

Reviewing 2023 and looking ahead to 2024

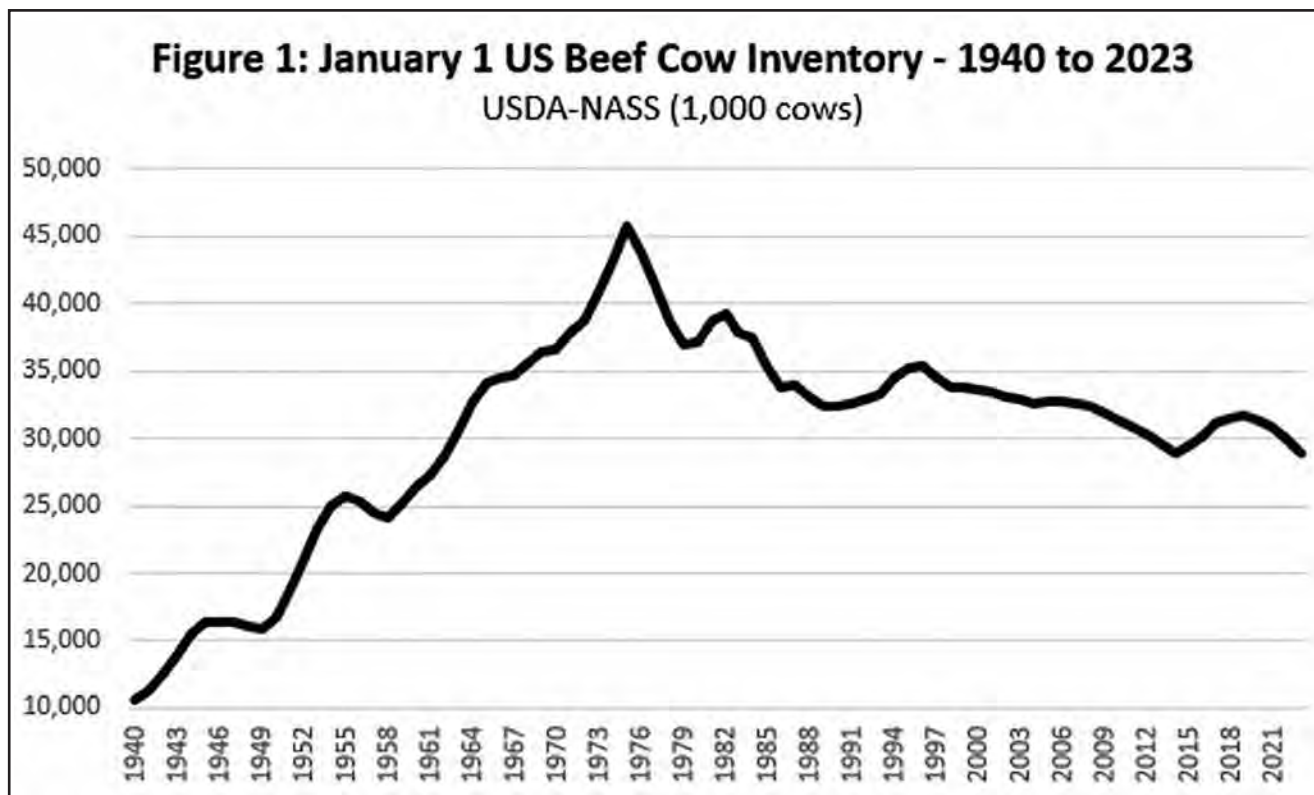
By James Mitchell, University of Arkansas Livestock Marketing Specialist, and Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky Extension Professor

The U.S. cowherd reached a 60-year low in 2023. Some of this decline is driven by efficiency in the beef industry. We produce more with less. As such, it would be misleading to compare today to 60 years ago. It still does speak to how significant the recent declines in beef cow numbers have been. For a more recent comparison, the 2023 cowherd is slightly smaller than in 2014, a year fondly remembered by most in the cattle business.

Expansion resulting from those 2014 / 2015 price levels continued until 2019, and the cowherd has been getting smaller since then. Figure 1 below shows beef cow inventories from 1940 to 2023.

2020 was set to be the high-water mark for U.S. beef production. While production increased slightly in 2020, COVID backlogs pushed some of that production into 2021. Then, widespread drought led to significant increases in female slaughter in 2022, which resulted in another year-over-year increase. That brought us to 2023, which ended up being the first year-over-year decrease in beef production in eight years.

Data on cow slaughter and the share of heifers on feed both imply another year of declining inventories. Nationally, there is no doubt this cowherd got even smaller during 2023. Weather and hay supply has been an issue in some areas, but we also think we have to consider the impact that input costs and high interest rates have on the cost of ex-



panding one's cowherd. At some point, expansion will occur, but farmers are not at that point yet. All this is to say that the 2024 calf crop will be smaller than the 2023 calf crop, and the feeder cattle supply will continue to shrink. Certainly, numerous things impact markets,

but we expect calf prices to be stronger in the spring of 2024 than in the summer of 2023.

It is hard to see beef cow numbers increasing until 2025 at the earliest. So, cow-calf operators should get relatively strong calf prices for a few years. Some may

choose to expand during this time, but we always like to point out that there are other ways to capitalize on a solid calf market. Investing in facilities, genetics, grazing systems, etc. has the potential to lower costs and/or increase efficiency. At the same time, paying down debt

and/or building up working capital can put a farm in a better financial position for the future. The point is that each cow-calf operation should take a long-term view when they make decisions and know that what makes sense for one operation may not make sense for another.

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PERIODICAL

Gene-edited calf may reduce reliance on antimicrobials against cattle disease

By Geitner Simmons, Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cattle worldwide face major health threats from a highly infectious viral disease that decades of vaccinations and other precautions have failed to contain. Federal, private-sector and Nebraska Husker scientists are collaborating on a new line of defense, by producing a gene-edited calf resistant to the virus.

If follow-up research confirms its efficacy, the gene-editing approach offers long-term potential to reduce antimicrobial and antibiotic use in the cattle industry.

The bovine viral diarrhea virus devastates the bovine immune system and can cause severe respiratory and

intestinal harm to infected beef and dairy cattle, said veterinary epidemiologist Brian Vander Ley, an associate professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

In utero calves are especially vulnerable to infection. If they survive, they can remain infected for life, repeat-

edly spreading the virus to other cattle.

"They show up as normal cattle but really, they're shedding a tremendous amount of virus. They're the 'Typhoid Marys' of BVDV spread," said Vander Ley, assistant director of UNL's Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in Clay Center.

(Continued on page 10)



Brian Vander Ley, associate professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, works with Ginger, a Gir cow gene-edited with resistance to bovine viral diarrhea virus. Photo by Craig Chandler, University of Nebraska Communication and Marketing.

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
ROUND-UP REVIEW

• See Pages 5-9 •

Just Your **Standard Bull** 
By Michael Sturgess

TEXAS *Trails...*
By Clay Coppedge

I survived another New Year's Day and birthday. I have officially made it to 64 years of age! Yes, I'll need to sign up for Medicare this year which will mean big savings on my health insurance. So, I have that to look forward to.

Each year on my birthday, I'm reminded on Facebook of all the friends I have made over the years. It really got me to thinking about how big the world really is and of all the people we meet and encounter over the course of a lifetime. And when you study the list of people, how it sort of points to different parts of your life. It made me want to

break them down.

My childhood days. These friends include family like brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles, but also a few childhood friends that I have kept up with.

My high school days. Yes, I still have a number of old high school buddies who reach out to me every year. NONE of us look the same!

My college days. I just got off the phone with an old college roommate. His elder brother had just passed away and I passed on my condolences. Before you know it, you find yourself reminiscing about the old days and what

ever happened to old so and so, etc.

My early career. Back in 1984 thru 1986, I had the opportunity to work for a cattle association. From that time in my life, I met a number of people who remain very close friends. Some are even co-workers. In point of fact, there are five or six of us who continue to work closely together to this day. These are friendships that started 40 years ago and are still going strong.

My church life. My wife, Lauren, and I have been members of the same church since 1988 or 89. Lauren is better with dates than I am, but many of these dear friends we have worshipped and served alongside of for many years.

