

SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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Beef with a story to it

Niche market for ranch-raised beef on the rise

By Blair Fannin, Texas AgriLife Today

Direct beef purchases from the farm continue to be an emerging trend as consumers want to know both the story and faces behind the products they are purchasing, according to an expert.

At the recent Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Stiles Farm Field Day, producers learned more about how they can tap into this growing trend of the beef production segment. Rather than traditional marketing where beef producers sell their cattle to the local livestock auction or contract directly through a feed yard, they are capitalizing on the opportunity to sell direct from the farm to the consumer.

“Whether it’s all natural, organic or grain-fed beef coming off the ranch, for consumers who can actually see where and who they are getting their beef product from carries a lot of weight and trust,” said Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Bryan-College Station. “Consumers are wanting beef with a story to it. It could be grain-fed beef off the ranch or simply grass-fed. There’s a lot of interest from producers wanting to get into this niche market, and some are having a lot of success.”

Capitalizing on additional profit

There are opportunities to receive high premiums for their cattle, though there are associated additional costs, experts said. For example, carcass weights must reach 1,300 pounds to 1,400 pounds and require additional feed costs to reach those weight-gain thresholds. To add an additional 3 pounds of gain a day requires purchasing feed for \$360 a ton and a feed cost of gain of \$1.20-1.30 per pound. The typical feed yard gain cost is about 90 cents a day.

“We tell people to start
(Continued on page 10)

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PERIODICAL



Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
ROUND-UP REVIEW

• SEE PAGES 5-8 •

Just Your Standard Bull

By Michael Sturgess

TEXAS Trails...

By Clay Coppedge

I trust everyone had an enjoyable July 4th holiday weekend. And if are like me, you can't remember a time when you paid more for a brisket, hamburger meat, baby back ribs, etc. But that's a good thing right?

The problem is the fat cattle and the calf markets aren't close to all-time highs, leaving us with one of the highest margins between live cattle and retail cuts we have seen. In this case, the packers are reaping these margins.

Once again, we can't seem to keep the supply line moving at a constant pace. Last year, it was the pandemic. This year, packers still cite an inadequate work force. In addition, JBS USA Holdings Inc had to temporarily shut its systems down due to a cyber-attack. These interruptions cause backlogs that take time to work through.

Explaining this to our non-cattle friends is sometimes confusing to them. The best way I have to make them understand

how our system works for me is to get them to realize that when the packers shut down, we can't simply put live cattle on a shelf. They still have to be fed. When they eat, they gain more weight, which results in heavier carcasses once they final hit the kill floor. But it doesn't end there. If you sell computer cases, you can slow or stop the production of new cases until your glut is absorbed. To slow beef production, we have to produce less calves, which means we need to breed fewer cows. And if we decide to breed less cows in our next calving season, the earliest we will won't see the impact of this decision for 24-26 months into the future.

And all of this still doesn't account for higher cost of gains due to high grain prices. And how about higher fuel prices, not to mention higher labor costs, availability of parts...

On the sunnier side of things, we see more cattle each day that are sold by producers direct to consumers. Today's housewife will pay for the privilege of knowing where their beef comes from, what they are fed and how they are processed. Other branded and label programs out there attempt to pass some more of the dollars back to the producer. The more the merrier we say! Promoting alternative solutions to marketing should be one of the primary goals for all cattle organizations.

Sam Bass and the Denton Mare

The only sporting entertainment early Texas settlers could count on was horse racing. A lot of communities had quarter-mile race tracks where one horse would be pitted against another—scrub racing, they called it. It was a chance to get away from the farm, swap some horses, bet on some others, drink and carry on.

Some of the most famous horses of early-day Texas earned their reputations on these quarter-mile tracks. One of the most highly regarded Texas horses in the 1870s was a gray mare with a white sock on its left back foot. A farmer from Little Elm sold the horse in 1874 to a youth who sometimes signed his name Sam B. Ass, not to be funny but because Sam Bass was barely literate.

Bass, from Indiana, was working for Denton County sheriff W.F. "Dad" Egan when he bought the horse. Egan had taken a liking to Bass and put him to work on his farm, occasionally making him a special deputy when the occasion warranted. The kid was good-natured and not a bad hand but he had a bit of a wild streak in him, and a little bit of a lazy streak too. The sheriff couldn't help but worry about that combination.

Dad Egan's fears became real after Sam bought that horse. The seller had

said the horse had in her veins a strain of blood from the legendary Steel Dust, foundation sire of the American quarter horse. Steel Dust pedigree was often touted, rarely proven. But in this case the buyer might have been telling it straight. Sam named the horse Jennie, and she quickly became famous around area race tracks as the "Denton Mare."

As a wage-earning farm hand, Sam couldn't scrape up enough money to buy

Jennie, but Dad Egan's younger brother, Armstrong "Army" Egan, teamed up with Sam to buy the horse. The first time they raced Jennie she won, and she kept on winning. Sam and Army were thrilled. Dad Egan was not.

As sheriff, Dad Egan spent a considerable amount of his time at the race track breaking up fights, arresting people and investigating various criminal enterprises. He wasn't happy to see Sam slip into

(Continued on page 15)

Prescribed fire workshop set July 30 in Spicewood

AgriLife Extension event to address benefits, timing, concerns with prescribed fire

The Texas A&M Agri Life Extension Service will present an interactive, in-person workshop July 30

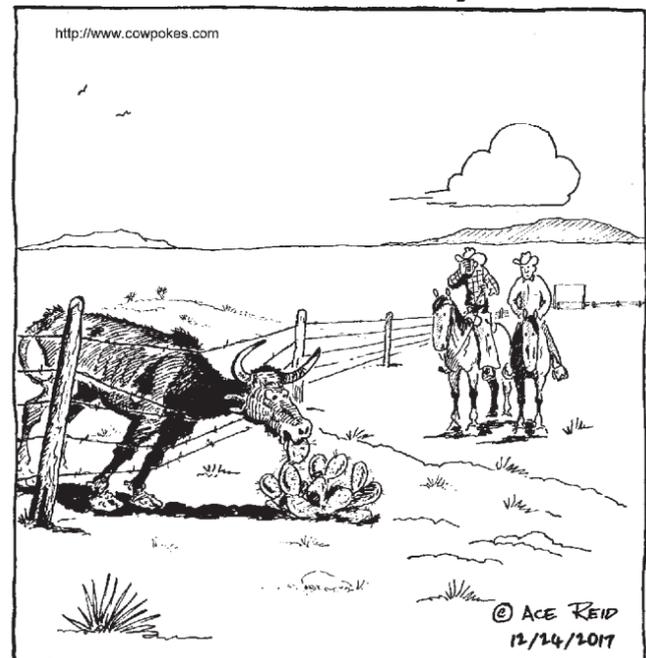
for attendees to learn about prescribed fires and associated best practices (Continued on page 13)



Prescribed burns provide positive benefits to land management. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 7-1-21			
SPECIES:	6-26-2021:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	1,354	1,475	22,409
b. Breeding Males	12	15	916
c. Breeding Females	0	6	762
Total	1,366	1,496	24,087
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	5	0	1,559
c. Breeding Females	609	0	3,027
Total	614	0	4,586
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	7
b. Breeding Females	161	0	1,768
Total	161	0	1,775
5) GOATS			
a. Angora	0	0	0
b. Spanish	0	0	0
c. Other	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
6) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	254	335	8,129
b. Breeding Males	26	38	686
c. Breeding Females	38	57	1,099
d. Geldings	14	9	360
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	11	46
Total	332	450	10,320
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	5
MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	6-26-2021:	1-1-2021 - Present:	
FEEDER CATTLE	10,379	345,789	
MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS			
FEEDER CATTLE	2,771	113,143	

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"I guess everything looks greener on the other side of the fence."

SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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DC News...

Gardiner addresses Senate Committee on market concerns

Washington -- On June 23rd, Mark Gardiner, the owner-operator of Gardiner Angus Ranch, testified before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee on key market challenges that have long threatened the profitability of cattle and beef producers. He was joined by leading industry economists who National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has worked closely with to explore solutions to the current unsustainable market dynamics.

The hearing titled, "Examining Markets, Transparency, and Prices from Cattle Producer to Consumer" addressed a wide range of issues, including the urgent need for robust price discovery and differing industry views on how to achieve it, greater market transparency and oversight, and expanded beef processing capacity.

"As we stated in our written testimony today, the wide-ranging market challenges our producers are facing cannot be remedied with a single solution overnight," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane. "We must address the issues preventing our members from securing their share of the beef dollar, but we must do so in a way that respects the voices of all cattle producers, regardless of how they choose to market their cattle. We thank Mr. Gardiner for his insights, and we thank Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and other Senators on the committee for the investment they've demonstrated in the issues facing America's cattle producers. We appreciate the care taken by both the majority and minority to consult and select a witness panel that can speak to the current market dynamics from multiple angles."

