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INSIDE WLJ

HIGH HONORS — Paul H. Hill becomes 381st inductee into Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery. Page 5

FEEDLOT DECLINE — Latest Cattle on Feed report confirms feedlot inventories are down 1% from year prior. Page 9

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY
"Wild horses held in federal facilities have become a burden on the taxpayers of the U.S. and until last week, the government appeared ready to utilize euthanasia to reduce its costs. The practice has long been authorized as a means of controlling the population in federal holding areas, but the Bureau of Land Management, which is tasked with managing wild horses and burros, has avoided it, fearing public backlash.," wrote John Robinson in his Nov. 24, 2008, *WLJ* article.

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USFS opens grazing allotments for permits

—Follows USDA directives

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is accepting applications for 41 grazing allotments across 17 national forests in the West.

Each forest has a different 30-day application window and deadline.

A prospectus details which allotments are open to applications at this time. While individuals may express interest in other open allotments, applications will not yet be accepted. More information will also be available through forest social media and websites.

"By working with authorized permit holders, Forest Service managers can work with ranchers to protect rangeland health, maintain watershed function, and support wildlife habitat—while also preserving the cultural and economic benefits grazing brings to many rural communities," USFS said.

"These permits help balance multiple uses of public lands so they can continue providing food, fiber, and natural resources for all Americans," the agency continued.

To view an interactive map listing all grazing allotments managed by the agency, visit tinyurl.com/ye7x3euj.

Vacant allotments

There is a total of 41 vacant

See USFS PERMITS on page 7



Preston Keres/USDA

The U.S. Forest Service has released a list of national forests with open grazing allotments available for permitting. Pictured here, cattle graze on the Gravelly Mountaintop Range in Montana's Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, one of the forests with available grazing allotments.

Rabobank: Global beef supplies expected to tighten through 2027

—Higher costs pressure markets

Global beef production is expected to decline for a second consecutive year in 2027, while rising costs and trade disruptions continue to challenge producers and processors. Rabobank's Global Beef Quarterly Q4 2026 report also warns that consumers may be increasingly reluctant to pay higher beef prices.

Angus Gidley-Baird, senior analyst for animal protein at Rabobank, expects 2027 to bring many of the same challenges as 2026, with additional pressure from tightening supplies.

"Lower supplies, higher costs, margin pressures, and shifting trade patterns are expected to shape the 2027 global beef market—similar to what has played out in 2026," Gidley-Baird wrote.

Rabobank forecasts global beef production will decline 0.1% in 2027, following an estimated 1.5% decrease in 2026.

Gidley-Baird said consumers' willingness to pay higher beef prices will be an important factor in 2027. Further price increases could push shoppers toward less expensive proteins, while higher fuel and feed costs squeeze margins throughout the supply chain. Processors and retailers may have limited ability to pass those expenses along to consumers.

U.S. supplies remain tight

U.S. cattle supplies remain historically low, with little indication that producers have begun rebuilding their herds.

October cattle on feed declined 0.4% year over year to 11.37 million head, while September placements fell 12.1%. Heifers still account for 37.8% of cattle on feed, well above the 32-34% range during the 2015-16 herd rebuilding cycle. Rabobank said stronger heifer retention could extend the period of tight supplies and elevated prices.

Rabobank expects additional feeder cattle from Mexico could help ease tight U.S. supplies later in 2027, although New World screwworm (NWS) and border restrictions remain concerns. Beef imports are expected to stay near record levels, while cattle slaughter is projected at 27.77 million head, about 14% below 2024.

The report notes that beef demand is expected to remain strong despite high retail prices. Consumption is forecast to decline about 1% in 2027 as consumers switch to less expensive cuts of beef rather than stop buying it altogether.

North American markets adjust

Rabobank expects Mexico's beef

See BEEF SUPPLIES on page 12

Ninth Circuit splits on CA emissions reporting

—Opposed by ag groups

In a split decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld California's requirement that mandated large companies report greenhouse gas emissions from their own operations and the energy they buy. The court reversed a lower court's refusal to temporarily block supply-chain reporting, finding that the requirement likely violates the First Amendment.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and the Western Growers Association joined business organizations in the lawsuit. They argued that two California laws unconstitutionally compel companies to speak about emissions and climate risk.

California enacted Senate Bill (SB) 253 to require large companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions and SB 261 to require them to disclose their climate-related financial risks. The state intended the laws to give investors better information, help cut emissions and address misleading claims by companies about their climate impacts.

SB 253 applies to U.S. businesses with more than $1 billion in annual revenue that do business in the state. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from sources a company owns or controls. Scope 2 covers emissions from energy it buys, such as electricity. Scope 3 extends to indirect emissions from suppliers, customers and others in the company's supply chain.

SB 261 requires companies that do business in the state and have more than $500 million in annual revenue to publish a climate risk report every two years. The report must explain how climate change could affect the company's finances and what steps it has taken to reduce or adapt to those risks.

What the court decided

Writing for the majority, Judge

See GHG RULING on page 5

Cattle market slow to trade ahead of Thanksgiving

(Editor's note: This market report contains information available as of Tuesday afternoon due to an early holiday press schedule.)

The market made small gains ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Live cattle futures traded modestly higher over the short week. The December contract gained less than $2 to close at $224.55, and the February contract gained less than a dollar to close at $228.75.

"With the support of stronger boxed beef prices, the live cattle contracts again rallied throughout the day, pleased with the market's continued support," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Tuesday closing livestock comments.

Cash trade through Tuesday afternoon totaled about 2,000 head. Live steers sold for $223, and dressed steers sold for $355.

Stewart projected cash trade later in the week to be steady to somewhat higher, encouraged by higher boxed beef prices even with a holiday-shortened week.

Cash trade for the week ending Nov. 22 was 99,473 head. Live steers averaged $218.83, and dressed steers averaged $343.42.

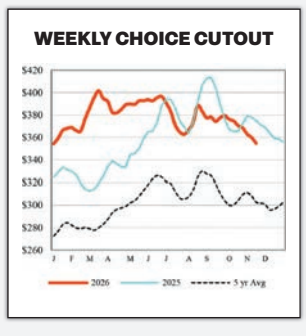
Slaughter through Tuesday afternoon totaled about 221,000 head, compared to 218,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 547,000 head. Actual slaughter for two weeks earlier was not yet released by press time.

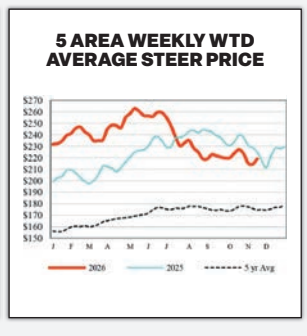
Boxed beef prices saw gains over the week, up about $6 on the Choice cutout to $359.91 and up about $5 on the Select cutout to $346.

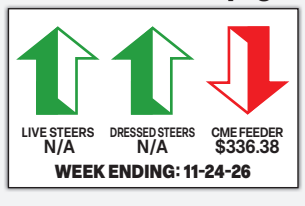
Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures traded mostly lower over the week. The January contract lost less than a dollar to close at $334.32, and the March contract also lost less than a dollar

See MARKETS on page 9



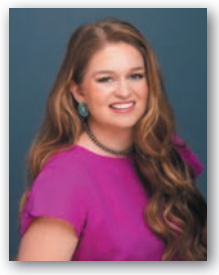




PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

United in purpose



MILLER FORTOZO

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Like I'm sure many of you do, my family often forgoes the quintessential Thanksgiving turkey in favor of beef. Turkey might only have its heyday once a year, but beef is year-round!

While Thanksgiving may be a time to set aside our differences and gather around a table, we know the cattle business has never been short on opinions. Be it at the sale barn, chute side on the ranch or in a boardroom with fellow industry members, cattlemen and women are not afraid to share their opinions. But there are plenty of reasons for the cattle industry to find mutual understanding. After all, we are united by a common commitment to growing one of the safest—and tastiest!—products in the world.

Finding common ground doesn't mean we always have to agree. It means we can recognize the things we have in common and are willing to work toward shared goals. One way we can do that is by making our voices heard when decisions are being made that affect our businesses, communities and Western way of life.

There are several opportunities right now for ranchers to share their perspectives and potentially influence decisions on a national scale.

For ranchers who utilize public lands, there are multiple important comment periods open regarding public land use and management. USDA recently released a proposed rule to update grazing permit eligibility and qualifications, bringing National Forest System grazing more in line with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulations. Comments on the proposal are open now through Dec. 14 and may be submitted at regulations.gov by searching for docket ID RIN 0596-AD75.

BLM also recently released a proposed rule to change the regulation process for land use plans to better align with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. These revisions are intended to streamline current regulations and remove some of the bureaucratic red tape. The agency is hosting a virtual public information session on the proposed rulemaking Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. MST via Microsoft Teams. Participants may register for the session at tinyurl.com/ycdwhkad. Comments on the rule may be submitted through Jan. 11, 2027, at regulations.gov by searching for docket ID RIN 1004-AF53.

The U.S. Forest Service announced in mid-November that it is accepting applications for grazing permits on 17 national forests in the West. A total of 41 allotments are up for grabs through a competitive application process. Application windows are 30 days long, and deadlines vary by each forest. Visit tinyurl.com/3vedwxm7 for more information on how to apply.

There are also several appropriations bills in the works right now that include measures for agriculture or otherwise affect the industry. The Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency bill, along with the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill, include important provisions related to policy implementation and funding. These include provisions affecting the Endangered Species Act, Wild Horse and Burro Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, and others. Congress must pass these bills or temporarily extend federal funding before Dec. 11 to prevent another government shutdown.

Farm bill negotiations are also slow-moving. While the House of Representatives passed a version of the bill earlier this spring, the Senate has yet to advance legislation forward. Top Senate leaders have indicated that the bill will be finished by the end of the year, but the Senate had less than three weeks of working days left this year at the time of this writing. On Nov. 18, more than 400 farm groups penned a letter to Congress urging them to pass a five-year farm bill.

And, of course, there is a new batch of freshman congressmembers coming in at the end of the current 119th Congress. Many are likely unfamiliar with the agriculture industry and would benefit from hearing directly from ranchers on the issues that matter most. An easy way to find your representing U.S. representatives and senators, along with the best way to contact them, is by visiting congress.gov/members/find-your-member and entering your address. Information on state legislatures can be found at congress.gov/state-legislature-websites.

While talking with state and national leaders is important, don't discount the impact you can have at the local level. Decisions made by county commissioners, local planning boards, school boards and other community groups are often felt more immediately in our daily lives than those made in Washington. Getting involved with the issues facing your community can go a long way.

I hope that over the remainder of the holiday season, we are all able to take a little time to appreciate the people and communities that make this industry what it is. We may not always agree on everything, but we share more common ground than we sometimes realize. And that is something worth carrying with us through the end of the year and into the new. — **ANNA MILLER FORTOZO**

GUEST OPINION

CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There's a moment near the end of harvest when you can see the last few rows of this year's crop from the cab. You've come a long way, and you're ready to call it a day. But those rows are still standing. So, you turn the combine around and finish harvesting the field.

Congress is looking at its own last few rows. The midterm election is behind us, and the next Congress will be sworn in come January. Between now and then, lawmakers have a few weeks to finish the work that farm and ranch families are counting on.

Winter is when many farm families sit down with their lenders and make decisions about the next growing season. What can we afford to plant? Is this the year we replace a piece of equipment or hope it pulls through for one more season? A five-year farm bill gives families a firmer footing as they make those decisions.

The House has passed a bipartisan farm bill, and the Senate Agriculture Committee has advanced its version. The current farm bill expired again in September after three extensions, disrupting sign-ups for important tools like the Conservation Reserve Program. Now we need lawmakers from both parties to come together and send a farm bill to the president's desk before the end of the year. Farm families making decisions about the next season deserve a farm bill they can count on.

