

Effects of government shutdown would ripple through agriculture to consumers

Funding for the federal government runs out Sept. 30 unless Congress passes a continuing resolution or finds some other means to keep funds flowing. If the government shuts down, so too, would progress toward the next Farm Bill.

By Mary Hightower, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — A government shutdown could remove price and revenue safety nets for farmers and mean higher food prices for consumers, said Ryan Loy, extension economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Funding for the federal government runs out Sept. 30 unless Congress passes a continuing resolution or finds some other means to keep

funds flowing. If the government shuts down, so too would progress toward the next Farm Bill. The Farm Bill has provisions with two sets of expiration dates: Sept. 30, and Dec. 31.

“When a government shutdown happens, non-essential activity just goes out the window,” Loy said. “If there’s a shutdown, then that includes the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Rural Development Centers.

“If you’re a farmer trying to sign up for programs, those agencies are not going to hold sign-ups,” he said.

Another effect is that two key agencies, Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, will also be closed and won’t be collecting statistics. That spells trouble in several ways. Without updated information from the BLS, the Federal Reserve can’t take informed action.

If NASS isn’t “going to do acreage reporting, that means they’re not going to give you payments, because nobody’s going to be there to work,” Loy said. The shutdown would halt funding for Agriculture Risk and Price Loss Coverage programs, known as ARC and PLC. These programs provide protection to farmers in the event of substantial revenue or commodity price drops. No funding means no payments to farmers.

SNAP, Crop insurance protected

If the government shuts down, participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or

SNAP, and those who have crop insurance, won’t be affected. SNAP includes WIC, the Women, Infants and Children program.

“SNAP was authorized under the 2008 Food and Nutrition Act so lack of a Farm Bill won’t affect it,” Loy said, “Crop insurance was subsidized through the Federal Crop Insurance Act, so the crop insurance folks are going to be OK.”

Back to 1938 and 1949

Should the Farm Bill not go forward, farm commodity programs would lapse back to what’s referred to as “permanent law,” comprised of provisions from the 1938 and 1949 farm bills that never expire. Farm Bills passed since then have language that suspends the outdated provisions.

According to the Congressional Research Service, “permanent law would support dairy, wheat, rice, cotton, and corn but would not support soybeans, peanuts, and sugar, among other commodities. If the permanent law suspension were to expire, the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be required to implement permanent law, which is likely more expensive to the government and consumers than the current farm bill.”

“The big commodities that it will affect are cotton, milk and wheat,” Loy said, “So food prices will skyrocket in stores.”



Government shutdown could affect Fed’s decision-making

The Federal Reserve declined to increase interest rates this week, but any decision to change the interest rate in November may be nixed if the federal government shuts down, said Ryan Loy, extension economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell on Sept. 20 left open the possibility of an interest rate hike in November or early in 2024, Loy said.

“Come November, they’ll probably raise it, and then the question is whether they’ll raise it again in January,” Loy said, adding that in Wednesday’s updates, “Powell signaled there would be “two ‘quarter’ reductions sometime between Q1 and Q2 next year.”

The Fed Open Market Committee members “looked at their economic projections and said, there’s evidence of inflation, but at the same time consumers are purchasing and our economy is still robust,” Loy said. “Powell did say that he thinks that robust spending’s a good thing. People are going out and buying things, but it shows the rate hikes haven’t had as much of an impact as they thought.”

Loy said Powell is still focused on a “soft landing” for the economy, mindful of the lessons of the “Great Recession” of 2008 and the difficult times of the 1980s.

However, robust consumer spending may be coming at a cost. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, consumer debt is also on the rise. The New York Fed said that in the second quarter of 2023, total household debt grew \$16 billion to reach \$17.06 trillion. Credit card balances rose \$45 billion to a high of \$1.03 trillion.

What if there’s a shutdown?

The laws authorizing spending to keep the federal government running will expire Sept. 30. If Congress fails to pass a continuing resolution, or find another means to keep the funds flowing, the federal government will close.

“When a government shutdown happens, nonessential activity just goes out the window, and that includes data collection and dissemination,” Loy said. “Workers at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and those sorts of agencies, are going to be told to go home.”

The problem is that the data collected by BLS “is how the Fed bases its monetary policy,” he said.

“If there’s a shutdown for a month and they come to the November meeting, there’s no data then to even decide if a rate hike is necessary,” Loy said. “Powell is going to err on the side of caution and say, something like, ‘if I don’t have any data by that time, then we’re not going to just raise it arbitrarily.’

“Without data, you don’t really know where the economy’s heading for at least a month,” Loy said.

So, why can’t the Fed fund BLS to collect data during the shutdown?

“I even asked this question myself yesterday. In 2019 they had this problem when they shut it down for just a few weeks,” Loy said. While struggling with the debt ceiling problem, “the Fed actually tried to fund these agencies to collect the data so they wouldn’t run into this problem. But was told it was against the will of Congress.”

Fast facts

- Government shutdown looms Sept. 30
- Shutdown would hamper data collection of key stats
- SNAP, Crop insurance protected
- Fed decides against hiking interest rate
- Shutdown could nix decision-making data

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PERIODICAL



Just Your **Standard Bull**
By Michael Sturgess

TEXAS Trails...
By Clay Coppedge

In my last column in the September 1 issue, I had stated that as of Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, the temperature reached 100 degrees or hotter in San Antonio for the 60th time in 2023. This had

surpassed all previous records. Well, according to the Houston Chronicle, as of Sept. 10th, San Antonio had surpassed the 100-degree mark for a record 74 days. Meaning

that from Aug. 27th to Sept. 10th, we had another 14 days out of 15 that were at 100 or above. According to extreme weather watch.com the last day of 100-degree weather through Sept. 22nd was on Sept. 10th.

Have we seen the last of 100 plus temperatures for the year? Let's hope so. Have we seen the last of above normal temperatures for the year? According to our fearless weatherman Brian Bledsoe, the answer is no. The 14-day forecast through Oct. 10th still shows the majority of Texas along with the Southeastern states to remain at above normal temperatures. If you want to see below normal temps, I suggest you plan a visit to the Pacific Northwest.

So, they say we have transitioned into a strong El Niño. During these periods, the jet stream drops lower and should give us wetter and perhaps cooler than normal temps across the lower part of the US while the northern half gets warmer.

So, when is this transition supposed to happen? It has been suggested that we begin to see real change beginning in November. However, many were also saying we would see a much higher incidence of tropical storms developing in the Atlantic and Gulf. As of Sept. 26th, we are on Tropical Storm Philippe. The Gulf has been quiet.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the graphs show most of Texas and Louisiana in a curious shade of beige from Sept. 21 through Dec. 31. According to the map legend, this means the drought remains, but improves.

So, you ask, when are we going to get to the other side? Well, certainly not before Oct. 10! They say somewhere between Nov. 1 to Dec. 31. Here's to hoping sooner rather than later!

A couple of alleged incidents

Two of the most famous incidents from America's gunfighter era might or might not have taken place and involved (or didn't involve) some of the most iconic names of the Old West: Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, notorious Texas gunslingers John Wesley Hardin and Clay Allison. Nobody fired a shot in any of these stories, but the stories became legend because they involve legendary characters.

The first incident centers on an alleged disagreement between Hickok and Hardin in Abilene, Kansas in 1871. Hardin was 18 years old with more than a few (figurative) notches on his pistol, including the killings he committed during the cattle drive that took him to Abilene.

Wild Bill was 34 years old and just hitting his prime as the Abilene marshal where his reputation as a straight shooter and a quick draw was well established. Hickok was an early proponent of gun control, at least in towns where he had jurisdiction, and Hardin came to town wearing a gun where everybody could see it.

Hickok approached Hardin, his own six-shooters drawn in deference to Hardin's reputation, and ordered the young psychopath to surrender his guns. According to Hardin's autobiography, he offered his guns to Hickok, butts first, but when Hickok went to take them, Hardin twirled them so that the business end of the pistols were pointed directly at Wild Bill. Gunfighters called it "the border roll."

According to Hardin, Hickok responded by telling Hardin, "You are the games and quickest boy I ever saw!" The two shootists retired to a saloon and had a few drinks and some good laughs over the incident. No harm, no foul. Or that's the way Hardin told it in his autobiography. Historians have debated the story ever since.

For one thing, Hardin wrote it after Hickok was dead. Skeptics found it hard to imagine that anybody, even John Wesley Hardin, could get the drop on Wild Bill. But others think it happened just the way Hardin said it did.

Hickok biographer Joseph Rosa told *Wild West*

magazine in 2008 that the border roll incident is hearsay with no contemporary verification. Hardin biographer Leon Metz begs to differ. "Backing down Wild Bill Hickok was the consummate juncture thus far in (Hardin's) spiraling man-killing career," he told the magazine. "A dead Hickok would have proven nothing, except perhaps that Hardin was lucky. A live Hickok would know for the rest of his life who was the better man."

The other alleged incident involved Wyatt Earp and rowdy man-killer Clay Allison in Dodge City. According to Earp, who told the story after Allison was dead and gone to hell, he and Bat Masterson confronted Allison and, basically through the sheer force of their personalities, disarmed him. No fuss, no bother.

Charlie Siringo, a cowboy, Pinkerton detective, and author, later wrote about the incident and claimed it

(Continued on page 20)

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SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 9-21-23

SPECIES:	9-11-23:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	652	196	19,775
b. Breeding Males	146	0	2,055
c. Breeding Females	10	0	931
Total	808	196	22,761
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	929
c. Breeding Females	0	0	2,027
Total	0	0	2,956
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter			
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	330	0	1,763
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	330	0	1,763
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	16
b. Breeding Females	0	0	3,480
Total	0	0	3,496
5) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	502	358	10,850
b. Breeding Males	82	55	1,142
c. Breeding Females	85	34	1,530
d. Geldings	19	9	584
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	6
Total	688	456	14,112
6) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	179

MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS

SPECIES:	9-11-23:	1-1-23 - Present
FEEDER CATTLE	9,591	429,860

MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS

FEEDER CATTLE	1,860	153,921
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SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

Southern Livestock Publishing, Inc.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 791364 • San Antonio, TX 78279-1364

Office Located:
407 Breesport • San Antonio, TX 78216
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
ljackson@southernlivestock.com

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Southern Livestock Standard (USPS 024-951) is published 24 times per year, every other week except monthly in June and December, by Southern Livestock Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 791364, San Antonio, Texas 78279-1364. Periodicals postage paid at San Antonio, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes for Southern Livestock Standard to Southern Livestock Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 791364, San Antonio, Texas 78279-1364.
Physical Address: 407 Breesport St., San Antonio, TX 78216

Member:
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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, September 21, 2023: Total receipts: 786, last reported (9-14-23) 595, last year 922. Feeder cattle 605 (77.0%), last reported (9-14-23) 470 (79.0%), last year 563 (61.10%). Slaughter cattle 126 (16.0%), last reported (9-14-23) 77 (12.9%), last year 221 (24.0%). Replacement cattle 55 (7.0%), last reported (9-14-23) 48 (8.1%), last year 138 (15.0%). Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings weak to 2.00 lower. Slaughter cows 1.00-2.00 lower; slaughter bulls steady. Stock cows and pairs not well tested. Trading and demand moderate. Overall quality rather plain. Supply included: 77% Feeder Cattle (56% Steers, 36% Heifers, 8% Bulls); 16% Slaughter Cattle (85% Cows, 15% Bulls); 7% Replacement Cattle (88% Stock Cows, 9% Bred Cows, 3% CowCalf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 39%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 26, 2023: Total receipts 8,296, last reported (9-18-23) 7,286, last year 6,794. Feeder cattle: 8,296 (100.0%), last reported (9-18-23) 7,286 (100.0%), last year 6,794 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers steady to 2.00 lower. Feeder heifers 2.00-4.00 lower. Demand moderate to good for feeder cattle. Steer calves 4.00-8.00 lower, except under 450 lbs mostly steady. Heifer calves 10.00-15.00 lower. Un-weaned calves up to 20.00 lower. Demand moderate for calves. Quality mostly average. The calendar says fall but temps remain hot and humid. Many farmers busy in the field planting fall crops. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (51% Steers, 43% Heifers, 6% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 54%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-22-23
VOLUME: 514
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	272-325	200-265
300-400 lbs.	221-275	201-241
400-500 lbs.	220-250	208-236
500-600 lbs.	210-242	194-236
600-700 lbs.	203-227	188-215
700-800 lbs.	185-215	166-185
Slaughter cows	31-101	
Slaughter bulls	69-120	
Stocker cows	850-1050	
Pairs	1000-1475	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-19-23
VOLUME: 903
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	280-330	235-280
300-400 lbs.	275-290	225-265
400-500 lbs.	250-330	215-255
500-600 lbs.	228-250	205-232
600-700 lbs.	214-236	180-216
700-800 lbs.	218-227	190-202
Slaughter cows	84-122	
Slaughter bulls	102-125	
Stocker cows	1050-1800	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-18-23
VOLUME: 1761
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	214-300	204-286
300-400 lbs.	208-296	194-270
400-500 lbs.	198-280	192-254
500-600 lbs.	186-268	184-244
600-700 lbs.	178-242	172-228
700-800 lbs.	164-236	160-218
Slaughter cows	74-118	
Slaughter bulls	106-128	
Stocker cows	650-1350	
Pairs	975-1600	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-18-23
VOLUME: 1473
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	185-325	170-295
300-400 lbs.	209-335	203-330
400-500 lbs.	216-315	204-308
500-600 lbs.	203-273	201-300
600-700 lbs.	197-241	187-227
700-800 lbs.	198-226	192-219
Slaughter cows	65-106	
Slaughter bulls	87-116	
Stocker cows	96-120	
Pairs	1235	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-19-23
VOLUME: 590
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	215-275	190-240
300-400 lbs.	230-280	210-245
400-500 lbs.	220-260	211-246
500-600 lbs.	218-255	198-226
600-700 lbs.	197-230	184-210
700-800 lbs.	180-200	160-183
Slaughter cows	55-115	
Slaughter bulls	90-125	
Stocker cows	1200-1500	
Pairs	1250-1800	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-20-23
VOLUME: 923
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-365	210-287.50
300-400 lbs.	270-365	210-302.50
400-500 lbs.	260-335	200-280
500-600 lbs.	220-280	190-242.50
600-700 lbs.	200-256	180-240
700-800 lbs.	180-212	170-204
Slaughter cows	60-116	
Slaughter bulls	85-130	
Stocker cows	900-1600	
Pairs	1000-2000	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-21-23
VOLUME: 1519
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	240-330	220-320
400-500 lbs.	220-315	200-280
500-600 lbs.	200-265	180-245
600-700 lbs.	180-250	165-227
700-800 lbs.	170-235	150-210
Slaughter cows	75-115	
Slaughter bulls	60-131	
Stocker cows	450-1850	
Pairs	1050-2300	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-21-23
VOLUME: 2668
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	230-340	224-290
300-400 lbs.	228-340	230-280
400-500 lbs.	256-326	225-272.50
500-600 lbs.	215.50-315	218-240
600-700 lbs.	205-258	204-228
700-800 lbs.	203-233	189-225
Slaughter cows	56-123	
Slaughter bulls	89-125	
Stocker cows	650-1775	
Pairs	1675-1950	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-18-23
VOLUME: 1197
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	227-315	219-285
300-400 lbs.	261-330	227-285
400-500 lbs.	238-330	224-270
500-600 lbs.	218-247.50	210-275
600-700 lbs.	211-240	199-215
700-800 lbs.	178-230	186-225
Slaughter cows	100-116	
Slaughter bulls	100-130	
Stocker cows	900-1650	
Pairs	700-1525	

