

INSIDE WLJ

WOLF PROTECTIONS — Court of appeals hears case with potential to reshape ESA protections for wolves in the northern Rockies and beyond. Page 4

GATHER UP — BLM conducts several wild horse roundups in mid-October. Page 13

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY "Last month, our leading editorial article was headed: 'PEACE... What Will It Bring to Stockmen?' That question is now being answered, at least to some extent. And the answer so far is not good. Throughout the country, attempts at reconversion are being thwarted by strikes. Hundreds of thousands of workers are affected and each new strike means idleness for thousands more," wrote Nelson Crow in his October 1945 "Observations by the Editor."

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US sheep producers press case against lamb imports

— ITC weighs injury claims

U.S. sheep producers told the International Trade Commission (ITC) during an Oct. 16 hearing that lower-priced lamb imports are driving domestic producers out of the market. Exporters countered that declining U.S. sheep numbers and changing consumer demand, not imports, are driving the industry's struggles.

The hearing was part of a Section 201 safeguard investigation requested by U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer under the Trade Act of 1974. The commission must determine whether increased imports are a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat of serious injury, to the domestic lamb industry before considering possible trade remedies.

Domestic producers claim injury

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and other supporters of import relief argued that foreign competition has steadily eroded the domestic industry's market share, making it increasingly difficult for ranchers, feeders and processors to remain profitable.

Paul Rosenthal, an attorney representing ASI and other domestic industry members, told commissioners that U.S. producers supplied about 75% of the domestic market during the 1999 safeguard investigation. Today, he said, imports account for roughly three-quarters of U.S. lamb consumption.

Rosenthal challenged claims that imports merely fill a gap left by declining domestic production. Instead, he argued that lower-priced imports have displaced American lamb, contributing to shrinking sheep numbers, processing plant closures and lost sales. He pointed to findings showing that imported lamb undersold comparable domestic products in more than 93% of reported pricing comparisons.

See LAMB HEARING on page 13



Preston Keres/USDA
The International Trade Commission will consider whether lamb imports are driving domestic producers out of the market. Pictured here, a flock of Corriedale Merino crosses and Île-de-France Merino crosses.

Arizona rancher challenges grazing permit cancellation

— Seeks further review

An Arizona rancher is fighting to overturn the cancellation of her federal grazing permit, arguing that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) relied on inaccurate information and failed to follow required procedures.

Silkie Perkins spoke to *WLJ* about her ongoing legal dispute and why she continues to challenge the agency's decision.

After the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court's ruling, Perkins petitioned for a rehearing, alleging that USFS employees and government attorneys misrepresented or overlooked evidence. The court denied her petition and issued its mandate. Perkins later filed separate motions to recall the mandate and strike a filing, which the court denied.

Perkins intends to continue chal-

lenging the ruling, including by seeking U.S. Supreme Court review of the court's summary judgment, and plans to raise additional questions about her permit cancellation. The status of her Supreme Court request has not been independently confirmed.

Dispute over livestock and fencing

The dispute centers on unauthorized cattle entering protected areas along the Verde River near Perkins' Antelope Hills Allotment in Arizona's Prescott National Forest. Perkins maintains that the cattle came from the neighboring Horseshoe Allotment, where she says the permittee failed to maintain a boundary fence.

Perkins argues that USFS wrongly held her responsible for her son's cattle beyond the authorized graz-

ing season of March 1 through April 30, 2021.

She maintains that the agency's bill for collection established the authorized grazing period, but USFS relied on annual operating instructions (AOIs) to support its allegations of noncompliance, a distinction she said she raised before the 9th Circuit.

According to Perkins, USFS inspections beginning in May 2021 documented problems with the Horseshoe Allotment fence, but the agency did not require the responsible permittee to make repairs until later that year.

Perkins said cattle found on her Antelope Hills Allotment during a May 2021 inspection were promptly removed and her boundary fence repaired. She maintains that she had already corrected the problem

See PERMIT on page 8

Court halts USDA reorganization effort

— Enjoins closures, staff relocations

A federal court has blocked the USDA's reorganization plan, enjoining the department from closing or eliminating offices, or relocating or reassigning employees outside of their commuting area.

The action comes following a lawsuit filed against USDA and Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins by a coalition of labor unions, nonprofit organizations and cities and counties.

"The department provides vital services across America, supporting rural communities, protecting our food supply, feeding families, advancing agricultural research, guarding our forests and public lands, and so much more," the coalition said. "We look forward to achieving more permanent relief and continuing to fight for American families, farmers, and workers."

USDA announced its reorganization plan in July 2025, which included relocating employees to five new hubs across the country: Raleigh, NC; Kansas City, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Fort Collins, CO; and Salt Lake City, UT. The department said that a reorganization would streamline the department while moving employees and services closer to the people it serves.

See INJUNCTION on page 6

Cattle futures advance amid mixed market trends

Cattle markets closed the week with gains in cattle futures, while boxed beef prices moved lower and corn futures continued their downward trend.

Live cattle futures were higher week over week. The October contract gained just under \$4 to close at \$229.75, and the December contract also gained about \$4 to close at \$231.12.

"After rallying all week, the live cattle complex is now trading merely sideways, hoping and praying that fundamental support will soon arise," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled less than 2,000 head. No market trends were noted.

"It's widely believed that on Friday, the month's Cattle on Feed report will likely be bullish, and that fed cash cattle prices will trade steady to somewhat higher as well," Stewart said.

"But just as in any race, the final mile can seem like the longest stretch when you're waiting," she said.

Pre-release estimates for the upcoming Cattle on Feed report expected total cattle on feed as of Oct. 1 to be just over

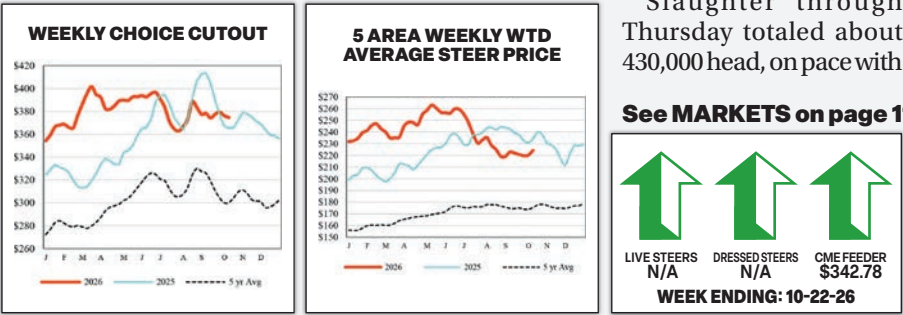
100% of last year, and placements and marketings during September to be down about 8%.

Beginning Oct. 26, USDA will use data already collected through the Livestock Mandatory Reporting system to create an additional cash trade report aggregating data from Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Cash trade for the week ending Oct. 18 totaled about 91,000 head. Live steers averaged \$224.72, and dressed steers averaged \$352.25.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 430,000 head, on pace with

See MARKETS on page 11



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COMMENTS

Fuel concerns

The fall run of cattle is in full force across much of the West with auction markets running at capacity full of bawling calves. The market has stayed strong for all the volatility we saw throughout the summer. Futures markets have seemed to stay steady, and prices at the auction markets have been rewarding producers for all the hard work they have put in throughout the year. Personally, fall is my favorite time of year. I really enjoy getting to travel the region in the cooler weather, seeing those cows nursing big calves and passing the loaded cattle trucks rushing down the road with a full load of calves. Those cattle trucks play an important part in our livestock marketing industry.

At the beginning of the month, I had the opportunity to make a trip out to California to cover a couple of sales for *WLJ*. When I went up to the rental car counter to pick up the Honda Civic I had reserved, I was met with bad news. They had to downgrade me to a three-quarter-ton gas pickup. Downgraded to a pickup? Didn't sound too bad to me, until I drove out of the airport and was reminded by the big billboard with the gas prices on it. As I worked my way from Fresno over to San Luis Obispo, I made a rookie mistake. I forgot to get fuel before I got to the coast and they had me. I pulled up to the gas station and cringed as I was putting that \$7 fuel into that big pickup. I reminded myself that it was only one tank, and to think about all those cattle trucks trying to get those calves down to feed and how they must be feeling right now.

The price of fuel has been a major subject of conversation everywhere I've been this summer and fall. Producers have been feeling the weight of higher input prices across the board, but fuel has certainly been a heavy load to take on. With dry conditions across a lot of the country, I know producers have had to get a sharp pencil when figuring costs of bringing in feed or shipping cows out.

The Trump administration has made some attempts at relief for our diesel problems. Earlier this month, we had the executive order for Emergency Tax Relief on Diesel Fuel. This meant the IRS would not be imposing penalties for highway use of dyed diesel fuel for certain use. We did see a kick in the market after the announcement. We also saw feeder cattle in following days jump up \$6-10 on the board. I think that fuel announcement was certainly a factor in that jump, but it's hard to tell completely if that was the only factor, with our low cattle numbers and strong demand for beef.

The red dyed diesel announcement was not the administration's only move to address rising costs in the agricultural sector. On Oct. 19, the administration announced an \$8 billion Harvest Fuel Relief program. This program is offering a one-time payment to producers for a portion of modeled losses during the 2026 crop year. It's still pretty unclear whether these payments will get to those of us that farm grass to raise protein, but I wouldn't hold my breath on that. Hopefully though, this will relieve some of the bill on our farmer feeders across the country and keep them aggressive in the calf market.

These announcements do have a positive tone for the industry. I don't think anybody on either side of aisle likes paying too much for fuel. But it still makes me wonder how much of the profit in our industry now is getting blown out the top of a smokestack running down the road.

In Montana in particular, we are in the unique area where a good percentage of our feeder cattle end up two states away to go on feed. If you think back to last year when diesel prices were almost half of where they are now, I wonder how much more aggressive these buyers would be on the cattle. The basic factors are all there, but fuel is certainly holding us back. We might be giving up \$50 or more per head on the freight alone. Somebody must pay for the fuel. Unfortunately, that part of the equation is weighing heavier than ever before in how we calculate how our buyers bid on these cattle.

It's frustrating that so much capital is getting tied up in fuel. That's money producers could be investing back into their own operations, or maybe investing in rebuilding this cow herd. — **KEVIN MURNIN**



MURNIN



GUEST OPINION

Like the famous frog in the slowly warming pot, businesses can be undone by societal changes that sneak up on them. They either don't notice them in time or can't adjust to them even if they do.

Brooks Brothers is a classic example. For much of its 200-year history, the clothier was synonymous with quality men's suits. In its last couple of decades, though, a societal change snuck up on it: Casual business wear was becoming fashionable, suits were going out of style.