On my family's dairy farm, the cows had to be milked on Christmas morning just like any other day. That's true on dairy farms across the country, yet the H-2A program is built around seasonal work. And farmers who can use the program still face wage swings that make it hard to budget from one season to the next.

Congress should pass the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act. It would open the H-2A program to farms that need workers year-round and make wage costs more predictable. Those changes would help farmers keep experienced people on the job and keep growing the food American families rely on.

In late November, farmers and ranchers from across the country are coming to Washington to urge Congress to pass this critical legislation. They'll sit down with lawmakers and tell them firsthand what happens back home when there aren't enough hands to milk the cows or bring in the crop.

For many farmers, the most pressing question is how to pay for the crop they just brought in. We pay for seed, fertilizer and fuel months before we know what that crop will sell for. Even with a good harvest, some farm families won't earn enough to cover what they spent growing it. It's estimated that without federal assistance, farmers growing nine major row crops will fall $31 billion short of covering their total costs this year. And that shortfall is projected to grow in 2027 unless crop prices improve significantly.

Many specialty crop growers and livestock producers are feeling the squeeze, too. We are grateful that the administration moved quickly to announce the Harvest Fuel Relief program. It will help provide relief from the high diesel prices farmers faced this fall. But those higher fuel bills hit all kinds of farms and ranches, and the relief needs to reflect that.

However, farmers continue to face economic headwinds and severe weather across the country. Congress should act to deliver timely economic assistance by the end of this year. For a family sitting down with its lender this winter, that help can make the difference in whether there's a crop to plant next spring. We need Congress to address that immediate cash squeeze in addition to giving farmers the longer-term certainty of a new farm bill.

When a farmer is waiting on a USDA loan to buy seed or needs help after a disaster, a delay in Washington can have real consequences back home. Congress should finish its annual spending bills and keep those services running. If lawmakers need more time to reach a full-year agreement, they should pass a continuing resolution before funding lapses on Dec. 11 so USDA offices can keep serving farmers.

You can help make sure Congress hears from farm country today. Take a few minutes to urge your members of Congress to pass a new, modernized farm bill through our Action Center. I also encourage you to ask Congress to deliver timely economic assistance to help farmers get through today.

I'm grateful to the farmers and ranchers who are stepping away from their farms to walk the halls of Congress over the next few weeks. They know what it means to stay out a little longer and finish a job because someone is counting on them. Farm families are counting on Congress to do the same. — **Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president**

GUEST OPINION

THAT WAS THEN; THIS IS NOW

In 1986, when families dined at their local steakhouse, they probably left dissatisfied and underwhelmed after eating a flavorless tough steak. The meal didn't give them much reason to give beef a second chance. Consumers weren't happy, and neither were cattle producers, as lackluster interest in their product wasn't helping the bottom line.

Fast forward four decades and beef demand and satisfaction are at all-time highs. Today, beef is America's protein of choice for family milestones, casual celebrations, backyard BBQs and daily dinners, generating nearly $47 billion in sales over the past year. So, what changed?

Through the Beef Checkoff, cattle producers united to conduct research and improve beef's image. That investment led to positive changes in animal health, product quality and public perception. The cattle industry dove deep into understanding their end user and as consumer preferences changed over the years, so did production practices, creating a product that consumers demand.

Beef Checkoff-funded research such as the Beef Tenderness Survey has served as a guiding light to drive improvement and meet consumer expectations. In 1990, the first Beef Tenderness Survey found that beef demand was shrinking because the product was too tough, too fat and too inconsistent. The industry took note and made changes, which led to increased consumer satisfaction. In the following decade, beef tenderness increased 20% and by 2021, the Beef Tenderness Survey highlighted the greatest percentage of each cut falling into the very tender category for tenderness.

Since the 1980s, satisfaction in beef's eating experience has steadily increased. Now, whether enjoying a steak at home or at a restaurant, more than 90% of consumers report a satisfying eating experience. That positive shift was made possible by producers' commitment to, and investment in, continuous improvement.

Research is also continuously conducted to identify consumer trends and preferences, noting important demand drivers such as convenience, versatility, taste and nutrition. The beef supply chain uses this information to provide consumers with the best eating experience, making them hungry for more.

National research funded by the Beef Checkoff is also supported by state investments through the Federation of State Beef Councils. Over the years, market research has helped state beef councils identify trends and consumer preferences in metropolitan and regional markets. This information guides promotion efforts, making sure producer dollars are used efficiently and effectively at the state and national levels.

"The Beef Checkoff and the Federation of State Beef Councils are rooted in research, and the work we do together is built on the foundation that research has established," said Travis Maddock, chair of the Federation of State Beef Councils and North Dakota cattle producer. "Eating experience is improving, safety is improving, and nutritional guidelines are incorporating whole foods like beef, all thanks to producer investments in research."

Whether focused on product quality, consumer market insights, safety or nutrition, research funded by the Beef Checkoff serves as the foundation for promotion, education and outreach, ultimately driving demand for beef. There's science behind how Beef. It's What's For Dinner. ads are designed and placed, and that science-based information comes from research. — **Federation of State Beef Councils**

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

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LEGAL LEDGER

AZ port to open to Mexican cattle Nov. 30

The Nogales, AZ, port is expected to reopen to Mexican cattle imports on Nov. 30. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began its phased reopening of southern border ports for livestock imports from Mexico on Aug. 24 with the Douglas, AZ, port of entry. Imports resumed Sept. 24 at the Santa Teresa, NM, port of entry, and Oct. 26 at the Columbus, NM, port of entry. APHIS will make port reopening decisions based on animal health risks, operational readiness and the continued effectiveness of mitigation measures, the agency said. As of Nov. 21, there were a total of 157 reported New World screwworm cases in the U.S. within Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Interior soliciting off-range corrals for horses

The Department of the Interior is soliciting applications for contractor-operated off-range corral facilities for gathered wild horses and burros. Applicable states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. Applications may be submitted by Dec. 4 at tinyurl.com/45u8vcrw.

Bayer reaches Roundup settlement

A Missouri state court on Nov. 20 granted approval of a class settlement to resolve current and future Roundup claims alleging non-Hodgkin's lymphoma injuries through a long-term claims program. Monsanto will make declining capped annual payments for up to 21 years totaling up to $7.25 billion, inclusive of payments already made. "This result validates Monsanto's argument that these claims cannot be proven given that (Environmental Protection Agency) and every other major regulatory body worldwide that has assessed such products, has found they can be used safely and are not carcinogenic," Bayer, which acquired Monsanto in 2018, said in a news release. The company said it pursued the class settlement to contain the litigation and admitted no wrongdoing.

Ag groups call for farm bill passage

A coalition of more than 400 ag and farm industry groups Nov. 18 penned a letter to congressional leaders, urging for the passage of a farm bill this year. "If Congress does not act this year, farmers, American communities, and the states that implement many of the farm bill programs will be waiting even longer for the certainty and support they desperately need," the letter read. "They cannot afford to wait. A farm bill written in 2018 was not designed to address today's challenges." The letter was signed by dozens of commodity groups, banking and financial services, livestock groups and others.

CME Group finalizes cattle futures limits

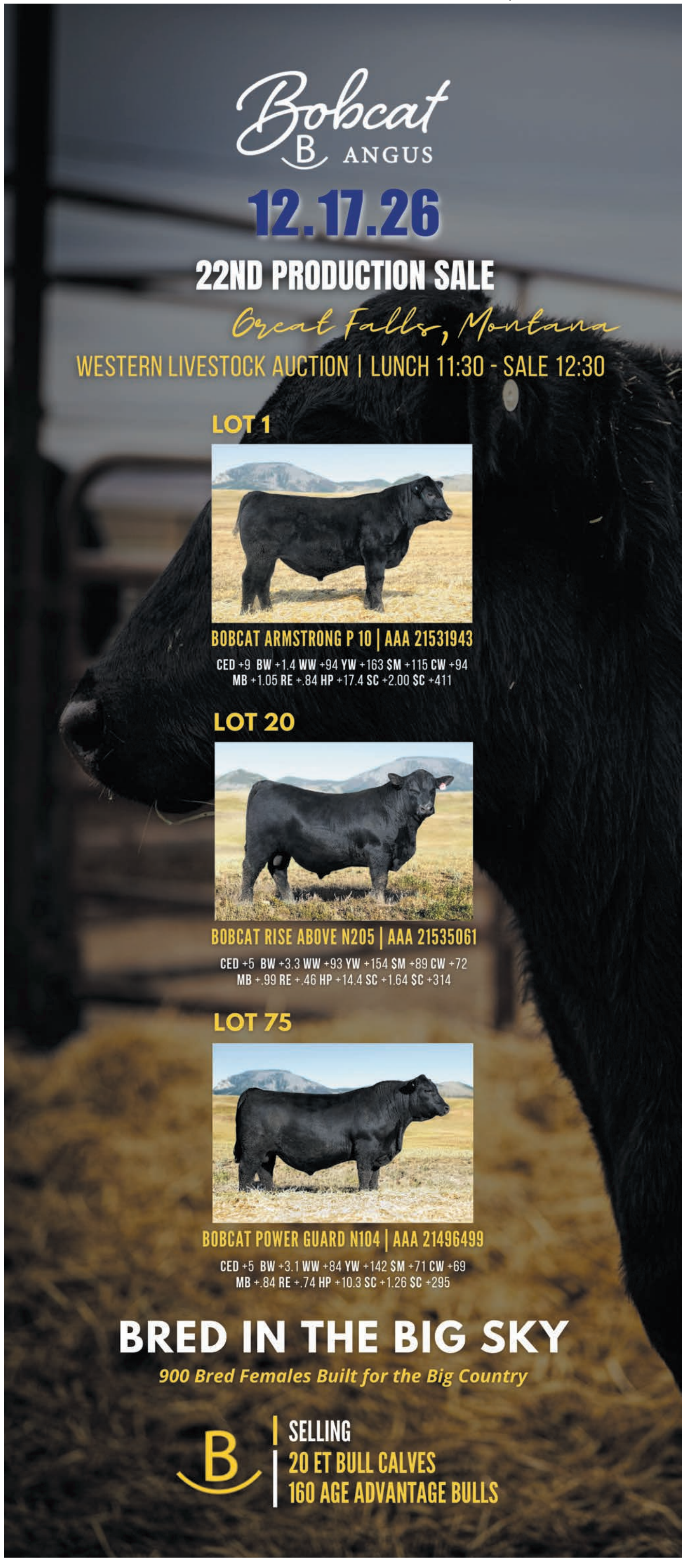
The CME Group announced Nov. 17 that it will amend daily price limits for live cattle and feeder cattle futures contracts. Both sets of cattle futures will be amended to implement a biannual reset of daily price limits rather than an annual reset. In addition, the percentage utilized to establish initial price limits for live cattle futures biannually will be decreased from 3.5% to 3%. New initial and expanded price limits will take effect Dec. 1 and will remain in effect until the first trading day in June. The live cattle futures current initial price limit will decrease from $8.50/cwt to $6.75/cwt, with an expanded price limit of $10/cwt. The feeder cattle futures current initial price limit will decrease from $10.75/cwt to $8.50/cwt, with an expanded price limit of $12.75/lb.

USDA heifer retention program approved

On Nov. 20, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the approval of the Beef Retention and National Development (BRAND) Endorsement. BRAND is part of the department's Ranchers First Initiative, which is intended to support cattle ranchers and help rebuild the cattle herd. The Livestock Risk Protection Endorsement is a new coverage option developed under BRAND that will allow policyholders to insure the economic value of retaining a heifer for breeding. Policyholders will be able to obtain coverage for two consecutive years from a developing heifer to the first calf. Coverage periods range from 43-52 weeks. "This will be a tool that gives ranchers the security to rebuild their herd, rather than forcing them to choose between today's cattle prices and tomorrow's beef supply," USDA said. Additional details will be announced once the program materials are available.