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction
Lampasas, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-20-23
VOLUME: 657
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	268-308	244-305
300-400 lbs.	247-300	219-268
400-500 lbs.	232-295	225-266
500-600 lbs.	198-268	209-234
600-700 lbs.	180-228	199-226
700-800 lbs.	166-210	—
Slaughter cows	40-114	
Slaughter bulls	115-122	
Stocker cows	1000-1500	
Pairs	1600-2000	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-19-23
VOLUME: 2558
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	235-320	209-310
300-400 lbs.	228-330	192-305
400-500 lbs.	224-316	184-272
500-600 lbs.	212-256	173-249
600-700 lbs.	200-250	128-240
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	81-113	
Slaughter bulls	93-124	
Stocker cows	760-1775	
Pairs	910-1850	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-20-23
VOLUME: 936
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-260	200-280
300-400 lbs.	250-325	225-315
400-500 lbs.	245-320	230-315
500-600 lbs.	221-250	216-242
600-700 lbs.	216-231	204-230
700-800 lbs.	210-220	200-215
Slaughter cows	65-120	
Slaughter bulls	85-128	
Stocker cows	850-1400	
Pairs	1150-1525	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-16-23
VOLUME: 1614
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	230-342	225-286
300-400 lbs.	225-335	225-315
400-500 lbs.	220-329	210-268
500-600 lbs.	215-266	200-241
600-700 lbs.	205-260	185-229
700-800 lbs.	195-225	165-185
Slaughter cows	45-116	
Slaughter bulls	95-134	
Stocker cows	850-1775	
Pairs	750-1400	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-23-23
VOLUME: 1838
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	185-305	185-270
300-400 lbs.	175-315	175-260
400-500 lbs.	175-280	175-240
500-600 lbs.	175-245	170-236
600-700 lbs.	175-225	170-213
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	70-110	
Slaughter bulls	850-1475	
Stocker cows	850-1500	
Pairs	1000-1475	

SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-22-23
VOLUME: 732
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	240-270	230-262
300-400 lbs.	235-320	220-280
400-500 lbs.	220-310	200-285
500-600 lbs.	200-262	190-270
600-700 lbs.	195-249	185-251
700-800 lbs.	190-221	180-207
Slaughter cows	61-120	
Slaughter bulls	90-123	
Stocker cows	1000-1600	
Pairs	1450-1650	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-22-23
VOLUME: 2437
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-330	163-250
300-400 lbs.	233-330	183-300
400-500 lbs.	225-302.50	202-250
500-600 lbs.	211-256	204-252
600-700 lbs.	210-239	200-236
700-800 lbs.	204-222	178-218
Slaughter cows	35-116	
Slaughter bulls	94-124	
Stocker cows	90-149	
Pairs	1350	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-16-23
VOLUME: 1388
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	315-320	275-277
300-400 lbs.	280-305	265-270
400-500 lbs.	255-275	233-250
500-600 lbs.	243-250	227-230
600-700 lbs.	219-240	191-220
700-800 lbs.	205-217	—
Slaughter cows	64-114	
Slaughter bulls	100-120	
Stocker cows	750-1700	
Pairs	1100-1975	

SALE: Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction
Columbus, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-20-23
VOLUME: 1102
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	240-300	235-272
300-400 lbs.	230-300	220-267
400-500 lbs.	220-297	200-250
500-600 lbs.	210-255	190-244
600-700 lbs.	190-250	185-222
700-800 lbs.	174-232	170-200
Slaughter cows	45-111	
Slaughter bulls	88-126	
Stocker cows	1000-1500	
Pairs	1700-1850	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-19-23
VOLUME: 816
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	180-310	170-265
300-400 lbs.	180-315	170-218
400-500 lbs.	180-310	160-252.50
500-600 lbs.	180-265	160-240
600-700 lbs.	170-240	160-218
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	55-116	
Slaughter bulls	100-126	
Stocker cows	800-1450	
Pairs	1100-2100	

SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC
El Campo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 9-19-23
VOLUME: 1456
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	244-330	200-265
300-400 lbs.	249-333	208-288
400-500 lbs.	236-310	211-255
500-600 lbs.	228-265	206-250
600-700 lbs.	222-253	200-263
700-800 lbs.	170-232	178-215
Slaughter cows	65-113	
Slaughter bulls	100-130	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	1180-1250	

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, September 26, 2023: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 5,600, last reported (9-19-23) 5,135, last year 6,078. Feeder sheep/lambs 20 (0.4%), last reported (9-19-23) 103 (2.0%), last year 283 (4.7%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 2,312 (41.3%), last reported (9-19-23) 2,176 (42.4%), last year 2,383 (39.2%). Replacement sheep/lambs 20 (0.4%), last reported (9-19-23) 137 (2.7%), last year 121 (2.0%). Feeder goats 336 (6.0%), last reported (9-19-23) 215 (4.2%), last year 425 (7.0%). Slaughter goats 2,688 (48.0%), last reported (9-19-23) 2,350 (45.8%), last year 2,781 (45.8%). Replacement goats 224 (4.0%), last reported (9-19-23) 154 (3.0%), last year 85 (1.4%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs 10.00-20.00 lower. Slaughter ewes firm to 5.00 higher. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies 5.00-10.00 lower; kids 10.00-15.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate. Supply included: 0% Feeder Sheep/Lambs (100% Hair Lambs); 41% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (15% Woolled & Shorn, 73% Hair Breeds, 6% Ewes, 5% Hair Ewes, 0% Hair Bucks); 0% Replacement Sheep/Lambs (100% Ewes); 6% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 48% Slaughter Goats (83% Kids, 12% Nannies/Does, 5% Bucks/Billies, 0% Wethers); 4% Replacement Goats (100% Nannies/Does).

Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, September 19, 2023: Sheep and goats: 3,021 Light Lambs Steady. Heavy Lambs Steady. Kids Steady. Light Kids Steady. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 120.00-270.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 120.00-270.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-220.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 140.00-310.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 140.00-310.00 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 140.00-310.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (100-150 Lb) 115.00-250.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-100.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 100.00-175.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 100.00-410.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 140.00-390.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 160.00-300.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-350.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 140.00

Bennett Trust Women's Conference set for Oct. 9-10 in Fredericksburg

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Women who are making a difference down on the farm or ranch will be the focus of the Bennett Trust Land Stewardship Women's Conference, according to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program coordinator.

"Girl Power: Texas Female Entrepreneurs" is the conference theme set for Oct. 9-10 at The Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington St., Fredericksburg. The program addresses the growing number of women making decisions as landowners and operators.

Registration is now open at <https://tx.ag/Bennett23Reg>. The cost is \$125, including meals, break refreshments and tour transportation. The program also will offer three general Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units and two continuing education credits for realtors.

Those passionate about environmental stewardship and with a love for the Texas Hill Country will want to attend, said Larry Redmon, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension program leader and associate head, Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Bryan-College Station.

"With over 1,000 people per day being added to the Texas population, wise stewardship of the Edwards Plateau's natural resources is more critical than ever, and increasing numbers of women are leading the way," Redmon said. "As more women become landowners, we want to help them successfully manage their natural resources."

The award-winning program, now held for the seventh year, aims to provide women the tools they need to manage their piece of Texas, Redmon said. So far, more than 350 women have attended the program.

Topics and speakers

Day 1 will include discussion topics and hands-on opportunities regarding stewardship while managing brush in grasslands, key laws in Texas for landowners, using websites and apps for improved ranch management, and a women's panel discussion. Day 2 involves a tour of Blanco on charter buses.

The Oct. 9 program will begin with registration and breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the program at 8:30

a.m. Topics and speakers will be:

- Women and Land Stewardship: Planning for the Future, April Sansom, Ph.D., Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve executive director, Johnson City.

- Prioritizing Stewardship while Managing Brush in Grasslands, Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist, San Angelo.

- Using Websites and Apps for Improved Ranch Management Decisions, Megan Clayton, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist,


- Women's Panel Discussion, Marissa Drager, 111 Beef Republic, Bridgeport; Jurahee Silvers, La Cabra Meat, Junction; and Katy Seaton, Farmhouse Vineyards, Brownfield.

(Continued on page 6)

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Cornstalks can fill forage gaps during drought

Source: University of Missouri Extension

COLUMBIA, Missouri – Grazing cornstalks or drought-stricken corn can fill feed gaps during drought, says University of Missouri Extension beef nutritionist Eric Bailey.

There are some nutritional concerns, and producers must commit to moving cattle to new pastures to successfully use cornstalks as feedstuff, but there are ben-

efits. Cows are selective grazers. They choose the highest protein and most easily digested plant parts first. In corn hierarchy, stalks rank last, but they still fill cow bellies when options are limited. Because cornstalks are fibrous and poorly digested, consumption becomes a problem.

“A beef cow is not going

to eat 35 pounds of cornstalks a day,” Bailey says. “There is simply not enough room in their gut to hold it all. This exacerbates the calorie deficit. Expect a cow to eat at most 1.5% of their body weight per day of these forages.”

By eating the higher-protein parts of the corn first, cows may need few extra supplements. Energy is not

limiting during the first 30 days of grazing. Protein will be limiting after 30 days on the same field at 0.5 pound of crude protein per cow per day. Consider herd needs, as the needs of lactating and fall-calving cows or stocker calves may be greater, says Bailey.

Also, stalk energy is limiting. “Forage resources like this are a step below even

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poor fescue hay,” he says. The percentage of total digestible nutrients will be in the mid 40s. Beef cows need a diet that has 50%-60% TDN (total digestible nutrients), so producers need to

make up the difference with supplement.

Crude protein is also likely limiting in straw-based diets, says Bailey. Producers need to make sure cows get at least half a pound of crude protein from supplement to offset the deficiencies in crude protein from straw.

Bailey uses a simple rule of thumb for estimates: bushels per acre divided by 3.5 equals grazing days per acre for a 1,200-pound cow. For example, if the field produced 150 bushels per acre, then an acre would provide enough residue for 42 grazing days (150 divided by 3.5).

For a more accurate estimate, factor in residue produced per bushel of grain. There will be 16 pounds of leaf and husk residue per bushel of grain. In a 150-bushel-per-acre crop, there will be 2,400 pounds of dry feed per acre. Assume one acre per cow per month and try to leave cows on the field less than two months, Bailey says. This estimate is more conservative but will keep cows from eating the lowest-quality plant parts (stalks and cobs).

Assume 50% harvest efficiency since trampling and weathering will cause some dry matter loss, Bailey says.

One concern in grazing corn is the increased chance of nitrate poisoning during drought. Bailey says it is always wise to test for nitrates before grazing.

Bennett...

(Continued from page 5)

– Key Laws for Texas Landowners, Tiffany Lashmet, J.D., AgriLife Extension agricultural law specialist, Amarillo.

Oct. 10 will begin with breakfast at 7:15 a.m., then participants will load buses for the Blanco Tour, which will include archery, plant identification, track and skat identification, a vineyard visit and a tour of a lavender farm and cut-flower farm.

For more information, go to <https://agrilife.org/bennetttrust/>, or contact Redmon at l-redmon@tamu.edu or Linda Francis at linda.francis@ag.tamu.edu.

CARR and OTHERS FALL PROGRAM and SALE OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2023

AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

12:00 Noon - 10:30 PM

Viewing of sale cattle and donation lots

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TOPICS & SPEAKERS

Our Friday afternoon Educational Programs continue to grow in attendance and have become a very important part of our two-day sale events. This year's speakers and topics are listed below.