The hearing today comes on the heels of growing conversation about cattle markets both in Congress and across the country. Earlier this month, NCBA led a letter with the support of 37 affiliate state cattle organizations urging the leadership of the U.S.

Senate and House Agriculture Committees to address critical areas of concern in the cattle and beef industry. Multiple lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have written the U.S. Department of Justice calling for the swift conclusion of their investigation into whether or not anti-

competitive practices have taken place in the meat-packing sector. NCBA was also at the forefront in 2019 of calling for an investigation after the "black swan" market event of a fire at Tyson Foods' Finney County beef plant in Holcomb, Kansas.

Recent industry meetings in Phoenix, Arizona and Kansas City, Missouri have also brought together economists, associations, and market participants to discuss industry-led solutions.

In his opening remarks, Gardiner confirmed the importance of solutions

that put producers in the driver's seat. "Please do not create regulations and legislation that have the unintended consequence of harming value-based marketing. Doing so would undo many years of progress for producers such as my family and those of our customers," said Gardiner. "Onerous legislation has the potential to result in a reversal of quality that is simply unacceptable to consumers."

Background

Cattle producers have long witnessed the decline of negotiated fed cattle trade, and NCBA has been

the leading industry voice discussing how to increase opportunities for producer profitability in this landscape. The supply of cattle and the demand for U.S. beef are both strong, but the bottleneck in the mid-

dle caused by a lack of hook space has stifled producer profitability and created unsustainable market dynamics.

While the use of formulas and grids help cattle

(Continued on page 15)

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, July 1, 2021: Total receipts 572, last reported (6-24-21) 1,149; last year 0. Feeder cattle 463 (80.9%), last reported (6-24-21) 1,057 (92.0%), last year 0. Slaughter cattle 80 (14.0%), last reported (6-24-21) 46 (4.0%), last year 0. Replacement cattle 29 (5.2%), last reported (6-24-21) 46 (4.0%), last year 0. Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings steady. Slaughter cows firm, slaughter bulls not well tested. Stock cows and pairs not well tested. Trading and demand moderate. Scattered rain showers throughout the area reduced receipts. Supply included: 81% Feeder Cattle (40% Steers, 46% Heifers, 14% Bulls); 14% Slaughter Cattle (86% Cows, 14% Bulls); 5% Replacement Cattle (67% Stock Cows, 22% Bred Cows, 11% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 37%.

Amarillo Livestock Auction, Amarillo, Texas, June 28, 2021: Total receipts 480, last reported (6-21-21) 321, last year 435. Feeder cattle 460 (95.8%), last reported (6-21-21) 298 (92.8%), last year 25 (5.7%). Replacement cattle 10 (2.1%), last reported (6-21-21) 18 (5.6%), last year 30 (6.9%). Compared to last week: Trade activity was moderate on good demand. Scattered rain chances throughout the past weekend, and to start off the week cooled temperatures down. Supply included: 96% Feeder Cattle (53% Steers, 47% Heifers); 2% Slaughter Cattle (75% Cows, 25% Bulls); 2% Replacement Cattle (57% Bred Cows, 14% Cow-Calf Pairs, 29% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 95%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 29, 2021: Total receipts 8,842, last reported (6-21-21) 8,843, last year 9,182. Feeder cattle 8,842 (100.0%), last reported (6-21-21) 8,843 (100.0%), last year 9,182 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers 3.00-5.00 higher. Demand good for feeder cattle despite higher corn futures and lower feeder futures. Steer calves lightly tested and few sales 4.00 higher. Heifer calves 2.00-8.00 higher. Demand good for calves. Heavy rains moved across the state and more is in the forecast for the rest of the week. No sale Monday or Tuesday following the fourth of July weekend. The Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (63% Steers, 36% Heifers, 1% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 81%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-25-21
VOLUME: 342
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	138-185	125-166
300-400 lbs.	136-180	113-159
400-500 lbs.	112-175	112-152
500-600 lbs.	111-162	111-150
600-700 lbs.	103-149	106-139
700-800 lbs.	97-130	95-109
Slaughter cows	35-76	
Slaughter Bulls	76-83	
Stocker cows	875-1000	
Pairs	1060-1275	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 7-6-21
VOLUME: 542
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-190	140-165
300-400 lbs.	158-187	135-156
400-500 lbs.	150-177	130-152
500-600 lbs.	142-164	120-147
600-700 lbs.	132-153	120-136
700-800 lbs.	136-146	118-130
Slaughter cows	52-76	
Slaughter bulls	77-88	
Stocker cows	790-1135	
Pairs	850-1150	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-28-21
VOLUME: 1095
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	148-194	132-178
300-400 lbs.	141-186	130-164
400-500 lbs.	146-194	126-160
500-600 lbs.	138-182	124-156
600-700 lbs.	126-158	114-142
700-800 lbs.	98-142	94-128
Slaughter cows	42-76	
Slaughter bulls	72-98	
Stocker cows	550-1200	
Pairs	800-1275	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-28-21
VOLUME: 913
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	138-185	136-185
300-400 lbs.	146-193	134-155
400-500 lbs.	139-190	129-152
500-600 lbs.	129-170	123-170
600-700 lbs.	125-151	108-135
700-800 lbs.	116-135	99-119
Slaughter cows	35-82	
Slaughter bulls	72-99	
Stocker cows	550-1000	
Pairs	810-1600	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 7-6-21
VOLUME: 315
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-175	140-160
300-400 lbs.	150-180	130-164
400-500 lbs.	140-165	130-150
500-600 lbs.	132-160	127-140
600-700 lbs.	125-140	115-130
700-800 lbs.	108-117	90-115
Slaughter cows	60-68	
Slaughter bulls	86-95	
Stocker cows	850-1300	
Pairs	950-1400	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-23-21
VOLUME: 846
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-190	120-165
300-400 lbs.	160-200	120-165
400-500 lbs.	150-201	120-157
500-600 lbs.	140-175	120-151
600-700 lbs.	135-160	105-137
700-800 lbs.	120-143	96-123
Slaughter cows	40-79	
Slaughter Bulls	80-100	
Stocker cows	700-1000	
Pairs	900-1400	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-24-21
VOLUME: 790
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	150-200	130-175
400-500 lbs.	140-195	120-160
500-600 lbs.	130-175	110-145
600-700 lbs.	130-165	120-145
700-800 lbs.	135-150	110-130
Slaughter cows	45-80	
Slaughter bulls	75-103	
Stocker cows	800-1400	
Pairs	1050-1750	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-24-21
VOLUME: 1807
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-182	—
300-400 lbs.	170-201	145-164
400-500 lbs.	155-179	145-176
500-600 lbs.	145-166	130-150
600-700 lbs.	135-157	123-143
700-800 lbs.	123-145	110-131
Slaughter cows	30-76	
Slaughter bulls	65-100.5	
Stocker cows	600-1325	
Pairs	910-1450	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-28-21
VOLUME: 740
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	128-180	130-160
300-400 lbs.	128-185	130-155
400-500 lbs.	128-181	124-172.5
500-600 lbs.	125-155	118-152
600-700 lbs.	120-151	110-137
700-800 lbs.	110-147	109-127
Slaughter cows	28-75	
Slaughter bulls	55-101	
Stocker cows	750-1175	
Pairs	775-1225	

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction
Lampasas, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-30-21
VOLUME: 506
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	154-187.5	158-170
300-400 lbs.	148-195	146-158
400-500 lbs.	152-183	137-157.5
500-600 lbs.	145-177	127-148
600-700 lbs.	132-153	124-139
700-800 lbs.	130-141	113-127
Slaughter cows	35-73	
Slaughter bulls	64-102	
Stocker cows	600-900	
Pairs	800-1485	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 7-6-21
VOLUME: 1443
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	171-194	148-160
300-400 lbs.	160-171	138-160
400-500 lbs.	152-164	131-157
500-600 lbs.	135-153	122-145
600-700 lbs.	128-148	115-138
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	55-77	
Slaughter Bulls	86-99	
Stocker cows	640-1125	
Pairs	780-1350	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-23-21
VOLUME: 660
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	171-187	151-160
300-400 lbs.	165-195	141-157
400-500 lbs.	163-197	142-164
500-600 lbs.	152-172	140-160
600-700 lbs.	135-154	130-140
700-800 lbs.	131-145	115-122
Slaughter cows	35-74	
Slaughter bulls	75-101	
Stocker cows	600-1125	
Pairs	825-1325	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-26-21
VOLUME: 1804
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	145-195	130-165
300-400 lbs.	140-192	125-160
400-500 lbs.	130-195	115-155
500-600 lbs.	125-167	110-150
600-700 lbs.	120-148	105-147
700-800 lbs.	110-144	85-136
Slaughter cows	27-78	
Slaughter bulls	55-103	
Stocker cows	750-1375	
Pairs	650-1600	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-26-21
VOLUME: 1708
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	120-200	120-190
300-400 lbs.	120-185	110-162.5
400-500 lbs.	120-185	110-156
500-600 lbs.	110-171	110-151
600-700 lbs.	110-151	100-137
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	40-76	
Slaughter bulls	60-99	
Stocker cows	600-1100	
Pairs	850-1350	

SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-25-21
VOLUME: 930
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	150-184	128-150
300-400 lbs.	142-187	126-172
400-500 lbs.	140-187	129-166
500-600 lbs.	137-161	126-166
600-700 lbs.	123-154	117-154
700-800 lbs.	120-146	98-134
Slaughter cows	39-80	
Slaughter bulls	70-105	
Stocker cows	650-1350	
Pairs	650-1850	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-25-21
VOLUME: 1094
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-184	129-151
300-400 lbs.	159-187	128-164
400-500 lbs.	151-187	132-176
500-600 lbs.	143-177	126-154
600-700 lbs.	133-153	119-146
700-800 lbs.	131-141	108-125
Slaughter cows	15-74	
Slaughter Bulls	76-101	
Stocker cows	76-108	
Pairs	1100-1300	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-26-21
VOLUME: 1130
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	190-194	158-168
300-400 lbs.	185-189	150-155
400-500 lbs.	167-185	145-149
500-600 lbs.	150-160	132-141
600-700 lbs.	135-145	125-131
700-800 lbs.	129-132	—
Slaughter cows	36-79	
Slaughter bulls	83-101	
Stocker cows	600-1025	
Pairs	740-1425	

SALE: Columbus Livestock Co.
Columbus, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 6-24-21
VOLUME: 1012
TREND: Active/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-192	120-180
300-400 lbs.	135-190	120-177
400-500 lbs.	130-192	100-181
500-600 lbs.	125-170	115-177
600-700 lbs.	120-151	109-145
700-800 lbs.	110-150	95-130
Slaughter cows	40-80	
Slaughter bulls	65-101	
Stocker cows	550-1250	
Pairs	740-1410	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 7-6-21
VOLUME: 770
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	120-195	120-180
300-400 lbs.	120-187.5	110-165
400-500 lbs.	110-185	100-160
500-600 lbs.	110-170	100-155
600-700 lbs.	100-154	95-135
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	35-76	
Slaughter bulls	70-100	
Stocker cows	450-1100	
Pairs	600-1500	

SALE: El Campo Livestock Auction
El Campo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 7-6-21
VOLUME: 348
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	171-185	141-160
300-400 lbs.	167-185	130-153
400-500 lbs.	155-178	144-175
500-600 lbs.	144-154	135-160
600-700 lbs.	134-148	122-138
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	20-66	
Slaughter bulls	70-88	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	—	

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, June 30, 2021: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 11,445, last reported (6-22-21) 9,430, last year 0. Feeder sheep/lambs 54 (0.5%), last reported (6-22-21) 535 (5.7%), last year 0. Slaughter sheep/lambs 5,614 (49.1%), last reported (6-22-21) 4,495 (47.7%), last year 0. Replacement sheep/lambs 303 (2.6%), last reported (6-22-21) 181 (1.9%), last year 0. Feeder goats: 229 (2.0%), last reported (6-22-21) 377 (4.0%), last year 0. Slaughter goats 5,131 (44.8%), last reported (6-22-21) 3,653 (38.7%), last year 0. Replacement goats 114 (1.0%), last reported (6-22-21) 189 (

Predictability, pounds and profit

STAR 5 Females offer commercial producers countless advantages

Written by Micky Burch

Kingsville, Texas – As many Santa Gertrudis breeders know, the STAR 5 program is a three-level grading-up system designed for herds to progress from a non-Santa Gertrudis base to purebred status. But along the way, purebred breeders and commercial cattlemen alike have found significant value in Santa Gertrudis F1 females.

Santa Gertrudis cattle are becoming well known for complementarity with numerous breeds, as cattlemen understand the value of crossbreeding, heterosis and combining breeds that excel in different characteristics. Breeders have identified multiple crosses with Santa Gertrudis to meet production and marketing objectives, and individual operation goals. Many times, those goals include marketing commercial females and cow-calf pairs.

Texas Oaks Cattle Ranch, Brenham, Texas, had a hot spring sale season, first at the San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale where one of their pens of pairs sold for \$3,000. They followed that up with the grand champion pen of females in the Houston Livestock Show All Breeds Range Bull and Commercial Female Sale with a pen of Gert-Hereford cross pairs, which also garnered them \$3,000. They rounded out the spring with the champion pen at the Southeast Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association Bull and Heifer Sale, Beaumont, Texas. Their high sellers at this sale included \$2,300 for Gert-Hereford crosses and \$2,400 for Gert-Red Angus pairs.

Matt Zibilski, Texas Oaks Cattle Ranch manager, attributes the ranch's success to the increasing quality of the cattle. "We're getting the quality to where it needs to be," he says of producers breeding Santa Gertrudis crosses. "Everybody is doing a better job breeding them."

Evidence of that is seen in the noticeably improved cattle performance. Specifically, Zibilski noted the females are docile, sound uddered and wean a heavy

calf. Those characteristics keep buyers coming back, he says. "People are seeing that these cattle are fault free," he explains. "We can sell cattle like these and top sales for years to come."

By and large, Zibilski believes the cattle are bringing what they're worth. As a rule of thumb, he quotes a mentor who

once told him to multiply the value of a weaned steer by two to come up with the

value of a replacement female, and multiple it by three to calculate the value of a cow-calf pair. Oftentimes, that equates to \$2,000 to \$2,500 – a price-

point for many pairs sold this spring.

Those are the kinds of numbers Jim Corporryn, Corporryn Acres/Pinnacle Cattle Co., Schulenburg, Texas, has been getting for his pairs at public auction.

Corporryn has been breeding F1 Red Motts for more than 25 years, and has successfully taken those females back to low birth weight Angus and Brangus bulls to create many of his

(Continued on page 16)



Jim Corporryn has been breeding F1 Red Motts for more than 25 years and has successfully taken those females back to low birth weight Angus and Brangus bulls.

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Executive Director's Report...

By: Bill Hyman

After over 16 years as ICA Executive Director, it is time to retire. It has been a great ride and I enjoyed almost every minute of it. Together with our members, directors and officers, we have faced economic down turn, diseases, drought, freezes, wildfires and flooding. Although our resources were sometimes limited, we did more than our share every time. The members always overwhelmingly stepped up and did their part. No problem was too large or complex for us to solve. Sure, we sometimes could not accomplish everything we wanted legislatively, but for the most part we stayed united in our views and our mission.

I will stay on until a replacement can be found

and will help that person get started. I will be able to leave ICA knowing we are stronger than ever financially, still united with a strong board and great chapter leaders. I will certainly miss the interaction with the members, almost all of whom I consider my friends. I won't miss the Texas politics, Austin traffic and the state capitol. I will still eat brisket, potato salad and red beans at least twice a week. Now, I will have time for grandchildren, ranching, hunting and golf. Maybe I will even start to fish again.

I haven't left yet, so I still may have a few monthly articles left to write but after writing 199 of the darn things, I'm running out of words.

ICA

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas' holds Convention & Trade Show

The Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA) completed an exciting convention on Friday, June 25th. The 47th annual convention was held at the City of San Marcos Convention Center in San Marcos, Texas. Activities at the convention included: a fun night dancing, educational speakers, the draw-down fundraiser, a silent and live auction, and concluded with the awards banquet.

Convention started on

Wednesday morning with registration check in, then carried on throughout the day with educational speakers and into the evening with a dinner and dance. Thursday morning sessions kicked off again and were in full swing all day. Some of the sessions included our Cattlemen's Panel that had several well-versed industry representatives who shared their opinion on different topics with us. The day concluded

(Continued on page 10)



President's Address...

By: Brad Cotton

Howdy friends, I hope all is well with everyone. We have been extremely blessed this year with an abundance of rain and cooler than normal temperatures. Last week was a great week for the Independent Cattleman's Association (ICA) and its members as we wrapped up our 47th annual convention in San Marcos Texas.

We were pretty nervous going in, as we are just coming out of the pandemic and didn't know what to expect for attendance.

Overall, it was a great success with some great vendors and pretty good attendance. We hosted a "Cattleman's Panel," which went over great. It was one of the convention highlights. Thanks to Jim Williams of V8 Ranch, Jay Gray of Graham Land and Cattle, Bob Nunley of Nunley Brothers Ranch, Corbitt Wall of DV Auction and Stephen Lastovica of Milano Livestock. These folks did a great job answering a number of questions from our members. The panel was hosted by Chloe Nunley Wilson. We had numerous compliments and plans for next year's panel are underway.

