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WATER WORKS — California water regulators approve water right permit for the Sites Reservoir. Page 4

WOLF THREAT — Colorado Parks and Wildlife lethally removes three uncollared gray wolves after chronic livestock depredations. Page 6

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY "A lot of history has been made so far this month. We have a new President in the White House after one of the most bitterest political campaigns in history. Undoubtedly, business was affected by the campaign and now that it's all over, it's time to assess the future and return to a more normal national life," wrote Nelson Crow in his November 1952 "Observations by the Publisher."

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USDA advances plan to expand grazing access

— Rule open for public comment

USDA is continuing its efforts to expand grazing access for American ranchers.

On Nov. 10, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum announced a USDA proposed rule to update grazing permit issuance, eligibility and qualifications, along with revising grazing fee provisions.



Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

USDA and the Department of the Interior are proposing a rule to better align USDA and U.S. Forest Service grazing regulations. Pictured here, cattle in Oregon with Steens Mountain in the background.

The proposal aligns with USDA's recent actions to expand grazing on federal lands, including its October 2025 Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry, a memorandum with the Interior on advancing grazing on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and a letter encouraging ranchers to take advantage of a June Grazing Directive.

"I am proud to work with the Department of the Interior as we support hard working ranchers, the backbone of this country's history and a vital engine that drives economic vitality in rural communities, while putting healthy protein on American tables," Rollins said. "America's ranchers are tough professionals who care for the land and are proud of their tradition of stewardship that strengthens the fabric of this nation."

Burgum said that aligning the departments' grazing rules gives ranchers more certainty and helps lower costs for families.

USFS allows livestock grazing on nearly 40% of its 193 million agency-managed acres, USDA said.

See GRAZING RULES on page 15

Judge overturns permit for Lake Ringgold in Texas

— Ag groups applaud ruling

A Texas district judge has overturned the state water permit for the proposed Lake Ringgold reservoir in Clay County, TX, giving a victory to the ranchers and landowners who have spent years fighting the project.

On Oct. 9, Judge Maya Guerra Gamble reversed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) decision to approve the reservoir proposed by the city of Wichita Falls. The court's order reverses the commission's approval of the Water Use Permit. However, the two-page decision does not explain the judge's reasoning or identify which arguments persuaded the court.

The ruling marks another setback for a project that has divided Wichita Falls officials and Clay County landowners over future water supplies, private property rights and the loss of productive ranchland.

Years of opposition

Plans for Lake Ringgold date back to 1958, but Wichita Falls renewed its interest following the severe drought from 2011-15, when existing reservoirs reached historically low levels.

The city submitted its permit application in 2017, proposing a 275,000-acre-foot reservoir on the Little Wichita River, downstream from Kickapoo and Arrowhead lakes. The reservoir would cover approximately 15,500 acres of surface area, with additional land affected by the project. Wichita Falls sought authorization to divert up to 65,000 acre-feet annually for municipal, industrial,

See RINGGOLD on page 13

Senate advances bill overhauling federal permitting regulations

— Ag supports portions

The Senate moved forward with legislation that would reshape federal permitting, setting deadlines for agency decisions and changing environmental and endangered species reviews that can affect farms, ranches and public lands.

Senators voted 62-21 Nov. 10 to begin consideration of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA), following a 73-25 procedural vote Nov. 9. Neither vote constituted final passage, according to Senate records.

The action followed the Nov. 7 release of a manager's substitute amendment by Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). The revisions address concerns raised since the bill's September introduction.

Kaitlynn Glover, executive director of the Public Lands Council (PLC) and executive director of natural resources for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), told *WLJ* the groups sought reforms beyond energy projects, including grazing permits and post-fire recovery. She said changes to endangered species consultation, historic preservation and environmental reviews address longstanding permitting problems ranchers face across federal agencies.

NEPA and delays

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), a Washington-based nonprofit policy organization, said BAAJA would narrow which projects would require National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews and establish deadlines for decisions.

Existing law gives agencies one year to complete an environmental assessment and two years for an environmental impact statement. BAAJA would also set deadlines for the decisions that follow: 45 days to issue a formal decision after an impact statement, followed by 90 days for remaining approvals from agencies involved in the review and 120 days for other agencies.

Glover said overlapping requirements and years of piecemeal updates have made permitting harder to navigate. NEPA should guide agencies in reviewing a project's environmental effects without dictating whether it moves forward, she said, so "the process isn't the reason that we stop."

BAAJA would give parties 150 days to challenge a NEPA review and require agencies to correct flawed reviews while leaving project approvals in place. Glover said those changes could reduce delays caused by threatened lawsuits,

See PERMITTING on page 10

Cattle market recovers some of its losses

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

News of Tyson reopening the second production shift at its Amarillo, TX, plant sent the markets higher at the beginning of the week.

Live cattle futures were able to recover some of the losses from the prior week. The December contract gained about $4 to close at $218.90, and the February contract gained about $5 to close at $222.95.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 2,000 head. Live steers sold from $210-216, and dressed steers sold from $330-335.

"Packer interest is still fairly light for the week, so it's quite possible that trade could be delayed until Friday," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

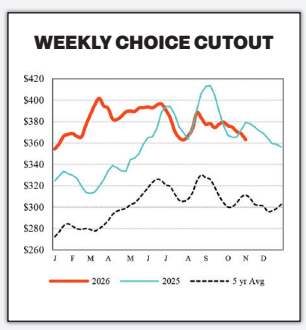
Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 8 totaled 69,555 head. Live steers averaged $210.11, and dressed steers averaged $329.67.

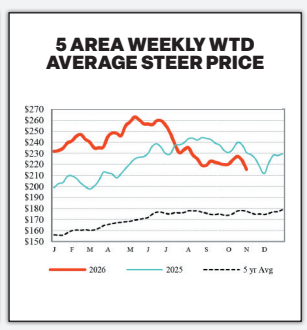
Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 435,000 head, compared to 430,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 534,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Oct. 31 was 546,558 head. The average steer dressed weight was 995 lbs., up 4 lbs. from the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were lower over the week. The Choice cutout lost about $4 to close at $357.59, and the Select cutout lost about $4 to close at $348.71.

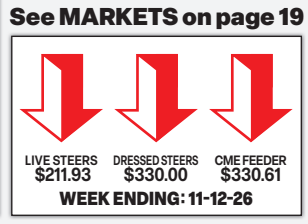
"The processors are turning the management of the weekly slaughter number into a professionally orchestrated work of art—holding beef prices in check while breaking the cash markets, leading to some of the best margins this year," the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday. "The weekly slaughter continues to reflect efficient plant utilization."

The lean beef trim contracts were unchanged over the week, with the 50% lean beef trim November at $85.30 and the 90% lean beef trim November contract lost at $376.





See MARKETS on page 19



COMMENTS

Lessons from history



DALEY

The day after the election, I flew through Sacramento to Seattle, and then onto Kennewick, WA, as the Public Lands Council representative to the Washington Cattlemen's Association (WCA) annual meeting. WCA had a great convention, working on many of the challenges so many of us face.

Like most of you, I was raised by my dad and mom as a conservative Republican, and still vote that way on almost every issue. I believe in private property rights, strong defense and small government. I understand the complicated relationship in the West where much of the land is controlled by the federal government and, by law, is public land for multiple use, including grazing. My family has grazed cattle in the Sierra Nevada since before there was a U.S. Forest Service, so the issue of public lands grazing is deeply ingrained.

I traveled with my dad between ranches nearly every day when I was small. He taught me the value of hard work and responsibility, but he also showed me compassion for others. He believed more in a hand up than a handout, but his nature was to help people. I remember taking produce from our garden to the "rescue mission for the hobos," as he called them. I would cringe when he would slow down for rough-looking hitchhikers. Sometimes he loaded them in front, which made a little guy nervous. If I was lucky, they jumped in the back. Whether it was a drink of water, or a couple of bucks, he helped others. It was only when he was in his 80s that we talked him out of the hitchhiker routine!

He would be shocked to see the state of our country today. When did we become so divided that we have to hate people for disagreeing politically?

As I traveled through airports a few days ago, I didn't see good people and bad people, just people. Old couples holding hands and talking, young couples looking at their phones rather than each other, blue and pink hair, jocks with shirts intentionally too small to show their biceps (still not sure I would hire them to haul hay!), young women in pajamas (!?), Mennonites, Muslims, Amish, glamour girls, families juggling three kids, punk rockers with piercings, and two cowboy hats—I was one!

Everyone was polite, respectful and navigated security with a smile. Just people. We didn't talk politics, and I don't know how or if they voted. But my guess, if they did vote, it was for what they thought was best for them and their community. We assume there is some big overarching issue, and there is for some, but it is mostly personal. The price of fuel, food, insurance, healthcare. If the economy is strong, the status quo wins. If not, well, we saw the result.

Between the algorithms on social media, and cable news networks, both sides have decided that if we don't agree, we are enemies. Social media feeds you information (often false), to get clicks. The model is designed to divide us—the more you click, the more extreme it becomes. That is disheartening and it is easy to fall in the trap of hating others. Our current crop of politicians, on both sides of the aisle, don't help.

I love the stories of President Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill, speaker of the House, from decades ago. O'Neill was one of the most powerful politicians in the country, elected to serve in the former seat of John F. Kennedy. Reagan and O'Neill fought like hell for what they believed and were tough on each other all day. They were both of Irish descent, with great senses of humor, and became great friends. At 6 p.m., they turned off the animosity and enjoyed each other's company. They would have a whiskey and play golf together. When President Reagan was shot, the first person to go see him besides family was Tip. He kissed Reagan's forehead and recited the 23rd psalm.

With our divided country, can you imagine that happening today? And yet, my trip through the airport reminded me that when we don't live in algorithms or wrap ourselves in social media bubbles, we might remember that we are just people who can fight for what we believe but not be hateful.

Unfortunately, I'm not sure we will ever return to a less polarized time, but we can try to do better as individuals. Fight for what you believe, and it's OK to have strong opinions, but don't hate others simply if you disagree. Name calling isn't appropriate in little kids, so why do we tolerate it from our leaders?

I'm not looking forward to the next two years of complete dysfunction by leaders who are more interested in appearing on cable news for self-promotion. I know there are some good people in Congress, but it seems the approach of social media and cable news is to appeal to the worst extremes. I would venture to guess there is 80% of the country who can agree on many basic things. But the current model rewards the loudest voices and insults to their fellow man.

I only hope we can do better. I will try. — **DR. DAVE DALEY**

(Dr. Dave Daley is a fifth-generation rancher from Butte County, CA.)



DITTMER'S TAKE

SOME POST-ELECTION CHANGE IN AMERICA

The midterm results will spark a whole list of issues for businesses—and agriculture.

One of the first questions is whether congressional Republicans will take advantage of the remaining weeks of their majority in the lame duck session. Tax cuts like indexing capital gains and other cuts, plus the SAVE Act/election security, for example. Accomplishing little during the second year of their majority under President Donald Trump was frustrating for some and left little to show.

Then will come the government funding continuing resolution expiring Dec. 11. There could be a government shutdown right off the bat, derailing the lame duck and jumpstarting Democrat ambitions.

In 2027, the overall atmosphere in Washington will be different. The chairmen of all committees in both houses will change, as will the agendas. The Democrats do not favor improving business conditions. They have already been circulating a 181-page plan on how to attack and harass a long list of corporations and CEOs with subpoenas and hearings. So much for economic growth and "affordability."

It is more difficult than usual to project American immediate political future as we've never had this quantity of boldly radical socialist/Communist incoming legislators joining other left-leaning legislators at once. The establishment Democrat party will likely provide quite a drama on how its moderates absorb the radical newcomers or whether the radicals will take over the party.

The Republicans will have their own drama thrashing out differences between adherents of Trump's policies and those who oppose them.

But the gap between Republican policies and Democrat policies have probably never been bigger. For agriculture, border policy could be an issue. Sources are saying the tight border policy could be threatened, as Democrats try to soften policy and deportation efforts. The cartels in Mexico are said by some to be already preparing to exploit such possibilities. The incoming governor in Texas campaigned against cooperating with ICE.

The Democrats' opposition to big business could turn on the beef industry's production chain and damage its ability to satisfy demand. It could boost the nascent anti-trust campaign on the major packers, in a bid—they think—to lower beef prices. As with many Democrat/socialist economic ideas, such moves would do the opposite, by harassing or breaking up the lowest cost producers, splintering national production, raising costs and complicating supply chains.

While there is a place for medium and smaller processors, in serving geographic locations far from the big packers and producing for small and niche markets, the big packers cannot do profitably in small quantities.

The economics of beef demand, as with all products and services, depend on producing a desirable product at prices target consumers can afford. Splintering the beef processing chain from a couple dozen big plants into many smaller plants and companies would put severe upward pressure on processing costs and in turn, on beef prices, thus lessening the size of the consumer market that could afford beef. It would leave cattlemen dependent on processors less able to pay top prices and survive difficult downturns.

As I've often said, we can't repeal the laws of economics. Just because politicians might want to do so, doesn't mean they can or that they realize they can't. Even under a Republican administration, the federal government has been tinkering with the operation of free market capitalism, using taxpayer money to distort the meat processing industry. The government is funneling taxpayer money to provide competition to existing, taxpaying corporations.

The big packers produce a great product at the best, large-scale pricing available. There are some pros for cattlemen to having more small packers: additional bids, reaching into geography not near the big plants, supplying small packers serving customers that can afford to pay more and supplying niche markets some people want. Cons: using taxpayer money to support certain companies seems un-American, and possibly splitting the consumer market too many ways could hamper innovation and resiliency and raise the cost of beef to many average consumers. To be fair, the administration has done that already with some strategic industries, justifying it because of national security interests.

The big packers are stronger financially because they are—mostly—publicly traded companies with access to major capital. A couple of packers were ahead of Trump's efforts to bring foreign capital into America, with JBS and the owners of National Beef coming in to bring capital, expertise and hire U.S. workers to serve the American market and consumers around the world. Only Cargill is still a privately owned company. — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

GUEST OPINION

THE VIRTUAL FENCING GOLD RUSH

The virtual fencing gold rush is happening. And the pace is accelerating. On the face of it, this is a good thing. The benefits of virtual fencing are numerous. From an economic perspective, it allows for flexible, precise grazing, which lets producers increase their grass utilization. It also saves cost and labor: producers no longer have to build fence across rough terrain or physically move cattle. On the conservation side, the potential feels almost limitless. Virtual fencing can support rotational grazing, remove physical barriers for wildlife, protect riparian areas, reduce predator conflict and collect valuable data.

So, what's the problem? When the real California gold rush happened, the merchants selling supplies got rich, not the miners doing the work. The virtual fencing gold rush threatens the same dynamic for ranchers, for three reasons: the subscription model sends a larger share of the benefits to tech companies, murky data ownership practices that ranchers have real reason not to trust and the risk that cheaper labor could make vertical integration of cow-calf production cost-effective for the first time.

Most virtual fencing companies use a subscription model. Rather than the rancher owning the technology or holding equity in it, they pay a yearly fee for each collar. Right now, virtual fencing companies are competing for market share in a new market. The current incentive is to provide a product that differentiates itself from other companies on merit to build market share. However, it is not hard to imagine virtual fencing companies slowly increasing the price of subscriptions and squeezing ranchers as they become reliant on the technology. In a perfectly competitive market, ranchers would just switch providers, but that's a lot easier said than done. Once a rancher has sunk capital into one company's system, the effort to switch is significant.

Additionally, with the news that virtual fencing companies are taking investment from funds like Peter Thiel's Founders Fund, the question of who controls the data becomes even more pressing. If a tech company owning your grazing data is concerning on its face, this raises the stakes considerably. Who will have access to that data, and what will they do with it? While right now leadership of virtual fencing companies is often comprised of people who have worked in livestock agriculture, the influence of venture capital funds on decision-making is potentially concerning.

And for ranchers who aren't worried about what a company might do with their data, they still deserve the opportunity to monetize it themselves rather than watch a tech company profit from it instead. Your data is an asset and should be treated as such. Companies structure contracts with ranchers so that the company owns the rights to cattle behavioral data. Companies have been demoing a free "reproduction package" with early adapters. The package uses cattle behavior data to create algorithms which can detect everything from calving to open cows. But it won't be long before this feature is likely put behind a paywall. If companies are going to make money off it to create products, you should too.

The same labor savings that make virtual fencing attractive to individual ranchers could make it attractive to someone else entirely. Poultry and pork became almost entirely vertically integrated once concentrated animal feeding operations became common. Today, more than 90% of broiler chickens are raised under contract to an integrator that owns the birds, while the grower supplies only the land and the labor. Cow-calf production has resisted that model because cattle are spread across lots of land and the labor of moving, checking and managing them on pasture has been too costly and too decentralized for a distant company to control directly. Packers have used captive supply and forward contracts as a substitute for the full integration they've achieved in poultry and pork.

However, virtual fencing removes a meaningful piece of that labor burden. If it drives the cost of managing cattle low enough, it could tip the economics toward vertical integration. Or at the very least, companies like Walmart could use virtual fencing technology to monitor your cows and enforce supply chain compliance with their vision of what ranching should look like.

None of this means we should stop pursuing virtual fencing adoption. I'm still a believer in the technology's benefits. But with adoption accelerating, now is the time for business practices to get solidified. Educated ranchers making educated decisions can push the market toward a product where ranchers capture their fair share of the benefits virtual fencing delivers. — **Jack Newman, Montana Cattlemen's Association**

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Lot 1–SITZ Reliance 8335 Reg# 21256434
S: SITZ Foundation 9473 MGS: Lyons Manhattan 6205
CED 10 BW -0.4 WW 86 YW 139 SC 2.83 HP 18.7
Milk 31 Teat 0.55 Udder 0.55 Marb 0.85 REA 0.74
$M 137 $C 374



Lot 2–SITZ Hi-Range 12285 REG# 21261745
S: Ellingson Hi-Range MGS: SITZ Accomplishment 720F
CED 11 BW -0.3 WW 84 YW 144 SC 1.55 HP 10.4
Milk 28 Teat 0.65 Udder 0.60 Marb 0.67 REA 0.94
$M 91 $C 309



Lot 3–SITZ Centerfold 12055 Reg# 21237817
S: S Armstrong MGS: SITZ Barricade 632F
CED 10 BW -0.6 WW 84 YW 151 SC 1.28 HP 16.2
Milk 30 Teat 0.57 Udder 0.56 Marb 0.66 REA 1.16
$M 99 $C 367



Lot 4–SITZ Foundation 8025 Reg# 21256384
S: SITZ Foundation 9473 MGS: LT Confidante 8002
CED 5 BW 1.2 WW 77 YW 136 SC 1.15 HP 18.0
Milk 30 Teat 0.63 Udder 0.58 Marb 0.67 REA 1.02
$M 111 $C 346



Lot 5–SITZ Bandit 12435 Reg# 21234601
S: M Diamond Ranahan 111 MGS: SITZ Resilient 10208
CED 13 BW -1.6 WW 84 YW 144 SC 0.67 HP 16.8
Milk 29 Teat 0.31 Udder 0.28 Marb 1.04 REA 0.75
$M 111 $C 337



Lot 15–SITZ Heritage 10145 Reg# 21227277
S: SITZ Heritage 8732 MGS: SITZ Logo 8148
CED 12 BW -1.4 WW 75 YW 133 SC 1.23 HP 16.4
Milk 27 Teat 0.92 Udder 0.85 Marb 0.65 REA 1.17
$M 127 $M 329

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Testing livestock GPS tags as a tool for detecting predation events

A University of Wyoming (UW) Extension range specialist has partnered with producers in northwest Wyoming to test the use of GPS ear tags in tracking cattle movement and monitoring for predation events.