– **Dr. Rick Machen, Professor and Paul Genho, Endowed Chair in Ranch Management at King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, Texas**

Topic: Hot Topics for Cattle Raisers

– **NCBA Staff Person**

Topic: Current Regulatory, Legislative and Political Issues Most Important to Cattle Raisers

– **Dr. Andy Herring or other representative from Texas A&M University - College Station, Texas**

Topic: Update on Texas A&M's Recently Established Beefmaster Herd

– **Daniel Mielke, Range and Pasture Specialist with Envu Range and Pasture**

Topic: Update on Envu's New Promising Brush Herbicide, Invora, and on their Research on a Selective Herbicide for King Ranch Bluestem (CEUs for Private Applicators)

– **Samantha Shannon, Wilson County, Texas, A&M Agrilife Extension Agent**

Topic: Laws and Regulations Update for Private Applicators (1 CEU)

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Mariachi music and refreshments

6:30 PM

Dinner

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Traditional Country music by Darrell McCall & Justin Trevino

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Breakfast tacos, milk, etc.

10:00 AM

Sale

Lunch following sale

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LSU develops patent-pending bait to fight the “pigdemic”

Source: Louisiana State University Extension

Wild, invasive pigs cause more than \$90 million in damage to Louisiana farms each year and pose a growing threat to the environment, people and other animals. With \$50K in support from the state, Louisiana State University (LSU) is now moving into controlled field trials of a patent-pending bait based on fish, potatoes and, ironically, the key ingredient for bacon.

And while the LSU baits are effective on wild pigs, they have next-to-no impact on the environment, break down quickly and won't harm animals or humans who might be tempted to eat the pigs.

Wild pigs are everywhere in Louisiana, rampaging through forests and farms, causing significant damage to crops and creating an E. coli problem. There are now more invasive wild pigs in the state than there are people in the most populous cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport combined—close to 1 million. Pigs reproduce quickly. A single sow can produce more than 400 descendants in three years. When food is abundant, like it is in Louisiana, any local wild pig population can double within mere months.

“In Louisiana, with our growing seasons, there's always something to eat,” said Glen Gentry, who is an animal scientist and director and coordinator of two LSU AgCenter research stations, including Idlewild, which specializes in wildlife management.

For close to a decade, Gentry has been working on solutions to the rapidly growing wild pig problem. People hunt and trap pigs, but not nearly enough to keep the population in check. A single sow can produce more than 400 descendants within three years, as her piglets reach maturity in six months and start having piglets of their own. This potential “pigdemic” is why Gentry partnered with LSU chemistry professor John Pojman to develop a solution. Together, they've come up with a patent-pending recipe for a bait that wild pigs love to eat (and prefer to corn, acorns and other favorites) but makes them fall asleep. It's a chewy bait that's golf-ball-sized. Ironically, the key ingredient is the same as for bacon—pink curing salt, or sodium nitrite.

“As a chemist, I'm quite proud that we're able to simplify and solve a problem

using general chemistry to help the citizens of the state,”

There are now more invasive wild pigs in the state than there are people in the most populous cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport combined—close to 1 million.

Pojman said. “A great advantage of being a land-grant university is that we have both an agriculture college and a chemistry department with complementary expertise to

tackle real and pressing problems.”

Luckily, pigs are much more sensitive to nitrites than humans are. Nitrites transform hemoglobin in the blood to methemoglobin, which reduces their body's ability to get oxygen to cells. Pigs that eat bacon or consume just a few grams of sodium nitrite become starved for oxygen

and fall asleep.

Much of Gentry's research has been supported by statewide commodity groups that represent Louisiana's rice and soybean farmers.

“The Rice Research Board

and the Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board have both been very generous in funding my work,” Gentry said. “That's because they're directly affected by the damage pigs do.”

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Feed situation

By Matthew Diersen, South Dakota State University New School Risk & Business Management Specialist

Beef cattle inventory levels have been expected to continue to remain low. Feed availability has been a limiting factor in recent years. Its attending cost has also limited profits for cow-calf producers. Heading into fall, there are a few signs of changing aggregate conditions that may allow for some expansion to begin. The largest change is probably on the range and pasture side where the latest conditions show much higher percentages in the continental U.S. in good or excellent compared to a year ago. There are also much lower percentages in very poor or poor relative to last year. While conditions are subjective, their consistency and direction would be considered an improvement. The reduction in inventory levels has also meant less demand on the pastures. In general, the conditions are better in the eastern U.S. and worse in the southwest U.S.

The Economic Research Service tracks and builds indexes of grain, high protein, and roughage consuming animal units. The roughage consuming units are dominated by cattle, mainly grazing and then dairy animals. Several years in a row of declining units means less demand for feed, particularly for forage. The grain consuming units are spread across hogs and poultry, then cattle feedlots. That index has not changed much in recent years. The high protein index is dominated by poultry, and it has been increasing slightly in recent years. Thus, pasture demand has gone down, but demand for other feed has been constant when aggregated across other livestock.

The hay situation has improved from a buyer's perspective. Production is up sharply from a year ago, mitigating a slightly tighter old stocks situation. Thus, supply is larger. Fewer roughage consuming units translates into lower demand. Both combine to push down prices. A major demand source in recent years has come from hay importing countries. In part, high prices seem to have slowed trade, meaning more tons are available in the domestic market. Regionally, the corn crop has a high level of variability. There have been anecdotes of low grain yields expected in different areas, even though the plant height is normal. That suggests a larger than normal amount of corn may be switched to silage production. This can result in substantial tons of forage, albeit at lower energy levels than if the grain production was normal. Distillers' grains will likely make up any ration needs.

The most obvious impact of changing feed prices will show up in continued changes to the price slide across feeder cattle weight classes and the price spread between steers and heifers. The expected price of corn is much lower than a year ago. This has helped support calf prices and made the slide steeper than a year ago. The spread would also widen, reflecting the better gain of steers over heifers. However, if feed availability improves and costs fall, then cow-calf producers may look favorably on heifers as replacements, which could narrow the spread.



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Wildfires wipe out income for Louisiana forest landowners

By Olivia McClure/LSU AgCenter

WESTPORT, Louisiana -- In west-central Louisiana, where wildfires have ravaged thousands of acres of drought-stricken forests in recent weeks, more has been lost than just trees.

For many people, the towering pines that define the landscape of this rural region represent family inheritances, years of investment and hopes for the future. Growing trees takes a long time, but the cash they bring in when cut is worth the wait.

This summer's fires have dimmed those prospects for some -- adding insult to injury in an area still dealing with storm damage from three years ago.

"Many of these landowners already incurred losses back in 2020 with hurricanes Laura and Delta," said Robbie Hutchins, an area forester with the LSU AgCenter. "And now, the timber stands they had left, they're decimated. These folks were counting on this for retirement income, for college funds for kids or grandkids, and now they no longer have this income source -- and they now have the burden of the cost of trying to reforest it."

"It is really tragic for forest landowners," Hutchins added. "I can't overstate how devastating this is."

Pine forests that should be vibrant and green are now a striking image of dead, brown needles and charred, black bark. Crews are still working to get fires under control, and there is some risk of them reigniting and spreading to new places in the coming weeks as Louisiana enters what is typically its driest time of year.

Attention is now turning to what is next for landowners -- small ones who may have inherited 10 or 15 acres and large landholding companies alike -- as the economic fallout of the wildfires begins to come into focus.

"An average loss on a pre-merchantable plantation, one that is not old enough to harvest for a merchantable product, is about \$1,000, \$1,500 an acre. If it's a merchantable stand, especially a mature stand that's already grown into a sawtimber-size stand, you could be looking at \$2,000 to \$2,500 an acre worth of loss," Hutchins said. "When you start thinking about the almost 50,000 acres

that have burned, that is a significant economic loss."

Small producers face challenges

Most mom-and-pop forest landowners do not have much of a safety net.

"One of the things we all need to understand that is so devastating about this financially is, unlike row crops,

there are no programs available like crop insurance," Hutchins said. "Forest landowners don't even have the option of insuring their timber."

Some cost-sharing programs, such as the state Forest Productivity Program, are available to help small,

(Continued on page 16)



Fallen needles cover the ground beneath scorched pine trees that burned in the Highway 113 Fire in southwestern Rapides Parish. There is concern that these needles could provide fuel for additional fires in the coming days and weeks. Photo by Olivia McClure/LSU AgCenter.

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CX MS DREAM CHANGER 59LI

SIRE: CX DREAM CHANGER 4IG
DAM: CX MS HOME RUN 59 / Y
REG #: RR10534377



CX MS CANDIE 575K

SIRE: MR JLS 317W-23E
DAM: MISS JLS RED BRICK 575D
REG #: RR10517189



CX MS DREAM FOREVER 46K

SIRE: CX MR DREAM FOREVER 45 / EI
DAM: CX MS DREAM BOY 46FI
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Kirbe Schnoor and Janie Johnson named new hosts for television series FarmHer & RanchHer

Source: RFD-TV

FarmHer, Inc., parent company to FarmHer and RanchHer, is proud to announce today the selection of Kirbe Schnoor and Janie Johnson as its new television hosts for the brands' two network shows returning to primetime on RFD-TV in 2024. Schnoor will take the lead as TV host for FarmHer, and Janie Johnson will run

point as the TV host for RanchHer. The ladies are getting geared up to criss-cross the country with their crews. They will begin shooting this fall from Oregon to California to Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Arizona, and Kentucky, with more states to be added. "With Kirbe and Janie as the new TV hosts for

FarmHer and RanchHer, I have great confidence in the stories we are going to be able to share about women in agriculture, who I believe are the true backbone of America," said Raquel Gottsch Koehler, Owner and CEO of FarmHer, Inc. "Both shows are going to be non-political and celebrate all parts of the farming and ranching industry, through

the eyes of a woman. This is not about what method is best. And size does not matter. It's about celebrating the strength women bring to agriculture, as the women we are featuring exemplify what it means to be a true FarmHer or RanchHer." There are six common themes you will see throughout both FarmHer &

RanchHer this next season:
1. Real women: Heartfelt, authentic stories of women doing meaningful work that connect with FarmHers, RanchHers, and consumers alike.
2. A love of the sand: FarmHers and RanchHers from all walks of life, parts of the land, and types of farms and ranches are

connected through a love of the land. This love will shine in our stories.
3. Family runs deep: Whether a woman is a FarmHer or RanchHer, family is the root of all they do. Our stories connect all parts of a family, as told through the lens of the FarmHer and RanchHer.
4. Community focus: FarmHers and RanchHers have a deep care for the community. Experience the relationship through her story.
5. Feed the people: All food starts at the farm or ranch. Through FarmHer and RanchHer, discover the how and why behind the food on the dinner plate.
6. Encourage and inspire: FarmHer and RanchHer stories uplift, motivate, and fill our cups. These are the stories of courage, determination, and spirit.

About Kirbe Schnoor, new TV host for FarmHer

Coming to Texas via California, where she was raised on her family's almond farm in the Central Valley, Schnoor believes in educating audiences about the agriculture and livestock industries, where their food comes from, the clothes on their back, and the people who make it all possible. She moved to Fort Worth after college to work for Superior Livestock Auction, hosting a daily live broadcast on the cattle market and industry fluctuations that aired on RFD-TV. She went on to be the resident Western Lifestyle and Agricultural Reporter for RFD-TV and The Cowboy Channel, a job that took her cross-country to interview rodeo athletes, livestock exhibitors, entrepreneurs, and public figures. From the fields to the red carpet, she's covered every aspect of western life and culture.

"I can't wait to share the stories of these incredible women and their roles in agriculture," said Schnoor. "Their passion for the industry and determination to share the importance of it is simply amazing. It will be educational and exciting, an experience for all! I'm looking forward to meeting these women and getting a first-hand look into their lives, what makes them who they are, and show what they truly love. Get (Continued on page 25)

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Lot 2: PCC 0165 9337 VANGUARD 2149 Reg# 44471332 Polled
DOB: 3/15/22 S: BIRDWELL VANGUARD 5022 9337 MGS: NJW 792 2311 ENDURE 173D ET
CED 3.9 BW 2.3 WW 64 YW 106 MILK 38 REA 1.01 MARB 0.36 BII 600 CHB 170



Lot 4: PCC 6002 308F DOMINATE 2022 ET Reg# 44412180 Horned
DOB: 2/23/2022 S: SR DOMINATE 308F ET MGS: NJW 735 980 HUTTON 1092 ET
CED 3.7 BW 2.6 WW 54 YW 94 MILK 27 REA 0.48 MARB 0.06 BII 384 CHB 119



Lot 21: PCC 238F FORTIFIED 2167 ET Reg# 44466788 SCURRED
DOB: 4/18/22 S: NJW 848 4040 FORTIFIED 238F MGS: NJW 792 222 MIGHTY 49C ET
CED 7.6 BW 0.6 WW 46 YW 70 MILK 28 REA 0.61 MARB 0.20 BII 531 CHB 112




Lot 12: PCC 0194 0211 LOBO 2077 Reg# 44471051 Horned
DOB: 3/10/2022 S: PCC 457Y 66589 LOBO 0211 ET MGS: NJW 848 4040 FORTIFIED 238F
CED 3.6 BW 1.9 WW 61 YW 95 MILK 24 REA 0.54 MARB 0.11 BII 456 CHB 117



Lot 7: PCC 9149 0183 MAVERICK 2039 Reg# 44466771 Horned
DOB: 2/26/22 S: PCC 7009 173D MAVERICK 0183 ET MGS: BAR 5 MR 509 747
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Cattle reproduction: effect of calving difficulty on reproductive performance

By Dr. Saulo Zoca, University of Tennessee Department of Animal Science assistant professor

Fall calving season is upon us and what happens during this time can affect our breeding season results. Dystocia is the proper name given to when there are any problems during birth, i.e., calving. It can be associated with a plethora of reasons such as a calf that is larger than the birth canal or a calf that is not in the correct position for calving. Age of the dam, calf sex and birth weight are a few other things that are associated with the incidence of dystocia. With that, heifers have a greater chance than mature cows to have dystocia, with male and heavier calves having a greater chance of causing calving difficulty than female and lighter calves. Thus, a mature cow carrying a light heifer has less chance of having a calving problem than a heifer carrying a heavy bull calf.