As usual, the drawdown and auction garnered lots of attention. Thank you Corbitt Wall for stepping up to auctioneer for us. Those present really stepped up to make it enjoyable and were very generous in their bidding. Friday's luncheon was extremely

gratifying, as several young folks received their ICA scholarships. Seeing these young folks makes one feel good about the future of our industry. A big thank you to Fig Ridge Brahman (Peanut Gilfillian) and 2C Brangus (Brad and Deborah Cotton) for sponsoring Corbitt Wall as this year's keynote sponsor. He was very entertaining and offered a great deal of insight into the current and future state of the cattle industry.

There were many great speakers and lots of socializing, so if you missed it you should definitely make plans to attend next year, as we look to make it even better. A big thanks goes out to the office staff, as well as everyone else who helped make this convention a success.

Changing gears before closing, the cattle industry had a couple big wins besides the convention last week. The "Pause Act", which would have had a huge negative impact to the Colorado cattle industry was voted down. This act would have done away with fertility testing, AI, embryo transfer, castration.... bottom line this group would like to see the cattle industry go away. Also, the Senate hearing attended by USCA's Justin Tupper was a success as he spoke in detail of the financial disparity involving the producers, feeders and packers.

(Continued on page 7)



ICA members and participants enjoying the headliners luncheon and listening to guest speaker, Corbitt Wall.



ICA members enjoying our annual drawdown and live auction on Thursday evening.



Horace Drisdale was the winner of the Can-Am. He is pictured with ICA President Brad Cotton.

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Chapter Happenings...
Around The Lone Star State

Guada-Coma happenings
 Another convention has gone by and goodness, it was enjoyable. It was not overwhelming, but informative. The booths were awesome and their representatives were knowledgeable in their fields. Kudos to all our speakers, especially Corbitt Wall (of YouTube fame, Feeder

Flash). He was our key note speaker and a most notable speaker. From our chapter, we had three students that received the Steffany Lynn Sklar Memorial Scholarship. They are Chase Harvey, son of James and Cindy Harvey and grandson of Hilmer and Leona Cowey; Haley Hoffmann,

daughter of Mary and Blake Hoffmann of Seguin and Kelly John, daughter of Robert John Jr. and Kris John of La Vernia. Haley and Kelley are the granddaughters of Robert Sr. and Carilyn John. Congratulations to all and your selected fields.

Our next meeting will be in September. Until then, have a great summer.

South Central Texas ICA
 A big thank you to the SCTICA directors that attended the Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA) Convention in San Marcos, Texas in June 2021. Those directors included Brenda and Ronnie Moore, Weldon Riggs, Dr. Glen Tate, Brad Cotton, ICA president and Laurie Miller. It was wonderful to see many of the ICA family coming together again and the new band, Coby Carter, was a great hit to get the welcome off to a good start.

Brenda and Ronnie Moore delivered the live auction items donated by the SCTICA Chapter, which were rocking chairs with a Texas theme. The rockers were purchased during the live auction by Brad Cotton! The Moores also donated a weather station for the live auction.

Two of the ICA scholarship recipients, Reese Gonzalez and Wyatt Miller were accompanied by their parents and grandparents and were recognized during the Friday Headliners Luncheon. Thank you to Matt and Nicole Gonzalez and brother, Luke and Susan Gonzalez for supporting Reese. Thank you to Les and Jennifer Miller and grandmother Laurie Miller for supporting

Wyatt. The speaker for the luncheon was very knowledgeable and entertaining and enjoyed by all. Thank you Brad Cotton for reaching out to Corbitt Wall!

Only four trailblazers were recognized at this year's annual convention and two of them were from our SCTICA chapter. The 2020 SCTICA Trailblazer was Bryan Davis and the 2021 SCTICA Trailblazer was Lyssy & Eckel's Feed, represented by Ronnie and Crystal Eckel. "SCTICA has had great support from

the community over the years and we are always pleased when some of those helping us can be recognized," shared Weldon (Continued on page 10)



ICA Members and Convention participants learning and engaging with one of our guest speakers during the convention."



ICA members and convention participants listening to our Cattlemen's Panel Thursday afternoon. Panelists (from L to R) include: Corbitt Wall, Jim Williams, Bob Nunley, Jay Gray and Steven Lastovica.



Dr. Joe Paschal talking to ICA members and convention participants about grazing management."



The Future of ICA! Emma Marshall, Autney Marshall and Eleanor Wilson enjoying convention while attending with their families.

Address...

(Continued from page 6)

These issues, along with countless others are why every cattle producer should find a group with similar values and show their support. These types of issues aren't going away. The ICA will continue to keep our members informed and express their concerns to local, state and national politicians. ICA will continue to represent the cattle industry and the rural way of life wherever it is needed.

Looks like I have gone on long enough. Until next month, stay safe and God bless.

ICA



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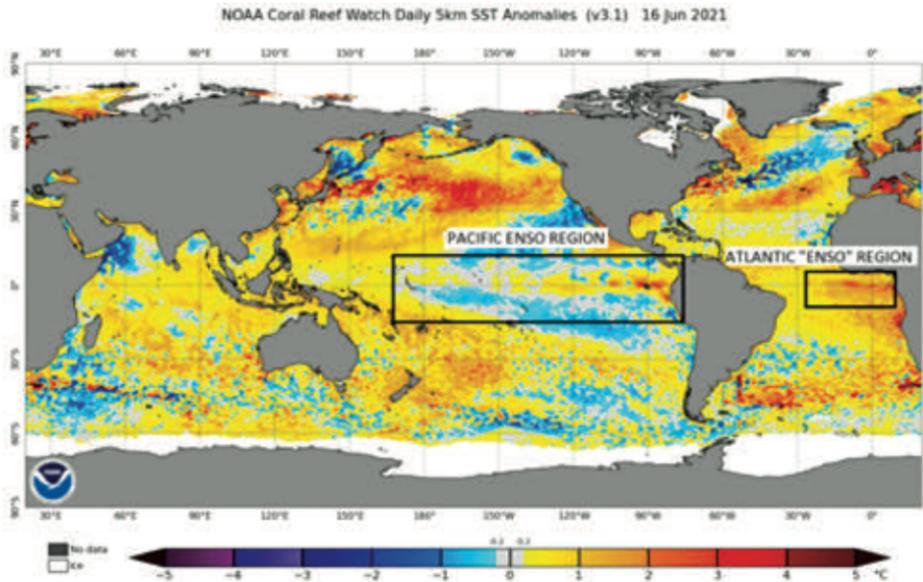
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WEATHER WISE

By Brian Bledsoe

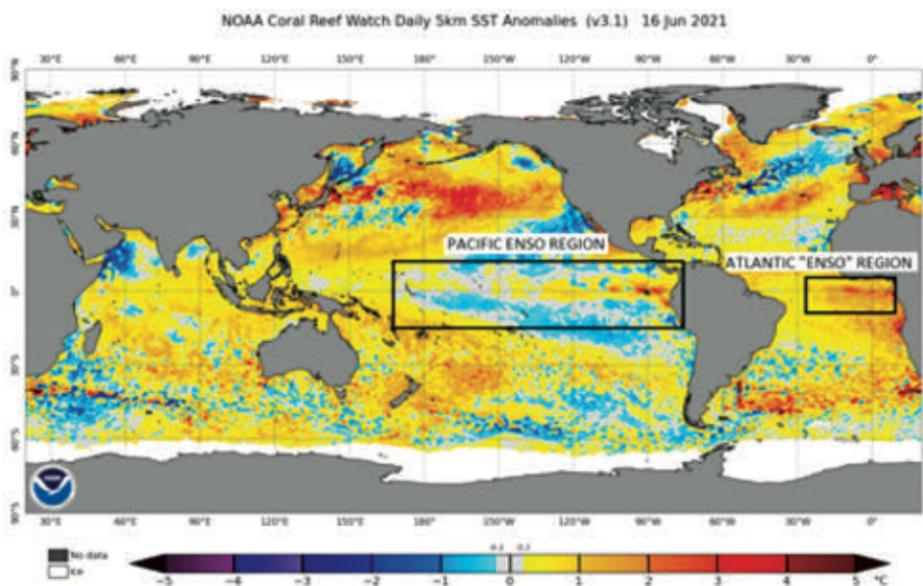
Yep, it's true... the Atlantic Ocean has its own version of El Niño. It isn't quite the global influencer that the bigger Pacific El Niño is. However, it has been researched enough to provide somewhat of "a tell" about what phase the Pacific ENSO may develop into. First off, where does the Atlantic El Niño occur?