My Charolais friends. Our family has been breeding Charolais and even Charbray cattle since back in the 90's. It has also been my pleasure to serve on the Charolais board, which has led to friendships all over the country.

Our old Entre Ganaderos Days. Yes, we used to publish a cattle magazine in Spanish, which was distributed in Cattle Unions all over the Country of Mexico. I have friends from many states across Mexico.

Our San Antonio All Breed friends. We've been putting on this sale since 1992. We have long-time friends here and continue to make new ones every year.

Our Silveus Insurance friends. Many of our insurance customers come from our other circles, but these have also led to relationships with producers from across the country. We have customers going west to New Mexico, and going as far north as Missouri, extending all the way east to Georgia and Florida.

And finally, our Southern Livestock Standard friends. Since 1989, I have shared with you my thoughts through this column. Some have been serious, some bizarre. Some on point, others not. But I am constantly reminded no matter where I go that you still pick us up every other week and give us a quick read. For this we are very thankful.

And for all of you who reached out to me by Facebook, text and phone, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I wish you all a very prosperous, healthy and Happy New Year!

Phillip Nolan and all the pretty horses

Not only could wild horses not keep Philip Nolan away from Texas in the 1790s, but they were also the reason he kept coming back here and the reason he died here. Some historians have suggested more nefarious motives as the *real* reasons for his Texas expeditions, but he was probably here for all the pretty—and profitable—horses.

Nolan was born in Ireland and came to the U.S. when he was 17. He was a protégé of Gen. James Wilkinson of Kentucky, who was a friend of Thomas Jefferson and an associate of Aaron Burr, a man who tainted history's perception of almost everyone who knew him. Nolan represented Wilkinson's business interests in New Orleans, where the Irish lad first heard stories of the vast numbers of horses running wild and unbridled in the western province of Texas.

In 1792, with Wilkinson's help, Nolan, barely 20 years old, received a passport from the governor of Louisiana for a trading expedition in Texas. It didn't go well—his trade goods were confiscated—but he spent two years living with the Wichita and Comanche tribes where he must have learned a considerable amount about horses. The Comanches had reinvented themselves with the introduction of horses into their culture and used the animals to their advantage more than any tribe in history. However, Nolan found "the savage life...less pleasing in practice than speculation."

Spanish authorities hailed Nolan as having "risen from the dead" when he returned from that first expedition, not only alive but with 50 wild horses. The next time he went to Texas he came back with 250 more horses and took several of them up the Natchez Trace to sell in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The third time Nolan went to Texas he brought back more than a thousand horses and sold them in Natchitoches, New Orleans and Kentucky. This made Thomas Jefferson, who probably heard of Nolan's exploits from Wilkinson, think seriously about the concept and reality of wild horses. The only horses he and his fellow easterners had ever known were thoroughly do-

mesticated. Jefferson wanted a chance to record "the only moment in the age of the world" when the horse could be studied "in its wild state."

The soon-to-be third president sent a letter asking Nolan to visit him at Monticello and also to bring one of the wild western horses with him. Nolan got as far as Kentucky where, for reasons unknown, he turned around. Later that same year he made a fourth expedition to Texas, this time without a passport from the Spanish

government, which now viewed Nolan with increasing suspicion and hostility.

The Governor of Natchez, Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, wrote to the viceroy of Mexico that foreigners like Nolan were working to turn the native tribes against Spanish rule. The Spanish also looked askance at Nolan when he returned from a mapping expedition in the company of Andrew Ellicott, boundary commissioner for the United States.

(Continued on page 3)



USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 12-28-23

SPECIES:	12-18-23:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	384	838	25,859
b. Breeding Males	18	49	2,699
c. Breeding Females	22	62	1,396
Total	424	949	29,954
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	1,268
c. Breeding Females	448	0	4,969
Total	448	0	6,237
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter			
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	330	0	2,413
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	330	0	2,413
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	16
b. Breeding Females	0	75	4,208
Total	0	75	4,224
5) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	484	525	17,845
b. Breeding Males	67	16	1,894
c. Breeding Females	66	28	2,528
d. Geldings	10	18	821
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	14
Total	627	587	23,102
6) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	179

MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS

SPECIES:	12-18-23:	1-1-23 - Present
FEEDER CATTLE	19,936	653,531

MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS

FEEDER CATTLE	6,995	235,869
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Office Located:
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Phone: 210/524-9697 • Fax: 210/524-9690
Publishers: Jim Banner and Michael Sturgess
Editor: Crystal Devoll • crystal.devoll@cropins.net
Editorial Manager/Special Projects Sales:
Martha Hollida Garrett mob. 903/316-8465
martha.garrett@southernlivestock.com
Office Manager/Accounting:
Jean Tiedeman • jtiedeman@southernlivestock.com
Accounting
Wilda Vincent • wilda.vincent@southernlivestock.com
Livestock Advertising:
Jim Banner mob. 210/867-6862
jbanner@southernlivestock.com
Michael Sturgess mob. 210/867-6863
msturgess@southernlivestock.com
Commercial Advertising:
Loren Jackson - Manager 210/867-5553
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USDA signs agreement with Agriculture Future of America to prepare young people for careers in agriculture

WASHINGTON, - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Agriculture Future of America (AFA), formalizing a partnership to promote the common goals of strengthening the future competitiveness and sustainability of the U.S. agriculture industry by preparing more young people for careers in agriculture.

"This partnership will enhance USDA's involvement with AFA and its leadership development and education mission," said Secretary

Vilsack. "This agreement reinforces USDA's commitment to preparing students for future careers in agriculture with an emphasis on federal sector employment."

USDA and AFA will continue to collaborate on leadership development efforts and link these young leaders with career opportunities in food, agricultural science, natural resources, and related fields. Under the MOU, USDA commits to advancing opportunities for AFA delegates to participate in USDA programs, including internships. AFA will provide occasions for USDA to meet with AFA del-



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egates to share information about these opportunities.

The MOU will be administered by USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), which develops and maintains part-

nerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities and connects those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through USDA programs and initiatives.

"Our collaboration with USDA signifies a shared vision for the future of American agriculture," said Mark Stewart, President and CEO of AFA. "This MOU is not just a document; it's a commitment to bridging the gap between talent and opportunity. This agreement reinforces our belief that connecting young leaders with USDA initiatives will enrich their careers and contribute to a more resilient and competitive agriculture industry."

AFA builds bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture through premier leader and career development experiences. With program participation increasing 28% in the last five years, AFA has provided 26,000 leader development experiences to college leaders and young professionals from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout 43 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$11 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit www.agfuture.org.



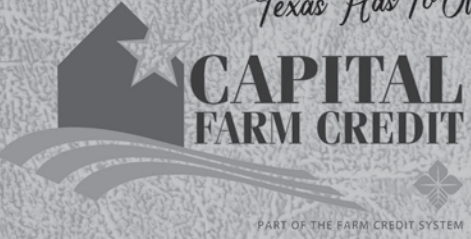
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 12:30 PM - All Breeds Bull Show
 2:30 PM - Commercial Female Show
 Sponsored by Capital Farm Credit

Wednesday, February 14
 7:30 AM - Cattlemen's Breakfast
 10:00 AM - All Breeds Bull Sale