In areas where ranchers regularly suffer losses to predators like grizzlies and wolves, certain movement and behavior patterns can provide clues about whether livestock are responding to predator pressure and if a predation event has occurred.

For example, if a calf's ear tag indicates a high level of activity, then suddenly none at all, a predation event may have occurred, says Nicki Nimlos, UW Extension state rangeland management specialist. Using ear tag data, a range rider can quickly identify the location of the potential incident and investigate.

In June 2026, Nimlos worked with Crowheart ranchers Ben Rux, Alicia Rux and Alex Wheatcroft to tag 350 head of cattle, including calves, heifers and bulls, with solar-powered GPS ear tags manufactured by CERES TAG. Data was recorded and transmitted via Envu's RangeView software app.

The Ruxes, who have ranched in the area for more than two decades, run a cow-calf and heifer development operation as well as a sheep enterprise. Under a grazing permit shared with Wheatcroft, the Ruxes graze cattle on a U.S. Forest Service allotment each summer.

Predation significantly impacts their operation, Ben Rux reports. A 10% loss in calves due to predation is not uncommon.

"When they're on their summer grazing allotment in the mountains is overlapping with when grizzlies and wolves have high activity," Nimlos said. "We're trying to think creatively about how we can better manage in this challenging landscape."

Less than a week into the summer 2026 grazing season, the Ruxes used ear tag data to locate a calf that had moved away from the herd and then stopped moving. The carcass was later confirmed to have been killed by a grizzly.

"Locating and getting confirmation of a calf killed by a predator is sometimes difficult and finding a kill quickly is critical to having the evidence necessary to confirm the damage was caused by wolves or grizzly bears," Ben Rux said.

The Ruxes and their employees found and confirmed at least two kills that they might have missed without the tags. They were also able to respond more quickly when cattle behavior shifted due to predator activity.

"One challenge we have had is the predator pressure causing the cattle to move long distances in really short order, which can happen easily without our range riders knowing for a few days," Ben Rux explained. "This happened this summer and we knew immediately when the tags updated that the cattle were not where they belonged and were able to remedy the situation nearly immediately."

Like many new technologies, the ear tags came with both benefits and challenges, including issues with tag retention, waning battery life and infections around the tagging sites.

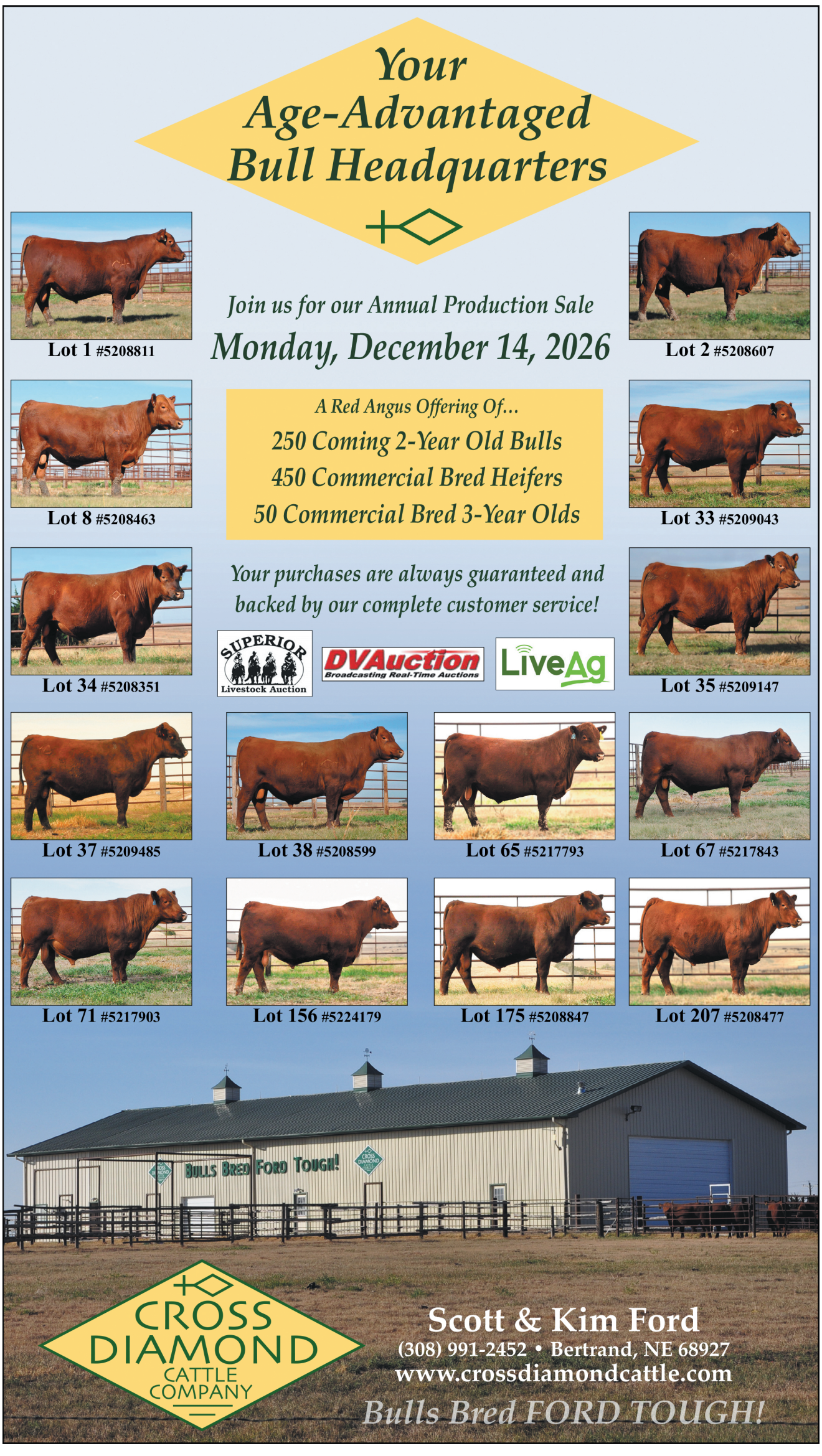
Still, the Ruxes found that experimenting with the tags and RangeView software provided a valuable opportunity to gather more data on their livestock's behavior and explore the opportunities and limitations associated with a new tool.

"We appreciate the opportunity to utilize the technology, and the assistance UW, Envu and CERES contributed on the project," Ben Rux said. "I feel like we tested one company's version of the technology in the real world and came away with some great insights into the interactions between predators and our livestock on our permit, and some recommendations on how the technology can better serve our needs in our environment."

He looks forward to collaborating with Nimlos on an ongoing rangeland monitoring and grazing utilization project informed by ear tag data.

CERES TAG and RangeView developers collaborated closely with Nimlos throughout the study. CERES provided in-kind support.

To learn more about this project and other rangeland research conducted by Nimlos' lab, contact her at nnimlos@uwyo.edu. — **UW Extension**



California approves permit for Sites Reservoir

California water regulators approved a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir, moving the proposed 1.5 million acre-foot project closer to construction and giving farms and communities another potential water source during dry years and prolonged supply shortages.

The State Water Resources Control Board's Nov. 4 decision diverts water from the Sacramento River for the reservoir in Glenn and Colusa counties. The board said it would be California's largest new reservoir in more than 50 years.

The permit allows diversions of up to 986,000 acre-feet annually between November and mid-June, subject to conditions. Water must be surplus to the needs of senior water right holders, Delta water quality and fish, according to the board.

Once built, Sites Reservoir will send water through canals and rivers to participating state and federal agencies, irrigation districts in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, and urban water suppliers in the Bay Area and Southern California.

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said the state's recent swings between drought and heavy storms show why more storage is needed. He pointed to the state's driest three-year period on record, from 2020 through 2022, followed by nine atmospheric rivers in three weeks.

"Sites Reservoir is a smart investment in our future, helping ensure our communities, farms, and wildlife have the water they need when it matters most," Newsom said. "Now it's time to get shovels in the ground."

For agricultural water users, the project's value would come largely during drought, when irrigation supplies become less dependable.

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass welcomed the approval, saying it gives the project greater certainty and could allow construction to begin next year.

"Sites is most critical for providing supplies in the dry years when water is otherwise scarce throughout the system," Douglass said.

She said the decision also demonstrates that major water projects remain possible in California with the right design, support and leadership.

Plans also include water for wildlife refuges and up to 200,000 acre-feet for use during emergency-declared droughts, according to the governor's office.

Environmental and tribal groups opposed the permit, citing concerns about cultural sites, river flows, water quality and salmon. Kasil Willie, policy director at Save California Salmon, told SFGATE the project overlaps ancestral Tribal territory and needs stronger protections.

"I don't know that it's a trade-off as much as a sacrifice of tribal cultural resources," Willie said.

Financing remains the next step toward construction. The governor's office said the Sites Project Authority and participating agencies must advance funding arrangements before work begins.

The board's approval covers Sacramento River diversions. Whether the Sites Reservoir may capture water from Funks and Stone Corral creeks will be considered separately at a hearing beginning in January 2027. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

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Are you asking the right questions about your BRD vaccine?

Every cattle operation faces different disease pressures, management challenges and high-risk periods. When it comes to managing bovine respiratory disease (BRD), choosing the right vaccine means looking beyond the pathogens listed on the label to understand how it performs, and whether it fits your herd's needs.

Working through these four key questions with your veterinarian can help you make more informed decisions about BRD vaccination:

1. What am I trying to accomplish with my BRD vaccination program?

Disease risk can change from year to year or even season to season. Before comparing vaccines, start by identifying the health challenges you're trying to address, and when calves are most likely to encounter them.

"It's all about risk and timing," explained Matt Washburn, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim. "To strategically vaccinate animals and build immunity, we need to have a clear understanding about what pathogens we're likely to encounter, and when we're likely to see them in our group. Our goal is to provide ample time and opportunity for the cattle to respond to the vaccine and build immunity."

To ensure proper vaccination timing, review vaccination protocols with your veterinarian at least once a year.

Reviewing herd records at the same time can identify opportunities to adjust vaccination timing, add protection against a new risk, or eliminate vaccines that are no longer necessary.

2. How is this vaccine designed to perform?

Not all BRD vaccines are designed to stimulate immunity the same way, which adds another layer to product choice. This differentiation can become especially important when building immunity in young calves.

Maternal antibodies passed through colostrum provide critical early protection against disease, but those same antibodies can interfere with and neutralize vaccine antigens. When vaccinating young calves, find a vaccine that can perform under those conditions.

"If you're thinking about using a vaccine in young calves, ask your veterinarian which products are proven with research to be valuable in building immunity," Washburn said.

It was once thought that injectable vaccines couldn't stimulate both local and systemic immunity, but research now shows otherwise.

"There are injectable vaccines with strong data and research to back up robust immunity against BRD in young calves," he added. "When BRD risk is a concern, this is a good conversation to have with your veterinarian before calves hit the ground."

3. What is an adjuvant, and how does it help?

You don't need to be a vaccine expert, but understanding how vaccines build immunity can inform your product decisions. One component worth discussing with your veterinarian is the adjuvant, which is designed to enhance and help direct the immune response generated by a vaccine.

"There are times when it's easy to be focused on the pathogen coverage, but then we overlook what an adjuvanted injectable vaccine can do for the protocol," Washburn noted

One example is MetaStim adjuvant technology, found in Pyramid vaccines. The presence of MetaStim is the reason why Pyramid vaccines are able to produce strong immunity against BRD in calves as young as 30 days of age.

Washburn compares the function of MetaStim to a Trojan horse.

"MetaStim helps protect the vaccine antigen from the immune system in the presence of circulating maternal antibodies, allowing more antigen to be presented and helping stimulate an immune response," he shared.

4. What evidence supports this vaccine in my situation?

Different vaccines have different strengths, and a vaccine that performs well in one situation may not be the best match for another. Ask your veterinarian about the research behind a vaccine, including the age group and conditions in which it has been shown to be effective.

"One thing I see overlooked is the evidence behind a vaccine," Washburn said. "It's important our selected vaccines are scientifically proven to work and deliver the protection we expect."

Since disease risks, cattle and management practices evolve, vaccination protocols should evolve with them. Regular conversations with your veterinarian can help ensure you're asking the right questions, understanding the science behind your vaccine choices, and building a BRD vaccination program that fits the needs of your herd. — **Boehringer Ingelheim**

Colorado details September wolf lethal removals

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) lethally removed three uncollared gray wolves in September after chronic livestock depredations. In early November, the agency shared completed final reports about the removal efforts.

The removals were conducted prior to CPW temporarily suspending its chronic depredation directive on Sept. 30. The temporary suspension requires CPW to evaluate any future wolf removals on a case-by-case basis using a conservative approach. The suspension came following concerns about the state's wolf population numbers.

"The recent suspension of our administrative directive concerning chronic depredation does not remove our obligations to assist producers experiencing repeated depredation nor our commitment to the wolf restoration plan as well as the stakeholding that went into its creation," said CPW Director Laura Clellan. "Going forward, we will continue to prioritize non-lethal conflict minimization and explore all such tools and techniques in our support of both producers and wolves, with lethal removal remaining an option if deemed absolutely necessary."

CPW is revisiting the chronic depredation directive and plans to have revisions in place by the start of the next wolf biological year on April 1, 2027.

Wolf removals

CPW determined a livestock producer in Rio Blanco County experienced chronic depredation by gray wolves from the Three Creeks Pack between Aug. 21 and Sept. 5, despite implementing nonlethal deterrence measures. The producer experienced four depredation events involving 15 livestock (three ewes and 12 lambs) within 30 days, and two guardian dogs were also found injured while four others were missing. On Sept. 7, a USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services agent lethally removed a yearling wolf from the Three Creeks Pack.

Two livestock producers in Pitkin County were determined to experience chronic depredation by gray wolves from the Copper Creek Pack between August and September. Producers had implemented all viable, reasonable and effective nonlethal deterrence measures, CPW said. The two producers suffered four depredation events in 37 days, including a mature cow, a mature bull and two calves. On Sept. 7, following a three-day removal effort, an APHIS Wildlife Services agent removed a yearling male wolf from the Copper Creek Pack.

Four livestock producers in Jackson and Grand counties experienced chronic depredation by gray wolves from the One Ear Pack between August and September, despite following nonlethal deterrence measures. Following a removal in early August, CPW determined a second wolf lethal removal was warranted. The four producers suffered seven depredation events within 30 days, including six calves and one yearling steer. On Sept. 9, APHIS Wildlife Services removed a yearling female wolf. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

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LEGAL LEDGER

BLM conducts Cedar Mountain horse gather

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began horse gather operations Nov. 10 in the Cedar Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) near the Skull Valley in Utah. "This gather is an important step toward achieving a sustainable population, promoting the long-term health of the herd and preserving the ecological balance of public lands," BLM said. The Cedar Mountain HMA has an appropriate management level of 190-390 horses but is estimated to contain 660 horses. BLM will gather about 500 horses using helicopters. The Sutherland Off-Range Corral near Delta, UT, will receive 150 stallions, and the remaining 350 horses will be held at the Axtell Off-Range Corral. All gathered horses will be prepared for the agency's adoption and sales program. As of Nov. 10, BLM had gathered 67 horses.

DOJ denied participation in wage-fixing hearing

The Department of Justice (DOJ) was denied its request to participate in a hearing regarding wage-fixing allegations against beef and pork processors. Although a federal judge in Colorado denied the request, the court will still consider the DOJ's objections. Beef and pork processing workers allege that since 2000, meat producers including JBS USA Food, Tyson Foods, Cargill, Hormell Foods, Perdue Farms, Smithfield Foods and National Beef Packing, and their subsidiaries, conspired to fix and depress workers' compensation. The workers also claim Agri Stats and WMS & Company helped the processors exchange sensitive compensation data. On Nov. 5, Judge Philip A. Brimmer for the United States District Court of Colorado denied the government's request to participate in the final approval hearing for $202.8 million in settlements.

Greens may intervene in prairie chicken suit

The Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit ruled that the Center for Biological Diversity and the Texas Campaign for the Environment have a right to intervene in a lawsuit regarding the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken. In mid-September, the court reversed a lower court's ruling that denied the groups from intervening in the suit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had listed the species as threatened, but abandoned the decision after the change in administration in 2025 to settle litigation with states and industry groups. The two environmental groups moved to intervene, but a district court denied their motion as untimely. The district court held the listing to be unlawful, and vacated and remanded back to the agency. The court of appeals reversed the denial of intervention, but declined to reach the merits of the listing decision.

USDA updates farm bill animal health programs

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is updating its farm bill animal health programs, including increased annual funding and expanded investments. Through the 2025 Working Families Tax Cuts Act, three programs' funding increased from $30 million to $233 million beginning in fiscal year 2026. Programs include the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank. The investment will allow APHIS to scale up and modernize its national preparedness efforts, USDA said. "Farm security is national security, and with this increased funding, we are strengthening early disease detection, expanding vaccine and diagnostic stockpiles, and backing practical, on the ground projects that help producers prepare for and respond to the most serious animal disease threats," said USDA Under Secretary Dudley Hoskins. "These programs are about keeping animals healthy, protecting producer livelihoods, and keeping American agriculture strong."

Interior to boost wildlife habitat management

The Department of the Interior is planning to strengthen its field operations, support active habitat management, prioritize refuge purposes and expand compatible wildlife-dependent recreation. A review of the National Wildlife Refuge System, along with Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's secretary's order, Making America's National Wildlife Refuges Great Again, calls for 29 recommendations. The recommendations include strengthening hunting and fishing coordination, increasing refuge law enforcement staffing, directing more resources to field operations and removing barriers to practical conservation work. "These commonsense recommendations provide a practical path to healthier wildlife habitats, stronger partnerships and more opportunities for Americans to hunt, fish and enjoy the public lands that belong to them," Burgum said.

USFS, foresters alliance renew forest health MOU

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance have renewed their multi-year agreement to continue conserving and managing working forests, protecting forests from threats and enhancing public benefits. "By renewing this agreement, we are building on substantial results of treating 1.6 million acres of hazardous fuels, assisting nearly 920,000 private landowners, conserving 250,000 acres of working forests, and managing over 26,000 acres through Good Neighbor Authority," said USFS Tom Schultz. The agreement strengthens coordination between state and federal partners and accelerates restoration across all forested lands, USFS said.