The map above shows the warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Guinea, just off the west coast of Africa. This "ENSO region" is much smaller than the Pacific ENSO region. Just like the Pacific, the Atlantic can also exhibit warmer than average and cooler than average sea surface temperatures within its "ENSO region". So, what is it about the Atlantic "ENSO region" that can tell us what the Pacific ENSO region will do? Well, when the Atlantic "ENSO region" is exhibiting cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the summer and this signal persists throughout the summer, it weakens western Pacific trade winds and triggers subsequent tropical Pacific warming (El Niño) through a positive feedback of atmosphere-ocean interactions (Y. Chikamoto, Z. F. Johnson, S.-Y. Simon Wang, M. J. McPhaden, T. Mochizuki).

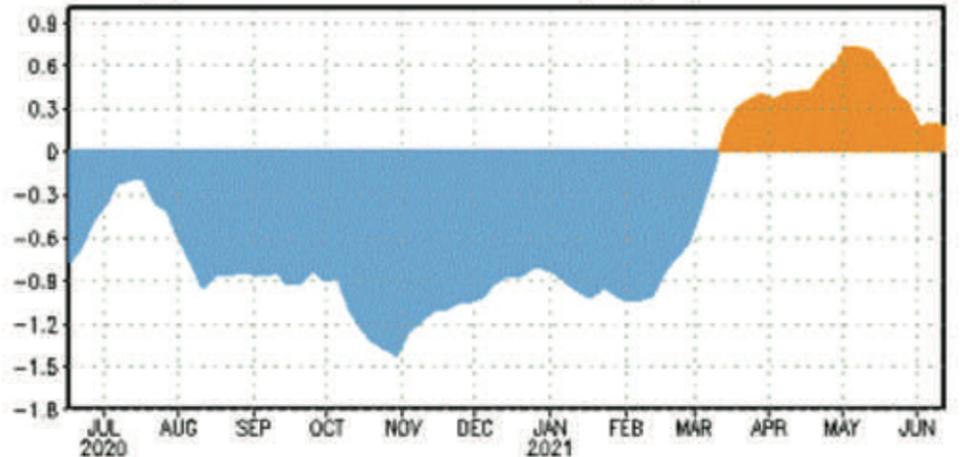
Consequently, when the Atlantic "ENSO region" is exhibiting warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the summer and this signal persists throughout the summer, it strengthens western Pacific trade winds and triggers subsequent tropical Pacific cooling (La Niña) through a positive feedback of atmosphere-ocean interactions. This "tell" usually comes full circle in the Pacific about seven months after it is exhibited in the Atlantic. The importance of this is obvious. Through better understanding and modeling of the Atlantic, we can better understand the influence it has on the Pacific and give us better lead time on Pacific ENSO phase development.

Here again is the map I posted earlier.



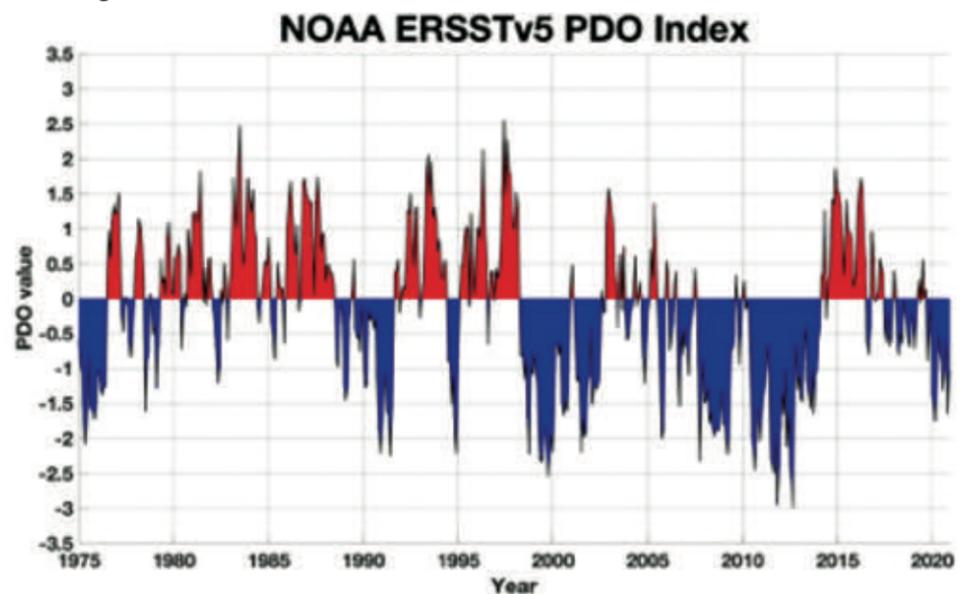
Right now, the Atlantic "ENSO region" is moderately warmer than average and we are entering July. Given the the time of year, and that magnitude of the anomaly, it will likely stay warmer than average through the rest of summer before cooling later this year. Right now, the Pacific ENSO region is largely neutral with some cool and warm anomalies...nothing significant. And while upper oceanic heat anomalies were positive this spring, it has effectively returned to zero as of late. Again, indicating neutral Pacific ENSO conditions.

EQ. Upper-Ocean Heat Anoms. (deg C) for 180-100W



Now, based on what we've talked about, and given the current Atlantic setup and past history, it would suggest a return to La Niña by late summer and fall.

Let's look at something else in the Pacific...the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. Right now, the PDO is not just in a negative/cool phase, it is the most negative/cool it has been since September of 2012. Typically, a negative/cool PDO favors more frequent and sometimes stronger La Niña development. The following chart show the PDO since 1975.



What are the models suggesting? Well, as we move past the "spring predictability barrier" of the long range models, predicting what phase the Pacific ENSO moves into will be "easier" for the models. That still doesn't necessarily guarantee that they know what they are talking about, but it should give us a better idea.

The above probabilistic ENSO forecast clearly shows a greater likelihood to return to La Niña by late summer and fall. In fact, there is a greater than 50% chance we enter into La Niña in the November/December/January time frame. I think this may even be a little underdone. Some of the individual long range models are suggesting the potential for a strong La Niña episode too. While it is too early to make that type of a forecast, I think it is a pretty good bet that we have at least a weak to moderate event.

A lot to digest here. While you are doing that, I will be crafting a post for next month that shows the latest long range models and what they are projecting for the rest of the year.

If you have any questions or comments, please drop me an email... Brian Bledsoe, brianbledsoewx@gmail.com

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Beef...

(Continued from page 1)

at the end where you will market the animal and work back when calculating costs and returns," Cleere said. "Figure out

how much it's going to cost to slaughter, custom package the steaks, hamburger, all the cuts that will be sold, plus your feed expenses. At the end, you will see how much your total costs will be and that will help you

determine how much per pound you want to price in selling to the consumer. If your costs are more than what the consumer is willing to pay for beef, then you price yourself out of the market."

Risk and

infrastructure needs

Cleere advised staggering the amount of feed to the different weight classes of animals, so they are not marketed all at one time. Recommended slaughter weights are 1,200 pounds to 1,400 pounds of fat.

"The risk is holding these animals," said Dan Hale, Ph.D., associate di-

rector for agriculture and natural resources for Agri Life Extension. "There are also health issues when holding these animals for extended periods. These types of risks need to be carefully considered."

Producers will also need to evaluate where they are going to acquire custom slaughter services and how much they will pay for cutting and packaging.

Considering how much to sell each animal for is best determined by live weight.

"An animal that weighs 1,300 pounds will yield 700 to 800 pounds of meat,"

Hale said.

There are many components to factor in when selling direct from the farm, he said.

"Consumers like the aspect of buying beef from people they trust," Hale said. "There are people who, instead of going to the grocery store, would rather buy direct. This does not mean that we cannot trust our traditional beef supply found at the grocery store, because it is very safe and of high quality. Some consumers just value the from-the-farm experience and are willing to pay for it."

Convention...

(Continued from page 6)

with the annual drawdown fundraiser, live auction, and silent auction. The winner of the drawdown was Horace Drisdale from Plum, Texas. He received a brand-new Can-Am Defender donated by Brad Cotton, and the South Central Texas ICA Chapter and Can-Am.

Friday morning, the tradeshow ended, and convention concluded with the headliners luncheon. The luncheon started off with the awards section then Commercial Cattle Manager and Livestock Market Analyst for DV Auction, Corbitt Wall spoke. Awards that were given during the luncheon included the Trailblazer awards, and multiple scholarship presentations.

Our award winners from the Headliners luncheon are as follows.

Trail Blazer Awards: Lyssy & Eckel, Inc., Bryan Davis, Jennifer and David Boening.

Steffany Lynn Sklar Memorial Scholarship Winners: Brandon Dworczyk, Samuel F. Benes, Reese Gonzalez, Madelynn Brown, Haley Hoffmann, Kelley John, Chase Harvey, Blayne E. Braneff, Brooke Loiacano, and Wyatt Miller.

Happenings...