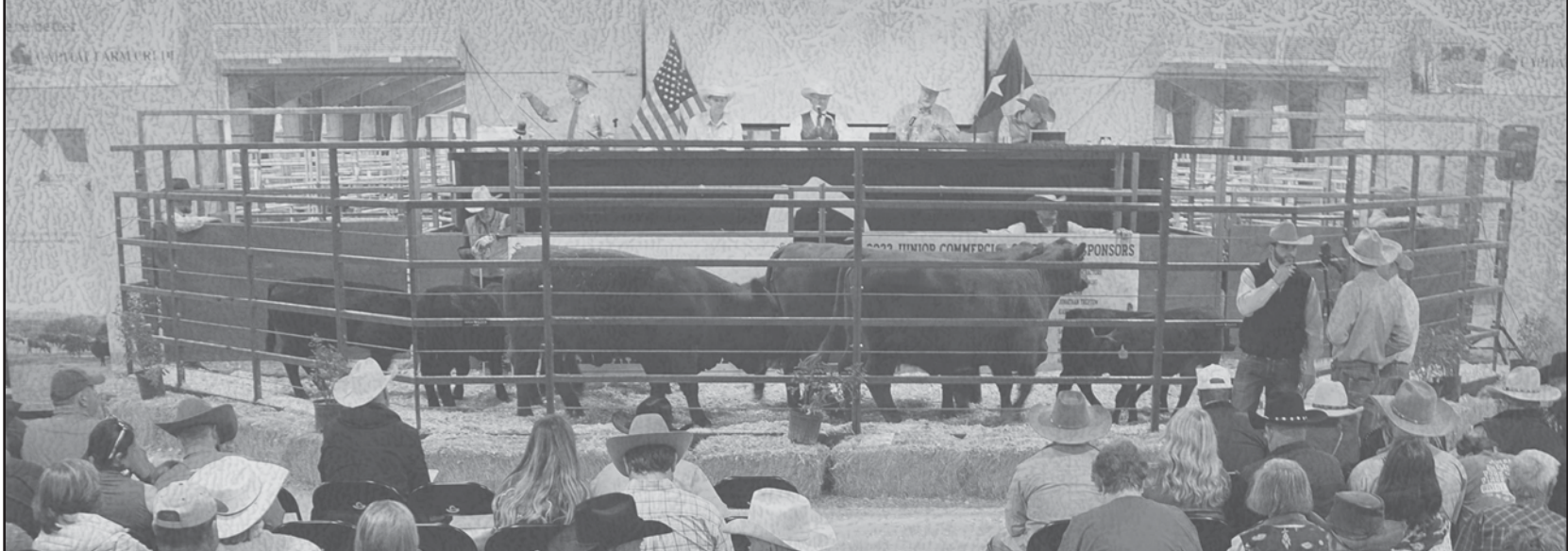
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Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

Operating without the official protection of the Spanish government, Nolan took 21 well-armed men with him on his final expedition in 1800. It wasn't enough. Nolan was killed in March of 1801 by Spanish soldiers who attacked the expedition after they refused to surrender. Nolan was the only member of the expedition to die in the attack. Seven of Nolan's men escaped. The rest were captured and imprisoned.

Because of his association with Wilkinson, and Wilkinson's association with Burr, historians have speculated that Nolan was part of Burr's scheme to claim much of the west in his own name,

(Continued on page 9)

USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas:

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:

• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY • • NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc. Beeville, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission Bryan, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc. Three Rivers, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc. Nixon, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC Alice, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company Fredericksburg, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC Groesbeck, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction San Saba & Mason, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission Giddings, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction Lampasas, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc. Crockett, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Caldwell, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Buffalo, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co. Navasota, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Brenham, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets Cuero & Victoria, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc. Gonzales, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction Columbus, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction Industry, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC El Campo, Texas
• NO SALE DUE TO HOLIDAY •
VOLUME:
TREND:
STEERS HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.
300-400 lbs.
400-500 lbs.
500-600 lbs.
600-700 lbs.
700-800 lbs.
Slaughter cows
Slaughter bulls
Stocking cows
Pairs

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ROUND-UP REVIEW

P.O. Box 1168/220 W. San Antonio St.
Lockhart, Texas 78644-1168

January, 2024
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www.icatexas.com
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President's Address...

By: Kerry Wiggins

Welcome to 2024!
I trust everyone had blessed Christmas season and rang in the New Year safely. None of us know what the new year will bring but it will present us with challenges in our industry, some of which we are aware of and undoubtedly some new ones. But as cattle peo-

ple, we have come to expect that and will meet those head on as we always have.

It will not be long before all the football will be over, and the stock show season will be coming our way. Be sure to attend one or more of the major shows to see and learn what our industry has to offer. Support the young

ones with their animal projects with your words and worth to keep them involved with those rewards.

January 10 is the next ICA Texas Board Meeting to be held at Smitty's Market in Lockhart. Reach out to directors to let them know your thoughts and concerns that you would like addressed. They are serving to help.

Looking forward to a great 2024 with lots of rain, good grass conditions and a strong cattle market. Wouldn't that be nice?



By Joe C. Paschal,
Extension Livestock Specialist,
ICA Director Emeritus

Winter thoughts

I think I would prefer a wet winter to a dry one, but I sure don't care much for a cold one. Years ago, when I

was an Extension livestock specialist, I was at a meeting at a livestock auction barn in Rosharon, south of Houston,

and an elderly rancher told me he didn't feed his cows in the winter. When I asked why, he said that he sold his cows every year in the fall. My interest was piqued so I asked him why. He said he didn't like to get cold and wet feeding cows in the mud, so he just bought heavy bred cows in the spring from the sale barn and then sold the pairs in the fall. The sale barn bought and sold the cows and delivered as well as picked them up. I'm not certain it was profitable every year but considering the land values and taxation rates of that part of the county, it probably paid off to have the agricultural valuation of his ranch. He was ranching for only about 8-9 months, but then he was not cold, wet, or muddy for the other three!

Then, the other day I was near Industry, at the Four Counties Auction, speaking at an Extension meet-

ing about the test results of various grass (and some legume) hays. Most of the hay tested was a variety of the Bermuda grasses or the Bahai with some Klein, Sudan,

and a grass labeled "Swine Manure". I am sure that was a fertilizer, not a grass. The results were not too good. In that country they have a lot of Eastern Gama grass,

a native species that Dr. Wayne Hanselka, former Extension Range Specialist, called "ice cream" grass because the cattle would eat it

(Continued on page 9)

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Southeast Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association

29th Annual Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Ford Park Complex • Beaumont, TX
Troy Robinett, Auctioneer
Livestreamed on Sale Day @ DVAuction

Bull Sale at 10 a.m. • Heifer Sale at 1 p.m. (or immediately following bulls)
Cattle may be viewed after 5 p.m. Friday, March 8 and between 7-10 a.m. Sale Day




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- ◆ Forms and rules can be downloaded @ www.icatexas.com or contact either of the secretaries listed below for more information.
- ◆ Sale Catalogs: Electronic versions should be available online around February 15, 2024 and via e-mail request. Hard copy catalog will not be mailed.
- ◆ The sale will be broadcast via DVAuction. If you cannot make the sale, you may register for a bid card and



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Chapter Happenings...

Around The Lone Star State

South Central ICA Chapter
 Happy New Year! 2024's challenges await Texas producers. Uncertain weather and uncertain markets will keep members on their toes. Not the least of those challenges continue to come from our own government. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its plan Dec. 16,

2023, to increase the size of the Aransas Wildlife Refuge and the Big Boggy Wildlife Refuge by 150,000 acres. The comment period ends Jan. 26, 2024. The area includes parts of Aransas, Calhoun, Goliad, Jackson, Matagorda, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria Counties. The plan is available on fws.gov website.

South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association (SCTICA) will meet at the Jourdanton Library and Community Center in Jourdanton at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2024. New officers will be elected at the meeting. Dr. Thomas Hairgrove, DVM, Ph.D., will be the speaker. Dr. Hairgrove is an associate professor and Extension specialist, Extension veterinarian with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The topic will be vaccination protocols and emerging tick diseases. One hour of continuing education (Continued on page 9)



