



HINDSIGHTS

Looking Backward Through The Livestock Weekly Files . . .

50 YEARS AGO
Sam Singleton of Dalhart sold 150 short-age heifer and steer yearlings weighing about 450 pounds at \$16.50 and \$18.50 for March 15-April 1 delivery to a Kansas buyer; these are to be cut out of a total of 240 head and will be delivered off wheat fields.

lambs, mixed fats and feeders, from Floyd Modgling, Bronte, at \$17.75 cwt.

B.A. Ginn of Pampa sold 50 heifer yearlings weighing 500 pounds at \$16.25 to Wil-meth Cattle Co., Spearman, delivered Feb. 22.

Lowell Winsor of Texline bought 150 feedlot steers ranging in weight from 500 to 1000 pounds at \$15 in the Texline area and received them Feb. 28.

Cotton Gamble of Nara Visa, N.M., sold 53 steer calves weighing about 400 pounds at \$80 per head to

Wilmeth Cattle Co., Spearman, Texas, delivered Feb. 18.

45 YEARS AGO

Allan Meadows of Canadian has sold, to a Mr. Harvey of Gruver, 80 heifer yearlings and 80 steer yearlings expected to average near 750 pounds at \$23 and \$24 for March 15 delivery off wheat pasture in the Groom area.

R.L. Baxter of Clovis sold, out of the Baxter feedlots at Farwell, 105 heifers weighing 575 pounds at \$24, immediate delivery, to Berryhill Packing Co., Levelland.

Richard M. Buckles of Stratford sold 225 heifer yearlings, some Angus and the rest crossbred Hereford-Angus, at \$23.50 for May 1 delivery to Colorado feeders; these are expected to weigh 600-650 pounds at delivery.

Joe L. Smith of Dalhart sold

320 short-age yearling steers weighing about 550 pounds at \$26 to a Denver buyer; 120 were delivered Feb. 19 and the rest will go March 25-April 5.

Lee Carrell of Dalhart bought for Swift in Fort Worth, 60 fed steers weighing 1050 pounds at \$24 with 10 head out at \$22 and received them this week from Kenneth Wells, Kerrick, Texas.

40 YEARS AGO

Fuqua Younger of Dumas sold 255 steer yearlings weighing about 700 pounds at \$27.50 for immediate delivery to an Amarillo buyer; these are Herefords, Angus and Hereford-Angus crossbreds.

Carl Bomar of Silverton, Texas, is reported to have sold about 100 Angus heifer and steer yearlings expected to weigh 675 pounds at \$25 and \$27 for March 15 delivery to a local buyer.

Bob Lindsey Jr., Borger, bought 210 Hereford, Angus and Angford steer yearlings at \$27.50 and 37 heifers at

\$23.75 and received them last week from Bible Bros., Happy.

Cortese Ranch of Ft. Sumner, N.M. sold, through Travis Killough there, 106 steer calves weighing 500 pounds at \$30 and 44 heifers weighing 501 at \$27, delivered last week to a Colorado buyer.

Ernest Langenegger & Sons of Hagerman, N.M., sold 850 bulk choice fed steers weighing about 1100 pounds at \$27 for immediate to March 25 delivery to Swift & Co., Clovis.

35 YEARS AGO

Bud Harrell, Brady, bought and received 300 choice Hereford heifer and steers calves weighing 387 and 420 pounds, respectively, at \$36 and \$42 from George Carruthers, Brady.

Hollis Horton, Friona, sold and delivered 300 Okie steers weighing 508 pounds to Clarence Martin, Friona.

Hansford Feedyard, Spearman: 287 heifers weighing 825

lbs., 80-85% choice, \$30.75. Last week: 1440 steers weighing 1100-1200 lbs., 80% choice, \$32.75.

Texas Beef Producers, Dumas, bought in the Clovis area 100 Holstein steers weighing 800 pounds at \$28.

Ralph Britten, Groom, bought 200 Hereford steers weighing about 550 pounds at \$195 per head in the Gruver area.

Herman Birkenfeld and Paul Venhaus, Nazareth, Texas, bought 157 No. 1 Okie steers weighing about 260 pounds at \$125 per head from George Edmonds, Happy.

30 YEARS AGO

Logan Adams, representing John Clay & Co., San Antonio, bought in South Texas 175 No. 1 Hereford steers weighing 465 pounds at \$40, and in the Temple area 167 crossbred steers weighing 405 pounds at \$38.

Cactus Feeders, Cactus, bought in that area 70 choice black baldface steers weighing 650 pounds at \$40.

Eddie Denton, Rimrock Cattle Co., Amarillo, bought out of the Stratford area 123 No. 1 Okie steers weighing 580 pounds at \$41.75.

W.J. Carmichael, Rogers, N.M., sold to a local buyer 121 mostly Hereford heifers and steers weighing 400 and 475 pounds at \$32 and \$40, delivered.

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<p>*MUST FINANCE WITH FORD MOTOR CREDIT TO RECEIVE \$1,000 MATCHING DOWN PAYMENT NOTE: FMCC BONUS CASH DISCOUNT MUST FINANCE WITH FORD MOTOR CREDIT.</p>					

170 steers, 1150 lbs., 60% choice, \$38.

25 YEARS AGO

Bob Ridley, Bellview, N.M., sold off wheat to a Texas buyer 126 Okie steers weighing 562 pounds at \$73.

Dan Hardisty, Clovis, sold to a Texas feedlot 100 No. 1 Okie steers weighing 613 pounds at \$73.

Wilbur Kempf, Pampa, sold in the Amarillo area 38 heifers and steers of his own raising weighing 520 pounds at \$70.50 straight across, also 105 heifers weighing 514 at \$65.

Fairleigh Feed Yard, Scott City, Kan.: 188 heifers, 935 lbs., 70% choice, \$61.

Bliss Cattle Co., Newkirk, Okla., bought off wheat in the local area 106 No. 1 steers weighing 650 pounds at \$72; 104 No. 1 heifers weighing 500 at \$65.

Sonora Wool and Mohair Co. sold 400,000 pounds of graded staple skirted finewool at sealed bid for \$2.85 a pound clean, f.o.b. Sonora.

20 YEARS AGO

Stiles Cattle Co., Cuero, bought in the local area 84 No. 1 crossbred steers weighing 441 pounds at \$69.40 and 92 similar steers weighing 496 at \$66.50; 74 quarter Brahman heifers weighing 329 at \$64.70.

Cotton McDade, Amarillo, shipped on order the following from the auction there: 55 steers weighing 352 pounds at \$74.34; 65 steers weighing 463 at \$70.74; and 56 weighing 565 at \$64.05.

Dimmitt Feed Yard, Dimmitt: 270 steers, 1200 lbs., 65% choice, \$59; 119 heifers, 950-980 lbs., 65% choice, \$57.50.

Wool Growers in Ozona sold a car of average spring adult mohair for \$2.60.

The National Electronic Lamb Auction sold two loads out of North Dakota and Minnesota at \$69.50 shorn, \$67.50 woolled.

Sugarland Feed Yards, Hereford: 174 steers, 1150 lbs., \$58.50; 205 heifers, 950-1000 lbs., \$56.

15 YEARS AGO

Ty Jones Cattle Co., Canyon, bought in the Texas Panhandle 200 No. 1 Okie and crossbred steers weighing about 750 pounds at \$86, 150 No. 1 Okie heifers weighing 700-750 pounds at \$87.

Stiles Cattle Co., Cuero, bought in the local area 125 No. 1-1/2 quarterblood Brah-

man feeder heifers weighing 425 pounds at \$108; 100 No. 1-1/2 haired crossbred steers and bull calves weighing 414 pounds at \$118.25.

PACO Feed Yard, Friona: 80 steers, 1125 lbs., 60% choice, \$80; 189 steers, 1050 lbs., 50% choice, \$79.50.

Abilene Cattle Feeders, Abilene: 450 heifers, 950 lbs., 40% choice, \$79.50.

Lubbock Feedlot, Lubbock: 245 steers, 1125 lbs., 50-60% choice, \$80.

Cimarron Feeders, Texas: 2100 steers, 1000-1150 lbs., 60% choice, \$80.

10 YEARS AGO

Total red meat production under federal inspection last week was estimated at 847 million pounds, .4 percent more than a week earlier and 6.9 percent more than the same week a year ago. Cumulative meat production for the year to date was 3.7 percent more than the same period a year ago.

Trading on domestic wool was slow. The first clip of significance sold in the Belle Fourche area and included about 11,000 pounds of choice 62-64s, table skirted and classed, high yielding and in poly square packs, at \$1.187 grease, f.o.b.

Vann-Roach Cattle Co., Fort Worth, bought in the Texas Panhandle for current delivery two loads of No. 1 English and exotic cross steers weighing 725 pounds at \$57.50, also three loads of similar heifers weighing 675 at \$52.

Walter Lasley & Sons, Stratford: 541 steers, 1150-1200 lbs., 50% choice, \$63; 526 heifers, 1050 lbs., 50% choice, \$63.

Sugarland Feed Yard Inc., Hereford: 261 heifers, 1050 lbs., 50% choice, \$63.

5 YEARS AGO

North Platte Feeders, North Platte, Neb.: 600 steers, 1200-1325 lbs., \$81; 1200 heifers, 1150-1200 lbs., \$82.

Hitch Feeders, Hooker, Okla.: 600 steers, 1250 lbs., \$82; 400 heifers, 1125-1150 lbs., \$82.

Lane County Feeders, Dighton, Kan.: 366 steers, 1175-1250 lbs., \$82; 290 heifers, 1100 lbs., \$82.

Texas Panhandle area cattle trades totaled 30,000 head at mostly \$82, a rate \$2 higher than last week's close. The showlist stood at 75,138 and captives added 53,000 head to the total movement.

Hill Feed Yard, Hart: 510

steers, 1225 lbs., \$81; 576 heifers, 1075 lbs., \$81.

Comanche Gets Rain; Feeder Cattle Higher

COMANCHE — (Feb. 25) — Feeder steers and heifers

sold steady to \$4 higher, slaughter cows and bulls \$2-4 higher. Rain-reduced receipts totaled 197 head.

Steers: medium and large No. 1 under 300 lbs. \$122-173, 300-400 lbs. \$157-168, 400-500 lbs. \$137-156, 500-600 lbs. \$127-140, 600-700 lbs.

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\$90-106, over 700 lbs. \$89-92. Heifers: medium and large No. 1 under 300 lbs. \$128-155, 300-400 lbs. \$138-162, 400-500 lbs. \$138-152, 500-600 lbs. \$117-133, 600-700 lbs. \$89-102, over 700 lbs. \$86-91.

Slaughter cows: utility \$48-52, high dressing to \$56, cutter \$43-46, canner \$37-41; bulls \$49-54, high dressing to \$63; good bred cows \$800-900 per head, plain \$630-790; good cows with calves \$960-1100 per pair.



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PAIRS and BRED COWS

35 Brangus and Angus baldy pairs — first calves at side.

38 (Possible Three-In-One Packages) black baldy pairs — first, second or third calves at side, bred back to Charolais or black bulls.

50 black pairs — first calves at side.

25 (Possible Three-In-One Packages) black and black baldy pairs — first calves at side, exposed back to black bull.

15 (Possible Three-In-One Packages) black and black whiteface pairs — four to six year old cows, exposed back to black bull.