Senate passes permitting reform bill

On the evening of Nov. 19, the Senate passed legislation that would amend federal permitting rules. The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act passed on a 62-33 vote. The bill includes changes to how permits are issued under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Federal Power Act and Clean Water Act. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) said it was disappointed the Senate did not address amendments to improve the bill. "These amendments, offered after careful consideration, presented an opportunity to strengthen protections for farmers and ranchers and would have provided greater certainty for the families and communities whose property could be affected by transmission development," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall in a statement.



Protein supplements help cows maintain body condition through winter

As temperatures begin to drop and Kansas pastures enter dormancy, Kansas State (K-State) University cow-calf specialist Jason Warner says cattle producers should begin evaluating their cow herds' nutritional needs to maintain body condition throughout the winter months.

Warner said declining forage quality during the fall and winter makes protein supplementation an important consideration for producers managing spring-calving herds.

"When we think about our low-quality forages, protein often is the most limiting nutrient for (cattle)," Warner said. "We see really nice responses to protein supplementation when we offer that to those cows that are grazing low-quality forages."

As native grasses become dormant, their protein content declines, potentially limiting a cow's ability to digest forage and obtain the energy needed to maintain body condition.

Warner said although protein requirements for spring-calving cows are relatively low during the early fall, those needs gradually increase as cows approach calving.

"When we think about trying to maintain protein in the diet of a cow so that it can have adequate forage digestion to get enough energy from forage that the cow consumes, it is important to remember our goal of meeting her needs on average across the feeding period," Warner said.

Choosing the right supplement

Producers have several options when determining how to deliver supplemental protein, including self-fed products, such as lick tubs or blocks; and supplements delivered through feeding equipment or by hand.

Warner said the best option often depends on the operation's available resources, pasture locations and the ability to access cattle regularly.

"A self-fed supplement that's provided through a lick tub or a trough might be a good fit if it is difficult for producers to provide supplement to the herd on a daily or even every other day basis," Warner said.

For producers with cattle located closer to feeding facilities, delivering supplements through a pickup-mounted cake feeder or feed mixer may provide a more practical option.

"There is a lot of flexibility with how these products can look," Warner said. "When we think about protein, it's the nutrient. We're thinking about supplying the nutrient for the cow herd, and the way that it can be delivered can take a lot of different forms."

Meeting nutritional requirements

Understanding the nutritional value of available forage is the first step in determining how much supplemental protein a cow needs.

Warner said producers should evaluate forage quality alongside the cow's stage of production to determine the amount of additional protein needed.

"Supplying a half to a pound of protein per day in addition to grazing is normally adequate for late-gestation cows," Warner said.

Cows entering the later stages of gestation may require approximately 1.6 to 2.5 pounds of total dietary protein per head daily, depending on forage quality and their stage of production.

Warner emphasized that supplement programs should focus on maintaining forage intake and body condition rather than simply increasing the amount of feed provided.

"Bringing protein into the system improves forage intake on low-quality forages very strongly and consistently," he said.

Comparing protein costs

While cattle prices have remained favorable for producers despite recent market volatility, Warner said managing supplementation expenses continues to be an important part of maintaining profitability.

Rather than comparing feedstuffs based solely on their purchase price, producers should evaluate the cost relative to the amount of protein each product provides.

"That's where we are pricing the supplement out on a cost per unit of protein basis, and it is a really valuable comparison," Warner said.

To determine the cost of protein, producers can divide the price per ton of a supplement by its crude protein concentration expressed as a decimal.

For example, dry distillers grains priced at $225 per ton with a crude protein concentration of 30% would cost $750 per ton on a 100% crude protein basis.

In comparison, wheat middlings priced at $250 per ton with 17% crude protein would cost approximately $1,471 per ton on the same basis.

Warner said comparing feedstuffs this way allows producers to better understand the value of different protein sources, even when their initial purchase prices are similar.

"Pricing feedstuffs this way allows you to compare supplements on an apples-to-apples basis by equalizing the amount of protein delivered," Warner said.

Ultimately, Warner encouraged producers to maximize available forage resources while selecting supplements that meet their herds nutritional needs at a reasonable cost.

"The straight cost of the nutrient can vary a lot depending on how it's packaged," Warner said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



Johannes captures Discussion Meet award

Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) recognized outstanding young agricultural leaders during the Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Discussion Meet held as part of the 2026 MFBF Annual Convention in Billings, MT.

Conrad Johannes emerged as the winner of the MFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet, topping three other competitors in the final round of competition. Johannes received the keys to a Polaris Ranger and earned the opportunity to represent Montana at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in January, where he will compete against state winners from across the country.

"Growing up learning that the best solutions come from listening first, discussing together, and standing your ground. The Discussion Meet gives me a chance to bring those values into the conversation," Johannes said. "I am excited to represent Montana at the national level and bring attention to agriculture issues come January."

The Discussion Meet is open to MFBF members between the ages of 18 and 35 and is designed to simulate a committee discussion in which participants analyze challenges facing agriculture and work collaboratively to develop solutions.

Contestants are evaluated on their ability to exchange ideas, problem solve and communicate effectively while addressing issues important to modern farming and ranching.

The Final Four competition was held during the 2026 MFBF Annual Convention and featured four outstanding young agricultural leaders from across the state.

"The Discussion Meet showcases the next generation of agricultural leaders and highlights Farm Bureau's commitment to developing strong advocates for agriculture," said MFBF YF&R Committee Coordinator Jasmine Evans.

"Participants bring thoughtful solutions to the challenges facing farmers and ranchers while demonstrating the leadership skills needed to advance agriculture into the future."

Participation in the national competition provides finalists with valuable opportunities to network with fellow producers from across the U.S., exchange ideas and gain insights into innovative agricultural practices and business strategies.

The 2027 YF&R Competition is supported by AmericanAg, Case IH, Ford and Stanley Black & Decker.

MFBF extends its deep appreciation to Polaris and participating Montana Polaris dealers for their continued support of the YF&R program and sponsorship of the Discussion Meet grand prize.

Through their commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders, Polaris helps provide meaningful opportunities for young farmers and ranchers to develop leadership skills, engage in Farm Bureau and strengthen the future of Montana agriculture.

The Polaris Ranger awarded to the Discussion Meet winner serves as both a valuable tool and a symbol of the company's investment in rural communities and agricultural producers. — **MFBF**

Paul Hill inducted into Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery

Paul H. Hill became the 381st inductee into the prestigious Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery during a special induction ceremony dinner and portrait presentation on Nov. 15 during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) and the National Angus Convention, at the Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY.

Hill's record-breaking success with leading Angus seedstock operations throughout the past half century is well documented. He was managing partner of Champion Hill, Bidwell, OH, from 1990-2017, and previously led Northcote Farm, Cobble Pond Farm, Hayes Star Ranch, South Fork Angus Ranch and Briarhill Angus Farm.

In his youth, he was herdsman for Malloy Polled Herefords and was involved in 4-H and FFA livestock judging and land evaluation. He has not only bred and developed many leading Angus cattle but also positively influenced the cattle business through interactions with partners, customers, employees, competitors, industry professionals and of course his favorite, Angus youth.

Hill's work ethic, wisdom and personality have always distinguished him as a unique leader throughout his life. This Florida native served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70, received the Army Commendation Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service in 1970 and was twice Battalion Soldier of the Month in 1968-69. He was both student and instructor at the American Herdsman Institute from 1966-68.

As a skillful breeder and exhibitor of Angus cattle, his lifelong record of awards is unsurpassed with hundreds of national champions, yet his key to success is perhaps in his slogan: "Where winning is only the beginning." He exhibited at the All-American every year since 1966 except during military service of 1968-69, and every year at the Atlantic National since its founding in 1987.

He attended the NAILE every year since it was founded in 1974 and the National Western nearly every year for approximately 50 years, most years of which he was a competitive exhibitor. His experience, enthusiasm and mentorship has helped build generations of future Angus leaders.

His leadership roles with the American Angus Association include serving as president from 2007-08, vice-president from 2006-07, treasurer from 2005-06, and on its board of directors from 2000-08. During that time, he was instrumental on the cabinet for the Vision of Value Campaign for Angus Leadership from 2006-11, and served as chairman of the Angus Foundation board from 2004-07 and as chairman of the Angus Productions Inc. board from 2006-07.

He co-founded the Atlantic National Angus Show in 1987 and has served as the chairman of the board since 2002, as well as being member of the board of directors of the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity since 1977.

He was named Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year in 2009 and received BIF Roll of Excellence honors in 2009 and 2006. In 2017, he was inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation, received the Atlantic National Merit Award, was recognized with Proclamation of Paul & Lynn Hill Day by the Gallia County Commissioners and received the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Storyboard Recognition of Service Award. He was also named among Pioneer Angus Breeders From Around the World 1824-2016, received the USDA Certificate of Appreciation for Gallia-Lawrence Counties in 2011, was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 2009, received the Distinguished Service Award of the Ohio Angus Association in 2009, was featured as the Angus Journal November 2008 cover story, received Proclamation of Carroll County Angus Day from the Carroll County Commissioners in 2008, was named the Seedstock Producer of the Year from the Ohio Cattlemen's Association in 2006, as well as recognitions at the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity as Pioneer Breeder in 2017, Master Breeder in 1997, Manager of the Year in 1987 and Herdsman of the Year in 1972, plus American Angus Association Outstanding Herdsman of the Year in 1973.

Widely renowned as an astute judge of livestock, he accepted livestock evaluation assignments at the All-American, NAILE, Atlantic National, National Western, American Royal, Canadian Royal, Argentina National Angus Show & Sale and the Brazil National Angus & Livestock Shows along with numerous state and regional livestock shows and conferences.

Paul and his wife, Lynn, reside in Martinsville, IN, and have two adult daughters, both of whom were active as Angus juniors, Dr. Sarah Hill Schaffer, private practice pediatrician; and Neenah Hill Jain, partner and CFO of Armory Square Ventures. They also have three grandchildren. — **Paul Hill Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery Committee**

Cattle group opposed bill for rancher impacts

GHG RULING
(from page 1)

Jacqueline Nguyen said Scope 1 and 2 disclosures provide investors with factual information about a company's operations. The panel treated the reporting requirements as commercial speech and reviewed them under a less stringent First Amendment standard.

They found that the requirements were sufficiently tailored to California's goals of giving investors better information and cutting emissions. Scope 3, Nguyen wrote, would compel companies to "collect, synthesize, and report information about the conduct of independent actors." The court applied a tougher First Amendment test and found that California failed to show mandatory supply-chain reporting was necessary to achieve its goals.

The court found that SB 261 would force companies to make subjective judgments about how climate change could affect their finances. The judges found that the state failed to show SB 261 would reduce emissions and that it could pursue its goals through less restrictive means, such as voluntary reporting.

Judge Mark Bennett agreed that the court should grant temporary relief from California's Scope 3 reporting requirement and its separate climate-risk disclosure law, SB 261. He disagreed with the majority on Scope 1 and 2, saying he would also have temporarily blocked those reporting requirements.

The California Cattlemen's Association opposed SB 253 because of its potential effects on ranchers. Cattle producers are part of the beef supply chain and could be asked to provide information about emissions from their own operations so companies can complete their Scope 3 reports.