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Sire: McD Flattop 2111
CED 7 // **BW** 2.6 // **WW** 86 // **YW** 150 // **Milk** 26 // **Marb.** .95 // **REA** .71 // **$M** 45 // **$W** 81 // **$C** 285



Sire: Ramsey McD Ability 308
CED 8 // **BW** 1.3 // **WW** 85 // **YW** 138 // **Milk** 19 // **Marb. .80** // **REA** .76 // **$M** 81 // **$W** 85 // **$C** 300



Sire: Ellingson Prosper
CED 3 // **BW** 2.9 // **WW** 95 // **YW** 156 // **Milk** 28 // **Marb. 1.48** // **REA** .91 // **$M**131 // **$W** 113 // **$C** 424



Sire: AAR Agends L174
CED 3 // **BW** 0.8 // **WW** 80 // **YW** 140 // **Milk** 31 // **Marb.** 0.44 // **REA** .52 // **$M** 88 // **$W** 96 // **$C** 251



Sire: High Point Resilient
CED 1 // **BW** 4.6 // **WW** 114 // **YW** 180 // **Milk** 26 // **Marb.** .25 // **REA** .81 // **$M** 90 // **$W** 125// **$C** 290



Sire: Marda Great Lakes 370
CED 5 // **BW** 1.2 // **WW** 81 // **YW** 139 // **Milk** 21 // **Marb.** 1.22 // **REA** .87 // **$M** 88 // **$W** 80 // **$C** 321



Sire: BNWZ Nobility
CED 3 // **BW** 4.4 // **WW** 108 // **YW** 180 // **Milk** 26 // **Marb.** 1.19 // **REA** 1.47 // **$M** 89 // **$W** 114 // **$C** 398

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Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear deaths spike past previous record

In Yellowstone National Park and areas just outside the park, a record number of at least 81 grizzly bears have died in 2026, mostly at the hands of humans.

That's according to preliminary data, through Nov. 10, released by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and a group of researchers that focus on the species across the Rocky Mountain region.

The database, documented by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, lists 84 grizzly mortalities this year, including one death dated to last fall and two live removals of bears sent to zoos. The number is the highest documented known and likely grizzly mortalities in a calendar year on record.

In 2025, published USGS data listed 72 known or probable grizzly deaths, though the numbers are routinely updated as wildlife managers continue to investigate some incidents.

With two months left in the year, 2026 is at least a 50% increase from the 10-year average of 54 deaths in the region, and a 12.5% jump from the last two years.

Grizzly bears are classified as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, though members of Congress have pushed to delist them in recent years.

Federal shifts

This summer, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum journeyed to Montana to announce a proposed rule shifting management of grizzly bears from federal to state control, a long-time goal of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming—the three states with the highest grizzly concentrations.

A population of more than 2,000 grizzlies lives along the Continental Divide, most heavily concentrated in two areas—around Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, and Yellowstone National Park.

Under the proposed rule, grizzlies would remain under threatened status under the Endangered Species Act, but a new tiered system would allow more management authority to state wildlife agencies in the Greater Yellowstone and Continental Divide ecosystems—essentially expanding the allowable killing of bears by wildlife managers.

The proposed rule would not authorize a hunting season.

Montana's all-Republican federal delegation and governor have long-supported delisting grizzly bears and support the proposed rule, while wildlife and conservation organizations decried it as a slippery slope to lowering the population.

Many of those groups raised concerns over the high mortality rate seen around Yellowstone this year as well, saying such an increase in deaths should be a reason to slow down the shift to state management.

"Record high grizzly deaths show bears need more protection, not less, as they continue expanding their range and attempt to reoccupy the places they once freely roamed," said Adam Rissien, rewilding manager with WildEarth Guardians. "It is no surprise conflicts are increasing and more grizzlies are getting killed. Bears are having to search for more food in more places because of shorter winters, more severe summer heat and drought, and a steep drop in whitebark pine nuts that they've historically relied on for a substantial portion of their fall diet."

Among the documented mortalities in the Yellowstone area, more than 50 were attributed to humans, including 11 killed by vehicles, two that drowned in a man-made canal, one killed in self-defense and one attributed to a human when a tracking collar was found with no carcass.

Wildlife agency officials killed 36 "problem bears" that had either killed cattle, damaged crops or become habituated to humans or food rewards.

Matthew Gould, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team's leader, told the Daily Montanan last year that record-high number of bears in the region, and record crowds flocking to public lands, including Yellowstone, create more instances of bears and humans coming into conflict.

Of the 84 grizzly deaths listed, 15 are still under investigation.

In the 406

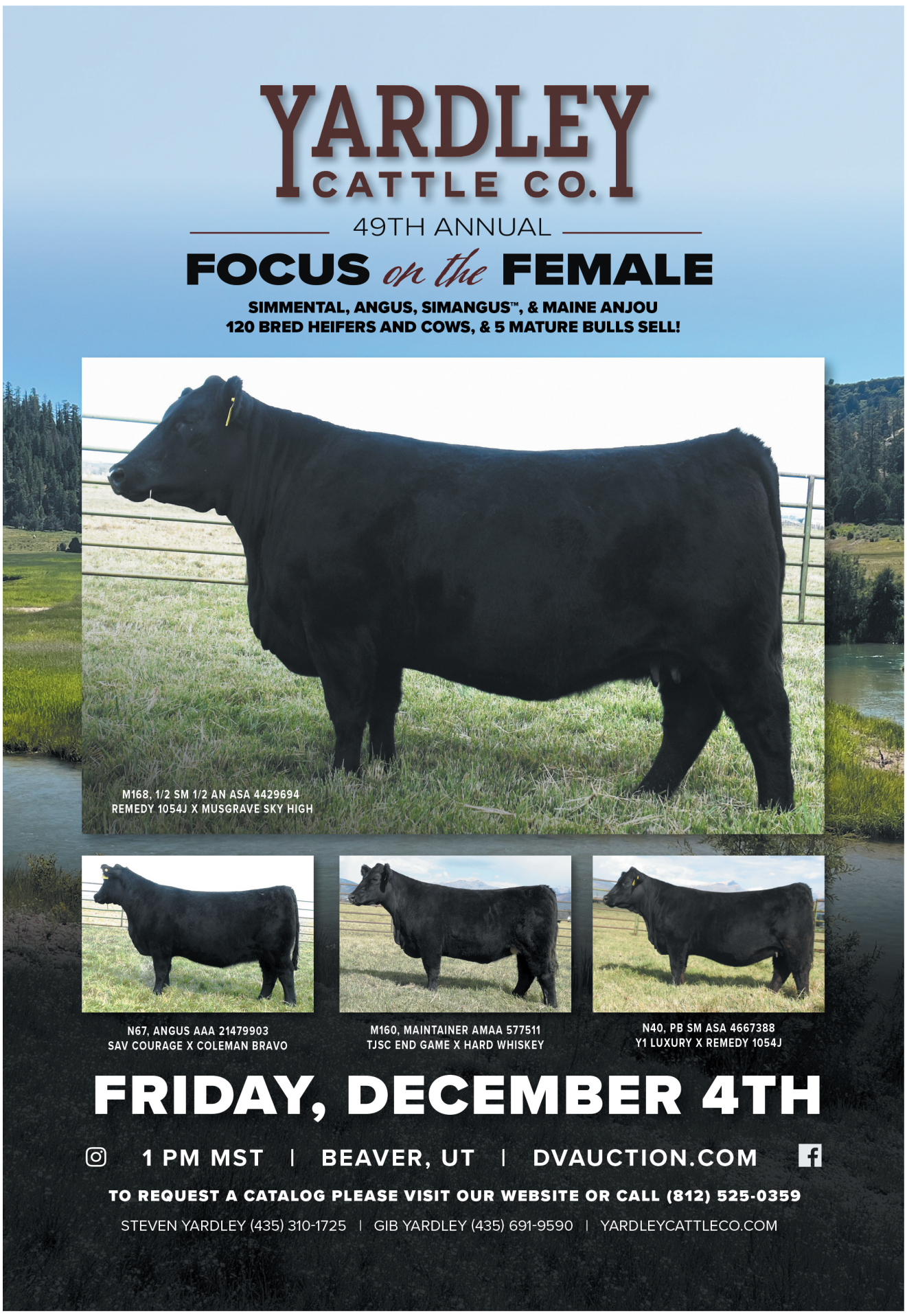
In Montana, the state department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has its own grizzly mortality information dashboard, launched in 2024, to track human-caused grizzly deaths.

FWP said in a news release at the time that the dashboard is part of an effort to increase transparency, educate Montanans on why grizzlies are killed or die when they are currently federally protected, and to prove that the state is ready to manage grizzly bears on its own.

According to the dashboard, there have been 41 human-related grizzly mortalities this year, up from 32 in 2025. Some of those deaths overlap with the data from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Similar to that data, the majority of deaths are human-related.

Eleven recorded deaths were due to vehicle collisions, one was considered self-defense, four a case of mistaken identity, and 15 were conflict management removals. — **Micah Drew, Daily Montanan**



Frost, prussic acid risks in warm-season annuals

Many producers in Oklahoma are growing summer annual forage crops such as forage sorghums, sudangrass or hybrid sorghum-sudangrass. There is also johnsongrass in many pastures this year. Some producers plan to use these fields for stockpiled fall forage for cows or weaned calves. Other producers have planted small grains directly into the standing cover crops or crop residues have seen volunteer corn, sorghum or sudangrass come up with the wheat.

Frost and prussic acid risks

Prussic acid is found when susceptible plants are under stress from drought conditions or after a frost. At the Stillwater, OK, Mesonet station, the median date for the first hard freeze (28 F) is Nov. 8. That date is past, but there was no freeze forecast through Nov. 15. A pasture can be impacted by a light frost when the low is in the mid-30s, so prussic acid may already be an issue.

Stressed sorghum, johnsongrass, sorghum-sudagrass hybrids or sudangrass accumulate compounds that release prussic acid when leaves are damaged by frost or chewed by cattle. Prussic acid is a form of cyanide that passes through the rumen wall into the bloodstream. Cyanide prevents the animal's tissues from using the oxygen carried by the blood. The blood can remain bright cherry red even as the animal suffocates.

The symptoms of prussic acid poisoning are similar to those of nitrate poisoning, but in nitrate poisoning, the blood loses its ability to carry oxygen and may turn chocolate brown. The symptoms include anxiety, weakness, labored breathing and death. Often the first sign a producer sees is a dead animal.

The plants that have the most issues with prussic acid poisoning are (in order of susceptibility) grain sorghum (most), johnsongrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids and finally, pure sudangrasses. Millets (such as pearl millet) and corn do not produce prussic acid, but both are nitrate accumulators.

Prussic acid potential is higher in younger plants than older plants, higher in leaves than stems, and higher in upper leaves than lower leaves. Even a light frost can damage leaves and release prussic acid while the rest of the plant remains green. Scout pastures for frost-damaged leaves and check near the base of tall plants for young shoots. This regrowth can be especially high in prussic acid.

What to do

- Do not allow animals to graze young plants or regrowth until plants reach 18 to 24 inches for sudangrass or 24 to 30 inches for sorghum-sudangrass.
- After a light frost that damages leaves but plants remain alive, keep cattle off for at least 14 days. Count from the most recent frost. If new shoots appear, wait until the regrowth itself reaches grazing height, even if the older stems are already 30 inches tall.
- After a killing freeze, keep cattle off the field for at least 7 days and until the plants are completely dry and brown. Drying may take 10 days or longer.
- Harvesting a suspect stand for silage can reduce prussic acid levels. Allow the silage to ferment for at least 8 weeks and test it for prussic acid before feeding.
- Prussic acid can be an issue every year. Scout suspected pastures after a frost, checking for new shoots, and giving damaged forage time to dry can help prevent cattle losses. — **Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef nutrition specialist**

STORY SHORTS

USDA begins hiring for screwworm facility

USDA is hiring 228 employees for its New World screwworm sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, TX, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced. The facility will expand domestic production of sterile flies to help protect livestock, wildlife and public health. Rollins called the work a national security priority. Construction for the facility is scheduled to be completed in April 2027. The facility is expected to produce 100 million sterile flies weekly, eventually reaching about 300 million flies per week at full capacity. Applicants can find openings at usajobs.gov or attend a hiring event in McAllen, TX, from Nov. 17-19. For more information about the event, visit tinyurl.com/3pm9x337.

Tyson to restore Amarillo production shift

Tyson Foods plans to partner with Allied Beef Company, a group of American ranchers, to strengthen its cattle supply and support beef production. The proposed partnership would connect ranchers directly with Tyson and aims to create more business opportunities across the supply chain. In anticipation of the agreement, Tyson is restoring the second production shift at its Amarillo, TX, beef plant. Some operations have resumed, with the full shift expected to return by summer 2027. Allied Beef said working directly with Tyson could offer ranchers new opportunities and help build a lasting relationship benefiting producers, the company and American beef consumers.

Utah investigating horse deaths; cubes recalled

Utah officials are investigating reports of sick and dying horses in southern Utah and nearby areas. The first reports came from one farm, where several horses became ill and three died. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food said the cause has not been confirmed. Inspectors have halted alfalfa hay cube sales at Laub's Feeding and Cubing, which voluntarily recalled cubes sold beginning Oct. 3. Samples are being sent to a Food and Drug Administration laboratory, with final results expected within the month. Owners should contact a veterinarian immediately if horses show depression, colic or incoordination. Officials said treatment can be difficult but may help when started quickly after signs appear. Owners should watch their horses closely while the investigation into these deaths continues.

California laboratory expands disease testing

A new $108 million animal health laboratory in Turlock, CA, will give ranchers and veterinarians more options for diagnosing livestock diseases. The 44,000-square-foot facility replaces a poultry-only lab and can now examine deceased cattle, horses, pigs, goats and other livestock. Services include necropsies and diagnostic testing to identify diseases and help guide outbreak responses. University of California, Davis will operate the facility in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture as part of the state's four-laboratory California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System. The expanded services will support the region's livestock and poultry industry, valued at an estimated $3.5 billion.

BOR raises allocation for CA's Central Valley

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) increased 2026 Central Valley Project water allocations for irrigation water service and repayment contractors south of the Delta from 28% to 31% of their contract totals. The increase reflects better-than-expected supplies in an off-stream reservoir south of the Delta. This allocation comes from water supplies already south of the Delta and will not change Delta operations. All other allocations announced Aug. 11 remain unchanged. BOR said it will continue monitoring water conditions and managing available supplies for farms, cities, wildlife refuges and other uses.

Research facility supports Northwest farmers

USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Washington State University have opened a 100,000-square-foot research building to help Pacific Northwest farmers improve crop health, resilience and profitability. The Plant Bioscience Research Building brings federal and university scientists together to study challenges facing dryland and irrigated agriculture. Its laboratories and shared workspaces will support research on wheat, pulse crops, sustainable farming systems and plant genetic resources. ARS Administrator Joon Park said the building builds on nearly a century of cooperation with the university and will help researchers turn advances in plant and soil science into agricultural improvements.

NCBA's 2027 Redbook available for purchase

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) 2027 Redbook is available, offering ranchers a pocket-sized tool for keeping production records organized. The updated booklet includes additional pages for recording calving, herd health, pasture use, cattle inventories, body condition, treatments and artificial insemination breeding records. It also provides Beef Quality Assurance guidance, proper injection techniques and information on responsible antibiotic use, transport fitness and biosecurity planning. A calendar and notes section provides space to track appointments and observations. Order online at store.ncba.org. Cover customization is available for orders of at least 100 books. Contact Grace Webb at gwebb@beef.org or 303-850-3443 for details.

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Idaho's top 10 farm commodities in 2025

USDA data released Sept. 3 confirms that the cattle and calves sector bumped milk in 2025 to become the top agricultural commodity in Idaho in terms of farm-gate revenue.

Farm-gate revenue, or farm cash receipts, is what the farmer or rancher receives for their commodity.

Milk had been the state's No. 1 ag commodity for more than two decades, but the cattle and calves sector, with cattle prices near record highs, took that spot in 2025, by a whisker.

According to USDA, Idaho's cattle and calves sector recorded a total of $3.878 billion in cash receipts in 2025, while the state's milk sector recorded $3.827 billion in farm cash receipts.

A University of Idaho (U of I) report titled "Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture: 2025," expects milk to regain the top spot within a year or two.

"Revenues from milk production are expected to reclaim their place as the highest of all agricultural commodities produced in Idaho in 2026 or 2027," the January report states.

The U of I report had estimated that cattle and calves claimed the No. 1 spot in 2025 and the USDA data released Sept. 3 confirmed that forecast.

Total farm-gate revenue from milk sales in Idaho dipped just slightly in 2025 compared with 2024, while cattle and calves receipts jumped 17% year-over-year, from $3.3 billion in 2024 to $3.88 billion in 2025.

The U of I report said most of that increase can be attributed to record cattle prices, but a portion can also be attributed to the ever-increasing quality of beef originating from the dairy sector.

Potatoes again ranked as the No. 3 agricultural commodity in Idaho and the No. 1 crop, bringing in $1.07 billion in cash receipts in 2025, down 11% from $1.2 billion in 2024 and 20% from $1.34 billion in 2023.

Wheat came in as Idaho's No. 4 agricultural commodity in 2025 with $518 million in total cash receipts, down 15% from $610 million in 2024, and sugar beets recorded a total of $460 million in farm cash receipts, a 2% decrease from $470 million.

Hay ranked as Idaho's No. 6 agricultural commodity in 2025 with $358 million in cash receipts, down 9% from $392 million in 2024, barley was No. 7 ($288 million, down 24% from $379 million), and chicken eggs ranked No. 8 ($192 million, up 54% from $125 million).

Rounding out the top 10 were onions ($176 million, down 27% from $239 million) and corn ($131 million, down 4% from $137 million).

Other Idaho crops and the total cash receipts they brought in during 2025: dry beans ($94 million), hogs ($75 million), hops ($63 million), trout ($43 million), floriculture ($31 million), mint ($28 million), canola ($26 million).

Idaho also produces a decent amount of fruit, but USDA didn't estimate that industry's cash receipt total because of insufficient data to forecast cash receipts for that commodity. The last time USDA estimated cash receipt totals for fruit in Idaho was in 2017, when the department put the total at $14.78 million, which included $8.1 million for apples and $6.6 million for peaches.

The Sept. 3 USDA report showed that Idaho's livestock industry, which includes eggs, hogs, honey, wool and trout, brought in $8.12 billion in farm cash receipts in 2025, an 8% increase over $7.52 billion in 2024.

The state's crop sector, however, went the other way. USDA estimates total cash receipts for Idaho's crop sector at $3.83 billion in 2025, down 10% from $4.26 billion in 2024.

The USDA data shows Idaho farmers and ranchers brought in a total of $11.95 billion in farm cash receipts in 2025, up 1.5% from $11.77 billion in 2024. That is gross revenue and does not show net farm income, which is what the agricultural producer actually takes home after expenses.

USDA shows intermediate product expenses for Idaho farmers and ranchers totaled $6.9 billion in 2025. This includes costs such as feed, seed and livestock purchases, as well as pesticides, electricity, fertilizer, fuel, marketing, storage and transportation, repair and maintenance and irrigation.