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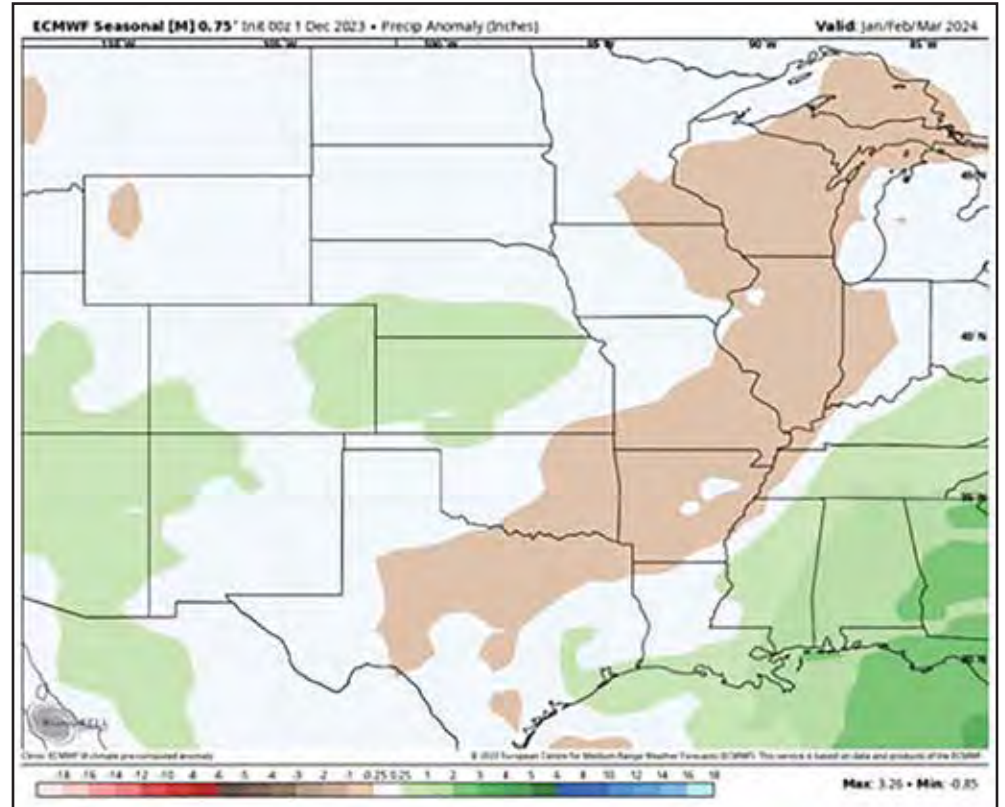
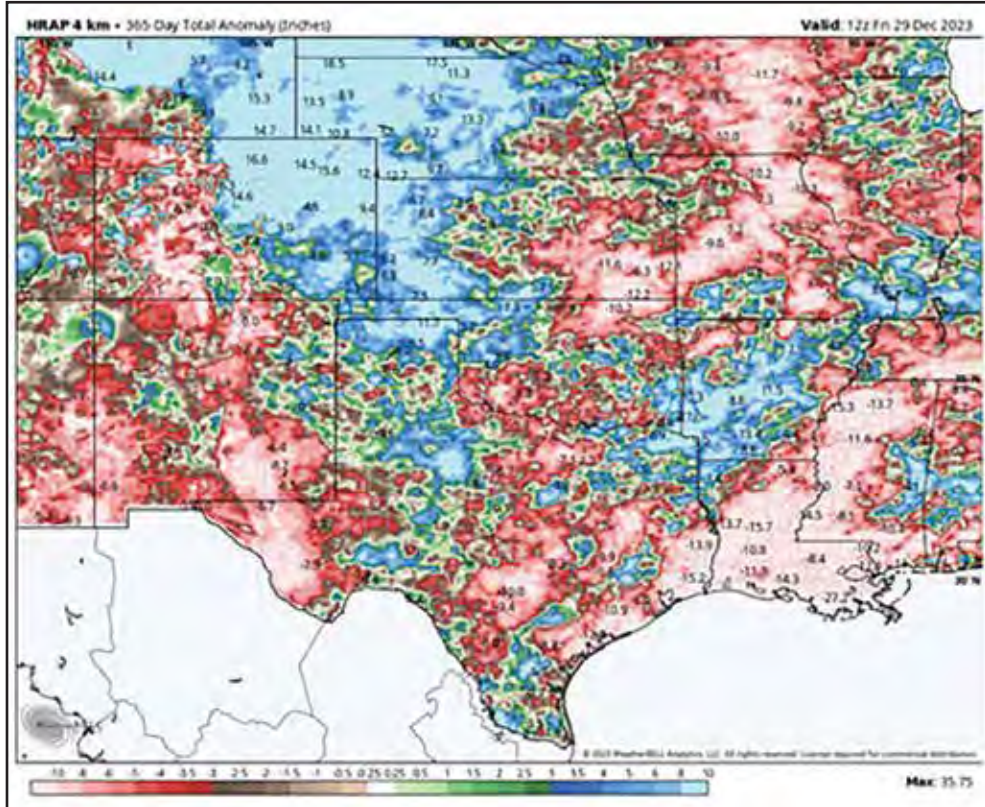




WEATHER WISE

By Brian Bledsoe

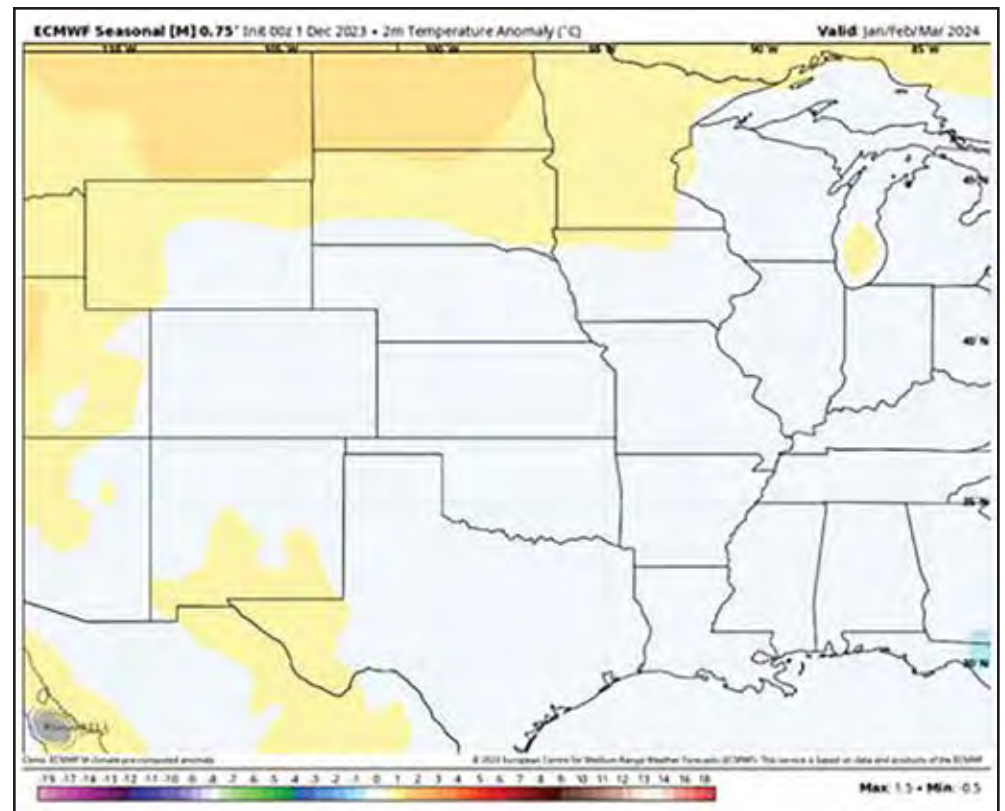
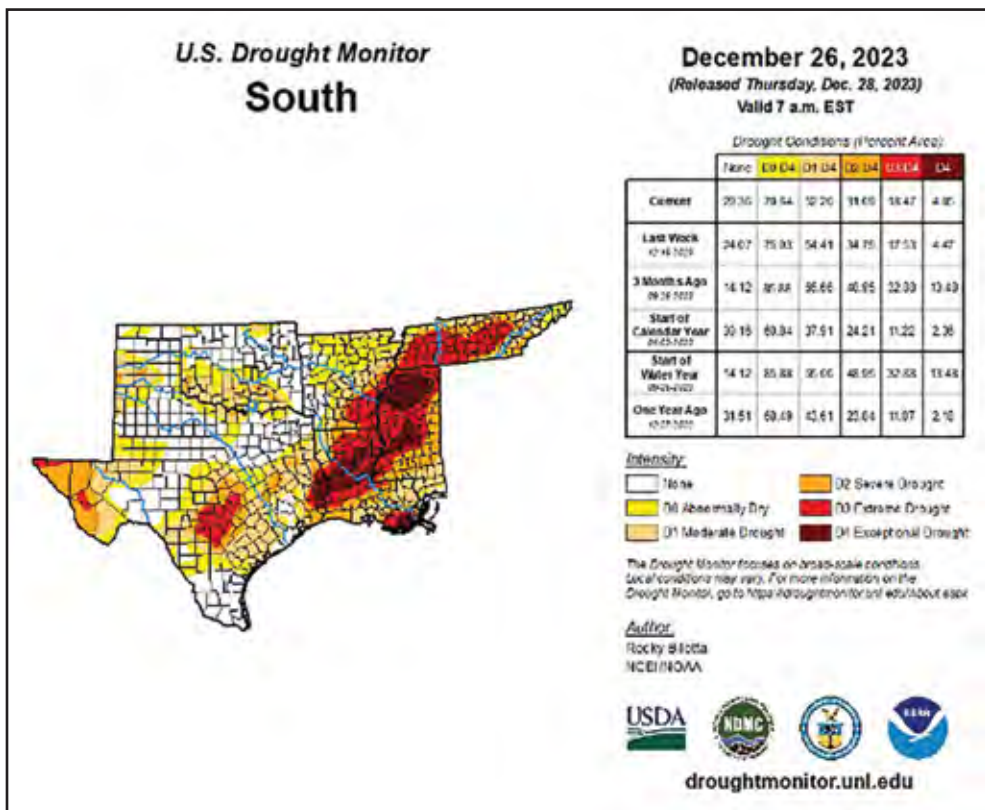
Hope you all had a great holiday season! It's always amazing how quickly the year goes by. Here is a look at the total precipitation anomaly measured in inches that was observed for 2023.



