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Tomato Pioneers

The legacy of Campbell Soup's tomato breeding program

What comes to mind when you think of Campbell Soup? You might picture cans of tomato soup or perhaps an iconic Andy Warhol print of them. You probably don't think much about the ingredients that went into those cans.

But Campbell's did, and it bet big and early on agriculture research to grow its product offerings. One of the company's biggest contributions to the agricultural space was its tomato breeding program, launched in 1910 in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, which involved conducting field experiments in an effort to breed different varieties for taste, production and disease resistance. A tomato research facility, added in 1937, was responsible for developing notable varieties such as the J.T.D., the Garden State and Rutgers tomato—and helped put

New Jersey on the map as an important tomato-growing state.

Headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, Campbell's once sourced most of its tomatoes from local farms. The Garden State has 24 different soil types, and most of them are good for farming. The prime growing area for Jersey tomatoes is a region now known as the Inner Coastal Plain, which covers more than 1,000 square miles in southern New Jersey, bordering the Delaware River to the west. The soil here consists of loams and sandy loam and is ideal for truck farms and high production of crops. Located within this prime growing area, Campbell's was positioned well enough to double down on its bet that agricultural research would fuel its condensed soup products.

Tomato production in New Jersey can be traced to 1812, when tomato grower John Loper farmed on land owned by Ephraim Buck in Cumberland County. Tomatoes at that time were still feared by some—a nickname for the fruit was "poi-

See CAMPBELL'S, page 12



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: Above, Harry Hall, Campbell Soup's chief agricultural expert, inspects tomatoes in his office at Campbell's research farm in Cinnaminson, New Jersey sometime in the 1920s. (Photograph courtesy of Campbell Soup Company) At right, the Rutgers 250 tomato variety. (Photo by Peter Nitzsche, Rutgers University)



New DOJ antitrust head says he'll 're-invigorate' enforcement

The new assistant attorney general of the Department of Justice's antitrust division has announced how he plans to promote competition in the U.S. economy — and meat processing may be a part of those efforts.

Jonathan Kanter, who was confirmed for his position in November, outlined his legal strategies in an address Monday to the New York State Bar Association, describing how he intends to "reinvigorate" antitrust law enforcement.

Collaborating with USDA

Kanter unveiled a DOJ initiative called Antitrust Enforcement for All-of-Government that involves collaborating with partner agencies to "ensure that competition issues are thoroughly considered, and pursued, under all of the statutes that promote competition in the economy."

In particular, Kanter said the initiative is consistent with President Biden's July 2021 executive order on competition, which specifically encouraged

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to engage with animal agriculture.

Biden's order stated that Vilsack shall consider, among other things, "providing clear rules that identify recurrent practices in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries that are unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive and therefore violate the Packers and Stockyards Act."

Biden's order also encouraged Vilsack to prohibit "unfair practices related to grower ranking systems — systems in which the poultry companies, contractors, or dealers exercise extraordinary control over numerous inputs that determine the amount farmers are paid and require farmers to assume the risk of factors outside their control, leaving them more economically vulnerable."

Antitrust enforcement not 'keeping pace'

Kanter said antitrust law has not kept pace with the rate of economic development in the past 20 years, and thus he is looking to

"reinvigorate antitrust enforcement."

"That is why," Kanter continued, "we and our law enforcement partners are committed to using every tool available to promote competition. The American people deserve real antitrust enforcement that meets the economic challenges that we confront."

A graduate of Washington University School of Law, Kanter was previously an attorney in the Federal Trade Commission, and founder of the Kanter Law Group.

Kanter's address also signaled a new focus on concentration in

U.S. industries, including agriculture. He argued that such concentration depresses wages and makes it harder for "entrepreneurs and small businesses to get off the ground."

"I am deeply concerned about these trends," Kanter said. "Too little competition hurts real people, every day. It's not just a statistical or economic concept. It is a half-empty grocery cart for Americans who can't afford price hikes and padded margins. Or lower salaries and worse working conditions because of employers who face too little competition and workers who do not have sufficient options."

Obligation to enforce laws

Paying particular attention to mergers, Kanter said the DOJ has an obligation to enforce antitrust laws and challenge mergers that lessen competition. That includes working with the FTC on existing guidelines to mergers and consulting with "state enforcers, other government agencies, businesses, trade and labor groups, scholars and the American people."

Kanter also shared a skepticism toward merger settlements, and said blocking mergers is the "surest way" to preserve compe-

See MERGERS, page 13

Court orders packer to process Niman Ranch cattle

A federal judge ruled on January 20 that Missouri Prime Beef Packers must process cattle supplied by Niman Ranch, following a previously executed agreement between the companies.

Missouri Prime had agreed to process and fabricate Niman

Ranch cattle into wholesale cuts and ground beef products under a February 2021 contract, according to the court order. The contract, which expires in January 2024, allowed either party to terminate the agreement early with at least 90 days' written notice.

In December, a Missouri

Prime executive notified Niman Ranch of a decision to stop processing Niman's cattle, stating "we have no choice if we want to remain solvent," according to the court order. Niman responded by

See NIMAN RANCH, page 12

Small investment, big gains.



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From the Publisher... Jon Angell

What in the world is a tomato doing on the front cover of *The Cattleman's Advocate*? Well, the short answer was that in my extensive reading I ran across this one, I found it an interesting read, and I learned several things. I think it safe to say that most beef people have an appreciation for the tomato in – at the very least – one form or another, if not nearly all forms. And fortunately for me, as publisher I am allowed to color outside the lines.

On the lower half of the front page, you will see news about the Biden Administration's efforts to look into consolidation of the packing industry. They are looking to re-invigorate enforcement of antitrust laws. I'm not sure what can be done, it's nearly too late.

This nearly-too-late sentiment is best stated in the column I saw from Bill Bullard of RCALF-USA that describes the testimony R-CALF USA submitted asking for a stopgap measure until comprehensive market reforms are enacted. I am going to keep my own comments painfully brief to donate most of my space to run Bill's commentary.

Regardless of your views of R-CALF USA methods or approach, I always find Bill's weekly commentaries on YouTube.com well worth consuming. In the second to last paragraph, he mentions supporting legislation championed by Senator Cory Booker in the Senate and Representative Ro Khanna in the House. This makes my internal warning lights to flash ... I frankly haven't had time to look into it before print deadline. Maybe it's okay, maybe not... but still an interesting read until nearly the end.

Lastly, I will tell you running into building this issue, the sales have been big and the weather mostly good, but the cold is making me glad to get in at night. We have a good issue with a lot of interesting news and some extra ads for products and events. Thank you one and all for reading and your outstanding support for what we do in these pages.

Congress Holds Another Hearing on Broken Markets: Thank You?

Op-ed by BILL BULLARD
CEO, R-CALF USA

So, what do you do when you've spent over 20 years trying to convince Congress that the cattle market is systemically broken and decisive steps must be taken before the industry forever changes into something we no longer recognize; and for over 20 years Congress ignores you and then suddenly begins to hold hearings; and then announces before any action is taken that it's going to hold yet another hearing. So what do you do? Well, you say thank you.

And that's what we did this week to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law. This week they're holding a hearing titled "Reviving Competition, Part 5: Addressing the Effects of Economic Concentration on America's Food Supply."

So we said thank you in our written testimony submitted to the subcommittee. And then we proceeded to tell Congress that they're late to the party; that the nation's food security interest is now in jeopardy because of the ongoing dismantling of the cattle industry's critical competitive infrastructure, that it, its participants, its feedlots, and its cow herd; and because America's cattle farmers and ranchers are suffering a loss of equity each day the cattle market remains dysfunctional, and this depriving America's rural economy of the economic strength and vitality that can only be restored by a widely disaggregated and robustly competitive cattle industry, which we are fast losing.

We said that because of Congress' unresponsiveness to the red flags raised long ago as 43% of our beef cattle operations, 75% of our farmer-feedlots, and millions of mother cows have all disappeared from our industry, Congress must now enact a temporary stopgap measure to preserve what's left our shrinking industry.

Here's what we said: we explained that during the eight-year period from 2007 through 2014, the dominant beef packers purchased cattle for 64% of the weekly average wholesale beef value. The average wholesale value during that period was \$172 and 64% or that was \$110, which was the average steer price during that period.

And we said that during this 2007-2014 period cow/calf producers and cattle feeders were suffering under a severe economic cost-price squeeze, with the average return for feeding cattle a negative \$26 per head per month and returns per bred cow for cow/calf producers a negative \$598 per bred cow. This is all data we obtained from U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Our point was this: We didn't wake up a year ago or two years ago and suddenly discover the cattle market was non-competitive. No, it's been noncompetitive for decades, as evidenced by its failure to persistently return the cost of production to America's cattle farmers and ranchers.

But then we pointed out that whatever market power the beef packers exerted prior to 2015, worsened considerably after 2015. Since 2015 and through 2021, the beef packers used their enhanced market power to purchase cattle at only 55% of the average weekly wholesale value. This resulted in monthly losses to cattle feeders jumping to an average loss of \$69 per head per month, which was more than twice the losses they experienced from 2007-2014. And the negative per head loss to America's cow-calf producers jumped to a negative \$683 per bred cow when both

operating costs and total farm and ranch costs were included.

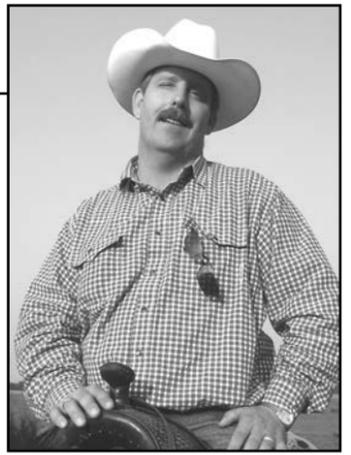
We said what was a chronically dysfunctional market for decades is now an acutely dysfunctional market and an emergency stopgap measure is something Congress needs to enact.

We explained that if the broken market in 2021 would have still required the packers to pay producers 64% of the average wholesale beef value, then the average price of fed cattle would have been \$173 that year instead of the \$123 that produces actually received. And if the price had been at \$173 per cwt, then producers would have put an additional \$650 in their pocket for every head of fat cattle sold.

And this, we said, would help mitigate the severe and persistent economic cost-price squeeze until Congress sees fit to enact comprehensive market structure reforms.

In terms of the long-term solution, that of actually restoring competition to the cattle market, we pointed out the only comprehensive market structure reforms introduced so far in Congress that would accomplish that is the bill introduced by Senator Cory Booker in the Senate and Representative Ro Khanna in the House. That's Senate Bill 3285 and House Bill 6250. We support them both.

Please go to our website at www.r-calfusa.com to read our testimony and to join with us so together we can permanently fix our severely broken cattle market. Congress needs to act, but it will only do so if most of America's cattle producers ask them to. So let's do that.



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From Our Side of the Fence

By JUSTIN ANGELL
EMCC Owner/Partner

Here we are coming down the homestretch of winter, so far having had the easiest winter that I can remember. I know there could be a whole lot of winter left, but the bottom line is we are 70 days to green up of grass. Hopefully the next 70 days are as good as the last 70 and calving season will be memorable for being easy instead of being a survival event.

The cattle market has been volatile as always, but many of the cattle we have sold in the last few months have been pretty high. Marketing cattle quality is king, but something that helps is a uniform calf crop that can be sold in larger groups with fewer singles.

As we go forward, a strategy of buying calves and back-grounding them to add to your calf crop so that you can sell larger groups will become more lucrative.

If you're ever interested in

trying that give us a call we can help you.

I hate to beat a dead horse, but groups of good cattle have continued selling well, while unweaned, unvaccinated odds and ends continue to get cheaper. Blemished and odd lot calves over the last few years continue to have slim, very slim buying interest.

We have to remember the fed price of each of these groups of cattle will be different when they're fat, depending on who owns them. That's why their value now is so extremely different.

For weeks, my cow buyers have been telling me that the cow market is going to get a lot higher soon. This week it finally happened with cow market \$5 to \$10 higher and spots \$15 higher. For the first time in a long time, I was starting cows at \$80. Friday, our top on high-yielding cows was \$94-\$96 with the best bull at \$130.

Something a few of you may find interesting. On a more per-

sonal note, I have been dating a little retired school teacher named Kelly for several years. I guess you could say her patience has paid off because we will be getting married in May. I know that several of you may question her judgment, but at our age options are limited, aren't they.

Having not seen my buddy Joey for a while, he asked me several months ago if I was still seeing that little schoolteacher. When I replied yes I was, he looked at me and shook his head and said "boy she must be a tough one". Well, I never thought this day would come when I'd want to grab the hot wire again, but I am actually very much looking forward to the wedding.

If you have interest in such things as consigning cattle, asking about the market, buying calves or even just want to comment about my upcoming wedding plans, as always just give me a call.

Till then I will see you at the sale on Friday.



With high fertilizer prices, are you better off buying supplemental hay?

COLUMBIA, Mo.—Increases in fertilizer prices add to the cost of growing forage for grazing. This leads farmers to ask if they should buy hay or fertilizer, says University of Missouri Extension nutrient management specialist John Lory.

Comparing the benefits of buying hay vs. applying fertilizer for better yields is complicated, but it is crucial to the bottom line, says Lory. A fair comparison looks at the costs of hay vs. fertilizer, whether the farmer can use the grown forage or purchased hay, and the nutrient efficiency of the grown forage vs. purchased feed.

Studies at the MU Forage Systems Research Center in Linneus and MU Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon give some insight, he says.

MU researchers found that 50 pounds per acre of nitrogen boosted spring pasture yield an average of 1,100 pounds per acre. With nitrogen fertilizer prices near \$1 per pound, the cost of that feed is 5 cents per pound.

What is the cost based on utilization rate?

Lory explains that cattle only eat part of the forage available to them, leaving the rest to waste. High prices make it critical to manage pastures for high forage utilization rates.