The USDA's September report also puts farmers' and ranchers' total payments to stakeholders at $2.2 billion in 2025. This includes hired labor, rent to operator landlords and interest expenses. — **Idaho Farm Bureau**



Glover is uncertain about bill's passage

PERMITTING
(from page 1)

though she acknowledged that livestock producers also rely on courts to protect their interests.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), in a Farm Bureau Intel report, supports more predictable environmental reviews for agricultural operations and federal land management.

ESA and historic preservation

BAAJA would shorten the Endangered Species Act's (ESA) standard consultation period from 90 to 60 days. Agencies would need an applicant's consent to extend consultation to 100 days or longer, rather than the current 150 days. Qualified states could handle consultations, but applicants could choose federal review instead.

Historic preservation reviews would generally take place alongside NEPA reviews, rather than adding another step afterward. The manager's amendment strengthens consultation with Tribes and gives consulting parties 45 days to raise substantive objections to agency reports. The bill would also narrow which projects require historic preservation review, excluding some routine work and projects whose only federal involvement is financial assistance.

Glover said meaningful parameters for ESA permitting and consultation have long been livestock industry priorities. She also welcomed clearer historic preservation procedures, saying preservation matters but reviews sometimes fail to reflect conditions on the ground. Clear expectations for engaging state historic preservation officers and stakeholders, along with consultation deadlines, are important, she said.

AFBF welcomes historic preservation exclusions affecting projects whose only federal involvement is a loan, loan guarantee or cost-share assistance, including USDA farm loans.

Energy projects

BAAJA would expand transmission planning and speed grid connections. Data centers would cover associated transmission costs, while communities could receive assistance evaluating energy, water and infrastructure demands, according to BPC.

AFBF warns that giving federal regulators more authority over transmission projects could put more landowners at risk of eminent domain and weaken their bargaining power in easement negotiations. The group also says the bill does not require developers to avoid productive farmland or meet standards for restoring agricultural land after construction.

Glover said PLC and NCBA remain opposed to eminent domain in these scenarios. Members are concerned about converting prime agricultural land, and improving permitting should not create additional opportunities to force that conversion.

Glover said a faster permitting process should not give any type of project an advantage. As members raise concerns about data centers on federal lands, she said PLC and NCBA remain focused on protecting multiple use, including livestock grazing.

According to BPC, BAAJA would limit state and Tribal reviews under the Clean Water Act to specific water-quality requirements. Reviews would have to be completed within one year, or nine months for qualifying interstate pipelines and transmission lines.

AP reported that sponsors remain optimistic about passing the bill through both chambers before the current Congress ends. Whitehouse said President Donald Trump's support should help move it toward a House vote. However, AP reported that Democratic election gains could encourage lawmakers to wait for legislation placing greater limits on fossil fuel expansion.

Glover described motivated senators from both parties but said House concerns and limited time leave the outcome uncertain. She said she is "hopeful" but "far from certain" the bill will pass. Success will depend on Senate sponsors and House counterparts resolving sticking points before the session ends, she said. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing**

High prices haven't slowed beef buyers

For decades, the U.S. beef industry fought an uphill battle to increase consumer demand. Today, that story has changed.

Consumers continue buying beef despite historically high prices, creating one of the strongest demand environments the industry has experienced in decades, according to Dave Weaber, senior research analyst for animal protein at Terrain.

Weaber presented "New Heights in Beef Demand: Consumer Investment in the Beef Value Chain" during the 2026 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium in Boise, ID, in June.

"I believe what's going on in our business is transformational from an economic standpoint," Weaber said. "The industry spent the last 50 years treading water."

While tight cattle supplies and the smallest U.S. cow herd in decades have contributed to stronger cattle prices, Weaber said the larger story is consumers' continued willingness to spend money on beef.

A changing consumer

One of the most important shifts in the beef industry has been consumers' willingness to pay more for a consistently enjoyable eating experience. Weaber credited decades of genetic improvement, better management and industry efforts such as the National Beef Quality Audit with helping producers better understand what consumers value, especially taste and tenderness.

In the early 1990s, consumers were much more likely to encounter an inconsistent or disappointing beef-eating experience. Since then, the industry has increased the percentage of cattle grading Choice and Prime while dramatically reducing the amount of Select beef in the marketplace.

Weaber said the COVID-19 pandemic also unexpectedly strengthened beef demand by changing how consumers prepared food at home.

"One good thing that came out of that was we taught consumers to cook really nice steaks at home," he said. "I think we're still reaping the benefits."

Quality continues to pay

Consumer spending has increased across several beef categories, including Prime, branded and Choice products. Weaber said Prime beef is now available in more retail locations than it was in the past, and consumers continue purchasing more of it despite premium prices.

"The more we make, the higher the price goes," he said. "That's confounding for an economist."

Weaber reported that Choice spending was up more than 16% year to date after posting double-digit gains during each of the previous three years. Ground beef remains another major driver of demand. Spending on trim and grind was up 23% year to date, following strong growth in previous years.

According to Weaber, roughly 80% of grocery customers who purchase beef buy ground beef. About half of those shoppers purchase only ground beef, rather than also buying steaks or roasts.

"They're very consistent," he said. "If they're a one-pound-a-week buyer, they buy one pound."

That consistency demonstrates the important role ground beef plays as a staple product and as beef's primary competitor with pork and chicken in the retail meat case.

Weaber also challenged the idea that lower retail beef prices would automatically benefit cattle producers.

"The money in our business comes from one place," he said. "If the retailer can't raise price and you ask him to lower it, what are you eventually asking for? Lower calf prices."

Strong consumer spending provides the revenue that ultimately moves back through retailers, packers, feedyards and cow-calf operations.

Weaber estimated recent growth in inflation-adjusted consumer beef spending translated into roughly $1,200 per head in additional value. In some cases, cow-calf producers have captured even more through historically strong calf prices.

Despite strong demand, the beef industry continues facing economic pressure. Packers have experienced extended periods of financial losses, feedyard breakevens are rising and processing capacity is adjusting to tighter cattle supplies.

Heavier carcass weights could also create challenges if packers begin applying larger discounts because of excess fat, labor requirements or reduced yield. Rebuilding the cow herd will add another complication. Retaining heifers reduces the number of cattle available for beef production before larger calf crops eventually reach the market.

"If we're going to make this cow herd bigger, we're going to make beef production smaller for the next 24 months," Weaber said. "That's an economic biological fact."

For producers, the message is both encouraging and cautionary. Consumers continue demonstrating that they value beef and are willing to invest in quality. That demand has created opportunities across the beef value chain, but Weaber said producers should not become complacent. Higher revenues do not eliminate the need for careful financial management.

"If you don't know your costs, that's your first job," he said.

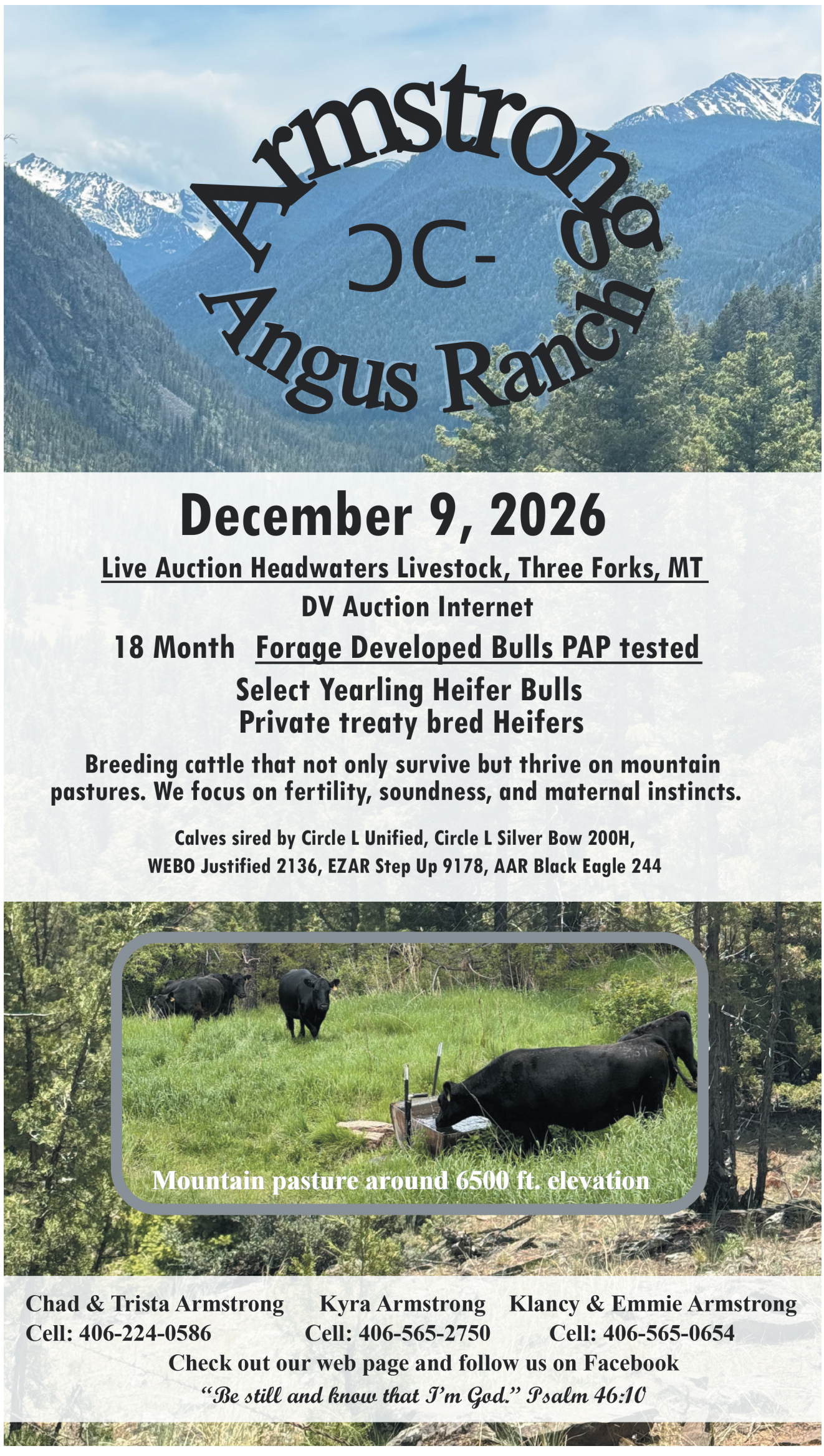
The opportunity is to maintain consumer trust while managing costs, improving efficiency and producing cattle that deliver the eating experience consumers expect.

Access the 2026 BIF Symposium presentation archive, which is continuously updated, at bifsymposium.com. — **Kaitlin Donovan for BIF**



BIF

Dave Weaber, animal protein senior research analyst at Terrain, presented on consumer investment in the beef value chain at the 2026 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium and Convention in Boise, ID.



Texas A&M advances faster, safer sterilization of NWS

Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists have achieved early success using electron beam, or eBeam, technology for the Sterile Insect Technique, or SIT, against New World screwworm (NWS) flies.

A large NWS outbreak in Texas could cost the state's cattle industry an estimated $2.1 billion and threaten its $9 billion hunting and wildlife industry, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist estimates.

SIT is a proven NWS control method in which large numbers of sterilized male flies are released into the wild. Because females mate only once, pairing them with sterile males means their eggs never hatch, suppressing wild populations.

Traditional SIT methods expose pupae to radioactive isotopes, including cobalt-60. eBeam uses commercial electricity to generate high-energy electron beams—no radioactivity required. Using eBeam technology removes safety, security, cost and logistical burdens that come with handling a radioactive material like cobalt-60.

Beam strength and exposure time are adjusted for each application. The technology has been used for decades for various applications, including sterilizing medical equipment and imported produce and spices, and eliminating environmental pollution.

Research results are promising

The progress toward adding an innovative tool in the fight against NWS is the product of two research disciplines joining forces: food processing and entomology.

The collaborative team includes Suresh Pillai, Ph.D., director of the National Center for Electron Beam Research at Texas A&M University, AgriLife Research scientist and professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology, Bryan-College Station; and Aaron Tarone, Ph.D., AgriLife Research scientist and professor, and Keyan Zhu-Salzman, Ph.D., AgriLife Research entomologist and professor, both in the Department of Entomology.

The team combined eBeam engineering with entomological expertise to test a range of electron beam doses on NWS pupae.

Pillai's team handled the eBeam dosing and logistics, applying the technology across a range of doses for multiple rounds of testing on the pupae. Tarone's team then took over the biological side, dissecting and examining adult flies under microscope. His team assessed the flies' reproductive capabilities and confirmed they were able to fly and complete their life cycles, with sterility left as the only effect of the treatment.

After extensive testing, the team is confident eBeam can effectively sterilize male flies without relying on high-activity radioactive material.

The collaboration also turned up an added advantage: eBeam can cut the sterilization process down to seconds compared to cobalt-60, which takes minutes, Tarone said.

"Dr. Pillai has figured out how to precisely treat thousands of pupae in seconds, and that is very positive when you consider using this technology at the factory scale necessary for SIT efforts," Tarone said. "Everything is looking very positive."

Pillai said remaining rounds of testing will help the team hone the efficiency of eBeam dosing.

"We've demonstrated that eBeam can do what cobalt-60 does against the NWS," Pillai said. "Our tests thus far make a compelling case for the use of this technology given the reduced cost and risks associated with traditional sterilization methods. There's enough data that we're confident eBeam could be the future of SIT efforts."

NWS research is a national priority

The work builds on earlier research in which the center tested eBeam on Cochliomyia macellaria, a blowfly species with biology similar to the NWS, as a surrogate for initial testing. That research gave Texas A&M scientists the confidence to begin direct testing on NWS pupae.

"This highly coordinated and collaborative interdisciplinary work reflects our commitment to impactful science and meeting challenges for our state and nation," said G. Cliff Lamb, Ph.D., director of AgriLife Research. "We are creating an innovative tool to protect Texas livestock, wildlife and the livelihoods of our producers."

Pillai said the successful tests come at a pivotal moment for eBeam technology. In January, the USDA launched its NWS Grand Challenge, calling on federal and non-federal innovators to develop high-impact projects to improve detection, control and eradication readiness against the pest. On June 17, the agency announced $105 million in funding for 40 breakthrough research projects selected through the challenge—eBeam research among them.

The National Center for Electron Beam Research, known informally as the eBeam center, is based on the Texas A&M University campus in Bryan-College Station and was named an International Atomic Energy Agency collaborating center in 2014 for eBeam use in food, health and environmental applications. The center also partners with the U.S. Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to advance eBeam research and help industries transition away from radioactive-source technology.

As part of one funded project, the eBeam center at Texas A&M will assist two companies in the development of prototype eBeam platforms for broader SIT applications.

Pillai said the team is honored by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's confidence in its collective expertise to evaluate eBeam technology. He said it exemplifies the power of transdisciplinary collaboration bringing together complementary expertise to address a critical national need.

"Our collaboration with USDA and the innovation challenge funding shows the confidence they have in AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M eBeam center," Pillai said. "It shows that we are preeminent global leader in eBeam development and research, and we are excited for the opportunity to showcase the real-world impact it can make to protect livelihoods and our food supply chain."

— **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.

Dec. 15 – The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is seeking students with a passion for entrepreneurship and a drive to turn their purpose into action. Scholarship applications for the 2027-2028 academic year are now being accepted at englerjourney.com.

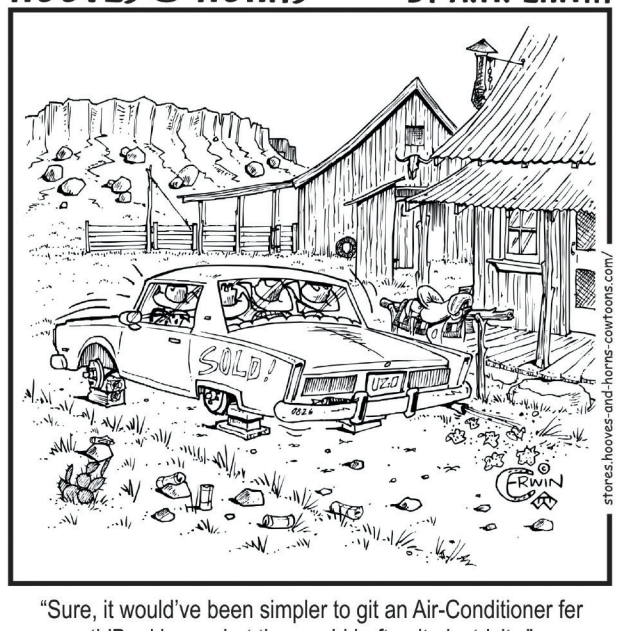
COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 2-4 – Registration is now open for the California Cattlemen's Association and California CattleWomen Convention and California Cattle Industry Tradeshow in Reno NV. Visit calcattlemen.org/convention2026 to register and make your hotel room reservations.

Dec. 3-5 – Registration is open for the Montana Stockgrowers Association Annual Convention in Billings, MT. Visit mtbeef.org to register.

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"Sure, it would've been simpler to git an Air-Conditioner fer th'Bunkhouse but then we'd hafta git electricity."

U of I Extension seminar to highlight ag in 2026, coming year

University of Idaho (U of I) Extension will help farmers, policymakers, industry leaders and others assess Idaho agriculture's financial performance in 2026 and prepare for the year ahead during the 2026 Idaho Ag Market Outlook Seminar.

The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City, ID. The $50 in-person registration fee covers lunch. Registration for the seminar is open through Dec. 9 at go.uidaho.edu/ag-outlook. Online participation is also available for $10.

Event organizer Brett Wilder, an area Extension educator specializing in agricultural economics, has assembled a lineup of experts to provide outlooks on Idaho's major agricultural commodities, national and global trends, input costs and how agriculture may fare in the state legislature.

"It's always good to take a look at where we've been and where we're going in terms of what agricultural markets look like so we can build marketing plans with some knowledge of what we can expect from markets in the year to come," Wilder said.

Among the seminar's highlights is Wilder's presentation of the annual Financial Conditions of Idaho Agriculture report. The report estimates Idaho agriculture's cash receipts—revenue from agricultural sales—and net farm income from 2026, along with earnings estimates for each of the state's major commodities.

Commodity prices have generally increased compared with the prior year, but yields declined as many farmers had too little irrigation water. Wilder expects gross agricultural income to be relatively flat or slightly lower compared with records highs in 2025. Rising input costs have eroded profits and significantly reduced net farm income.

"It continues to be a year where the headline numbers are going to look very strong, but in reality, on-farm net incomes are going to be much weaker," Wilder said. "I think we're going to see some very large numbers in the expense column."

The livestock sector remains the strength of Idaho's agricultural economy. Beef cattle prices have reached record highs, though production has declined, making it unlikely ranchers will earn record revenue in 2026. Milk prices have been somewhat low, but dairies have benefited from strong demand for milk components used in high-protein products, as well as high prices for cull cows and calves sold into the beef market.

Wilder expects the data will show wide differences in profitability in 2026, depending on production methods and marketing decisions.