I am somewhat skeptical of the dryness it is forecasting across north Texas and eastern Oklahoma. However, I think it is right on with the wetness along the Gulf Coast.

The temperature trend from the same model looks like this:

As you can see, there were some very dry areas across parts of Texas, the Gulf Coast Region and surrounding areas in the Plains. In terms of overall drought, the latest Drought Monitor shows that there are areas still experiencing significant drought.



While the model is essentially forecasting average temperatures for the January through March period, I do think there will be some cold to contend with in January and February. Will it be significant? Likely not, but certainly more significant than we've seen thus far.

More on what lies ahead for 2024 next month!

A lot of what you see is cumulative and over a longer period of time, especially across Louisiana and Mississippi. Farther west, things have been in better shape, lately. That begs the question about what is to come.

The latest EURO seasonal model precipitation anomaly forecast for January through March shows this:

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

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Chapter...

(Continued from page 6)

cation credit will be given to participants and a meal will be served. RSVP to either 830/391-3153 or 210/ 602-1605. Please join us and bring your neighbor.

Brazos Valley ICA Chapter

Greetings from the Brazos Valley Chapter of the ICA! Our next chapter meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. We are hosting the meeting at Sargento's Mexican Restaurant in Franklin, Texas. RSVPs for the meeting can be made at 830/203-8181, and we are looking

forward to a great meal and seeing everyone at our first chapter meeting of 2024.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Colorado Valley ICA**Chapter**

Happy New Year from the Colorado Valley ICA Chapter! We are excited to announce our Annual Fundraiser Barbeque & Trade Show will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17th, 2024, at KC Hall in La Grange, Texas. The trade show and social hours will be from 4 p.m.-6 p.m., with the meal to be served directly after. There will also be a silent

auction, gun raffle, live auction and cash door prize giveaways. You must be present to win, so make sure to save the date and grab your tickets. For more information, please email Contact@ColoradoValleyICA.com. We look forward to seeing you there and wish everybody a great year in 2024!

Guada-Coma ICA Chapter

The Guada-Coma ICA Chapter had their annual Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Red Barn in Seguin. It was so fun to visit and catch up with everyone. Gordon Land kept the Christmas spirit going with

music. A steak dinner was served and the desserts that members brought were delicious.

Members out did themselves with wonderful donations for our silent auction and live auction. State Representative John Kuempel served as our auctioneer, and it was fun seeing members battling to outbid each other.

Without the silent auction and live auction, we would not be able to give out our scholarships. Thank you to everyone who donated and to those who bid on the items.

The next meeting will

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be Jan. 22 at Seguin Cattle company. The guest speaker will be Justin Ramirez from Cargill. He will be speaking on animal nutrition. We are looking forward to a great meeting, with a deli-

cious BBQ brisket and sausage meal catered by Circle G Catering. Be sure to bring desserts and door prizes, and we hope to see you there.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!!

(Continued on page 13)

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Oscar Saenz

Winter...

(Continued from page 5)

first. Native grasses used as hay can be of very high quality, these ranged from 9 – 11 percent crude protein and 50 – 55 percent TDN (energy), enough for a dry bred cow and maybe one with a bigger calf. However, about one cutting of hay is the limit, they need to regrow for grazing. Some of the samples of the “bluestems” were low, less than half the Gama, and likely a cow would eat that hay right before they ate each other.

They had over 100 samples and I covered most of them, discussing their attributes and suggesting some supplementation strategies. At least it's not too cold or muddy.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with a little mud in it!

Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 3)

or at least under his own rule. Most historians today believe Nolan risked and lost his life solely for the horses. And the money.

Wild horses continued to roam the West in great numbers for more than a century but Nolan, the original Mustang, has been treated by history mostly as a footnote or as a subject of speculation. His name also became associated with a well-known work of fiction, “The Man Without a Country” by Edward Everett Hale, who later wrote a piece called “The Real Philip Nolan” to clear up any confusion about which Philip Nolan was real and which one was not.

There may be more poetry than truth in casting the real Philip Nolan as a man without a country—he seems to have been loyal to any flag that protected him—but the place he no doubt claimed as his heart's country was the wild horse country of Texas.



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Gene-edited...

(Continued from page 1)

The cattle industry has vaccinated against the disease since the 1960s, but “the highly mutable nature of BVDV and the emergence of highly virulent strains of BVDV contribute to limited success of present control programs,” the Academy of Veterinary Consultants has stated.

Scientists identified the specific genetic structure associated with the disease earlier this century. A collaborative project involving scientists with the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and Acceligen, a Minnesota-based private company, used gene editing to change the small number of amino acids that lead to BVDV vulnerability, while keeping the rest of the protein, CD46, unchanged.

“Our objective was to use gene-editing technology to slightly alter CD46 so it wouldn’t bind the virus yet would retain all its normal bovine functions,” said Aspen Workman, a scientist with ARS’ U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska.

A gene-edited calf, named Ginger, was born on July 19, 2021, and transported to

UNL a week later for close monitoring by Vander Ley. Throughout, Ginger has remained a “bright, healthy calf,” normal both physically and behaviorally, which included a week with a BVDV-infected dairy calf that was shedding the virus in great volume.

The research findings were published online May 9 by the PNAS Nexus open-access journal, a sibling publication to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Workman is lead author.

Ginger is a Gir, a tropically adapted cattle breed used to develop Brahman cattle in North America. Follow-up research will require experimental replication in other cattle breeds. Ginger also will be monitored through pregnancy if it occurs.

If the gene-editing approach proves viable, it could potentially reduce the cattle sector’s use of antimicrobials, Vander Ley said.

“The most successful version of the future that I can see is one where we don’t have to deal with antimicrobial resistance because we just don’t use that many antimicrobials,” he said. “That’s better for everyone. That means that we have eliminated the cause of a lot of the antimicrobial use, and we’ve eliminated that expense for livestock producers.”

Michael Heaton, a USMARC researcher for the BVDV project, concurred. This line of research “represents another opportunity to lessen the need for antibiotics in agriculture,” he said.

In addition to Vander Ley, Workman and Heaton,

(Continued on page 11)

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For more info, contact:
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Industry mourns passing of Jarold Callahan

Jarold Eldon Callahan passed away on Dec. 23, 2023. Callahan was born on Sept. 17, 1954, to Joe and Maxine (Spurgeon) Callahan who instilled in him commitment to family, work ethic, and integrity. He grew up on a diversified family farm and cattle operation northwest of Welch, Oklahoma. As a youth, his passion for farming and ranching was evident as he was driving a tractor as soon as (or maybe before) his father would let him. He attended Welch High School, where he excelled at academics, livestock judging and basketball. He continued his livestock judging career at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M where he received his associate degree in 1974. He later went on to receive a B.S. degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University (OSU) where he was a member of the 1975 OSU Livestock Judging team and graduated as one of the OSU Top Ten Seniors in the College of Agriculture in 1976. He later received his master's degree in agriculture (animal science) from the University of Arkansas.