Research shows that cattle eat about 60% of available forage in highly efficient spring grazing systems, but rates typically dip below 50%. That means that cows waste about half of the fertilized forage. At 50% use, the actual cost of consumed forage doubles, says Lory. If nitrogen fertilizer is \$1 per pound, cost of consumed feed is 10 cents per pound. Many farmers can buy hay for less than that now.

Forage use for purchased feed usually runs higher than that for grazing, says Lory. Hay utilization rates can reach 80% but most often are closer to 65%. If hay is \$80 per ton, the cost per pound is 4 cents. However, at 65% utilization, the cost per pound of feed eaten goes to 6 cents.

"These examples show how purchased feed has the potential to be an economically competitive approach compared to buying fertilizer when prices are high," says Lory.

Hay: Feed and fertilizer

The fertilizer value of hay can offset cost. "When you bring hay or other supplemental feed onto your farm, you are buying feed and fertilizer at the same time," says Lory. "A ton of fescue hay contains nearly 100 pounds of fertilizer nutrients. If spread strategically on your farm, these nutrients provide fertilizer value to offset the cost of the hay."

Beef cows typically excrete

most of the nutrients they eat. To get the most value from hay, move the hay and cows to pastures that need fertilizer. Unroll hay bales, move hay rings or use some type of bale-graze system to spread across pastures. All of the excreted phosphate, potassium, sulfur and micronutrients in the hay is available to the pasture as fertilizer, but only about 25% of the nitrogen is available. The rest is lost or tied up in the soil organic matter. So, a ton of hay with 12.5% protein provides about 10 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer, 12 pounds of phosphate and 35 pounds of potash.

The fertilizer value of hay is usually a little over a penny per pound, or slightly more than \$20 per ton. Recently, nitrogen prices rose to nearly \$1 per pound, and phosphate and potash prices more than doubled. This increases the fertilizer value of hay to more than 2.5 cents per pound.

In pastures, nutrients brought onto the farms as feed or fertilizer recycle and improve yields. When winter feeding hay, the hay's fertilizer will increase spring pasture growth. When properly managed, about 5 tons of feed on a pasture with a total nitrogen fertilizer value of 50 pounds can provide an additional 1,000 pounds or more of quality spring forage growth.

Fertilizer value also can influence hay purchase decisions, says Lory. Buying high-quality hay increases the fertilizer value of the hay. With current costs, a ton of hay may have \$20 more fertilizer value than poor-quality hay, making the higher-quality hay the more economical feed, even if it costs more up front.

Hay: Predictable feed at a known price with fertilizer value

"Buying hay instead of fertilizer can provide a predictable feed supply to supplement spring pasture growth at a known price," says Lory. "High utilization can be assured through judicious feeding practices, and unneeded hay can be stored if not used. With high prices, the fertilizer value of the hay has more than doubled, currently around 2 1/2 cents per pound of forage or \$50 per ton, offsetting a significant fraction of cost of hay. The fertilizer value of the hay also will boost spring forage growth."

No matter how you meet your herd forage needs, he adds, high prices require you to maximize forage utilization, both when feeding hay and managing pastures.

For more information, see the MU Extension publication "Calculating Fertilizer Value of Supplemental Feed for Cattle on Pasture." The four-page guide is available for free download at extension.missouri.edu/g2083.

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FARM & FOOD FILE

The new ag alchemy: Gold from gas

By ALAN GUEBERT
For The Cattleman's Advocate

The biggest gold rush in U.S. history is about to hit rural America and it won't involve corn or cattle or even gold. Instead, the big money will be in pipelines.

That's right, pipelines; pressurized carbon dioxide (CO2) pipelines designed to carry CO2 from Midwestern ethanol plants to "sequestration" sites in either North Dakota or Illinois.

Itchy investors are already lining up to tap these veins of climate-changing CO2. Amazingly, three-multi-billion dollar pipelines have been proposed to cross Iowa to carry CO2 from more than 40 ethanol plants in five states—Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota—to sequestration sites.

All will be expensive. One pipeline proposal, called Navigator CO2 Ventures, will cost an estimated \$2 billion to bury 1,300 miles of pipe to carry 15 million tons of CO2 per year from the Midwest to North Dakota.

Another, announced Jan. 11 by Archer Daniels Midland, will run 350 miles to connect ADM's Iowa and Illinois ethanol plants and terminate in Decatur, IL where it will deliver 12 million tons of CO2 per year to be stored almost 8,000 feet underground.

The third—and most controversial—is planned by Summit Carbon Solutions, an Iowa company with deep ties to former Gov. Terry Branstad, the recent U.S. ambassador to China, and Tom Vilsack, also a former gov-

If true, any carbon sequestration claim – at times calculated as the equivalent of “removing 2.6 million cars per year” or sequestering “three times Des Moines carbon footprint” per year” – is, like CO2 itself, just a whole lot of gas.

ernor and current U.S. secretary of agriculture.

(In mid-December, Branstad wrote a blistering letter, on Summit letterhead, that attacked pipeline critics as “not friends of Iowa or its farmers.” On Jan. 5, Mother Jones reported that Secretary Vilsack's son, “veteran corporate lawyer Jess Vilsack, took a job with an Iowa outfit [Summit] that could cash in from” his father's influence on White House climate change policies.)

Each builder claims its pipeline will create “permanent” jobs but as if to showcase just how fluid the underlying math is to any “carbon capture and sequestration” (CCS) scheme is, those numbers vary from as small as 50 to as many as 460.

An even bigger question is what pipeline builders will do with their carbon once it is transported to its sequestration site. All, like Summit, say the CO2 will be “permanently and safely stored underground in deep geologic storage rooms.”

Not so, believe pipeline opponents like Iowa's Sierra Club, who say much of the pipeline CO2 will be “used for Enhanced Oil Recovery,” a “process of pumping CO2 into dwindling oil fields to get the last bit of oil out of the ground.” The proof is that two of the Iowa-crossing pipelines terminate in North Dakota, a large ‘frac’ oil producer, explains the nonprofit environmental organization.

If true, any carbon sequestration claim—at times calculated as the equivalent of “removing 2.6 million cars per year” or sequestering “three times Des Moines carbon footprint” per year”—is, like CO2 itself, just a whole lot of gas.

More importantly, the real

money in CO2 arrives courtesy of the federal “Section 45Q Tax Credit for Carbon Sequestration.” Currently, that credit is \$31.77 per ton for “geologically sequestered CO2” and \$20.22 per ton if used in oil recovery.

This means the anticipated tax benefits—that, in all likelihood, will be resold on secondary carbon markets—would be worth at least \$400 million per year to any of the three Iowa pipeline projects if used to permanently store CO2 and one-third less if used in oil recovery.

In 2026, however, that federal credit rises to \$50 per ton for stored CO2 and \$35 per ton for oil-recovery CO2, effectively doubling the companies' annual take. Over the course of 20 years then, those benefits—even if they don't grow—will run into the billions for any pipeline builder.

And that massive cost, borne mostly by taxpayers and reaped mostly by well-connected insiders, completely bypasses any debate over not producing the CO2 in the first place, by far the best, most effective CO2 mitigation program.

As such, this new gold rush, like most, will end with the very few grabbing all the riches and everyone else paying for it.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents, and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com.

Get a full year of home delivery of The Cattleman's Advocate for just \$20. See page 4 for details.



MCA continues to tackle eminent domain laws

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association is once again trying to reform eminent domain laws in the state in the name of private property rights.

A hearing was held January 26, 2022, in the House Judiciary Committee on House Bill 1876, sponsored by Rep. Mike Haffner (R-55). This bill failed to garner floor time in the Missouri Senate last year.

Many landowners and organizations filled the hearing room to support the legislation. MCA Executive Vice President Mike Deering presented testimony on behalf of the organization.

"Eminent domain was always intended to be used as a last resort for critical needs of our state and its citizens," said Deering. "It was not intended to be used by a private, for-profit company confiscating private land for private gain at the expense of landowners."

The bill specifies that before the Public Service Commission issues an approval for a merchant line, the entity must provide the PSC with a resolution of support passed by the county commission in each county the merchant line directly impacts.

The bill goes on to exclude

eminent domain from being used to construct merchant lines except those used by rural cooperatives or corporations operating under a cooperative business plan.

Other witnesses noted the dangerous precedent set by Grain Belt Express with some expressing concern that Missouri is on its way to becoming the "super energy highway" for the East Coast with private property rights being ignored.

Deering went on to express frustration with elected leaders for not passing reform to eminent domain laws years prior.

"I've been with the cattlemen's association now for nine years and never have I been more disappointed to see our elected leaders allow such an injustice to happen... It's a pervasive invasion of private property rights. What has been allowed to be done to these families, these generational family farms, is wrong and it needs to stop and you have the authority to do that."

The association is also supporting reforms to eminent domain found in HB 2005, which is also sponsored by Rep. Haffner.

— Meatingplace.com

Here are the scheduled advertising deadlines for The Cattleman's Advocate through June 2022:

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- April issue Ad deadline: March 29
- May issue Ad deadline: April 26
- June issue Ad deadline: May 31



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Livestock News & Notes.....

Feds seize nearly a ton of Chinese animal products in NYC

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said Thursday its Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) program seized and destroyed more than 1,900 pounds of prohibited pork, poultry and ruminant products from New York City-area retailers over the last three months of 2021.

The products were sourced from China, lacked the required import permits and health services, and therefore were deemed a risk of introducing invasive diseases into the United States. APHIS had particular concern because China is a country affected by African swine fever, Classical swine fever, Newcastle disease, Foot-and-mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza and swine vesicular disease.

Though not a threat to human health, ASF is deadly to pigs, and the U.S. is on heightened alert to keep the disease from entering the country for the first time. Most recently, ASF was confirmed in pigs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, having already spread throughout China and Asia, as well as within the European Union.

The recent efforts to safeguard American agriculture represent a continued collaboration between APHIS, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and local New York City officials.

SITC's safeguarding efforts also include other prohibited agricultural products. In 2021, SITC seized 224,568 pounds of prohibited agricultural items valued at over \$1.7 million, helping protect U.S. crops and livestock from devastating and costly plant pests and foreign animal diseases.

Texas A&M studies improving beef quality of heat-tolerant cattle

A team at Texas A&M AgriLife — the nation's biggest comprehensive agriculture program — are researching how incorporating Brahman genetics into beef cattle herds influences beef quality.

A three-year \$500,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant will help finance the work into maintaining beef quality amid rising temperatures, according to AgriLife Today, a university news publication.

The researchers will attempt to determine how temperament and muscle energetics in young beef animals impact product quality later on, AgriLife reported.

The team will look at Angus and Brahman steers, the former viewed as desirable for meat quality and the latter breed, often discounted at slaughter but

more tolerant of heat.

"Our goal is to be able to identify testing procedures that can help producers make economically viable decisions about future management of an individual bull, heifer or steer earlier in the production cycle," Sarah White-Springer, an exercise physiology assistant professor, told AgriLife.

Sentencing of ex-rancher in Tyson fraud case delayed — again

The former rancher and owner of Easterday Farms and Easterday Ranches will not be sentenced until later this summer, following his conviction in a wire fraud scheme that cost Tyson Foods Inc. more than \$233 million, a federal judge ruled.

Chief Judge Stanley Bastian of the Eastern District Court of Washington postponed the scheduled sentencing of Cody Easterday until June 13. It is the third such delay since Easterbrook pleaded guilty to billing Tyson since 2016 for animals that didn't exist. His attorneys had argued that Easterday needed more time to settle his financial affairs, including completing a bankruptcy filing related to the wire fraud case. The Feb. 2021 filing with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington preceded Tyson's efforts to take control of the feedlot that was supposed to be caring for the company's cattle.

Easterday's sentencing most recently was scheduled for Jan. 24, but Judge Bastian's order will allow the defendant's legal team to take more time to sort out what the judge described as "a mess" in terms of personal financial issues, Easterday's creditors and Tyson.

OSHA withdraws workplace vaccine mandate

The Biden administration has announced it is withdrawing its vaccine mandate for large employers.

Originally issued November 2021 through OSHA, the emergency temporary standard (ETS) mandated large employers (with 100-plus workers) to vaccinate their workforce, or submit to weekly testing.

The ETS was halted by the Supreme Court, though, which ruled earlier this month that Congress had not granted OSHA the proper authority to mandate such standards for large employers.

In its withdrawal statement, OSHA clarified that its ETS is not completely going away.

"Although OSHA is withdrawing the vaccination and testing ETS as an enforceable emergency temporary standard, the agency is not withdrawing the ETS as a proposed rule," OSHA stated. "OSHA strongly encourages vaccination of workers against the continuing dangers posed by COVID-19 in the workplace."

And in the Supreme Court's ruling, Justice Neil Gorsuch acknowledged that Congress does have the power to legislate such an ETS.

"Congress has chosen not to afford OSHA — or any federal agency — the authority to issue

a vaccine mandate," Gorsuch wrote, later adding, "If administrative agencies seek to regulate the daily lives and liberties of millions of Americans ... they must at least be able to trace that power to a clear grant of authority from Congress."

Beyond Meat, PepsiCo join forces to make alt-jerky

The first product to come out of the Beyond Meat-PepsiCo

partnership formed a year ago will be a vegan jerky snack, according to an article by Bloomberg. Neither company has commented on the report, which is based on a YouTube video in which a woman in upstate New York talks about receiving a package from a local store owner who knows that she's a vegan.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com

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It's The Pitts...

Baxter Black slept here

By LEE PITTS
For The Cattleman's Advocate

Author's Note: I am rerunning this column in honor of my dear friend, Baxter Black, who has retired due to health issues. This was written 34 years ago and I'm glad to say that through the years that followed Baxter became my soul mate,, psychiatrist, critic and one of my very best friends. Thanks for the memories, Baxter.

"Guess who's coming to dinner?" I told my wife excitedly... "My idol Baxter Black."

We cleaned out the goldfish bowl, scooped up after the dog, mowed the lawn and changed the top sheet on the extra bed in preparation for our famous house guest.

The day Baxter came to visit he came off the plane wearing a gaudy violet scarf and an American flag for a shirt. There where white stars in a field of blue around his shoulders and red and white stripes running lengthwise up and down his skinny body. The people at the airport stood in salute as he walked off the plane.