30 black baldy and black pairs with a few heavy bred, first-calf heifers.

40 black pairs — first calves at side.

40 (Possible Three-In-One Packages) black pairs — first calves at side, exposed back to Charolais bull.

50 Angus pairs — first calves at side, cows weigh 1100 pounds and are out of Northern Angus cows and sired by Bulls: Northern Improvement, Gardiner Precision 1680, Gardiner Travel 1489, or 4 Commitment.

10 (Possible Three-In-One Packages) Angus and Angus baldy pairs — first calves at side.

10 Maine/Angus cross pairs — first calves at side.

10 Angus and black baldy pairs — first calves at side.

15 exotic cross cows, five and six years old, AI for fall calves, bred for show calves, cows bloodlines include: Cunia, Witch Doctor, Heat Seeker, and Full Flush; cross bred to Troy Charolais and Habanero son.

12 black and black baldy pairs — first calves at side, Angus calves.

6 Charolais cross pairs — first calves at side, Charolais/Angus cross calves.

9 black and black baldy Limousin heifers, first calves at side or heavy bred to Giles Angus bulls.

11 Angus and black baldy heifers, second calves at side or heavy bred to Giles Angus bulls, all home raised.

15 Angus and black baldy pairs — first calves at side with some heavy bred, bred to low birthweight Angus bull.

40 Brangus pairs — first calves at side.

20 Brangus pairs — first calves at side.

4 black baldy pairs — possible few heavy bred.

20 black pairs — five to six year old cows.

12 red mottled pairs — first calves at side, calves sired by Angus bull.

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"I sure appreciated you selling me that old milk cow when I retired, Mr. Tinkle, but I have a little problem," said the toothless old cowpoke. "I ain't got no bull to breed her. I was wonderin' if maybe you'd lend me one of your bulls?"

Now, normally, Curlie Tinkle was so stingy he wouldn't give a duck a drink, keeping in mind he owned darn near as

many water wells as he did oil wells. He also had a fully recharged bull battery just resting in the bull pen.

Feeling some sense of loyalty, he considered the fact that the old cowpoke who needed the bull had been a faithful employee of his for over 35 years and never was paid more than \$600 a month the entire time. Besides, Tinkle was in a rare charitable mood, and he did have a bull not in use who was currently arguing with the shadow of death in the sick pen.

Like everything else he owned or hired, Tinkle had worked the scrubby bull to near death. On Curlie Tinkle's place there was no rest for the

sicked. In the process of doing his duty, the bull had picked up a nasty bacterial infection, so Tinkle quite naturally thought to himself, "Why not let the old man borrow the bull? If I'm lucky, maybe the sickly bull will die over at his place and save me the trouble of burying him."

So Tinkle told his ex-employee, "When your old milk cow comes in heat you just let me know, and I'll bring a bull over."

It wasn't too long before Tinkle received the call.

When he unloaded the slobbering bull from the back of his gooseneck, the old cowpoke was not surprised at the bull's condition. Remember, he had worked for Curlie Tinkle for 35 years. In fact, the old man was surprised the bull that Tinkle brought was breathing and able to remain upright, albeit with a little help from a fence post.

The old bull certainly was no parlor ornament. His head dropped to within inches of the ground, and snot poured from his runny and reddened nose. He looked like double death. But beggars can't be choosers. "Why don't you come in the

house and eat a bean with me, Mr. Tinkle, while we let these two make a little love?" suggested the cowboy as the two retired to the semi-comfort of the old cowpoke's sheep shed. Once inside the cozy quarters, Tinkle looked around the ramshackle hovel, saw the bare cupboards, and came close to experiencing a totally new sensation for him: sympathy. But it was only a fleeting moment, and perhaps it had been caused by indigestion or from standing in the sun too long.

But before Curlie Tinkle realized what he was saying, in a burst of benevolence the boss man said, "Next week I'll deliver you some ground beef, ox tails, flank steak, ribs, mountain oysters, heart, liver and such."

The old man nearly dropped his spoon. Such benevolence was not entirely in keeping with the true nature of his old boss.

"Thank you," the old man said in disbelief. "I'll admit, Mr. Tinkle, it's not been easy since I retired with no pension or nothing."

After supper the two men walked over to the broken-down corrals where the old man's milk cow was attempting to rape the sickly bull. Unfortunately, the old bull had about as much interest in sex as a fly fisherman on vacation. And the cow had as much chance of getting lucky as a rabbit at a coyote convention. So Tinkle loaded the bull back in the trailer and went home.

For several days after Curlie Tinkle's visit, the old man kept expecting a mercy mission, but there was no sign of the promised beef or his most gracious benefactor. The old cowpoke had pretty near given up on the complimentary beef when he saw his former boss at the Farm Supply a month later. The longtime employee was far too proud and proper to

mention the ox tails and flank steak, but Tinkle beat him to the punch anyway.

"Sorry I didn't get that beef delivered," said Tinkle.

"I'll be darned if that bull with the bacterial infection didn't get well."

Extension Reports Show Recent Rains In Texas Light, Spotty

COLLEGE STATION - Some was only "fog and drizzle," and none was sufficient to end prolonged drouth, but any moisture that fell in the state last week was welcomed by farmers and ranchers, Texas Cooperative Extension officials report.

In almost every part of the state, producers are gearing up by making furrows and, where possible, irrigating land for planting moisture-dependant crop seeds soon, Extension reports indicate.

"Rain amounts were generally less than one tenth of an inch," said Dr. Bob Robinson, Extension administrator in Amarillo. "Some land preparation for spring crops is in progress, though soil moisture is mostly very short. A few fields are being irrigated."

The Lubbock area received no significant moisture from the weekend's passing front, said Jett Majors, Extension administrator there, but "many producers are starting to irrigate to prepare land for summer crops."

In the central part of the state near Stephenville, rain fell in several areas, but burn bans remained in effect because of continued wildfires, said Ron Woolley, Extension administrator.

Still, corn planting is likely to begin in a few days because soil moisture levels have improved, he said.

Where irrigation is not possible, farmers await rainfall to provide enough moisture to

plant seeds and be assured healthy sprouting, Extension officials said.

The following conditions were reported by Extension districts this week:

PANHANDLE: Temperatures were highly variable during the week. Both wheat and rangeland conditions are mostly poor to very poor. Fire danger is high. Cattle are in fair to good condition, and supplemental feeding continues.

SOUTH PLAINS: Daytime temperatures continue to be in the upper 60s F to lower 70s F, and nighttime temperatures are in the upper 40s F. Ginning of 2005 cotton is nearly complete. Wheat is in poor condition, as are pastures and ranges, with more rainfall needed. Cattle are in fair condition due to supplemental feeding.

ROLLING PLAINS: A few scattered, light showers were reported but didn't yield enough moisture to measure. Land is being prepared, and some farmers have started to prewater fields. Wheat and oat fields under pivot sprinklers are making slow progress, and cattle are heavily grazing these plots. Hay supplies are at the lowest level in several years, and producers are struggling to find alternative feed sources until spring greening occurs.

NORTH: Soil moisture is very short to surplus, and the amount of rain received across the region is directly related to crop conditions. Wheat ranged from very poor to excellent. Pastures and ranges are very poor to good. Farmers will start planting corn soon if a little more soil moisture is received. Wheat is continuing to grow but looks poor in early stages. Cold temperatures with misting rain were hard on cattle, but overall they remain

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in fair condition due to supplemental feed. Hay supplies are decreasing. Some sweet potato producers are plowing fields to prepare for a new crop. Enough chilling hours have been received for a peach crop. Some areas had slight freezing.

EAST: The weather has been normal as light rains increased soil moisture. Producers are preparing land for grass planting. Hay supplies are running short. Cattle are being supplemented with feed and thus remain in good condition. Lack of sunshine has increased greenhouse crop diseases caused by the fungi *botrytis* and powdery mildew. Vegetable growers are preparing land, and onions and potatoes are being planted. Due to freezing temperatures, fruit crops had good gains of chilling hours necessary for crop development.

FAR WEST: Soil moisture was short throughout the region, but a small area has adequate amounts. Pastures, ranges and livestock are in poor to very poor condition, though a few are reported to be in fair to good condition. Oats and winter wheat are in poor to fair condition. Some counties still have burn bans.

WEST CENTRAL: Much cooler temperatures brought scattered showers. Winter wheat and oats are in extremely poor condition. Most fields planted failed to come up or were dug up by wildlife. The small amount of rainfall received will help green up range and pastures. Livestock are in poor condition, and supplemental feeding is increasing. More producers are selling off livestock due to drouth and lack of adequate hay supplies.

CENTRAL: Hay supplies are dwindling. Many producers are trying to stretch hay until spring pastures can pro-

vide maintenance of livestock. Most counties received beneficial rain, but more is needed.

SOUTHEAST: Conditions are very wet. Temperatures have warmed, and more rain is expected. In some areas, kudzu is emerging from winter dormancy and is being watched for soybean rust symptoms. Wheat is doing extremely well. Bermuda is putting on green shoots. The hay supply is critically short.

SOUTHWEST: Cold weather, with temperatures dipping into the low 20s F, and drouth stress has significantly slowed agricultural production. Young, tender potato and onion plants were hardest hit by the low temperatures. Forage availability is below average. Ranchers have reduced herds and are providing supplemental feed for the cattle they kept. Small grain plantings are down significantly, and fields that were planted are not making much progress.

COASTAL BEND: No measurable precipitation was recorded; drouth and fire hazards continue. Some farmers have planted early corn but moisture is still in short supply. Hay supplies have diminished; supplemental feeding continues. Some herds have been reduced.

SOUTH: Soil moisture conditions are very short. Temperatures were cool and humid. A hard freeze in one area caused some damage to spinach that was being cut. Some spinach producers are following the cuttings with heavy irrigation in hopes of additional growth for a second harvest. Sugarcane, citrus and vegetable harvests continue. Onions are developing well under heavy irrigation. Pastures are still very dry, and as a result, ranchers continue to supplement feed cattle or thin herds.

LOOSE ENDS

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES • QUOTES ANECDOTES

Consumer demand for beef dipped slightly in 2005, but the Beef Demand Index remains up more than 20 percent since reversing its 20-year decline in 1998.

The index decreased 3.6 percent in 2005 compared to record growth in 2004, according to preliminary year-end results. The Beef Demand Index is calculated based on a series of formulas developed by Dr. Wayne Purcell, director of the Research Institute on Livestock Pricing through Virginia Tech University's department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The index reflects several specific factors, including per capita consumption and consumer retail spending for beef, but does not take wholesale beef prices into account.

Cattle-Fax estimates that the increase in demand since 1998 has added about \$250 per head to the price of fed cattle and about \$200 per head to the price of calves.

The Lightsey Cattle Company is the 2005 Environmental Stewardship Award Program national winner. The award program sponsored by National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Dow AgroSciences and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is now in its 15th year.

Lightsey Cattle Company, nominated for the award by the Florida Cattlemen's Association, is a diverse operation with three separately located ranches. Daily undertakings include managing a cow-calf operation and preconditioning feedlot, tending to citrus

groves and timber cutting, and guiding guests on hunting and ecological tours of the ranches. The land has been with the family since the mid-1800s.

Last month Robert J. Potts, general manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, and Dr. Larry Butler, state conservationist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on a program offering financial assistance to enhance range management through brush control on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Brush control, primarily Ashe juniper removal, has been identified as a method to increase Edwards Aquifer recharge and improve pastureland productivity.