"If you are an irrigated operator who had to run a diesel irrigation pump to get water to your fields this year, you did not have a fun experience," Wilder said. "If you are a dry-land producer who happened to hit the rains just right, who happened to buy enough fuel in advance, and you marketed your grain during the highs, you might have had a fantastic year. There are going to be a small percentage of producers who had one of their best years ever, but it's going to be based on planning and a little bit of luck."

In addition to Wilder's report on Idaho farm earnings, Extension and industry experts will present outlooks on potatoes, dairy, grains, hay and forage, beef cattle, water supplies, input costs, state policy and U.S. and global agricultural trends.

Seminar attendees will also receive Extension publications on several agricultural topics, including a new report on land rental rates.

The seminar drew a record crowd of 90 people last year, and Wilder hopes to further grow attendance this year. — **U of I Extension**

City considers appeal against reservoir ruling

RINGGOLD (from page 1)

agricultural and mining purposes.

City officials argued the reservoir was needed to ensure a reliable water supply during future droughts. According to the administrative record, Wichita Falls provides water to approximately 70% of the population in the Region B water planning area.

However, landowners questioned whether the city's projected water needs justified the reservoir's size and the permanent loss of ranchland.

Following a case hearing in August 2023, State Office of Administrative Hearings Judge Christiaan Siano recommended denying the permit in December 2023.

Siano acknowledged the city's serious drought concerns but found its conservation and water reuse efforts had substantially reduced projected demand. He concluded the city failed to demonstrate that the requested amount was necessary and reasonable. Siano also found deficiencies in how the application specified water quantities for its proposed uses.

Siano again denied the permit in February 2024, stating that city officials did not adequately address the concerns in the original denial.

Despite that recommendation, TCEQ commissioners approved the permit in 2024, prompting landowners and conservation organizations to seek judicial review.

The landowners and the Texas Conservation Alliance (TCA) filed a petition in the district court in September 2025 to overturn the permit.

Landowners welcome ruling

TCA called the decision a victory for private property rights, conservation and responsible water planning.

"This is a big win for property rights, conservation, and thoughtful water planning based on common sense," said TCA Executive Director Grahame Jones.

Jones credited landowners for standing up for their homes, ranches and communities throughout the lengthy permitting and legal process.

TCA argued the reservoir would destroy native tallgrass prairie, wildlife habitat and working ranches along the Little Wichita River. The organization also questioned whether the city had adequately evaluated alternatives and demonstrated a need for the project.

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), which adopted statewide policy opposing Lake Ringgold in 2024, also welcomed the ruling.

"Farmers and ranchers should not have to sacrifice their land and livelihoods for a project that cannot be justified," said Jay Bragg, TFB associate director of commodity and regulatory activities.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) President Stephen Diebel called the decision an important milestone in protecting agricultural land and natural resources.

Diebel said TSCRA would continue advocating for private property rights and the resources that sustain Texas ranching operations.

City's next steps

Wichita Falls officials maintain Lake Ringgold remains important to the city's long-term water security.

"Today's step is just one of many along the path toward the ultimate permitting and construction of Lake Ringgold, and we remain mindful of the drought that necessitated this project in the first place," said Public Works Director Russell Schreiber.

Mayor Tim Short told local news outlet KAUZ the city would consult legal counsel about an appeal. The city had 30 days from the ruling to pursue that option.

For now, the ruling leaves the reservoir's future uncertain, while landowners who have fought the project for years remain determined to protect their property.

"It's not over, but at this juncture, for two judges to agree that the data was not supportable and that the city did not prove the merits of their case, we feel very positive that this message can be taken out to landowners across the state of Texas," Clay County landowner Deborah Clark said. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

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1,200 Fancy Commercial Angus Bred Heifers
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100 Commercial Cow Dispersion
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340 TOTAL PERFORMANCE BULLS
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170 Outstanding Fall Yearlings
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Fall bulls are the best of our Fall Breeding Program! Sired by Unified, Jameson, Long Teton, Riverside, Bedrock, Prosper and top Vermilion Sires.

75 Spring-Calving Registered Cow Dispersion
Special Feature! All 2019 born registered Angus cows. Proven producers that all sell – no exceptions. Bred to Win The Day, Cattle Call, Denali, EB Commodore, Validation, Irish Whiskey and Trail Boss.

80 April-Calving Registered Cow Dispersion
100 Registered Bred Heifers ANGUSGS


LOT 104: Vermilion Prosper N837
AAA 21467114
DOB: 8-12-25 Sire: Ellingson Prosper MGS: Casino Bomber
CED +16 BEPD -.1 WEPD +90 YEPD+151 MILK +22
SC +1.29 MARB +.69 RE +.96 $M +100 $C +341


LOT 170: Vermilion Riverside N515
AAA 21312741
DOB: 2-15-25 Sire: Vermilion Riverside MGS: Myers Fair-N-Square M39
CED +8 BEPD +1.1 WEPD +91 YEPD +156 MILK +24
SC +.78 MARB +.39 RE +.81 $M +94 $C +278


LOT 7: Vermilion Jameson N784
AAA 21467069
DOB: 8-16-25 Sire: Basin Jameson MGS: Connealy King Air
CED +15 BEPD -.7 WEPD +77 YEPD+118 MILK +37
SC +1.41 MARB +.92 RE +.46 $M +105 $C +279


LOT 35: Vermilion Unified N815
AAA 21467098
DOB: 8-28-25 Sire: Circle L Unified MGS: Casino Bomber
CED -3 BEPD +4.3 WEPD +100 YEPD+149 MILK +26
SC +1.29 MARB +.73 RE +1.00 $M +136 $C +373


LOT 530: Vermilion Blackbird 5433
AAA 21288295
Sire: Circle L Unified MGS: Flying N Fortune 0093
AI bred to Vermilion Irish Whiskey 5/2.


LOT 331: Vermilion Eulima 9270
AAA 19508416
Sire: Casino Bomber MGS: Connealy Countdown
Progeny Ratios WR 107 – YW 109. AI: Long Teton 5/29 carrying a bull. Maternal sister to Vermilion Riverside's dam.

Vermilion Ranch
Pat Goggins Family
Bob Cook - Records & Sales
Cell: 406-670-0078
Jeff Mosher - Vermilion North
Brandon Mosher - Pryor Creek
Jake Kading - Herdsman
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Cattle research may provide answers to father's role in pregnancy loss

When a pregnancy ends early and unexplained, the search for answers usually begins with the mother. Lacey Luense, Ph.D., wants to know what the father's sperm might have to do with it.

Luense, an assistant professor in epigenetics in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, studies the causes of early pregnancy loss—a problem that cuts across species and carries both personal and economic costs.

She is working with cattle, where almost 50% of pregnancies are estimated to end prematurely, to study the root causes of human infertility, where over 50% of all conceptions are estimated not to result in birth.

"We know that maternal issues can be involved," Luense said. "Sometimes it can be a chromosomal abnormality, disease or problems with the uterine environment. But we don't know the causes of many pregnancy losses. It's unexplained, and we are still trying to figure out why this happens so frequently."

Luense, who also has an appointment with Texas A&M AgriLife Research, is joining forces with Ky Pohler, Ph.D., administrator for the Texas A&M AgriLife Animal Reproductive Biotechnology Center and associate professor, Department of Animal Science, on a $1.65 million National Institutes of Health grant to look at how paternal epigenetic contributions, or non-genetic changes to DNA, are delivered to the embryo.

Luense said one potential cause for pregnancy loss could be the male's sperm and epigenetics—or everything above and around the DNA sequence—that affect how the DNA is structured or packaged.

"We are talking about non-genetic changes that can alter how those genes are turned on or off," she said. "Our research is trying to understand how dad's epigenetics or the epigenetic changes carried by the sperm can affect fertility, pregnancy and then long-term health and development."

The overall goal is to understand the nongenetic changes to DNA that are delivered to cattle embryos. The team will use sperm from bulls of high and low fertility to investigate the role of the paternal epigenome in abnormal embryo development and pregnancy loss.

One focus is histones, the proteins that DNA wraps around like a spool and thread. Previous studies indicate males with abnormal sperm histones are more likely to have partners who experience pregnancy loss.

"However, we don't know why that happens," Luense said. "This is something we have been learning much about over the last decade or two. We know a clinical correlation exists, but we do not understand the reasons it occurs. Determining that is our challenge."

Luense is determined to help with human pregnancy loss, but experimenting with human embryos is not an option. And, while she has also worked with mouse models, cattle offer something they couldn't: early embryonic development that more closely mirrors human embryo development, particularly in cell division and timing when genes from the new embryo activate.

Her team will conduct different molecular and genomic analyses on the semen samples from the high- and low-performing bulls to try to understand their biomarkers and to identify changes in the sperm to predict pregnancy loss.

Through in vitro fertilization they will be able to generate embryos from bulls with specific changes to the sperm epigenome. These embryos will undergo time-lapse imaging and cutting-edge genomic analyses to determine if changes to sperm histones alter development and gene regulation. Performing such experiments in humans is not possible, making the use of cattle an exciting opportunity to further our understanding of human fertility and pregnancy, Luense said.

The new Animal Reproductive Biotechnology Center, which opened in 2025, will allow them to perform gene editing, including CRISPR/CAS 9, to advance knowledge about pregnancy loss and how treatments can be developed to solve the issue.

"We are trying to identify changes in gene expression that are happening very early in pre-implantation embryo development in cattle and how that might give us information about what is happening in humans," Luense said.

Beyond the human health question, the findings could give cattle producers new tools to address a costly problem—roughly half of cattle pregnancies do not result in live births. Better prediction could mean real savings for the industry.

"We hope that, after five years, we will be able to identify biomarkers or alterations to sperm chromatin or sperm histones that may predict pregnancy loss in humans and cattle," Luense said. "If we know what to look for, maybe it can be treated. We are trying to understand the specific gene pathways regulated by sperm epigenetics occurring in the early embryo and are necessary for a healthy pregnancy and a live birth."

The results could impact reproductive efficiency and help clinical management of human patients and livestock diagnosed with infertility, poor embryogenesis and pregnancy loss, she said. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**



Extension researcher sees promise in sainfoin

A University of Idaho (U of I) Extension researcher is encouraged by preliminary trial results suggesting he may have identified an ideal forage crop for farmers facing drought conditions or reductions in irrigation water.

Sainfoin is a perennial forage legume native to southern Europe and Asia. It is valued for its nutritional quality, drought tolerance and ability to reduce bloating in grazing animals. The crop also grows well in sandy, rocky and alkaline soils and may be more resilient than alfalfa to lime-rich soils.

In a recent trial at U of I's Kimberly Research and Extension Center, Extension forage agronomist Pramod Acharya found that sainfoin outyielded four alfalfa varieties raised under the same conditions—including one alfalfa variety that's popular in southern Idaho and is bred to resist applications of glyphosate herbicide.

The sainfoin Acharya raised had significantly less protein than alfalfa. However, the crops had comparable relative forage quality, which also incorporates digestible fiber and other nutrients that contribute to animal performance.

"Sainfoin yield is as good or better than some of the varieties of alfalfa. Quality wise if we look at the crude protein level it's way less than alfalfa, but if we look at all of the nutrient levels, it is more or less similar to alfalfa," Acharya said. "If yield is good and quality is relatively similar, it would be one of the alternatives in this region."

Farmers with junior water rights throughout the Snake River Plain have had irrigation supplies reduced amid an ongoing drought, and they're looking for crops they can grow with less water.

In the trial, Acharya planted replications of four alfalfa varieties and two varieties each of sainfoin, cicer milkvetch and birdsfoot trefoil in 20-by-40-foot plots within a 2.2-acre field. Sainfoin, cicer milkvetch and birdsfoot trefoil are all perennial forage legumes that don't cause bloat in grazing livestock.

Acharya planted the crops in the spring of 2025 and took cuttings during the 2026 growing season on May 21, July 10 and Sept. 15. A cicer milkvetch variety produced the highest yielding second cutting and protein levels in birdsfoot trefoil, which is also considered drought-tolerant, compared favorably with alfalfa.

Acharya, however, was most encouraged by the sainfoin results. His top sainfoin variety averaged 2.6 tons per acre of dry matter across the three cuttings. By comparison, the top-yielding alfalfa variety, which was bred for winter hardiness, averaged 2.5 tons per acre. A popular glyphosate-resistant alfalfa variety yielded 2.4 tons per acre, and a low-water alfalfa variety developed for planting on dryland fields yielded 2.2 tons per acre.

In mid-October, Acharya applied various herbicides to trial plots and plans to use the results to guide recommendations on how to best terminate sainfoin stands. Looking ahead, he hopes to conduct research comparing water usage of alfalfa and sainfoin varieties, as well as nitrogen fixation benefits of the two crops.

Acharya is eager to see if the initial strong sainfoin yields hold up in subsequent years of his trial. His work benefited from a $4,285 U of I Extension innovative projects grant. He's been in close contact with forage researchers in Wyoming and Missouri who are running similar sainfoin trials.

"This was my first time working with sainfoin, but I'm really excited with this particular crop," Acharya said. "Sainfoin is not grown very much in the U.S., but it has huge potential." — **U of I Extension**

USMEF conference marks 50 years of red meat export growth

U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) members from throughout the nation gathered in Palm Springs, CA, Nov. 11 for the organization's annual Strategic Planning Conference. The meeting attracted a record number of participants as USMEF celebrated its 50th anniversary.

USMEF Chair Jay Theiler, executive vice president of Idaho-based Agri Beef Co., welcomed the group by paying tribute to those who founded the organization a half-century ago.

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to the past leaders of USMEF for their vision of foresight, which made possible these 50 years of growth and success," Theiler said. "But to properly honor their legacy, we need to keep our eye on the future and continue to build on USMEF's strengths. One of our greatest strengths is our diverse membership, bringing many sectors of U.S. agriculture together to work toward a common goal."

USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom, who began his career as an exporter more than 40 years ago, echoed this theme, noting the enormous obstacles the U.S. meat industry faced decades ago, when access to global markets was severely limited and exports accounted for just a small fraction of total production and sales.

Halstrom highlighted Latin America as a shining example of how market access gains achieved through free trade agreements can pave the way for tremendous pork and beef export growth. He cited Central America, Colombia and the Dominican Republic as markets that were once extremely price-driven, but now consumers crave the quality, consistency and versatility of higher-value red meat cuts.

"When we look at beef, there was a time in the Dominican Republic when beef pricing made it tough to sell anything. But now there's a growing middle class with more spending power and a greater appreciation for quality," he said.

Halstrom also addressed the importance of developing new products—including protein snacks—that appeal to consumers whose top priority is convenience. He specifically cited recent success for U.S. pork in Mexico's convenience store sector.

"Just a few years ago we had nothing going on in these stores," Halstrom explained. "But now there are eight different U.S. pork items at 22,000 Oxxo stores in Mexico and about 8,000 7-Elevens. This is exactly the sort of thing we need more of—value-added products that appeal to young consumers."

USMEF members then heard from the event's keynote speaker, geopolitical strategist and author Peter Zeihan, who discussed global trade, energy security and the economic implications of lower birth rates and aging populations around the world.

While noting that beef and pork exports have achieved tremendous success in north Asia, Zeihan explained that demographic trends in the region underscore the importance of market diversification for the U.S. meat industry.

"In Japan, Korea and China, they now have three times as many people in their 50s as they have children," Zeihan said. "This is a market that is going to shrink—it has to shrink. Taiwan's the best of the batch, and it doesn't exactly look great."

Zeihan cited Southeast Asia as a promising region for long-term growth, specifically highlighting Indonesia and Vietnam. He noted that U.S. trade officials are pursuing market access improvements in this region that could eliminate trade barriers for U.S. red meat, but warned that more resources may be needed for these efforts to be successful.

"Here's a complication: the way the United States is now pursuing trade deals, framework agreements, sectorial agreements, things that don't have to go through Congress—they don't have to be ratified," Zeihan explained. "So why would [trading partners] abide by them? Any U.S. deal that is a framework or a sectoral deal has to be enforced every single day. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, at its height in post-war world, only had 300 staff. Now it's closer to 200. You know how many Australia has? Six thousand." — **USMEF**

Proposal intended to align USFS, BLM regulations

GRAZING RULES
(from page 1)

Grazing on USFS lands contributes about 14,200 jobs and $645 million to the nation's gross domestic product annually.

USDA proposal

Many of the proposed rule's revisions are editorial, procedural or intended to clarify existing requirements, USDA said. Other changes align with BLM regulations to support permittees who use lands managed by both agencies.

The rule was published in the Federal Register on Nov. 12, opening a 30-day comment period.

The rule proposes modernizing grazing administration, improving clarity, codifying existing policy and expanding stewardship and access opportunities. Amendments include the following:

- Updating permit issuance, eligibility and qualification provisions.
- Establishing a framework for adaptive response to drought, wildfire and other events.
- Expanding authorities for stewardship-oriented livestock use, such as outcome-based grazing or targeted grazing, under a temporary grazing permit.
- Revising grazing fee provisions to ensure consistent fee-setting across national forests and grasslands.
- Establishing a surcharge for authorized leasing of livestock.

A broader objective of the proposed rule is to create greater consistency between USFS and BLM grazing regulations. The proposal incorporates several provisions to align the agencies.

The proposal could make it easier for beginning ranchers, successors or other applicants to qualify for USFS grazing permits. This includes allowing applicants to own or lease their base property and livestock; expanding base property to include cropland and stock water rights; recognizing livestock purchases, extended purchase agreements, family succession arrangements and mentor/mentee relationships; providing discretionary priority to qualified beginning ranchers and permittee mentees when new permits are offered through a prospectus; and giving beginning ranchers, mentees and small-business ranchers priority in certain circumstances when additional grazing becomes available.

The formal framework for responding to conditions that affect forage and water availability, such as drought and wildlife, would allow the USFS to make temporary adjustments to grazing management. The rule would also allow grazing to begin up to 21 days before the permit's start day or extend 21 days beyond its end date when needed to address environmental conditions.

The rule would expand the types of activities authorized under temporary grazing permits and livestock use permits, such as outcome-based grazing and targeted grazing. It would extend the maximum term for livestock use permits from one year to up to five years.

The proposal would clarify procedures for permittees who temporarily reduce or suspend grazing. For non-use requested for personal convenience, the maximum period would increase from three to four consecutive years, but four years could not be exceeded within a 10-year rolling period when grazing less than 90% of permitted numbers.

The rule would establish a surcharge when permittees graze livestock owned by someone else on their authorized allotments. The surcharge would equal 35% of the difference between the current federal grazing fee and the previous year's private grazing land lease rate per animal unit month. The surcharge would not prohibit livestock leasing but is intended to account for additional administrative costs and capture a portion of the greater profit associated with pasturing livestock, USFS said. Exemptions are available.

Existing permit-cap provisions would be replaced with a more flexible framework allowing denial of applications that would result in excessive permit consolidation or inefficiently split permits.

Grazing fee provisions for the National Forest System and national grasslands in the western states would be consolidated into one section. The existing grazing fee formula would remain unchanged, including the 25% annual change limit and $1.35-per-animal-unit-month minimum.

Allotment management plans would be made optional rather than mandatory. Allotment management plans will still need to include grazing practices, resource objectives, operational flexibility and monitoring requirements.