Dystocia can cause major economic impacts in our operations, the first and most noticeable is the loss of a calf; however, it can have long lasting effects to the dam's reproductive efficiency. It is very common for a cow that has experienced calving difficulty to display certain diseases such as retention of fetal membranes (retained placenta) that might cause uterine infection (pyometra) and predispose cows to ovarian dysfunction and subsequent reduced fertility. Further, dystocia can be a silent villain because of its effect on postpartum anestrus.

Anestrus is the period when cows and heifers are not cycling, meaning that there is no ovarian activity thus, no estrus. In heifers, anestrus is naturally occurring on pre-pubertal animals and ceases when they become pubertal and have regular estrus interval. In cows, it naturally occurs after calving and its length is variable based on age, presence of calf (milking events), nutritional status, and calving event (dystocia). The postpartum anestrus can range from 14 to 180 days; in mature cows, an interval of 30 to 90 days to return to cyclicity is considered normal while in young cows (2-year-old), an interval of up to 120 days is also considered normal. Management of the postpartum anestrus is already a hard job by itself; however, when a cow experiences dystocia it has the potential to increase anestrus even longer.

Research investigating

the impact of dystocia on postpartum interval and conception rates indicates that as incidence of dystocia increased, the time needed for uterine involution and the postpartum anestrus also increased. Thus, the number of females that had resumed cyclicity by the beginning of the breeding season were smaller and consequently there were less females pregnant by ar-

tificial insemination as well as at the end of the breeding season.

Any time a cow goes through prolonged calving, her reproductive performance and the calf health can be compromised. Nevertheless, some obstetric actions can be taken to mitigate the impact of dystocia. The average duration of parturition has been reported to

be 54 minutes for heifers (first time calving) and 22 minutes for cows. In the same report, a bull calf delivery took on average 8 minutes longer than a heifer calf. Research results have reported that the use of early obstetrical assistance given when the reproductive tract (cervix) was fully dilated reduced the negative effects associated with postpartum reproductive prob-

lems; also, calf performance was not affected when proper obstetrical assistance was performed. Furthermore, for every 30 minutes delay in assistance after 1.5 hours of stage II labor (first appear-

ance of the water bag until calf is delivered) resulted in a 6 day longer interval to pregnancy on the following estrous cycle.

To mitigate the effects
(Continued on page 13)

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WEATHER WISE

By Brian Bledsoe

History repeats in weather

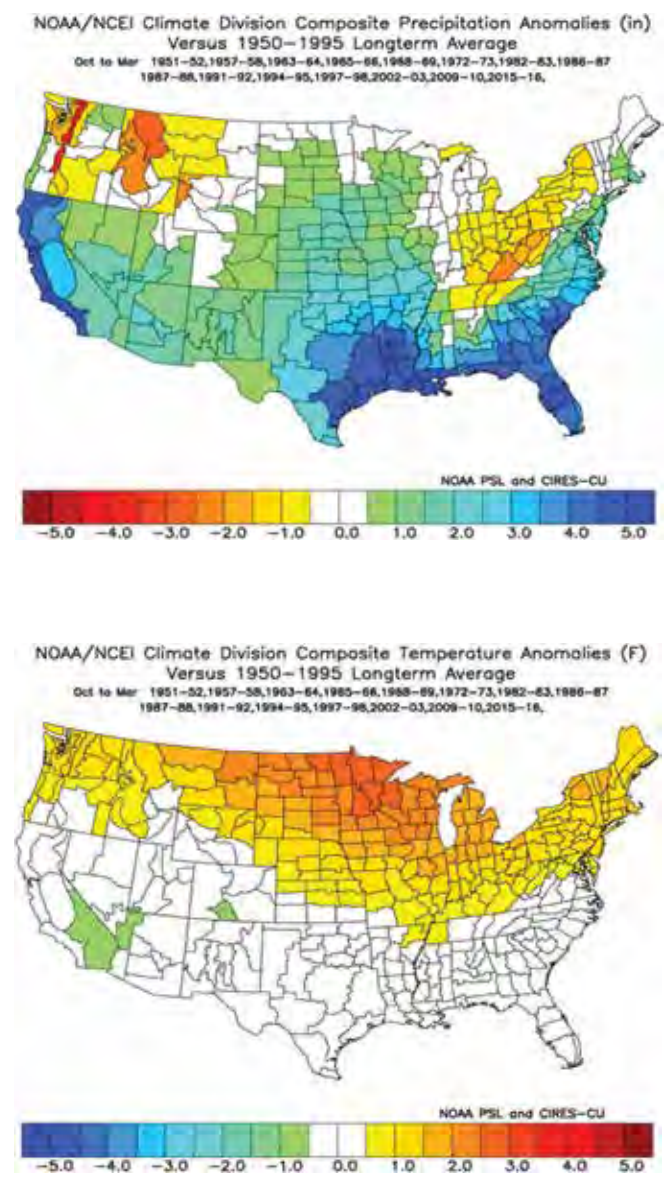
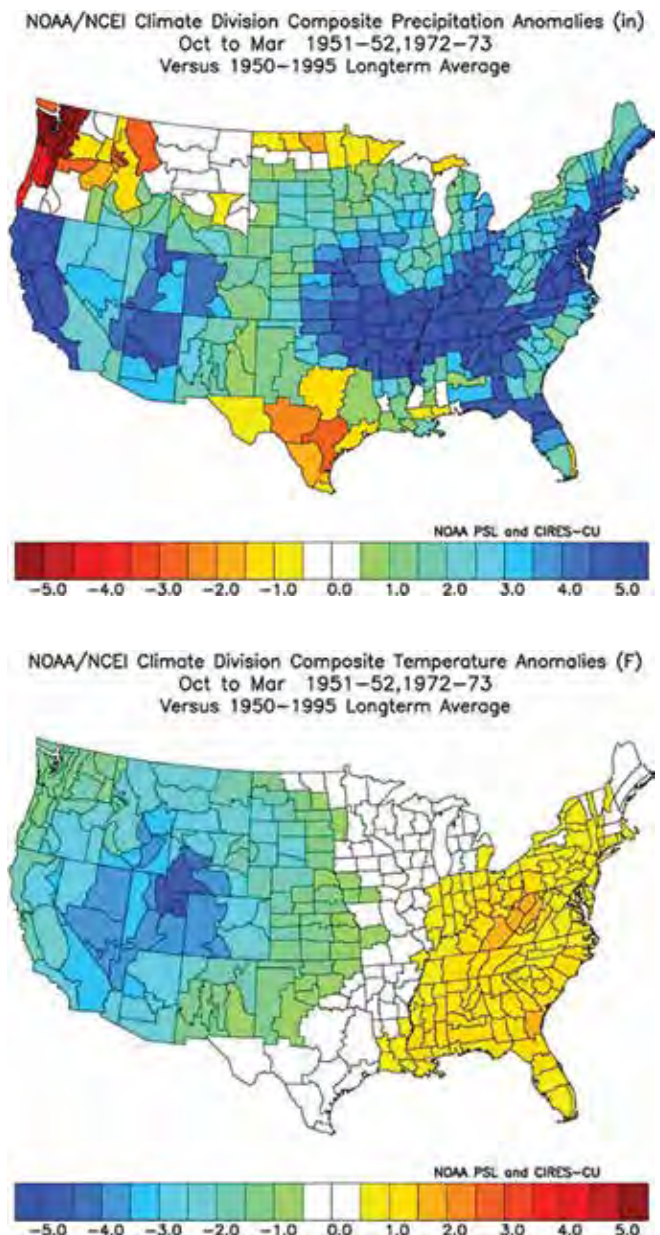
What is an analog year? **Years in the past with weather patterns similar to the current weather pattern and those projected by the weather models for the next several months. Basically, using history to help forecast the future.**

I always like to share with you some analog years for the next several months, and this year we have strong El Niño to work with. The other thing about this fall and winter, is that we have a strong El Niño with a negative/cold Pacific Decadal Oscillation. That is somewhat rare... Since 1950, we've only had two years with a strong El Niño and a negative/cold PDO...1951-52 and 1972-73. The two maps below show the precipitation and temperature anomalies averaged out for those two years, from October through March.

that it does show some dry anomalies across parts of Texas. Typically, El Niño will bring wetter than average conditions to Texas and the Gulf Coast. The temperature anomaly map (second image) reflects the cold in the west and the warmth in the east during these two events. Not too out of whack, but historically, the cooler than average weather ends up in the South and the warmer than average weather in the North. The following map shows all the El Niño years since 1950 and their precipitation and temperature anomalies averaged out, from October through March.

Those maps are a little more in line with what we would expect El Niño to produce. Wettest in the southern half of the country, drier to the north. Certainly warmer than average across the north, with average to cooler than average south.

So, is there a perfect analog for the upcoming fall and winter? No... However, history would suggest that the southern tier of the country would be wetter and cooler than average. A lot of computer model information supports this too. However, I am always leary of the blanket statement associated with El Niño or La Niña. Every event is different and can may times have unexpected impacts. We still have some time to watch this evolve, but just wanted to show you some history and what is "expected."



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

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The interesting thing about the precipitation anomaly map (first image), is

Noble Research Institute expands new program offering farmers and ranchers the essentials of regenerative ranch management

Source: Noble Research Institute

Noble Research Institute announced the expansion of *Essentials of Regenerative Ranching*, a new educational program designed to help ranchers enhance and restore the land, making it more resilient and reaching livestock grazing goals through regenerative management. *Essentials of Regenerative Ranching* provides producers with practical tools, hands-on experience and guidance to make data-driven decisions to decrease costs and improve profit.

The *Essentials of Regenerative Ranching* course has been expanded to three new locations in Texas and Oklahoma. Registration is open now at www.noble.org/essentials. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended.

“Program participants gain working knowledge and experience of monitoring and improving the health of their soil, grazing livestock more strategically and making informed financial decisions.”

Cattle...

(Continued from page 11)

of dystocia on the following breeding season we need to be proactively checking cows (and heifers) this upcoming fall calving season, so we can intervene as early as possible WHEN NECESSARY. One of the best practice management strategies to reduce the incidence of dystocia is selecting sires proven to be easy calving, especially with smaller cows and young heifers. So as calving season gets into full swing, we need to remember the impacts calving season can have on the upcoming breeding season. When dystocia does occur, proper intervention will help reduce reproductive problems during the following breeding season. However, planning to prevent dystocia is of equal importance.

Hopefully, dystocia is not a major concern on your operation. However, if any cows or heifers experience dystocia, we hope these tools will allow you to be proactive in dealing with the situation, and thus decrease the negative effects it can have on the upcoming breeding season.

said Hugh Aljoe, Noble Research Institute’s director of ranches, outreach and partnerships. “We use a mix of classroom and field work to send producers home with the tools they need to begin mak-

ing changes on their ranch.” Farmers and ranchers navigate uncertainty from weather, fluctuating market prices and escalating costs of inputs. Many producers are seeking new tools that offer

greater control and reduce their operational uncertainty. Through this course, ranchers and farmers will calculate their financial situations, determine initial stocking rates, carrying capacity and grazing

goals. “The course is well-suited for ranchers of all experience levels and all types and sizes of operations,” Aljoe added. “No matter your situation, this program

will transform the way you think about your ranch.”

The *Essentials of Regenerative Ranching* program allows producers to overcome obstacles, become more informed
(Continued on page 14)

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New podcast provides modern management resources to cattle raisers

Source: Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association today announced the launch of the School for Successful Ranching Podcast, a limited six-part educational podcast exploring modern best management practices for animal health, nutrition, pasture and wildlife management, genetics and more.

Leveraging key principles in Beef Quality Assurance,

the podcast features ranchers discussing the challenges and benefits of various management practices on their own operations. In addition, industry experts chime in to share how science has driven these standardized practices across the U.S. beef industry.

“Beef quality assurance is a nationally recognized program, but Texans need to know how implementation

This is a limited six-part educational podcast exploring modern best management practices for animal health, nutrition, pasture and wildlife management, genetics and more.

looks in real-life scenarios,” said Emily Lochner, executive director of education and engagement. “This isn’t your everyday podcast – ranchers and wildlife owners can

take away tangible practices and answer tough-hitting questions, giving cattle raisers tools they can implement today.”

Podcast episodes for the

limited series include:

- **Environmental management** – Matt Crow, of Crow and Parks Ranches, dives into environmental management, land stewardship and how to utilize available resources to build stable ground for cattle industry success.
- **Proper cattle handling** – Molli Foxley, unit foreman of the East

Foundation, discusses how proper handling methods to transportation, working and maintaining cattle leads to low stress environments.