I was in awe. This was my hero, the man who had written those great American classics; Loony Lucy's Spa and Health Food Coop, Prewitt's Cow, Vegetarian Nightmare, How the Angel Got On Top the Christmas Tree and my wife's all time favorite: Bentley, the Born Again Bull. As we headed home I didn't know what to say to this man I considered a god. He'd actually been on the Tonight Show.

The day Baxter came to visit he came off the plane wearing a gaudy violet scarf and an American flag for a shirt. There where white stars in a field of blue around his shoulders and red and white stripes running lengthwise up and down his skinny body.

When we got home I offered my guest a drink but all we had in the house was a cheap bottle of wine. I offered Bax a glass but he grabbed the bottle and we went off to feed the cows. I discovered that Baxter is a rider, a roper, a windmill fixer and a helluva gate opener. We drove around in search of cows with Baxter surfing on the top of the load of hay. He had the bottle of cheap wine in one hand all the while pontificating about surfing in California. I was embarrassed that we couldn't find the cows but Baxter just threw the hay off in a convenient spot. I showed him my horse Gentleman and he asked, "Why would anybody in their right mind leave him a stud?"

Trying to be the perfect hosts, we took Baxter to our favorite restaurant. I knew I'd made a mistake when in front of my entire community he started reciting "Runnin' Wild Horses" in his American flag shirt. Bax drank tequila and ate oysters. Not Hereford oysters... the real slimy kind. Soon he was doing a free floor show and was autographing copies of his latest book. He met so many people he signed one to Allan and Margaret. Unfortunately they were not a pair. He became despondent over ruining a good book. I told him I would take the mistake off his hands. His face lit up and underneath "To Allan and Margaret" he wrote, "close personal friends of the Pitts."

When we got home I discov-

ered a malfunction in our plumbing. Our toilet always goes on the blink when we have company. I gave Baxter the bad news, "You can use the toilet only once."

I was totally embarrassed. I told my wife, "Here I am trying to make him feel at home and our toilet breaks."

She said, "If he had wanted to be treated like he was at home he wouldn't leave home and Cindy and Boller all the time."

I kept trying to go to bed but Baxter wanted to talk. We stayed up until 2:30 admiring each others work.

The dog barked all night because Baxter was sleeping in her room. Four hours after we had gone to bed I heard this terrible caterwauling from the living room. Baxter was playing the piano resplendent in his newly recharged American flag shirt. Baxter looked a little full in the face and was in an awful hurry to leave that morning.

I got a nice note about a week later from Baxter. It said in part, "Sorry we went to bed so early, I hope you got the toilet fixed. I waited till I got to the airport. I barely made it." And he wasn't talking about the plane.

Because I was still so embarrassed I never replied, but I take this opportunity to do so now. "Dear Baxter, We got the toilet fixed and everybody in town wants to know when my crazy friend in the patriotic shirt is coming back for a visit?"

- www.LeePittsbooks.com

Cleanup of Tyson wastewater release underway

A wastewater discharge from the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Storm Lake, Iowa, flowed into the city's storm sewers for about half an hour early Wednesday morning, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said.

The likely cause was a pump failure in the plant, the department said, adding the wastewater began flowing into the sewer at about 2:25 a.m.

In a statement to KCAU-TV, Tyson said it took immediate action to contain the accidental release of wastewater from the

plant and is working with city and state officials to implement cleanup measures and evaluate the matter.

The sewer empties into a stormwater detention basin about a block north of Storm Lake. Of the estimated 16,500 gallons released, some of it reached the lake, the DNR said in a statement. The agency said it is monitoring the cleanup.

Tyson staff are working to estimate how much wastewater reached the lake, the DNR said. Tyson and the city of Storm Lake collected water samples for

testing. DNR staff indicated they do not expect environmental issues given the small amount that reached the lake, according to the statement.

The DNR said it will consider appropriate enforcement actions.

The Tyson Fresh Meats Storm Lake plant was the source of a wastewater release in February 2020 that reached a stormwater drain leading to the lake. That release was attributed to a loss of power.

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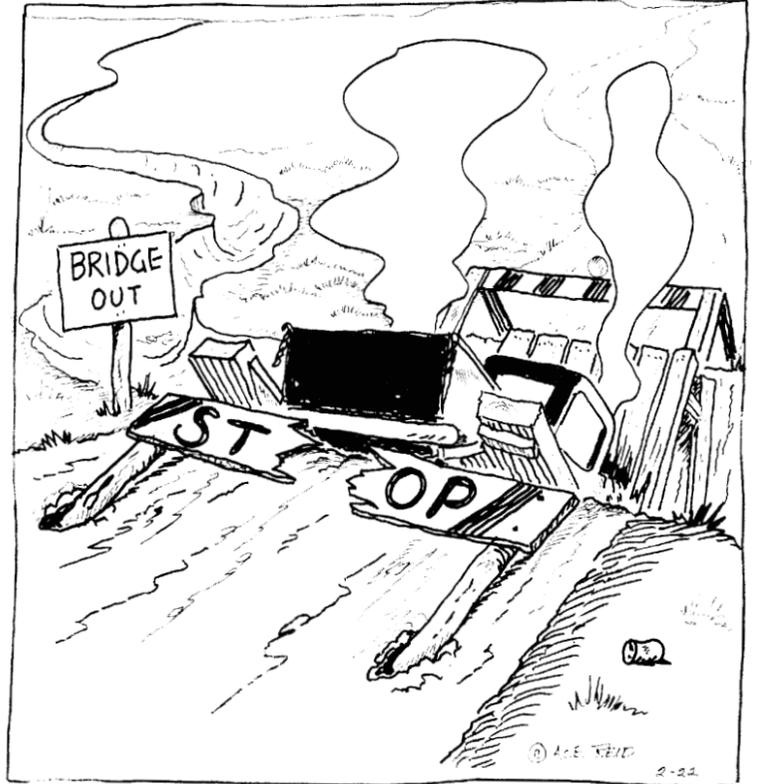
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COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"How in the world could I have known this bridge wuz weak?"

Farm Bureau seeks revision to bipartisan cattle bill

The American Farm Bureau Federation on Friday voiced its support for the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2021, except for its establishment of mandatory minimums for negotiated purchases.

AFBF delegates voted last week to revise 2022 Farm Bureau policy, because they oppose government mandates that force packers to purchase a set percentage of their live animal supply by way of cash bids.

"We support the majority of this legislation, but we cannot support mandatory cash sales," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We are committed to

working with the sponsors of the bill to make revisions to ensure it aligns with the priorities outlined by our membership."

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act is sponsored by Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), and cosponsored by 14 other senators from both sides of the aisle. The legislation, proposed in November, would also establish a cattle contract library, update mandatory price reporting and increase fines for companies that violate the Packers and Stockyards Act.

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S. Korea lifts ban on Canadian beef

South Korea announced Wednesday that it would lift a temporary suspension on imports of Canadian beef, Canadian Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a Twitter post.

"Great news for our cattle sector, who provide the world with safe, high-quality beef," Bibeau said.

Seoul imposed the ban last month in response to the discovery of an atypical case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy

(BSE) in Alberta.

More recently, the governments of China and the Philippines also suspended Canadian beef imports, citing BSE concerns.

The Canadian government reported the BSE case was found in an 8-1/2-year-old beef cow in Alberta. The case is atypical, naturally occurring in an older animal, and not classical. Classical BSE is caused by an animal eating contaminated feed.

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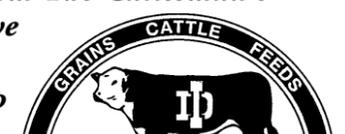
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Words from Under the Tail

Thoughts from
NEAL T. MARTIN, DVM, MS

What determines BRD treatment outcomes?

By NEAL T. MARTIN, DVM, MS
Martin Veterinary Services, LLC
Centralia, MO

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is one of the most common challenges faced in the beef cattle industry. As I recently was told from a colleague, the only way to not have any issues with BRD, is to stay out of the cattle business. It is a complex disease with many causes and is the mostly costly disease in beef cattle in the US. I would like to share a few things to keep in mind that can influence BRD outcomes in your herd.

When we think about BRD, we need to think about what is known as the disease triad, or the three major components to consider in any form of disease. These three elements are the host (the animal), the agent (pathogen), and the environment (where the host is exposed to the agent). All too often we get caught up only thinking about the pathogen and which antibiotic can be used to treat it, or which vaccine protocol may be useful to prevent it. But many

times, BRD incidence and treatment success or failure is determined long before a product is selected off the shelf.

BRD is a multifactorial disease process that has many predisposing factors. Common stressors include commingling with other cattle, transportation, overcrowding in pens, dehydration, dust, cold, sudden or extreme weather changes, and acute ration changes causing metabolic disturbances.

Amongst these, commingling and time of transportation often prove to be two of the most important factors in determining incidence of BRD, hence the common name of "shipping fever". Dehydration is usually linked to the time of transportation and plays a major role in the immune function of cattle shortly following transport.

Host factors to consider include age and weight of cattle, weaning status, nutritional status, parasitism, processing stressors, and immune status (prior vaccination or exposure to pathogens). Younger, lighter weight cattle are usually higher risk than older, heavier cattle. Unweaned calves are normally higher risk than calves that have been weaned 45-60 days or more. Poor nutrition and para-

The only way to not have any issues with BRD, is to stay out of the cattle business. It is a complex disease with many causes and is the mostly costly disease in beef cattle in the US. I would like to share a few things to keep in mind that can influence BRD outcomes in your herd.

sitism often have a negative effect on immune function. Castration and dehorning cause stress to calves that can also reduce immune system functionality. Proper vaccination prior to exposure to other stressors can positively impact BRD outcomes, but the other factors listed above must also be considered.

Last, but not least, let's consider the pathogen. The most common agents causative to BRD include the viral pathogens bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVD), infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), and parainfluenza (PI3); and the bacterial pathogens Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasteurella multocida, Histophilus somni, and Mycoplasma bovis. In most cases of BRD one or more of these viral pathogens infect cattle first, which cause damage to the lining of the respiratory tract

and suppress the immune system, which sets up the opportunity for a secondary bacterial infection. Vaccines for these agents are important to prime the immune system for future exposure. Antibiotics play a vital role in treatment of BRD but remember that antibiotics only have an effect on the bacterial components of the disease. Additionally, timing of treatment (early in the disease process) can be equally if not more important than which product is used.

In summary, there are many aspects that determine the incidence of BRD and treatment outcomes. It is important to think about the whole picture and not



get tunnel vision trying to figure out which virus or which bacteria is causing the problem or which antibiotic will do the best job. So, I would encourage the next time you experience BRD treatment failure, pause for a second and think about some of the other elements involved in the disease process and be sure to consult with your veterinarian on ways to mitigate other BRD risk factors.

Agonomist: Consumer buying power will determine food inflation in 2022

Until disruptions in the labor market subside, food supply chain challenges are here to stay, says Purdue University agricultural economist Jayson Lusk, in an article in the most recent issue of the quarterly Purdue Agricultural Economics Report.

In November, grocery prices, up 6.4% from the year before, rose at a pace not seen since late 2008, while prices for food away from home posted the sharpest annual gain (5.8%) since 1982. Beef (up 20.9%), pork (up 16.8%) and poultry (up 8.4%) have been the biggest contributors to food price increases over

the past year.

Three broad forces caused the run-up in food prices in 2021: unprecedented personal savings rates, strong demand from both domestic consumers and foreign customers, and supply-side factors including higher feed costs, rising wages, and transportation and supply chain challenges, Lusk wrote.

The "great resignation" and tight labor market have pushed up wages and created challenges in getting food from farm to fork, he wrote. "Curing" COVID-19, which is disrupting processing operations and affect-

ing some people's willingness to work in front-line jobs, will help halt the rise in prices, as will reining in federal spending, he said.

Food industry wages have risen along with food prices, enabling consumers to afford to buy more food despite the higher prices. But the same is not true for all workers, Lusk noted. Average weekly earnings of all private employees in the U.S. economy, adjusted for inflation, were down by 1.9% in November 2021 relative to November 2020.

The USDA Economic Research Service is projecting a slowdown in food price inflation to 2% to 3% in 2022, but that is the same range the agency projected for 2021, Lusk said. "Only time will tell as to whether food price increases are, again, dramatically under-estimated," he said.

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McDonald's expands McPlant test

McDonald's is expanding a test of its McPlant sandwich to 600 U.S. locations, after the plant-based burger co-developed with Beyond Meat was introduced at eight restaurants around the country late last year, the company announced today.

The McPlant will appear on menus in the San Francisco Bay and Dallas-Fort Worth areas beginning Feb. 14, McDonald's said.

The burger is made from ingredients including peas, rice and potatoes and served on a sesame seed bun with tomato, lettuce, pickles, onions, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and a slice of American cheese.

Beyond Meat announced a three-year global strategic agreement in February 2021 to be McDonald's preferred supplier for the new McPlant burger and to explore co-developing other

plant-based menu items. McPlant has also been introduced in overseas markets including Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria and the U.K.

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U.S. Supreme Court to hear WOTUS case from Idaho

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case involving the breadth of the Clean Water Act for a second time.

The high court will take up an appeal from an Idaho couple looking to build a home on property that federal regulators say is protected wetlands. The pair argue that a prior ruling by the court left unclear the definition of wetlands covered by the federal standard.

The Biden administration has asked the court to turn down Michael and Chantell Sackett's appeal involving land in northern Idaho about 300 feet from a lake.

The legal sparring started in 2007 when the Environmental Protection Agency ordered the Sacketts to restore land they'd already started prepping for development.

The Supreme Court in 2012 agreed the Sacketts could challenge the EPA in federal court. The two are now asking the court to hear their challenge of a lower court's decision.

Enacted in 1972, the Clean Waters Act grants the federal government control over

"waters of the United States" (WOTUS). A 2015 WOTUS rule expanded the definition of federally protected waters to include those on private lands such as livestock farms. It was replaced during the Trump administration to one viewed more favorably by meat and agricultural groups. However, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers in November proposed re-establishing the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS.