(Continued from page 7)

Riggs, SCTICA vice-president.

We had a very exciting moment when local SCTICA member Patrick Yosko was announced as being in the last 25 names for the live drawing for the CanAm, but his number was pulled shortly after the announcement. A big thank you to those local members that support this draw down. Also thank you Brad and Debra Cotton, 2 C Brangus Ranch (SCTICA chapter), for donating the trailer for the Can-Am.

We hope to see our SCTICA members at our next member meeting to be held in August and don't forget, our Oct. 2nd meeting will be our annual Team Roping to be held at Cowboy Fellowship in Jourdanton (Atascosa County). More info will be sent regarding the August meeting. Until we meet, Good Lord Willing, Happy Trails....

Remember that things aren't falling apart; things are falling into place!



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AgriLife TODAY

Texas crop, weather

Retail beef prices remain high

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today

Consumers can expect higher beef prices at grocery stores despite a recent dip after the typical seasonal peak around Memorial Day, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station, said retail beef prices remain above the five-year average, as supply and demand factors continue to contribute to higher-than-normal prices.

Retail beef prices are lower than this time last year at the height of the pandemic, when panic buying and packing plant closures drove prices upward, Anderson said.

Anderson said choice retail beef prices were \$6.96 per pound compared to \$7.59 per pound a year ago during the pandemic. While prices are lower than a year ago, they have been on the rise this year. Choice average beef prices have increased from \$6.41 to \$6.96 per pound since the first of the year.

The recent price changes for beef are consistent with historic seasonal peaks and valleys, but prices remain above the five-year average of \$5.82 per pound. Anderson said he expects market conditions to keep prices up.

Cuts like rib-eye steaks skyrocketed this spring through Memorial Day weekend, which typically marks the kickoff to grilling season and the annual seasonal peak for retail beef prices, Anderson said. Rib-eye cuts were \$13.18 per pound wholesale heading into the holiday and settled at \$10.36 per pound this week.

“We’re seeing tighter supplies across the board on all proteins as there continues to be strong demand here at home and booming exports,” he said. “Beef cuts calmed down a little after the typical season price spike around Memorial Day, but it looks like higher prices at grocery stores are here for the foreseeable future.”

Anderson said the economic recovery continues to drive strong demand for beef. Restaurant demand for beef has put increasing pressure on supplies – especially higher-value cuts

like rib-eye and tenderloin – as people look for opportunities to dine out.

Demand for beef at grocery stores has not waned as restaurant capacities rise, he said.

“There is extraordinary demand right now,” Anderson said. “We’re coming out of the pandemic, and people want to get out, and restaurants are meeting that pent up demand. But purchases at grocery stores hasn’t slacked off, even with the reopening. The combination is fueling higher retail prices as a result.”

But higher costs to produce beef and move it through the supply chain to grocers and restaurants are also feeding higher costs for consumers, he said. The same market factors are affecting other proteins

like chicken and pork.

Feed, fuel and labor costs are all higher on the supply end as lower unemployment and economic growth push demand higher, Anderson said.

“I would argue that the

problem is still a lingering bottleneck in terms of a shrinking herd, packing capacity, trucking capacity to move product around the country, and all the moving parts that get us

(Continued on page 12)

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Crops...

(Continued from page 11)

from the farm to the plate," he said. "Part of that is the turmoil we've experienced during the pandemic and the volatility it introduced to the market. I think this is the latest round of volatility that we're working through after a year and a half."

At the supply end of the chain, beef producers have seen calf prices rise some, especially in certain weight classes, but prices remain below the five-year average.

Anderson said high feed prices – mainly corn and soybean meal – have stymied price gains at local sale barns across the state. Feedlots are willing to pay more per pound for higher weight calves – 700-800 pounds – that do not

require as much feed to finish out, while calves 400-600 pounds or lower are not fetching top dollar.

"Gains from grass cost less than corn right now, and so feedlots are willing to pay a little bit more for heavier calves," he said.

The fact that most cow-calf operations have better grazing conditions than a month ago has also settled the market some as well, Anderson said. Producers were culling their herds deep and selling calves early when they were looking toward severe drought and a hotter, drier summer forecasted ahead.

"A couple months ago, there were no buyers and a lot of sellers, and prices went down," he said. "Now there's more grass, so nobody is under pressure to sell and there are more buyers looking to restock

or take advantage of good grazing."

The rainfall that reduced drought levels across Texas likely steadied the market a bit for producers. But Anderson said contraction of the Texas beef cattle herd was expected to continue due to feed costs, continued threat of drought and the fall seasonal dip in demand that triggers reduced beef production.

"We are producing a lot of beef, but we could see less production year over year," he said. "I think we'll continue to see retail prices come down from peaks overall, but not below last year or even 2019. Consumers will get some relief, but it's hard to say that we'll see overall prices decline."

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: Temperatures and humidity were above normal. Rivers and streams were high and running muddy. Some corn crops were showing signs of fertilizer shortages, likely attributed to a combination of rapid growth, some soil saturation stresses and denitrification. Cotton stands were variable and

recovering from soil saturation and were now reaching first bloom. A large second hay cutting was near completion with producers racing to bale forages before the next rainfall. Winter wheat harvest was finally nearing completion. Unfortunately, the crop was weathered somewhat and will likely be downgraded. Sorghum looked excellent and was now at coloring stage. Field checks were showing very few pests with some aphids and an occasional stinkbug. Producers were also finding the occasional fall armyworm. Livestock were doing well, and body conditions were good on pasture. A slightly cooler, wetter weather trend was in the forecast.

ROLLING PLAINS: Another round of storms delivered 2-3 inches of rainfall to Baylor County, while Motley County reported 4 inches in two days and many fields under water. Other areas reported scattered showers. Wheat harvest was still way behind with plenty of wet spots in fields, downed wheat and weed issues. Cotton producers were also trying to catch up with only a quarter of the crop planted so far in wetter areas. Producers were busy harvesting wheat and planting cotton in drier areas. Knox County reported cotton plantings were complete. Coastal Bermuda grass pastures looked good, with a second cutting nearing harvest time. Corn and sorghum looked good, with corn in several different stages due to delayed plantings. Sorghum was mostly in the boot stage. Pastures and rangelands looked good following good rain events. Cattle were in good condition, and calves were making good gains. Most fall-born calves were weaned and sold.

COASTAL BEND: Weather was hot, humid and dry with little to no rain reported. Crops continued to progress, and corn and sorghum were drying down. Small amounts of grain sorghum were harvested, but there was a reluctance to apply spray herbicides due to rain in the forecast. Cotton was setting bolls, and some stunted cotton recovered but was way behind. Rice was starting to head out. Rangelands and pastures were lush, and livestock were in good condition. Hay was cut and baled with

good yields reported.

EAST: Hay production was in full swing. Producers worked fast to cut and bale in between pop-up showers. Sabine County reported producers were finally able to get hay harvesting equipment into bottomlands. Smith County reported a need for more rainfall. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to excellent. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were adequate. Temperatures and humidity were on the rise. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Fly populations were outrageous in Houston County, with both house flies and horn flies causing problems. Producers reported the armyworm invasion had begun. Most counties in the district were having issues with armyworms. Wild pig control continued.

SOUTH PLAINS: Soil moisture levels were poor to fair, but rain was in the forecast. Cotton conditions ranged from seed in the ground to the squaring stage. This wide crop progress range was reflective of weather and soil conditions. Peanuts were generally doing well with many fields beginning to bloom. Grain sorghum was being replanted in some areas. Cattle were in good condition.

PANHANDLE: Weather was hot and dry, and all crops were starting to suffer from dry conditions. Soil moisture levels were short to adequate. Pasture and rangeland conditions were in fair to good condition. Winter wheat and oat harvests continued. Corn and cotton were in fair to excellent condition. Sorghum conditions were fair to good, and peanuts were

in good condition.

NORTH: Soil moisture remained short to adequate for most counties. Winds and temperatures in the 90s dried up most of the soil moisture. About half an inch of rain fell in areas, but more was needed to sustain hay and crop production. Hay producers finished removing the first cutting. The consistent heat allowed for good harvesting conditions for wheat and oats. Some corn was damaged during the excessive rainfall a few weeks ago, but was expected to be replanted soon. Cotton, grain sorghum and soybeans were doing better with sunshine. Livestock were in good condition, and spring-born calves were doing well.

FAR WEST: Temperatures reached 110 degrees with lows in the mid-60s. There were scattered showers in parts of the district and rainfall amounts around 3 in inches areas. High temperatures were expected to evaporate much of the precipitation rapidly. Rangeland conditions were improving slightly in areas that received larger amounts of rainfall, however conditions remained poor for most of the district. Continuous triple digit temperatures were good for cotton growth. Some irrigated cotton fields were squaring. Alfalfa fields looked good as well with most farmers irrigating once, rather than twice between cuts. The pecan crop looked good as well, with small clusters visible. Watermelon and cantaloupe were harvested and sold at farmers markets.