The court left California's Scope 1 and 2 reporting requirements in place and reversed the district court's refusal to temporarily block SB 261 and SB 253's Scope 3 reporting requirement. SB 253 includes a severability clause, which allows parts of the law to stand if another part is struck down. The appeals court sent the case back to the district court to decide whether that clause allows the rest of SB 253 to stand without Scope 3. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**



Veseth Ranch receives Montana Leopold Conservation Award

Veseth Ranch of Malta, MT, has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Montana Leopold Conservation Award.

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

Dale and Janet Veseth, owners of Veseth Ranch, were presented with the award at the Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention Nov. 16. They receive $10,000 for being selected.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust will present Leopold Conservation Awards to landowners in 28 states this year. In Montana, the award is presented annually with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Rangeland Resources Program.

> *"Their dedication to conservation is both an inspiration to their peers as well as a reminder to all how important thoughtful agriculture is to clean water, healthy soil, and wildlife habitat."*
>
> *— Kevin McAleese*

About Veseth Ranch

Dale and Janet Veseth take a caring approach to promoting conservation and building a resilient agricultural community.

Dale helped create the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (RSA) in 2003 to keep grasslands intact and ranchers thriving. Since then, he has played a pivotal role in helping the nonprofit foster collaborative conservation efforts and give ranchers a clearer voice in land management decisions across the northern Great Plains.

However, his greatest contribution to the organization is yet to come.

In 2025, Dale and Janet announced they will gift their 38,300 acres of native rangeland to the RSA at the end of their ranching careers. Their goals matched RSA's mission of strengthening opportunities for local ranchers, championing education and community-led conservation, and upholding Montana's ranching heritage.

"We've watched RSA grow into something pretty special," Dale said. "It's brought people together with a shared purpose and opened eyes to the positive impact ranchers have on the ground. We're proud to know the ranch will be part of that."

This is not the first time the Veseths' advocacy has had far-reaching impact.

After The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased a 60,000-acre ranch in Phillips County, Dale encouraged the organization to allow ranchers hard-pressed by drought to graze the property. This led to the creation of the Matador Grassbank, where ranchers lease the land to grow their livestock herds or provide their pastures with adequate time to regrow. Discounted lease rates are offered when the ranchers utilize approved conservation practices on their own land.

Veseth Ranch is a showcase of how ranching and wildlife conservation can work in tandem.

Miles of woven wire fence have been removed and replaced with virtual fencing technology in collaboration with RSA, TNC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners Program to improve wildlife migration corridors. Ducks Unlimited helped develop nine water projects to enhance wildlife habitat and water reliability. The Montana Conservation Corps conducts annual plant and bird surveys and has helped install 50 beaver dam analogs to improve riparian function and water retention.

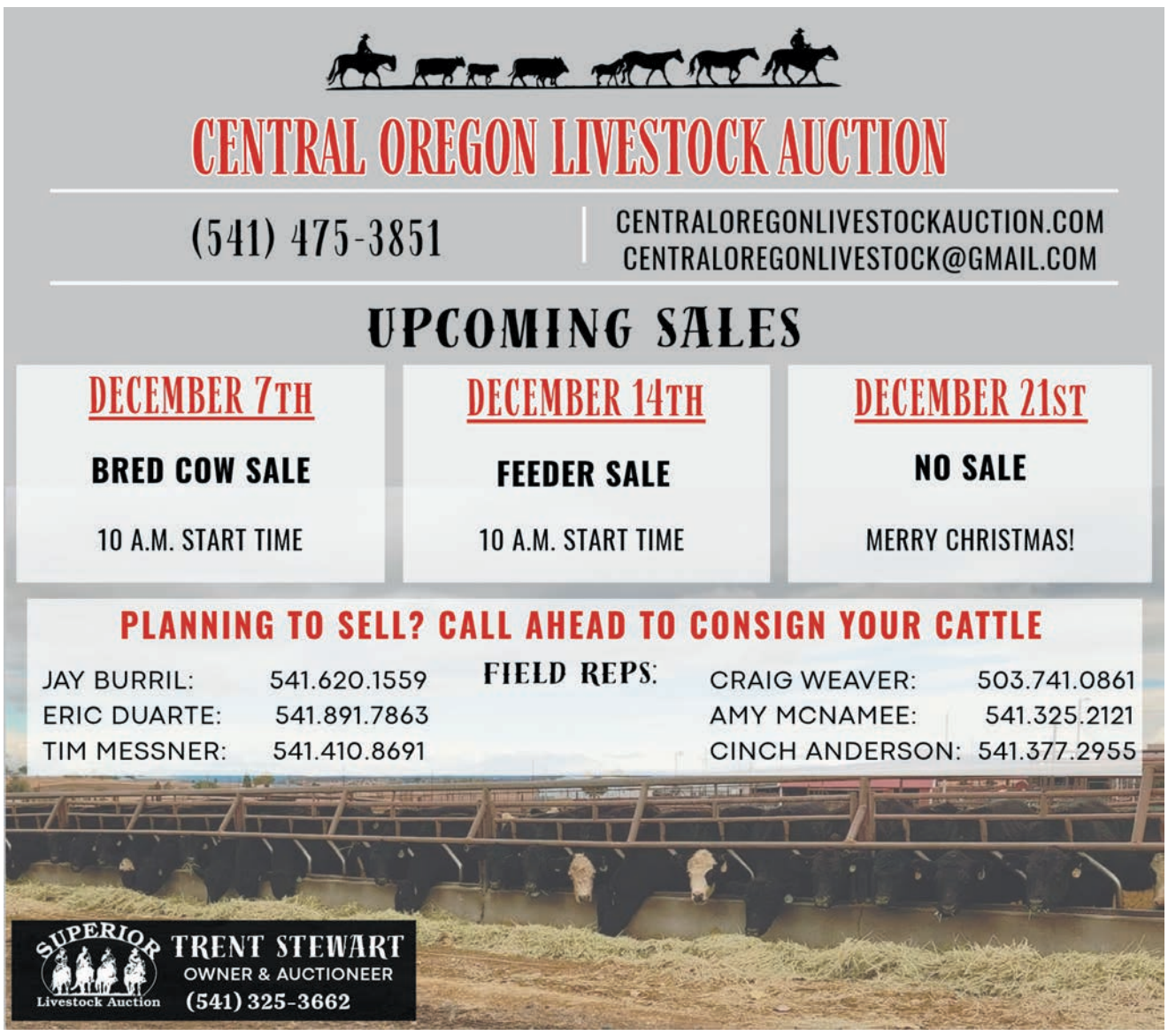
The Veseths have also improved grassland bird and other wildlife habitat on their leased grazing lands owned by the federal Bureau of Land Management. These and other projects have earned Veseth Ranch honors from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Quivira Coalition.

Dale's parents, Fred and Jackie, purchased Veseth Ranch in 1942. Glaciated uplands with thin hilly breaks dominate much of its landscape, but for three riparian corridors that run through it. The ranch has served as an official National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather reporting site since 1962. Long-term precipitation records, along with use of grass growth cameras and drone observation help guide adaptive management decisions.

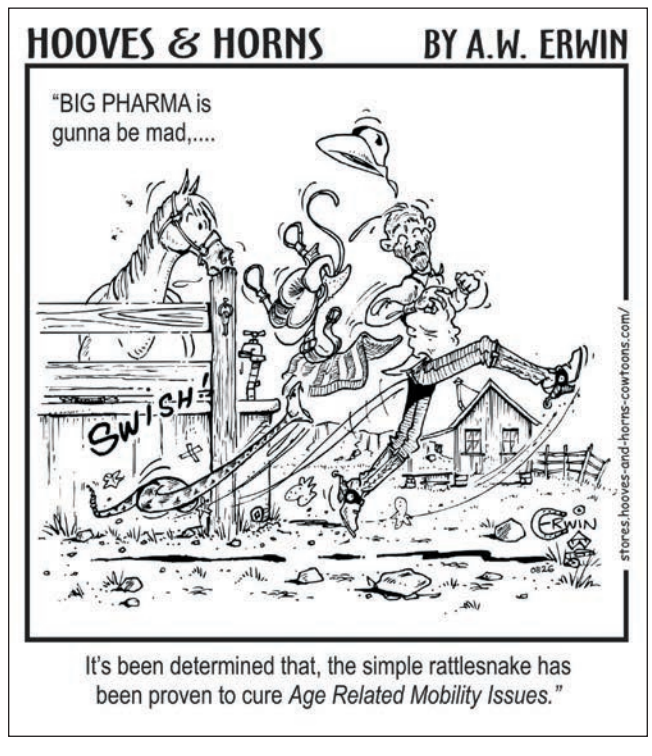
In a harsh, semi-arid environment that receives just 12 inches of annual precipitation, the Veseths grow perennial grasses instead of annual crops to maintain soil cover and improve water infiltration. Their cattle are rotationally grazed on 90 pastures and bale grazed during the winter. Their beef is marketed by Country Natural Beef, a cooperative of 100 forward-thinking ranchers from nine states united by a common philosophy: leave the land better than you found it.

That ethic fits Dale and Janet. With tact, persistence and a shared commitment to the land, they have built strong partnership across diverse perspectives. Their compassion has yielded lasting results for ranchers who have stewarded the West for decades, and for those who intend to in the future.

"These award recipients are examples of how Aldo Leopold's land ethic is alive and well today," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation president and CEO. "Their dedication to conservation is both an inspiration to their peers as well as a reminder to all how important thoughtful agriculture is to clean water, healthy soil, and wildlife habitat." — **Sand County Foundation**







Expanding public lands grazing as a wildfire suppression solution

As wildfire seasons become more challenging across the western U.S., attention is increasingly being placed on land management practices that can help reduce risk and improve landscape health. Livestock grazing is an essential wildfire mitigation tool that can significantly reduce wildfire risk, wildfire severity and suppression costs across the western U.S.

Caroline Roeder Helle is a Montana native from Choteau, an applied economist and a graduate of Montana State University (MSU) whose research has helped advance the conversation around livestock grazing as a practical tool for wildfire mitigation across the West. Through her master's thesis and subsequent research, she found that increased livestock grazing can significantly reduce wildfire risk and suppression costs by lowering available vegetation fuels on public lands.

Working alongside Nicole Karwowski, assistant professor at MSU's Department of Agricultural Economics, and Randal Rucker, professor emeritus at MSU's Department of Agricultural Economics, Helle's study shows that a 10-percentage point increase in grazing activity was associated with a 12.6% reduction in total wildfire area burned and an 11.9% reduction in acres burned at high severity. It is also estimated that livestock grazing contributes to approximately $324 million in annual wildfire suppression savings across western national forests by reducing fine fuels such as grasses and other vegetation that can accelerate fire spread.

"Montana ranchers have understood for generations that livestock are an important part of maintaining healthy landscapes," Helle said. "Cattle and sheep don't just produce food and fiber, they actively help manage the vegetation that fuels many wildfires. This research reinforces what producers who rely on public grazing allotments have observed firsthand for years: grazing is a practical, effective and cost-efficient tool that should be part of any comprehensive wildfire prevention strategy."

As a producer with direct experience utilizing public grazing lands, Helle said responsible grazing management benefits both working agricultural operations and the long-term health of western landscapes.

"Every year we see livestock convert grasses and other fine fuels into a valuable agricultural product while reducing the amount of combustible material left on the ground," Helle said. "When managed appropriately, grazing helps create more resilient landscapes and complements other land management tools available to agencies."

Helle's research also showed that the greatest wildfire-reduction benefits occurred in the Southwest and Intermountain West, regions that face some of the nation's highest wildfire risks. The study also concluded that grazing and prescribed fire are not necessarily competing management approaches, suggesting that grazing can serve as a complementary strategy alongside existing fuels reduction programs.