Comments may be submitted by Dec. 14 at regulations.gov by searching for docket ID RIN 0596-AD75. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**



Optimism grows in October as current conditions improve

Farmer sentiment improved in October, with the Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer (AEB) Index increasing from 123 points in September to 126 points (see Figure 1).

The Index of Current Conditions increased by 16 points, while the Index of Future Expectations dropped by 2 points. High input costs remain the biggest concern. Despite this concern, the Farm Financial Performance Index increased from 90 to 94, and the Farm Capital Investment Index increased from 39 to 55 in October.

The increase in the Index of Current Conditions coincided with the rollout of the USDA Agriculture Risk Coverage-County and Price Loss Coverage payments in October. Continued concerns about the long-run policy environment, which will be further discussed below, are likely impacting producer expectations. The October barometer survey was conducted among 400 farmers across the country from Oct. 12-16.

> *The share of respondents who thought the U.S. was heading in the right direction averaged more than 60% from July 2025 to June 2026 but fell below 50% in both the September and October surveys.*

Although the Farm Financial Performance Index rose from 90 to 94 in October, it remains below its 2026 peak of 103 reached in August. The Farm Capital Investment Index increased from 39 to 55, reaching its highest level since last December. However, it is important to note that only 20% of respondents in October indicated that it was a good time to make investments in machinery and buildings.

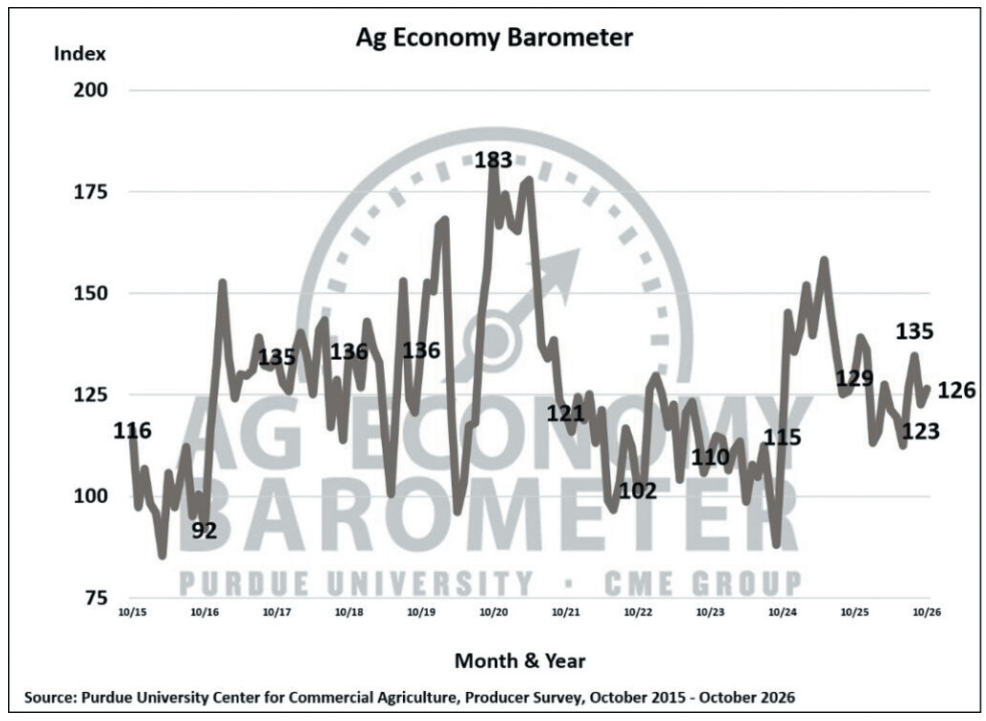
This month's survey included questions about farm resilience or the ability to withstand market shocks. Approximately 62% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: "We have a strong balance sheet."

In January of this year, 76% of respondents indicated that they have a strong balance sheet. In a related question, 60% of respondents this month either agreed or strongly agreed that their farm had a solid working capital position.

The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index declined by 1 point to 125 in October, while the Long-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index fell by 6 points to 162. Alternative investments, interest rates, and inflation were cited as the three factors with the greatest influence on farmland values.

Two questions in this month's survey gauged sentiment regarding the long-run policy environment. The first question asked respondents whether they expected the increased use of tariffs in the U.S. to strengthen or weaken the U.S. agricultural economy in the long run. Only 35% of respondents thought the increased use of tariffs would strengthen the long-run agricultural economy. When this question was asked in previous surveys, between 49% and 70% of respondents indicated that tariffs would strengthen the U.S. agricultural economy in the long run.

The second question that was used to measure sentiment regarding the long-run policy environment asked respondents whether they think the U.S. is headed in the "right direction" or on the "wrong track." The share of respondents who thought the U.S. was heading in the right direction averaged more than 60% from July 2025 to June 2026 but fell below 50% in both the September and October surveys. — **Purdue University and CME Group**

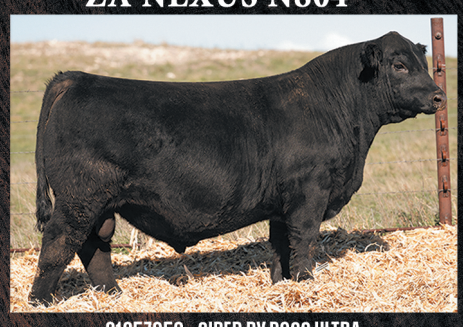


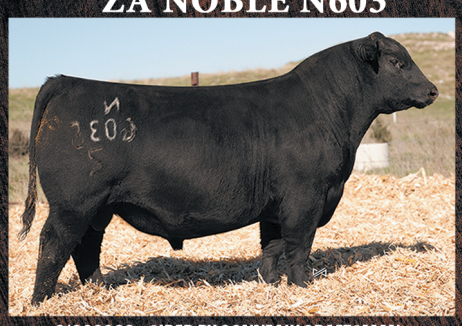
Source: Purdue University Center for Commercial Agriculture, Producer Survey, October 2015 - October 2026

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US beef imports and evolving global markets

Figure 1. U.S. Beef Import Share by Region
January - September

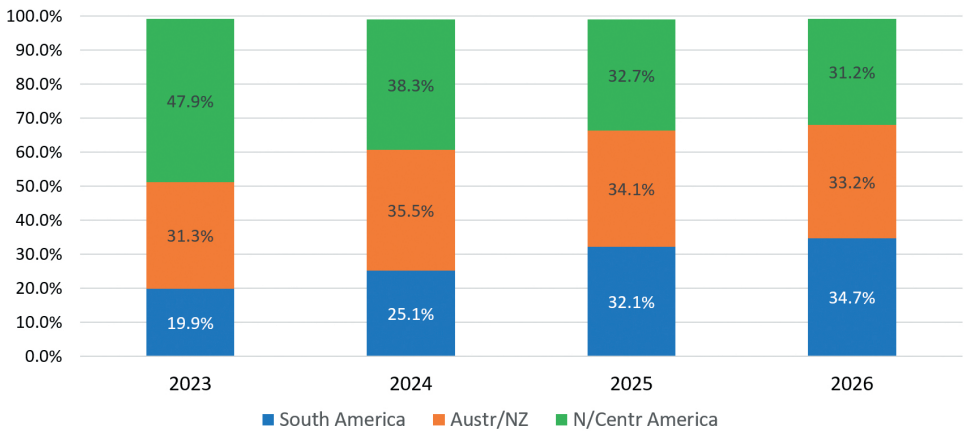
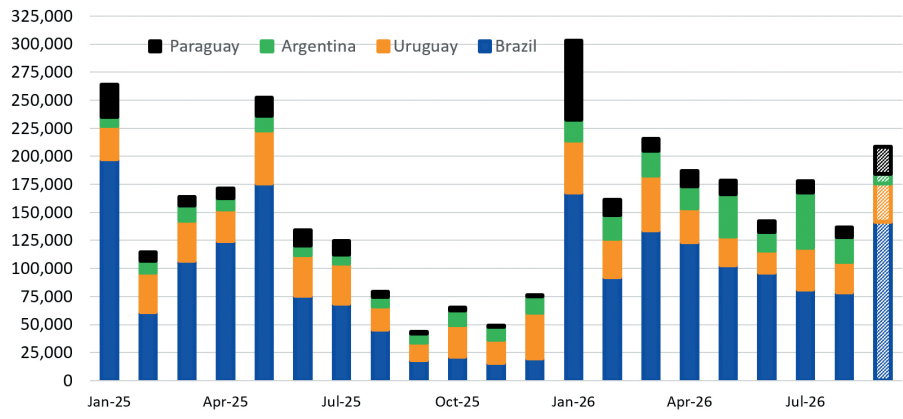


Figure 2. Beef Imports from South America
1,000 Pounds, Monthly



For the first nine months of 2026, U.S. beef imports are up 17.5%. Australia remains the largest source of beef imports, with 22.8% of the year-to-date total, followed by Brazil (20.7%), Canada (15.3%), Mexico (12.3%), New Zealand (10.4%) and Uruguay (6.9%). Smaller sources include Argentina (4.4%), Nicaragua (3.6%) and Paraguay (3.5%).

Total beef imports have increased sharply since 2023. For the January-September period, total beef imports have increased 74.6% from 2023 to 2026. There have also been significant regional shifts in the source of U.S. beef imports. Figure 1 shows that 47.9% of 2023 beef imports originated in North and Central America (Canada and Mexico plus Nicaragua), declining to a 31.2% share in 2026. Total beef imports from the region are up, however, by 13.6% over the period.

U.S. beef imports from Australia and New Zealand had maintained a relatively constant share of total imports, dropping slightly from 35.5% in 2024 to 33.2% in 2026 (Figure 1). Total imports from this region increased by 85% over the four years.

The share of beef imports from South America (Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay) increased from 19.9% in 2023 to 34.7% in 2026 (Figure 1). Total U.S. beef imports from the region have increased 205.1% in four years.

The latest September data shows that total monthly beef imports were up 49.7% year over year, with increases from all sources except Argentina. Beef imports from South America were up 376.6% year over year (Figure 2). September was the first month of the special tariff-free beef import program announced by the president in late August. The monthly allocation for September would have allowed up to 220.5 million pounds of beef imports with no over-quota tariff. So how much additional beef did come in as a result of this program?

This program primarily benefits Brazil and Paraguay. Total September beef imports from the two countries was 165.822 million pounds. The average monthly imports from Brazil and Paraguay from February through August (with tariffs in place) was 112.42 million pounds. September was up by 53.4 million pounds over this average. This would suggest that just 24.2% of the possible additional tariff-free allocation was imported.

Of course, it is impossible to know how much beef would have been imported in the absence of the policy, but the increased imports due to tariff reductions appear to be far less than the total quantity allowed. Additionally, September beef imports from Argentina (which has had its own special tariff-free deal this year) dropped in September to the lowest level in 14 months.

Argentina, which displaced some beef imports from Brazil earlier this year, may now be displaced somewhat by Brazil and/or Paraguay. These abrupt trade policy changes appear to have more impact on the mix of beef import sources than on the total amount of beef imports. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

SUPERIOR Livestock Auction — VIDEO AUCTION

Nov. 5, Hudson Oaks, TX

Feeders sold $6-9/cwt lower and calves sold $5-12 lower on comparable cattle. Verified program cattle carried the day at Superior Livestock Auction's Nov. 5 video auction, where producers offered 36,473 head into the eighth consecutive lower session in the cattle futures.

Cattle were consigned from 26 states and drew 90 successful buyers. Cattle sold on contract to deliver immediately through February.

"The market is seeking its level, and we had a very active market at Superior today," said Ralph Wade, auctioneer for Superior Livestock Auction. "Cattle with genetics and health protocols are bringing more buyer demand and showing strength. In this kind of market you have to stay the course and stay with your program."

Verified program cattle carried the day. A set of 252 weaned steer calves out of Jordan Valley, OR, enrolled in VAC 45, Superior Verified, AngusLink, non-hormone treated cattle and Superior Progressive Genetics, weighed 580 pounds and brought $476/cwt, or approximately $2,761 a head, the strongest money of any lot in its weight class. A second Warn Ranches set at 500 lbs. brought $500/cwt, or about $2,500 a head. Out of Erick, OK, 68 weaned heifer calves at 750 lbs. on VAC 60 and Progressive Genetics brought $370/cwt, roughly $2,775 a head. Feeder steers out of Grinnell, KS, at 825 lbs. brought $354/cwt, near $2,921 a head.

Pressure came from the fed cattle side. Southern cash traded $7/cwt lower on the week, December live cattle closed $3.60 lower at $214.40, and November feeder cattle closed $6.97 lower at $324.92. The CME Feeder Cattle Index eased $2.20 to $346.58. Supply has not loosened with the board. Yearlings remain hard to source, a large share of this year's calves is already committed, and available numbers are expected to run lighter than usual through the end of the year. Moisture kept building across grazing country. The U.S. Drought Monitor removed short-term drought from New Mexico, the Southwest and the Great Basin, with improvements also reaching western Oklahoma, western Colorado and the Nebraska Panhandle.

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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: 11/12/2026		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	211.93	▼	217.15	225.58
CME Feeder Index	330.61	▼	348.78	342.42
Boxed Beef Average	357.59	▼	361.56	373.57
Average Dressed Steers	330.00	▼	339.88	355.43
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,469	▲	1,464	N/A
Weekly Slaughter**	534,000	▼	543,000	N/A
Weekly Beef Production***	479.8	▼	487.3	N/A
Hide/Offal Value	14.47	▼	14.61	11.38
Corn Price	4.49	▲	4.44	4.43

*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	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
November 6	6,354	366.62	266	401.94	1,113	371.46	2,096	361.15	483	352.98	2,396	325.03
October 30	6,663	370.82	282	409.37	1,278	375.38	2,039	365.78	516	353.11	2,549	323.62
October 23	6,554	371.93	262	408.09	1,124	377.25	2,030	368.27	516	351.67	2,622	322.62
October 16	6,975	376.00	308	412.79	1,223	381.57	2,237	373.02	516	351.78	2,692	330.62

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
November 12	357.59	348.71	289.29	87.77	358.93
November 11	360.26	347.47	293.20	87.23	365.12
November 10	362.98	351.62	296.66	94.87	N/A
November 9	362.74	353.73	296.36	86.09	372.81
November 6	360.79	353.56	299.01	106.65	369.79

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	11/6	11/9	11/10	11/11	11/12	High*	Low*
Dec.	21405	21620	21965	21973	22085	25873	16853
Feb. '27	21720	22010	22290	22333	22475	25873	16668
Apr. '27	21985	22290	22548	22628	22775	25598	17005
Jun. '27	21528	21833	22090	22185	22353	25120	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	11/6	11/9	11/10	11/11	11/12	High*	Low*
Nov.	32233	32835	33050	33433	33740	38103	21920
Jan. '27	31838	32418	32740	33013	33408	38280	22268
Mar. '27	31385	32020	32405	32650	33043	38020	22460
Apr. '27	31260	31888	32330	32555	32943	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	109	1,670	211.93
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	423	1,007	330.00
Dressed Del Heifer	142	942	330.00
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	14,590	1,626	217.15
Live FOB Heifer	4,418	1,445	217.10
Dressed Del Steer	13,134	1,038	339.88
Dressed Del Heifer	2,596	908	339.82
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	6,422	1,594	225.58
Live FOB Heifer	1,074	1,391	226.51
Dressed Del Steer	722	958	355.43
Dressed Del Heifer	176	851	357.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 8, 2026

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	27,160	3,431
Formula	231,821	5,091
Negotiated Cash	58,294	145
Negotiated Grid	24,663	1,657
Packer Owned	9,116	N/A
Total	**351,104**	**10,324**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,718
Nov. '26	117,504	Neg. Sales 21+ days	714
Dec. '26	99,860	Formula sales	3,837
Jan. '27	61,649	Forward contract sales	85
Feb. '27	66,174	Domestic sales	5,757
Mar. '27	47,416	NAFTA Exports	107

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	213.63	+2.15
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	210.33	+0.32
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	215.64	+0.38
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	214.04	+0.46
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	117.30	-3.91

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	460.23	461.60	450.10
601-700 lbs	411.11	411.55	403.47
701-800 lbs	373.71	375.28	372.49
801-900 lbs	346.08	341.17	341.41
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	462.17	449.63	435.32
501-600 lbs	407.97	396.84	391.03
601-700 lbs	371.41	365.51	363.09
701-800 lbs	340.28	335.75	313.25

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
	11/2/2026	10/26/2026		
Feeders	15,871	13,995	82,618	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

November 10, 2026

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 6,900 **Week Ago EST: 8,600** **Year Ago Act: N/A**

Santa Teresa, NM -

Compared to Monday, steers under 600 lbs sold steady; steers over 600 lbs traded 7.00 higher. Heifers were not well tested. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	370-380
600-700 lbs	320-337
700-800 lbs	290-307

Douglas, AZ -

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold 5.00-15.00 lower. Heifers were not well tested. Trade and demand moderate. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	370-380
600-700 lbs	325-335
700-800 lbs	295-305