- **Nutrition** – Gabe Jennings, of Jennings Ventures Cattle, shares advice on finding the best minerals and supplements to promote proper nutrition and enhance herd health.
- **Record keeping and data management** – Foster Burchett of La Babia Cattle Company joins to discuss what records producers need to be maintaining and the importance of herd data management.
- **Reproduction and genetics** – Cord Weinheimer, Southwest region field representative of the American Hereford Association and Weinheimer Ranches, dives into genetic selection, understanding the genetics of a herd, and how to evaluate what types of genetics will best fit your environment.
- **Animal health** – Third-generation rancher, Missy Bonds of Bonds Ranch, joins to talk about whole herd health, cattle treatment plans and how to examine and treat cattle that may be sick.

The podcast was produced in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Beef Council and sponsored by Midcontinent Livestock Supplements. To listen to the podcast, visit www.tscra.org/ssrpodcast.

Noble...

(Continued from page 13) problem-solvers, and increase the productivity of their grazing lands. By participating in this program, ranchers join a community of like-minded producers who are shaping the future of ranching and leaving a lasting impact on their land and families. “If I had known what I learned in this course when I started my regenerative journey, I could have avoided some key mistakes,” said Tana McCarter, a rancher, and *Essentials* attendee. “I left with the tools I needed to monitor my soil health and financial progress. I’ll now have the right data to make informed decisions on how to meet my regenerative goals.”

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Management of bull preputial injuries

By Taylor Bacon Oklahoma State University public relations and marketing coordinator

Preputial injuries in bulls can cause considerable economic loss and significantly impact a producer's breeding plans. Understanding the severity of a prepuce injury is critical to the outcome of the condition.

Bulls with pendulous sheaths and polled breeds have a high incidence of preputial injuries. A significant relationship appears to exist between a pendulous sheath and the tendency of habitual eversion of the prepuce. In polled breeds, this tendency may be due to incomplete development of the preputial muscles. Polled breeds with pendulous sheaths, such as eared breeds, are the most susceptible to preputial injuries.

Prepuce injuries can be categorized as lacerations, avulsions, contusions, frostbite and abrasions. Lacerations, contusions and abrasions are most common in range conditions. Habitual eversion can cause injury and infection that eventually results in phimosis or stenosis of the prepuce. If there are plans to use the bull for future breeding, surgery is often necessary.

Infection of the prepuce may also lead to abscess formation. The location of the abscess is usually midway between the preputial opening and the scrotum. Bulls with preputial abscesses seldom recover enough to be used for breeding purposes. Paraphimosis (prolapsed penis) due to injury of the penis or frostbite is serious and often results in the bull being sold for slaughter at a considerable economic loss.

Acute preputial prolapse should be managed conservatively. Therapy involves cleaning the area and prolapse reduction. The author recommends preputial massage using a formula of 0.5 kg of lanolin containing 60 ml scarlet oil and 60 ml of oxytetracycline (100mg or 200mg) called "Petercillin" or "Petermycin." The lanolin protects the tissue and prevents dehydration. The scarlet oil promotes epithelialization and healing, while the tetracycline provides a broad-spectrum antibiotic.

The benefits of preputial massage for acute cases of preputial prolapse cannot be over-emphasized. Fifteen to 20 minutes of continuous massage will have a marked effect in reducing edema. The objective is to massage the edema or swelling of the pro-

lapsed tissue and replace the prolapse in the sheath, thus protecting the tissue from ex-

Prompt and appropriate care is key to the successful management of preputial injuries in bulls. Clients must be made aware of the serious nature of preputial injuries and the importance of prompt medical attention.

posure and additional trauma. Once reduction is accomplished, preputial retention

is necessary and can be done by using either a purse string suture or the tape/tube reten-

tion technique. The preputial retention device is left on for two weeks to let the prepuce

heal and reduce the edema. Then, the preputial retention device should be removed, and the bull observed closely for two to three days to ensure it does not prolapse.

If prolapse recurs, it should be reduced, and therapy continued for 10 to 14 days. If the prepuce heals and the bull still cannot keep the prepuce inside the sheath, surgery is recommended. In this case, owners should let the prepuce heal and give the bull



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sexual rest for at least eight weeks. This should allow enough time for the prepuce to heal and shrink the amount of scar tissue if surgery is needed. After the healing process, reefing surgery or prepu-

tial amputation surgery is indicated to remove the excess prepuce or phimosis of the preputial cavity.

Chronic preputial prolapse with severe tissue

(Continued on page 18)









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 <p>BT MR. THOMAS 13/2 DOB: 2/11/2022 • Sire: BT Mr. Thomas 233/5 BW: 75 • Adj WW: 773 • Adj YW: 1602 • REA: 18.45 %IMF: 3.84 • TSI: 228.7 • SC: 38</p>	 <p>BT MR. THOMAS 45/2 DOB: 3/4/2022 • Sire: TT Mr. Thomas 11/7 BW: 80 • Adj WW: 694 • Adj YW: 1468 • REA: 18.61 %IMF: 5.61 • TSI: 237.8 • SC: 40</p>	 <p>BT MR. THOMAS 120/2 DOB: 5/28/2022 • Sire: JVS/BJCF Back the Blue F11 BW: 80 • Adj WW: 749 • Adj YW: 1375 • REA: 16.31 %IMF: 4.03 • TSI: N/A • SC: 39</p>
 <p>LMT MR. THOMAS 91/2 DOB: 6/15/2022 • Sire: LMT Mr. Thomas 83/8 BW: 78 • Adj WW: 788 • Adj YW: 1414 • REA: 15.91 %IMF: 3.71 • TSI: 257.4 • SC: 37</p>	 <p>TT MR. THOMAS 153/2 DOB: 5/18/2022 • Sire: WC Recon 8371 P BW: 80 • Adj WW: 767 • Adj YW: 1409 • REA: 18.71 %IMF: 4.75 • TSI: 247.8 • SC: 39</p>	

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Wildfires...

(Continued from page 9)

private forest landowners with site preparation and re-planting expenses.

Hutchins has been busy lately directing people to information on programs for which they may qualify. The assistance can make a big difference for those who have lost valuable timber and are now staring down the cost of reforestation damaged property.

"That's a double whammy if you've lost your initial investment and you've got to turn around and dump that

kind of money into the land," he said.

Economy depends on timber

Companies that manage large tracts of timberland and mill owners will face repercussions from the fires, too. Questions are swirling about how the timber supply will be impacted, which could have a trickle-down, negative effect on the local economy, Hutchins said.

"Do you need as many logging contractors? Do you need the fuel suppliers, the equipment manufacturers and dealers?" he said. "The whole economy of this area is

based on the timber industry."

Timber is the state's No. 1 agricultural commodity. Nearly 15 million acres, more than half of the land in Louisiana, is covered in forests.

"Forestry and the forest products industry has a greater than \$10 billion per year impact on Louisiana's economy," Hutchins said. "Forestry and logging are the backbone of rural Louisiana, especially western Louisiana and southwest Louisiana. It's a major employer here."

Hutchins spent a recent Tuesday with Paul Stone, a conservation for-

ester with Crosby Resource Management, checking out trees that were charred by what has been named the Highway 113 Fire. Also known as the Cooter's Bog Fire, it is estimated to have burned about 8,000 acres in Rapides and Vernon parishes.

A much larger blaze, the Tiger Island Fire, has destroyed more than 30,000 acres in nearby Beauregard Parish. Several other, smaller fires are burning in west-central parishes.

While devastating, these kinds of large wildfires are not unprecedented in this part of Louisiana. Stone and

Hutchins remember a similar situation in 2000, when fires burned about 30,000 acres near Oakdale and 10,000 more near Lacamp.

About half of the current fires are believed to be the result of arson, Stone said, with the rest being sparked by lightning strikes from summer storms with lots of energy but little rain.

Some timber salvageable

Stone said his company, like many landowners, is planning to salvage what it can and then replant.

"Some of the large timber we may be able to salvage," he said. "We'll have to move

it a longer distance to mills that are willing to accept wood that's been burned."

Local mills are generally rejecting burned material because of the type products their wood is used for, he said.

"The black bark and black wood interfere with their pulping process," Stone said. "In all likelihood, we will not be able to salvage any pulpwood, and the sawtimber will be reduced to what is merchantable and what can be hauled at a reasonable rate."

Pulpwood is primarily used for making paper products while sawtimber refers to logs that can be sawed into lumber.

Fire risk remains

As Stone and Hutchins stood in a fire line where trees had been cut down to stop the spread of flames, they examined a stand of scorched pines near the Rapides Parish community of Westport. Dead, brown needles drifted down from overhead.

"They're falling like rain," Hutchins observed.

The piles of pine needles along with downed timber that's still on the ground from the 2020 hurricanes are causing concern as wildfires continue to burn and as Louisiana's typical fall fire season approaches. They could provide fuel for old fires to reignite and for new ones to start, especially once drier, windier and cooler weather arrives.

"All those conditions are normally what we fear," Hutchins said. "But now, we fear them even more."

Stone and Hutchins, both veterans of the forestry industry, know from experience that completely extinguishing big wildfires takes a lot of time and effort.

"We've had reburns take off 30 days after a previous fire when stumps were burning that long underground," Stone said.

'It's important for all of us'

The foresters are hopeful for rain and are grateful for the outpouring of support from other states.

While the two surveyed damaged forests, firetrucks and pickups hauling equipment passed consistently on country roads that usually see only occasional local traffic. They bore decals from agencies in Texas, Idaho, Georgia, North Carolina and many other states.

Hutchins is optimistic that the tall pine trees that make up the scenery of this area of Louisiana will one day return. Economics aside, he said, forests are valuable to everyone.

"It's important for all (Continued on page 17)

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SEVEN P RANCH

50-year-old Endangered Species Act finally has a manual for farmers thanks to the National Ag Law Center

By Mary Hightower, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A half-century after Richard Nixon signed it into law, the Endangered Species Act now has a user manual to help farmers, thanks to the National Agricultural Law Center.

Brigit Rollins, an attorney whose research for center focuses on environmental law, said she saw a significant need in farming for a guide to this historic and wide-ranging piece of legislation.

“The Endangered Species Act does impact agriculture and land use quite a bit, but it’s not always easy to understand how and why it does what it does,” Rollins said. “So, part of the point of this project is to answer those questions: ‘What is it?’ ‘What does it do?’ ‘How does it function?’ etc.”

Creating the 65-page Endangered Species Act Manual: A Practical Guide to the ESA for Agricultural Producers was no small task. After all, the document of law itself is 44 pages long.

“From start to finish, it took probably a year to a year-and-a-half,” she said.

The manual’s posting online in April was just the start of its life, Rollins said, adding that the “manual is going to be a living document, one that stays up to date.”

50 years

The law was passed at a time when environmental issues were at the forefront of public discussions. Eleven years before its passage, Rachel Carson’s book “Silent Spring,” described the effects of pesticide use on bird populations, including the bald eagle. In 1963, there were an estimated 417 breeding pairs

of bald eagles in the 48 contiguous states.

Rollins said “there was a 10-year period between the ‘60s and ‘70s where we did see a lot of environmental law passed, including ESA, whose goal was to reduce — and hopefully stop — wild-

life loss. Also, during that decade, the EPA was founded in 1970, and in 1972, Congress passed another piece of landmark legislation, the Clean Water Act.

“With lots of species seemingly ready to become extinct, there was lots of

support for the Endangered Species Act,” she said.

For the breadth of its reach in protecting endangered or threatened species, “it’s actually fairly simplistic in how it functions,” Rollins said. The law is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Not long after it went into effect, the Endangered Species Act hit the headlines when work on the Tellico Dam project in Tennessee

was halted. The snail darter, which won protection under the young law, was discovered near the construction site. The dam had been in the planning stages since before

(Continued on page 21)

HF

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EM872532

Sire: LT Blue Value 7903 ET Dam: LCC Miss Lady 8870 4297 GS

CE 9.8 BW -0.5 WW 76.6% YW 136.6% Milk 19

TSI 277.91 6% CW 35.75% Marb 0.37 2%



HF Empire 770K4 ET

UB10504658

Sire: BMR Empire 795D12 Dam: Baldridge Isabel C770

CED 6.8 25% BW -0.5 25% WW 37.75% YW 59.25%

Milk 3 SC 0.51 REA 0.65 4% IMF 0.31 75%



HF Monticello 2283 ET

EM874173

Sire: FTJ Monticello 1806 Dam: Southern Elaine 5221

CE 8.0 BW 0.8 WW 69.20% YW 147.2% Milk 9

TSI 291.71 2% CW 50.7% Marb 0.26 8%



HF Iconic 30K9 ET

UB10509848

Sire: DB Iconic G95 Dam: T3 Ms Three D 30D

CED 3.2 BW 0.2 WW 44.5% YW 75.10%

Milk 6 SC 0.96 15% REA 0.44 20% IMF 0.37 10%



RBR Southern Alaine CH02

EAB88800

Sire: LT Blue Value 7903 ET Dam: Southern Elaine 5221

CE 12.4 35% BW -1.3 WW 68.25% YW 118.00% Milk 23

TSI 259.58 35% CW 31.20% Marb 0.21 75%



HF Ms Big Lake 5804K3 ET

UB10506640

Sire: BWR Big Lake 111F4 Dam: SAV Madame Pride 5804

CED 3.2 BW 1.2 WW 50.7% YW 77.2%

Milk 1 SC 1.33 2% REA 0.25 35% IMF 0.79 7%

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Wildfires...