Finally, during COVID-19, when so many people were working from home, suits for all practical purposes went extinct. Brooks Brothers filed for bankruptcy and emerged from it a much-reduced company.

Reminded recently of what happened to Brooks Brothers, and noticing the many suits in my closet that I never wear anymore, I got to wondering about agriculture's potential to play the role of frog. What are the current slow-moving societal changes that 20 years from now could have farm businesses squirming?

Answers to that question abound. Because the trends are by definition slow-moving and hard to notice, we can't be sure which of the myriad things going on in society will have an impact. Still, it's a game worth playing.

Here, humbly presented, is a list of six candidates I came up with. The first three touch on the quantity of food Americans will demand; the last three touch on the kinds of food they will want.

- Population stasis. More people means more demand for food, not to mention shelter, clothing and other consumer products. American businesses are used to taking population growth for granted. Despite a birth rate that's fallen to below replacement level and a baby boom generation that's beginning to die off, immigration compensated. Now, under a tough-on-immigration administration, that's changing.

- From mid-2024 to mid-2025, America's population growth rate fell to 0.5% from 1% the previous 12 months. The Census Bureau projects a further big decline from mid-2025 to mid-2026. If these trends continue, the population of the U.S. could soon be shrinking. Fewer people will need less food.

- SNAP out of it. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, helps tens of millions of Americans afford food. Since President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill last July, the number of SNAP recipients has declined by more than 4 million. It's a safe bet that many of those no longer receiving benefits are buying less food.
- Jab and lose weight. One of every 10 Americans is taking one of those newfangled injectable weight-loss drugs. And they're

working, studies show. The drugs are helping Americans lose weight. They do this by suppressing appetite, which means a good chunk of the population is consuming less food.

At the moment, these drugs are expensive and only covered by insurance if prescribed for diabetes or heart-disease prevention. Watch for them to become cheaper and for more insurance companies to cover weight-loss prescriptions. If that happens, Americans could consume even less food.

- MAHA. Americans increasingly choose what they eat with health in mind. With the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement in the forefront of this trend, "ultraprocessed" foods, however defined, are on many grocery shoppers' never-buy list.

There's also the change in attitude toward saturated fats and cholesterol. Foods once considered unhealthy are in, and vice versa. The government's new MAHA-influenced Dietary Guidelines are pro-red meat and whole milk. On the other hand, they don't even mention seed oils, which the medical establishment likes.

The problem for anyone trying to track this trend, then, is figuring out what will be deemed healthy and unhealthy tomorrow. When Americans trust "influencers" more than scientists, as many do today, the what's-in, what's-out list can change before the frog even notices something's happening.

- K-shaped economy. Some Americans buy high-end groceries; others can only afford cheap eats. That's always been true; today it's more true than ever. You can see this in the changes in supermarket brands. Many big grocers still have cheaper house brands, but they're now also offering premium house brands that are more expensive. Whether the K-shaped economy trend will play out in a way that affects farmers is an open question, but it has that potential.

- Artificial intelligence (AI). AI's impact on food and farming is still in its infancy, but it's already changing how food is grown, sold and eaten. To cite just one example, there are AI apps that allow users to take photos of what's on their plates and learn the portion size and the calorie count.

There are also AI apps that help cut food waste by surveying the contents of users' refrigerators and suggesting recipes to use up ingredients that are about to expire. Food companies are using AI to develop new products more quickly. Farmers are using AI-powered robots in their fields.

That's my list. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

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OBITUARY



Lawrence A. Ford Jr., 1935-2026

On the early morning of July 4, Larry Ford (Lawrence A. Ford Jr.) died at Timber Ridge Care in McKinleyville, CA, with his son, Merrill, and Sarah of hospice beside him.

March 22, 1935, marked the day Art and Katherine Ford welcomed their first-born at General Hospital in Eureka, CA. Larry was Art and Katherine's first of four children born at General Hospital with Dr. B. Cooper attending. Larry was given the male generational name. The original Lawrence A. Ford emigrated from Glenfarne, Leitrim County, Ireland in 1860, and found his way to Humboldt County, CA, to homestead the original ranch acreage in 1868.

Larry graduated from Arcata Grammar School in 1949 and moved across the street to Arcata Union High School, where he was active in school activities and took particular interest in choir with Ruth Carroll, the teacher. Larry became a Humboldt County 4-H star the same year he

graduated, 1953. Larry's life on the "home ranch" gradually evolved to become a part of hands-on work with his grandfather Larney's large flock of Corriedales and later with Suffolks of his own that he exhibited at the Ninth District Fair in Eureka, the Humboldt County Fair in Ferndale and the Arcata Junior Fair (Arcata Ballpark).

Summers were always a busy time with hay hauling, shearing, showing at the fair, rounding up sheep off the hill, changing irrigation and sometimes going to town to see a movie. Larry drove. Soon after graduating high school, Humboldt State College became Larry's focus, where he spent two years before transferring to Colorado A&M (Colorado State University) in Fort Collins, CO.

When he came home at Christmas, Larry had wonderful stories to share about his time in Colorado, where he made lifelong friends as an Alpha Tau Omega and in ROTC. It was customary for the Greek system to hold dance-mixers. As "chance would have it," Larry met Jacqueline Stalcup, a Pi Beta Phi sorority member, at a mixer. Life began to move pretty fast.

Larry graduated June 1958 and immediately went to the Newport, RI, Naval Officer Candidate School to become a U.S. Navy ensign. Larry introduced Jackee to the Ford family during Thanksgiving 1958. The following year, Larry and Jackee were married in Worland, WY. Soon after they married, Larry served duty stations in Hawaii and Bremer-

ton, WA, while they lived in Seattle. In Hawaii, he served as lieutenant junior grade on board a LST (Landing Ship, Tank). Larry served as commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Unit in Eureka from 1967-71.

Family, agriculture connection and community service pretty well encapsulate Larry's life. When Larry's active service ended, he and Jackee settled in Arcata—initially in the Sunset area and later in Sunnybrae. While living in Sunnybrae, their immediate family joyfully expanded with Merritt arriving April 14, 1965, and Merrill arriving Aug. 21, 1974.

Ranching and all it entails was very much part of Larry's life. He began working for the Ford family enterprise consisting of cattle, sheep, timber, rock and rental operations. Larry served as office manager and bookkeeper along with his parents, Art and Katherine, as overseers, and sister, Pam, who sat across the desk from him in their office for many years.

Larry and his brother, John, also operated Ford Land & Livestock for a number of years. All the while Larry tended the books, he was involved serving on various organizations' boards. Together with his beloved wife, Jackee, he devoted countless hours to the Redwood Acres Fairgrounds (numerous years on the board of directors followed with 14 years as interim fair manager), while also providing leadership to organizations including the Humboldt County Farm Bureau, Arcata Bottom 4-H, Humboldt County Woolgrowers Association, Arcata Rotary,

Humboldt County Cattlemen's Association, Cloverdale Ram Sale Committee, Grandma and Grandpa's Club at McKinleyville High School, Humboldt State President Advisory Committee and the California Agricultural Leadership Program (Class II). Larry was a steadfast advocate for youth in agriculture. His quiet leadership, integrity and unwavering commitment left a lasting mark on Humboldt County's agricultural community.

Larry enjoyed watching his family grow, and was a proud grandfather to his granddaughters and grandsons. He loved traveling and attending McKenzie and McKenna's sporting events through the years, and spending time at the barn and on the ranch with Jon Waylon and Jack while they tended to their 4-H projects. Up to his last days, Larry let his family know what they meant to him. He was comfortable in knowing what was to come next and shared with his family, "We had fun, we had purpose, and we had a good life."

Larry leaves behind his eldest son, Merritt; daughter-in-law, Mary Dawn; granddaughters, McKenzie (Gavin) and McKenna (Madalyn); his youngest son, Merrill; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth; grandsons, Jon Waylon and Jack; siblings, Penny Durant (Ken), John Ford (Charline), Pam Cavanagh (Jim); and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his love, Jacqueline; his parents, Arthur and Katherine Ford; his in-laws, Marvin and Helen Stalcup; and his nephews, Ford Cavanagh and Will Ford.

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

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Federal appeals court weighs future of wolf protections

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in Missoula, MT, heard a yearslong case on Oct. 13 that could reshape Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for wolves in the northern Rockies and beyond.

The hearing moves forward a debate stemming from 2011, when a federal congressional budget bill rider removed wolves from the endangered species list in Montana, Idaho and portions of other states. Ever since, the species has fallen under state rather than federal management, and has involved a

hunting season to control the population.

Congress had stepped in to end years of a lupine tug-of-war in the courts, but that delisting didn't end the drama over wolf protections. In 2021, the Center for Biological Diversity and other conservation groups petitioned the federal government for an emergency relisting of wolves in the northern Rockies, citing threats from state laws that encouraged what they viewed as aggressive wolf hunting. Around the same time, another petition asked the federal govern-

ment to list wolves across the entirety of the western U.S.—not just in Montana and Idaho.

Those petitions kicked off half a decade of agency analysis and legal back-and-forth that culminated in the recent hearing.

In 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that as the population has expanded in range, wolves in the northern Rockies no longer constituted a "distinct population segment," or DPS. "In the Western United States, the gray wolf currently occurs in one interconnected metapopulation with packs distributed across California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, and, more recently, wolves have been documented in Colorado," the agency wrote.

This new argument meant that wolves in the northern Rockies should be analyzed as part of the broader whole of western wolves, rather than a separate population, according to the USFWS. However, the agency also found that wolves across the West did not face enough threats to warrant protections under the ESA.

Conservation groups again sued and last year a federal district court ruled that the agency's decision was "arbitrary and capricious." The federal government along with three states and hunting

groups appealed, and the 9th Circuit heard arguments from both sides in Missoula.

Department of Justice attorney Emily Polachek argued that the lower court judge ignored important precedent, cherry-picked science and misinterpreted several important pieces of agency findings.

"The judgment in this case must be reversed," Polachek told the three-judge panel.

Arguments on both sides centered around what role a species' historic range should play in its present-day recovery, what constitutes the "best available science," and how human-caused mortality—especially hunting and poaching—could impact the future of wolf populations across the West.

"The court should affirm the district court in this case because [FWS] has again misinterpreted the law, dodged key scientific evidence and inadequately assessed the threats to the wolf in the western United States," argued Margie Robinson, a staff attorney for Humane World for Animals.