According to Butler, the focus of this MOU is to make

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resources available to help control Ashe juniper, but the opportunity to apply treatment lies in the hands of the private landowners in the Edwards Aquifer region.

In 2006, the Authority has budgeted \$300,000 for this program. Under the current NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program, landowners can be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the costs associated with the initial removal of Ashe juniper. Under the Authority's Range Management Cost Share Incentives Program, landowners can be reimbursed for an additional 20 percent of their initial Ashe juniper removal costs if they are enrolled in EQIP. Authority funding is also available for up to 50 percent of follow-up maintenance costs for the Ashe juniper removal.

NRCS and the Edwards Au-

thority reimbursement percentages for initial Ashe juniper removal are based on NRCS-calculated county average costs for the removal method employed. Authority reimbursement for follow-up maintenance costs is based on a per-acre maximum of \$15.

More information is available from county USDA-NRCS offices, listed under "USDA" in the phone book, or from Elisha Kuehn, assistant state conservationist for field operations, at (325) 944-0147.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has chosen Albuquerque, N.M. as the location for its new headquarters and ProRodeo Hall of Fame facility. This move will bring 85 full-time jobs, a \$3.35 million payroll and approximately 50,000 annual Hall of Fame visitors to Albuquerque.

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3. Our breeding program is based on multi-trait selection that focuses on calving ease, reproductive efficiency and carcass traits. While we definitely emphasize growth in our cattle, we do not use single trait selection designed simply to maximize growth EPDs.
4. We emphasize reproductive efficiency. Every one of our 130+ females at Windy Bar Ranch was conceived, born and raised right here in central Texas. We do not have any trader cows on our place. This practice allows us to raise cattle adapted to this environment for many generations. We place great emphasis on longevity, which is an indicator of fertility, disease resistance, adaptability and, most importantly, survivability. Many sale bulls are out of Pathfinder cows.
5. All of our bulls are gain-tested and ultrasounded at independent test facilities. Although these test facilities are more expensive than "on-the-farm" tests, it allows our customers to have confidence in the accuracy of the statistics on these bulls.
6. All sale bulls have had a breeding soundness exam (BSE), which involves an evaluation of the entire reproductive tract. While more expensive than a simple semen test, we want our bulls to meet the most stringent breeding evaluation possible.
7. We emphasize actual carcass data, not simply "expected" carcass traits through the use of EPDs. We have been sending steers to feedlots in Kansas for 16 years to collect carcass data on the bulls and cows we use and retain in our herd. In that time, we have collected carcass data on over 225 steers out of over 130 different cows in our herd. This information allows us to both cull and select for profitable carcass traits. Our 2005 mixed group of 24 steers & heifers graded 100% Choice & Prime, 96% YG 2's & 3's, and 66.7% Certified Angus Beef. Our 2004 mixed group likewise graded 66.7% Certified Angus Beef, and 100% YG 1's 2's and 3's.
8. We emphasize genetic testing to improve carcass traits and tenderness traits. Every sale bull will have values available for the SNP316 and SNP530 genetic tenderness markers.
9. We are experienced breeders. We have been in the registered Angus business for over 20 years. Although we still make too many mistakes, I believe we made fewer mistakes in our 20th year in the business than we did in our first year.
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TAHC Sets Meeting For March 23 To Address Premise Regulations

AUSTIN — The Texas Animal Health Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 23, in Round Rock to address proposed regulations for registering sites where livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl are held, managed or handled. The meeting will be in the Marriott North Hotel at 2600 La Frontera Blvd. in Round Rock and is open to the public.

"The TAHC commissioners proposed regulations for pre-

mises registration at their December meeting, following passage of HB 1361, the legislative authority for the rules and fee collection. The commissioners postponed action during their February session, opting for more time to consider the comments received during that meeting. It is important to note that the commissioners will focus solely on the proposed regulations for premises registration at the March 23 commission meeting," said Dr. Bob Hillman,

Texas' state veterinarian and head of the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

TAHC's proposed regulations, "Premises and Animal Identification," were published in the December 23, 2005, issue of the *Texas Register*.

"The commissioners initially considered postponing action until May, but the commission needs to resolve this issue sooner, rather than later," said Hillman. "The commissioners have a number of options in consideration of the proposed regulations. They may adopt the proposed regulations as presented; amend the proposed regulations; forgo adoption; or further postpone action.

"Premises registration is underway nationally," Hillman continued, "and is required in Wisconsin, and soon will be required in Indiana. More than 205,000 sites have been signed up — 7500 of those in Texas. "Registration is relatively easy, and information requested is limited, including a contact name, phone number, physical

address and a list of species on the site. Registrants are not asked how many acres or animals they own."

Hillman noted that Texas has more than 200,000 premises.

"Knowing where species of animals are located would greatly enhance our ability to alert owners and get ahead of a disease outbreak before it spreads," Hillman continued. "In 2002, for example, Exotic Newcastle Disease was detected in a neighborhood in Los Angeles. The infection raced through small flocks, then spread to 22 commercial flocks, costing \$160 million to eradicate."

He said premises information, confidential by law, would enable animal health officials to "map out" emergency response, and save precious time searching for sites with susceptible species, and exposed or potentially infected animals.

Hillman said recommended amendments to the proposed regulations would allow 4-H and FFA students to be covered by their 4H club or FFA chapter premises identification numbers, if the students maintain animal projects on a site

that otherwise would not need to be registered.

Recommended amendments also would exempt persons if they have only caged exotic fowl (such as, but not limited to parakeets, budgies, finches, canaries, cockatiels, parrots and other caged birds) and these fowl are housed in the person's residence and not used for sale, barter or exchange. Hillman noted that, during an avian disease outbreak, the TAHC may require the premises to be registered if the site is within a quarantine, surveillance or eradication zone established by the TAHC for controlling or eradicating the disease.

The proposed regulations call for premises registration to be compulsory beginning July 1. Persons could register their premises in Texas at no charge through June 30. The premises registered prior to July 1

would be due for a two-year renewal July 1, 2008, when a \$10 per year fee would be paid as a biennial fee of \$20 for two years. Under the proposed regulations, persons who register on or after July 1, 2006, would pay the \$20 two-year fee upon initial registration. Registration renewal and the \$20 two-year fee would be required every 24 months thereafter.

Premises can be registered now online at www.tahc.state.tx.us, or by completing a registration form and faxing or mailing it to the TAHC. Many county Extension agents, as well as agricultural associations, have registration forms available, or can assist in registering online. The TAHC also has staff members who can assist by phone. The TAHC's headquarters in Austin can be reached toll-free at (800) 550-8242.

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According to USDA's January 27 Cattle Report, all cattle and calves in the U.S. as of January 1 totaled 97.1 million head, up 1.7 percent from 95.438 on January 1, 2005 and up 2.3 percent from 94.888 million head on January 1, 2004.

The report indicated increases in all categories including other heifers (feedlot heifers) which increased slightly (3200 head) from an inventory 9.763 million head on January 1, 2005.

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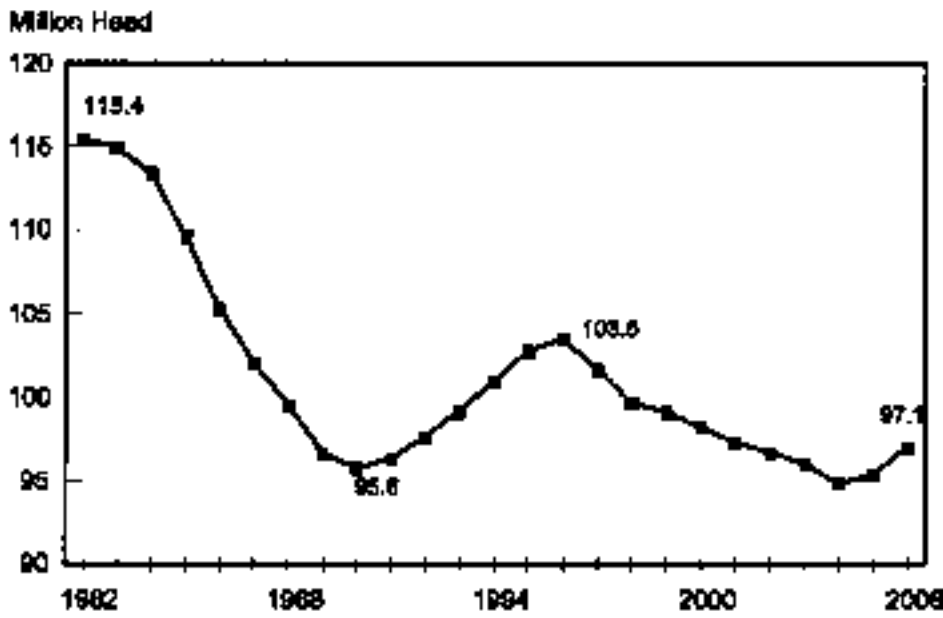
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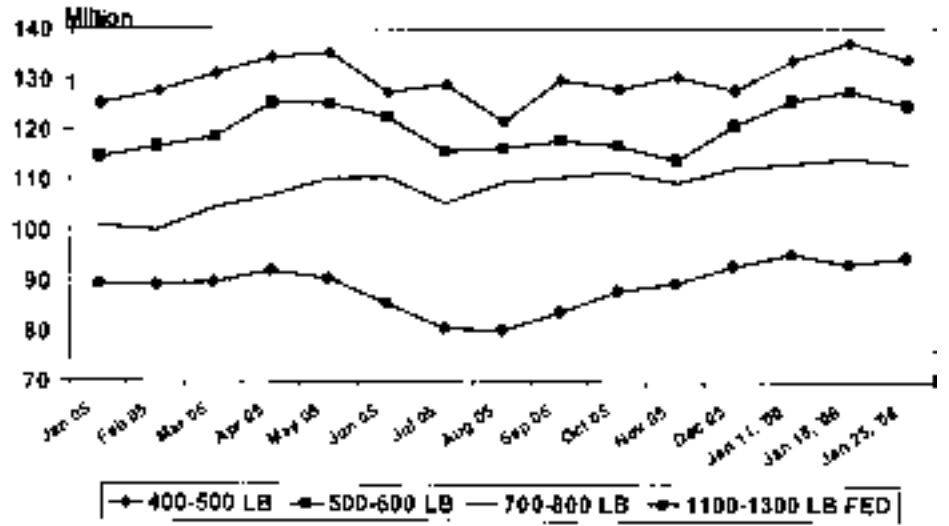
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**Figure 1: U.S. Cattle Inventory
January 1, 1982-2006**



Source: USDA-NASS, Cattle Report, January 27, 2006

**Figure 2: Selected Steer Prices Jan. '05-Jan. '06;
January-December Monthly;
January 2006 Weekly Prices**



2005 prices based on January 2005 only

While the inventory increase was relatively small, the report indicates moderate growth in the cattle inventory. Heifers held for beef cow replacement were up 3.8 and seven percent from 2005 and 2004, respectively, but those expected to calve in 2006 were up only 2.2 percent. Beef cows were up one percent and beef cow replacements up only 3.8 percent, indicating relatively slow growth.

Market Outlook Bright

There was only minor market reaction, as the inventory increase had been anticipated by the industry.