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Iowa beef plant looks for investors

By JOHN VAN NOSTRAND
Creston (Iowa) News Advertiser

A spokesperson for a proposed beef-processing facility in Mills County spoke Monday in Creston looking for investors in the \$450 million project.

Construction is expected to begin this spring.

Bill Menner of The Bill Menner Group, an Iowa based consulting firm emphasizing in rural development projects, explained the plant and its impact on the Iowa cattle industry. The plant is from Cattlemen's Heritage with developer Chad Tentinger.

The plant will be designed to process 1,500 head of cattle a day with one shift in operation five and one-half days a week. The plant will have 750 employees and economists predict it will have a \$1.1 billion impact annually.

"This is an economic development bonanza," Menner told the audience at Quality Inn hotel. "Bonanza is not a big enough word."

Menner has planned other meetings in Mount Ayr and Greenfield this week plus other parts of the western one-third of

Iowa. "This plant is an opportunity for the state and its producers," he said.

Menner said the plant will not be like other beef-processing plants in the state that have much greater daily volume and multiple shifts. He called those plants and their influence on the cattle industry unsustainable.

"It's not supposed to be that way," he said.

Menner said Secretary of Agriculture and former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack said there is lack of competition in the beef industry.

"This caught the attention of the federal government," Menner said. "This is a big deal."

The plant, located near an intersection of Interstate 29 in northern Mills County will produce premium cuts of beef.

"The demand for beef is growing," he said. "From the Missouri River to I-35 is rich with family-oriented produces and top quality beef."

The plant will be on 132 acres of land with room for future expansion. It is expected to be operational in December 2023. The location was selected

because of proximity to an interstate, railroad and experienced labor pool between Omaha, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs.

Menner said the plant's four ideals are a sustainable operation, medium size, innovation and transparency and producer owned.

He said there is \$75 million to \$90 million available in grants to fund construction. Cattlemen's Heritage is offering to sell 100,000 units to investors. The minimum purchase is 67 units for a total of \$100,500. Each unit is \$1,500.

The Bill Menner Group is an Iowa-based consulting firm specializing in rural development initiatives, community-based infrastructure, housing and health care.

Menner was appointed in 2009 by the Obama Administration to serve as the state director of USDA Rural Development in Iowa, charged with carrying out the Administration's strategy for increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for all rural Americans

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Port of Oakland takes steps to address shipping logjams

The Port of Oakland is spearheading an effort to improve the flow of agriculture exports at its vital gateway for inbound and outbound farm goods and refrigerated proteins.

The goal is to provide relief to agricultural exporters who are facing shortages of export capacity and skyrocketing logistics costs, the port said in a press release.

The port is opening a 25-acre off-terminal, paved container yard that will allow improved movement of containers off chassis with storage options for rapid pickup, officials announced.

The new yard is expected to provide faster truck turns without forcing shippers to wait for terminal space for off-loading containers.

The effort involves several regional agencies and California agricultural officials, transportation department managers and other stakeholders concerned about an import surge that has clogged ports and slowed movement of goods.

The port said it has experienced significant drops in export volume for farm goods over the past year due to skipped sailings of crucial export lines and a lack of equipment for export cargo.

The Port of Oakland is the preferred export gateway for much of California's agricultural exporters and for refrigerated proteins. The operation usually manages a cargo volume mix of 50% exports and 50% imports that can allow for matching inbound cargo and emptied containers used for exports.

The port oversees the Oakland Seaport, Oakland International Airport and nearly 20 miles of waterfront and expects to add jobs and community benefits as part of a five-year strategic plan.

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Planning budgets from MU Extension can help manage high farm operating costs

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Farms will pay significantly more for operating expenses this year. 2022 planning budgets from the University of Missouri can help livestock, row crop and forage operations quantify how much costs have increased and determine what those higher costs mean for the bottom line.

For crops, fertilizer represents one cost that has sharply increased in recent months, says Ryan Milhollin, extension agricultural economist.

"Fertilizer prices have gone through the roof since October," Milhollin said. "I don't think anybody would have predicted fertilizer prices doing what they did."

Ben Brown, senior research associate at MU, says fertilizer costs and other variable expenses, such as labor, fuel and chemicals, have increased due to supply chain disruptions and market conditions. Fixed costs, such as those for land and machinery, have also risen based on expected returns in 2022 and increases in the money supply.

Livestock producers can expect higher costs for inputs such as protein supplements, grain, salt and minerals and labor.

Each 2022 planning budget estimates the total economic costs involved in an enterprise. Those costs include cash expenses and opportunity costs, such as those for owned land and your time.

You can tailor each budget to fit your farm and understand your cost structure for each farm enterprise. With this information, you can then determine how to best

control input costs, set price targets for the year or size up and down farm enterprises to maximize profits.

"We really want to empower and encourage farmers, lenders and other people who use these budgets to customize them for their situation and when they need to make a decision," Milhollin said.

MU Extension enterprise planning budgets and spreadsheets for customizing budget assumptions are available for free download at muext.us/MissouriAgBudgets.

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American burying beetle saliva shows potential to create a natural antibiotic

By ALISA BOSWELL-GORE
Oklahoma State University
Agricultural Communications
Services

STILLWATER, Okla. – Oklahoma State University scientists are excited about a brown goo secreted by a rare beetle.

Why all the excitement over bug saliva?

Because it could lead to the creation of a natural antibiotic and meat preservative, according to Wyatt Hoback, associate professor in the OSU Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

American burying beetles seek out small animal carcasses and work together to bury it in the ground. Afterward, the insects use the resources in the carcass to raise their offspring.

“These beetles secrete a bright brown liquid from their mouth and from their back end, and that brown liquid helps digest part of the carcass but also preserve part of the carcass,” Hoback said.

Hoback has studied the beetle for more than 20 years and contributed to the conservation of this rare species, which was on the endangered species list from 1989 to 2020. Its status changed to “threatened” last year despite scientists’ predictions that the species will die out in Oklahoma and Arkansas within the next 15 to 20 years. The beetle was once found in 35 states but now only exists in six.

Why is it so important to conserve these carcass-eating creatures?

“One of the biggest things they do is reduce food sources for flies,” Hoback said. “Beetles find the carcass and bury it in the ground so flies can’t get to it, and that reduces the fly population, which reduces transmission of disease in humans and livestock.”

Hoback has studied the salivary glands of the beetle to determine which proteins are responsible for the beetle’s ability to combat bacteria and fungi that can degrade a carcass. In his current research, he looks at how American burying beetles survive during their six-month winter hibernation period in which they burrow underground and do not eat. By studying how the beetle behaves and survives during its winter hibernation period and how changes in climate impact that cycle, researchers can identify appropriate habitats for reintroduction of the American burying beetle.

“One of the ways of dealing with the possibility of American burying beetles in Oklahoma and Arkansas going extinct in the next 20 years is to translocate them to appropriate habitats farther north and just keep moving them so that the species survives,” Hoback said. “We don’t know anything about them through the winter, and if we move them into the wrong habitat, they die anyway, so this research can help us make informed conservation decisions.”

Hoback said no one has ever investigated the molecular mechanisms in the beetle’s saliva that

allows for the preservation of animal carcasses. That’s why he has now been joined in his research by John Gustafson, department head and professor in the OSU Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Darren Hagen, assistant professor of animal genomics in the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

“What we’re really excited about is analyzing what’s referred to as the microbiome of this organism. The microbiome is a collection of microbes that live within and on an organism,” Gustafson said. “With the burying beetle, the reason why we’re interested in the microbiome, i.e., isolating the bacteria, is because burying beetles have the capability of preparing carcasses in such

a way that they don’t degrade quickly. We think that the organisms that live within the burying beetle’s saliva are capable of reducing the degradation of flesh, so there is a possibility we could identify bacteria that will prevent meat from spoiling.”

Hagen is examining the genetic sequence of the beetle.

“By doing the gene sequencing and analysis, we identified a handful of genes that seem to be turned on in the saliva secretions due to feeding,” Hagen said. “We will continue to follow up on that and try to understand any role those genes might play in the preservation of the carcass.”

The hope is that this research will lead to new antibiotic treatments and novel meat preservation techniques.

“This could potentially serve

as a natural source of bacterial suppression. If you think about meat processing plants, it’s key to keep bacteria out or at a low rate, and perhaps one day, we could make these completely natural products that we can sort of spritz around the plant to keep the bacteria at bay,” Hagen said.

Hoback said the Tulsa Zoo and the Cherokee Nation are major financial supporters of the American Burying Beetle Project. The Tulsa Zoo raised more than \$17,000 for the research in the summer of 2021, and the Cherokee Nation raised \$10,000. Part of the funding to create and maintain a laboratory colony for the beetle was provided through fundraising at the Tulsa Zoo, while the Cherokee Nation has offered support with the goal of improving conserva-

tion of the species.

“The research collaboration between an ecologist who understands the natural history, a biochemist who conducts research on microbes and antibiotic resistance and an animal scientist who researches gene regulation creates a synergism that benefits all three disciplines and advances our understanding of how these beetles survive in the environment while providing insights into potential new methods to address human challenges in agriculture,” Hoback said.

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USDA announces plans to spend \$9 million to bolster climate research

USDA on January 12 announced \$9 million in funding for six research projects designed to work toward net-zero emissions in agriculture and help communities adapt to climate change.

Six university research teams will partner with the Cooperative Extension Service and USDA Climate Hubs to share climate-smart solutions with the agricultural community. This investment is part of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program for agricultural sciences.

The initial six projects, each funded at \$1.5 million, are:

University of California (Davis) will develop stakeholder needs assessments, climate-smart agriculture training for technical service providers, regional workshops for farmers and ranchers,

and student education with extension service-learning opportunities.

Pennsylvania State University will create an education program to help private forests adapt and mitigate climate change, prepare minority owners to take advantage of carbon market opportunities, and prepare the forestry extension workforce to better serve clients in forest carbon and climate issues.

Montana State University will develop improved educational materials, modes of communication, and issue expertise that will help farmers and ranchers to better assess the sources of past crop and livestock production losses due to weather and climate disruption, as well as explore future projections for these causes of loss.

Ohio State University will work to increase Midwest adoption of regionally scalable climate-smart activities. The project will improve shared understanding of needs of the Midwest's diverse stakeholders, develop shared roadmaps for livestock and cropping systems, elevate perspectives and voices of historically underserved communities,

and strengthen climate science infrastructure.

The Desert Research Institute Native Climate project team in Reno, Nev., will strengthen the role of USDA Climate Hubs in enhancing Native agroecosystem resilience through expansion of climate services and outreach in the Southwest and Northern Plains Climate Hub regions.

The USDA Caribbean Climate Hub is partnering with minority-serving universities, including the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands Extension, and non-profits to develop education and extension programs aimed at increasing climate literacy and helping land managers employ climate-smart agriculture and forestry techniques.

AFRI was established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill and re-authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.

— Meatingplace.com

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Paradigm shift: Labor in meatpacking plants

When assessing the meat industry's plans to increase processing capacity over the next three years, the word "ambitious" feels inadequate.

First, there are the many propositions from large processors, including: \$120 million from Tyson Foods to expand chicken facilities in Seguin, Texas, and Vicksburg, Miss.; a new American Foods Group beef plant in Warren County, Missouri, with a 2,400-head-a-day capacity; and \$130 million from JBS USA towards two Nebraska beef plants.

Then there are the unprecedented proposals from farmers and co-ops: Sustainable Beef, a co-op of cattle producers, is seeking approval for a \$325 million beef plant in North Platte, Neb., with a peak capacity of 400,000 cattle annually; and farmer-owned Wholstone Farms, a pork processor, plans to build a new \$500 million harvest and processing facility in Sioux Falls, S.D.

On top of the industry's push, there are the similarly epochal commitments from the federal government. In an effort to diversify the meat supply chain, the USDA has committed \$500 million to expand meat and poultry capacity, and an additional \$150 million for "small and very small" facilities.

Altogether, the plans would amount to the largest capacity expansion in decades. According to Jeff Millican, a senior vice president with Wells Fargo Commercial Banking's agribusiness, the beef markets alone could see capacity rise by 9,500 head a day. And the expansion, ultimately, results from sensational packer profits.

"You've got margins that are exceptionally strong — historically strong, even," Millican says. "You've seen a 10% increase in beef prices this year, and that's on top of what was a historical high last year."

But while meatpackers are enjoying record profits and planning record expansions, such optimism inevitably leads to one

complex challenge: how processors are going to find the workers to fill the many thousands of jobs that such growth requires, especially when the industry already is struggling with worker recruitment and retention.

"Until automation catches up — especially in the beef space — you have to have the labor," Millican explains. "You can't operate these plants at less than capacity without the labor."

Even the most daunting obstacles, however, contain shards of opportunity. And as Millican and others detail, the meat industry's planned expansion affords it the space to not only redefine the present expectations of meatpacking labor, but also to establish customs and norms that will sustain the industry far into the future.

To learn about how processors can staff their new operations, read the full story in the January issue of Meatingplace.

— Meatingplace.com

J.P. Morgan cuts odds of successful deal for Sanderson Farms

Analysts at J.P. Morgan see even odds that the proposed \$4.5 billion acquisition of Sanderson Farms by Cargill Inc. and Continental Grain Co. will go through.

"We now assign only a 50% probability (previously 100%) to Sanderson Farms' takeover taking place as planned," equity analysts Ken Goldman and Anoori Naughton wrote Tuesday in a note to clients.

The pair cited the rough antitrust environment and higher facility-building costs for cutting J.P. Morgan's price target for the nation's third-largest chicken producer to \$188 from \$203.

"Note that Sanderson received a second request from the (Department of Justice) in connection with the proposed transaction last month," the analysts stated.

Sanderson disclosed receiving the DOJ request last month, as the company reported a jump in net sales and profits last year from 2020.

While not a surprise, the request came amid calls by the Biden administration and some legislators for more information on the impact of consolidation in the protein industry.