Clinton-appointed Judge Richard C. Tallman seemed especially skeptical of plaintiffs' arguments about the role of historic range. "Back to the question I've been wrestling with all morning," he said, referencing a lengthy debate over wolf habitat. "Where do we draw the line?"

The argument echoes debates about species from grizzly bears to wolverines: for a species that once lived in broad swathes of habitat across the U.S. but was extirpated from the vast majority of its habitat, what constitutes a truly recovered range?

"We are certainly not arguing that wolves need to be returned to every square inch of their former habitat," Robinson said. "The question is whether or not they're absent from major geographical areas that are biologically important to the species."

Plaintiffs also said the federal government failed to grapple with basic uncertainty around how many wolves are on the landscape and specifically cited Montana's new wolf population estimate—which reduced the species' estimated population size in the state by about 34%.

"When populations of pretty much any species become smaller, uncertainty necessarily increases," argued Kate Chupka Schultz, senior attorney with the Center for a Humane Economy.

However, Robinson fired back that states like Montana and Idaho are dedicated to making sure their respective wolf populations don't reach levels low enough to warrant relisting the species. That, according to Robinson, would trigger a return from state management to the fed-

eral government. "The states have an active interest in maintaining the viability of these species," she said.

The judges heard three separate wolf cases did not indicate a timeline for making a decision. "You've given us a lot to think about," Trump-appointed judge Daniel Bress said after the hearing.

If the federal government wins the case, wolves in the northern Rockies will remain off the endangered species list, according to USFWS' previous findings. If the lower court's decision is upheld and plaintiffs emerge victorious, the federal government will have to re-analyze whether wolves in the western U.S. deserve ESA protections.

Meanwhile, wolf hunting season in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming is already underway. Hunters have harvested 17 of the maximum quota of 22 wolves in Wyoming's trophy game management area south of Yellowstone National Park. There's no limit on wolf harvest in the rest of the state. In Montana, a wolf management unit just north of the park closed in late September when it met its quota of one wolf. Eleven wolves have been harvested across Montana as a whole. Up-to-date data on the Idaho wolf hunt isn't publicly available. —Nick Mott, Mountain Journal

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119	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Irish Whiskey	Calve Mar. 2-4
108	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Irish Whiskey	Calve Mar. 2-4
81	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified	Calve Mar. 5-6
61	Carrying Heifer Calves AI Bred to Circle L Unified	Calve Mar. 5-6
55	Carrying Bull Calves AI Bred to Vermilion Leo	Calve Mar. 9-10
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* All cows and heifers have been on a sound health and mineral program. Vira-Shield-6-VL5, Ivermectin Pour On and a Multi-Min shot in the spring, Vira-Shield-6-VL5+ Poured In September. Bred heifers have had their first shot of Guardian Scour Guard.

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CONTACT US:

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Abbie Goggins
(406) 696-6001

2,015 BRED ANGUS COWS

Bred to Top Vermilion Angus Bulls

1,617 • 2- Coming 3-Year-Old Cows

882	Head	Calve March 7-31
587	Head	Calve April 1-30
130	Head	May 1-20
18	Head	Calve June 1-15

398+ • Angus Bred Cows

217	Coming 4- & 5-Year-Olds	Calve April 1-30
74	Coming 4- & 5-Year-Olds	Calve May 1-31
45	Coming 4- & 5-Year-Olds	Calve June 1-28
35	Coming 6-Year-Olds	Calve April 1-30
7	Coming 6-Year-Olds	Calve May 1-31
15	6- to 8- Year-Olds	Calve April 1-30
4	6- to 8- Year-Olds	Calve May 1-31

20 • Registered Cows

(Selling as Commercial. Papers available @ \$200⁰⁰/HD.)

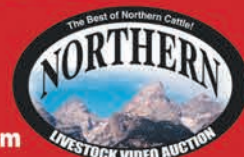
11	Coming 3- & 4-Year-Olds	Calve April 11-26
4	Coming 3- & 4- & 5-Year-Olds	Calve May 1-30
5	Coming 5- & 6-Year-Olds	Calve April 6-30

Now more than ever it PAYS to have good females around you.

(BABE GOGGINS
95 years young.)



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Funding deadline brings chance to revisit USDA reorganization

INJUNCTION

(from page 1)

Opponents argued the plan would drain USDA of experienced employees and institutional knowledge, while making the American food supply less safe and diminishing support for rural communities and farmers. In addition, they maintained that USDA was unable to reorganize without congressional approval.

Court ruling

In a late September hearing, Judge Vince Chhabria in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California deliberated whether to grant a preliminary injunction against the USDA. He extended an administrative stay through Oct. 13, temporarily halting USDA's ability to enforce deadlines tied to reassignment letters.

On Oct. 13, Chhabria ruled in favor of the coalition, writing that “preliminary relief is necessary to protect the congress-

sional prerogative, prevent irreparable harm to federal employees, and vindicate the public interest."

Chhabria found that USDA's reorganization was being implemented through reprogramming—using federal funds for purposes other than Congress authorized.

“Congress did not contemplate USDA using its appropriated funds to shut down offices or relocate employees,” Chhabria wrote in his order. “To the contrary, Congress was actively working to restrict the agency’s ability to do so.”

Chhabria noted that the relevant appropriations statutes are set to expire in less than two months' time. "If the agency wishes to move forward with its plans to close offices and relocate employees, it will soon have the opportunity to convince Congress of the merits of those plans," he said. Until then, USDA is preliminarily enjoined from spending appropriated funds on the challenged office closures and employee relocations.

USDA reorganization

In addition to relocating most employees from the National Capital Region to the five new hubs, USDA's plan would reduce capacity at offices and facilities across the department.

The plan would relocate the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City, UT, close all nine USFS regional offices and close 23 research locations across 15 states.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service would relocate some positions to St. Louis, MO, or other offices. The Agricultural Research Service would decommission the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD, and relocate research programs to facilities across the country.

In addition, some Economic Research Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture employees would be relocated to Kansas City, MO.

Following a public comment period, a USDA summary and

analysis of feedback report found that more than 80% of public comments were against the reorganization. However, USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said during a January National Agricultural Law Center webinar that the department had “no choice” but to carry out the plan due to shrinking budgets and increased costs of living.

Coalition plaintiffs in the lawsuit included labor unions American Federation of Government Employees; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; National Federation of Federal Employees; and the National Treasury Employees Union. Other plaintiffs included Santa Clara County, CA; the city and county of San Francisco, CA; Alliance of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies; American Geophysical Union; Coalition to Protect America's National Parks; Natural Resources Defense Council; and Western Watersheds Project. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ**
managing editor

LEGAL LEDGER

NM port will reopen to cattle trade on Oct. 26

The USDA is set to reopen the Columbus, NM, port of entry to cattle imports on Oct. 26. Also on Oct. 26, USDA will resume the importation of equines from Mexico via the Santa Teresa, NM, port of entry. If conditions continue to support safe trade, the next port scheduled to reopen to cattle imports will be Nogales, AZ, on Nov. 30. "It was great to be in Columbus today as our phased reopening of southern livestock ports continues, with strict safeguards in place to protect American livestock," said USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins in an X post. "We will continue using every tool at our disposal to keep New World screwworm OUT of the United States and protect the livelihoods of our American ranchers."

USDA to update its cash cattle market reports

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is updating its Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) cash cattle reports in an effort to bring greater transparency to cattle market cash reporting. The move comes following President Donald Trump's recent executive orders, Supporting American Ranchers, and Promoting Fair Competition in Livestock Markets and Expanding Market Access for American Meat Producers. Cash purchases accounted for more than 50% of transactions in 2005 but fell to less than 18% in 2025, according to USDA. "Because cash purchases serve as the basis for many formula transactions, the decline in negotiated trade has reduced the number of reportable transactions and created confidentiality challenges that can limit the usefulness of existing price reports," the department said. Beginning Oct. 26, AMS will use data already collected through the LMR system to create additional cash cattle regional report aggregating data from Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/yraizfxn.

\$400K available for MT livestock loss prevention

The Montana Livestock Loss Board has approximately \$400,000 available for livestock loss prevention measures such as fencing, carcass composting, guard dogs, range rider programs and more. In 2025, there were 225 verified livestock losses in Montana due to eligible predators (grizzly bears, black bears, wolves and mountain lions). To date this year, verified reports include 152 losses. “We know livestock depredation is a reality here in Montana,” said Livestock Loss Board Chairman John Sampsel. “We have a considerable amount of money available for hard-working ranchers to help prevent losses to grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, and mountain lions.” Applications are due by Nov. 4 at liv.mt.gov/Livestock-Loss-Board.

WDFW seeks 'caught-in-the-act' comments

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking comment on proposed changes to the “caught-in-the-act” provision around lethal removal of wolves caught attacking livestock. “The revision of this rule is aimed at clarifying ambiguities around when and how lethal removal of wolves may occur and addressing livestock-wolf conflict management,” said Subhadeep Bhattacharjee, WDFW wolf and grizzly bear policy lead. In eastern Washington, where wolves are not listed as endangered under federal law, livestock owners may kill one gray wolf without a permit if it is attacking livestock. WDFW proposes replacing the word “agent” with “documented representative” as one of the eligible entities able to kill a wolf and clarifying who can be a documented representative, as well as clarifying that a single wolf can be taken by these specified individuals while a wolf or multiple wolves are attacking domestic animals. In addition, WDFW proposes clarifying that the rule does not apply to individuals who attract wolves by leaving sick, injured or dead animals in grazing areas. The department also proposes correcting the verb tense in the definition of the word “attack.” Comments may be submitted through Nov. 23 at tinyurl.com/37cb7mr.

USDA releases \$8B in Harvest Fuel Relief aid

USDA is making available \$8 billion in one-time payments to American farmers this harvest season to provide relief from market disruptions and increased input costs. The Harvest Fuel Relief program will provide support to cover a portion of modeled losses during the 2026 crop year, based on reported planted acres, cost of production estimates and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates yields and prices. Payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation. Commodity-specific payment rates for Title I commodities will be released in November, while other eligible commodities will be announced at a later date. Producers of non-Title I commodities are encouraged to provide data related to increased fuel costs to harvestfuel@usda.gov. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/9xsw8nda.

AZ monument made newest national park

Chiricahua National Monument in southeastern Arizona is now Chiricahua National Park following President Donald Trump's Oct. 20 signing of the Chiricahua National Park Act. The legislation was introduced by Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06), who said the new designation is expected to attract more visitors to southeastern Arizona, boost local tourism, support local businesses and create new economic opportunities. The park is located near Willcox, AZ, and protects approximately 12,000 acres of volcanic landscape, diverse wildlife and cultural history. "The redesignation recognizes the national significance of the area's extraordinary natural and cultural resources and marks a new chapter for one of Arizona's most distinctive landscapes," according to the Department of the Interior.