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

Selected Auctions — Week Ending November 12, 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	
November 6 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		450-600 400-511	380-528 360-480	350-420 330-408	310-389 280-345	280-320 260-300	260-297	120-169 145-172		NORTHWEST
November 5 Burley, ID	553		556 468-500	427.50-490 435-452	379-416 384-390	332 323	331	265	105-190 147-151		
No report available Emmett, ID											
No report available Eugene, OR											
November 9 Madras, OR	757		440-460 373-429	429-442 370-425	390-425 360-375	355-375 329-345	320-334 300-320	270-315 275-300	126-148 147-165	2,550-2,950	
November 4 Vale, OR	1,423		500-557 430-462	435-497 370-450	382-424 352-380	325-385			131-144 158-179	2,400-4,025	
November 9 Davenport, WA	439	270	400 245-445	340-410 255-397	315-395 290-372.50	315-345 270-335	270-319 215-290	185-285 165-265	77.50-240 112.50-247.50	3,700-4,400 1,450-3,400	
November 5 Toppenish, WA	774			360*	350* 319-345*	257-319*			105-160 130-157		
No report available Orland, CA											FARWEST
No report available Escalon, CA											
November 9 Famoso, CA	315		350-550 310-455	355-510 330-430	320-470 315-420	320-410 290-350	285-325	260-310 250-310	120-230 115-170		
No report available Galt, CA											
November 10 Turlock, CA	719		400-500 450-500	375-500 375-402.50	375-401 350-379	330-360 300-320	300-325 285-300		120-149 137-155		
November 3 Salina, UT	2,192	450-660 400-645	375.25-595 330-615	320-525 295-497.50	302-440 280-417.50	295-395 320-350	225-350 215.50-329	262.50-332.50 168-303	125.85-172.50 135-177		
November 9 Iowa	8,163		527.50-600 440-575	400-550 376-505	355-464 302-437.50	313-416 291-361	284-362.50 230-339	267-324.50 264-310	104-245 117-220		NORTH CENTRAL
November 10 Miles City, MT	3,701	740	552.50-650 515-550	460-535 417.50-498	402-490 342.50-415	353-405.50 337.50-360	354	277.50-330.50 310	100-144 155-181		
November 11 Bassett, NE	5,790		560-582.50 477	470-540 447.50-471	429-503 377.50-447.50	390-435 340-464	348-395.75	328-345.25 327-328			
November 7 Ericson, NE	2,730		560 490-535	475-540 427-450	413-460 377-412.50	345-422 335-376	341-346 340				
November 6 Imperial, NE	685		527.50-532 457.50	480-506 381-428	430-448 351-400	392.50-405 350		285 284-301			
No report available Kearney, NE											
November 6 Lexington, NE	2,108		535-567 442-465	481-511 394-435	414-495 356.50-411	370.50-421 318-336		296			
November 5 Ogallala, NE	2,723		547.50-602.50 446-449	439-537.50 405-435	418-470 343-405	361-423 332.50-351	356-369.50	232.50-302.50 207.50-314			
November 5 Valentine, NE	1,990		530-595 355-490	484-537 395-447.50	410-454 376-392.50	385-425 355	332-361	287-309.50			
November 6 Herreid, SD	3,690		507-545 480-494	440.50-465 417-440	427 360-391	383-384 320-326	302-360 321-331	307-344.75 300-303.50			
November 11 Torrington, WY	4,755		595-650 500-535	487-577 445-470	425-474 358-438	370-415 352-377	355-370 340-345	295-311			
November 5 Willcox, AZ	957	484.50-515 425	445-480 405.50-445	431-475 387-415	369-407.50 344-375	336.50-355 294-335			125-157 145-177	2,200-2,600	SOUTH CENTRAL
November 9 Colorado	16,095	560-570 445-530	500-635 412-515	420-570 330-448	362.50-481 242.50-420	325-407 271-378	311-362 282.50-306	302.50-316 220-306.50	92-250 131-185	1,750-3,425 800-3,025	
November 4 La Junta, CO	2,383		467.50-600 412.50-505	400-517.50 357-422.50	351-415 305-360	325-370 270-325	311-336 265-300	282.50-316 260-290	130-144 170-181	1,575-3,550	
November 9 Loma, CO	1,480		380-537.50 360-495	360-505 330-465	330-445 295-382.50	297.50-382.50 283-355	280-341 225-270	185-307 242.50-289	110-162.50 161-180	3,200-3,700 1,450-3,185	
November 11 Dodge City, KS	4,467		515 460-480	420-522.50 417.50-460	404-501 350-408	356-421 318-380	343-370.25 307-327	317.25-345.50 276.50-314.60	110-152 147-205	3,300-3,900 1,500-4,300	
November 5 Pratt, KS	2,315	540-570 510	500-585 465-517.50	435-582 395-472.50	388-505 347-397.50	346-422 322-344	326-358 306-332	306-330 285-313.50	116-265 160-212.50	3,700 1,700-2,500	
November 5 Salina, KS	1,822	400 350	450-510 425-430	420-447 372.50-440	368-432 348-404	359-391 324-364	306-344 309-333	285-330 275-303			
November 12 Clovis, NM	2,354	627-645 380-560	522-605 402-540	430-550 392-497	365-485 335-435	325-385 296-335	310-336 262-267	310.50-320 170-295			
November 11 El Reno, OK	4,834	580 550-560	530-600 430-540	440-590 370-445	360-470 315-410	325-395 310-350	320-347.50 302.50-330	300-339 270-317.50			
November 10 McAlester, OK	945		437-573 421-462	372-457 346-449	323-406 320-390	325-350 303-341	283-330 266-282	295 240-279	119-140 160-181	1,300-2,950	
November 10 Oklahoma City, OK	4,777	535-570 555-565	450-592.50 425-540	460-545 350-477	392-477 331-385	330-415 315-348	329-355 320-334	310-325 244-300.50			
November 6 Cuero, TX	1,360	441-520 388-500	412-520 368-475	373-480 332-470	325-425 306-390	316-370 292-365	288-314 255-285		104-123 160-170	3,250-3,400 1,700-2,650	
November 5 Dalhart, TX	2,375		500-502.50 410-475	390-502.50 360-432.50	350-441 320-352	285-387.50 287.50-320	285-343 280	287.50-318 245-250	95-143.50 124-166		
November 5 San Angelo, TX	1,142	540	500 430	430-435 380-435	358.50-395 320-370	335-370 290-310	325 300-315	295	102-147 154-190	3,600 1,900-4,200	
November 5 Tulia, TX	1,324	485	605 377-495	400-457 350-390	390-407 305-376	322-358 275-318	325 270		119-125 155	2,400	
November 6 Alabama	7,800	495-500 385-475	450-525 360-450	415-456 320-407.50	348-412 305-350	325-375 290-333	304-340 270-305	270-280	110-147.50 130-177.50	1,650-4,400 1,300-5,300	EAST
November 9 Lexington, KY	687		457.50-497.50* 350-455*	427-470* 310-405*	360-421* 272.50-353*	325-380* 287.50-327*	300-337* 272.50*	285-290* 191-281*	112-140 140-180	3,000-4,000 1,950-2,800	
November 9 Joplin, MO	4,987		460-560 415-460	435-540 385-420	375-450 345-385	350-387 326-342	335-349 313-333	299-332 265-298			
November 9 Tennessee	7,856	405-500 380-490	400-510 332.50-467	375-465 302.50-420	300-425 270-385	302.50-364 250-365.50	268-360 240-320	262-315 234-295	85-150 125-195	900-5,100 1,100-3,700	
November 9 Virginia	3,818	320-325	350-490 315-416	331-450 300-390	315-415 250-345	280-362.50 255-320	245-337 227.50-288	225-319 190-297			
CANADA											
November 11 Lethbridge, Alberta	342								160-195 225-236		

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Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame recognizes 2027 award winners

The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame is pleased to announce its 2027 inductees and award recipients to be recognized at the 18th Annual Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Banquet.

Joel Jarnagin of Cobalt Cattle Company in Garden City, KS, and Thomas (Tom) John Basabe of the Simplot Company's Land and Livestock Group in Grand View, ID, are the 2027 Hall of Fame inductees.

Raised on a family farm in Jetmore, KS, Jarnagin developed an early foundation in livestock care that built a lifelong career in cattle feeding. As CEO of Cobalt Cattle Company since 2015, Jarnagin guided the business from a single 73,000-head yard into the nation's fourth-largest cattle feeder, expanding to seven locations with a 410,000-head capacity. Driven by integrity, teamwork and a people-first strategy, his leadership continues to shape and serve the cattle feeding community.

Basabe, president of Simplot's Land and Livestock Group, has dedicated his career to advancing the cattle industry. Starting in 1968 as a pen rider at Simplot, Basabe worked through nearly every operational role before assuming leadership in 1988. Under his guidance, Simplot grew into the largest cattle feeding and ranching operation in the Pacific Northwest—expanding feeding capacity to 230,000 head, growing to 16 ranches with 32,000 mother cows and managing 100,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

Today, as the nation's seventh-largest cattle feeder and second-largest rancher, Simplot oversees more than 4 million acres of federal permits, manages Simplot Western Stockmen's and recently launched its own branded beef products to complete a fully vertically integrated business.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame also recognizes individuals for leadership and service in the cattle feeding industry.

The 2027 Industry Leadership Award honoree is Dr. Temple Grandin, a University Distinguished Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. A world-renowned scientist and autism advocate, Grandin transformed global stockmanship and facility design by pioneering animal-centric handling, welfare and transportation practices that reduce livestock stress and advance humane standards. Her visionary research, leadership and commitment to practical industry solutions leave an enduring legacy across agriculture and beyond.

The 2027 Arturo Armendariz Distinguished Service Award recipient is Ray Nelson, who retired in December 2025 after 38 years with Agri Beef's El Oro Cattle Feeders in Moses Lake, WA. Beginning as a pen rider, Nelson steadily advanced to feed foreman, mastering the science of cattle feeding and embracing technological innovation throughout his career. Beyond his operational expertise, Nelson dedicated decades to training and mentoring the next generation of feedyard professionals.

"It is an honor to recognize these men and women who have each contributed to our industry in such impactful ways," said Duane "Chub" Klein, North Region president of Animal Health International and a Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Board of Director member. "Their years of service, innovations and achievements have made us better as a whole. We look forward to honoring and celebrating their hard work and legacy in Nashville this coming February." — **Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame**

Feeders trade higher on optimism

MARKETS
(from page 1)

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were able to gain back some of their losses from a week earlier. The November contract gained about $10 to close at $335.67, and the January contract gained about $11 to close at $331.67.

"Even though the live cattle complex is trading mixed, the feeder cattle contracts are rocking and rolling, trading higher as traders anticipate another bullish Cattle on Feed report next week, have seen the regression in corn prices and are pleased with the slight uptick in demand buyers have shown in sale barns," Stewart said. "At this point, the market seems confident enough to trade higher through today's end regardless of what the live cattle market does."

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about $18 to close at $330.61.

Corn futures traded mostly sideways over the week. The December contract gained a penny to close at $4.43, and the March contract also gained a penny to close at $4.55.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 1,831 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steers under 500 lbs. and steers between 650-750 lbs. sold sharply lower, while all other steers sold mostly $6-25 lower. Heifers sold mostly $6-26 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 736 lbs. sold for $327-336, averaging $333.67.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,000 on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the open, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to $10 lower. A group of benchmark steers averaging 783 lbs. sold for $341.

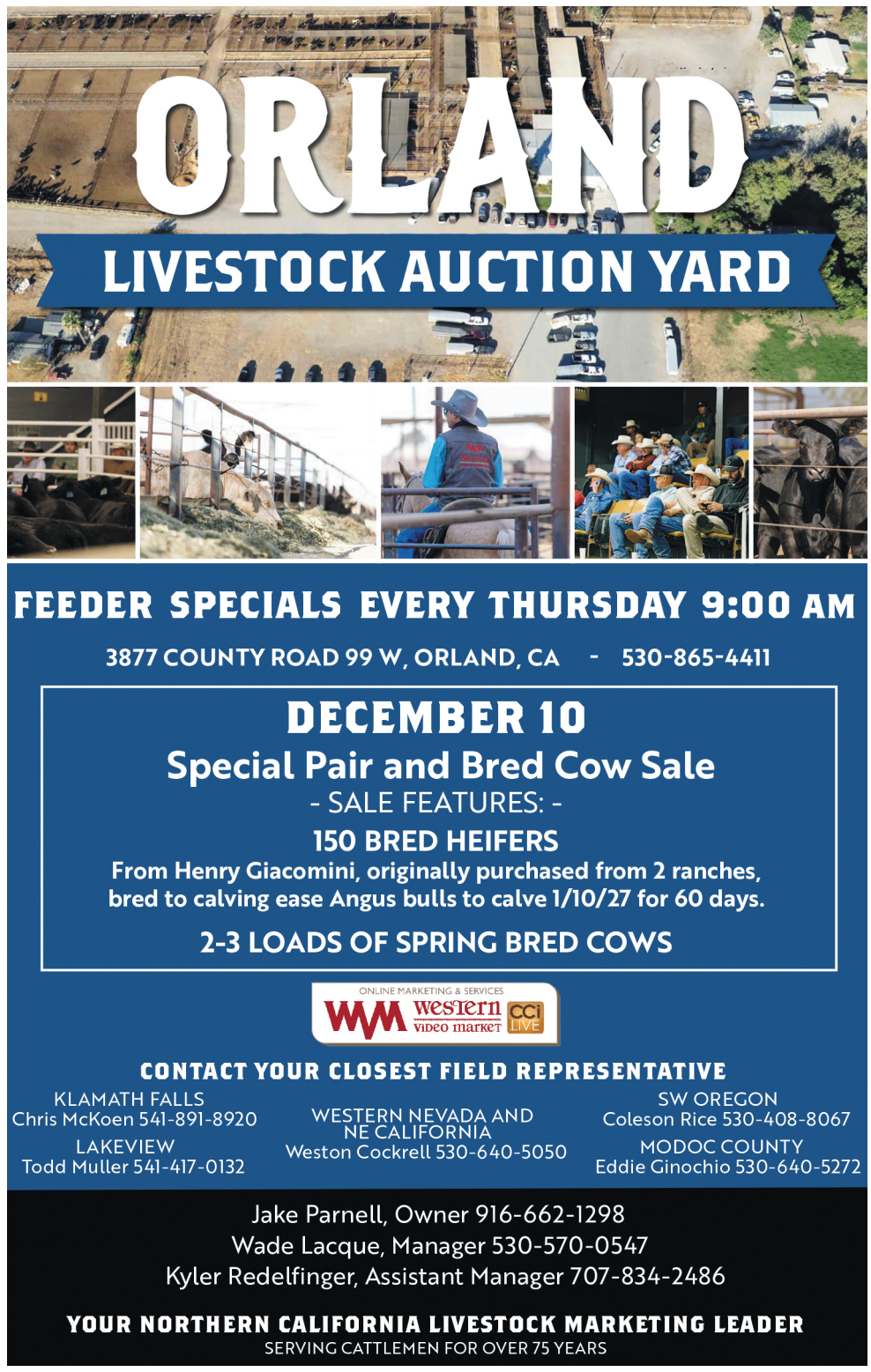
Montana: Miles City Livestock in Miles City sold 2,726 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, steers under 450 lbs. were too lightly tested in either sale to develop any market trend. The best test for feeder steers was for steers 450-599 lbs., which sold mostly steady to $10 lower. A group of unweaned benchmark steers averaging 711 lbs. sold for $354.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder cattle and calves were not well tested at the open. Demand was moderate to good. Benchmark steers averaging 728 lbs. sold from $330-342, averaging $339.51.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 1,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, there were too few steer and heifer calves to allow a good comparison. Yearling feeder steers sold with steady to lower undertones, and yearling feeder heifers sold with lower undertones. Benchmark steers averaging 725 lbs. sold from $331-342.50, averaging $336.35.

Utah: Producers Livestock in Salina sold 1,958 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder cattle sold unevenly steady on calves and yearlings. Benchmark steers averaging 713 lbs. sold from $317.50-343, averaging $331.40.

Wyoming: Winter Livestock in Riverton sold 3,312 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold mostly steady to $1-3 higher, with instances of $7-15 lower. Heifer calves saw the biggest gains, with $15-17 higher; 550-590 lbs. were $30 higher. A group of steers averaging 670 lbs. sold from $358-375, averaging $369.38. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**



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Understanding dystocia: Preparing for difficult calving

Calving is a natural part of cattle production, but some deliveries require extra help. Producers and veterinarians can work together in anticipation of potential complications and in responding when labor does not progress as expected.

Dr. Brian Shoemake, a clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, shares the benefits of working with a veterinarian to prepare for calving season and to both recognize and address the complications that may arise.

In a normal delivery, the calf usually emerges with its front feet first, followed by its nose and the rest of its body; dystocia occurs when a cow is unable to deliver her calf within an appropriate amount of time.

Recognizing warning signs and contacting a veterinarian early can help producers respond before the situation becomes an emergency.

Because timing is such an important part of monitoring labor, Shoemake recommends watching first-calf heifers closely, as their labor may progress differently from cows that have given birth before.

"For heifers, I typically give them up to four hours from when their water breaks (the initiation of the delivery portion of calving) to finish and have the calf out and on the ground," Shoemake said.

Adult cows that have previously given birth generally deliver more quickly and should typically complete the delivery portion of calving within an hour and a half of the water breaking to calf on ground, according to Shoemake.

If heifers or cows are not meeting these progression time points or if they haven't already been examined, it is worth examining them to find out what is occurring.

When assistance is needed, Shoemake follows a "30-minute rule:" if there has been no progress after 30 minutes of an attempted intervention, it is time to consider another option rather than continuing to pull out the calf.

Why dystocia happens

One cause of dystocia is fetal-maternal mismatch, which occurs when a calf is too large to pass safely through the mother's pelvic opening.

Because calf size can be influenced by genetics, nutrition, environmental conditions and other factors, making informed breeding decisions can help reduce the risk of having a calf that is too large for the cow to deliver safely.

"Most of the time for a fetal-maternal mismatch, we need to do a C-section," Shoemake said.

Other difficult deliveries involve a calf that is positioned incorrectly. In those cases, repositioning may allow the calf to pass through the birth canal.

To reduce the risk of dystocia, Shoemake recommends that producers work with a veterinarian to consider several factors as they begin preparing for calving. These factors include:

- Evaluating heifer pelvic size.
- Choosing bulls carefully to balance performance with calving expectations.
- Paying special attention to heifers.
- Considering hot seasonal conditions.

"Veterinarians can do a breeding soundness exam on heifers where we get a pelvic area measurement," he said. "As long as the heifer has an adequate pelvic area or diameter, then their risk of dystocia is minimal."

Because environmental conditions can also affect cattle during calving, producers and veterinarians should consider seasonal temperatures and other conditions that could place additional stress on the herd; March through May offers the lowest risk for heat-related problems associated with dystocia without the added challenges of winter calving and raising those calves in cold weather.

This assistance can identify risk factors for dystocia before calving and determine when interventions may be necessary.

"When trying to resolve a dystocia, we should never attempt to pull a calf using machinery, including tractors or trucks," Shoemake said.

C-section care in cattle

Instead, when a different approach is needed during a difficult delivery, a veterinarian may recommend a C-section.

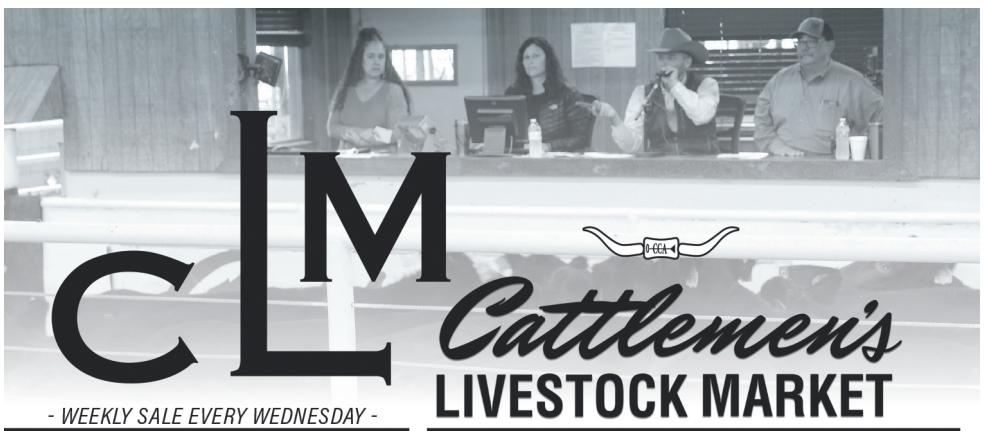
After surgery, producers should monitor the cow's appetite, drinking, post-calving discharge, and behavior for 30-45 days.

"Veterinarians can provide pain management plans and treatment to reduce complications after the surgery as well helping to ensure the calf gets off to the best start it can," Shoemake said.

Proper care after a C-section can ensure minimal complications with your cow's ability to calve successfully without future interventions or dystocia management.

"Most cows return to the productive herd quite well," Shoemake said, adding that it's important to always contact your veterinarian if there are abnormalities after surgery.