(Continued from page 16)

of us, whether we are forest landowners or not, that these lands be reforested,” he said. “Healthy, growing forests produce lots of oxygen and clean water. They store lots of carbon from out of the atmosphere.”

If there is any silver lining to the situation, he added, it is that relatively few homes have been lost to the fires.

“Thankfully, for the most part, it has been primarily forestland that has been affected,” he said.



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- Ricketson Herefords, Dalhart, TX
- Ronny Schlegel, Olney, TX
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- Texas A&M Commerce, Commerce, TX
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Management...

(Continued from page 15)

damage, edema and necrosis is often the result of neglect or poor observation. Often, the inflammation and necrotic tissue on the prepuce is so extensive at the time of initial examination, it is extremely difficult to make an accurate prognosis. In these cases, a poor prognosis must be given, and the owner should be advised that seven to 10 days of therapy may be necessary before attempting prognosis. Often, chronic prolapses cannot be reduced initially and require extensive therapy before reduction can be accomplished.

If extensive fibrosis and stenosis are present, reduction may not be possible. Treatment involves hydrotherapy, soaking the prolapsed prepuce with Epsom salt and betadine solution for 30 minutes, then massaging with the previously described formula for 10 to 15 minutes to reduce the prolapse. In cases where reduction cannot be accomplished after every treatment, the lanolin formula should be applied to the prolapsed tissue, a two-inch stockinette rolled over the prepuce and a pressure bandage applied. Rubber tubing

such as a garden hose or endotracheal tube is placed in the prolapsed prepuce to provide an opening for urine. A pressure bandage is applied using gauze over the stockinette. A pressure bandage can be created using vet wrap and elastic tape applied with moderate pressure. The pendulous prolapse is then supported with either a diaper or sling depending on the temperament of the bull. The dressing should be changed daily and accompanied by attempts to reduce the prolapse. Once the inflammation and swelling have subsided, the degree of fibrosis can be evaluated.

Surgical intervention is usually considered if fibrosis and stenosis have occurred. However, caution should be exercised to allow sufficient time for complete healing to occur. This often requires six to eight weeks of sexual rest. Reevaluation after the rest period allows not only a better assessment of the need for surgery but also the opportunity to reevaluate genetic and economic factors. Clients should be advised that a positive breeding outcome is not guaranteed and obtaining another bull should be considered.

The British breeds often do not possess enough pre-

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putial tissue to permit the removal of a fibrotic or stenotic section and still allow for sufficient penile extension to accomplish intromission. Surgery is common in Bos indicus and exotic breeds, which have pendulous sheaths and extensive amounts of preputial tissue.

In summary, prompt and appropriate care is key to the successful management of

preputial injuries in bulls. Clients must be made aware of the serious nature of preputial injuries and the importance of prompt medical attention. The objective of the therapy is to control contamination, prevent further trauma and reduce fibrosis. This requires prompt reduction of the prolapsed prepuce. Once reduced, the bovine prepuce has a tremendous healing capacity.

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Executive Director's Report...

By: Cooper Little

Howdy, ICA Members and SLS readers.

Texas agriculture touches every Texan, every day. With the goal of increasing awareness of the vital role that agriculture plays in lives, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller launched the Farm Fresh Initiative to focus on creating meaningful connections between Texas farmers, ranchers, schools, childcare providers, and local communities.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) created our Farm Fresh initiative to connect Texans across the Lone Star State to agriculture and local farmers and ranchers. The goal is to increase community collaborations, promote healthy lifestyles and improve the Texas economy.

TDA's Farm Fresh Network is a searchable online database of Texas farmers, ranchers, distributors, and food producers interested in selling to schools, child and adult care centers, and summer feeding programs. School and childcare nutrition staff use the database to source local Texas products for their cafeterias. Members also have access to exclusive networking events and marketing resources provided by TDA. Becoming a Farm Fresh Network member is FREE, easy, and has huge benefits for you and for Texas students!

This is a great program ICA members should consider utilizing, especially if you sell beef direct.

Sign up at: squaremeals.org

Chapter Happenings... Around The Lone Star State

South Central Texas ICA Chapter News

On Sept. 30th, we will be hosting our South Central Texas ICA Ranch Rodeo in Stockdale, Texas. Get a team together and join the fun! Don't forget the mutton bustin' for kids (6 and under.) The number of ranch teams will be limited to 10. The entry fee is \$800 with 80% payback. Buckles will go to the champion team, top hand, and top horse. Gates open at 10 a.m. and events begin at 1:00 p.m. Call 210/415-3906 for more information or to enter your team (payable by noon on Sept. 30th). Parking is free and admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children (ages 7 to 18) and children under 7 get in free.

Brazos Valley ICA Chapter News

The Brazos Valley Chapter of the Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association met at C&J Barbecue in Bryan on Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 7 p.m. County Extension Agent Chad Caperton, from Texas AgriLife Extension Service, presented a program about feral hog control research and the various programs that Texas AgriLife offers. Chris Morgan was a meal sponsor, and he gave a talk about

Lewis Cattle Oilers. Future ideas for meetings were discussed prior to adjournment.

Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter News

At the Victoria-Crossroads ICA chapter, we are happy to announce that we have a gun raffle going on through early December. There is a wide variety of guns being raffled off, such as a Bergara B14 Hunter, Bolt Action, 24" Bbl., 300 Win. Mag, a Trister, Viper G2 Synthetic, 3" chamber, 28" Bbl., 14 Ga. and many more. If you would like to purchase a ticket, they are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Gun raffle tickets can be purchased at the ICA State Office, or you can contact Jackie Parsons at 361/550-8586. The drawing will be held Dec. 16, 2023, and you do not need to be present to win. Our next chapter meeting is on Oct. 19, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Taqueria Jalisco in Cuero, Texas. We look forward to seeing you!

Southeast Texas ICA Chapter News

Hello, from Southeast Texas. Our annual draw-down fundraiser will be held Saturday, Oct. 28th and past ticket holders should have received their letters about

(Continued on page 20)



President's Address...

By: Kerry Wiggins

RAIN! Finally!

Lots of prayers answered in the last few days as most of the state received beneficial amounts of rain along with milder temperatures. And the cattle market is holding up well.

We had our first quarterly meeting of the State ICA Board of Directors this past week with good attendance. Financials for 2022-2023 were finalized, showing that the association is in good financial condition. The 2023-2024 budget was approved. We anticipate that we should be able to achieve higher net income than budgeted based on the growth of membership and the

continuing revenue growth from the annual convention. The 2024 convention will be big number 50! Fifty anniversaries! ICA has come a long way and the future remains bright as new chapters have formed and are seeking additional members. Please remember to refer your friends and neighbors.

Remember the Right to Farm bill that you'll have the opportunity to vote on this fall. It is important to all of us to retain our rights as farmers and ranchers to continue operations, regardless of urban creep. Inform yourself and your neighbors.

Enjoy the cooler weather.



UPCOMING Events

Oct. 20 - Central Texas ICA Bull and Commercial Female Sale, Gonzales, Texas

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Chapter...

(Continued from page 19)
the event. We have 275 tickets and ticket holders from the previous year have first chance. Last year, we did have some tickets turn over and I always have a waiting list that I would be glad to add your name to if you are interested in the best ribeye steak dinner and fellowship event in Southeast Texas. You can also participate by being a sponsor as an individual or through your business, which will gain you an advertisement and two tickets to the event. Call Chairman

James Riley at 409/291-0336 or myself at 409/454-6961 or Riley ranch@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Guada-Coma ICA Chapter News

The Guada-Coma ICA Chapter held its meeting Monday, Sept 18th at Seguin Cattle Company. Beckers Feed and Fertilizer sponsored the meal and program for the evening.

Mike Warner with Agritex International gave a very informative program on Advanced-Cal, a unique blend of liquid calcium for neutralizing soil acidity

and is a leader in soil treatments to boost soil nutrition and overall plant health and growth. He talked of it being a one pass soil treatment to raise calcium saturation and restore micro-nutrients and minerals to the soil giving higher yields on our crops and hay. Many people had questions and Warner was very informative about how this product works.

Brad Cotton also spoke about the September ICA Board of Directors meeting and the committee assignments.

Glenn Tate talked about

the upcoming ICA Bull and Female Sale in Gonzales in October.

We reminded members of our Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. This is our fundraiser for the year, so members were reminded that we need live and silent auction items.

Remember to keep praying for rain!

West Texas ICA Chapter News

The West Texas ICA chapter had a great chapter meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 26th in Fort Stockton! A great meal was provided, door prizes were given out, and meteorologist Jonathan Jennings (with West Texas Weather Modification Association) discussed weather modification and long-range forecast. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our next meeting!

Mid-Tex ICA Chapter News

Howdy folks, from the Mid-Tex ICA Chapter!

The scattered rain showers and small break in 105+ temps have been much appreciated the last couple of weeks. Our next Mid-Tex chapter meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 26th at the Lockhart Auction Barn. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and we'd love to see you there. Our guest speaker and meeting sponsor is Web Spahr with Longhorn S Feed Store out of Luling. Also, we are having a garage sale fundraiser Sept. 30th at the state ICA office in Lockhart starting at 8:00 a.m. (We are still happily taking donations of gently used items for the garage sale.)

The South Central Texas Cattlewomen's chapter will be on site serving a pancake breakfast. Please mark it on your calendar to stop by and shop. As always, pray for rain and for the USA.

East Texas ICA Chapter News

Here is a great opportunity for Texas farmers, ranchers and producers, called Texas Farm Fresh. Texas Farm Fresh is working to create a Farm Fresh generation by connecting local schools with Texas agriculture. This movement was started by Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller to cultivate an enduring mindset among new generations in which foods are chosen with the knowledge that those choices positively impact not only their own health, but the health of the community at large. Learn more about how to get involved with Texas Farm Fresh by visiting their website, www.squaremeals.org

Gonzales ICA Chapter News

Get ready for the Independent Cattlemen's Association Central Texas All-Breed Bull & Female Sale. Cattle arrival at the sale site will be from Wednesday, Oct. 18th – Thursday, Oct. 19th, and the sale will begin promptly at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20th with bulls being sold first. The sale entry deadline is Sunday, Oct. 1st. The rules and cosignment forms for the sale can be found on the ICA website under the forms & links tab. If you have any questions or concerns, you can also call the ICA State Office at 512/620-0162 or email tica@icatexas.com.

Colorado Valley ICA Chapter News

The Colorado Valley Independent Cattlemen's Association (CVICA) prepared hamburgers for the FCFJCHS on Aug. 26, at the La Grange Fairgrounds. Ron Denham coordinated the event and set up the booth. The following members prepared and served the hamburgers with condiments:

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(Left to right) Dr. James Tiemann, DVM, Steve Janda, Ron Denham, Loretta Denham, Bill Sickon, Tara Sickon, Jeff Gau and David Karisch prepared the hamburgers.

Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)
never happened. Siringo reported that Dick McNulty, who owned the Turkey Track Ranch in the Panhandle, and Chuck Beeson, owner of the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City, brokered a peace

deal with Allison and his men, and that no confrontation with Earp or Masterson ever took place. McNulty later verified Siringo's account, and so it might have happened just that way.

Like the alleged incident with Wild Bill and

John Wesley Hardin, Earp and Masterson versus Clay Allison is a good story but not necessarily good history, except to point out that people tend to like good stories about famous or infamous people whether the stories are true or not.

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Source: Texas Beef Council

In the cattle industry, everyone is an advocate, not for the popularity or attention gained, but because producers and industry leaders want to engage and educate consumers about production agriculture and their way of life. Texas Beef Council (TBC) recognizes the importance of transparently communicating about production practices and strives to give Texas producers the tools, resources and educational opportunities to do so successfully.

TBC works to nurture and encourage Texas' young industry leaders by hosting programs, events and activities for youth. One such event was working with youth involved in Texas Brigades. The Brigades is a nonprofit organization with a mission to educate and empower adolescents with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.

During the Texas Brigades' summer events, student leaders across Texas met to discuss their role in the beef industry, and TBC was able to assist in that conversation. Through Grilling 101 programs, advocacy discussions and Beef Checkoff updates, TBC met with more than 50 Brigades students and adult leaders across Texas in June.

"The Brigades is a unique

and impactful experience for students to learn land stewardship and livestock production in a hands-on approach," explains Chris Farley, Ranch Brigades' committee coordinator. "These students learn everything from "Gate to Plate" in ranching and take these skills back into their communities. We appreciate the role TBC plays in this event to challenge students to advocate for the beef industry each and every day."

In addition to the opportunity to develop Brigades, TBC collaborates and practice advanced lead-

The Brigades is a nonprofit organization with a mission to educate and empower adolescents with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.

with the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador program. This program provides high school-aged 4-H members

Ambassador Kade Lawrence, this program is helping him to fulfill his goal of being a beef advocate. "Being a positive and impactful voice for our beef industry is extremely vital," he said. "Too often, beef production and consumption are the target of negative media attention. My fulfillment comes through researching the issue, learning the facts and telling the true story of our industry."

Victoria Heller, senior

agriculture communications and education manager at TBC, is impressed with these students' dedication to advocating for beef. "I have had the pleasure of working with this program for the past several years. These students are the best of the best and truly have a passion for the livestock industry. They strive to make it better, and they have proven that they can!"

TBC provides livestock
(Continued on page 25)

Central Texas ICA All-Breed Bull & Female Sale

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Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 19, 2023

- 4-7 P.M.- Viewing of Cattle

Friday, October 20, 2023

- 11 A.M.- Sale Begins
- Will Sell Bulls followed by Females (Breds, Pairs, and Opens)

- Lunch served during sale

For more information contact the Sale Managers:
Bill Hyman: (830) 857-3500 | Brian Malaer: (830) 203-1030
Email: gonzalesicasale@gmail.com

50-year-old...