J.P. Morgan's updated view on completion of the Sanderson deal follows remarks Monday from the new assistant attorney general for the DOJ's antitrust division, who said he plans to "reinvigorate" antitrust law enforcement.

Stephens analyst Ben Bienvenu offered a more muted take, noting increased scrutiny of the pending merger but adding that it is "difficult to say whether this manifests into real challenges for the merger being completed."

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CAMPBELL'S from page 1

sonous apple.”

There's a story about how Robert Johnson of Salem, New Jersey stood on the town's courthouse steps and publicly ate a tomato to prove that it was safe; however, there's no actual documentation it actually happened. (Don't tell the residents of Salem though, who, in 2021, revived an annual tomato festival that at one time was named for Johnson and includes a reenactment of the local legend eating a tomato.)

As the 1800s rolled on, and people overcame their fear of tomatoes, the savory red fruit started to catch on as a commercial crop. The canning industry was growing in New Jersey, with tomatoes making up a part of the mix of crops canned. In the 1860s, the rapid commercialization of tomato ketchup as a consumer product propelled the farming of tomatoes, especially in South Jersey, a core ketchup production area.

The Campbell Soup Company was originally founded as the Joseph A. Campbell Preserve Company in 1869. In the 1870s, the company started to market its new Beefsteak Tomato Ketchup.

By 1910, when the company launched its tomato breeding program, Campbell's had undergone a name change and released its signature ready-to-eat Beefsteak Tomato soup. The following year, the company achieved national distribution, and it needed more tomatoes to meet the demand.

One of the tomatoes Campbell's bred was the Rutgers tomato, which traces its lineage back to the man who invented the condensed soup process, John Thompson Dorrance, when he was an employee of Campbell's. He would later go on to become president of the company. The J.T.D. tomato, named after him, was released in 1918 and was likely bred on the farm where Dorrance lived.

The J.T.D. tomato is a medium-sized red tomato averaging in the eight-to-12-ounce range.



EARLY ADVERTISING: Above left, the first label for Campbell's condensed tomato soup in 1897 touted it as Condensed Beefsteak Tomato Soup. (Photo courtesy of Campbell Soup



Company) Above right, a 1920 ad for Campbell's Tomato Soup featuring the slogan "Soup with the Tomato's Sunniest Smile". (Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress)



CAMPBELL'S ROOTS: Above left, the Campbell Soup Company's soil lab and greenhouse in Riverton, New Jersey as it appeared in the 1950s. Above right, an annual meeting of farm-



ers takes place at Dorrance's home in Cinnaminson, New Jersey in 1920. (Photos courtesy Campbell Soup Company)

It's uniform in shape, tasty and doesn't crack. Campbell's was looking to standardize its harvest with tomatoes that were a consistent size and shape, as well as taste- and blemish-free, as its production needs increased.

The J.T.D. tomato, while important to New Jersey, was even recognized on the national level. In the 1937 USDA Yearbook of Agriculture, it was described as "an interesting example of a local type developed for adaptation to a specific set of conditions and needs. It was developed by the Campbell Soup Co. for growing in New Jersey, mainly for its own factory use. It has not become widely grown elsewhere."

This work is a big contributor to the iconic status of the Jersey tomato.

In 1928, the J.T.D. tomato was used in a breeding program for what has become the most popular Jersey heirloom tomato, the Rutgers. To create it, the J.T.D. was crossed with the

Marglobe, a disease-resistant and historic tomato developed by Frederick John Pritchard while at the USDA's Plant Industry Bureau. The Marglobe has a strong disease resistance to Fusarium wilt and Nailhead rust, which plagued Florida tomato

growers. Once the Marglobe was introduced, it just about saved the Florida tomato industry.

Once Campbell's crossed the Rutgers tomato, the company handed it off to professor Lyman Schermerhorn of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural

Experiment Station (NJAES). Schermerhorn did field trials for the next six years, making selections of the best plants. The Rutgers tomato was released in 1934, and it soon proved its

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NIMAN RANCH from page 1

asking Missouri Prime to honor its agreement and provide 90 days' notice before termination.

Niman Ranch said it did not have the time necessary to find a replacement processor, noting that compliance with USDA labeling approval and Certified Humane certification processes requires much longer than three weeks. The result was that Niman Ranch would be unable to provide finished meat products to its customers, according to court documents.

Niman also argued that Missouri Prime's refusal to process its cattle would "permanently damage Niman Ranch's hard-won reputation for meeting its customers' needs." In addition, Niman said cattle that remain unprocessed for too long cannot be used for grass-fed programs, putting the company at risk of losing some of its suppliers.

The court order noted the

defendants' only argument was that the agreement was not valid because the contract provided by Niman Ranch was incomplete.

The court said it determined that Missouri Prime terminated the agreement because it found more lucrative business opportunities, despite its ongoing responsibilities under the contract with Niman Ranch. The court also found that Missouri Prime followed the requirements and schedules of the agreement until its December termination email.

The court agreed that Niman could suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and granted Niman's motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.

Niman Ranch is owned by Perdue Farms, which bought the farmer and rancher network in 2015. Missouri Prime Beef Packers began operating its processing facility in early 2021.

—Meatingplace.com

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worth as a processing tomato and one of adaptability.

As Andrew Smith details in his book Souper Tomatoes, 72 percent of commercial growers in the United States once planted the Rutgers tomato. That's a significant share of the market. It was used by Hunt's and Heinz, as well as the Jersey-based PJ Ritter Company, a national food processor and tomato seed company in the 1950s.

But not long after the Rutgers tomato was introduced, tomato farming practices started to change. As harvesting became more mechanized, the thin-skinned Rutgers tomato plummeted in popularity with farmers, who were looking for heartier tomatoes that would last longer. When that happened, the Rutgers tomato lost favor as a canning tomato.

"The significance of the original Rutgers to the history of the modern tomato was mostly lost during the 1950s and 1960s as the industry moved to F1 hybrid cultivars and mechanical harvesting of processing types that are currently used in prepared soups and sauces," says Tom Orton, a professor in the department of plant biology and pathology at Rutgers University who retired last year. "The original developer of Rutgers, Lyman Schermerhorn, also retired during the 1950s and most of the germplasm he developed during his career, including Rutgers breeding lines, was lost."

In 2010, Orton and a team of researchers started working on the Jersey Tomato Project in an effort to revive the Rutgers variety, which was believed to be lost to history. They soon

learned, however, that Campbell's still had some original seed stocks used to develop the original Rutgers variety stored away in a vault. In 2016, the researchers were able to debut a re-bred version: the Rutgers 250, which coincided with the 250th anniversary of Rutgers University.

It's great that Campbell's had preserved the original seeds so this historic tomato could be reintroduced. Other tomato seeds were discovered, too, which the Rutgers researchers grew out as well. One of those was the KC-146, which, according to Cindy Rovins of NJAES, was developed by Campbell's for the production of tomato juice and later used as a flavor standard as it continued to develop newer varieties.

Another Campbell's tomato, the Garden State, was introduced by Campbell's in 1947. In the Campbell's naming convention, it's also known as Campbell's 37 or KC-37. Bred from Pink Topper, Marvel and Pritchard, the seeds are not easy to find, although they were donated to the USDA Germplasm Bank in 1960.

It's ironic that the seeds of a tomato named for the nickname of a state known for its Jersey tomatoes, which was part of a historic breeding program, are not more widely available. Campbell's was in the food production business, not the seed business, so seeds were not released to commercial seed companies. As the USDA noted in its evaluation of the J.T.D., Campbell's tomatoes were mainly for their factory use—not for backyard gardeners or tomato

enthusiasts.

The Garden State tomato, like many other varieties that Campbell's was responsible for developing, is a fine-tasting tomato. It's no wonder that Campbell's tomato soup took its storied place in American culture, cementing itself even further when Andy Warhol painted his iconic Campbell's Soup Can series that debuted in 1962.

Warhol once said of Campbell's soup: "I used to drink it. I used to have the same lunch every day, for 20 years, I guess, the same thing over and over again." In the two decades that he drank his lunch, Warhol tasted iconic Jersey tomatoes like everyone else did. Unbeknownst to any of them, they were consuming the fruits of a historic and innovative

tomato breeding program.

This article was written by Jeff Quattrone, the founder of Library Seed Bank, an artist and seed activist who is working to preserve local food biodiversity through seed libraries. It appeared in Modern Farmer and also the Food & Environment Reporting Network (FERN) newsletter.



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We also follow a very strategic mineral program to put a healthier calf on the ground! At this time, we also have a small set of very fancy nice framed heifers that we fall bred. Dr. Neal Martin will be ultrasounding them in the next 30 days. All heifers are ultrasounded and sorted in tight calving windows, usually a 15-day window. These heifers will be offered at Meyer Cattle Company in Bowling Green in Brock's Bull Sale in April 2022, and in the Show-Me-Select Sale in Palmyra, Mo. in June 2022.

We would also like to thank Dr. Neal Martin for all his hard work, and the owners and staff at Eastern Missouri Commission Company for their support! Also a big Thank You to Daniel Mallery, MU Extension Livestock Specialist. We would love to hear feedback from all of you who purchased our heifers!!!

Also, we will be offering a handful of first calf heifer pairs in the April Cow Sale at EMCC. These heifers all originate from the Palmers at Center, Mo. The calves at their sides will be sired by G.A.R. Surefire 17328461. They are due to calve February 10, 2022. Everything will be up to date on all shots.

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Construction firm sues Tyson over plant project payment

Gray Construction Inc. has filed a lawsuit accusing Tyson Foods of underpaying the firm for its work as the primary contractor on Tyson's Humboldt, Tenn., poultry plant project.

The Lexington, Ky.-based construction company seeks damages of at least \$3.45 million from Tyson and the Industrial Development Board of Gibson County, Tenn., which owns the property as part of a tax-incentive plan and leases it to Tyson.

The Humboldt poultry complex, which opened early last year, was the processing giant's first new poultry facility in 25 years.

The complaint, filed late last month in a U.S. district court, alleges Gray was delayed for eight months from starting work because another contractor hired by Tyson did not complete the building pad for the project on time. Gray also contends it was

forced to perform additional earth work during unanticipated winter conditions because the pad was delivered without the proper amount of stone, drainage or compaction.

The delays also affected the work of a roofing subcontractor, causing Gray to incur additional costs and damages, the lawsuit states.

Gray alleges Tyson has failed to pay for project change orders seeking reimbursement for costs related to the delayed and poor performance of the building pad, the roofing issues, Covid-19 mitigation and other expenses.

A Tyson spokesperson declined to comment on the case.

Gray Construction is asking the court to award damages, plus interest and legal fees, and to order the sale of the property, with proceeds applied to satisfy the court judgment.

MERGERS from page 1

tion.

"I am concerned that merger remedies short of blocking a transaction too often miss the mark," Kanter said. "Complex settlements, whether behavioral or structural, suffer from significant deficiencies. Therefore, in

my view, when the division concludes that a merger is likely to lessen competition, in most situations we should seek a simple injunction to block the transaction. It is the surest way to preserve competition.

- Meatingplace.com

Biden discovers \$5 a pound ground beef

By TRENT LOOS
Special to the Advocate
Courtesy of High Plains Journal

We have a serious monopoly in the meatpacking business. In the late 1800s in New York City alone there were nearly 100 independent meatpackers. They were located in what is still called the meatpacking district, although now it is all condos and residences and there are no sides of swinging beef.

As an interesting side note, in the late 1800s the No. 1 complaint was "the biggest four meatpackers have too much control." Sound familiar? At some level, it is simply the nature of the beast. Despite the parallels, the battle in today's world is that the cattlemen's price of a live animal is 6% higher than the 5-year rolling average, while retail beef prices are 25% higher.

The meat industry is my topic today because of the events that just took place in the White House where they hosted a roundtable under the guise of trying to get the farmer their "fair share."

First, in my observation the only thing Biden accomplished was bringing to light the fact that there really is a problem. These packer margins have been far too large for far too long without passing fair market value back down the food chain. Interestingly, the pork system doesn't have the same issue, per se, but maybe that is because most of the pork players are already tied to the packer so that increase is automatic. Yet, the brilliant minds in the White House came up with this:

"Four large meat-packing companies control 85% of the beef market. In poultry, the top four processing firms control 54% of the market. And in pork, the top four processing firms control about 70% of the market. The meatpackers and processors buy from farmers and sell to retailers like grocery stores, making them a key bottleneck in the food supply chain.

"Most farmers now have little or no choice of buyer for their product and little leverage to negotiate, causing their share of every dollar spent on food to decline. Fifty years ago, ranchers got over \$0.60 of every dollar a consumer spent on beef, compared to about \$0.39 today. Similarly, hog farmers got \$0.40 to \$0.60 on each dollar spent 50 years ago, down to about \$0.19 today."

Please, White House "team of experts," explain to me how 39% of the consumer beef dollar is finding its way back to me and other producers? The two paragraphs they presented to the public don't even make sense. If twice the value of the consumer's food dollar for beef compared to pork gets back to the producer, does that mean that packer con-



The meat industry is my topic today because of the events that just took place in the White House where they hosted a roundtable under the guise of trying to get the farmer their "fair share."

trol (85%) is a good thing? They don't even understand their own words.

But their plan is a \$1 billion dollar hand out they claim will fix everything. That subsidy is supposed to fix things like they list below:

- Expand and diversify meat and poultry processing capacity;
- Increase producer income;
- Provide producers an opportunity to have ownership in processing facilities;
- Create stable, well-paying jobs in rural regions;
- Raise the bar on worker health, safety, training, and wages for meatpacking jobs;
- Spur collaboration among producers and workers;
- Prompt state, tribal, and private co-investment; and
- Provide consumers with more choices.

First, I want to be very clear that there is a serious problem. However, the problem will never be fixed by the government; it will only be fixed by the consumers' judicious use of their food dollar. If you don't like the gouging taking place in retail, shop somewhere else because many great options exist. For starters, quit supporting big box giants and online shopping monopolies that only serve to provide the cheapest possible alternatives for their consumers while taking from the producers that raise it.