Callahan coached the livestock judging team at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M from 1976 to 1982, where he also served as chair of the agriculture division. He served as an instructor and coached the livestock judging team at Oklahoma State University from 1982 to 1991, where he was promoted to assistant professor in 1990. He impacted the lives of many students through his coaching in his time at both institutions and he later served on The Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents. During his tenure at NEO and OSU he was blessed to coach, advise and mentor many talented young students and build life-long relationships as those students became friends, and colleagues.

Callahan served as the executive vice president of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) from 1991 to 1995. A life-long learner, his time at the OCA found him exploring new roles as an advocate for the beef cattle industry.

He became president of Express Ranches, one of the



largest purebred cattle operations in the world, from 1996 to 2023. Bob Funk and Express Ranches gave him the opportunity to innovate and help shape the future of the purebred beef cattle industry. He was truly thankful to be a part of such a talented, loyal, and dedicated team.

His many accomplishments and contributions were most recently recognized by being selected as the 2023 inductee to the Saddle & Siroloin Portrait Gallery.

Callahan dedicated his whole life to being a loyal, hard-working, and generous person who prioritized his family, friends, education and beef cattle improvement. He loved Oklahoma, OSU, cattle, his wife and partner Jennifer, and his family. Of all his accomplishments, he was most proud of his children, Brian, Tracie and Ryan.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joe E. Callahan in 2015, and his grandparents.

The surviving family includes his wife Jennifer Callahan, his mother, Maxine Callahan of Welch, his children, Brian Callahan and wife Angie of Dallas, Texas, Tracie Poage and husband Lenny of Yukon, Oklahoma, Ryan Callahan and girlfriend, Taylor Gazda of Edmond, his brother Tommy Callahan and wife Sherri of Welch, sisters, Linda Hogan and husband Leon of Tulsa, Shirley Cunningham and husband Gene of Pittsburg, Kansas, Nancy Callahan of Stillwater, five grandchildren, Michael, Kathryn, and Jake Callahan, Cody, Sydney, and Bryce Poage.

The family received friends from 5-7 p.m. at the Burckhalter-Highsmith Funeral Home Chapel in

Vinita on Dec. 27, 2023. The Celebration of Life was held on Dec. 29, 2023, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Jarold Callahan Memorial Fund, a Lasting Legacy established with Cattlemen's Congress. Make checks payable to Cattlemen's Congress and in the memo, Jarold Callahan Memorial Fund. Contributions can be mailed to: Cattlemen's Congress, Attention: Kass Newell, 21 Land Rush St, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73107.

Gene-edited...

(Continued from page 10)

other study coauthors are Erin E. Jobman, Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center; Gregory P. Harhay, USMARC; private-sector

scientists Tad S. Sonstegard, Dennis A. Webster, Luke Sherry, Sabreena Larson, Daniel F. Carlson and Jonathan Bostrom; and Theodore S. Kalbfleisch with the University of Kentucky.

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Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic set for Jan. 11 in Cameron

By Rob Williams, Texas AgriLife Today

The annual Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic will be Jan. 11 in Cameron. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in Milam, Robertson, Bell, Burleson, Falls and Williamson counties will host the event.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the program will be from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Milam County Youth Exposition Building, 301 S. Houston Ave.

Registration is \$20 and

an RSVP is requested for a meal count by Jan. 4. To RSVP, contact the AgriLife Extension office in Milam County at 254-697-7045. One Texas Department of Agriculture general continuing education unit will be available for those needing renewal of their private applicator licenses.

There will also be a trade show featuring local vendors, with door prizes and special offers.

On the agenda

The speakers and topics will include:

• 2023 beef cattle market update and what can we expect to pay for replacements? – Jason Johnson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist and associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Stephenville.

• Pasture restoration and reestablishment following drought – Vanessa

Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist and professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Overton.

• Planning for extended winters: Feed alternatives, barn and equipment preparations — Ron Gill, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock specialist and professor in the Department of Animal (Continued on page 13)



The Jan. 11 Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Cameron will feature topics such as cattle market updates, herd health and planning for extended winters. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Michael Miller)

2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo registration now open

Fort Worth, Texas (Dec. 29, 2023) - Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announced registration for the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo taking place March 22-24,

2024 in downtown Fort Worth opened Jan. 1.

The three-day event is expected to draw more than 4,000 cattle raisers from around the Southwest and features educational ses-

sions, keynote addresses, live cattle demonstrations, student opportunities, entertainment and an expo with over 250 exhibitor booths.

Registration packages can be customized including full registration packages, single-day passes, individual add-ons and even expo-only access. Attendees can also book hotels with exclusive rates through the registration site. Attendees can save up to \$65 per registration when purchased prior to Feb. 15.

Learn more and register at cattleraisersconvention.com.

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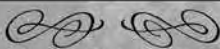
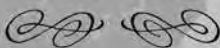


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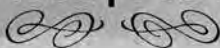
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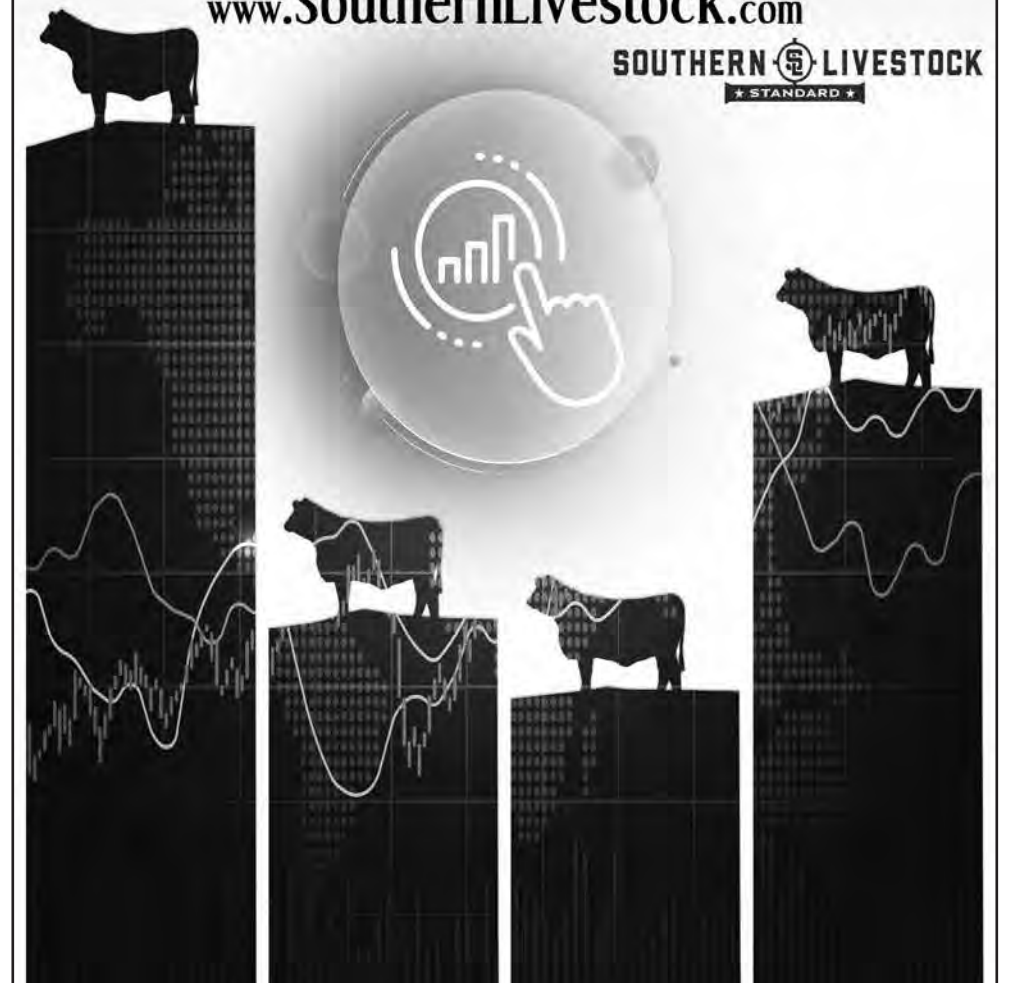
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Merger between AgTrust and Lone Star Ag Credit announced

AgTrust Farm Credit is excited to announce its official merger between the former associations of Lone Star Ag Credit and Ag New Mexico Farm Credit Services. With its headquarters based in Fort Worth, Texas, and Joe Hayman remaining chief executive officer, AgTrust is poised to continue making a significant impact in the agricultural industry.