(Continued from page 17)

World War II and was 90 percent complete when the controversy began. The dam was eventually exempted from the law and completed in 1980.

The law again made national news two decades later when the northern spotted owl — listed as threatened — prompted the creation of the Northwest Forest Plan. The plan reduced logging in federal forest lands in Oregon and other parts of the northwestern United States to preserve the owl's habitat.

Today, the Endangered Species Act plays a significant role in agriculture. In 2022, the act prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to ban use of the herbicide Enlist in 11 Arkansas counties to protect the American Burying Beetle.

In June, the EPA rolled out a proposal that would limit pesticide use in the habitat of 27 listed species.

Will you capitalize on increasing cow value?

By Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension educator

What a difference a year makes when it comes to cow prices! Whether it is weigh up cows at \$1.10 per pound or young bred heifers and cows pushing \$2,500 – \$3,000 per head, the recent rise in prices has been dramatic. Many cow-calf producers will sell calves this fall and make a solid profit. For areas that have received rain and forage is available, this will encourage retaining of heifers and the rebuilding of cowherds that have been reduced due to drought. The motivation of many will be to keep and acquire as many bred cows as possible to produce more high dollar calves.

One of the possibilities current market conditions present is the opportunity for cow-calf producers to capitalize on increasing cow value. Young and middle aged, bred cows are in high demand by the market. Is there an opportunity to sell bred cows in the next two to three years and capitalize on these strong cow prices? What is the estimated depreciation that will occur with current 4, 5 and 6-year-old

cows in the herd over the next two to three years based on their expected market value as a bred cow this fall and winter? When the projected cost to carry those cows is calculated with expected depreciation, death loss and interest, will anticipated calf prices cover those costs and still make a profit? What will it look like if the market should decline?

Selling home raised bred cows offers the opportunity to take full advantage of the fact that all income from those cow sales is taxed as capital gains income. When raised heifers and cows intended for breeding purposes are sold and they are older than two-years of age, those sales are taxed at a capital gains rate. For females that were bought, only the appreciated value above the purchase price qualifies as capital gains income. The reduced tax rate on capital gains income can be a significant advantage when compared to calf or yearling sales which are taxed as ordinary income.

For a married couple

filing jointly in 2023, the federal tax rate is 0% on capital gains income up to \$89,250 and it is taxed at 15% for income from \$89,251 – \$553,850. Also, there is no self-employment tax on capital gains income which is 15.3% on ordinary income. The tax rate on ordinary income is 10% up to \$22,000, 12% for income from \$22,000 to \$89,450 and 22% for income from \$89,450 to \$190,750. These tax rates are reduced by 20% if the income qualifies for the “Qualified Business Income Deduction.” Visit with your tax accountant for more information on this.

For \$150,000 of taxable net income after deductions from ordinary cattle sales, a ranching couple treated as a sole proprietorship would owe approximately \$38,000 in federal taxes and self-employment tax. If the taxable net income were from capital gain sales, the couple would owe approximately \$9,000 in taxes. This is a difference of \$29,000! If you are a cow-calf producer and are thinking of retiring, present



high bred cow prices, capital gains tax rates and current tax laws may make this an attractive time to exit the business.

So, what is the point? A conversation with your tax accountant may be warranted as marketing strategies and plans for this fall and winter as well as the next few years are evaluated. Examining opportunities to take advantage of high cow

prices by selling more bred cows and simultaneously retaining more heifers could reveal ways to take advantage of the capital gains tax rate which allow for more of the money generated from cattle sales to be kept in the producer’s pocket. Selling home-raised bred cows that may be approaching their cyclical peak in market price and having that income taxed at a capital gains rate rather

than as ordinary income could be a significant wealth building advantage! Selling home raised bred cows when prices are high and replacing them with home raised heifer calves could be profitable in the near term for the cow-calf business.

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2023 update on Texas pecan production, prices and pests

By Randi Williams, Texas AgriLife Today

Although prices remain steady, consumers should pay extra attention to early pecan harvest production, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Larry Stein, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension horticulturist, Uvalde, said pecan production in some regions of the state is looking positive, thanks to water supplies available for irrigation, but the drought is still playing a significant role in the quality of this year's pecan harvest.

Pecan production affected by the drought

Certain areas in Texas have experienced rainfall that has allowed pecan production to continue as usual. One of those areas is Far West Texas, including around El Paso. This area has continued pecan production as expected since it received rainfall, creating ample water supplies for irrigation systems to pull water from the river.

Other areas without enough water supplies for irrigation have lost some of their crops due to trees dying.

"Now is the prime time to pull the kernel inside," Stein said. "But we aren't sure how well the later crop will turn out."

Producers have noticed that early native pecan varieties such as Pawnee, Mandan and Eclipse have started opening up, and these varieties



look exceptional.

Pecan pricing

Although prices of other crops have gotten higher this year, the cost of pecans is not expected to increase from the previous year's prices of \$2 to \$3 per pound for in-shell pecans and \$4 per pound for shelled pecans.

Consumers preparing to purchase pecans from this harvest should expect to see availability from late September to early October.

"Consumers might be better off purchasing the early harvested pecans since we don't know the outcome of the varieties that will open later in the season," Stein said.

Pecan pests

Due to dry conditions, pests that usually attack pecan production have been

minor, Stein said. During the earlier months of production, producers sprayed for the yearly summer pests, but pests didn't have much impact on production.

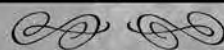
Producers have reported that the black and yellow aphid populations have been minimal this season.

"The drought is a blessing in disguise for pecan producers," Stein said. "This year's drought has reduced the number of pests we have seen."

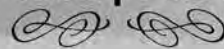


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DAM: MS DMR FINAL CUT 635H31

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
73	-0.6	30	57	5	20	0.57	0.54	0.5	
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
5.39	1.59	115	5.07	4.43					



PRB GRID MAKER 406J24

SIRE: QVF PR EMPOWER 30G16

DAM: TTR A50G1 U0288 XB200

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
6.4	0.1	40	78	7	27	3.21	1.34	0.64	0.59
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
5.04	2.75	1.81	0.78	3.58					



SHCC BIG LAKE 10K3

SIRE: BWCC BIG LAKE 111F4

DAM: BWCC MS EXCEED 10F7

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
2.5	1.5	51	79	4	29	4.1	0.88	0.58	0.54
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
4.82	3.08	2.33	4.56	6.58					



FC EMPOWER 541J13

SIRE: QVF PR EMPOWER 30G16

DAM: DAKS MS HIGH CHOICE 541F49

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
2	2.8	42	74	5	26	2.86	1.2	0.56	-0.03
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
5.08	2.14	0.85	0.91	3.75					



PRB BIG TOWN 10K6

SIRE: BWCC BIG TOWN 102B16

DAM: BWCC MS CROSS FIT 10E4

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
3.4	1.4	42	66	6	27	1.24	1.05	0.47	0.21
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
3.44	2.34	1.46	0.18	9.75					



SHCC MCQUEEN 889K3

SIRE: BWCC MCQUEEN 102E24

DAM: MS DD PIONEER 889F1

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF
4	1.4	47	78	1	25	4.77	1.38	0.67	0.024
TERM IN.	FERT IN.	STAY	CW	WT	HEIF	PREC			
4.13	2.6	1.91	6.21	6.92					

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Looking at factors

By Elliott Dennis, University of Nebraska assistant professor & Extension livestock economist

High culling continues to occur

The annual fall feeder run is about to begin. Given cattle prices, forage conditions, and the economy the question of whether heifers will be retained to rebuild the beef cow herd remains uncertain. Consider these factors that give pause to whether this expansion will occur with as much momentum we might think.

Retail and wholesale ground beef prices

US consumers love eating ground beef. Ground beef is primarily made from beef trimmings. These trimmings can either come from the domestic or import market. In the domestic market, trimmings come from fed cattle (steers and heifers), bulls, and cows (dairy and beef). Fed cattle have more fat than bulls and cows, so meat processors use trimmings from both to create different meat/fat blends such as the traditional 80/20 (i.e., 80% meat, 20% fat). Beef trimmings from the domestic market consist of

about 70% of all beef trimmings used. The remaining 30% comes from imports.

The percentage of beef trimmings from steers and heifers is much more stable than cows/bulls since the latter tends to move lockstep with the cattle cycle. Imports and trimmings from bulls and cows tend to substitute for each other. As of recent, 75 percent of all beef imports are beef trimmings mainly coming from Australia and Brazil. However, this has dramatically dropped off in the last year to 65% and is almost entirely due to a reduced amount of beef trimmings being imported – down about 500 million pounds. This has in part led to higher prices for ground beef at retail. But consumers are still paying these higher prices.

Trying to determine what the upper ceiling consumers would pay for ground beef is hard to say. Comparing the Meat Demand Monitor (MDM) willingness-to-pay (WTP) vs. current retail ground beef prices indicates

that ground beef prices could continue to rise another \$2-3 at retail. Current retail prices for ground beef are about \$5 per pound whereas the MDM WTP is estimated at approximately \$8 per pound. It will likely not go that high as there is almost always a gap between what consumers say they will pay and what they actually pay. They will also substitute into other meat products lowering the quantity demand for ground beef. But the fresh 90% ground beef at wholesale will certainly push the retail ground beef price higher pulling more cows and bulls to be slaughtered (see Figure 1). Further, meat processing plants that have a ground beef line may be able to soften some of the impacts of higher fed cattle margins.

Boxed beef cutter cow cut-out

There is a seasonal inversion in the boxed beef cutter cow price (see Figure 2). Seasonally prices normally climb till May/June and then decline through December as more cows come to town. In 2022, this seasonal trend was inverted as the market high came between January and April and then began to decline throughout the year. Contrast that with 2023, we

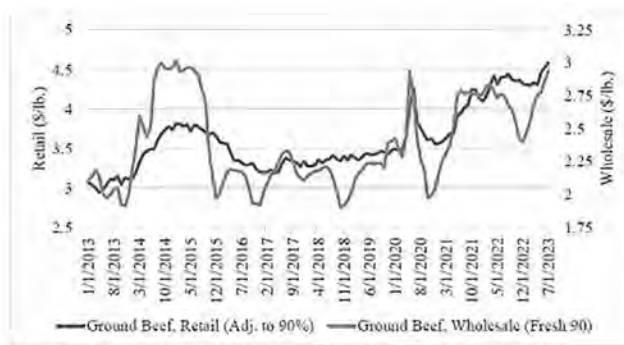


Figure 1. Adjusted Retail Beef Prices and Wholesale Fresh 90s Prices, 2013-2023
Source: LMIC (2023), BLS (2023)
Note: Both axes are adjusted to allow comparison between the relative price movements in the two price series. Caution should be used when comparing these two prices.

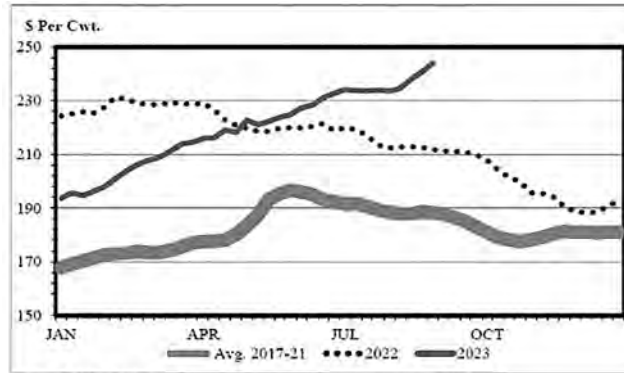


Figure 2. Weekly Boxed cow-beef cutout value, cutter cow, 2017-2023
Source: LMIC (2023)

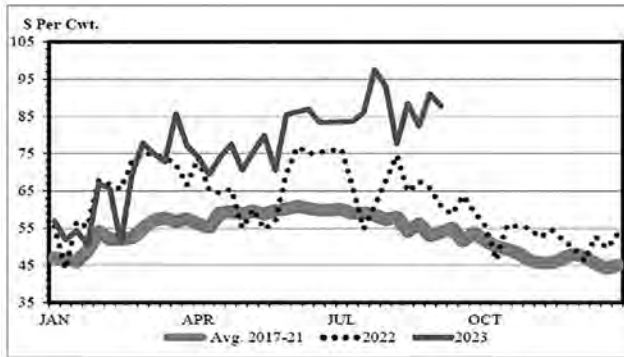


Figure 3. Slaughter Cow Prices, Southern Plains Auction, 85-90% Lean, Weekly
Source: LMIC (2023)

followed the same seasonal pattern from January to May/June – gradually increasing albeit at nominally higher values. But rather than peaking and coming back down prices have continued on a steady upward trajectory reaching \$243 per cwt. For perspective, this is what a 600-900 lb. Choice carcass was trading at in September 2023. Important to understand that this cutout value is calculated and consists of several subproducts each continuing at a fixed weight/proportion of the carcass. That allows us to determine what is driving that value higher. This higher price almost entirely contributed to strong prices for lean beef – approximately 85% to be exact. This is in line with the higher retail ground beef prices. Higher the cutout, the greater incentive to harvest more cows, thus limiting herd growth.

Cutter cow and slaughter cow prices

Cutter cow and slaughter cow prices have likewise remained high (see Figures 3-4). Both are significantly higher than both the 5-year average and 2022. National direct live cutter cow prices were trading at \$94 per cwt.