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plus! 1000 HEAD OF COMMERCIAL FEMALES
(BRED HEIFERS, TWO YEAR OLDS AND FALL PAIRS)
ALL OF OUR ANGUS & HEREFORD DECEMBER BORN ET HEIFER CALVES

HOFFMAN STAND ALONE 5721 #21506848

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C
4	3.0	95	171	29	0.85	0.70	116	190	362

C&C HOFFMAN BLACKOUT 5401 #21434028

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C
9	2.0	94	151	30	1.41	1.21	129	252	456

HOFFMAN NEW STANDARD 5667 ET #P-44711951

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$BMI	\$CHB
3.5	2.8	68	98	25	85	0.57	0.98	410	179

HOFFMAN THOMAS COUNTY 552 ET #44685677

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$BMI	\$CHB
-1.6	4.4	73	121	33	93	0.10	0.80	356	153

CONTACT US FOR A SALE BOOK!

HOFFMAN BARBARA ANN 6944 #21594377

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C
8	0.5	88	164	29	0.89	1.02	108	205	374

HOFFMAN HANNAH 6786 ET #P-44764310

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$BMI	\$CHB
7.4	2.2	65	101	30	95	-0.09	0.64	365	136

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ADVERTORIAL



REINING IN THE RANGE

How the Ivins brothers of Utah's Broken I Ranch use Vence® virtual fencing to track cattle, protect sensitive land and make every ride count.

Fall used to mean 10 long days in the saddle for brothers Shawn and Tyler Ivins, pushing through the Abajo Mountains with a crew of eight riders, trying to locate every last cow and calf before winter. Thanks to the Vence® virtual fencing system for cattle, it now takes only three days.

"We would spend days and days riding, and we would never see a cow," Tyler says. "Now, we spend 90% of our time riding where the cows are."

Vence allows the Ivins — and an increasing number of other ranchers across the West who are deploying the innovative technology — to control cattle movement, manage grazing, create virtual fences across thousands of acres of rangeland, and monitor animal location and movement.

RECLAIMING TIME AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Since returning to ranching full-time in 2009, the Ivins brothers have expanded Broken I Ranch to 250,000 acres, running 600 Angus-influenced cows chosen for their ability to thrive in Utah's rugged terrain.

Managing such a vast and diverse range has always been a challenge. Since adopting Vence in 2022, the Ivins have regained control over their time and have new visibility into their herd.

"It's pretty crucial for everything we do because it's a huge time saver moving cattle," Tyler says. "Some of our pastures are 20,000 or more acres. To roundup cows in that large of an area, what used to take us weeks now takes days."

With Vence collars on every cow, solar-powered base stations on high points and GPS data visible on a computer or tablet, they can pinpoint each animal's location. If a cow crosses a virtual boundary, or escapes, the system lets them know immediately.

"One of the biggest surprises for us is how effective it has been as far as tracking the cattle, and saving our time riding and finding lost cows," Shawn says.

IMPROVING PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLICLAND RELATIONS

A significant portion of Broken I Ranch is public land — BLM, U.S. Forest Service and areas within the culturally

sensitive Bears Ears National Monument. The Ivins are committed to responsible management, and virtual fencing has enabled responsive grazing rotations without building permanent structures. "Vence and the virtual fencing has been ideal for what they want us to do," Tyler says. "It made such a significant improvement on our grazing."

The technology has saved the Ivins thousands of dollars. When the brothers took on a new permit, plans were in place to build seven miles of physical fencing. Using Vence, they eliminated the need, saving time and money.

SUPPORTIVE TEAM ADVANCING YOUR RANCH GOALS

Tyler worried about coverage and collar durability, but the Vence Rancher Success Team worked closely with the Ivins to ensure the system worked with their unique terrain.

Shawn describes Vence's onboarding process as seamless and says the computer program that operates the tower was easy to learn.

"The customer service team was great at getting right back to us whenever we had questions or issues," he says.

In 2023, the Society for Range Management honored Broken I Ranch with its Utah Rancher of the Year award, citing the Ivins' innovative approach to grazing and conservation.

"The range will get better because we're able to be better about our grazing and management," Tyler says. "Because of that, hopefully we have healthier cows and bigger calves, and that's going to improve our bottom line."



Hear directly from the Ivins family on how Vence is helping shape their operation.

STORY SHORTS

Truck crash sends livestock scattering

Dozens of cattle scattered through downtown Kansas City, MO, early Oct. 18 after a cattle hauler plunged from a highway overpass and landed on a car below. According to the Associated Press, the truck was carrying 120 to 130 cattle when it overturned on Interstate 70 and fell onto southbound I-35 shortly before 3 a.m. Authorities estimated that 45-60 cattle were killed in the crash, while dozens escaped, causing additional accidents and prompting calls from motorists. Some cattle wandered several miles before being captured. Police used drones to locate the animals before crews on horseback arrived to help round them up. Both the truck driver and the motorist whose car was struck suffered minor injuries and were treated at local hospitals following the crash.

Rotational grazing increases carbon storage

Rotational grazing may help grasslands capture and store more carbon, according to a study published in Scientific Reports in October. Researchers spent two years studying a North Dakota cattle ranch, comparing rotationally grazed pastures with ungrazed areas. The grazing system involved 150 cow-calf pairs moved every two days, letting cattle consume about 50% of the vegetation before giving pastures time to recover. Researchers found that managed grazing increased carbon storage by 53% in the first year and 23% in the second compared with ungrazed areas. The grazed pastures also showed improved water-use efficiency and stronger plant growth during autumn recovery, suggesting potential benefits of rotational grazing. To read the full study and review its findings, visit tinyurl.com/77yfs67d.

Angus bull sells for \$900K in Montana

A 9-month-old Angus bull, Basin Legacy 6201, sold for \$900,000 during the Oct. 17 Basin Angus Ranch Sale at Billings Livestock Commission in Montana. According to Cowboy State Daily, the bull was raised by Doug Stevenson, who said the price exceeded his expectations. A group of 10 buyers purchased a 50% interest in the bull, with Stevenson retaining the remaining ownership. The bull will eventually enter an artificial insemination facility for semen collection. Stevenson credited the bull's exceptional genetic profile and phenotype for attracting buyers. The bull's dam also brought \$450,000, with Wyoming-based Stellpflug Cattle among the purchasers. Three daughters of the cow sold for \$110,000, \$60,000 and \$25,000, respectively.

1.5M pounds of meat recalled for temperature

Kayem Foods Inc. of Chelsea, MA, is recalling approximately 1.5 million pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products because of improper storage temperatures, according to USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Products include franks, bacon, brisket and meatballs, among others. The recalled products were produced between March 31 and Oct. 7 and shipped to retail and foodservice locations nationwide and in Hong Kong. They bear USDA establishment numbers 7839, 20935A or 9520. The recall followed an Oct. 1 customer complaint about products arriving at elevated temperatures. The company investigated and found that a warehouse cooler experienced temperature fluctuations while storing the products. A complete list of recalled products is available at tinyurl.com/2s3t7vhx.

Whole Foods expands RaiseWell program

Where Food Comes From Inc. announced that Whole Foods Market has expanded its approval of the RaiseWell Certified program to include chicken, turkey, pork and lamb following its introduction for beef suppliers earlier this year. According to the company, more than 347,000 cattle have been enrolled in the program. RaiseWell requires livestock to meet animal welfare standards throughout their lives, prohibits antibiotics and added hormones, and provides source verification back to the farm or ranch. Leann Saunders, president of Where Food Comes From, said the expansion will allow more suppliers to participate in the certification program. For more information, visit wherefoodcomesfrom.com.

Two Oklahoma men arrested for cattle theft

Two Oklahoma men were arrested following an investigation into the alleged theft and sale of nine yearlings belonging to their employer in July. Jonathan Rosas and Edward Marques, both from Felt, OK, surrendered to the Cimarron County Sheriff's Office Sept. 10 on charges of stealing nine yearlings. Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Lynn Mays led the investigation, with assistance from Special Ranger Chris Ward and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Special Agent Paul Cornett. TSCRA also credited local law enforcement and prosecutors for their assistance in the investigation.

Deere Foundation announces food bank funding

The John Deere Foundation announced an \$18.5 million initiative to connect farmers with food banks and help distribute surplus produce to communities nationwide. The commitment includes \$17 million for Feeding America and \$1.5 million for The Farmlink Project. More than \$13 million will support hunger relief in Iowa, including efforts to connect more than 100 farmers with food banks. Funding will also help Feeding America expand food distribution nationwide. From 2026 through 2029, about 22,000 John Deere employees are expected to volunteer to pack 1.8 million meals.

City buys Tyson utility assets, land

Tyson sells assets to Lexington as city seeks new industry at beef plant site

City officials in Lexington, NE, ratified the purchase of property from the now-closed Tyson Foods beef processing plant, although Tyson continues to own the plant itself.

The terms of the deal have not been publicly disclosed.

The Lexington City Council approved a resolution to buy a wastewater treatment plant, sewer lines, easements and related personal property associated with the system, according to the resolution. The resolution also authorizes the city manager to transfer all environmental permits associated with the wastewater treatment plant.

In addition, the city is buying about 160 acres that includes a drainage ditch area and part of a county road.

Tyson announced the closing of the 5,000-head-per-day plant in November 2025, and 3,000 people lost their jobs at a facility that accounted for about 4.8% of the daily U.S.

beef slaughter.

Although the terms of the city's purchase have not been publicly released, the information eventually will become public record under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and when the property deeds are legally transferred to the city.

The city of Lexington in April agreed to purchase Tyson properties surrounding the former plant. The decision came after an April 28 public city council hearing during which local media reports said at least 100 people attended.

The day after the public hearing, the city issued a news release in response to questions about the purchase. The city said the purchase was Tyson Foods' collaborating with the city on "strategic initiatives" aimed at attracting private investment, fostering job creation and driving long-term economic development.

"Together, Tyson and the City are working to position key assets for redevelopment and economic opportunity," according to the news release.

"Under this collaborative framework, the City of Lexington will acquire and manage certain Tyson-owned assets to facilitate future development aligned with state and regional growth objectives. The proposed transaction includes the transfer of Tyson's wastewater treatment facility and ancillary farmland to the city. In addition, both parties will continue to collaborate in identifying potential redevelopment pathways and end users for the processing plant."

Since the Tyson announcement, federal lawmakers from Nebraska, the state's governor and the city of Lexington have started the pursuit of other potential uses for the plant facility.