While the cattle market appears flat to slightly weakening during January 2006, overall, the calf and feeder market

outlook appears relatively bright. The market appears to be reflecting the influence of several factors, including the re-opening of the border to Canadian live cattle imports while exports markets to Japan and Korea opened temporarily but re-closed.

Calf Crop Down

Meanwhile, calf and feeder cattle supplies remain low. The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 37.78 million head, up slightly (.7 percent) from 37.505 million calves born in 2004 and down 1.9 percent from a calf crop of 37.903 million head in 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year (spring 2006 feeder calf crop) were estimated at 27.4 million, up just slightly from 2004.

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Influence of Drouth

The slow inventory increase has been influenced by the continuing drouth in the South Central U.S. This area accounts for approximately 60 percent of the U.S. cattle herd. The drouth has resulted in

poor condition of small grain and other winter pastures and reduced the volume of calves retained on small grain pastures. The USDA report reflects a substantially lower number of calves on pasture this winter compared to a year ago at this same time.

It appears that the calves may have gone to feedlots as feedlot placements were up sharply in November and December.

The prolonged drouth will no doubt influence the rate of expansion of the national cattle

herd. According to the annual report, states that reported some of the largest increases in females are currently states being heavily impacted by the drouth. As such, expansion may be occurring even more slowly than reported.

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Aussie Industry Projects Strong Lamb, Beef Markets For A Time

Australian cattle and sheep industry projections released by Meat & Livestock Australia suggest 2006 prospects for the prime lamb industry are bright.

Lamb prices should remain at high levels in 2006, but a projected build-up in Australian lamb supplies and increasing competition from beef suggest that prices will "ease" over the medium term, the report says.

Prime lamb producers responded to recent demand growth with record lamb production in 2005, and a further

expansion of almost 20 percent is projected over the next five years, providing the drought breaks.

However, supplies during 2006 are likely to be constrained by the poorer breeding season last year, leaving slaughter slightly down but production up a little on last year, due to increased weights. Supplies through the coming autumn and winter are expected to be tighter and prices higher than a year ago.

Growth in the Australian sheep flock is forecast to be slower than previously antici-

pated, reaching 104 million head during 2006, up one percent, and 108 million head by 2010, with much of the prime lamb growth coming from a compositional change in the flock from wool to meat production, and improved feeding.

Domestic demand for Australian lamb is expected to remain strong due to improvements in quality, marketing and dietary trends, though forecast increases in production will largely be absorbed by export markets.

Despite supply constraints, sales to the U.S., Japan and China are forecast to expand further in 2006, and to feature in the projected 22 percent expansion in lamb shipments over the coming five years, to 173,000 tons.

Meanwhile, a recent jump in demand for Aussie beef at home and around the world has brought prosperity and growth to the Australian cattle industry. Meat & Livestock Australia says several challenges are looming, however. MLA's chief market analyst, Peter Weeks, said the industry is likely to face increased challenges over coming years, as the U.S. returns to global markets and South American competition grows.

"The past five years have been one of the most remarkable and turbulent in the grand history of the Australian beef and cattle industry, caused by rising demand, falling competition, an appreciating Aussie dollar and severe drought," Weeks said.

"The Asian import bans on U.S. and Canadian beef have only added to the high prices set by rising beef demand in the U.S. and Australia and cyclically low U.S. supplies.

"The peak cattle prices were probably set in the winter/spring of 2005. Rising supplies, increased competition from the U.S. and Canada and, possibly, some fall in demand for beef in the U.S. are likely to cause an easing in prices in the short to medium term.

"However, a dramatic decline in cattle and beef prices should be avoided, at least in the short term, by cyclically low U.S. supply and high prices, the retention of additional market share in Japan and Korea, strong local demand, a possible easing in the Aussie dollar and constrained local supplies."

Weeks warned that predict-

ing developments for the beef industry is particularly difficult at this time, due to uncertainty still surrounding the re-entry of U.S. beef to global markets, beef demand in the U.S., Japan and Korea, and the drought.

Leaving the turbulence associated with the U.S. return to global markets aside, the prospects for sales of Australian beef both locally and internationally remain bright, due to Australia's disease-free status and safety image, growing underlying interest in beef, and constrained supplies in the Pacific Basin, particularly the U.S.

Export demand is forecast to plateau in 2006, as the assumed return of the U.S. to Japan and Korea by mid-year and earlier return to other markets, particularly Taiwan, causes a limited fall in demand for Australian beef. Exports to Japan are forecast to fall only four percent from the 2005 record, to 390,000 tons, still 40 percent higher than in 2003.

However, the U.S. re-entry into Korea, under more liberal import protocols, is likely to be much more significant, leading to a forecast 20 percent fall in Australian shipments in 2006, to 85,000 tons (36 percent up on 2003).

"Australian beef is expected to maintain a higher ongoing share of the Japanese and Korean markets than prior to U.S. BSE, despite the return of U.S. product to these markets. North Asian customers have warmed to Australian beef and there will likely be some consumer resistance against U.S. product," Weeks said.

This decline in exports to North Asia is expected to be matched by expansion in shipments to Southeast Asia and North America, leaving total exports in 2006 close to the previous year, but with a lower export value.

Without a major demand shock overseas, demand for beef should ease only gradually over the medium term, as U.S. and South American competition intensifies.

Following a 40 percent decline over the past three years, Australian live cattle exports are projected to partially recover over coming years, commencing with a five percent rise in 2006 to 600,000 head. Rising incomes in Southeast Asian, Middle East and North African markets, lower Australian cattle prices and a falling Australian dollar should help to restore margins in this trade.

The growing Australian consumer demand for beef, evident since 2000, is expected to continue over the next few years, driven by higher consumer spending and further improvements in beef's quality, health image and presentation, assisted by an expanded marketing campaign. Consumer spending on beef is estimated to have risen an astounding 50 percent over the past five years, to more than \$6 billion.

With strong domestic demand and easing export competition for stock taking some pressure off retail beef prices, local beef consumption is projected to expand, commencing with a 1.6 kilogram rise in 2006, to 37kg per person.

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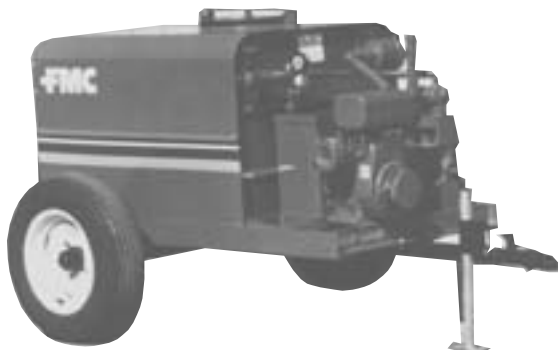
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Weeks said the Australian cattle industry is responding to the demand for Australian beef by investing heavily in cattle, land, feed, capital and equipment.

"Despite the impact of the lingering drought — particularly in the north — on farm productivity has been lifted by the increased use of grain and better herd management," Weeks said.

"Consequently, the cattle herd is expected to expand by four percent in the year to June 2006, to 28.8 million, and beef and veal production by almost three percent in 2006, to a near record 2.15 million tons. Herd growth should taper off over the medium term as prices

ease, with projected production in 2010 being 15 percent higher than 2005.

"Despite the impact of the anticipated U.S. return to Japan and Korea, the Australian lot feeding sector looks set to further strengthen its role in the Australian beef industry, following the 20 percent growth in feedlot capacity in the past two years and growing domestic interest in the product.

"All in all, we have a growing Australian cattle industry blessed with a greatly expanded interest in its output, but with increased competition causing prices to fall progressively back towards historical average levels over the coming five years," Weeks said.

Creekstone Farms Head Pitches Own Beef Import Idea To Japan

By Richard Smith

TOKYO — Going against the grain of the U.S. Meat Export Federation and most players in the U.S. beef industry, Creekstone Farms of Arkansas City, Kan., is willing to accept a blanket testing of cattle for BSE if that will reassure Japanese customers.

CEO John Stewart told a meeting of Japan's main opposition party's BSE Strategy Headquarters last week that he believes U.S. beef is safe.

"Frankly speaking, I do not think individual testing is necessary," Stewart said.

However, "I do not think my customer is always right, but I think my customer is my customer," he said to assembled Diet (Japanese parliament) members of the Democratic Party of Japan, Japanese and foreign press.

Creekstone Farms is committed to exporting its beef to Japan but, Stewart warned, others in the U.S. beef industry are setting their sights on another Asian country.

"Many of our competitors think they should export to South Korea," he said.

Stewart pointed out that South Korea is expected to lift its ban on U.S. beef within 45 days. The U.S. will then be able to export to that country

beef up to 30 months old, as long as it is deboned.

Such meat is considered safe from BSE according to international standards, but Japan limited imports from the U.S. to beef 20 months old and younger.

Stewart emphasized the average age of cattle in the U.S. is 24 months. "Finding beef 20 months old and younger is difficult and costly," he said.

After lifting a two-year ban imposed on U.S. beef because of BSE on December 12, Japan closed its doors again on January 20 when parts banned under export to Japan rules were found in a shipment of veal from a small company in Brooklyn, New York.

Stewart said U.S. beef exporters have to be very careful with Japan, because they can make a big investment in the country, and risk seeing everything stop in one day.

"We are bothered by the fact that if one tiny company makes a silly mistake, then everybody loses," he said.

Part of the problem stems from a policy of blanket approval of beef from all plants in the U.S. at one time, Stewart believes. Such a policy overlooks the varying degrees of capabilities within the industry, he said.

"If every U.S. beef plant were like Creekstone, I would not be with you today," Stewart said.

Instead of a blanket approval, Stewart proposed Japan adopt a "plant-by-plant" approval system. Highlights of such a system would be:

— Japan would identify U.S. companies that want to export beef to Japan

— Those companies would be required to follow each and every export to Japan rule

— Companies that cannot follow the rules would be forbidden from exporting to Japan

— If there is any problem in a processing plant, that plant would be delisted

"The system would raise the bar for the whole industry in the United States," Stewart said.

Within the last month, Creekstone Farms received visits by two Diet fact-finding teams, one from the DPJ and the other from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Stewart, accompanied by Creekstone international and ethnic sales vice president Rich Swearingen, planned his trip here two months ago, upon resumption of trade. Sticking to the plan despite the renewed ban, he accepted the BSESH's invitation to talk.

The executives also visited their Japanese customers. "Our customers are very supportive. They want the market to re-open," Stewart said.

So does the LDP, the DPJ and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Stewart concluded from talks he had.

"But there are procedures," he said.

During the first ban on U.S. beef, which then also included Canadian beef, Australia captured a 91 percent share of the Japanese beef import market in fiscal 2004. New Zealand was way behind with 7.5 percent, leaving trickles to a half-dozen other countries.

However, the daily *Nihon Nogyo Shimbun* (The Japan Agricultural News) reported February 27 that Mexican beef is becoming a substitute to U.S. products since an economic partnership agreement between Japan and Mexico, in effect since last April, con-

siderably reduced tariffs on Mexican beef.

Quoting figures from Japan's Ministry of Finance, the newspaper reported 6740 metric tons of Mexican beef came in last year, a sixfold increase from 2004. In contrast, pork imports rose only eight percent.

Graham Cattle Prices Move To Higher Plane

GRAHAM — (TDA-Feb. 27) — Feeder steers and heifers sold \$2-4 higher, slaughter cows and bulls \$2-3 higher.