The report noted that approximately 12.8 million acres of western national forest land that historically supported grazing are currently ungrazed. By returning those acres to active grazing could reduce wildfire areas burned by roughly 10%, decrease high-severity fire by nearly 10% and lower annual suppression costs by an estimated $57 million.

Helle said those findings should prompt broader discussion about how federal agencies manage public lands.

"Too often, grazing is viewed only through the lens of agricultural production," Helle said. "What this research demonstrates is that public land grazing delivers significant public benefits. Producers, taxpayers, rural communities, recreationists and wildlife all benefit when we reduce catastrophic wildfire risk and keep working landscapes healthy."

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) supports state and federal leaders further pursuing policies that support strategic grazing management, maintain access to public lands for livestock producers, and streamline unnecessary regulatory barriers that prevent grazing from being utilized as a wildfire mitigation tool.

"We commend the researchers for their work and dedication to addressing issues that matter to agriculture," said Scott Kulbeck, executive vice president of MFBF. "The study validates observations that producers have shared for generations, while providing the evidence needed to inform policy and management decisions. It is a powerful example of why land-grant universities remain so vital, conducting research that strengthens farms, ranches, natural resources, and rural communities across Montana."

By combining agricultural economics with natural resource management, Helle's work has provided policymakers, land managers, ranchers and agricultural organizations with data supporting the role of livestock grazing as a cost-effective strategy to reduce fuel loads, improve rangeland health and help mitigate catastrophic wildfires throughout the West. Her research has become an important contribution to ongoing discussions about public lands management, wildfire prevention and the value of working landscapes.

"Montana's ranching families are committed stewards of the land," Helle said. "As wildfire seasons grow longer and more costly, policymakers should embrace management practices that have been proven to reduce risk. Expanding livestock grazing on public lands is one of those solutions." — **MFBF**

USFS to boost grazing by 250,000 AUMs

USFS PERMITS
(from page 1)

allotments open for grazing across the West. States with open allotments include California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

The following is the number of allotments available per region:

- Northern region: 21 vacant allotments.
- Rocky Mountain region: 10 vacant allotments.
- Intermountain region: Six vacant allotments.
- Pacific Southwest region: One vacant allotment.
- Pacific Northwest region: Three vacant allotments.

The USFS prospectus details available allotments by national forest and ranger district and includes information on the allotment acres, livestock kind, season of use and estimated livestock number. The prospectus also includes contact information for each district. The prospectus can be found at tinyurl.com/4kb6p9a7.

Prospective applicants should review allotment-specific information and address their ability to provide day-to-day, on-the-ground management, including how they would respond to emergencies on a forest allotment, USFS said.

The annual grazing fee for 2026 is $1.69 per animal unit month.

To qualify for a grazing permit with term status, an eligible applicant must own both the base property and the livestock to be grazed on the national forest allotment. Ownership of both the base property and permitted livestock must be in the same name of the permit applicant.

Ten-year permits will be issued to successful applicants. Applications may be submitted by hand, mail or electronically to the points of contact indicated in the prospectus.

Ranchers interested in more information about available allotments and the application process should visit tinyurl.com/abdvhr8k.

Allotment goals

USFS is supporting the implementation of the USDA's 2025 Beef Plan, USDA-Interior Grazing Action Plan Memorandum of Understanding and Grazing Directive to expand access for vacant and closed allotments.

The agency has a target of 500,000 acres of rangeland vegetation improvement projects to be implemented during the fiscal year, according to a memo obtained by *WLJ* from USFS Chief Thomas Schultz to regional foresters. The agency also aims to increase grazing occupancy by 250,000 animal unit months (AUMs) over fiscal year 2026 levels.

By Jan. 1, 2027, forest and grassland supervisors are to prioritize issuing term grazing permits for all 165 vacant-available allotments, according to the memo. In fiscal year 2027, USFS staff is to prioritize increasing occupancy by 250,000 AUMs, complete a vacant allotment prioritization spreadsheet, determine whether there is unallocated capacity on active allotments, and utilize help sessions and dashboards to better understand opportunities and accomplishments. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**



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: 11/24/2026		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	N/A	▲	212.92	208.00
CME Feeder Index	336.38	▼	337.58	336.38
Boxed Beef Average	359.91	▲	353.52	N/A
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	N/A	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,473	▲	1,472	1,455
Weekly Slaughter**	547,000	▲	545,000	585,000
Weekly Beef Production***	491.4	▲	490.2	519.6
Hide/Offal Value	14.17	▼	14.27	11.56
Corn Price	4.36	▲	N/A	4.29

*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 20	6,193	359.58	307	393.78	1,185	364.78	1,969	352.41	490	346.37	2,242	318.22
November 13	6,075	361.94	296	393.98	1,063	369.10	2,066	355.73	489	349.98	2,161	323.92
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

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
November 26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
November 25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
November 24	359.91	346.00	287.57	85.85	353.84
November 23	355.62	342.36	287.61	64.95	354.46
November 20	352.84	342.92	286.92	100.50	N/A

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	11/20	11/23	11/24	11/25	11/26	High*	Low*
Dec.	22300	22538	22665	N/A	N/A	25873	16853
Feb. '27	22770	22990	23030	N/A	N/A	25873	16668
Apr. '27	23073	23300	23223	N/A	N/A	25598	17005
Jun. '27	22600	22820	22693	N/A	N/A	25120	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	11/20	11/23	11/24	11/25	11/26	High*	Low*
Nov.	33749	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38103	21920
Jan. '27	33543	33930	33465	N/A	N/A	38280	22268
Mar. '27	33168	33575	33118	N/A	N/A	38020	22460
Apr. '27	33070	33453	33000	N/A	N/A	37860	24118

*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

FED CATTLE TRADE

	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	519	1,706	212.92
Live FOB Heifer	324	1,425	215.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	571	1,570	208.00
Live FOB Heifer	372	1,426	207.32
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: NOVEMBER 22, 2026

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	33,553	3,648
Formula	225,740	4,433
Negotiated Cash	71,352	118
Negotiated Grid	34,851	1,127
Packer Owned	9,740	N/A
Total	**375,236**	**9,326**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,749
Nov. '26	117,504	Neg. Sales 21+ days	805
Dec. '26	104,709	Formula sales	3,583
Jan. '27	68,647	Forward contract sales	56
Feb. '27	67,157	Domestic sales	5,548
Mar. '27	47,887	NAFTA Exports	83

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	200.85	-8.11
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	199.05	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	209.81	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	117.06	+1.28

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	440.16	437.46	429.07
601-700 lbs	387.21	388.60	395.80
701-800 lbs	351.12	346.27	346.89
801-900 lbs	329.38	328.75	290.89
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	434.93	423.19	432.09
501-600 lbs	385.64	384.96	407.87
601-700 lbs	348.09	341.74	368.51
701-800 lbs	316.73	313.85	322.31

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
	11/16/2026	11/9/2026		
Feeders	N/A	15,595	98,213	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

November 23, 2026

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 3,150 **Week Ago EST: 9,250** **Year Ago Act: N/A**

Santa Teresa, NM -

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	347-357
600-700 lbs	317-327
700-800 lbs	290-300
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	388-398
600-700 lbs	338-348
700-800 lbs	308-318

Douglas, AZ -

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 400-800 lbs.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	345-355
600-700 lbs	315-325
700-800 lbs	285-295
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	386-396
600-700 lbs	335-345
700-800 lbs	305-315

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

Selected Auctions — Week Ending November 24, 2026

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

DATE / MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS / SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS / REPLACEMENTS	
No report available Blackfoot, ID											NORTHWEST
November 19 Burley, ID	715		502.50-522.50 479-504	450-473 419-480	357-391 348	334.50-351 319	334-335.50	 285	95-180 145-165		
No report available Emmett, ID											
No report available Eugene, OR											
November 21 Madras, OR	680									1,900-5,000	
November 18 Vale, OR	3,585		525-622 462-552	470-526 400-500	385-460 350-407	347-405 322-370	325-361	300-327	130-137 165-174		
November 16 Davenport, WA	568		215-492.50 195-395	145-500 150-430	260-435 150-375	270-365 210-335	302.50-345 255-307.50	85-317.50 143-272.50	65-232.50 129-190	1,200-3,500 2,350-2,775	
November 19 Toppenish, WA	995		460*		385-460* 360-399*	342-344*			127-154 139.50-162.50	2,300-4,000	
November 19 Orland, CA	3,726		400-560 380-545	400-542 380-515	350-448 330-440	300-420 280-385	300-359 280-340	275-335 255-311	120-145 115-150	2,500-5,350 2,200-4,600	FARWEST
No report available Escalon, CA											
November 16 Famoso, CA	297		360-557 320-535	360-500 330-450	320-470 315-420	320-410 290-370	285-325	260-310 250-310	120-230 115-165		
November 18 Galt, CA	N/A		500-640 500-520	500-605 485-500	370-470 360-425	360-412 330-341	320-340 290-328	270-331 285-305	100-150 130-160	3,500-4,900	
November 20 Turlock, CA	1,157								115-142 125-156		
November 17 Salina, UT	2,301	410-655	320-517.50 260-550	260-500 230-475	220-427.50 205-395	190-381 182.50-353	185-340.50 150-302.50	145-317 125-290	100.60-151.40 128.50-226.25		
November 23 Iowa	12,088		470-555 435-550	417.50-552.50 349-487.50	365-485 330-430	310-411 311-419	279-364 278-341	284.50-354.50 260-350	95-225 115-225		NORTH CENTRAL
November 24 Miles City, MT	1,019	670	547.50-620 497.50	502.50 415-468	402.50-456 357.50-375	357-392.50	350-358		85-134 125-171		
No report available Bassett, NE											
November 21 Ericson, NE	2,370		600 450-530	472.50-550 402.50-445	424-505 373-432.50	379-437.50 355-368	358-369	343 270.50-308			
No report available Imperial, NE											
No report available Kearney, NE											
November 20 Lexington, NE	2,911			487.50-570 403-446.50	416-501 360-397	371-439.50 339-364	353-388.50 346.50	347-352.75			
November 19 Ogallala, NE	2,345		537.50-567.50 462.50-482.50	500-552.50 420-470	424-497 363-408	371-421.50 330-382	338-356 327.50	307-340 261-334.50			
November 19 Valentine, NE	1,735		373	470-552 405-430	429-485 361-410	371-420 340-392	358-372 329	321 295-311			
November 20 Herreid, SD	4,080		585-600 492.50-500	470-535 400-490	422.50-486 355-421	365-408.50 342-380	350-357.50 329	310-349 302.50-331			
November 18 Torrington, WY	4,725		630-658 485-492	475-580 446-495	420-469 359-423	359-407 339-358	380.50 326-328	309-342 285-335			
November 19 Willcox, AZ	1,270	430-460	470-527.50 413-470	435-490 383-457.50	385-430 341-373	346-380 310-325			105-137 145-160	2,700-3,400 2,700-3,250	SOUTH CENTRAL
November 23 Colorado	11,912	610-620 358-530	530-630 435-520	427.50-550 351-520	330-472 320-425	330-405 299-372.50	314-363 301-341.50	221-336 220-340	50-245 106-265	2,850-4,325 1,225-3,725	
November 18 La Junta, CO	2,955		455-630 414-530	402.50-511 352.50-457.50	335-420 302.50-387.50	322.50-367.50 287.50-326	292.50-352.50 280-321	282.50-321.75 282.50-306	121-136 162-180		
November 16 Loma, CO	1,695		420-590 400-460	410-545 320-470	310-450 310-405	280-385 275-345	255-330 260-295	205-295 180-290	100-310 130-180	1,825-3,525 1,675-3,575	
November 18 Dodge City, KS	3,336		495-510	420-515 430-495	402-445 345-427	357.50-415 320-378	353.50-366 305-330.75	289.50-342.50 286-312.25	102.50-160 155-193	1,310-2,925	
November 19 Pratt, KS	2,565		467.50-570 425-520	475-545 390-490	422.50-477 385-440	368-405 330-357.50	328-354 323.50-329	303-336.50 281-312	111-252 130-266	3,450-4,900 1,850-4,125	
November 19 Salina, KS	3,681		530-585 480-600	475-576 375-475	403-472 360-432	366-416 312-371	310-372 319.50-340.50	300-348 263-340			
November 20 Clovis, NM	3,933		510-607 385-552	444.50-537 377-480	383-470 327-433	328-380 305-352	300-330 272-308	224-318 210-280.50	124-165 119-179	2,800-4,300 1,100-3,450	
November 18 El Reno, OK	7,115	580 530-580	600-650 440-540	470-580 375-480	390-525 310-410	350-432.50 305-365	329-355 307-337.50	294.50-346 285-314			
November 18 McAlester, OK	2,150		459-670 400-505	391-475 381-451	362-480 325-400	320-389 310-360	305-358 280-326	266-325 260-317	127-150 158-185	2,700 1,350-3,550	
November 24 Oklahoma City, OK	5,843	580	555-620 445-520	495-600 400-490	397-525 340-435	355-422 315-387	325-371.50 300-336	306-338 268-299			
November 20 Cuero, TX	1,660	528-650 468-545	493-610 412-620	415-515 368-530	368-500 331-530	334-362 305-342	312-333 285-360		105-142 128-182	2,000-2,550 1,200-3,950	
November 19 Dalhart, TX	2,336	502.50	572.50-597.50 447.50-475	445-545 390-442.50	405-475 330-415	330-415 335-370	290-348 315-347.50	317.50-342 278-305	119-145 135-171	2,400-3,300 2,600-2,900	
November 19 San Angelo, TX	655	495-515	540 470	420-465 370-440	370-430 340-365	325-365 312-340	320-331 290-320	314	95-138 143-210	3,250-3,700 2,200-3,500	
November 19 Tulia, TX	989		545-550 471	492-545 410-447	370-475 312-392	341-427 310-322	340-346 307		118.50-121.50 155-160		
November 20 Alabama	7,523	540-560 410-680	470-500 385-470	410-480 350-490	370-425 306-385	325-375 285-337.50	292.50-335 265-300	290	110-144 135-179	2,000-4,600 1,100-5,200	EAST
November 23 Lexington, KY	870	452.50*	507.50* 377.50-445*	424-470* 335-420*	375-409* 260-363*	310-381* 250-349.50*	309-367* 249-319.50*	318* 227.50-281*	101-150 143-193	2,550-3,700 1,700-3,500	
November 23 Joplin, MO	11,000	550	450-540 510	475-500 380-435	380-455 346-410	349-425 330-348	338-355 309-337	295-337 237-301			
November 23 Tennessee	10,101	430-610 350-560	400-530 310-505	380-475 250-420	310-412 260-375	307.50-375 260-345.75	260-356.50 240-322	225-331.50 215-290	90-151.50 126-185	1,700-4,900 1,000-4,600	
November 23 Virginia	3,199	400	400-485 325-400	345-465 310-400	325-415 255-362	315-366 275-310	292-342.50 262.50-297	250-312 227.50-280			