Selling direct is not easy but is always an option. We have worked hard not to sell one critter into the consolidated system since 2013. Another solution is more local butcher shops and increased regional meatpacking capacity. However, in talking to people who are working to increase local processing options, they say their greatest challenge is the federal government, not only because of unnecessary regulations in production but also finding people who will work the jobs.

Consumers have plenty of choices if they are willing to get off the couch and seek them. Collaboration of all kinds already exists at many levels so dumping more money into a black hole isn't going to solve anything.

Editor's note: Trent Loos is a sixth generation United States farmer, host of the daily radio show, Loos Tales, and founder of Faces of Agriculture, a non-profit organization putting the human element back into the production of food. Get more information at www.LoosTales.com, or email Trent at trentloos@gmail.com.

U.S. beef exports reach record highs

U.S. beef exports set another record in November, according to USDA data compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

For November, beef exports totaled 123,641 metric tons (mt), up 7% from 2020 and the fourth-largest monthly volume in the post-BSE era. Export value, meanwhile, soared 49% year-over-year to \$1.05 billion, a new record for beef. Year to date, export volume is up 16% over 2020 to a 1.32 million mt pace, while export value is up 39% to \$9.59 billion.

Pork exports, meanwhile, dropped 8% in November to 237,547 mt, with value falling 6% to \$658.3 million. With that decline, 2021's YTD volume dropped below 2020's record pace to 2.71 million mt, although export value was up 7% to \$7.5 billion, and may surpass 2020's record of \$7.71 billion.

Exports by country

Japan has been 2021's leading importer of U.S. beef, bringing in a volume of 27,539 mt (up 15% from 2020) and value of \$243.1 million (up 54%). Year to date, Japan has imported 297,354 mt, or \$2.16 billion, of U.S. beef, respectively up 6% and 22% over 2020.

Other notable destinations for U.S. beef include South Korea and China. In South Korea, November beef imports totaled 23,292 mt, up 23% from 2020, while value rose 81% to a record \$243.4 million; in China, the

China's 2021 pork output nearly recoups loss from ASF: report

China's pork production leapt 29% in 2021 over the previous year, helping the Asian giant recoup most of the supply it lost to African swine fever since August 2018, according to a report by Reuters.

Reaching just under 53 million metric tons in 2021, China's annual output almost matched that of 2017, a rebound that is earlier than many had predicted.

But while pork production levels have normalized, demand and prices are weak due to continuing COVID-19 outbreaks.

— Meatingplace.com

Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement has contributed to an explosion in U.S. beef exports, with volume rising 400% to 172,257 mt and value rising 502% to \$1.43 billion.

Regarding pork exports, USMEF expects exports to China "will finish 2021 significantly lower than a year ago." Other countries, however, are still importing record amounts of U.S. pork. In Mexico, pork exports totaled 87,440 mt in November (up 34%) and 794,597 mt for 2021 (up 29%), while YTD export value is up 51% to \$1.54 billion. And in the Central America region, pork exports are up 30% year-over-year (to 13,887 mt) and 45% YTD (to 124,879 mt) for a total value of \$235.3 million, which is up 81% over 2020.

The 2022 export market

In the latest Cow-Calf Corner newsletter from Oklahoma State University, Prof. Derrell Peel wrote that while beef exports will be "generally supportive" in 2022, he does expect them to "pull back slightly."

Peel also wrote that beef exports to China/Hong Kong slowed as 2021 drew to a close, but continued growth is still

expected in 2022; moreover, Peel thinks the China/Hong Kong market could push past South Korea or Japan "in the foreseeable future."

— Meatingplace.com

A youthful voice...The Advocate Youth Page

Ag State of Mind

By SCHYLER ANGELL
Associate Editor,
Advocate Youth Page

In 2019, Jason Medows got a call from his father and son saying that their tractor had caught on fire. Jason was on a trip to Dallas, Texas, so he was put in the helpless position of not being able to do anything to assist his father and son.



Fortunately, nobody was harmed by the fire, and only the tractor was lost.

As Jason drove back to his home in south Missouri, he realized that he had handled that stressful situation in a better way than he previously would have been able to in other seasons of life. His ability to cope well was made possible because he had improved his mental health. With his unique perspective of being a pharmacist and beef cattle producer, Jason felt inclined to share what he had learned with others, and the idea behind The Ag State of Mind was formed.

Jason grew up on his family's beef cattle farm in Cuba, Mo., where his dad was the owner of the Interstate Livestock Market, now known as Interstate Regional Stockyards. Staying

involved in the family farm, or having a cattle herd of his own, wasn't something Jason ever imagined for his life. Instead, he took an interest in sports and attended college in St. Louis, where he pursued a Doctorate in Pharmacy.

It was there – once he was off of the farm – that Jason began to appreciate his agricultural roots. So, during his first year of college, Jason purchased his own herd of cattle. With the help of his dad, he cared for them while attending school.

After graduating college, he moved home and began working at a hospital in Rolla, Mo., where he met his wife. Together, he and his wife Keri, have four sons and 150 cows.

Since his family's tractor fire two and a half years ago, Jason has created his own podcast, Ag State of Mind, which encourages a positive conversation around the mental health of those in the agricultural industry. He shares stories using a three prong approach: his medical perspective, his ag producer perspective, and his personal experiences.

However, Jason wasn't always able to talk about mental health in this amazing way.

In 2003, when he moved to college, he experienced a lot of anxiety from the transition of life in a small town to life in the city. He was never really able to adapt to his home away from home, and as a result, his stress contin-

ued. Even after graduation, as Jason stepped into his new roles of being a husband, father and pharmacist, he found himself feeling anxious and depressed.

After some intense shifts in his priorities and time-management, Jason was able to improve his mental health. For this reason, Jason felt an obligation to open up the conversation with others in the agricultural industry, an industry that is typically made of very independent individuals.

"Mental health is for everyone, and mental health does not have to equal mental illness," he said. "Mental health is something we deal with, but not something we talk about. We have been conditioned to not talk about these things that are hard for us."

To combat this, Jason is able to use his personal story and podcast to teach others. He believes mental health is something we need to be proactive with, instead of waiting for an issue to create a mental health problem. Everyone has a different perspective and relates to things differently, which is why it is important for us to start these conversations.

Inspired by the Beef magazine contributing editor, Burke Teichert, Jason has the intention of being a lifelong learner. He has continuously worked to challenge himself and improve his habits and mental health.

A key component of this for Jason is his morning routines. "The morning is the time you can make for yourself, to do the things that are important to you," he said. "The rest of the day, for the most part, is dedicated to helping others."

Like most people, Jason spends a large part of his days investing time in his family, patients at work and cattle. Knowing that his days are busy, Jason goes to bed early and wakes up early, so that he is able to have an intentional routine for his mornings. He generally begins his day with breakfast and starts on his cattle feeding. He then spends several minutes



reading either a farm magazine, a book or some scriptures. This has been a very enjoyable and sustainable way to start the day for Jason. Investing time and energy into simple habits, like reading for 15 minutes, can be a great benefit to your day and mental health.

Jason put it simply saying, "Everyone trying to have a time devoted to themselves, can really

help them be more grounded and understand what's going on inside of them. You should always be improving yourself."

To join the conversation about rural mental health, the Ag State of Mind podcast can be found on all podcast platforms, and Jason can be found through his blog, Instagram, Twitter and on Facebook as "Ag State Of Mind."

15 Iowa meat processors awarded state grants by IEDA

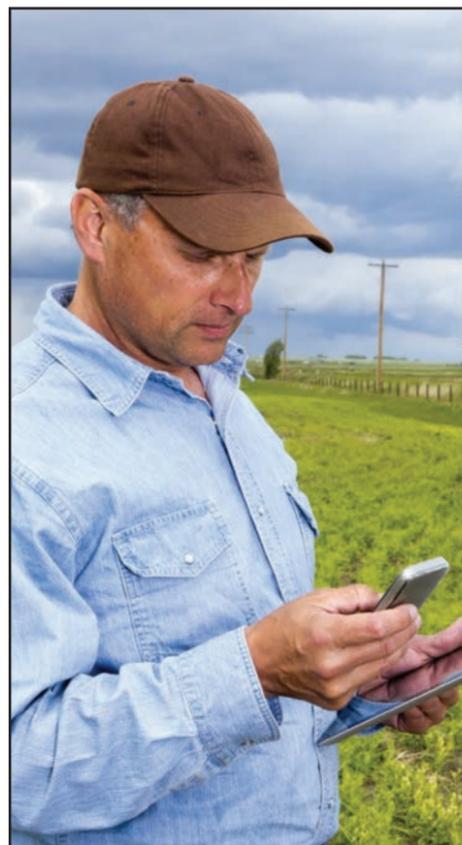
The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) has awarded 15 grants from the state's Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Fund to help smaller meat processors grow their businesses.

The fund was designed to provide financial assistance for projects relating to small-scale meat processing, licensed custom lockers, and mobile slaughter units. The program was created during the 2021 Iowa legislative session and signed into law

by Gov. Kim Reynolds with a \$750,000 allocation.

The maximum award amount is \$50,000, and no more than 50% of eligible project expenses may be paid with the grant funds.

The state received 54 applications requesting more than \$2.4 million. Based on a scoring system and available funding, the IEDA Board approved awards for the 15 applications that received the highest average score.



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Lasagna in soup? You have to give it a try

Made and reviewed by CHARLOTTE ANGELL
 Rated by JON ANGELL
 For The Advocate

Jon's Rating: February is a good month for soup. This was a fine enough tasting meal.... But I don't completely get it; I like soup and I like lasagna. It spot on tastes like lasagna, but how does making lasagna thin and runny make it better? Don't people let their lasagna sit and rest out of the oven so that it isn't so thin and runny? It's almost like someone failed at lasagna and said, "I meant for it to require a spoon, let's call it soup." So.... To all those who say I am scared to give the cook anything below a 3 on my 4 hat scale.... Take note, I rate this one a firm TWO. It tastes fine but why make lasagna into soup intentionally?

O'Bannon receives Cattleman of the Year

OSAGE BEACH, Mo. - The Missouri Cattleman's Association recognized a Madison, Missouri, cattle producer as the 2021 Cattleman of the Year at its annual convention in Osage Beach, Missouri, on January 8, 2022. Marilyn O'Bannon was presented the award for her relentless efforts furthering MCA's quest to reform eminent domain laws in the state.

Founder of a landowners' group, O'Bannon has been at the forefront of Missouri's defense of private property rights for more than eight years, and she continues to engage with legislators, farmers and ranchers to continue the conversation. This year, she worked alongside MCA and Missouri Farm Bureau to organize a united front against the Grain Belt Express and influenced many non-MCA members impacted by the project to join the organization and the fight.

In addition to her extensive time spent organizing voices and promoting discussion, O'Bannon raised substantial funds when Missouri was outmatched by big, out-of-state money. Her personal contributions of time, money and effort, however, are unmatched.

"Marilyn has been a member for a very long time but hasn't been in leadership or in the spotlight much," said John Cauthorn, past MCA president. "But this award was created to put focus on any member who went above and beyond in the respective year, and there is no one more deserving of that recognition in 2021 than Marilyn O'Bannon."

Along with her sons and husband of 44 years, O'Bannon operates a diversified livestock and row crop farm in Northeast Missouri. Click here for the link to her video.

While the association dates back to 1911, MCA has been presenting the Cattleman of the Year award since 1965 and O'Bannon is the 58th recipient of the award.

The Best Lasagna Soup Recipe

Natasha's Kitchen

- 6 oz. lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
- 1 tbsp. oil, avocado or olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 lb hot or sweet Italian sausage, casings removed*
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 32 oz low-sodium beef broth
- 15 oz canned crushed tomatoes, with their juice
- 1/2 cup fresh basil, chopped
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup half & half

- 1/4 cup cottage cheese, not original to recipe
- Ricotta cheese, for serving

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook them for 2 minutes less than advised by the package instructions. Drain the noodles, drizzle them with oil, and set them aside.

2. Place a heavy bottom pot or Dutch oven over medium heat, add the sausage, and sautee until cooked through, breaking it up into small pieces with a spatula. Add the onion and cook until it's translucent. Stir in pressed garlic and oregano and cook for 30 seconds until fragrant.

Jon's rating



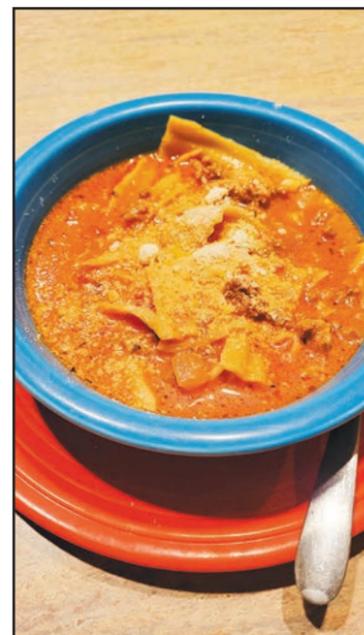
2 cowboy hats out of 4

3. Add tomato paste, broth, and canned tomatoes. Bring to a boil then reduce heat, partially cover, and simmer for 15 minutes.

4. Keeping the heat at a simmer, add in noodles, half and half, parmesan, and basil. Simmer for a few more minutes and season to taste.

5. Serve right away with a spoonful of ricotta cheese and a sprinkle of fresh basil.

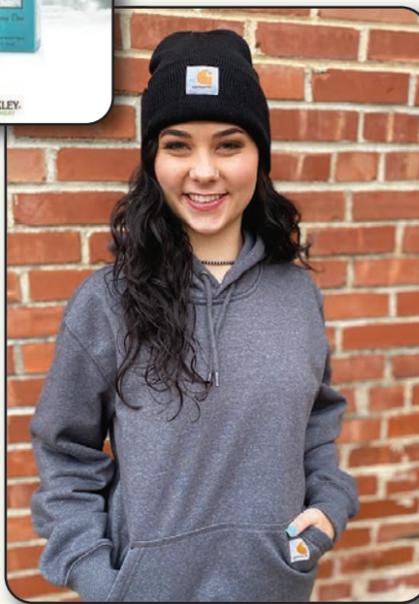
* Note: I used 1/2 pound ground hamburger and 1/2 Italian sweet sausage.