(Continued on page 27)



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Kirbe Schnoor...

(Continued from page 10)

ready because it's going to be great!"

About Janie Johnson, new TV host for RanchHer

A true Texas cowgirl and RanchHer, Janie Johnson has deep roots in the western lifestyle. Johnson's dad, Clint Johnson, is a four-time World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider, and her mom, Mindy, competes in the National Cutting Horse Association. Following in her parent's footsteps, she has competed in multiple rodeo events from a young age, including rodeoing, while earning her degree at the University of Texas with high honors in Radio/TV/Film. Over the past 10 years, Johnson has worked with the best talent in western sports. From associate producer to becoming a lead behind-the-scenes reporter of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Janie has interviewed the best cowboys and cowgirls in the world on the most prestigious dirt. After two years of traveling the country coast to coast, most recently for The Cowboy Channel, and reporting live from over 200 PRCA rodeos, she recently returned to her family's ranch in West Texas to take on more of an active role in ranching day-to-day. Today, she lives in Canyon, Texas, with her professional rodeo saddle bronc riding husband, Jake Finlay, and continues to barrel race as a professional cardholder in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. This year, she embarks on new adventures close to her heart as the new host of RanchHer, a show celebrating women in ranching across the country. She will also continue to travel to PRCA rodeos throughout the year, covering the western lifestyle and sports.

"I'm really excited for my first season of RanchHer," said Johnson "I'm most looking forward to learning as much as I possibly can from real ranchers across the country. There are so many different landscapes and ways of ranching life, and I can't wait to learn all about it and share these inspiring stories with our viewers. It will be a big adventure, and we will make some pretty amazing friends along the way!"

To suggest a FarmHer or RanchHer to be featured on an upcoming episode, please visit: <https://farmher.com/suggest-a-farmer>.

When students...

(Continued from page 21)

ambassadors a hands-on grilling program and advocacy discussion each year to give them the tools to advocate for the beef industry effectively. "These high school students walk away from our workshop with the confidence to grill their own steaks and teach others how to grill," Heller said. "More importantly, they can tell others why beef belongs on the plate."

TBC works to grow its youth engagement program by providing multiple professional development and educational opportunities. Brand new this year is a partnership with Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors. This program trains high-school-age youth who have a passion for health and wellness to motivate others to change their lifestyles and improve their health. These ambassadors assist local county extension agents with program efforts, project activities and much more. TBC engaged ambassadors with beef cooking demonstrations and background information on beef from pasture to plate.

2 0 2 3 } 2 0 2 4

LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR

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

SEP 29-30 Flint Hills Classic Fall Beefmaster Sale, Paxico, KS

SEP 30 Texas Breeders Classic Fall Replacement Sale, Industry, TX

OCT 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

OCT 5 Dudley Bros. Herefords Bull Sale, Comanche, TX

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OCT 7 Scamardo Brangus Production Sale, Bryan, TX

OCT 11 R A Brown Ranch Sale, Throckmorton, TX**OCT 12 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Ft. Hidden Oaks Ranch Hereford & Simmons Charolais Bulls, San Saba, TX****OCT 14 Carr & Others Beefmaster Sale, Floresville, TX****OCT 14 Addison Farms Brangus Sale, Cullman, AL****OCT 14 Cox Excalibur Red Brangus Sale, Weimar, TX****OCT 14 Thomas Ranch Charolais Bull Sale, Raymondville, TX****OCT 15 Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, Brenham, TX****OCT 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Female Sale, 10th Annual Hill Country Youth Heifer Sale, San Saba, TX**

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

10th Annual Hill Country Youth Heifer Sale
*Wednesday, October 18 @ 11:00 am | San Saba

Fall "Best of the Best" Replacement Female Sale
Thursday, October 12 @ 10:00 am | San Saba
Featuring Hidden Oaks Ranch Hereford Bulls
Books are Closed!

For details on the above sale or online viewing/bidding call or visit our website.

Ken & Kynda Jordan - Owners & Operators
San Saba 325-372-5159 | Mason 325-347-6361 | jordancattle.com

OCT 19 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Sutphin Cattle Co & Knox Angus, Red Angus, Charolais and Sim Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX

OCT 20 Central Texas ICA Bull & Female Sale, Gonzales, TX**OCT 20-21 Beef on Farage Beefmaster Bull & Female Sale, Brenham, TX****OCT 21 Strait-Hefte Santa Gertrudis Production Sale, Streetman, TX****OCT 21 MP Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Poteet, TX****OCT 24 Phillips—Fenco Brangus Bull Sale, Bunnell, FL****OCT 25 Texas Hereford Fall Classic, Buffalo, TX****OCT 27-28 Briggs Ranches Bull Sale, Commercial Female Sale & TriStar Registered Female Sale, Bloomington, TX**

OCT 28 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall "Best of the Best" Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

OCT 28 South Texas Hereford Assn. Bull & Female Sale, Beeville, TX**OCT 28 Tri-Star Santa Gertrudis Production Sale, Bloomington, TX****OCT 28 LG Herndon Farms Charolais & Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Lyons, GA****OCT 28 7P Ranch Simmental Bull & Female Sale, Tyler, TX****OCT 29 Perez Cattle Co. Fall Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Columbus, TX**

OCT 30 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX

NOV 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX

NOV 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Hales Angus Farms & Cannon Charolais Ranch, San Saba, TX

NOV 3-4 GenePlus Brangus Bull & Female Sales, Concord, AR

NOV 4 The One Charolais Sale at Tenroc Ranch, Salado, TX

NOV 6 Branch Ranch Rough & Ready Brangus Bull Sale, Mansfield, LA

NOV 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Barber Ranch Herefords & Express Ranches Angus, San Saba, TX

NOV 10-11 ACE @ Quail Valley Farms Brangus & Santa Gertrudis Bull & Female Sales, Oneonta, AL

NOV 15-16 CDP Brangus Bull & Female Sales, El Dorado, AR

NOV 16 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Ft. Schaefer Farms Angus, San Saba, TX

NOV 17 Cavender Ranches @ Neches River Ranch Brangus & Commercial Female Sale, Jacksonville, TX

NOV 18 Cavender Ranches @ Neches River Ranch Brangus & Charolais Bull Sale, Jacksonville, TX

NOV 18 Collier Farms Performance Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX

NOV 25 Pine Belt Alliance Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Purvis, MS

NOV 29 Caldwell Livestock Auction Special Replacement Sale, Caldwell, TX

DEC 1 J Bar Angus Bull & Female Sale (formerly Lone Star Angus Alliance Sale), Hallettsville, TX

DEC 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

DEC 2 2 Bar C Ranch Angus Production Sale, Luling, TX

DEC 2 Rancher's Choice Charolais Bull Sale, Nixon, TX

DEC 2 Pied Piper Farms Annual Production Sale, Industry, TX

DEC 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

DEC 9 Inaugural GKB Cattle & Barber Ranch Hereford Female Event, Desdemona, TX

DEC 9 Texas Drovers Annual Bull & Replacement Female Sale, Weimar, TX

DEC 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX

DEC 14 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Leachman's Texas Fall Stabilizer Bulls, San Saba, TX

DEC 14 Leachman's Texas Fall Stabilizer Bull Sale, San Saba, TX

JAN 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX

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 20 Jordan Cattle Auction January Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

FEB 1 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

FEB 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Martin-Bruni Brangus & STS Ranger Registered Angus, San Saba, TX

FEB 17 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Spring 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

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Webinar on white-tailed deer management set for Oct. 5

Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management event to discuss population, habitat, diet
By Susan Himes, Texas AgriLife Today

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will present the webinar “White-tailed Deer Management” on Oct. 5 from noon to 1 p.m.

The webinar is part of the ongoing Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management Stewardship Webinar Series.

After payment is received, a follow-up email will be sent from the event organizer with instructions on how to access the webinar.

The cost is \$35, and advance registration is required at <https://tx.ag/RWFMStewardshipWebinars> “Our October webinar for our ongoing series will cover varying aspects of white-tailed deer management including habitat, herd structure and nutrition,” said Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist, San Angelo.

Treadwell is a series



White-tailed deer will be the focus of an Oct. 5 webinar talking about population, habitat and diet. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Michael Miller)

co-creator, along with Brittany Chesser, AgriLife Extension aquatic vegetation program specialist, Bryan College Station.

White-tailed deer expert, topics

Jacob Dykes, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, is the

featured speaker.

Dykes will cover a variety of topics related to deer management including:

- Understanding deer habitat.
- Identifying and correcting issues with herd structure.
- Understanding diet, nutrition and supplementation.
- Mitigating nutritionally stressful periods

~SLS

Looking at...
(Continued from page 24)

compared to \$74 per cwt. a year ago and \$54 per cwt. on average between 2017-2021. The seasonal pattern also shows that there is general price support at \$90 per cwt. for cutter cows and \$85 per cwt. Higher and stronger ground beef prices and boxed beef cutter cow cutout will only keep these prices high or increase them into the fall. These seasonally higher prices should continue to impact the beef cow slaughter rate.

Beef cow slaughter

Beef slaughter continues to remain elevated above the 5-year average, on an annual basis, although the weekly slaughter rates have come more in-line during the last few months (see Figure 5). During periods of expansion, the typically seasonal uptick in cow slaughter in the fall is much smaller. Seasonally that uptick will at the end of September. Watching the slaughter rate will provide some indication of what economic force is proving most powerful for producers. On one hand, we have the higher feeder cattle prices, current and deferred, which incentivizes the desire to retain cows and heifers to get profits in the future. However, there are also atypically seasonal incentives to sell both cull cows and heifers at higher current market values than previously experienced and forgo profits next year.

Heifers on feed

Heifers as a percent of total cattle on feed continue to remain high – 40% – and remain at the highest levels they have been in the last 20 years (See Figure 6). The next USDA Cattle on Feed report will, in addition to feedlot inventories and marketings, indicate the number of heifers on feed. I anticipate this will still be high. The telling report will be the December report as that will indicate how many heifers were sent to feedlots during the entire fall run. With the current Choice-Select spread favoring more quality meat combined with cheaping feedstuffs (corn, distillers, forage) and higher feeder cattle prices, there are some reasons why feedlots may continue to feed current inventories longer rather than buying in more expensive feeder cattle. This could

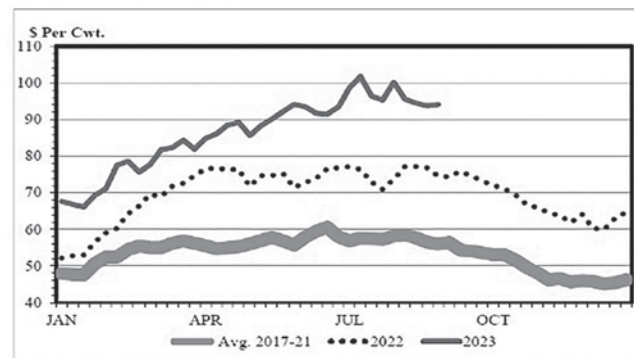


Figure 4. Cutter Cow Prices, National, Live, Weekly, 2017-2023
Source: LMC (2023)

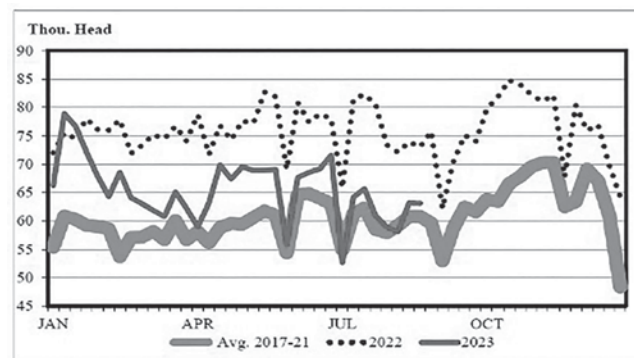


Figure 5. Beef Cow Slaughter, Federally Inspected, 2017-2023
Source: LMC (2023)



Figure 6. Heifers on Feed as a Percent of Total Cattle on Feed U.S., Beginning of the Quarter, 2011-2023
Source: LMC (2023)

have an impact on the relative composition and fill of feedlots this fall delaying placements and putting downward pressure on feeder cattle prices.

Heifer auction receipts

Another indicator, although a much weaker one, is the total number of heifers being sold in auctions, direct, and video sales. Approximately 39% of all feeder cattle receipts were heifers. Separating out the natural seasonal movements can show the overall trend in the data. This shows that heifers as a percentage of all stocker cattle receipts have been slightly decreasing, albeit slowly, since the early part of this year. Comparing this percentage to the last cattle cycle indicates that we are at the same percentage as we were in 2011. If the current trend continues, we should see fewer heifers sold this fall. This should narrow the steer-heifer price spread up a bit.

Conclusion

In summary, as steaks, roasts, and other meats be-

come more expensive, ground beef seems to be carrying the day. Lots of simple and easy-to-cook recipes while families attempt to stay within a budget all while general inflation, food included, continues to rise. Demand for lean beef is strong. Combine that with low imports of lean beef and cutter cow boxed beef prices are likely to remain high. This primary demand from consumers should continue to support higher prices for the slaughter cows. Ultimately, the tradeoff will be between chasing after those \$310 per cwt. values on 500-600 lb. feeder cattle in 2024 and taking the cash up front this year. Producers need to be extremely diligent about calculating how much they can pay for replacement heifers as well as how much value that heifer has when she is retained rather than sold under current market conditions. Understanding what all needs to go right, and what can go wrong, for heifers and bred cows to pay themselves back will be extremely important this fall.

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