CANADA											
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta											

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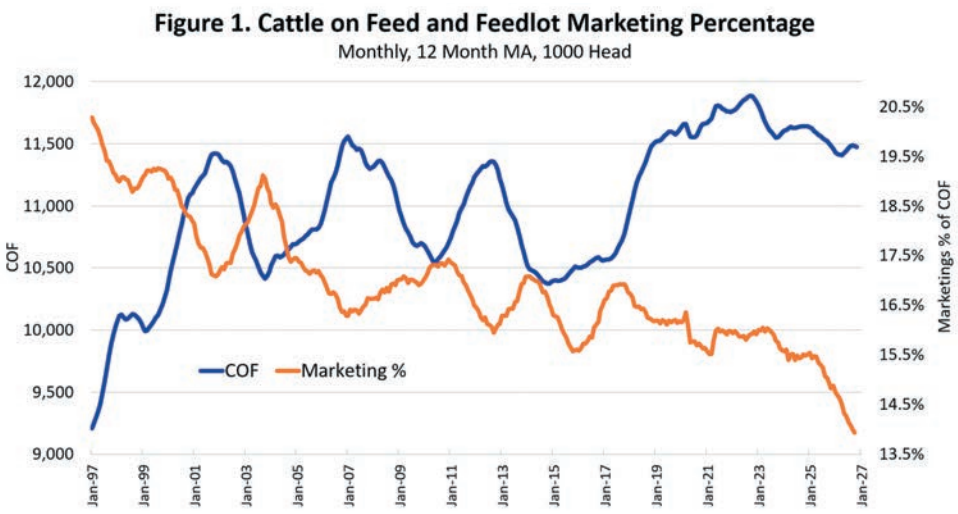
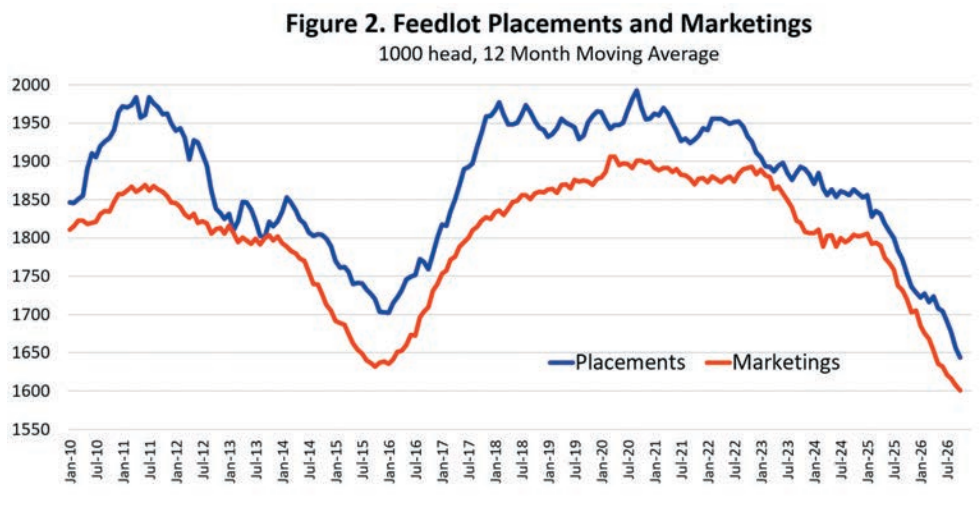
Feedlot flows and current cattle on feed numbers





The latest Cattle on Feed Report confirmed Nov. 1 feedlot inventories at 11.59 million head, down 1% from last year.

Figure 1 shows the slight decline in average feedlot inventories the past two months after increasing from April through September. Feedlot inventories were higher year over year from May through September simply because feedlot marketings slowed faster than did feedlot placements.

For the January-October period, feedlot marketings were down 7.3%, or 1.252 million head compared to decreased placements of 5.8%, or 1.021 million head. However, from June-October, placements dropped 8.7% year over year compared to a marketings decrease of 5% year over year, once again pulling feedlot inventories lower.

The most important point is that both placements and marketings are decreasing in the face of smaller feeder cattle supplies (Figure 2). The slow decline in feedlot inventories is the result of an ever-slow feedlot marketings rate. The average marketings rate dropped to a new record low of 13.9% in October (Figure 1).

Both placements and marketings are expected to continue declining into 2027. The 2026 calf crop was projected in the July Cattle report at 32.5 million head, down 1.5%, or another 495,600 head smaller year over year. The July Cattle report also showed the beef cow herd down 0.7% from one year ago.

Even if the herd stabilized in the second half of the year, the Jan. 1, 2027, beef cow herd could well be smaller once again or perhaps most likely to be plus/minus unchanged, with the best-case scenario a slight increase in the herd inventory. A significantly larger 2027 calf crop is not expected. Additional heifer retention is likely, in part to cover an expected increase in beef cow culling, as well as potential herd expansion, further squeezing feeder supplies.

How much does opening the Mexican border help? In the first 12 weeks since the border opened, a total of 95,460 head of feeder cattle had crossed (plus 2,741 head of rodeo stock). The weekly totals (currently about 15,000 head) will likely increase a bit more with the Nogales, AZ, port scheduled to open after Thanksgiving.

Depending on weight, some of the Mexican feeders are entering feedlots immediately, while lightweight cattle will be in stocker or growing programs before placement. The October feedlot placements include whatever number of Mexican cattle were available for placement. More Mexican cattle softens the impact of tight U.S. feeder cattle supplies but will not result in net increases.

Moreover, in 2026, a net total of 298,000 head of feeder cattle have been exported to Canada, up by 117,000 head year over year.

In total, live cattle trade with Mexico and Canada leaves feeder supplies mostly unchanged or slightly lower in 2026 and will provide some additional animals to limit the impact of tighter feeder supplies in 2027. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist**

Feeder cattle head lower

MARKETS
(from page 1)

to close at $331.17.

"It's absolutely absurd to see the feeder cattle complex close lower amid the following: last week's extremely bullish Cattle on Feed report, higher boxed beef prices today, and the fact that the live cattle contracts have closed higher both days this week," Stewart said. "But the feeder cattle complex seems blind to its own fundamental support for the time being—and is simply fixated on the idea of trading lower."

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost $1.20 to close at $336.38.

Corn futures were modestly lower. The December contract lost about 5 cents to close at $4.34, and the March contract lost about 3 cents to close at $4.49.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 11,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold from $4 lower to $7 higher. Feeder heifers sold from $4-13 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 770 lbs. sold from $338-351.50, averaging $344.12.

New Mexico: Roswell Livestock Auction in Roswell sold 1,260 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous sale, steer calves 400-500 lbs. sold steady to $15 lower, and 550-600 lbs. were $20 higher. Feeder steers 600-750 lbs. were $20 higher, and 600-750 lbs. sold $5-13 higher. Heifer calves 300-500 lbs. sold steady to $15 lower, and 500-600 lbs. sold $15-20 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 727 lbs. sold from $320-339, averaging $327.49.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold $3-10 higher and feeder heifers sold $10-20 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold $10-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 785 lbs. sold from $340-349, averaging $346.21.