This merger, which was completed in early December, resulted in a larger and stronger cooperative with approximately \$3 billion in total assets and over \$450 million of capital. The decision to pursue this merger was unanimous by both associations' boards of directors, recognizing the potential for growth and diversity through the joint collaboration. "With roots dating back over 106 years, AgTrust Farm Credit will further its mission to add value to rural communities and support agriculture in the regions we serve," shares Hayman. "We see a bright future for the association and the customer-owners we serve."

AgTrust serves nearly 8,000 stockholders and has around 150 employees. The new association has 19 offices and serves 81 counties throughout Texas and New Mexico. It provides financing tailored to the needs of full and part-time farmers and ranchers as well as agricultural-related businesses and rural landowners.

About AgTrust Farm Credit

As a member of the nationwide Farm Credit System, AgTrust Farm Credit provides financing for Farm, Ranch and Recreational Real Estate, Farm and Ranch Operations, Construction, Equipment, Agribusiness Capital, and Rural Homes. Its lenders provide expertise for those who have long tenures

in agriculture or are new to farming, ranching, or owning rural land.

AgTrust is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. Branch offices are across Texas and New Mexico in Abilene, Albuquerque, Cleburne, Clovis, Corsicana, Denton, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Hillsboro, Lampasas, Las Cruces, New Boston, Paris, Roswell, Sherman, Stephenville, Sweetwater, Waco, and Weatherford.

For more information, contact AgTrust Farm Credit or visit AgTrustACA.com.

Central Texas...
(Continued from page 12)

Science, Bryan-College Station.

- Herd health demonstration: What needs to be done, why to do it and the value it adds – Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist and associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.

- Meet the vets: Veterinarian panel discussion over veterinarian-client-patient relationship, antibiotic use, reproduction and more – Tommy Barton, DVM, Texas Animal Health Commission regional director, Rockdale; Trey Richter, DVM, Richter Vet Clinic, Holland; Jared Ranly, DVM, Ranly Veterinary Services, Lott; and Eric Clemons, DVM, Austin Vet Care at Central, Austin.

Chapter...

(Continued from page 9)
Mid-Tex ICA Chapter

The Mid-Tex ICA Chapter hopes everyone has a happy and prosperous New Year! Just a reminder that our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Lockhart Auction, and a delicious meal will be pro-

2024 LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR

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

- JAN 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- JAN 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- JAN 12 Nueces Jr. Livestock Show Commercial Heifer Sale, Robstown, TX
- JAN 13 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX
- JAN 20 Jordan Cattle Auction January Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAR 2 South Texas Cattle Marketing Spring Replacement Female Sale, Nixon, TX
- MAR 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAR 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Cattleman's Kind Simmental & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- MAR 9 Southeast Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association 29th Annual Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale, Beaumont, TX
- MAR 16 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Spring Sale, Three Rivers, TX
- MAR 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Knox Brothers Hereford and Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- MAR 23 Emmons Ranch Bull Sale, Grosbeck, TX
- APR 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, STS Ranger Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- APR 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Spring "Best of the Best" Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- APR 13 Collier Farms Advantage Sale, Giddings, TX
- APR 17 Springtime in Texas Sale & BBU National E6 Sale, Brenham, TX
- APR 27 Springtime in Texas Sale & BBU National E6 Sale, Brenham, TX
- MAY 4 Jordan Cattle Auction May Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 18 Genetic Investment Sale, Salado, TX
- JUN 22 Southern Tradition XXIV Sale, Savannah, TN
- AUG 3 J&T Farms Production Sale, Lexington, TN
- AUG 17 Emmons Ranch Production Sale, Bryan, TX
- SEP 20 Beef On Forage Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL

Jordan Cattle Auction
Weekly Sales at 11:00 AM
Mason on Monday & San Saba on Thursday

January Replacement Female Sale
Saturday, January 20 @ 10:00 am | San Saba

Special Bull Offering
Thursday, February 8 @ 10:00 am | San Saba
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JAN 20 46th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, TX

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- JAN 20 Hallettsville 4-H & FFA Commercial Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX
- JAN 20 Rio Grande Valley Beefmaster Seedstock Sale, Rio Grande City, TX
- JAN 27 39th Annual DeWitt County Purebred Breeders All Breed Bull & Female Sale, Cuero, TX
- FEB 1 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- FEB 3 South Texas Hereford Association Bull & Female Sale, Beeville, TX
- FEB 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Martin-Bruni Brangus & STS Ranger Registered Angus, San Saba, TX
- FEB 12 Union Commission Special Stocker-Feeder Sale, Hondo, TX
- FEB 14 San Antonio All Breed Bull and Replacement Female Sale, San Antonio, TX
- FEB 17 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Spring Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- FEB 17 Beefmaster Border Classic Edcouch, TX
- FEB 17 Foundation Angus Alliance Production Sale, Luling, TX
- FEB 24 Advantage Plus Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- FEB 24 Hallettsville Livestock Commission Special Replacement Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX

Upcoming Events

• 2024 •

- JAN 12-FEB 3 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, Fort Worth, TX
- JAN 31-FEB 2 National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Con, Orlando, TX
- FEB 8-25 San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio, TX
- FEB 27-MAR 17 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston, TX
- MAR 3-25 Rodeo Austin and Stock Show, Austin, TX
- MAR 7-17 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, Mercedes, TX
- MAR 22-24 Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention, Fort Worth, TX

vided. We would like to thank Ronda A. Reagan Properties Inc. and The PEARL for sponsoring the meeting, and we look forward to hearing from our speaker, Ricky Gonzalez, with the Texas Animal Health Commission. Hope to see you all there!

East Texas ICA Chapter
Greetings from the East Texas ICA Chapter! We are looking forward to our

Holiday Potluck/Chapter Meeting which will be on Jan. 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Regen Ranch in Oakwood, Texas. RSVPs can be made to Christine Martin at 936/245-9505. Be sure to save the date and bring a dish and a gift for the potluck and gift exchange. We hope to see you there!

Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter
Howdy from the Victoria

Crossroads ICA Chapter! We had an amazing time at our Christmas Party on Dec. 16, 2023, at Frances Marie's Restaurant in Victoria, Texas. At the event, we drew the winners for our gun raffle. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Party. We look forward to having you at our next chapter meeting, so stay tuned for

more information on when and where it will take place. We also want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Gonzales ICA Chapter
Howdy and Happy New Year from the Gonzales ICA Chapter! We are looking forward to seeing what 2024 has in store. We pray for a very successful year for all our members, ICA, and Texas agriculture as a whole.