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RAMBLINGS OF A CONSERVATIVE COW DOCTOR

Swapping ends

By KRAYTON KERNS, D.V.M.
Special to The Advocate

It's winter so Montana roads are slick. Last week, someone spun a whoop-de-doo and plunged into the ditch on the road leading to my house. Even on icy straightaways the slightest misapplication of the gas, brake or steering wheel can spin a car end-for-end. A similarly quick flip also occurs in politics and here are two examples:



After 9-11, intelligence experts claimed Iraq President Saddam Husein illegally possessed weapons of mass destruction. This could not be ignored. In October of 2002, the Iraq Resolution authorizing force passed Congress with bipartisan support. Particularly noteworthy, were the "Aye" votes from Democrat Senators Clinton, Biden, Kerry, and Schumer. After two years of finding red herrings rather than anthrax spores, Senator John Kerry flipped positions and claimed he

Today, with thousands of poked recipients succumbing to thromboembolic events, the ruling class is frantically sweeping the dead under the rug while chanting, "there is nothing to see here."

only supported the Iraq Resolution because President Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction. "Bush Lied, People Died" became the left's mantra. Revealing their leftist undergarments, the media granted every Democrat a "Get Out of War Free" card thereby making this our nation's second fastest propaganda end-for-end. Now to the first, which is developing as you read this.

When I learned of President Trump's Operation Warp Speed creating a Covid vaccine I was skeptical. Speeding the release of a gene-transfer vaccine by shortening trials is not wise. Coupling this dangerous shortcut with the simultaneous shift of wealth from taxpayers to big pharma is like giving a Brucellosis infected milk cow free access to the grain bin.

President Trump handed the stroke poke to President Biden, who billed it as his magic solution to stop the Covid pandemic.

When proven to be neither safe nor effective, the volunteer poke pool went dry, so Biden forced the misery on the unwashed with his mandates.

Today, with thousands of poked recipients succumbing to thromboembolic events, the ruling class is frantically sweeping the dead under the rug while chanting, "there is nothing to see here." Recently released actuary tables comparing 2021 to 2020 show an astronomical 40 percent increase in excess deaths in employed 18- to 64-year-olds.

These were non-Covid deaths, so what happened in 2021 that killed so many people?

Think about it. Once the lump of poked victims swept under the rug is so large even Stevie Wonder can see it, the greatest flip in political history will occur. The jab, previously hailed as a "weapon of mass protection" will suddenly be relabeled Trump's Stroke Poke. "Trump Lied, People Died" will become the

government approved mantra with big tech propagandists granting full amnesty to Biden, Fauci and his alphabet cartel of pro-pokers. The jab will become Trump's Waterloo.

For three decades, Krayton Kerns, D.V.M. has been a veterinarian in Laurel, Montana, and owns Beartooth Veterinary Service. His three children are

graduates of the Laurel School System where his wife, Druann, is employed as the district technology coordinator.

He served four terms in Montana's House.

His hobbies and passions include his family, marathons, triathlons, long distance relay races and aviation. He is an avid hunter, packer, wagon master and mule skinner.

Judge delays enforcement of Proposition 12 restrictions on sales of whole pork meat

A California judge has delayed enforcement of Proposition 12 restrictions on sales of whole pork meat until six months after regulations to implement the law are finalized.

Judge James Arguelles of California Superior Court in Sacramento County ruled this week that grocers and restaurants are not subject to enforcement of the animal welfare law in the interim.

Approved by California voters in November 2018, Prop 12 went into effect Jan. 1. The law sets housing standards for breeding pigs, egg-laying hens and veal calves and prohibits the sale of

pork, eggs and raw veal from producers that do not meet space requirements. Pork products sold in the state must derive from pigs confined with at least 24 square feet per animal.

"Judge Arguelles' decision recognizes the complexity of the pork supply chain and the burdensome and costly provisions of Prop 12," said Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of the North American Meat Institute, in a press release praising the California court ruling. "To enforce the law without final regulations leaves the industry unsure of how to comply or what significant changes must be made

to provide pork to this critical market."

NAMI had sought a moratorium of more than two years on enforcement of Prop 12 to allow industry more time to comply.

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) have petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to take their case against Prop 12. Their effort follows a petition from NAMI that the high court declined to review.

The AFBF, in a statement Tuesday, said Prop 12 takes away farmers' flexibility to ensure hogs are raised in a safe environment and will force small farms to make expensive changes to their operations that will ultimately lead to more industry consolidation and higher food prices.

"It's imperative that the Supreme Court address the constitutionality of Proposition 12. The laws of one state should not set the rules for an entire nation," the AFBF said.

Last month, Seaboard Foods said it would limit sales of whole-muscle pork products in California when Prop 12 goes into effect. Other companies such as Hormel Foods have said they plan to fully comply with the law.

— Meetingplace.com

Consumer groups keep up legal battle against NSIS

Consumer organizations have filed a new motion asking a federal judge in California to throw out the rules implementing USDA's New Swine Inspection System (NSIS).

In the Jan. 14 document filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the Center for Food Safety, Food & Water Watch and the Humane Farming Association argue that the 2019 rules violate the Federal Meat Inspection Act and threaten to exacerbate foodborne illnesses by preventing federal inspectors from performing their duty to critically appraise hogs before and after slaughter.

The lawsuit, initially filed in early 2020, argues that the new inspection system will harm consumers by eliminating statutory

requirements that federal government inspectors — rather than slaughter plant employees — perform certain inspection responsibilities. The lawsuit also challenges the lifting of limits on slaughter line speeds.

The California court in February 2021 denied USDA's motion to dismiss the case, saying the groups have the legal standing to pursue their claims.

In November, USDA initiated a trial program allowing the nation's largest pork plants to apply to run faster line speeds to ramp up production for up to a year.

The new motion brought by the plaintiffs asks the court to grant summary judgment and to schedule a hearing on the matter.

— Meetingplace.com

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Weekly Market Reports

Sponsored by Eastern Mo. Commission Company in Bowling Green



Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green
Market Report for Friday, January 7, 2022
Receipts: 1,668 Two weeks ago: 1,451 Year ago: 2,745

Eastern MO. Commission last tested sale was four weeks ago and had few good comparisons as last sale two weeks ago was a Special Bred Cow Sale. Steers and heifers under 600 lbs were lightly tested with 600-800 lb steers and 600-700 lb heifers all trading with a sharply higher undertone. Sales included pot load of top quality 753 lb steers and pot load of 660 lb heifers along with several part loads of good quality steers weighing 600-750 lbs all selling on and active market to start the new year. Slaughter cows sold firm to 2.00 higher.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1 - Pkg 355 lbs 204.00; few 500-550 lbs 185.00-187.00, 550-600 lbs 174.00-180.50; 600-700 lbs 168.00-178.50; 700-800 lbs 161.00-171.25; part load 842 lbs fleshy 146.00, few 845-855 lbs 151.00-154.00. Medium and Large 1-2 - Few 350-400 lbs 190.00-197.00; 400-500 lbs 185.00-194.00; 500-550 lbs 165.00-176.50; 600-700 lbs 154.50-166.00; pkg 725 lbs fleshy 147.50. Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 490 lbs 150.00; 500-550 lbs 160.00-161.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1 - Few 400-450 lbs 167.00-176.00, pkg 485 lbs 161.00; 500-600 lbs 155.00-162.00; 600-700 lbs 154.50-162.75; lot fleshy 645 lbs 147.00. Medium and Large 1-2 - 350-400 lbs 168.00-169.00; 400-500 lbs 150.00-157.00; 500-600 lbs 145.00-152.50; 600-700 lbs 140.00-150.50; pkg 715 lbs fleshy 133.50. Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 555 lbs 140.00; pkg 669 lbs 138.00.

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 460 lbs 171.00; 550-600 lbs, 142.00-145.50; pkg 745 lbs 130.50.

Slaughter Cows: Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 75.00-80.50.

Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 60.00-67.00; high dressing, 70.00-75.50; and low dressing, 53.00-58.00. Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 55.00-61.00; high dressing, 62.00-68.00; and low dressing, 44.50-53.00.

Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 50.00-57.00; high dressing, 59.00-64.00; and low dressing, 41.00-49.00. Thin 30.00-40.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2400 lbs, 85.00-91.50; 97.00.

Slaughter Steers and Heifers: (100 Hd) Choice and Prime 2-3 - 1400-1550 lbs., 140.50-141.50; Choice 2-3 - 1100-1525 lbs 135.00-140.00.

Source: MO Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Bowling Green, MO, Greg Harrison, Market Reporter 573-751-5618. 24 hour recorded report 1-573-522-9244 www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/JC_LS156.txt

EMCC Representative Sales of 5 or more for 1-7-22
FEMALES

6 Mix	352	168.50	\$593	STURGEON,MO
6 Mix	415	155.00	\$643	FAYETTE,MO
8 Mix	423	172.00	\$728	STURGEON,MO
8 Mix	472	157.00	\$741	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	484	135.00	\$653	CENTRALIA,MO
5 Blk	485	161.00	\$781	STURGEON,MO
6 Mix	493	150.00	\$739	GEFF,IL
5 Blk	495	150.00	\$743	FAYETTE,MO
6 Blk	507	142.50	\$722	CHESTERFIELD,IL
7 Blk	525	157.00	\$824	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	536	150.00	\$804	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	548	155.00	\$849	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Mix	555	140.00	\$777	PATOKA,IL
7 Blk	569	152.50	\$867	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	573	147.00	\$843	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	575	148.00	\$851	MIDDLETOWN,MO
19 Blk	581	162.00	\$941	FAYETTE,MO
13 Mix	588	147.00	\$865	PATOKA,IL
5 Blk	591	145.50	\$860	BOWLING GREEN,MO
7 Blk	591	156.50	\$926	BARRY,IL
18 Mix	604	145.50	\$879	OLD MONROE,MO
9 Blk	632	158.50	\$1001	MIDDLETOWN,MO
16 Blk	644	147.00	\$947	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	644	150.50	\$969	BOWLING GREEN,MO
9 Mix	657	140.00	\$919	OLD MONROE,MO
71 Blk	660	162.75	\$1074	CENTRALIA,MO
10 Blk	665	161.00	\$1071	BOWLING GREEN,MO
7 Blk	668	147.50	\$985	GEFF,IL
8 Blk	669	154.50	\$1033	CURRYVILLE,MO
8 Mix	669	138.00	\$924	PATOKA,IL
5 Mix	688	140.00	\$963	FAYETTE,MO
7 Mix	714	133.50	\$953	OLD MONROE,MO

MALES

7 Blk	393	177.00	\$695	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	404	142.00	\$574	FAYETTE,MO
9 Mix	426	145.00	\$617	FENTON,MO
5 Blk	456	185.00	\$844	BATCHTOWN,IL
7 BWF	459	171.00	\$784	CHESTERFIELD,IL
6 Blk	469	192.50	\$903	STURGEON,MO
9 Blk	475	186.00	\$884	ROODHOUSE,IL
5 Mix	477	160.00	\$763	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	492	150.00	\$738	OLD MONROE,MO
8 Mix	513	176.00	\$903	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	528	187.00	\$988	LOUISIANA,MO
8 Blk	541	165.00	\$892	FAYETTE,MO
5 Blk	557	180.50	\$1005	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	570	145.50	\$829	WINCHESTER,IL
5 Blk	571	174.50	\$996	BOWLING GREEN,MO
9 Mix	582	145.50	\$847	CHESTERFIELD,IL

10 Blk	589	179.00	\$1054	MIDDLETOWN,MO
8 Blk	590	178.00	\$1050	NEW LONDON,MO
5 Blk	598	142.00	\$849	ELDRED,IL
23 Blk	603	176.50	\$1064	CURRYVILLE,MO
27 Blk	603	168.00	\$1013	NEW LONDON,MO
10 Blk	603	168.00	\$1013	LOUISIANA,MO
7 Mix	618	156.00	\$964	BATCHTOWN,IL
8 Blk	628	168.50	\$1058	BARRY,IL
10 Blk	637	166.00	\$1057	ROODHOUSE,IL
5 Blk	643	174.00	\$1119	NEW HARTFORD,MO
5 Blk	652	175.00	\$1141	MT VERNON,IL
15 Blk	666	178.50	\$1189	BOWLING GREEN,MO
32 Blk	668	178.00	\$1189	CENTRALIA,MO
23 Blk	685	169.50	\$1160	NEW LONDON,MO
11 Blk	685	169.50	\$1160	LOUISIANA,MO
9 Blk	685	177.50	\$1215	NEW HARTFORD,MO
17 Blk	685	177.50	\$1215	MIDDLETOWN,MO
11 Blk	693	174.50	\$1209	BOWLING GREEN,MO
43 Blk	698	170.50	\$1190	NEW LONDON,MO
5 Blk	709	145.50	\$1032	OLD MONROE,MO
38 Blk	715	168.50	\$1205	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Mix	746	130.50	\$973	CHESTERFIELD,IL
70 Blk	753	171.25	\$1290	CENTRALIA,MO
13 Blk	768	166.50	\$1279	BOWLING GREEN,MO
19 Blk	778	161.75	\$1258	NEW LONDON,MO
46 Mix	842	146.00	\$1229	OLD MONROE,MO
5 Blk	843	154.00	\$1298	WASHINGTON,MO
7 Mix	854	151.00	\$1290	CURRYVILLE,MO

Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green
Market Report for Friday, January 14, 2022
Receipts: 3,007 Week ago: 1,668 Year ago: 1,211

Compared to last week, steer calves weighing 450-600 lbs sold steady to firm, with spots 3.00 higher on the 550-600 lb steers, 600-700 lb steers sold unevenly steady to 7.00 lower, 700-750 lb sold mostly steady with weights over 750 lb not well tested. Feeder heifers weighing 400-550 lbs sold steady to firm, with 550-600 lbs and 650-700 lbs trading mostly 5.00-7.00 lower and all other weights of heifers lightly tested. Slaughter steers and heifers on comparable numbers with last week sold steady to 4.00 lower, with slaughter cows trading firm to 2.00 higher. Demand was moderate to good on heavy receipts this week, with overall quality not as attractive as last week especially on feeders over 550 lbs with many large consignments of mix crossbred feeders in the offering selling with moderate demand.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1 - 450-500 lbs 191.00-194.00; 500-550 lbs 183.00-190.50, 550-600 lbs 174.00-185.00; 600-700 lbs 161.00-170.00; 700-750 lbs 162.00-167.50; 750-800 lbs 156.00-161.00; 800-850 lbs 147.00-149.00.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 400-450 lbs 177.00-190.00, 450-500 lbs 173.00-176.00; 500-550 lbs 165.00-179.00, 550-600 lbs 160.00-167.00; 600-700 lbs 149.50-160.00, fleshy 140.00-150.00; 700-750 lbs 152.00-158.75, fleshy 142.00-146.25, 750-800 lbs 142.00-146.25; lot 847 lbs 143.00, pkg fleshy 890 lbs 130.00; lot 932 lbs 137.00.