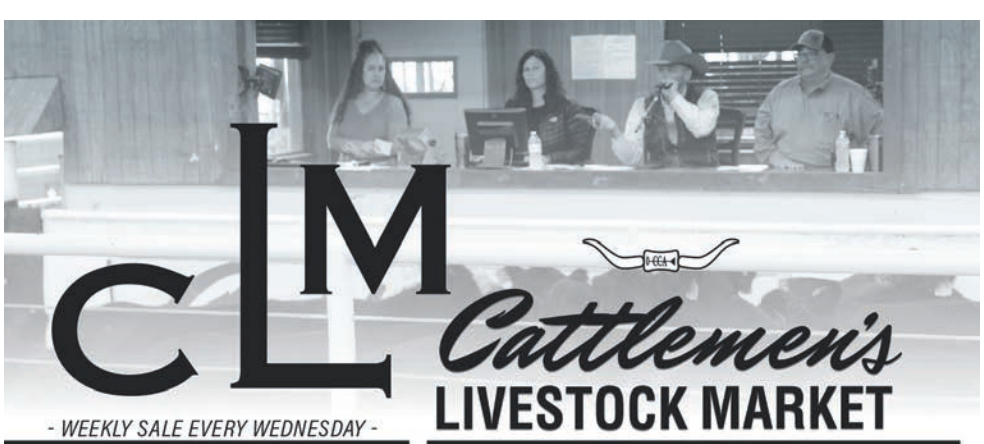
South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 2,214 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, steer and heifer calves were too lightly tested for a comparison. Yearling steers sold $2-8 higher on those in a similar flesh condition a week earlier. Yearling feeder heifers sold $15-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold from $356-377.50, averaging $366.63. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

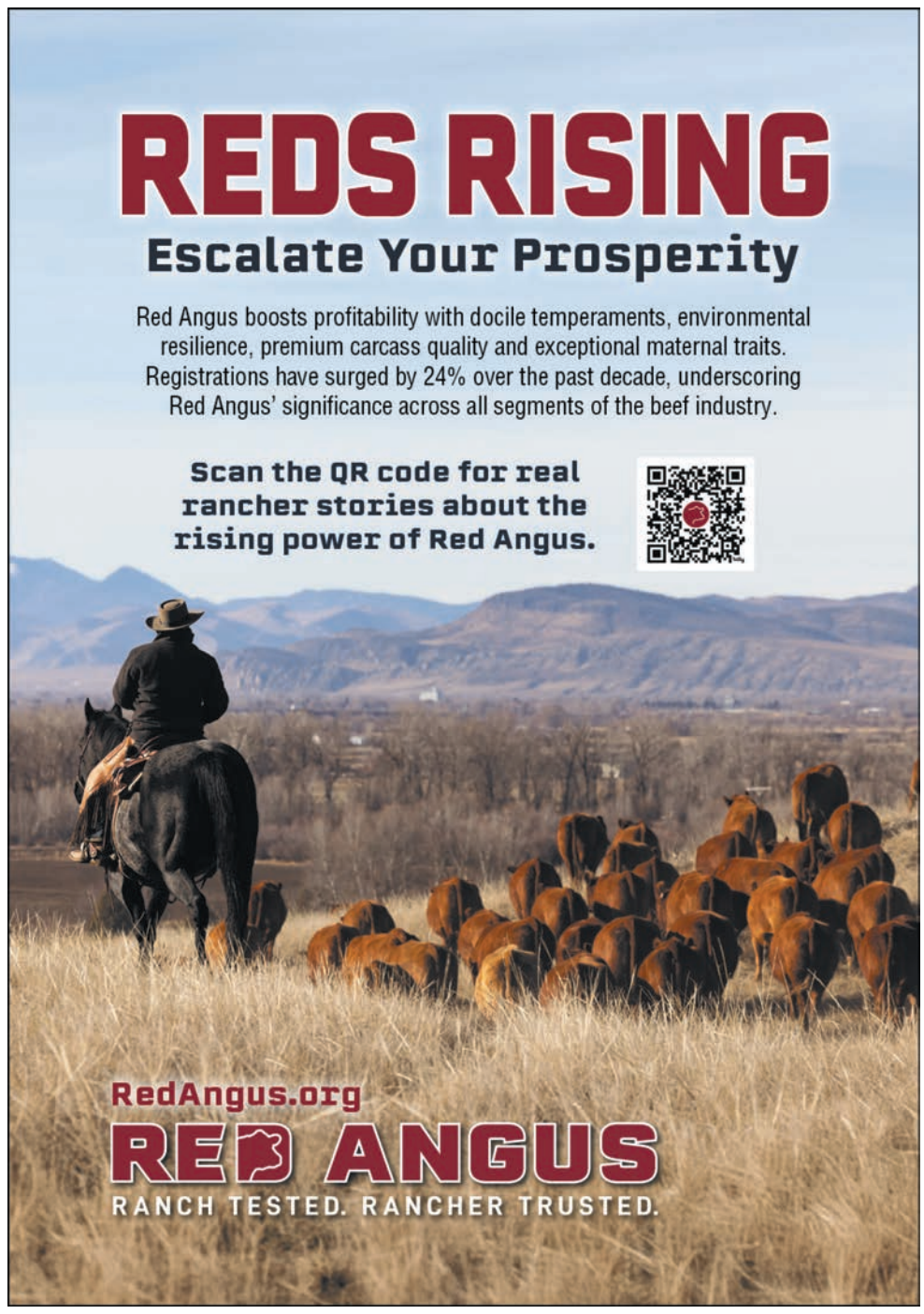
COMING EVENTS

(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.





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SALE REPORTS

J&L LIVESTOCK MONTANA ANGUS FEMALE SALE
Nov. 16, Billings, MT
1229 Commercial bull bred heifers $4,009
965 Commercial AI bred heifers 4,266
352 Commercial 3–6-year-old cows 4,000
18 Commercial older cows 3,872
1663 Commercial 2-coming-3-year-olds 4,898
Auctioneers: Ty Thompson and Greg Goggins

LARGENT AND SONS BULL SALE
Nov. 19, Kaycee, WY
92 Hereford bulls . . . $10,945
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Desert CS Standfield 544, 4/23/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Lowell Fischer Family, Spencer, NE, $35,000. L3 Desert Land Baron 530, 3/18/2025 by SHF Haviland F158 H028; to Lawrence Ranch, Buffalo, WY, $28,000. JL Desert CS Fieldman 535, 3/21/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Bauer Ranch, Union Center, SD, $21,000. KL Desert CS Fieldman 542, 3/23/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Dunmire Ranch, McFadden, WY, $21,000. Desert CS Fieldman 548, 3/24/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Dunmire Ranch, McFadden, WY, $21,000. Desert CS Fieldman 532, 3/20/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Span Ranch, Crested Butte, CO, $20,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

REDLAND ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Nov. 21, Buffalo, WY
163 Angus older bulls $14,601
80 Angus commercial bred heifers 6,330
43 Black white face commercial bred heifers 4,350
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Redland Cow Power 965, 4/1/2025 by Mc Cumber Cow Power 118; to McCumber Angus Ranch, ND, and H Cross Ranch, ND, $55,000. Redland Cow Power 235, 4/9/2025 by Redland Cow Power 633; to Harris Ranch, ND, $30,000. Redland Masterplan 955, 4/1/2025 by Mc Cumber Masterplan 3194; to Lee Ranch, MT, $30,000. Redland Masterplan 1285, 4/2/2025 by Mc Cumber Masterplan 3194; to Marty Lawrence, SD, $25,000. Redland Masterplan 725, 3/25/2025 by Mc Cumber Masterplan 3194; to Harris Ranch, ND, $25,000. Redland Cow Power 195, 3/28/2025 by Mc Cumber Cow Power 118; to Alex Lawrence, SD, $25,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

CONNEALY ANGUS BULL SALE
Nov. 20, Whitman, NE
286 Angus older bulls $19,016
158 Angus yearling bulls 16,946
8 Angus open heifers 21,562
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins
TOPS: Connealy Discipline 339T, 5/10/2025 by Yon Discipline; to Select Sires, Plain City, OH, $150,000. Connealy Majority 174L 99300, 7/14/2025 by FHCC Majority 1551; to Grimmius Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, $100,000. Connealy Bold Ruler 93189991, 6/12/2025 by BA7 Oaks Bold Ruler; to Keck Farms, Culloden, GA, $77,500. Connealy Kingston 343H 97677, 7/10/2025 by KC Kingston; to Grimmius Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, $60,000. Connealy Validation 149, 5/6/2025 by Connealy Validation; to Nichols Angus, Chambers, NE, $50,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

5L RED ANGUS SALE
Nov. 19, Sheridan, MT
125 Red Angus bulls $9,692
50 Commercial bred heifers 4,632
Auctioneer: Trent Stewart
TOP: 5L Jericho J181-569N, 5/1/2025 by Leachman Jericho S417J; to Smith Ranch, Whitehall, MT, $20,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

SPRING COVE RANCH FEMALE SALE
Nov. 21, Bliss, ID
3 Angus bred cows $16,667
13 Angus open heifers 12,346
4 Angus pairs 9,375
72 Angus bred heifers 6,850
72 Angus embryos 1,415
1 Angus flush 20,000
3 Angus pregnancies 12,833
132 Angus semen lots . . . 647
20 Commercial bred cows 4,630
187 Commercial bred heifers 4,238
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing
TOPS—Bred cow: Pine View Liza L375, 8/29/2023 by Hart Showcase 1082 bred to Pine View Padre L20; to Cannon Ranch, Hiko, NV, $20,000. **Bred heifer:** Spring Cove Josie 548, 1/9/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K bred to LT Anchor 4031; to Lindskov LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, $20,000. **Flush:** Poss Blueblood 2525, 1/25/2022 by Connealy Clarity; to Stellpflug Cattle Co., Glenrock, WY, $20,000. **Open heifers:** Guess Erianna 5146, 12/27/2025 by Galaxy Showdown L401; to Cannon Ranch, Hiko, NV, $30,000. Spring Cove Lucy Blossom 632, 1/21/2026 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to CRC Cattle LLC, Echo, OR, $22,000. Poss Pride 6213, 1/25/2026 by M Diamond Ranahan 111; to Rockin K Ranch, Great Falls, MT, $21,000. Spring Cove Blossom 635, 1/22/2026 by T/D Gulf of America 3638; to Dixie Valley Ranch, Petaluma, CA, $20,000. **Pregnancy:** TL Blossom 5114, 12/19/2026 by Pollard Hennessey 3920; to Stellpflug Cattle Co., Glenrock, WY, $20,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

VIDEO AUCTION

Nov. 19, Hudson Oaks, TX
Calves sold $13-16/cwt higher and feeders sold $8-12 higher on comparable cattle at Superior Livestock Auction's Nov. 19 video auction, where producers offered 22,240 head into a market that had gained ground in each of the three preceding sessions.
Cattle were consigned from 20 states and drew 79 successful buyers, with 155 lots sold. Cattle sold on contract to deliver immediately through February.
"The fall run has been exceptional at Superior Livestock. Buyers are being really aggressive today on the right class and kind of cattle, and quality cattle is coming to the front," said Charly Cummings of Superior Livestock Auction.
Weaned calves made up better than 90% of all calves cataloged, and they carried the sale. A set of 66 weaned steer calves at 730 pounds out of Wyoming brought $379/cwt, or about $2,767 a head. Out of Colorado, 116 weaned steer calves at 700 lbs. brought $390/cwt, about $2,730 a head. Buyer demand also ran strong for later December and January delivery.
The beef-on-dairy offering ran roughly 3,600 head. A set of 240 head of 650-lb. beef-dairy cross steers out of a Colorado dairy on a VAC 60 program brought $400/cwt, or $2,600 a head. Two more loads of the same cattle brought $399/cwt and $397.50/cwt, putting 880 head within $2.50 of the top. Superior also cataloged about 1,200 head of bred stock.
"Raising good cattle is half the job. The other half is how you market them and how many buyers you put them in front of, and that is the great advantage at Superior Livestock, putting them in front of the world and the nation's largest buyer base," Cummings said.
Demand was good throughout, and supplies are becoming lighter heading into the holiday season. Timely rain turned wheat pasture conditions around across the Midwest and improved demand for calves, and southern calves led the advance.