WEST CENTRAL: (Continued on page 13)

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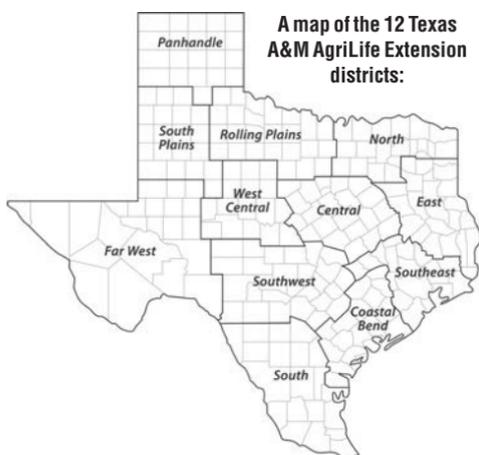
(Continued from page 12)

Conditions were hot and dry. Wheat harvest was wrapping up, and hay cutting and baling continued. Cotton planting resumed but some areas were too wet, and producers were hoping to finish planting before the deadline. Grasshoppers, cutworms and other insect pests were increasing in numbers. Pastures were in fair condition. Livestock were in good condition.

SOUTHEAST: Chambers County received heavy rains and more rainfall was in the forecast. Many pastures were holding water. In Jefferson County, rice was progressing, but the pastures were too wet to cut hay. In The first and second hay cuttings were harvested in Grimes County. Rangeland and pasture ratings were very poor to excellent. Soil moisture levels ranged from adequate to surplus.

SOUTHWEST: There were scattered showers across the district with some areas not receiving any moisture. Soil moisture was declining due to warm and windy conditions. Rangelands and pastures were fairly green. Cotton was in good condition. Corn and sorghum continued to mature. Hay harvest continued across much of the district. Travis County reported that wheat harvest was progressing slower than expected. Caldwell County reported cattle, sheep and goat prices remained steady with the prices of pairs slightly increasing. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Wildlife were in good condition.

SOUTH: Temperatures continued to rise throughout the district, and conditions were dry other than a few light-to-moderate showers. Jim Hogg County reported temperatures above 100 degrees. Kleberg and Kenedy counties reported up to 2.5 inches of rainfall. All crops were under irrigation. Peanut planting continued and should be completed soon. Corn fields were in dent stage, and sorghum was turning color. Sunflower and grain sorghum harvests were starting. Corn harvest should begin soon. Midge continued to be an issue in sorghum. Cotton was blooming and improving with good heat units. Bermuda grass and hay grazer were being cut and baled. Rangelands and pastures were beginning to show drought stress, but some areas continued to improve with additional moisture. Beef cattle conditions were improving, and market volumes remained low. Some producers were providing supplemental feed to livestock and wildlife. Feed prices continued to increase at local feed stores, and producers were cutting and baling as much hay as possible. Round bales were averaging \$85. Stock tanks were holding up well. Watermelon and cantaloupe harvests continued. Sesame fields were emerging. Many citrus orchards were being taken out of production.



A map of the 12 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension districts:



Livestock Sales Calendar

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bold-faced listings have advertisements in this issue.



- JULY 10 San Gabriel Beefmasters Complete Dispersal, Rockdale, TX
- JULY 24 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX**

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- AUG 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- AUG 7 J&T Farms Beefmaster Sale, Lexington, TN**
- AUG 21 Emmons Ranch Beefmaster Production Sale, Bryan, TX
- AUG 28 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Fall Replacement Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 1 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- SEP 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 4 South Texas Cattle Marketing Replacement Female Sale, Nixon, TX
- SEP 11 XTB Cattle Sale, Canton, TX
- SEP 11 East Texas and Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association's Annual Production Sale, Henderson, TX
- SEP 18 Club 1835 Elite Online Heifer Sale
- SEP 24-25 Flint Hills Classic Beefmaster Female & Bull Sale, Paxico, KS
- SEP 25 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 25 Synergy SimGenetics Sale, Giddings, TX
- OCT 1 Southern Jewel's Precious Gems Sale, Victoria, TX
- OCT 1 Peach Creek Ranch Cattle Online Heifer Sale
- OCT 2 American Red Brangus Annual Sale, Flatonia, TX
- OCT 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 7 Dudley Brothers Production Sale, Comanche, TX
- OCT 8 Red River Farms Production Sale, Grand Saline, TX
- OCT 9 CX Advantage Sale, Weimar, TX
- OCT 9 Black Label Sale, Grandview, TX
- OCT 14 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- OCT 15 Central Texas ICA Sale, Gonzales, TX
- OCT 16 Beef on Forage Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- OCT 16 Carr & Others Fall Beefmaster Sale, Floresville, TX
- OCT 16 Strait-Hefte Tried & True Santa Gertrudis Production Sale, Carrizo Springs, TX
- SEP 20 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- OCT 20 Texas Hereford Association Fall Classic Sale, Buffalo, TX
- OCT 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Female Offering, San Saba, TX
- OCT 25 Perez Cattle Company Hereford Production Sale, Navasota, TX
- OCT 30 South Texas Hereford Association Sale, Beeville, TX
- OCT 30 Jordan Cattle Auction October Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 30 7P Ranch Annual Bull and Production Sale, Tyler, TX
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 10 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- NOV 10 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 10 Barber Ranch Annual Hereford Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX

- NOV 20 Collier Farms Performance Tested Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
 - NOV 20-23 LMC & Friends Giving THANKS Online Sale VII
 - DEC 3 Lone Star Angus Alliance Bull Sale, Hallettsville, TX
 - DEC 4 Jordan Cattle Auction December Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
 - DEC 4 Tom Brothers Opening Day Private Treaty Bull Sale, Campbellton, TX
 - DEC 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
 - DEC 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
 - JAN 8 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX
 - FEB 12 San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo Beefmaster Subasta, San Antonio, TX
 - FEB 16 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo All Breed Bull & Female Sale, San Antonio, TX
 - MAR 19 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Spring Sale, Three Rivers, TX
- SLS

Workshop...

(Continued from page 2)

for landowners and land managers.

The program will take place at Spicewood Ranch, located on 840 County Road 411 in Spicewood. It will take place from 8-10:30 a.m., with check-in starting at 7:30 a.m.

Space is limited, so attendees must register in advance. For more information and to register, contact Teri Gaston at 830-988-6157 or teri.gaston@ag.tamu.edu.

Driving directions will be emailed to participants prior to the workshop.

The workshop will address broad concepts related to the benefits of prescribed fire, burn timing, liability concerns, wildlife and livestock management, and how to find resources and cost assistance.

Benefits of prescribed burns

"The primary goal of the workshop is to educate attendees on the benefits of prescribed burns, provide information on best practices, and help landowners find opportunities to participate in hands-

on experiences with prescribed burns," said Maureen Frank, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, Uvalde.

Frank will host the workshop with Kaitlyn Restivo, graduate research assistant, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Texas A&M University, Bryan-College Station.

"The format of the prescribed fire workshop is moderated peer-to-peer learning, so participants will learn from each other about their experiences with prescribed fire in the Texas Hill Country," Frank said.

Prescribed fire is an important tool for land management and can provide many benefits to an area's flora and fauna, added Restivo.

"Prescribed fire is an effective but underutilized tool for both vegetation control and increasing the quality of wildlife habitat," she said. "We are hoping this workshop will enhance landowner awareness of the many positive outcomes prescribed fire can provide."

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Ribbons cut for Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, vet school facilities...

'Doc' Graham Center opening celebrated at West Texas A&M University

Source: Texas AgriLife Today

The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M AgriLife celebrated the grand opening of two buildings that greatly enhance veterinary medical, education and research missions in the Texas Panhandle.

The Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM, The Texas A&M University System Center officially opened on the West Texas A&M University campus with celebratory comments from Chancellor John

Sharp and West Texas A&M President Walter V. Wendler, Ph.D., as well as other dignitaries such as Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D., vice chancellor of Texas A&M AgriLife, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and Bruce Akey, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory director.

The center — located in the northeast corner of West Texas A&M's Canyon campus — is home to both the Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach building, or VERO, and the Charles W. Graham DVM Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, building.

TVMDL, one of the Texas A&M University System's eight state agencies and a member of Texas A&M AgriLife, is comprised of four laboratories across the state. Annually, the agency performs over 1 million diagnostic tests for a variety of animal species. The Canyon laboratory has continued the agency's original commitment to the region's cattle industry and performs an estimated 160,000 tests for cattle each year.

While both facilities opened in September, signaling the culmination of The Texas A&M University System's investment in large animal health in the

Texas Panhandle, the grand opening celebrations were delayed due to the pandemic.