Receipts totaled 629 head. Steers: medium and large No. 1 300-400 lbs. \$145-165, 400-500 lbs. \$125-155, 500-600 lbs. \$112-147.50, calves 600-700 lbs. \$106-122, calves 700-800 lbs. \$99-110; medium and large No. 2 300-400 lbs. \$135-165, 400-500 lbs. \$120-155, 500-600 lbs. \$110-134, calves 600-700 lbs. \$103-116. Heifers: medium and large No. 1 300-400 lbs. \$131-165, 400-500 lbs. \$124-145, 500-600 lbs. \$110-125, calves 600-700 lbs. \$99.50-122, calves 700-800 lbs. \$91-97; medium and large No. 2 300-400 lbs. \$120-145, 400-500 lbs. \$111-135, 500-600 lbs. \$105-126, calves 600-700 lbs. \$95-106, calves 700-800 lbs. \$94-97. Slaughter cows: boners \$48-59.50, lean \$43-54; yield grade 1-2 bulls 1300-2100 lbs. \$60-73. Stock cows: medium and large 1-2 young to middleaged 675-1070 lbs. 3-8 months bred \$564-830 per head, young to middleaged 1105-1360 lbs. 3-8 months bred \$707-980.

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We sold 1267 head of cattle on a steady to higher market with excellent buyer attendance. Compared to last week's sale stocker calves sold \$2-3 higher, feeder cattle and cows steady, bulls \$2 higher.

STEERS		HEIFERS	
300-400 Pounds	\$155.00 to \$168.00	300-400 Pounds	\$135.00 to \$143.00
400-500 Pounds	\$140.00 to \$148.00	400-500 Pounds	\$125.00 to \$133.50
500-600 Pounds	\$130.00 to \$139.00	500-600 Pounds	\$110.00 to \$120.00
600-700 Pounds	\$115.00 to \$119.00	600-700 Pounds	\$100.00 to \$110.00
700-800 Pounds	\$100.00 to \$102.00	700-800 Pounds	\$ 92.00 to \$ 93.50
Packer Cows	\$ 50.00 to \$ 53.75	Feeder Bulls	\$ 64.00 to \$ 69.00
Canner & Cutter Cows	\$ 45.00 to \$ 50.00	Cows/Calves (Top Half)	\$1000 to \$1050 pair
Packer Bulls	\$ 70.00 to \$ 74.10	Bred Cows (Top Half)	\$900 to \$1000 head

ALL CLASSES OF CATTLE SELLING ONE DAY - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

STOCKER CALVES and FEEDER YEARLINGS —

Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	3 Charolais cross steers	348 lbs.	\$168.00
Brad Morris — Lake Arthur	1 black mottled steer	345 lbs.	157.00
Robert Wellborn — Quemado	2 black steers	320 lbs.	156.00
Charles W. Hudson — Las Cruces	2 black and black mottled steers	370 lbs.	152.00
Corn Bros Inc. — Roswell	5 black and black mottled steers	384 lbs.	150.00
Cecil Conklin — Lake Arthur	4 black mixed steers	390 lbs.	149.00
Roy Creamer — Milnesand	7 black steers	459 lbs.	148.00
James H. Howell Trust — Lakewood	4 black mixed steers	463 lbs.	140.50
Roy Creamer — Milnesand	18 black and black whiteface steers	513 lbs.	139.00
Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	1 red steer	525 lbs.	137.00
Freddie E. Montoya — Grants	1 Charolais cross steer	550 lbs.	128.00
James H. Howell Trust — Lakewood	1 black steer	575 lbs.	124.00
Harrington Ranch LLC — Lordsburg	1 black whiteface steer	610 lbs.	119.00
Tony Vasquez — Loving	2 black mottled steers	608 lbs.	117.00
Johnny Reid — Loving	6 black steers	609 lbs.	114.00
John Barfield — Verhalen, Texas	9 red mixed steers	677 lbs.	108.00
Mescalero Apache Tribe — Mescalero	2 black mottled steers	713 lbs.	102.50
Mescalero Apache Tribe — Mescalero	18 red mixed steers	763 lbs.	101.50
Greg Duggar — Dell City, Texas	6 red and red mottled steers	819 lbs.	95.00
Cooper Cattle Co. — Las Cruces	1 black mottled heifer	295 lbs.	146.50
Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	4 Charolais cross heifers	344 lbs.	143.00
Phil Stell — Carlsbad	6 black and black mottled heifers	308 lbs.	140.00
Richardson Cattle Co. — Carlsbad	4 black heifers	351 lbs.	137.00
Devers Ranch — Roswell	6 black heifers	373 lbs.	135.00
Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	8 black and black mottled heifers	401 lbs.	133.50
Brad Morris — Lake Arthur	2 black mixed heifers	423 lbs.	131.00
Wilson Stephens — Hagerman	4 red heifers	413 lbs.	130.50
Roy Creamer — Milnesand	15 black and black mottled heifers	421 lbs.	125.50
William D. Colwell — Carlsbad	2 red heifers	478 lbs.	124.00
Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	1 black mottled heifer	535 lbs.	120.00
Gene Savoie — Artesia	1 red heifer	555 lbs.	117.50
Greg Conklin — Lake Arthur	4 black heifers	510 lbs.	116.50
Jay Eldridge — Capitan	2 black mixed heifers	520 lbs.	116.50
Wier Brothers — Lovington	9 black and black mottled heifers	523 lbs.	115.00
Corn Bros. Inc. — Roswell	1 black heifer	605 lbs.	110.00
Brian Crider — Estancia	1 black heifer	650 lbs.	108.00
Wier Brothers — Lovington	2 smokey heifers	748 lbs.	93.50

PACKER COWS and BULLS —

Roadrunner Ranches Inc. — Roswell	1 Charolais bull	2255 lbs.	\$ 74.10
Roadrunner Ranches Inc. — Roswell	1 black bull	1960 lbs.	73.00
Roadrunner Ranches Inc. — Roswell	1 black bull	1820 lbs.	71.75
Beverly Gillock — Carlsbad	1 red mottled bull	1830 lbs.	71.25

Jace or Stacy Reid — Lovington	1 Charolais cross bull	1875 lbs.	71.25
Cooper Cattle Co. — Las Cruces	1 red bull	1580 lbs.	71.00
Cooper Cattle Co. — Las Cruces	1 red cow	1075 lbs.	56.75
Larry Gandy — Tatum	1 black cow	1215 lbs.	55.75
Len Stokes — Capitan	1 red cow	1155 lbs.	55.60
Lonnie Owens — Roswell	1 red cow	1190 lbs.	55.25
Truebill Cattle Co. — Roswell	1 black cow	1445 lbs.	55.10
Barbara Runyan Ranch — Hope	1 black mottled cow	1070 lbs.	55.00
Ramos Land & Cattle Co. — Dexter	1 Charolais cross cow	1000 lbs.	54.10
Deep Wells Ranch — Jal	1 Charolais cow	1325 lbs.	54.00
B & H Herefords — Hope	1 whiteface cow	1065 lbs.	54.00

STOCKER COWS —

Juan M. Vasquez — Loving	1 black mottled bred cow	\$1000.00 per head
Jesse Bates — Mayhill	1 black bred cow	905.00 per head
James Solomon — Mountainair	1 black bred cow	900.00 per head
William D. Colwell — Carlsbad	1 black pair	1050.00 per pair
Leonard Ranch — Hope	1 whiteface pair	1000.00 per pair
James Solomon — Mountainair	1 black pair	1000.00 per pair

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Fall Horse Sale - September 22 & 23 • Winter Horse Sale - December 1 & 2

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Routine telephone opening from one of my sons is: "Dad, anybody try to buy you out this week?" The reply is always the same. "No, but this is only Thursday."

A big land boom roars all across the state. Inquiries come in the post every week seeking new listings. To sell adjoining lands, realtors only call herders

in case a lock between former neighbors deters showing the ranch. For example, the sole contact after part of my maternal grandfather's estate sold was when a buyer called inquiring about the location of a plugged water well.

The buyer must have been intuitive. He said the people plugging the well probably didn't know enough to read electric logs or tell a dry hole from an artesian well. He was right. Ben Smith, his cable tool rig, and myself were the prospectors.

As technicians, we tied white rags on the sand line to guess our progress. At 150 feet, Ben bailed specks of wet clay on top of the red beds. I told him if Hughes Tool Company had loaned us a rotary rig with diamond bits, we might have drilled through the red beds to hit fresh water before hitting the salt dome.

The guy hung up without learning that the odds of Hughes Tool loaning Ben Smith and a sheep herder a rig and a set of tools fell somewhere in the range of the same parties becoming lucky enough to be transferred to a land of flowing springs and low-rent lakefront property.

Soon new signs appeared on the farm to market road. Noticed too, the wire gaps on the

division fence sagged from chains and locks. Deer hunters sighted five wild hogs on us that might have been the reason for the locked gates. Newspaper ads offer wild pigs for \$250 a head. Be understandable, if the newcomers stocked high-priced game animals, that they wouldn't want a neighbor or his hunters wandering over property lines to harvest a high-priced pig.

Too, historically, stray hogs before the first cold weather in Irion County lived under perilous title. The few traces remaining of the founding families prefer avoiding the subject of river hogs, especially unbranded river hogs. I can state right now that were the commissioner's court worth the cost of the cushions in the worthies' chairs, the court would outlaw DNA in the county. Descendants of pioneers should be honored, not hounded by faults ingrained by our heritage. (Wish I could see that paragraph written on a blackboard the way we did in the fifth grade.)

Then comes the question of how many locks secure my outfit. On the highway, the rock house gate chain has a lock and a snap to allow for the ones of us who can't remember the combination. One inside door at the house has a bolt to keep little kids away from the mouse poison in the closets.

Up on the Divide, deer hunters lock trailers, cabins, shacks, blinds, tool boxes, beer coolers, spare tires, gas cans, and the jeeps and pickups at night. For my part to deter robbers, I prop a cane-bottom chair under the north doorknob in winter. Summertime, screen doors latches secure the house unless the grandchildren visit.

Causes too much trouble to keep a stepstool handy to accommodate youngsters.

Besides, the point of visiting the ranch is freedom. Inducing a bronc teenager fresh off the asphalt and concrete and free of smog and grit to lock out warm earth, pure air and open sky with a screen door goes against the country theme of alleviating and healing the senses and being of guests.

When all my children were home, a senior screen door lasted six weeks. Only reason to have a latch was to keep the tomcats, hunting dogs and black crows from disturbing the menagerie of pet coons, fox squirrels, and barn owls indoors. (No big change here. One son reported a possum spent three days last week inside his ranch house.)

One place we keep locked at the ranch is the water well

pumping from an underground stream. A heavy steel mesh door prevents novice explorers, like high school kids, from going down in the cave without permission.

A long time ago, Mother and my stepdad rescued a couple of lads by rigging a block and tackle over the cave. Be a good guess the lesson lasted the boys for a month or two. In those days, boys stayed out of danger and trouble for days, if not weeks, on end.

Best part is we have good neighbors — new and old. The newspapers keep hurting the chance of selling out, blabbing about the dry spell and the grass fires. Besides, were there such a thing as an offer, my son and I would have to rewrite our script.