Difficult calving can happen even with careful planning but recognizing potential problems early and knowing when to call a veterinarian can make a difference. With preparation and veterinary guidance, producers can be better equipped to navigate calving complications and support the health of their herds. — **College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University**



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

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CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE: DEC. 28

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NDSU to offer mental health support training

Research shows that people working in agriculture experience higher rates of stress and suicide than in many other occupations. Studies also indicate that strong social support and access to helpful resources can significantly reduce stress levels and suicide risk.

To help address these challenges, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension will offer three "Question. Persuade. Refer." (QPR) suicide prevention webinars this coming winter season: Dec. 9 at 11:30 a.m., Jan. 13, 2027, at 11 a.m. and Feb. 10, 2027, at 11 a.m.

The free, 90-minute webinars will focus on the unique stressors facing people in agriculture and the impact those pressures can have on mental and emotional well-being.

Similar to how CPR training prepares people to respond during a medical emergency, QPR training equips participants to recognize the warning signs of mental health distress or suicidal thoughts. Participants will learn practical skills to approach someone with compassion, offer support and connect them with appropriate resources.

"A consistent message we want people in agriculture to hear is that it's OK to not be OK and that help is available," said Sean Brotherson, NDSU Extension family science specialist. "Your health is your most important resource for daily well-being, and this training helps us put health first."

The webinars will be facilitated by Katie Henry, NDSU Extension agent for Cavalier County; Jill Sokness, NDSU Extension agent for Cass County; and Madeleine Smith, NDSU Extension state pesticide specialist.

Although the training is designed with agricultural producers, farm families and others working in agriculture in mind, anyone interested in learning suicide prevention skills is welcome to participate. The training is free and is supported through a USDA grant.

Registration is limited to the first 30 participants. Register for any webinar at ndsu.ag/QPR-winter26-27.

For more information, contact Adriana Drusini at adriana.drusini@ndsu.edu or Brotherson at sean.brotherson@ndsu.edu. — **NDSU Extension**

Research ties heat to mealybug feeding and pasture damage

High temperatures change how mealybugs feed, and that could help explain why some pasture mealybug infestations do far more damage than others, according to early findings from Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists.

The study, led by doctoral student Ashley Zavala in the lab of Thomas Chappell, Ph.D., an epidemiologist in the Texas A&M Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, focuses on mealybug feeding behaviors under a range of environmental conditions.

These findings could eventually help ranchers more precisely manage the invasive pest that continues to spread across Texas and impact native and regionally adapted improved grasses.

Pasture mealybug was first confirmed in Texas in July 2025 and has since expanded to 114 counties across the state, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologists. It is a serious threat to the forage and grazing lands that support Texas' $15.5 billion cattle industry and other pasture-based livestock operations.

The pest has also been reported in Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, and scientists are concerned it could impact other agricultural production, including sugarcane and rice.

In pastures, immature mealybugs feed on plant sap and inject toxins that weaken the grass, often leading to a condition known as pasture dieback. In severe infestations, fields can turn brown, thin out dramatically or die entirely. The invasive pest impacts a broad mix of native and improved warm-season grasses, from Bermuda and Bahia grasses to bluestems and other key forage species.

To measure how mealybugs feed under different conditions, the team uses a technique called electropenetrography, or EPG. The method attaches a sensor to the insect and the plant to record feeding activity as a waveform, which Chappell compares to reading an electrocardiogram.

"It's tedious work, but it's exciting to know that what we are learning could make an impact and help people deal with this serious pest threat," Zavala said. "If we can better understand what changes the way these insects feed, that's a piece of the puzzle that can help guide management."

Chappell's lab is applying the technique to a related mealybug species feeding on pepper plants, but he sees a clear connection to pasture mealybug. He said forecasting tools that consider feeding-behavior, plant stress and susceptibility, and weather patterns could help growers more precisely time their pesticide applications—much like existing weather-driven modeling has done for other pests.

Intelligent agriculture systems could further hone how the data is processed as well as the accuracy and effectiveness of those forecasting tools.

"Mealybugs were relatively under-explored because, before pasture mealybugs, they had not been as big a threat to ag producers," Chappell said. "EPG paves the way for new insights about pest-plant interactions in specific environmental factors."

Tying seasonal factors to feeding behavior

The findings so far have shown that heat and environmental stress changes mealybug feeding behavior and could help explain why some infestations are more severe, Chappell said.

Mealybugs feed by piercing plants and drawing out fluids, typically the sugar-rich sap in the phloem, though they can also tap the xylem, the tissue that carries water. When temperatures rise, Chappell said, insects may drink more xylem to stay hydrated.

Heat also increased how often the mealybugs salivated in the phloem. That matters because saliva carries the enzymes and toxins that damage plants, so hot conditions could mean more harm from the same number of insects.

The early results could provide key insights to the broader puzzle that pasture mealybug has presented to scientists and producers. AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension scientists across the Texas A&M College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, including the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Department of Entomology, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management and the Department of Agricultural Economics, are aligned as research disciplines that will work collaboratively on pasture mealybug targeting the pest from every angle.

So far, they have linked pasture mealybug population growth to factors such as canopy density, heat, humidity and rainfall and continue to pursue answers regarding forage plant susceptibility and recovery.

By understanding factors that contribute to damaging infestations, the research teams are working to identify a suite of management tools and science-based recommendations that forage producers and ranchers can depend on to target the pest and its vulnerabilities. Chappell and Zavala's work adds another layer by looking at how weather conditions shape the behavior of individual insects.

"Our entomologists are tracking where pasture mealybug is, how populations move and how to control it, and forage researchers are examining which forage varieties hold up better under their stress," Chappell said. "Ashley's work connects these by demonstrating how weather affects feeding intensity."

Next steps

Texas A&M AgriLife formed the Emerging Pest Task Force of subject matter experts charged with responding to agricultural and natural resource threats from pest incursions. The task force's current priority is pasture mealybug, and they recently testified before members of the Texas Legislature on New World screwworm and pasture mealybug in Austin.

Meanwhile, a round of AgriLife Research seed grants to several departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are set to support additional research projects directed at addressing pasture mealybug. **— Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Genomics in replacement heifer selection

One of the most economically significant decisions we make in a cow-calf operation is that of which heifers we select to develop as replacements.

Replacement heifer selection and breeding decisions are challenging and impactful. The development of replacement heifers comes at a cost of both time and money. Replacement heifers selected this fall (from our spring-born calves) are 24 months from returning on this investment. The current value at which heifers could be marketed now is lost for the opportunity to be developed as a cow. The next two years to properly develop, grow, breed, calve-out and get the heifer to promptly breed back will require additional feedstuffs, prudent nutritional decisions and labor.

How do we hedge our bets to increase the accuracy of replacement heifer selection?

Genomic testing informs decisions on replacement heifer selection by predicting genetic merit and lifetime productivity. This information can be obtained early in life to provide genetic values beyond what can be surmised from visual appraisal alone. For example, genomic testing results in:

• Genetic values for hard-to-measure (unseen) traits expressed later in life, such as fertility, pregnancy rates, teat and udder conformation, calving ease, milk production, longevity, feed efficiency and carcass merit.

• Economic indices combining genetic values for multiple traits into single, easy-to-use scores tailored to your herd's specific goals.

• Cost savings. With input expenses on the rise, the realistic cost of developing a replacement heifer is $2,000 or more. Early DNA screening (costing about $15-40 per animal, available from multiple sources) provides actionable information to be used in keep/cull decisions on young heifers prior to sinking time and feed into their development.

• Confirmation of parentage and breed composition, allowing you to better manage mating decisions.

Implementation begins with sample collection. Ear tissue or blood samples from heifer calves can be collected at birth or anytime thereafter. Submit the tissue to a service provider to obtain genomic EPDs and economic indices. Combine this genetic information with traditional visual appraisal in your decision making.

Solving the mystery of which heifer calves hold the most genetic potential to become productive cows now, as opposed to later, offers a greater return from your resources. Genomic testing of commercial heifers serves as a readily available and cost effective means of improving the lifetime productivity of your cow herd. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**





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Nov. 19 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Dec. 3 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Dec. 17 – Superior Livestock Auction, Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Jan. 16, 2027 – Western Elite Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO

ANGUS

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
Dec. 12 – Gaugler Angus, Bull Sale, Judith Gap, MT
Dec. 16 – TK Angus, Bull Sale, Valentine, NE
Dec. 17 – Bobcat Angus, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 14, 2027 – Foundation Angus Sale, Denver, CO
Jan. 19 – Ken Haas Angus, Bull Sale, La Grange, WY
Jan. 22 – McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 22 – Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 25 – Doug Booth Family Angus, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Jan. 29 – Kovarik Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Ord, NE
Jan. 30 – Baldridge Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Feb. 3 – Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Feb. 4 – Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Feb. 5 – Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
Feb. 9 – Werning Cattle Company, Bull Sale, Emery, SD
Feb. 10 – Jindra Angus, Production Sale, Clarkson, NE
Feb. 11 – Booth's Cherry Creek Ranch, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 12 – Raml Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Goodwin, SD
Feb. 15 – Frank Cattle & Genetics, Bull Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Feb. 15 – Weaver Ranch, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO

BALANCER

Feb. 1, 2027 – Taubenheim Gelbvieh, Production Sale, Amherst, NE

BRANGUS

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

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 10, 2027 – Broberg Charolais, Bull Sale, Tilden, NE

GELBVIEH

Feb. 1, 2027 – Taubenheim Gelbvieh, Production Sale, Amherst, NE

HEREFORD

Nov. 19 – Largent & Sons, Bull Sale, Kaycee, WY
Nov. 23 – Berry Herefords, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Jan. 18, 2027 – Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Jan. 28 – Ridder Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Callaway, NE
Feb. 6 – Upstream Ranch, Production Sale, Taylor, NE

OPTIMIZER

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

RED ANGUS

Nov. 21 – Baldridge/ Tiedeman & Frank Cattle Co., Female Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Dec. 3 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 14 – Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE
Feb. 12, 2027 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Feb. 15 – Flat Iron Red Angus, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 15 – Frank Cattle & Genetics, Production Sale, Lodgepole, NE

SALERS

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

SIMANGUS

Dec. 5 – Montana Simmental Association, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 5 – T-Heart Ranch, Female Sale, LaGarita, CA
Dec. 12 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY
Jan. 17, 2027 – The One & Only Simmental Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Feb. 1 – APEX Cattle, Bull Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 3 – Larges Farms, Bull Sale, Wauneta, NE
Feb. 9 – Werning Cattle Company, Production Sale, Emery, SD
Feb. 12 – Raml Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Goodwin, SD
Feb. 15 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD

SIMMENTAL

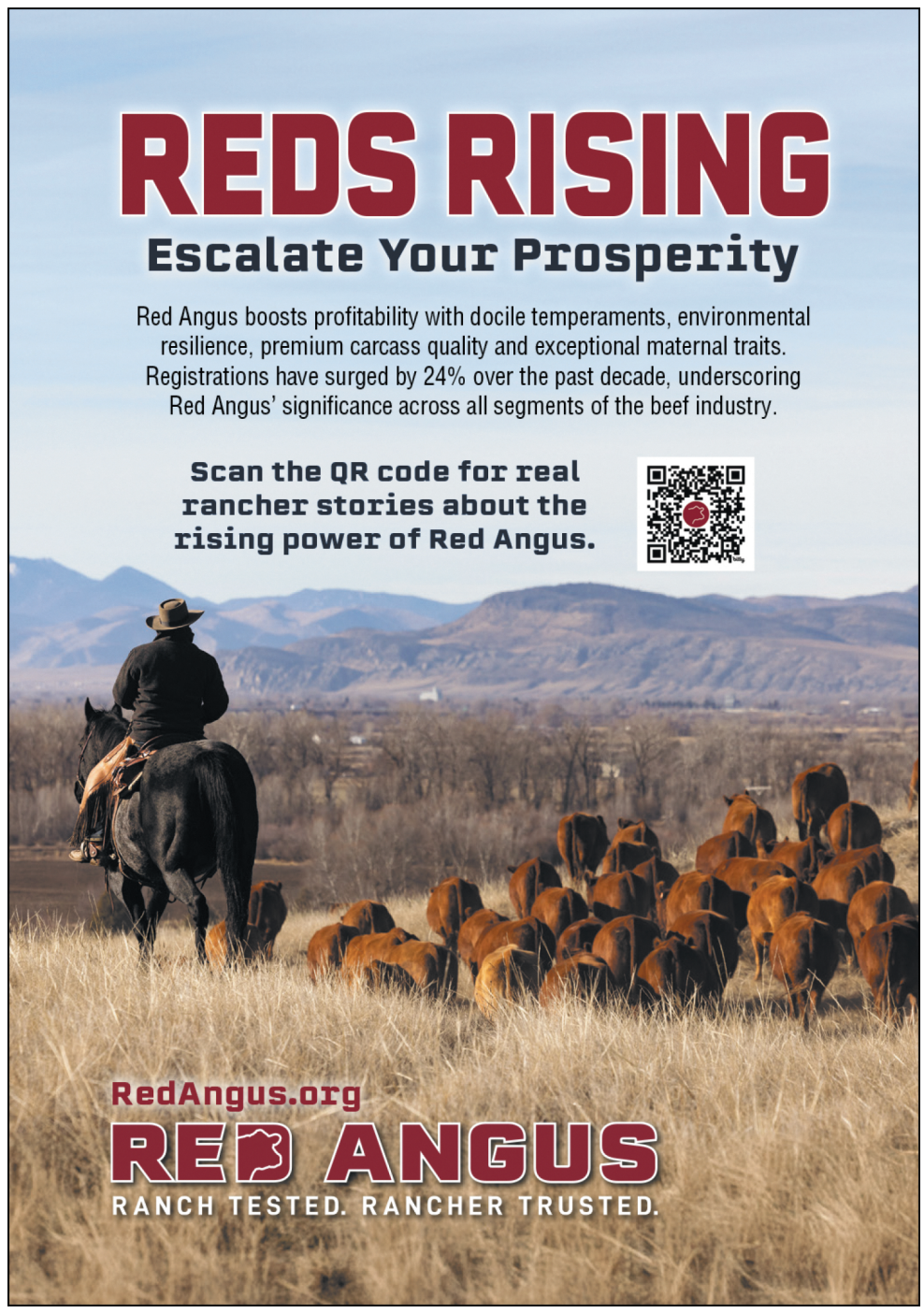
Dec. 1 – Reflected R Ranch, Female Dispersal Sale, Ordway, CO
Dec. 5 – Montana Simmental Association, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 12 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY
Jan. 17, 2027 – The One & Only Simmental Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Feb. 1 – APEX Cattle, Bull Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 9 – Werning Cattle Company, Production Sale, Emery, SD

STABILIZER

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

COMMERCIAL

Nov. 16 – J&L Livestock, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 16 – Montana Angus, 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
Jan. 13, 2027 – Maternal Merit Bred Heifer Sale, Denver, CO



SALE REPORTS

WEAVER RANCH BRED FEMALE SALE
Nov. 6, Lewistown, MT
92 Commercial bred heifers $3,910
437 Commercial bred cows 3,810
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe

ROONEY ANGUS AND GREEN MOUNTAIN ANGUS PRODUCTION BULL SALE
Nov. 9, Billings, MT
54 Angus fall yearling bulls $11,713
81 Angus bull calves. . .11,346
108 Angus 2-year-old bulls 7,736
215 Commercial bred heifers 4,063
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS—Angus 2-year-old bulls: RAR Relentless N963, 3/28/2025 by RAR Relentless 1747; to Linz Heritage Angus, Byars, OK, $22,000. RAR Relentless N956, 3/27/2025 by RAR Relentless 1747; to Schaack Ranch, Wall, SD, $21,000. **Bull calves:** RAR True Value P258, 3/10/2026 by Basin True Value 3017; to Donahey Cattle, Capitol, MT, $18,500. GMAR Authority P364, 3/29/2026 by DBA Authority 3122; to K&K Cattle Company, Belle Fourche, SD, $18,500. **Fall yearling bull:** GMAR Armstrong 024N, 9/1/2025 by S Armstrong; to Linz Heritage Angus, Byars, OK, $70,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**



STEVENSON'S DIAMOND DOT

November 30th Hobson, MT

Lot 305



DIAMOND GALACTIC N951

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+7	-0.8	+86	+150	+.91	+.41	+1.67	+16.3

Lot 306



DIAMOND JAMESON 07N0

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
-1	+3.8	+112	+183	+.94	+.93	+1.87	+13.6

Lot 1



DIAMOND RANGELAND 157P

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+10	-1.0	+80	+137	+1.18	+.58	+.39	+17.9

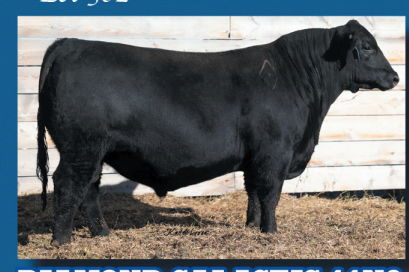
Lot 301



DIAMOND GALACTIC 44N8

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+5	+2.2	+93	+158	+.94	+.95	+1.96	+13.6

Lot 302



DIAMOND GALACTIC 44N6

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+9	+1.2	+86	+147	+1.04	+.56	+1.02	+12.6

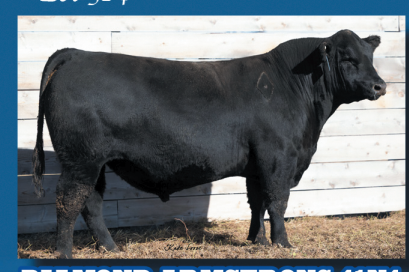
Lot 307



DIAMOND HOBSON 499N

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+7	+0.8	+95	+169	+.59	+.47	+.00	+14.4

Lot 314



DIAMOND ARMSTRONG 41N4

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+5	+2.3	+92	+153	+1.00	+.81	+2.48	+13.0

Lot 4



DIAMOND COMPLETE 99P1

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+1	+2.3	+74	+125	+1.17	+.85	+.66	+14.3

Lot 8



DIAMOND LOGO 300P

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+4	+0.6	+75	+136	+.94	+1.08	-.25	+15.4

Lot 14



DIAMOND GRINDSTONE 255P

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+5	+1.6	+86	+141	+.58	+.73	+2.71	+10.3

Lot 25



DIAMOND EXCLUSIVE P386

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	PAP	HP
+1	+2.2	+87	+156	+.88	+1.23	-.31	+9.0

Lot 501



DIAMOND LADY DENVER 44N7

CED	BW	WW	Milk	YW	Marb	RE
+6	+2.7	+89	+29	+145	+1.03	+1.01

Lot 505



DIAMOND LADY PAYWEIGHT 394N

CED	BW	WW	Milk	YW	Marb	RE
+8	-0.9	+82	+35	+138	+1.08	+.51

Lot 507



DIAMOND ENCHANTRESS M425

CED	BW	WW	Milk	YW	Marb	RE
+7	+1.0	+91	+25	+167	+.90	+.68

Lot 515



DIAMOND TROJAN ERICA N051

CED	BW	WW	Milk	YW	Marb	RE
+7	+1.7	+82	+37	+153	+.79	+.70

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