The project is supported by \$90 million in capital improvements and \$5 million in faculty hires, for a total of \$95 million in investment in the region. Ground was broken on both buildings in December 2018.

"With this partnership at West Texas A&M, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences continues to meet both the needs of the state and our students in the most innovative, high-quality, effective and cost-efficient manner possible," Sharp said. "We have created a two-way superhighway of veterinary education and research activity from Canyon to College Station, and it runs right through the VERO and TVMDL facilities within the Dr. Charles Graham center on the West Texas A&M campus."

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory relocates

The TVMDL facility is a \$17.6 million, 22,000-square-foot building that features the latest technology for diagnostic services in bacteriology, pathology, serology and virology, as well as spaces for receiving, sample processing, necropsy services and administrative support.

The opening of the building in September signaled a relocation to Canyon from Amarillo. The previous location opened in 1975 to specifically serve the Panhandle's cattle feedlot industry as an extension of the agency's College Station-based laboratory.

"Since TVMDL's inception, the agency has made major discoveries from the world's first isolation of canine parvovirus to the discovery of poisonous aflatoxin in dog food to the

lab's now routine diagnosis of anthrax," Stover said. "Over the years, TVMDL remains steadfast in its mission to protect animal health."

Stover said outbreaks such as COVID-19 show the ease with which diseases can move across the world.

"Factor in the countless daily threats that have the potential to wreak havoc on livestock and companion animals, and it's more important than ever to be vigilant when it comes to animal health. This is why we constructed a new laboratory for TVMDL: to continue to provide disease surveillance and protection for our livestock and human populations in Texas and around the globe."

Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach prepares future veterinarians

VERO is a critical component of WT's drive to become a regional research university, WT 125: From the Panhandle to the World.

"I thank Dr. Eleanor Green, the former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, as a champion of this visionary project, The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents for their wisdom in adopting it, and Chancellor John Sharp for his diligent and meticulous implementation of it," Wendler said in prepared comments. "This farsighted partnership will greatly impact the enrollment of promising future veterinarians from the Panhandle area who want to return to the Texas Panhandle to live, work and serve."

The VERO building is a \$22 million, 34,000-square-foot facility that now serves as a regional veterinary teaching center and that creates a gateway to the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences for students interested in pursuing veterinary medicine from the Texas Panhandle and West Texas, while also facilitating collaborative, multidisciplinary research among scientists from across the region.

Not only are West Texas A&M's pre-veterinary students taught in the facility, but it will also serve as the home for the College of

Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' 2+2 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM, program, which will enroll its first cohort of 18 first-year DVM students this fall.

"Our college's commitment to educational opportunity for the young people of our state extends from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley," said Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Dean John August, Ph.D. "On May 12, the first three stu-

dents to receive their degrees from our undergraduate biomedical sciences program at the Higher Education Center in McAllen walked the stage in Reed Arena in College Station. We look forward to celebrating the graduation of our first cohort of 2+2 DVM program students from VERO in 2025."

Affecting the lives of generations to come

TVMDL and the center comprised of both build-

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D.C. News...

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producers manage risk and capture more value for their product, these methods depend upon the price discovery that occurs in the direct, buyer-seller interactions of negotiated transactions. Current academic research has shown that more negotiated trade is needed to achieve "robust" price discovery within the industry.

NCBA's grassroots policy — formed through debate and discussion among members from

Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

the gambler's world, and the addition of his little brother to the enterprise made the matter personal. He told Sam he had to make a choice: continue working for him on the farm or keep Jennie. He couldn't do both.

With no hard feelings, Sam chose the horse. Egan even advanced Bass \$130 to buy out his brother's interest. Sam made that money back, and then some. People in Denton eventually quit betting against Jennie so Sam and a pal named Henry Underwood took Jennie on the road, racing her in Fort Worth, Granbury, Cleburne and Waco. The money rolled in.

Bass and Underwood drifted down to San Antonio and started racing Jennie at area tracks. Bass met another happy-go-lucky fellow in San Antonio named Joel Collins, who was likewise interested in horse racing. They cooked up a little scheme. Collins would take Jennie and pass himself off as her owner. Sam would pose as a trainer and an expert judge of horseflesh. As such, he would pick a horse he thought Jennie

could outrun and advise the owner to match it against Jennie. Collins bet on Jennie and split the winnings with Sam. Bass and Collins worked the scam from San Antonio to the Rio Grande and even into Mexico, but word spread quickly and Jennie soon became equine non gratis wherever she went. At this point, Sam could have returned to Texas and utilized his horse sense to earn a good and even honest living as a horse breeder and a gentleman. He might have even learned how to sign his name. But that's not what he did.

Instead, he hit the outlaw trail with his gang, robbing trains and stagecoaches from Texas to Nebraska until Sam, betrayed by a trusted member of his own gang, was killed while trying to rob a bank in Round Rock on July 21, 1878, his 27th birthday.

We don't know for sure what happened to Jennie, the fabled Denton Mare, but Sam probably sold her. Dad Egan always believed that Sam Bass's biggest mistake was buying Jennie, but selling her turned out to be the true tipping point. Unlike at least one of Sam's companions, Jennie never would have betrayed him.

STAR 5...

(Continued from page 5)

entries at the San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

Corporryn explains that it's the only consignment auction they attend each year, so they go all out and reserve two pens that consist of five pairs each (10 pairs total) for their Red Mott females with black calves at side.

"There are usually 200 pairs of all breeds at San Antonio," he points out. In 2015 and 2016, Corporryn Acres consigned the champion Santa Gertrudis-influ-

enced pen, and was then named Grand Champion Pen of Females over all breeds at San Antonio. This spring, the pairs Corporryn consigned sold from \$2,500 to \$3,300 each.

Privately, the Corporryn family sells upwards of 50 commercial pairs annually, selling the remainder of their females open, and have recently started marketing Red Mott bulls to commercial cattlemen who put them back on Braford, Charolais and Brangus females.

"Commercial breeders like heavy weaning weights because the bottom line is

profit," Corporryn says of his experience. "These cattle add pounds at the auction barn, and they can retain the females." Corporryn is a true believer that Santa Gertrudis cattle cross with English breeds better than any other Bos indicus breed, creating performance-leading cattle.

Regardless of whether a buyer is looking for replacement females, pairs or even a bull, Corporryn likes to concentrate on the relationship being built, sighting his appreciation over the years for repeat buyers among the ever-changing cattle industry.

Joe Jones, general manager at Briggs Ranches, Victoria, Texas, has seen the cattle industry change, especially when it comes to making commercial Santa Gertrudis females. For Jones, the primary deciding factor of what breed to cross with a Santa Gertrudis is environment.

"We've gotten along exceptionally well with Herefords, but recently have started using Brangus bulls because there's more demand for blacks and Brahman," he says of selling cattle north and east out of Texas.

Briggs Ranches holds

two production sales annually. The fall sale will see some 200 to 250 commercial females and 100 bulls run through the ring, where Jones notes that straight-bred Santa Gertrudis sell for similar money as the crossbreds because commercial cattlemen can take them home and breed them to their bull of choice. Recently, Briggs Ranches held their spring sale where, along with guest consignors, 100 commercial females were sold. Bred females garnered an average of \$1,800, while those with calves at side ranged from \$2,200 to

\$2,500. The group of females consisted of a range of crosses, including Red Motts, straight reds that were Santa Gertrudis-Brangus cross, and black half-bloods with black calves at side.

Performance and hardiness are the top reasons Jones believes the sales are successful. "Crossbreeding opens up another market for someone to use a different breed of bull," he points out. "And that's where the money is made - in efficiency."

Even through dryer conditions, like much of the Southwest part of the country is currently experiencing, the calves are resilient. "The performance is there, we just have to give them a chance to perform," he says of starting early weaned calves on feed due to drought conditions.

Briggs Ranches also consigns cattle to the sales at San Antonio, Houston and Beaumont. While Houston and Beaumont were traditional in-person sales this year, San Antonio was virtual due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Jones says the sale, held in a real-time auction format, was still phenomenal, with commercial Santa Gertrudis cattle bringing record money.

With so many breeds that complement Santa Gertrudis to create a STAR 5, the crossbreeding possibilities are almost endless. "I like a good cow no matter what color she is," Zibilski concludes. "But these Santa Gertrudis females are good."

Graham...

(Continued from page 15)

ings are named after Graham, a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus and one of Texas' most renowned equine veterinarians.

"The financial and human capital investments reflected in this partnership will undoubtedly have an indelible impact on the Panhandle region, the lives of the generations of students who will receive their veterinary education at VERO, and the thousands of animal owners and veterinarians who will benefit from cutting-edge diagnostic testing at TVMDL," Todd Rasberry, Ph.D., vice president for philanthropy and external relations and executive director of the WTAMU Foundation, said in prepared comments.

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