San Saba Feeder Cattle Prices Termed Steady

SAN SABA — (Feb. 23) — Feeder steers and heifers sold steady, slaughter cows and bulls \$3 higher. No sale was held in Mason due to icy conditions. Receipts totaled 816 head.

Steers: choice lightweight calves \$145-215, mediumweight \$120-162.50, heavyweight \$110-126; lightweight yearlings \$100-106.

Heifers: choice lightweight calves \$130-210, mediumweight \$110-145, heavyweight \$105-124; lightweight yearlings \$95-101, heavyweight \$85-96.

Slaughter cows: high dressing \$52-59, medium \$44-51, low \$35-43; high dressing bulls \$67-71.50, medium \$61-

66, low \$55-60; heiferettes and young stock cows \$60-90; choice bred cows \$850-940 per head, medium to good \$750-840, age \$500-740; choice cows with calves \$1010-1190 per pair, medium to good \$860-1000, aged \$650-850.

Representative sales: Maralo, Round Mountain, steer, 310 lbs. \$180; Todd Smith, Brownwood, steer, 330 lbs. \$175; Vaughn D. Sanders, Cherokee, steer, 405 lbs. \$155; Franklin Crain, Cherokee, steer, 495 lbs. \$147; George Wallace, Sonora, four steers, 506 lbs. \$145; three steers, 512 lbs. \$141; heifer, 440 lbs. \$145; Edwin T. Tickle, Eden, two steers, 555 lbs. \$132; four steers, 596 lbs. \$130; three heifers, 592 lbs. \$124.

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Nation's Yearling Feeder Cattle Steady, Calf Trade Highly Mixed

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. —(USDA) — Yearling feeder cattle sold weak to \$3 lower last week. Calves continued to trend uneven with southeastern states selling steady to \$5 lower and the Midwest from Missouri through Nebraska and Iowa steady to \$5 higher. Across the Plains, where the dryness is bordering on dustbowl severity, buyers continue to purchase stockers at mostly steady prices.

Nationwide auction receipts were much lighter as a winter storm moved across Oklahoma, Arkansas and southern

Missouri. The Oklahoma National Stockyards had reduced receipts of only 2200 head compared to more than 11,000 the same week last year, and the Ozarks Regional Stockyard in West Plains, Missouri, was forced to cancel their auction. However, numbers would have been light even if the weather had been ideal in all regions.

Spring calving producers have mostly sold last year's crop, as this year's calves are starting to hit the ground. Meanwhile, most backgrounded cattle that usually come off

wheat now through March 15 have already made their way into feedlots because of the drought. Calf buyers are struggling to put grass calves together early for fear that supplies may be even tighter this spring.

The cattle complex is curious at this point with drought and export variables mixed into the equation. Nothing seems to pencil out, as light calves are at historic highs, yearlings can only be hedged to lock in a \$50-100 loss, and packers who can't seem to raise cutout values high enough increase slaughter rates. Cow-calf producers have been reaping the rewards of high-dollar cattle for several years but many refuse to acknowledge the warning signs of rough waters ahead.

Sale barns across the country reported an increase in demand for top quality heifers. Nearly 1000 head of open replacement heifers were bought in the Bassett and Valentine, Nebraska, auctions alone. These fancy girls weighed from 600 to 800 pounds and cost from \$750 to \$950 per head.

Friday's cattle on feed report set a new record since the current data began in 1996, with 12.1 million head being fed in major feedlots on February 1. This was seven percent more

than last year and within the range of most guesses. January marketings were much anticipated at 102 percent, while placements far exceeded most analysts' predictions with 16 percent more cattle put on feed. However, many of these cattle went to the feedyard early and placements are expected to adjust over the next couple of months.

Offerings weighing more than 600 pounds made up 56 percent of the week's reported auction volume, and 43 percent were heifers.

Auction receipts totaled 193,600 head, the previous week 242,400 and last year 265,900.

Texas 17,400 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$164.88, 350-400 lbs. \$153.90, 400-450 lbs. \$146.91, 450-500 lbs. \$136.97, 500-550 lbs. \$132.38, 550-600 lbs. \$122.63, 600-650 lbs. \$116.24, 700-750 lbs. \$108.45, 750-800 lbs. \$105.92, 800-850 lbs. \$102.65, 850-900 lbs. \$101.32; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$145.34, 350-400 lbs. \$138.90, 400-450 lbs. \$131, 450-500 lbs. \$126.77, 500-550 lbs. \$121.87, 550-600 lbs. \$117.05.

Oklahoma 15,900 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$165.58, 350-400 lbs. \$163.56, 400-450 lbs. \$148.65, 450-500 lbs. \$139.67, 500-550 lbs. \$137.07, 550-600

lbs. \$130.44, 600-650 lbs. \$119.07, 650-700 lbs. \$116.24, 700-750 lbs. \$109.27, 750-800 lbs. \$105.88, 800-850 lbs. \$102.39, 850-900 lbs. \$99.47; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$145.60, 400-450 lbs. \$135, 450-500 lbs. \$126.29, 500-550 lbs. \$122.68, 550-600 lbs. \$115.25, 600-650 lbs. \$109.55, 650-700 lbs. \$105.20, 700-750 lbs. \$99.79, 750-800 lbs. \$98.38, 800-850 lbs. \$96.10, 850-900 lbs. \$94.62.

New Mexico 1500 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 500-550 lbs. \$122.11; heifers, medium and large No. 1 450-500 lbs. \$126.23, 500-550 lbs. \$115.79.

Kansas 12,200 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 350-400 lbs. \$163.63, 400-450 lbs. \$154.66, 450-500 lbs. \$146.67, 500-550 lbs. \$138.91, 550-600 lbs. \$131.40, 600-650 lbs. \$124.43, 650-700 lbs. \$116.05, 700-750 lbs. \$110.97, 750-800 lbs. \$105.66, 800-850 lbs. \$102.04, 850-900 lbs. \$99.73; heifers, 350-400 lbs. \$145.27, 400-450 lbs. \$137.36, 500-550 lbs. \$124.63, 550-600 lbs. \$118.16, 600-650 lbs. \$110.80, 650-700 lbs. \$106.12, 700-750 lbs. \$102.24, 750-800 lbs. \$98.05, 800-850 lbs. \$95.95.

Missouri 22,200 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$160.73, 350-400 lbs. \$155.59, 400-450 lbs. \$154.16, 450-500 lbs. \$145.58, 500-550 lbs. \$140.94, 550-600 lbs. \$133.51, 600-650 lbs. \$126.70, 650-700 lbs. \$116.41, 700-750 lbs. \$109.95, 750-800 lbs. \$105.28, 800-850 lbs. \$101.37, 850-900 lbs. \$98.39; Holsteins, large No. 3 450-500 lbs. \$117.06, 700-750 lbs. \$88.89, 800-850 lbs. \$86.40, 850-900 lbs. \$79.70; heifers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$146.35, 350-400 lbs. \$140.42, 400-450 lbs. \$135.88, 450-500 lbs. \$132.37, 500-550 lbs. \$127.74, 550-600 lbs. \$119.98, 600-650 lbs. \$112.45, 650-700 lbs. \$106.68, 700-750 lbs. \$100.89, 750-800 lbs. \$96.25,

800-850 lbs. \$94.26, 850-900 lbs. \$92.26.

Iowa 12,800 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 350-400 lbs. \$166.79, 400-450 lbs. \$155.61, 450-500 lbs. \$148.35, 500-550 lbs. \$143.09, 550-600 lbs. \$135.29, 600-650 lbs. \$128.39, 650-700 lbs. \$121.23, 700-750 lbs. \$115.75, 750-800 lbs. \$107.90, 800-850 lbs. \$105.25, 850-900 lbs. \$102.75; heifers, 350-400 lbs. \$147.16, 400-450 lbs. \$137.72, 450-500 lbs. \$130.35, 500-550 lbs. \$128.27, 550-600 lbs. \$120.37, 600-650 lbs. \$114.34, 650-700 lbs. \$110.85, 700-750 lbs. \$104.33, 750-800 lbs. \$103.77.

Nebraska 18,400 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 400-450 lbs. \$163.22, 450-500 lbs. \$153.46, 500-550 lbs. \$145.04, 550-600 lbs. \$137.74, 600-650 lbs. \$129.49, 650-700 lbs. \$124.42, 700-750 lbs. \$119.08, 750-800 lbs. \$113.06, 800-850 lbs. \$108.34, 850-900 lbs. \$105.84; heifers, 400-450 lbs. \$145.64, 450-500 lbs. \$138.62, 500-550 lbs. \$132.72, 550-600 lbs. \$125.67, 600-650 lbs. \$117.77, 650-700 lbs. \$113.10, 700-750 lbs. \$106.42, 750-800 lbs. \$104.23, 800-850 lbs. \$99.59, load and a half 870 lbs. \$99.

Colorado 3400 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 500-550 lbs. \$142.69, 550-600 lbs. \$133.63, 800 lbs. \$103.25, 815 lbs. \$105.50; heifers, 500-550 lbs. \$125.60, 550-600 lbs. \$121.09, 700-750 lbs. \$97.42.

Wyoming 1800 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 550-600 lbs. \$136.46, 700-750 lbs. \$109.69, 750-800 lbs. \$108.55, 800-850 lbs. \$104.50; heifers, 400-450 lbs. \$153.03, 450-500 lbs. \$136.19, 500-550 lbs. \$136.42, 550-600 lbs. \$132.84, 800-850 lbs. \$98.

Dakotas 29,000 head. South Dakota steers, medium and large No. 1 400-450 lbs. \$158.90, 450-500 lbs. \$154.95, 500-550 lbs. \$146.81, 550-600 lbs. \$133.89, 600-650 lbs. \$130.33, 650-700

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lbs. \$118.24, 700-750 lbs. \$115.10, 750-800 lbs. \$105.92, 800-850 lbs. \$104.72, 850-900 lbs. \$100.51; heifers, 350-400 lbs. \$146.89, 400-450 lbs. \$141.09, 450-500 lbs. \$135.81, 500-550 lbs. \$132.77, 550-600 lbs. \$125.73, 600-650 lbs. \$120.02, 650-700 lbs. \$116.62, 700-750 lbs. \$107.41, 750-800 lbs. \$101.45, 800-850 lbs. \$96.90, 850-900 lbs. \$95.84; North Dakota steers, 500-550 lbs. \$149.07, 550-600 lbs. \$136.09, 750-800 lbs. \$109.05, 800-850 lbs. \$105.11, 850-900 lbs. \$101.58; heifers, 400-450 lbs. \$144.27, 450-500 lbs. \$138.32, 500-550 lbs. \$130.05, 550-600 lbs. \$125.92, 750-800 lbs. \$100.78, 800-850 lbs. \$94.53.

Montana 900 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 540 lbs. \$147.08, 600-650 lbs. \$123.62, 700-750 lbs. \$111.81, 750-800 lbs. \$106.58; heifers, 540 lbs. \$133, 650-700 lbs. \$106.63.

Washington 1500 head; heifers, medium and large No. 1-2 400-450 lbs. \$144.38, 650-700 lbs. \$104.75.

Virginia 2200 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 450-500 lbs. \$147.88, 550-600 lbs. \$129.94, 600-650 lbs. \$113.55, 650 lbs. \$115, 700-750 lbs. \$101.59, 800-850 lbs. \$99.48, 850-900 lbs. \$99.11; heifers, 450-500 lbs. \$124.41, 550-600 lbs. \$115.18, 600-650 lbs. \$105.60, 650-700 lbs. \$105.43.