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

ALL BREEDS
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
Jan. 30 – Red Bluff Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA

ANGUS
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. 4 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
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

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

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

HEREFORD
Jan. 18, 2027 – Van Newkirk Herefords, Bull Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Jan. 28 – Ridder Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Callaway, NE

MAINE ANJOU
Dec. 4 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT

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

RED ANGUS
Dec. 3 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 14 – Cross Diamond Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Bertrand, NE

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

SIMANGUS
Dec. 4 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
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

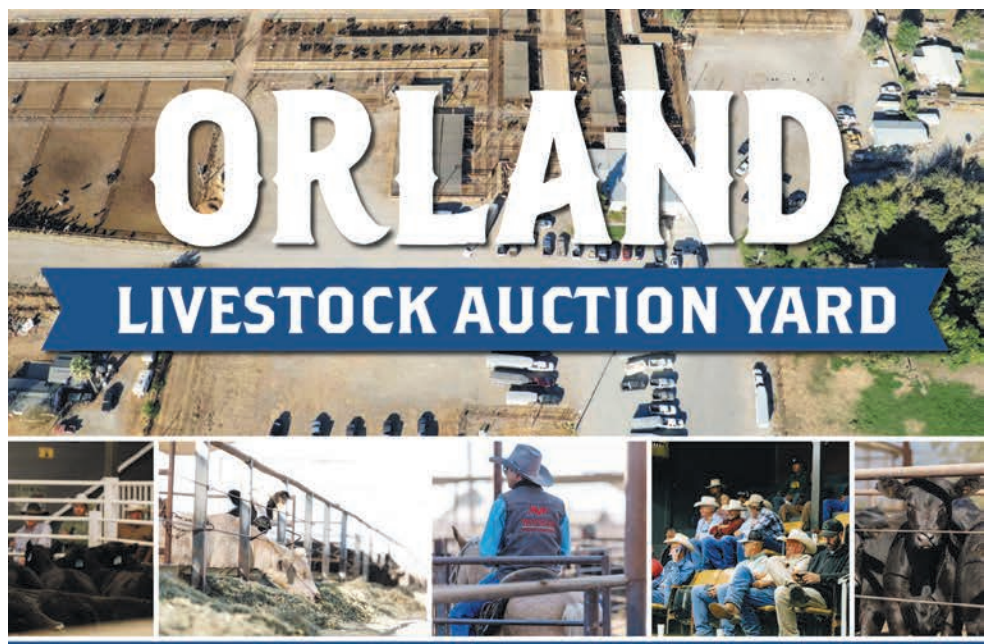
SIMMENTAL
Dec. 1 – Reflected R Ranch, Female Dispersal Sale, Ordway, CO
Dec. 4 – Yardley Cattle Co., Female Sale, Beaver, UT
Dec. 5 – Montana Simmental Association, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 12 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY
Jan. 17, 2027 – The One & Only Simmental Sale at NWSS, Denver, CO
Feb. 1 – APEX Cattle, Bull Sale, Dannebrog, NE

STABILIZER
Dec. 5 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

COMMERCIAL
Dec. 2 – Western Video Market Auction, Reno, NV
Jan. 5, 2027 – Western Video Market, Internet Sale, North Platte, NE
Jan. 13 – Maternal Merit Bred Heifer Sale, Denver, CO
Jan. 28 – Western Video Market, Red Bluff, Video Sale, Red Bluff, CA

HORSE
Jan. 29, 2027 – Red Bluff Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA

STOCK DOG
Jan. 29, 2027 – Red Bluff Stock Dog Sale, Red Bluff, CA





Mexican beef exports expected to increase 5-10% in 2027

BEEF SUPPLIES
(from page 1)

production to increase approximately 2% in 2027, as feedlots have adequate cattle supplies and processing capacity. Beef imports are expected to decline 5% as domestic production rises, although high cattle costs will continue to pressure processors' profits.

Mexican beef exports are expected to increase 5-10% in 2027, largely because of strong U.S. demand. Live cattle shipments to the U.S. are gradually resuming as border crossings reopen in phases, though NWS could still disrupt trade.

In Canada, cattle on feed in Alberta and Saskatchewan totaled 889,700 head in October, up 4.9% from a year earlier. Rabobank expects Canadian beef production to hold steady in 2027 and cattle prices to stay high. U.S. demand will support Canadian beef exports, though tight cattle supplies and competition from Australia and other exporters are likely to keep shipments near current levels.

Asian and Pacific markets

According to the report, China's cattle inventory fell 4.1% to 95.23 million head during the first three quarters of 2026. Rabobank expects Chinese beef production to fall another 1-2% in 2027, while imports rise about 3%. China's import quotas could again limit shipments from Australia and Brazil, while uncertainty over processing plant registrations continues to cloud U.S. access to the Chinese market.

In Japan, record-high import prices and a weak yen continue weighing on beef consumption, although demand remains relatively strong in some foodservice sectors. August imports declined 11.5% year over year, and Rabobank expects both supply and demand to continue declining.

Strong export demand is supporting Australian beef production, which Rabobank expects to rise about 3% in 2027 after a record year in 2026. Dry conditions tied to El Niño could force producers to sell more cattle, pressuring processing capacity and pushing cattle prices lower.

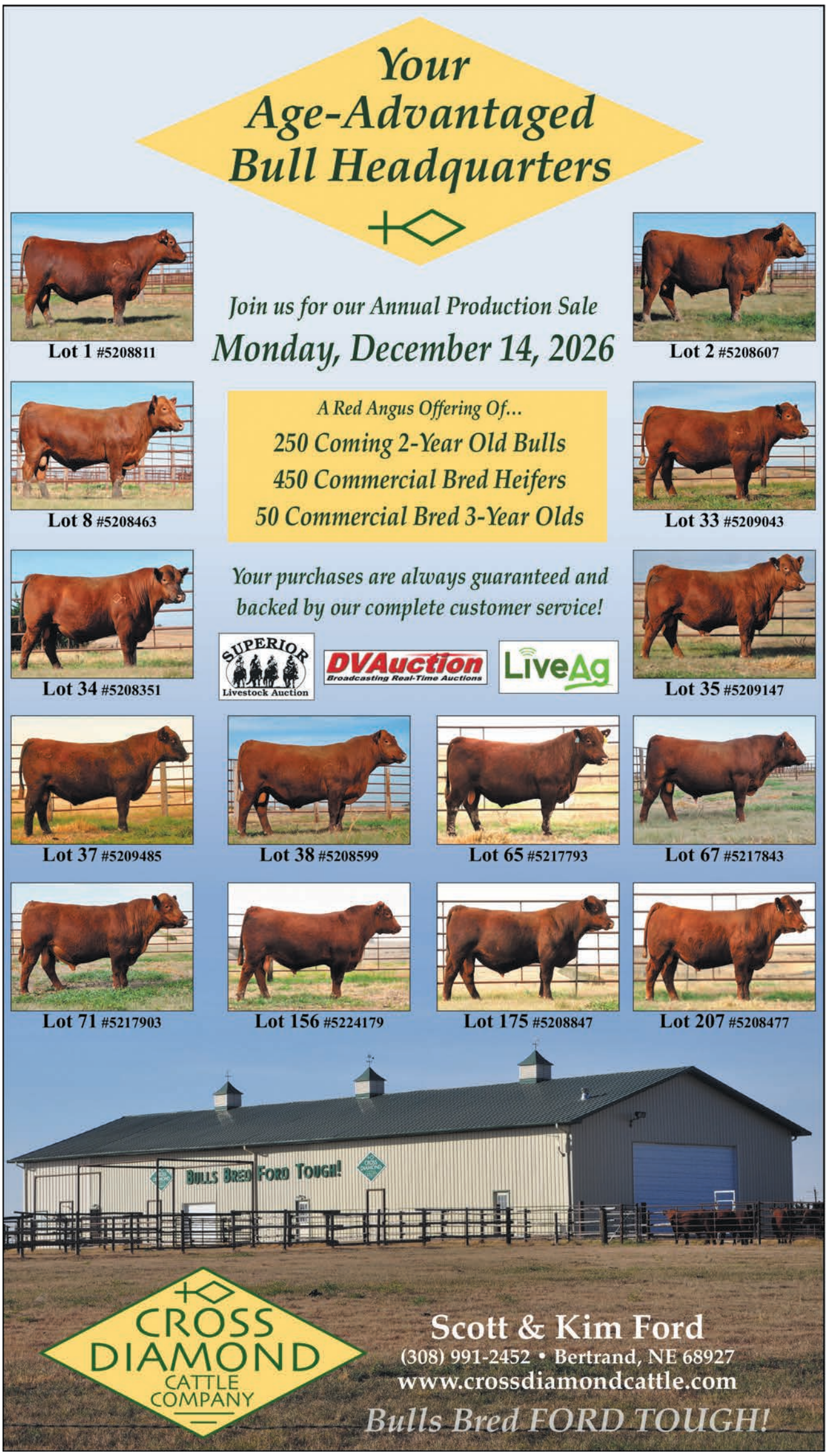
Rabobank expects beef production in New Zealand to increase 8.8% in 2027. Cattle prices are expected to remain historically strong even as New Zealand faces more competition from Australian and Brazilian beef in the U.S. market.

Brazil faces tight supplies

Brazilian producers are retaining more breeding females, reducing slaughter numbers.

Rabobank expects beef production to fall 3% in 2027 and exports to rise 1.5% to 4.5 million metric tons. China's import quotas are prompting Brazilian exporters to look to other markets, including the U.S.

With domestic beef supplies expected to fall 6%, Brazilian shoppers are likely to turn to cheaper proteins. Tighter cattle supplies are also expected to support higher cattle prices, particularly in the second half of 2027. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**



Studying how bison and cattle share the range

Colorado State University's (CSU) prized bison conservation herd has a new home base. The university recently finalized an agreement to use Maxwell Ranch, a working cattle ranch in northern Colorado, as a second location for managing the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd. The herd is a collaborative program that has bred, raised and rehomed more than 200 bison to Native American Tribes and other conservation herds across the country.

The new location will allow researchers to study important questions about the impacts of grazing bison and how bison and cattle interact on the same landscape, particularly as it relates to concerns over the potential for disease to be transmitted between animals. The location will also provide new teaching opportunities.

Maxwell Ranch is owned and managed by CSU Strata, a private, nonprofit foundation that operates separately from Colorado State University but supports its activities. The ranch was donated to Strata in the 1970s to benefit university teaching, research and beef cattle production.

"This is going to expand our teaching and research capacities onto a real working ranch," said Jennifer Barfield, an associate professor in CSU's Department of Biomedical Sciences who serves as the scientific lead on the bison conservation project. "We've approached this as an opportunity to build out a working model where you can have healthy bison and cattle on the landscape together."

Researchers will now utilize Maxwell Ranch in addition to the herd's original home, the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area north of Fort Collins, to manage the animals. Herd partners include CSU, the city of Fort Collins and Larimer County; university scientists manage the herd, while the city and county provide habitat. Although visitors can view the bison at Soapstone, Maxwell Ranch is not open to the public.

"We are delighted to support the research and service activities of Dr. Barfield and her team," said Ajay Menon, president and CEO of CSU Strata. "We believe her work makes great contributions to the history and legacy of the American West."

The agreement also involves building a new bison handling facility on the ranch. Initially, the structures will include pens and an alleyway that will lead into a chute where the animals can be safely handled if necessary.

"We're pretty minimal on our handling approach," Barfield said. "But we want to have something that we can feel really confident about using and know that any risk of injury to the animals would be extremely rare."

Having an opportunity to investigate new animal health aspects of bison management is what led to this agreement, Barfield said. Although there are some places now where bison and cattle live on the landscape together, she said, there are still concerns among cattle ranchers who worry that adding bison to the land could cause conflict among the animals and introduce disease.

"I think if we can rigorously show that this works, having cattle and bison together, then someone could take pieces of what we're doing and apply it to their situations where it makes sense," Barfield said. "I think in some places this could really make a difference."

CSU and CSU Strata signed the agreement in October. The agreement runs for 10 years and is renewable. The plan is to construct the handling facilities over the next year and then begin using the property. At that time, the new Maxwell Ranch facilities will replace existing bison handling facilities on CSU's Foothills Campus. — **CSU 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.)

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.

Jan. 4, 2027 – The Sandhills Task Force is now accepting applications for the 2027 Sandhills Ranch Internship and Apprenticeship opportunities. To learn more and to apply, please visit sandhillstaskforce.org. For questions, please contact KyLee at kylee@sandhillstaskforce.org or call 308-340-2781.