In September, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE) announced

during the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island that his staff was working with Tyson officials and Lexington city leaders to identify a new employer for the site, including potentially a dairy processor.

Just ahead of the plant's closure in January, Nebraska Republican Gov. Jim Pillen (R) said Tyson officials were considering other potential uses for the plant, including converting it into a case-ready meat packing plant that would prepare finely butchered, pre-packaged meats directly for grocery store shelves.

In August, the city of Lexington passed a city ordinance that created the Lexington NewTrack Industrial Campus, designed to recruit private manufacturers and industrial companies. — **Todd Neeley, DTN environmental editor**

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5th Annual

ARNTZEN ANGUS

Signature

FEMALE SALE

High quality, top end females with Arntzen Angus genetics bred in.

A selection of these will be from our herd,
and the rest will be consigned by some of our best customers.

750+ Bred Heifers

• Large groups will sell synchronized and AI bred to AAR Midas along with other top Arntzen herd sires.

• Many other sets will be available bred natural to top Arntzen heifer bulls.

Online bidding will be available.

Visit our website, www.arntzenangus.com, for details on how to login and bid.

NOVEMBER 13TH, 2026

Lewistown Livestock Auction • Lewistown, Montana

CAB Lunch at 11:00. • Sale starts at noon.

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APRIL 1ST, 2027



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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 10/22/2026	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	N/A	▲	N/A
CME Feeder Index	342.78	▲	342.64
Boxed Beef Average	369.47	▼	373.98
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,454	▲	1,452
Weekly Slaughter**	553,000	▲	531,000
Weekly Beef Production***	492.2	▲	471.9
Hide/Offal Value	15.08	▼	15.11
Corn Price	4.66	▼	4.83
*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.			

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
October 16	6,975	376.00	308	412.79	1,223	381.57	2,237	373.02	516	351.78	2,692
October 9	6,955	375.85	278	411.22	1,152	383.67	2,149	373.44	569	353.29	2,806
October 2	6,995	380.01	306	414.22	1,361	383.42	2,113	376.00	505	355.45	2,710
September 25	6,290	378.71	296	413.33	1,245	381.70	1,913	374.99	507	353.03	2,329
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
October 22	369.47		350.41		307.12		N/A		N/A		
October 21	372.59		355.34		306.71		83.55		384.43		
October 20	373.30		361.54		309.38		87.57		N/A		
October 19	371.58		359.91		310.75		89.59		390.01		
October 16	372.31		353.05		314.37		86.51		395.44		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	10/16	10/19	10/20	10/21	10/22	High* Low*
Oct.	22755	22813	22975	23130	23038	25873 16853
Dec.	22935	22860	23055	23245	23123	25598 16668
Feb. '27	23088	23150	23360	23523	23370	25120 17005
Apr. '27	23223	23300	23488	23655	23508	25093 18068
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	10/16	10/19	10/20	10/21	10/22	High* Low*
Oct.	34363	34540	34598	34905	34793	38103 21920
Nov.	34190	34423	34678	35070	34858	38280 22268
Jan. '27	33828	34018	34335	34823	34543	38020 22460
Mar. '27	33435	33605	33965	34490	34203	37860 24118
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
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	5,628	1,562	239.34
Live FOB Heifer	1,768	1,384	239.09
Dressed Del Steer	1,223	1,007	371.49
Dressed Del Heifer	528	902	370.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: OCTOBER 18, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	24,149	2,390
Formula	247,189	3,709
Negotiated Cash	68,200	121
Negotiated Grid	27,473	1,461
Packer Owned	10,198	N/A
Total	377,209	7,681

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,792
Oct. '26	117,568	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,388
Nov. '26	116,272	Formula sales	3,728
Dec. '26	95,889	Forward contract sales	67
Jan. '27	56,184	Domestic sales	5,677
Feb. '27	59,581	NAFTA Exports	109

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	209.35	-0.17
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	207.54	+0.57
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	212.32	-0.07
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	210.47	+0.15
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	129.92	-10.96
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, October 20, 2026				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	455.64	453.74	451.12	
601-700 lbs	405.34	400.74	400.13	
701-800 lbs	372.97	366.92	363.99	
801-900 lbs	349.65	347.85	346.01	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	454.25	447.70	446.51	
501-600 lbs	397.88	391.13	385.89	
601-700 lbs	363.58	358.21	366.92	
701-800 lbs	335.80	324.22	347.85	

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
	10/12/2026	10/5/2026		
Feeders	7,805	9,494	41,485	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
October 21, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 5,500		Week Ago EST: 6,800	Year Ago Act: N/A
Santa Teresa, NM - Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers were not well tested. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.		Douglas, AZ - Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady as compared to last week. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	351-361
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	311-321
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	385-395	500-600 lbs	385-395
600-700 lbs	350-360	600-700 lbs	349-359
700-800 lbs	320-330	700-800 lbs	319-329
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)			

Selected Auctions Week Ending October 15, 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	
Northwest											
Noreport available Blackfoot, ID											
October 15 Burley, ID	881		584-598 495-500	508-527 457.50-460	421-450 370-412	383-409 365	337 325		144-156 162-175	2,800	
Noreport available Emmett, ID											
Noreport available Eugene, OR											
October 19 Madras, OR	1,220		485-575 475-525	475-555 405-468	390-442.50 385-442.50	360-400 360-400	340-367 340-367	310-339 310-339	130-158 145-168	2,100-3,200	
October 14 Vale, OR	1,330		450-555	452.50-545 387.50-457.50	405-484.50 351-410	360-406 335-368	340-370 325-335	282.50-349 285-324	135-152 165-181	2,300-2,850	
October 20 Davenport, WA	644	418-440 400-427.50	150-522.50 302.50-410	200-540 215-405	100-421 302.50-390	310-365 222.50-345	265-325 242.50-280	205-305 174-282.50	72-240 132-232.50	2,100 2,500-3,650	
October 15 Toppenish, WA	1,172			385*	450* 335-360*	364-395* 330-355*			120-160 160.50-178.50	2,350	

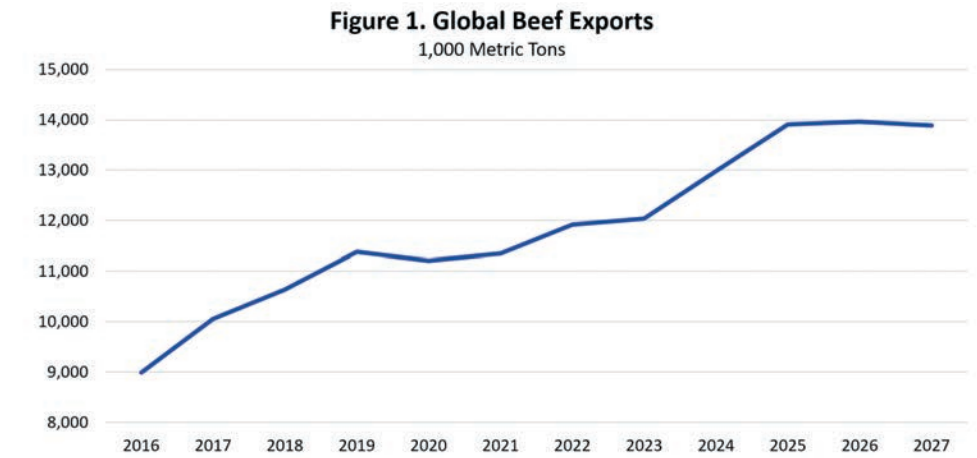
Farwest											
Noreport available Orland, CA											
Noreport available Escalon, CA											
October 19 Famoso, CA	212		330-535 330-450	360-480 340-425	340-450 320-405	330-415 310-330	290-345	270-325 260-320	120-230 115-170		
Noreport available Galt, CA											
October 20 Turlock, CA	1,786		460-550 405-500	430-495 400-475	425-449 395-438	400-432.50 360-387.50	350-379 335-360	330-346.50 310-326	120-157 150-169		
October 13 Salina, UT	1,939	490-610 380-570	390-600 360-565	340-537.50 285-497.50	270-476 265-469	260-408 245-359	240-359 235-333	225-335 189-272	125-228 146-200		

North Central											
October 19 Iowa	4,705	490	523-636 407.50-499	400-565 387.50-485	386-474 340-408.50	351-425 327.50-418.50	310-390 320-352	304.50-354 272-325.50	101-237.50 115-250		
October 20 Miles City, MT	4,235	620-640	625 490-540	475-517.50 443-480	410-482.50 380-420	370-417 350-370	370	332.50	119-157.50 151-184	1,600-2,000	
October 14 Bassett, NE	3,130		552.50 517.50-522.50	517.50-538 437.50-485	447-488 391-438.50	402.50-423 339-351	362-382 336-348	319-363.50 298-328			
October 17 Ericson, NE	3,220		555-580 530-535	475-570 427.50-490	418-490 367.50-452.50	380-436 353-382	356-382.50 346.50-355	341-355 296-326.25		3,750-4,025 3,700-4,075	
Noreport available Imperial, NE											
Noreport available Kearney, NE											
October 16 Lexington, NE	1,418		505-532 413-452	431-510 365-386	405-415 363-378		350-365	344.75-353 303			
October 15 Ogallala, NE	4,786		502.50-625 507.50-530	479.50-587.50 422.50-505	413-495 371-435	370-415 365-370		315-333 273-314			
October 15 Valentine, NE	3,030		575-665 487-545	496-572 446-480	439-500 399-522	392-445 382.50-422.60	389.50-404				
October 16 Herreid, SD	4,202		611 482.50-500	480-519 417.50-482.50	431-472 353-454	394-431.50 364-400.25	358.50-389 337-373.25	321.50-370 283-335.50			
October 21 Torrington, WY	4,010		647-730 533-560	529-612 458-522	438-514 390-444	400-444 379-399	373 300-337	316 300-337			