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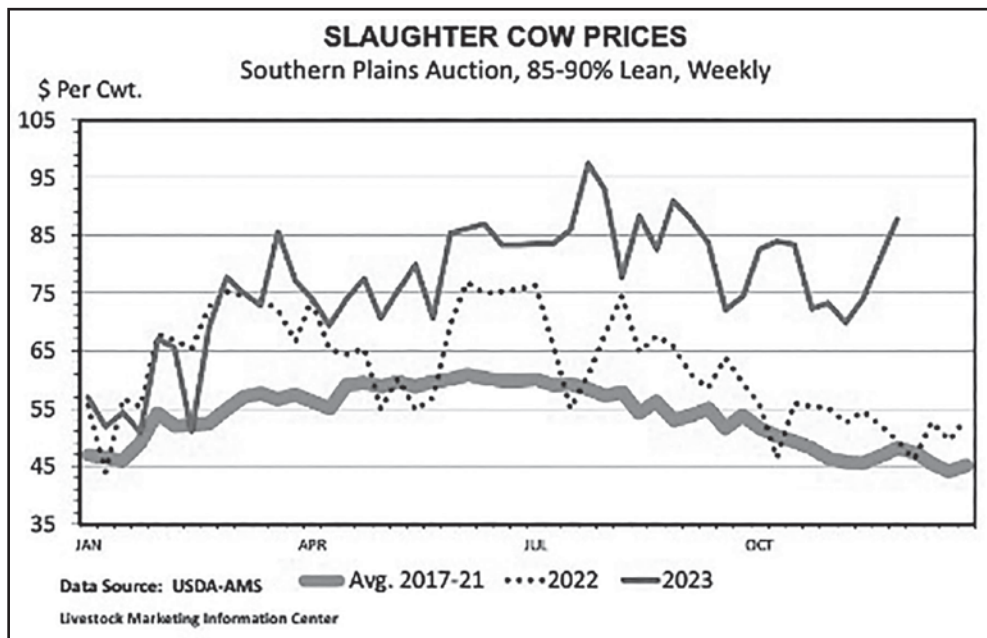
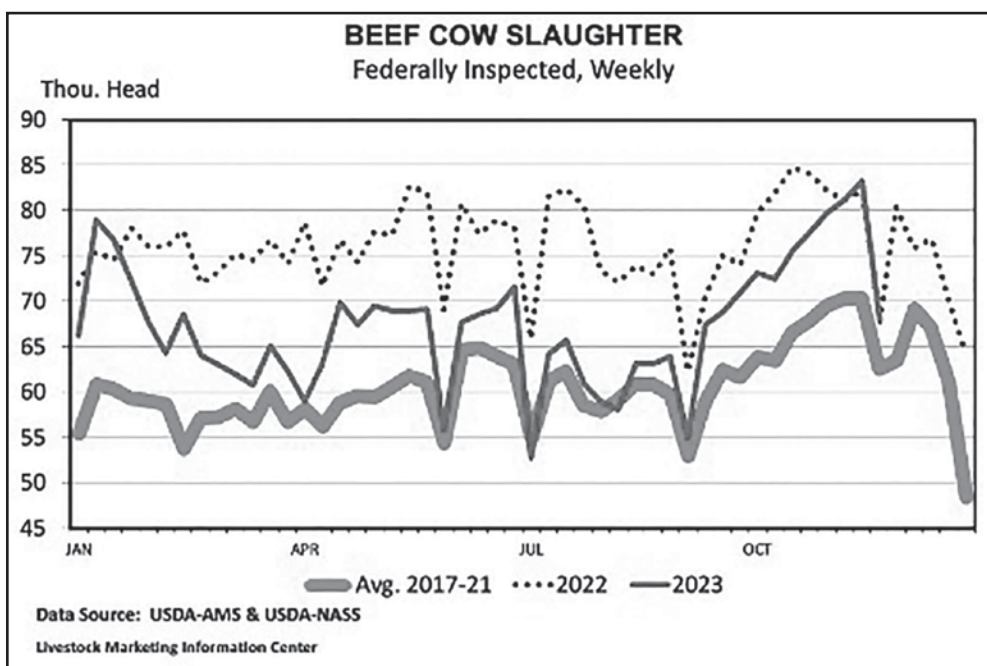
Beef cow slaughter and cow culling trends

By Josh Maples, Mississippi State University assistant professor & Extension economist

Fall is the time of year when beef cow culling peaks as producers decide which cows to carry or not to carry through the winter months. The beef cow slaughter data can be used as an indicator of the level of cow culling. The backdrop of beef cow slaughter numbers this year is that we started 2023 with an estimated 3.6 percent fewer beef cows than we started with in 2022. Therefore, all else equal, 2023 beef cow slaughter numbers were expected to be lower than 2022.

Nationwide, beef cow slaughter has been 11 percent lower so far in 2023 than it was in 2022. However, slaughter totals are still above the 5-year average from 2017-2021 as shown in the chart above. The beef cow slaughter levels in 2022 were exceptionally high and were a key reason for the lower beef cow and calf crop totals in 2023. An interesting statistic for 2023 is that since September 1st, beef cow slaughter is only down 6 percent compared to the same period in

2022. Beef cow slaughter data is reported regionally. Most of the Southeastern states are in region 4 which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Year to date beef cow slaughter in this region is reported at 511,600 head which is down 3 percent from the same period in 2022. However, since September 1st, beef cow slaughter is 2 percent higher than the 2022 level for re-



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gion 4. Region 6 also contains southern states and is comprised of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas and is the largest in terms of total head for 2023. Year to date beef cow slaughter for this region is reported at 840,700 head. This is 17 percent below the 2022 level. Since September 1st, beef cow slaughter is 11 percent below 2022 levels. The data suggests that cow culling in the South has not decreased by as much as it has in other parts of the country. Drought is likely the key culprit for this difference, especially for the higher culling totals the past few months. Cull cow prices have been above 2022 levels for most of the year – driven in part by tighter supplies of cull cows. Cull prices have increased in recent weeks despite this being a time of year when prices would seasonally decrease. Dry conditions, high input costs, and strong cull cow prices are a few factors contributing to relatively high culling levels in the Southern U.S. in 2023.

Sympathies extend to Chambers Family

Lionel R. Chambers, 86, was born on Aug. 17, 1937 in Wichita, Kansas. He passed away on Dec. 31, 2023. Chambers spent more than 40 years in the livestock publications industry with 28 of those years at the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Fort Worth, Texas. He earned a degree in animal science from Kansas State University. He began his career in agricultural publications as a fieldman for Western Horseman magazine and moved on to become Texas field editor

for the Western Livestock Journal. He was named advertising manager for The Cattleman in 1968, and served until 1971 when he struck out on his own as founding publisher of The Brahman Journal based in Sealy, Texas. Chambers sold the journal in 1981 and moved back to Fort Worth as a field editor for the Weekly Livestock Reporter. He returned to The Cattleman as a field editor in December 1983 and was elevated to editor in July 1987. He remained active in the

Fort Worth agricultural community for several years. He is survived by his wife, Mary and his children and grandchildren. A private ceremony and burial were held Jan 6, 2024 at Eastview Cemetery in Vernon, Texas. In order to honor his memory, donations can be made to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center, located at 4601 Hartford St. Abilene, Texas 79605-9989 or to Post-Polio Health International Research, located at 4207 Lindell Boulevard #110, Saint Louis, MO 63108-2930.

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BEEFMASTER BULL SALE

12 Noon – Saturday, January 13, 2024

Live Oak County Fairgrounds • Hwy. 281 South • Three Rivers, Texas

“Where Cowmen Come To Buy”



2023 Live Oak Grand Champion Bull

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 12

- Viewing of bulls
- Educational and Training Seminars
- Final grading of top 20 bulls and selection of Grand Champion
- Presale social, dinner and awards presentation

Saturday, January 13

- Viewing of bulls, coffee and doughnuts
- Membership meeting • Lunch
- 12 Noon - Bull sale begins

Selling over 100 Beefmaster bulls all developed through the Live Oak BBA Performance and Development Program. All bulls will sell with complete performance information.

All bulls have been pregraded and final grading of the top 20 bulls will be on Friday afternoon at the sale site. The top 20 bulls will be cataloged in age order. The remaining bulls are cataloged in sale order starting with Lot 21. Catalog and videos will be available in mid-December.

The Live Oak Bull Sale is one of the longest running, most dependable offering of high-quality herd sire prospects and commercial Beefmaster bulls in the nation.

Sponsored by

Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association

www.liveoakbeefmaster.com

Gary Halepeska, President
(361) 649-5043

Don Kasper, Secretary/Treasurer
(361) 786-3056

Auctioneer & Sale Manager:

Anthony J. MIHALSKI
Auctioneer & Sales Manager, LLC

Anthony J. Mihalski

7320 Triple Elm North, San Antonio, TX 78263
Anthony Sr. Mobile (210) 415-0888
aj1mihalski@aol.com
Anthony Jr. Mobile (210) 415-4530

DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.
Real time bidding & proxy bidding available.

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