderness study areas within the key RNAs. Simon did not find BLM in violation of a second mandate that requires the agency to manage public lands in accordance with land use plans.

Simon also found BLM in violation of NEPA by not discussing its changes to definitions for "relatively unaltered," "key research natural areas," and "baseline reference area" in the 2025 plan. In addition, the agency violated NEPA by failing to allow additional public comment on those changes, he wrote.

Finally, Simon found BLM in violation of APA by changing the number of minimum acres

necessary to research sage grouse without explaining its decision. While the agency gave sufficient reason to explain reducing the number of ungrazed acres from the 2015 plan, it did not give good reason for every change, Simon said.

"BLM never acknowledges its previous descriptions of the baseline as ungrazed, nor do its studies in the 2025 ROD and (Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment) explain whether there is a difference between an ungrazed baseline and a grazed baseline," Simon wrote. "This is the kind of unexplained inconsistency that renders the agency's decision arbitrary and capricious." — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

STORY SHORTS

MO man pleads guilty to cattle fraud

Craig Johnson of Butler, MO, pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges stemming from a multimillion-dollar scheme involving fictitious cattle investments and loans. Prosecutors said Johnson, a former pastor in El Dorado Springs and vice president and loan officer at Community First Bank, collected money from people who believed he would buy cattle and resell them for a profit. Instead, Johnson put the money into his personal investment account, where he traded high-risk stocks and used money from newer investors to repay earlier ones. Prosecutors said his overall scheme defrauded individuals and financial institutions of at least \$9.4 million. Johnson now faces federal prison time.

WDFW authorizes Couse Pack wolf removal

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) officials have authorized removing one or two wolves from the Couse Pack in southeast Washington after repeated livestock attacks. WDFW Director Kelly Susewind approved the action Sept. 11 after staff documented four confirmed livestock deaths, one probable death and one confirmed injury involving two Asotin County livestock producers. The pack has been linked to six confirmed depredation events over the past 10 months. WDFW said affected producers had already used several nonlethal deterrents and removed sick or injured livestock from the area. The agency determined no additional nonlethal measures were appropriate and said removing the wolves would not jeopardize wolf recovery.

CPW removes another wolf from One Ear Pack

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) removed an uncollared female yearling from the One Ear Pack in Grand County Sept. 9 after continued livestock losses. CPW said it confirmed seven additional depredations after removing another yearling from the pack on Aug. 4, despite producers using nonlethal measures. The agency said it took the latest action in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in accordance with federal requirements. Environmental groups criticized the decision, arguing that removing wolves has not stopped conflicts within the pack. The groups asserted that continued depredations show lethal control is ineffective and Colorado's small wolf population cannot sustain continued removals.

CCF launches wildfire relief fund

The Colorado Cattlemen's Foundation (CCF) has established a wildfire relief fund to help livestock producers recover from fires across the state. Working with local cattlemen and stockgrowers associations, the foundation will assist with agricultural losses and recovery costs not covered by insurance, government programs or other aid. American Ag-Credit provided an initial donation of \$10,000 to launch the effort, with additional support from the Scripps Howard Fund, KOAA News5 and KKTU 11. Donations are also being accepted at 303-431-6422. Ranchers affected by the Aspen Acres Fire or other Colorado wildfires in 2026 can submit a Wildfire Assistance Request Form at tinyurl.com/2y3m3asn.

Rasmussen returns for NILE Riggin Masters

Flint Rasmussen will return to the rodeo arena in a new role during Northern International Livestock Exposition's (NILE) inaugural Riggin Masters in Billings, MT. Rasmussen will serve as both color commentator and arena entertainer for the ProRodeo event, scheduled for Oct. 16-17 during NILE. The competition will feature 24 top bareback riders and six leading rookie competitors, along with bucking horses from six rodeo strings. Rasmussen said the new role will allow him to interact more with cowboys during the competition and give fans a better look at what riders experience in the arena. He described the event as a "mini NFR" for bareback competition, bringing together top riders and horses for an Xtreme bareback matchup.

NextGen Cattle partners with Folds of Honor

NextGen Cattle Company is partnering with Folds of Honor to turn cattle sale proceeds into educational opportunities for military and first responder families. The company will debut its Folds of Honor Collection this fall during the Flint Hills Fall Classic, featuring a bull and female selected for the program. NextGen will donate 50% of the proceeds from each collection lot sold to Folds of Honor. The nonprofit provides educational scholarships to spouses and children of fallen or disabled U.S. military members and first responders. NextGen said the partnership brings together values shared by ranching and military service, including hard work, sacrifice and service to others.

CSU names livestock facilities after Matsushima

Colorado State University (CSU) has named livestock facilities at its Fort Collins, CO, research center in honor of longtime cattle nutritionist John Matsushima. The Dr. John K. Matsushima Livestock Research and Teaching Complex recognizes the 105-year-old professor emeritus, who spent more than 30 years teaching and conducting research at CSU. Matsushima helped transform cattle feeding by pioneering steam-flaked corn, a process that improves starch digestibility and feed efficiency. He also helped open Japan to U.S. beef exports and taught an estimated 10,000 students during his career. Matsushima co-founded CSU's annual Nutrien Ag Day BBQ, which raises money for student scholarships, and recently attended this year's event on Sept. 12.

9 PEAKS RANCH



9 PEAKS BULLS RUNNING ON DESERT RANGE.

WANT S' MORE FROM YOUR COWS? DON'T BUY MARSHMALLOW BULLS!

THIS YEAR'S CROP OF BULLS ARE Sired BY THESE BALANCED TRAIT LEADERS:

- GDAR Justo 2711
- AAR Fergus 3551
- Sterling Confidence Plus 804
- GDAR Recap 0746
- Connealy Cool 39L
- Sitz Intuition
- Tehama Patriarch F028
- Ellingson Prolific

THE 9 PEAKS COW HERD AND DEVELOPING BULLS RUN ON 100,000 ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS!



JOIN US FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL 9 PEAKS RANCH BULL SALE

OCT. 13, 2026 | FORT ROCK, OR

— SELLING 130 YEARLING BULLS —



AARON AND REBECCA BORROR

Aaron Cell: (541) 633-3284
Rebecca Cell: (541) 771-4151
P.O. Box 38, Fort Rock, OR 97735

www.9peaksranch.com