October 15 Willcox, AZ	N/A	576-595 455	504-565 413-452	449-489 400.50-437.50	365-427 349-382	341-370 328-336			125-205 140-170	3,400-3,850 3,400-3,775
October 19 Colorado	8,659	580-617.50 490-530	485-615 410-502.50	435-551 382.50-485	387.50-473 312-425	327.50-413 290-364	295-359 275-345	300.50-342 237.50-323	81-225 130-205	1,825-3,550 1,225-3,325
October 14 La Junta, CO	1,760		515-615 412.50-502.50	412.50-492.50 365-455	362.50-440 320-375	322.50-376 305-349	327.50-355 302.50-327.50		140-156 172-184	1,725-2,650
October 19 Loma, CO	692		450-565 400-480	420-540 375-465	350-430 335-405	320-418 330-385	295-374	220-300 238-270	133-160 165-173.50	2,150-3,650 1,975-2,800
October 21 Dodge City, KS	2,905		602.50 525	417.50-515 384-475	388-473 356-401	364-427 355-387	359.25-379.50 341-343	317.35-368.60 322-328.50	100-163 170-252.50	2,850-3,550 1,375-3,100
October 15 Pratt, KS	1,995			560 393-415	435.50-472 332-413	361-431.50 326-350.50	300-361 331.50-344.75	312.50-360 280-308	102.50-153 173-184	
October 15 Salina, KS	1,375		515-535 445-520	392.50-493 415-500	407-447 342-390	359-390 364-365	343-365 321-359	326-344 294-355		
October 22 Clovis, NM	3,572	475-630 400-529	500-630 432-505	413-530 360-472	360-515 300-410	321-372 290.50-362	312.50-349 288-324	271-333.75 278-329		
October 21 El Reno, OK	4,727	600 520	480-590 420-490	405-540 360-430	360-520 325-400	325-407.50 305-365	325-378 300-339	319-363 275-324.50		
October 21 McAlester, OK	1,175		430-595 404-520	403-470 323-383	320-403 310-383	297-361 291-332	313-350 260-396	232-348 261-315	123-154 160-186	1,700-4,450 1,060-4,050
October 20 Oklahoma City, OK	4,538	520-590	480-572 450-505	422-555 374-450	370-470 336-377	340-381 315-361	334-372 315-346	294-356 230-313		
October 16 Cuero, TX	1,931	508-600 425-600	427-535 410-500	378-485 353-600	341-400 327-420	333-356 312-362	313-346 277-321		117-150 172-182	2,500-4,250 1,700-3,700
October 15 Dalhart, TX	2,586		503-565 452.50-547.50	440-530 397-452.50	350-454 320-377.50	312.50-409 361	338-354.50 312.50-333	215-352 264-314	131-140 167.50-170	2,500 1,850-2,350
October 15 San Angelo, TX	564	400-420	495 415-465	425-445 365-415	325-385 320-395	327.50 304-337.50	327.50 302	320	118-141 157-190	3,550 1,950-3,500
October 15 Tulia, TX	719		512-520	450-475 360-377	360-443 305-372	305-332 300-359	340-342		125-135 150-160	2,250

SOUTH CENTRAL

An update on global beef trade numbers



The most recent USDA Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade report shows that beef production among major world producers for 2027 is projected at 60.031 million metric tons (mmt), down fractionally from 2026 and down 3.7% from the peak in 2025.

Among major beef-producing countries, production is down in Brazil, the U.S., China, the European Union (EU), Australia, Russia and South Africa. Beef production is projected to increase in 2027 in India, Argentina, Mexico and Canada.

Total global beef exports have been mostly steady since 2025 with 2027 projected to be fractionally lower than 2026 at 13.885 mmt (Figure 1). This follows a relatively steady increase in the previous decade prior to 2025.

Figure 2 shows projected 2027 beef exports for major exporting countries. Brazil is the largest beef exporter, accounting for 29.5% of the total,

with Australia at No. 2 with 16.1% and India in third place with a 14% share of total beef exports. Exports from India includes meat from water buffalo, known as carabeef.

The U.S. is fourth with 7.6%, followed by Argentina at 5.8% of total beef exports. Of the top 10 beef exporters, the remaining six countries all account for less than 5% of total beef exports and include New Zealand, Canada, the EU, Uruguay, Mexico and Paraguay.

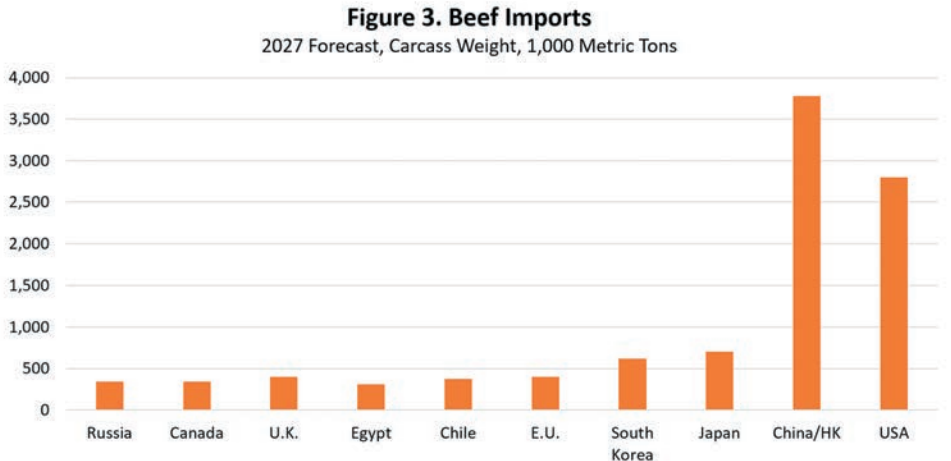
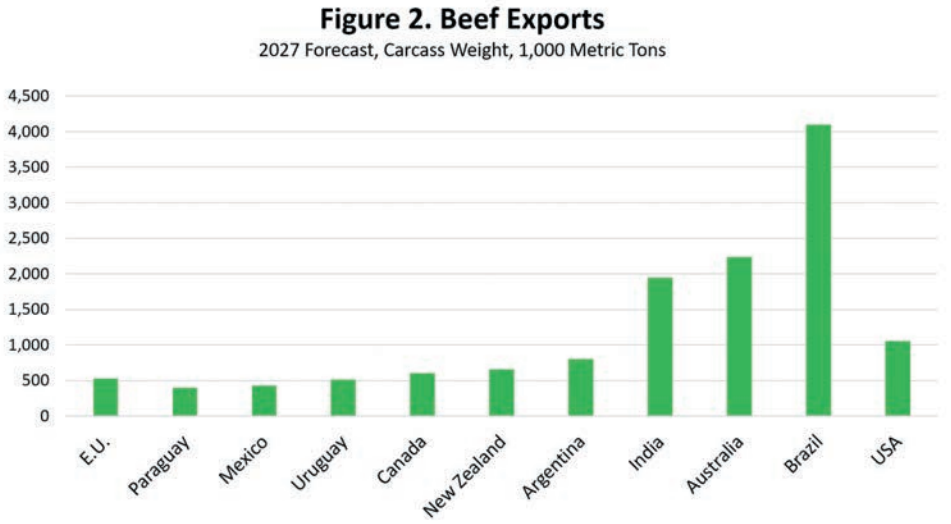
Projected 2027 beef imports are heavily concentrated into China/Hong Kong, with 30.4% of the global total and the U.S. with 22.5% of total beef imports (Figure 3). Next is Japan with a 5.7% share and South Korea accounting for 5% of total beef imports.

Smaller beef-importing countries include the EU, the United Kingdom, Chile, Canada, Russia, and Egypt. The top 10 beef importers account for 80% of total global beef imports.

Beef trade continues to grow

and is increasingly important in global beef markets. In 2026, beef exports were 23.2% of total global beef production, up from 16% a decade ago in 2017.

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



Corn futures continue downward trend

MARKETS (from page 1)

a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 553,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 10 was 536,727 head. The average steer dressed weight was 986 lbs., up 3 lbs. from the prior week.

Boxed beef prices closed lower over the week. The Choice cutout lost about \$4 to close at \$369.47, and the Select cutout lost about \$2 to close at \$350.41.

The lean beef trim contracts traded mostly sideways over the week, with the 90% lean beef trim October contract unchanged at \$416 and the 50% lean beef trim October contract up 30 cents to \$88.30.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were also higher week over week. The October contract gained about \$3 to close at \$346.10, and the November contract gained about \$5 to close at \$346.92.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained 14 cents to close at \$342.78.

Corn futures closed lower over the week. The December contract lost 18 cents to close at \$4.60, and the March contract lost 17 cents

to close at \$4.74.

“The big news for those feeding cattle is the sharp decline of the past couple of weeks in corn prices,” the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. “The spot December contract is nearing \$4.50/bushel and this decline will soon be reflected in feedlot ration prices. The continuing declining feedlot numbers translates into less grain fed to cattle.”

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the open, feeder steers were selling steady to \$8 lower while feeder heifers sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 794 lbs. sold from \$336-345, averaging \$339.24.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 4,329 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers over 800 lbs. sold \$4-6 higher on a light test while under 800 lbs. sold steady to \$4 lower. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$3 higher, while 600-700 lbs. sold \$6-7 lower. Steer calves sold \$10-15 higher but under 500 lbs. were not well tested. Benchmark steers averaging 784 lbs. sold from \$334-356, averaging \$349.73. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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Judge reopens lawsuits challenging cuts of Bears Ears, Grand-Staircase

Legal challenges first filed against President Donald Trump’s cuts to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments almost a decade ago can move forward after he downsized them once again and more sharply this summer, a federal judge ruled in Washington, D.C.

U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan lifted stays on the lawsuits Oct. 13, allowing the cases to move forward and requiring the Trump administration to give 48-hours’ notice prior to ground-disturbing activities on lands cut out of the monuments.

Environmental groups and Tribal organizations waged legal battles to restore the monuments after Trump’s prior reductions during his first term in 2017. The cases were stayed when former President Joe Biden restored the boundaries in 2021.

After Trump in July redrew the boundaries once again, the environmental groups moved to reopen the cases, noting mining claims have been filed on lands cut out of the new boundaries.

Steve Bloch, legal director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said in a statement that “irreplaceable cultural resources and the monuments’ unique geology and flora and fauna are now at risk from activities like mining.”

Trump and the White House have said the Obama and Biden administrations

abused the Antiquities Act when they used it to create the monuments and that Trump’s July orders rightsized Bears Ears to allow for common-sense land use and mining of uranium, copper and other critical minerals.

In his first term in the White House, Trump reduced Bears Ears from roughly 1.35 million acres to roughly 228,000 acres, and Grand Staircase-Escalante from about 1.87 million acres to roughly 1 million acres. In this summer’s

bigger round of cuts, he shrank Bears Ears to about 121,000 acres and Grand Staircase-Escalante to about 182,000 acres.

State leaders have long said the monuments are too expansive and restrictive. Utah’s

Republican governor, House speaker and congressional delegation joined Trump in the Oval Office as he signed the orders.