Carolinas 3800 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 200-250 lbs. \$146-170, 250-300 lbs. \$146-172, 300-350 lbs. \$137-168, 350-400 lbs. \$130-158, 400-450 lbs. \$129-146, 450-500 lbs. \$120-133, 500-550 lbs. \$114-130, 550-600 lbs. \$107-123, 600-700 lbs. \$93-114, 700-800 lbs. \$90-105, 800-900 lbs. \$89-93; heifers, 200-250 lbs. \$129-140, 250-300 lbs. \$128-155, 300-350 lbs. \$126-143, 350-400 lbs. \$116-142, 400-450 lbs. \$111-134, 450-500 lbs. \$104-120, 500-550 lbs. \$96-115, 550-600 lbs. \$94-109, 600-700 lbs. \$84-101.

Kentucky 17,500 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 300-350 lbs. \$141-150, 350-400 lbs. \$138-147, 400-450 lbs. \$134-143, 450-500 lbs. \$127-136, 500-550 lbs. \$116-127, 550-600 lbs. \$113-124, 600-650 lbs. \$103-113, 650-700 lbs. \$100-110, 700-800 lbs. \$93-103, 800-900 lbs. \$92-102, 900-1000 lbs. \$90-96; Holsteins, large No. 3 300-400 lbs. \$108-120, 400-500 lbs. \$100-114, 500-600 lbs. \$95-105, 600-700 lbs. \$84-101, 700-800 lbs. \$85; heifers, medium and large No. 1-2 300-350 lbs. \$124-134, 350-400 lbs. \$123-127, 400-450 lbs. \$114-124, 450-500 lbs. \$113-123, 500-

550 lbs. \$107-117, 550-600 lbs. \$104-113, 600-700 lbs. \$95-106, 700-800 lbs. \$89-98.

Tennessee 6100 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 300-350 lbs. \$163.57, 350-400 lbs. \$152.24, 400-450 lbs. \$142.76, 450-500 lbs. \$135.56, 500-550 lbs. \$125.42, 550-600 lbs. \$119.97, 600-650 lbs. \$111.26, 650-700 lbs. \$106.72, 700-750 lbs. \$101.54, 750-800 lbs. \$99.22; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$136.54, 350-400 lbs. \$132.02, 400-450 lbs. \$126.54, 450-500 lbs. \$120.32, 500-550 lbs. \$114.77, 550-600 lbs. \$107.67, 600-650 lbs. \$101.96, 650-700 lbs. \$99.38, 700-750 lbs. \$96.93, 750-800 lbs. \$92.46, 675 lbs. \$103.50, 725-765 lbs. \$95.75-98.75.

Arkansas 2800 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$159.69, 350-400 lbs. \$153.84, 400-450 lbs. \$145.44, 450-500 lbs. \$134.64, 500-550 lbs. \$129.86, 550-600 lbs. \$122.34, 600-650 lbs. \$117.06, 650-700 lbs. \$111.15, 700-750 lbs. \$106.20; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$140.39, 350-400 lbs. \$134.06, 400-450 lbs. \$130.33, 450-500 lbs. \$121.82, 500-550 lbs. \$116.52, 550-600 lbs. \$112.68, 600-650 lbs. \$106.82, 650-700 lbs. \$104.21.

Louisiana 900 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 200-250 lbs. \$180-192.50, 250-300 lbs. \$172.50-182.50, 300-350 lbs. \$160-170, 350-400 lbs. \$155-165, 400-450 lbs. \$140-152, 450-500 lbs. \$128-137.50, 500-550 lbs. \$120-130, 550-600 lbs. \$118-126; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$154-160, 350-400 lbs. \$143-154, 400-450 lbs. \$131-137, 450-500 lbs. \$120-131, 500-550 lbs. \$108-118, 550-600 lbs. \$103-112.

Mississippi 2400 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 200-250 lbs. \$175-185, 250-300 lbs. \$165-175, 300-350 lbs. \$155-165, 350-400 lbs. \$150-155, 400-450 lbs. \$140-150, 450-500 lbs. \$130-140, 500-550 lbs. \$120-130, 550-600 lbs. \$110-120, 600-700 lbs. \$100-110; heifers, 200-

250 lbs. \$160-171, 250-300 lbs. \$155-160, 300-350 lbs. \$145-155, 350-400 lbs. \$140-145, 400-450 lbs. \$130-140, 450-500 lbs. \$120-130, 500-550 lbs. \$110-120, 550-600 lbs. \$105-110, 600-650 lbs. \$100-105.

Alabama 7100 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 300-350 lbs. \$157-170, 350-400 lbs. \$150-162, 400-450 lbs. \$140-151, 450-500 lbs. \$130-140, 500-550 lbs. \$123-131, 550-600 lbs. \$115-122, 600-650 lbs. \$112-117, 650-700 lbs. \$104-105, 700-800 lbs. \$95-100; medium and large No. 1-2 763 lbs. \$103, 900 lbs. \$94.40; heifers, 300-350 lbs. \$139-150, 350-400 lbs. \$132-145, 400-450 lbs. \$125-138, 450-500 lbs. \$118-130, 500-550 lbs. \$113-122, 550-600 lbs. \$106-116, 600-650 lbs. \$100-109, 650-700 lbs. \$99-100.

Georgia 8400 head. Steers and bulls, medium and large No. 1-2 200-250 lbs. \$152-201, 250-300 lbs. \$150-181, 300-350 lbs. \$139-172, 350-400 lbs. \$130-162, 400-450 lbs. \$125-15, 450-500 lbs. \$120-149, 500-550 lbs. \$110-125, 550-600 lbs. \$109-122, 600-650 lbs. \$103-116, 650-700 lbs. \$88-111, 700-750 lbs. \$94-107, 750-800 lbs. \$95-102; heifers, 200-250 lbs. \$130-172.50, 250-300 lbs. \$132-152, 300-350 lbs. \$130-

154, 350-400 lbs. \$124-148, 400-450 lbs. \$119-142, 450-500 lbs. \$113-136, 500-550 lbs. \$106-126, 550-600 lbs. \$101-115, 600-650 lbs. \$95-108, 650-700 lbs. \$98-104, 700-750 lbs. \$102-105.

Florida 5400 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 200-250 lbs. \$162.50-220, 250-300 lbs. \$160-195, 300-350 lbs. \$150-185, 350-400 lbs. \$134-168, 400-450 lbs. \$130-155, 450-500 lbs. \$110-144, 500-550 lbs. \$110-142, 550-600 lbs. \$105-127, 600-650 lbs. \$96-111, 650-700 lbs. \$90-100; heifers, 200-250 lbs. \$145-195, 250-300 lbs. \$140-173, 300-350 lbs. \$130-165, 350-400 lbs. \$118-137.50, 400-450 lbs. \$112-133, 450-500 lbs. \$105-135, 500-550 lbs. \$100-120, 550-600 lbs. \$98-119, 600-650 lbs. \$97-106, 650-700 lbs. \$96-99.

Direct receipts totaled 36,800 head, the previous week 31,500 and last year 40,600; 80 percent weighed more than 600 pounds and 34 percent were heifers.

Texas 6800 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 625 lbs. \$117, 700-750 lbs. \$109-109.25, 800-850 lbs. \$103-104.50; 775 lbs. \$106 delivered; heifers, 625-650 lbs. \$109-112; delivered, 600 lbs. \$105, 700-725 lbs. \$102; 700-725 lbs. \$105.25-105.65 March-

May. Oklahoma 1900 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 750-800 lbs. \$104-107, 800-850 lbs. \$103.75-105.50; heifers, 750-775 lbs. \$101.75-103.

Kansas 11,900 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 700 lbs. \$109, 750-800 lbs. \$105.50-107, 800-850 lbs. \$101.75-108, 850-900 lbs. \$97-101; delivered, medium and large No. 1 850 lbs. \$101; heifers, 715 lbs. \$102, 750 lbs. \$99-99.50; delivered, medium and large No. 1 589 lbs. \$117.50, 750-800 lbs. \$101-101.25, 800-825 lbs. \$97-102.50.

Colorado 2000 head. Steers, delivered medium and large No. 1 800-825 lbs. \$105.50-106, 850-875 lbs. \$101-103.85; heifers, delivered 800 lbs. \$99.

Wyoming 600 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 800-850 lbs. \$103-108; 925-930 lbs. \$99-100.50 delivered.

Dakotas 3500 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 500-550 lbs. \$142.32, 550-600 lbs. \$136.10, 650-700 lbs. \$120.32, 700-750 lbs. \$116.83, 750-800 lbs. \$106.14, 800-850 lbs. \$106.95, 850-900 lbs. \$100.63; heifers, 500-550 lbs. \$129.36,

550-600 lbs. \$125.31, 700-750 lbs. \$108.05, 750-800 lbs. \$103.04, 800-850 lbs. \$95.60.

Montana 500 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 800 lbs. \$104.50; heifers, 565 lbs. \$130; March 800 lbs. \$95.

Southwest 2500 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 Mexican 350 lbs. \$145; Holsteins, large No. 3 275 lbs. \$171 June.

Northwest 3300 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 750 lbs. \$105, 800-900 lbs. \$97-103, 850-900 lbs. \$101-103; 850 lbs. \$7 under CME board through August; delivered 800 lbs. \$10 under; heifers, 650-700 lbs. \$117, 750-800 lbs. \$94-98, 800-850 lbs. \$99; 800-850 lbs. \$98-100 delivered.

Eastern Cornbelt 200 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1 800-850 lbs. \$104.50.

Kentucky 3600 head. Steers, medium and large No. 1-2 600-700 lbs. \$111-118, 700-800 lbs. \$97-103, 800-875 lbs. \$94-100; heifers, 600-700 lbs. \$98-105, 700-800 lbs. \$90-96, 800-850 lbs. \$89-94.

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RECEIPTS FROM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 — 2840 HEAD
Stocker cattle fully steady, feeder steers and heifers \$1-3 lower, slaughter cows and bulls steady.