Former President Bill Clinton designated Grand Staircase-Escalante in 1996. Bears

Ears, established by then President Barack Obama in 2016, was the first monument in the nation created at the urging of Native American Tribes to whom the land is sacred. — **Annie Knox, Utah News Dispatch**

Rancho Armendariz receives New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award

Rancho Armendariz of Cuervo, NM, has been selected as the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award recipient.

The \$10,000 award honors farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

Carlos and Nelia Armendariz, who own and operate Rancho Armendariz and A&G Family Meats, were presented with the award at the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts’ 80th Annual Meeting in Albuquerque on Oct. 20.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present Leopold Conservation Awards to private landowners in 28 states. In New Mexico the award is presented with New Mexico Association of Conser-

vation Districts, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, and Quivira Coalition.

Carlos and Nelia Armendariz immigrated from Mexico in 1989 with little more than determination and a deep respect for the land. With their two young sons, Jim and Jovani, they worked hard as ranch hands and sheepherders, learning, saving, and quietly nurturing a dream of their own.

By 2002, they acquired a small grazing lease for 12 head of cattle. Years of experience had taught them that if they took care of the land, it would take care of them.

Many of the properties the Armendariz family first leased were in poor ecological condition. Overuse had left them with spots of bare ground, low vegetation diversity and declining forage productivity. Within a few years of thoughtful grazing management and

timely rains, these parcels transitioned into productive, biologically diverse grassland savannas.

Their stewardship caught the attention of landowners who agreed to lease the Armendarizes more land. Eventually, they were able to purchase their own land. Since then, the family has built more than a ranch, but a legacy.

Rancho Armendariz and its leased properties consist of 14,000 acres spread across De Baca, Guadalupe, Quay and Roosevelt counties.

Since 2017, the family has installed nine solar pumps, four miles of water pipelines, 14 watering facilities, and more than nine miles of cross fencing. All these upgrades were to improve the grazing distribution of their 250 beef cattle.

The use of telemetry water-level sensors monitors water levels in remote storage tanks which saves time and money. The recent deployment of 350 virtual fencing collars on cattle has enabled precision grazing at a scale rarely seen in this

region. Rotational grazing and the creation of 32 erosion control structures promote soil health and biodiverse range conditions.

The investment in vegetation management and restoration at Rancho Armendariz has been equally significant. More than 5,000 acres of mesquite and juniper have been removed, reducing the risk of wildfire while conserving soil moisture. Another 700 acres of prescribed burning has allowed native grasses to reestablish, which provides increased forage for grazing and enhanced wildlife habitat.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the beef supply chain, the Armendarizes founded A&G Family Meats, a direct-to-consumer meat company. Selling grass-finished beef, lamb and pork has strengthened the ranch’s economic resilience.

Carlos and Nelia encouraged their sons to pursue degrees in agriculture-related fields. Jim went on to serve as state rangeland management specialist for the USDA Natu-

ral Resources Conservation Service. Jovani is a veterinarian. Together, with their education, experience, work ethic and passion for conservation, they round out a strong ranch team.

True ambassadors for conservation and agriculture, the Armendariz family is eager to share what they’ve learned and have been instrumental in helping others embrace conservation practices.

But this family’s story is not just about cattle or conservation, it’s a tale of grit and grace across generations.

Vincen Cordova, the chairman of the Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District had this to say about the family’s selection for the New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award: “With this recommendation, we do not just honor a ranching family. We honor dreamers, doers, mentors, and pioneers. A family who reminds us that the American Dream is alive and well—and sometimes, that dream wears boots and a cowboy hat.” — **Sand County Foundation**



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Commissioners expected to decide case by mid-November

LAMB HEARING (from page 1)

Wyoming rancher Brad Boner described the difficulties producers face when lamb prices fall and buyers are hard to find. Although prices improved in late 2025, he said many ranchers remain hesitant to expand their flocks without some assurance that stronger markets will continue.

Carson Jorgensen, a sixth-generation Utah sheep rancher representing Protect American Lamb, said imports have

steadily displaced domestic production. He urged commissioners to include growers and feeders in their injury analysis, arguing that the loss of a domestic meat sale ultimately affects the rancher who raised the animal.

Supporters also argued that the decline in domestic processing capacity has created a cycle in which ranchers have fewer places to market their animals, while processors struggle to secure enough American-raised lamb to operate efficiently.

Carlos Barba, vice president of sales for Superior Farms, testified that 2024 was the company's most difficult financial year in more than six decades. He said the employee-owned processor faces delayed investments and the possibility of closing a plant.

Other processors described canceled investments, lost customers and pressure to match import prices even when domestic production costs are higher.

Commissioners question causes

Commissioners pressed witnesses on whether imports were the primary cause of the industry's problems or whether other factors, including drought, labor shortages, predators and declining wool revenue, played a greater role.

Domestic producers acknowledged those challenges but maintained that import competition has made recovery harder.

Commissioners also examined whether American producers could rebuild their flocks quickly enough to re-

place imported supplies if trade restrictions were imposed. Boner estimated rebuilding could take six to eight years, depending on market conditions and producers' willingness to retain breeding ewes.

Another question was whether imported and domestic lamb compete for the same customers. Supporters of import restrictions pointed to responses the ITC collected from companies that purchase lamb, including meat processors, retailers and foodservice suppliers. Those responses showed that domestic and imported lamb often compete for the same sales. Supporters argued that purchasers use lower-priced imports to negotiate discounts from American suppliers or choose imported lamb instead.

Exporters challenge claims

Representatives from Australia and New Zealand challenged claims that imports are responsible for declining U.S. lamb production, arguing that foreign supplies have helped

keep lamb available to American consumers rather than taking sales away from domestic producers.

Australian Ambassador Greg Moriarty said U.S. sheep numbers have been declining for decades because of factors including drought, changing wool markets and higher production costs. He argued that imports have helped keep lamb available in supermarkets and restaurants despite reduced domestic supply.

Exporters also challenged the assumption that domestic and imported lamb are interchangeable.

Brian Holland of Greenstone Meats, which processes American lamb and imports product, explained that many retailers and restaurants require smaller, uniform cuts that domestic producers cannot consistently supply in sufficient quantities.

Kate Acland, chair of Beef + Lamb New Zealand, said differences in production systems also influence purchasing decisions. She said New Zealand's pasture-raised lamb generally produces smaller, leaner carcasses, while many American lambs are grain-finished and

marketed at heavier weights.

Economists opposing safeguards presented an analysis attributing much of the domestic industry's performance to drought, labor costs and domestic supply constraints rather than imports. However, commissioners questioned aspects of that analysis, including the assumptions used in its economic modeling, and requested additional supporting information.

Decision expected in November

Ben Lehfeldt, president of ASI, told Western Ag Network that he believed the timing was right to bring the industry's case before the commission and that the association felt confident in its position.

Next, the parties must submit post-hearing briefs to the ITC. Commissioners are expected to vote by Nov. 13. An affirmative determination would move the investigation into the remedy phase, where possible import restrictions or other relief measures would be considered. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ/contributing editor**

BLM conducts horse gathers in October

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was set to conduct several wild horse gathers in the western U.S. during mid-October.

BLM began emergency operations Oct. 20 to gather approximately 140 horses from the Riddle Mountain Horse Management Area (HMA) in southeastern Oregon. While the agency intended to gather a larger number of horses last month due to impacts from the Bald Mountain Wildfire, wild horse advocates obtained a temporary restraining order that paused operations.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon issued a preliminary injunction Oct. 15 that allowed BLM to collect one-third of the intended horses, leaving 278 horses on the HMA.

"Our priority is to protect as many of these horses as we're allowed," said Don Rotell, Burns District manager, in a statement. "We need to act before late fall rain limits access."

BLM estimates that about half of the Riddle Mountain HMA lost forage due to the fire. The HMA has an associated management level (AML) of 33-56 horses but was assessed to have a population of 348 head as of March.

Pryor Mountain range

BLM was set to gather horses in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in southern Montana on or around Oct. 19. The most recent population estimate in the range is about 185 horses, whereas the area can only support about 107-120 horses.

"Current overpopulation is contributing to deteriorating upland health, riparian/wetland health, and habitat for native plants and animals, primarily because the herd size has been above what the land can support for most of the past 50 years," BLM said.

The agency planned to gather about 100 horses and remove up to 37 for placement into private care. The gather was set to be conducted using a temporary corral containing

bait and water to attract the animals. Mares that are gathered and not removed were to be treated with fertility control before being released back to the range.

North Complex

BLM began its helicopter drive-trap horse gather of the North Complex in Washoe County, NV, on Oct. 17. The complex comprises the Dogskin Mountains, Flanigan and Granite Peak HMAs and is located about 30 miles north of Reno, NV.

The North Complex has an AML of 101-157 horses but was estimated to contain about 424 horses. As of Oct. 19, BLM had gathered about 90 head.

Recent wildfires have reduced the suitability of the areas for the Dogskin Mountain and Grant Peak HMAs, the agency said.

"Animal conditions in the Dogskin Mountains, Flanigan, and Granite Peak HMAs are declining due to range degradation and lack of sustainable water resources," BLM said. "Regular monitoring has occurred in the complex to observe wild horse body condition and range and water conditions."

Sulphur HMA

BLM concluded its Sulphur HMA horse gather in western Utah on Oct. 17, gathering about 260 horses. The AML for the Sulphur herd is 165-250 horses but the HMA was estimated to hold about 560 horses.

"Forage and water are increasingly scarce, and the land is struggling to sustain the herd's basic needs," BLM said. "Without action, continued strain on this fragile landscape could lead to long term damage and further loss of essential resources."

Horses gathered during the BLM operations will be transported to off-range holding facilities. Some horses may later be available for adoption through BLM's horse and burro adoption program. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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Lot 89
BW: 2.4
WW: 102
YW: 165
M: 30
\$B: 161

Jordan N918
Reg: 21351793

Lot 145
BW: 3.0
WW: 93
YW: 154
M: 30
\$B: 210

Relentless N956
Reg: 21345726

Lot 146
BW: -0.1
WW: 75
YW: 134
M: 43
\$B: 179

Prolific N538
Reg: 21346972

Lot 149
BW: 2.6
WW: 76
YW: 125
M: 24
\$B: 126

Authority N445
Reg: 21343348

Lot 157
BW: 2.2
WW: 82
YW: 138
M: 32
\$B: 189

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(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.)

Nov. 18—Applications are currently open for the Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program. Host ranch applications are due Oct. 31, while student intern applications must be submitted by Nov. 18. Angus breeders and students interested in more details may visit tinyurl.com/yunna6j8.

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SALE REPORTS

MONTANA RANCH SALE
Oct. 14, Bigfork, MT
60 Angus total registered
live lots \$27,483
39 Angus embryos... 2,458
20 Units of Angus
semen 720
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
Sale Manager:
SaleRing.Live

TOPS—Angus bred heifers: Montana Forever Lady 5050, 2/23/2025 by Montana Judgement 5050; to Flying Pig Ranch, Rocky View, AB, \$150,000. Montana Blackbird 5024, 2/22/2025 by LT Chosen 2132; to Rafter B, Hamilton, MT, \$95,000. Montana Lucy 5301, 6/16/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to Glenmary Farms, Rapidan, VA, \$85,000. Montana MadamePride 5104, 2/22/2025 by LT Chosen 2152; to Roberts Ranch, Raub, ND, \$85,000. **Spring pairs:** Montana Rita 3070, 2/14/2023 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Flying Pig Ranch, Rocky View, AB, \$200,000. Montana Rita 9052, 4/7/2019 by S A V Resource 1441; to ZWT Ranch, Crossville, TN, and Voss Angus, Dexter, IA, \$65,000. Montana Donna 2275, 7/6/2022 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Rafter B, Hamilton, MT, \$50,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

NILE RED ANGUS SALE
Oct. 16, Billings, MT

11 Red Angus bred heifers \$9,000
21 Red Angus spring open heifers 6,261
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
Sale Manager: Thomas
Livestock Services
TOPS—Red Angus bred heifers: Feddes Blockana 385-528, 1/22/2025 by C-T Markets Up 2119; to Big D Land and Cattle, Haviland, KS, \$13,000. C-T Verdi 5005, 1/18/2025 by C-T Reputation 0094; to Dan Chapell, Mill Hall, PA, \$13,000. DKK Impress 5096, 1/26/2025 by CK Thor SX 2071; to Walking K Cattle, Milford, NE, \$13,000. **Spring open heifers:** HRR Idessa 610, 2/24/2025 by Red Flying K Lightning 19M; to Milk Creek Reds, Plevna, MT, \$11,000. 3C Reagan 6078, 2/2/2026 by 3C Revitalize 3112; to Paul Guenzler, Ronan, MT, \$9,250. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

BASIN ANGUS RANCH FEMALE SALE
Oct. 17, Billings, MT
1 Angus bull \$900,000
84 Angus total registered females 24,875
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS—Bull: Basin Legacy 6201, 1/13/2026 by Pollard Hennessey 3920; to GKB Cattle, Desdemona, TX; Colyer Angus and Herefords, Bruneau, ID; Dal Porto Livestock, Brewster, NE;

Branch View Angus, Hustonville, KY; Kuck Ranch, Bertrand, NE; Lonesome River Ranch, Anselmo, NE; Markota Angus Ranch, Lisbon, OH; Poss Angus, Scotia, NE; A&B Cattle, Bassett, NE; and Sellman Ranch, Crawford, NE, \$900,000. **Bred cows:** Basin Rita 2003, 1/6/2022 by Basin Payweight Plus 6048; to Jason Parker, Malad City, ID, and Stellpflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$450,000. GDAR Blackcap Lady 2258, 2/14/2022 by Brooks GDAR Bardolier 0239; to Hopson Angus, Crescent, OK, \$110,000. **Spring open heifers:** Basin Lucy 6149, 1/11/2026 by Basin Jameson 1076; to Willekes Angus, Choteau, MT, \$150,000. Basin Blackcap Lady 6363, 2/1/2026 by Pollard Hennessey 3920; to Jason Parker, Malad City, ID, and Stellpflug Cattle Co., Guernsey, WY, \$120,000. Basin Rita 6272, 1/20/2026 by RSA True Balance 1311; to Pollard Farms, Enid, OK, \$110,000. Basin Joy 6014, 12/17/2025 by Basin Rangeland 3511; to GKB Cattle, Desdemona, TX, \$95,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

THOMAS ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
Oct. 15, Baker City, OR
113 Angus bulls \$12,850
65 Angus females ... 8,977
5 Angus pregnancies 22,800

Auctioneers: Trent Stewart & Rick Machado
Sale Managers: Cotton & Assoc.

TOPS—Angus bulls: Thomas Lifeline 5191, 5/13/2025 by EXAR Lifeline 2621B; to Roen Livestock, Bishop, CA, \$30,000. Thomas Jameson 5187, 5/12/2025 by Basin Jameson 1076; to Roen Livestock, Bishop, CA, \$28,000. Thomas Salvation 5332, 5/23/2025 by SG Salvation; to Signature Farms, Coloma, WI, \$26,000. **Open heifers:** Thomas Blackbird 5263, 5/19/2025 by BNWZ Validity 2491; to The 808 Ranch, Bentonville, AR, \$38,000. Thomas Juana Erica 5435, 6/12/2025 by Pyramid Highland 2401; to Steve Bianchi, Valley Falls, CA, \$16,500. **Pregnancies:** EZAR Rita 1502,

1/23/2027 by Stellpflug Bighorn; to Spruce Mountain Ranch, Larkspur, CO, \$25,000. EZAR Rita 1502, 3/6/2027 by BAR Dominion 464M; to Vintage Angus Ranch, Modesto, CA, \$25,000. Vintage Rita 5022, 1/23/2027 by Stellpflug Bighorn; to Edisto Pines Farm, Leesville, SC, \$25,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

LAMBERT RANCH BULL SALE
Oct. 17, Oroville, CA
30 Hereford bulls... \$10,533
11 Angus bulls 9,227
13 SimAngus bulls ... 8,962
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
TOPS: Lambert Duke 79N, 2/25/2025 by Pyramid Highland 2401; to Steve Bianchi, Valley Falls, CA, \$16,500. Lambert Scotchman 61N, 2/19/2025 by

Pyramid Highland 2401; to California bull buyer, \$15,500. Lambert Jazz 53N, 2/19/2025 by CMF LR 97B Jazz 712J; to Justin Fields, Morgan Hill, CA, \$15,500. Lambert Jazz 31N, 2/15/2025 by CMF LR 97B Jazz 712J; to Dave Daley, Butte County, CA, \$15,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

WESTERN STOCKMAN'S MARKET SALE
Oct. 17, Macfarland, CA
33 Angus bulls. \$10,764
2 UltraBlack bulls ... 10,000
6 Red Angus bulls ... 8,458
11 SimAngus bulls ... 7,886
2 Brangus bulls 7,750
3 Charolais bulls 6,867
6 Simmental bulls ... 6,542
2 Shorthorn bulls 5,625
Auctioneer: Justin Mebane



VIDEO AUCTION

Oct. 15, Hudson Oaks, TX

All classes sold steady to higher than the last test at Superior Livestock Auction's Oct. 15 video auction, where producers offered 27,947 head into a market with stronger overall demand than two weeks earlier.

Cattle were consigned from 26 states and drew 78 successful buyers. Cattle sold on contract to deliver immediately through April 2027.

Southern feeders led the advance, selling steady to \$20/

cwt higher than the last offering. A set of 840-pound feeder steers out of Oklahoma brought \$337/cwt, or approximately \$2,831 a head. Weaned program calves drew strong demand, with a set of 500-lb. weaned steers out of Oregon bringing \$500/cwt, or approximately \$2,500 a head. Beef-dairy cross cattle sold steady with the last offering. USDA reported demand good and October feeder cattle futures closing \$3 higher than at Superior's Oct. 1 auction. "Moisture across a majority of

the wheat pasture country and California pasture land fueled a much stronger demand for grazing weight cattle in all regions," said Ralph Wade, auctioneer for Superior Livestock Auction. Recent rainfall improved conditions across the Southern Plains, producers are beginning to see wheat come up and grass pastures are greening again. The futures board, fall moisture and the supply of cattle still to come will guide the market over the next 30 days.



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

Nov. 5 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Nov. 7 – World of Bulls & CLM, Bull & Female Sale, Galt, CA
Nov. 19 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Dec. 3 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX

ANGUS

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. 5 – Memory Ranches, Bull Sale, Wells, NV
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 – Arntzen 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 – Connealy Angus,

Bull Sale, Whitman, NE
Nov. 20 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bred Female Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Nov. 21 – Baldridge/ Tiedeman & Frank Cattle Co., Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Nov. 21 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO
Nov. 21 – Redland Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 21 – Spring Cove Ranch, Female Sale, Bliss, ID
Nov. 21 – TLC Angus, Bull Sale, Jerome, ID
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
Dec. 1 – Stevenson Angus, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
Dec. 1 – ZumBrunnen Angus, Bull Sale, Lusk, WY
Dec. 2 – McDonnell Angus, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 3 – Sitz Angus, Production Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 4 – KG Ranch, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 5 – Reverse Rocking R Ranch, Bull Sale, Maxwell, NM
Dec. 7 – Hollow Top Angus, Bull Sale, Pony, MT
Dec. 7 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 9 – Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinkook, MT

BRANGUS

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

HEREFORD

Nov. 12 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Nov. 19 – Largent & Sons, Bull Sale, Kaycee, WY
Nov. 23 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY

OPTIMIZER

Dec. 7 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

RED ANGUS

Nov. 5 – Memory Ranches, Bull Sale, Wells, NV
Nov. 21 – Baldridge/ Tiedeman & Frank Cattle Co., Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Dec. 3 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Female Sale, Three Forks, MT

SALERS

Dec. 7 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SIMANGUS

Nov. 4 – Hornung Livestock, Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Nov. 12 – JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Dec. 5 – Montana Simmental Association, Female Sale, Billings, MT

SIMMENTAL

Dec. 1 – Reflected R Ranch, Female Dispersal Sale, Ordway, CO
Dec. 5 – Montana Simmental Association, Female Sale, Billings, MT

STABILIZER

Nov. 20 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY
Dec. 5 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 5 – Weaver Ranch, Female Sale, Lewistown, MT
Nov. 6 – Western Video Market Auction, Amarillo, TX
Nov. 7 – World of Bulls & CLM, Bull & Female Sale, Galt, CA
Nov. 13 – Arntzen 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
Dec. 2 – Western Video Market Auction, Reno, NV

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Feeder Cattle.....	12pm

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NATIONWIDE 5141
Prolific x Forever Lady 7038 (Foundation)
BW +1.1 / WW +81 / YW +131 / \$M +112



NEWSLINE 5037
Armstrong x Donna 4356 (Charlo)
BW +0.6 / WW +80 / YW +134 / \$M +107



NARRATIVE 5092
Clarion x Rita 9093 (Resource)
BW +2.9 / WW +77 / YW +128 / \$M +93



NETWORK 5036
Grant x Donna 4356 (Charlo)
BW +1.7 / WW +90 / YW +159 / \$M +122



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