STEERS		HEIFERS	
7 blk	254 lbs. \$153.00	5 mxd	436 lbs. 127.50
6 mxd	463 lbs. 136.00	13 mxd	519 lbs. 114.50
32 mxd	427 lbs. 142.00	18 mxd	553 lbs. 114.75
14 mxd	507 lbs. 136.00	30 mxd	580 lbs. 103.50
19 mxd	597 lbs. 116.00	20 mxd	560 lbs. 112.00
10 mxd	568 lbs. 127.00	5 mxd	634 lbs. 107.00
27 mxd	716 lbs. 105.25	20 mxd	696 lbs. 103.50
44 blk	726 lbs. 108.75	288 mxd	739 lbs. 97.10
124 mxd	809 lbs. 101.50	60 blk	670 lbs. 103.50
122 mxd	796 lbs. 99.25	21 mxd	657 lbs. 105.50
197 mxd	773 lbs. 105.85	84 mxd	707 lbs. 101.50
67 mxd	706 lbs. 104.85	36 blk	769 lbs. 98.00
74 mxd	783 lbs. 101.00	Slaughter Cows: \$43.00 To \$58.50	
78 mxd	823 lbs. 101.50	Bulls: \$62.50 To \$72.00	
211 mxd	847 lbs. 97.35	— MARCH 20 —	
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680 JD pull chisel, 15 spring shank, super	6,950
705 JD twin v rake, like new	8,950
Great Plains 24' drill, 1272 acres, near new	18,500
980 JD 32' field cultivator, nice, like new	15,500
960 JD 32' field cultivator, immaculate	11,000
455 JD 30' triple, select down pressure, super	19,500
Great Plains 24' drill, 1272 acres, near new	14,500
Miller offset, 14'	4,500
630 JD disc	5,500
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Krause wing disc, 26', new disc, nice	8,950
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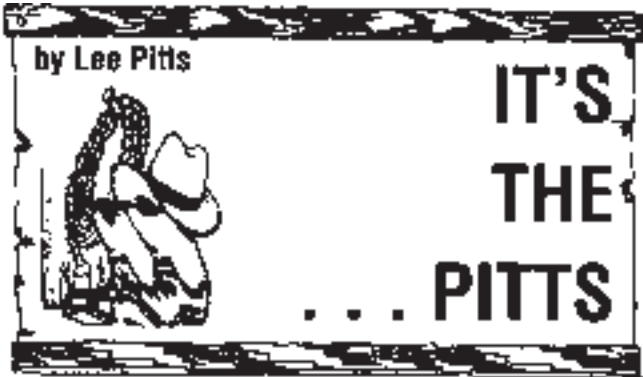
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If you have ever gone to bed without dessert for not eating your vegetables or tried to hide your lima beans underneath a napkin, you are going to want to hear what I have to report.

Remember when you were a little tyke and your mother would tell you to eat your vegetables because they were good for you? Back then your only options were to risk a

spanking or try to feed them to the dog, who usually showed his good sense and refused to eat them, too. Well, now you finally have a good comeback.

Men and boys, next time your wife or your mother tells you to eat your vegetables just ask her, "What are you trying to do, kill me?"

Vegetables may have been

good for you way back when we were kids, but after we increased our consumption from 287 pounds of fruits and vegetables per year in 1990 to 332 pounds currently, we find out now that mother should not have force-fed us all those veggies.

Consider this: illnesses traced to fresh produce and vegetables are now responsible for more large-scale outbreaks of food-borne illnesses than meat, poultry and eggs. Produce now accounts for 12 percent of food-borne illnesses and six percent of the outbreaks. That compares to only one percent of illnesses and seven-tenths of one percent of the outbreaks in 1970. So you vegetarians out there can stop acting so smug.

And no ... this information was not brought to you by the Beef Board or preschoolers, but by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which just happens to be the same people who used to tell every-

one not to eat beef. (They also report that meat-related e. coli infections are on the decline.)

The scientists say that illnesses from eating fruits and veggies are rising due to increased centralization of produce distribution, the rise of imports and the growing popularity of pre-chopped fruits and vegetables. To this list I would add one of my own reasons from personal observation: people sneezing into the salad bar.

The news is not quite as good as it sounds, because the main culprits are tomatoes, melons, lettuce and green onions, all foods which I actually love to eat. I was hoping the guilty parties would be Brussels sprouts, spinach and Lima beans, but no such luck. But I do have even better news. Guess what's now good for you?

Beer. That's right, the Breakfast of Champions. At least that's according to Anheuser-Busch, who may not exactly

be a disinterested party. Still, this is the news that beer guzzlers have been waiting for. According to Meir Stampfer, Chair of the Epidemiology Department at the Harvard School of Public Health, moderate drinkers are 60 percent less likely to have cardiovascular disease than nondrinkers. And this is from Harvard, not the Miller High Life School of Better Brewing.

I ask you, could the news be any better? To be healthier, all we have to do is eat less asparagus and drink more Coors Light! Next thing you know, Bud will be found in the health section at the grocery store. Don't spend your salary on celery, buy a 12-pack instead. No water for me waiter; bring me the healthy stuff. I'll have a Corona without the lemon.

I was excited about this news until Bob Lachky of Anheuser-Busch said, "There's sound science that there are some aspects of beer that are as good as wine and even better than white wine." It's been my experience that any time you hear the words "sound science," you should cover your ears and hide your wallet.

There's also research in the hopper, so to speak, to find an ingredient in hops that could prevent cancer. Wouldn't that be great? And if a little is good for you, more has to be better. Right? Then you could die of sclerosis of the liver instead of

cancer.

Remember Popeye the Sailor Man, who got superhuman strength from eating spinach? To foil Bluto and save Olive Oyl these days, instead of opening a can of the green leafy stuff, Popeye could just pop the top on a can of Bud Light.

San Saba Special Cow Sale Offers 3913 Head

SAN SABA — (Feb. 25) — Demand was good at a special replacement female cattle sale. Receipts totaled 3913 head.

The better cows with calves brought \$1200-1550 per pair, medium \$1000-1200, long bred cows \$1000-1250, medium and short bred \$825-1050, long bred heifers \$1000-1410, short bred and medium bred \$825-1050, and open heifers \$750-1050. Receipts totaled 3913 head.

Representative sales: Gene Baker, 47 tigerstripe heifers, long bred, \$1520 per head; John Evridge, 11 Santa Gertrudis-Hereford cross heifers, long bred, \$1350; Dr. Pat Cox, 45 black whiteface heifers, long bred, \$1300; H&M Livestock, 30 black mottled cows with first calves, \$1400 per pair; Bar C Cattle, 36 Angus first-calf pairs, \$1340; Harper Ranches, 26 Brangus heifers, open, \$950.

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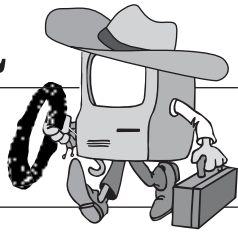
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By C. A. Rodenberger, PhD.

It has been an interesting day, seeing the use of computers to run a business. I should say the use of computer chips, because I am using both my laptop computer and my cell phone to get a lot of business done while my wife is in a regents' meeting at the Dallas campus of TWU. They let me plug my laptop into the high-speed DSL line.

I am looking at the rain move through Callahan County using the weather loop from an Abilene TV station. That looks good. I wrote up the minutes of two different church building committee meetings (we are meeting most every day) and e-mailed them to the committee and others. Already got a reply asking where Sunday's minutes were. I was coming back from Devine, Texas, and missed that meeting.

I was charged last night with making calls to geotechnical testing firms for foundation assessment for the building. I looked up the phone numbers on my computer, made the calls on my cell phone. One of the engineers said he needed a site map to make an estimate of the cost. I e-mailed a committee member, who prepared a topo map. He e-mailed the map to the engineer, who called me an hour later with his estimate. I could sure get spoiled by this high-speed connection.

One interesting computerized development still in the works is the e-book, where you can read books with a small computer that is about paperback book size. That technology is still being developed but is having problems being accepted. It has been tried by universities for textbooks, but failed miserably because the students wanted something they could write notes in, highlight and find when they needed info.

Sony is developing a new reader they hope to sell like the iPods that are used for music. One problem is that the books cost about as much as a paper copy of the book, which doesn't encourage buying a computerized copy. They had a big problem with music with pirated copies. Might happen with books. Google and others are copying books, so someday we might use that technology. But for now I will read my paperback copy.

You can e-mail me at car926@aol.com.

Domestic Wool Slow, Aussie Wools Higher

GREELEY, Colo. — (USDA) — Domestic wool trading remained at a near standstill. Domestic and export demand for U.S. wool is light except moderate to good for remaining lamb wool. Despite the

sharply higher prices in Australia over the past six weeks, domestic prices have remained relatively stable.

Grease wool trading was slow on remaining supplies of oldcrop wool under light demand. Colorado sold 10,000 pounds of feedlot lamb wool, original bag, bellies out and untied, 20-21 micron, 45-50 mm, average yield, at 44 cents f.o.b.; Texas, 15,000 pounds feedlot lamb wool, BI, 18-21 micron, 63-70 mm, average to high yielding 70 cents, a few crossbred 23-25 micron 36 cents. Domestic wool tags delivered, grease, No. 1 17-19 cents, No. 2 14-18 cents and No. 3 five to 11 cents.

The Australian wool auctions reported higher price trends for the sixth week in a row. The eastern market indicator was up 14 to close at 746A cents per kilo clean. The current exchange rate of the Australian dollar is .7360 U.S. compared to .7391 the previous week and .7886 last year. A total of 70,171 bales were offered with clearance at 90 percent, and this week's offerings is 82,311 bales. A year ago the EMI was 722.

Direct Fed Cattle Mixed, Boxed Beef Up

OKLAHOMA CITY — (USDA) — Fed steers and

heifers in direct trading sold higher in the north with good movement, while sales in Texas and Kansas remained at a standstill.

Boxed beef prices continued to improve. The cattle on feed report was expected to show large numbers on feed, with placements expected much larger due to the drought in Texas and Oklahoma.

Boxed beef values Friday morning averaged \$149.14, up \$4.24 from the previous Friday and about \$8.50 higher than two weeks ago. Sales of slaughter cattle on a national basis for negotiated cash trades through Friday morning was limited to the northern states and totaled 158,650 head. The previous week's full count was 135,843 head.

High Plains trade was not established.

In the Midwest 35-80 percent Choice steers and heifers weighing 900-1400 pounds brought \$87-91, weighted average \$89.78, dressed 550-950 pounds \$140-144, weighted average \$143.12.

Slaughter cows and bulls were steady to \$2 higher. The cutter cow carcass cutout value Friday morning was \$117.75, up \$6.30 from the previous Friday. Colorado breakers weighing 1100-1800 pounds were \$54-57.50, boners 1100-1600 pounds \$53.50-57, lean

1000-1400 pounds \$51.50-55, 600 lbs. \$114-136, 600-700 and bulls 1500-2100 pounds lbs. \$104-118, 700-800 lbs. \$63.50-67. Oklahoma breakers were \$52-55, boners \$52-55.50, lean \$50-51.50, and bulls \$61-64. Alabama breakers brought \$51-54.50, boners \$54.50-5, lean \$48-52.50, and bulls \$62-67.50.

Coleman Feeder Calves Higher, Yearlings Off

COLEMAN — (TDA-Feb. 22) — Feeder steers and heifers under 600 pounds sold \$2-5 higher, heavier weights \$2 lower, slaughter cows and bulls \$2-4 higher. Receipts totaled 1028 head.

Steers: medium and large No. 1 300-400 lbs. \$141-178, 400-500 lbs. \$124-159, 500-

600 lbs. \$114-136, 600-700 lbs. \$104-118, 700-800 lbs. \$92-102; medium and large No. 2 400-500 lbs. \$120-142, 500-600 lbs. \$107-126, 600-700 lbs. \$104-114, 700-800 lbs. \$94-101.

Heifers: medium and large No. 1 300-400 lbs. \$132-151, 400-500 lbs. \$118-139, 500-600 lbs. \$110-127, 600-700 lbs. \$100-116, 700-800 lbs. \$92-100, 800-900 lbs. \$90-95; medium and large No. 2 200-300 lbs. \$132-160, 300-400 lbs. \$121-142, 400-500 lbs. \$117-137, 500-600 lbs. \$106-130, 600-700 lbs. \$95-105, 700-800 lbs. \$90-100, 800-900 lbs. \$82-87.

Slaughter cows: boners \$47-59, lean \$40-50.50; yield grade 1-2 bulls \$63-70.

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