Large 1/1-2 - 650-700 lbs 148.00-155.00; lot 1000 lbs 130.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1 - 400-450 lbs 165.00-176.00, 450-500 lbs 160.00-169.00; 500-600 lbs 150.00-161.00; 650-700 lbs 146.00-149.50; 700-800 lbs 142.75-148.75; pkg 850 lbs 139.50; lot 930 lbs 133.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 400-450 lbs 151.00-161.00, 450-500 lbs 146.00-157.00, unweaned 121.00-130.00; 500-600 lbs 142.00-153.00; 600-700 lbs 140.00-150.00; 700-800 lbs 132.00-142.00; 800-825 lbs 132.00-138.75.

Medium and Large 2 pkg 390 lbs 143.00; 400-500 lbs 140.00-146.00; 500-600 lbs 125.00-140.00; 600-700 lbs 132.00-141.00.

Medium 1-2 - 600-660 lbs fleshy 139.00-140.00.

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1 - 600-650 lbs 150.00-151.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 475 lbs 162.50; 500-555 lbs 155.00-156.00; 600-700 lbs 142.00-149.00; unweaned pkg 640 lbs 120.00.

Slaughter Cows: Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 65.00-71.00; and high dressing, 72.50-80.00.

Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 60.00-69.00; high dressing, 70.00-77.50; and low dressing, 53.00-58.00.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 56.00-63.00; high dressing, 64.00-72.00; and low dressing, 46.50-54.50.

Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 50.00-58.50; high dressing, 60.00-66.00; and low dressing, 41.00-49.00. Thin 30.00-40.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2400 lbs, 85.00-94.50; 100.00-115.00.

Slaughter Steers and Heifers: (100 Hd) Choice 2-3 1250-1550 lbs 134.00-136.00.

Select and Choice 1-2 - 1200-1500 lbs 130.00-132.00.

Source: MO Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Bowling Green, MO, Greg Harrison, Market Reporter 573-751-5618. 24 hour recorded report 1-573-522-9244 www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/JC_LS156.txt

EMCC Representative Sales of 5 or more for 1-14-22
FEMALES

5 Mix	304	140.00	\$426	CLARKSVILLE,MO
5 Blk	382	164.00	\$626	NEW LONDON,MO
6 Blk	398	143.00	\$568	AUGUSTA,MO

5 Blk	446	151.00	\$673	TIMEWELL,IL
8 Mix	446	165.00	\$736	BOONVILLE,MO
5 Mix	462	130.00	\$601	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
6 Blk	475	163.00	\$774	PARIS,MO
6 Blk	485	156.00	\$757	NEW HAVEN,MO
8 Blk	485	169.00	\$820	BENTON CITY,MO
8 Mix	490	121.00	\$593	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
5 Blk	505	168.00	\$848	NEW LONDON,MO
6 Blk	523	140.00	\$733	TROY,MO
7 Blk	531	161.00	\$856	MEXICO,MO
5 Blk	535	160.00	\$856	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
9 Blk	549	148.00	\$813	HERMANN,MO
7 Red	551	145.00	\$800	BOWLING GREEN,MO
11 Mix	552	155.00	\$855	BOONVILLE,MO
11 Blk	557	151.50	\$844	RUSH HILL,MO
5 Red	564	135.00	\$761	PEARL,IL
8 Blk	573	148.00	\$848	FAYETTE,MO
5 Mix	580	142.00	\$824	FAYETTE,MO
6 Mix	583	146.00	\$852	BOONVILLE,MO
5 Mix	588	137.00	\$806	GREENFIELD,IL
6 Mix	593	148.00	\$878	PARIS,MO
6 Blk	593	150.00	\$890	NEW SALEM,IL
5 Blk	598	150.50	\$900	LOUISIANA,MO
11 Blk	599	150.00	\$898	OLD MONROE,MO
5 Mix	599	140.00	\$839	CURRYVILLE,MO
14 Mix	600	139.75	\$838	NEW HAVEN,MO
7 Blk	620	140.00	\$868	HETTICK,IL
8 Blk	632	136.00	\$859	NEW LONDON,MO
17 Blk	641	148.00	\$948	CARROLTON,IL
7 Blk	641	141.00	\$904	OLD MONROE,MO
5 Mix	646	146.50	\$946	CENTRALIA,MO
5 Mix	648	140.00	\$907	BOWLING GREEN,MO
10 Mix	659	146.50	\$965	MURRYVILLE,IL
16 Blk	670	148.50	\$995	RUSH HILL,MO
11 Blk	684	149.50	\$1022	LOUISIANA,MO
6 Mix	693	135.00	\$936	IUKA,IL
8 Blk	713	139.00	\$991	NEW SALEM,IL
5 Red	716	140.50	\$1006	BOWLING GREEN,MO
7 Blk	735	142.50	\$1047	HETTICK,IL
8 Blk	743	144.75	\$1076	MEXICO,MO
5 Mix	758	143.00	\$1084	NEW HAVEN,MO
9 Blk	772	142.75	\$1102	MEXICO,MO
11 Mix	796	138.00	\$1099	MEXICO,MO
10 Mix	812	138.75	\$1127	IUKA,IL
17 Blk	930	133.50	\$1241	MURRYVILLE,IL

MALES

6 Blk	359	160.00	\$575	ELSBERRY,MO
8 Red	411	176.00	\$724	PEARL,IL
6 Mix	422	140.00	\$590	ELSBERRY,MO
5 Blk	438	190.00	\$833	EOLIA,MO
6 Blk	475	162.50	\$772	EOLIA,MO
11 Blk	476	191.50	\$912	PARIS,MO
5 Blk	484	193.00	\$934	BOONVILLE,MO
7 Mix	500	110.00	\$550	WARRENTON,MO
7 Blk	500	190.50	\$953	ELSBERRY,MO
5 Blk	503	156.00	\$785	DOW,IL
8 Blk	509	169.00	\$860	CURRYVILLE,MO
5 Blk	518	190.00	\$984	CARROLTON,IL
6 Blk	523	169.50	\$887	AUGUSTA,MO
8 Blk	538	188.00	\$1011	NEW LONDON,MO
9 Blk	548	160.00	\$876	TIMEWELL,IL
6 Blk	549	180.00	\$989	OLD MONROE,MO
7 Blk	559	185.50	\$1037	WRIGHT CITY,MO
5 Red	563	161.00	\$906	PEARL,IL
13 Blk	567	162.00	\$918	VANDALIA,MO
5 Blk	571	183.50	\$1047	EOLIA,MO
6 Mix	579	174.00	\$1008	PARIS,MO
5 Blk	585	149.50	\$875	THOMPSON,MO
6 Blk	586	167.00	\$978	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
10 Blk	594	164.00	\$974	BOONVILLE,MO
12 Blk	599	149.00	\$892	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
5 Blk</				

White House pushes China to fulfill Phase One trade deal commitments

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has signaled that the U.S. government will push China to fulfill its Phase One trade deal commitments.

In an address to the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention, Vilsack

stated that U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai is engaging directly with China about its Phase One agricultural purchases, which came up \$16 billion short of what was committed.

"Ambassador Tai, our U.S.

Trade Representative, continues to converse with China about the necessity of living up totally and completely to the Phase One trade agreement, making up that \$16 billion deficit over the course of the next several years," Vilsack stated.

Vilsack added that the Biden administration is engaging with China on other agriculture matters, including "sanitary and phytosanitary barriers" to pork and beef.

The Phase One trade deal, according to a report from the

Peterson Institute for International Economics, intended to expand China's purchase of U.S. goods and services by \$200 billion over a two-year period, from Feb. 14, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2021.

- Meatingplace.com



Weekly Market Reports

Sponsored by Eastern Mo. Commission Company in Bowling Green



EMCC Market Report continued from page 18

15 Blk	700	158.75	\$1111	CLARK,MO
19 Mix	702	167.50	\$1175	MEXICO,MO
6 Blk	703	158.00	\$1110	PATOKA,IL
14 Blk	723	162.50	\$1174	NEW SALEM,IL
8 Blk	728	164.00	\$1194	MURRYVILLE,IL
8 Red	729	157.50	\$1149	FAYETTE,MO
8 Blk	737	164.00	\$1208	MEXICO,MO
16 Blk	738	148.75	\$1097	SILEX,MO
16 Blk	750	146.25	\$1097	CHESTERFIELD,IL
23 Mix	750	161.00	\$1208	WRIGHT CITY,MO
12 Mix	771	142.00	\$1095	NEW HAVEN,MO
5 Mix	780	145.50	\$1135	MURRYVILLE,IL
30 Blk	782	156.00	\$1220	CLARK,MO
12 Red	809	149.50	\$1210	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	831	147.00	\$1221	IUKA,IL
9 Blk	845	147.25	\$1244	MEXICO,MO
6 Mix	892	130.00	\$1159	JACKSONVILLE,IL
13 Mix	952	137.00	\$1304	IUKA,IL
10 Mix	1000	130.00	\$1299	JACKSONVILLE,IL

Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green Market Report for Friday, January 21, 2022

Receipts: 984 Week ago: 3,007 Year ago: 3,065

Friday's sale was a Special Bred Cow, heifer and Pairs sale with several consignments of bred heifers in the third stage and several consignments of young bred cows mostly 4-6 yrs in the third stage all selling with moderate to good demand. Slaughter cows on a nice offering sold firm to 5.00 higher. Feeder cattle were lightly tested on a very light offering selling in small packages and singles.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-1-2 - Few 350-400 lbs 181.00-185.00; pkg 448 lbs 171.00; few 500-550 lbs 157.00-158.00, 550-600 lbs few 153.00-161.00; pkg 608 lbs 171.00, lot 743 lbs 154.00.

Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 313 lbs 155.00; pkf 668 lbs 134.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 - 375-400 lbs 170.00; 450-500 lbs few 157.00-166.00; pkg 667 lbs 138.00. Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 483 lbs 146.00; pkg 570 lbs 135.00; 635-670 lbs 131.00-132.00.

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 - Scarce.

Replacement Cows: Bred Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 - 1075-1225 lbs 3rd stage Blk 1625.00-1775.00.

Bred Cows: Medium and Large 1 - Mostly 5 yrs 1300-1450 lbs 3rd stage 1700.00-1800.00.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 3-6 yrs 1100-1450 lbs 3rd stage 1425.00-1675.00; 6-7 yrs 1200-1400 lbs 3rd stage 1300.00-1475.00; short solid mouth 1150-1475 lbs 3rd stage 900.00-1000.00; aged/broken mouth 1200-1450 lbs 3rd stage 800.00-990.00.

Pairs: Medium and Large 1 - Two lots 5 yrs 1300-1400 lbs w/300-350 lb calves 1900.00-2000.00.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 3-6 yrs 1150-1450 lbs w/150-300 lb calves 1525.00-1775.00; 7 yrs-short solid mouth 1400-lbs w/150-200 lb calves 1475.00; short solid mouth 1200-1300 lbs w/200-250 lb calves 1270.00-1325.00.

Slaughter Cows: Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 67.00; and high dressing, 76.00-82.00.

Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 64.00-70.00; high dressing, 72.00-80.00; and low dressing, 58.00-61.00.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 57.00-66.00; high dressing, 68.00-80.00; and low dressing, 46.50-54.50.

Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 50.00-58.50; high dressing, 60.00-66.00; and low dressing, 41.00-49.00. Thin 30.00-40.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2400 lbs, 88.00-97.50; 99.00-108.00; 85.00.

Slaughter Steers and Heifers: (40 Hd) Choice and Prime 2-3 - 1220-1370 lbs 138.50-143.00; Select and Choice 1-3 - 1300-1450 lbs 132.00-135.50; lot Holsteins 1720 lbs 101.00.

Source: MO Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Bowling Green, MO, Greg Harrison, Market Reporter 573-751-5618. 24 hour recorded report 1-573-522-9244 www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/JC_LS156.txt

EMCC Representative Sales of 5 or more for 1-21-22

FEMALES				
6 Blk	388	170.00	\$660	GREENVILLE,IL
7 Blk	463	157.00	\$727	GREENVILLE,IL
7 Blk	541	143.00	\$773	MEXICO,MO
6 Mix	634	131.00	\$831	GREENVILLE,IL

MALES				
5 Blk	448	170.00	\$762	GREENVILLE,IL
5 Blk	552	153.00	\$845	MEXICO,MO
7 Mix	566	165.00	\$935	GREENVILLE,IL

7 BWF	608	171.00	\$1039	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	668	134.00	\$895	NEW LONDON,MO
9 Mix	750	154.00	\$1155	BOWLING GREEN,MO

Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green Market Report for Friday, January 28, 2022

Receipts: 2,003 Week ago: 984 Year ago: 1,206

Compared to the last special two weeks ago, 500-650 lb steers sold firm to 5.00 higher, with 650-800 lbs trading 2.00-4.00 lower, 800-850 lb sold mostly steady. Feeder heifer weighing 450-600 lbs sold steady to 5.00 higher with the most advance on the 550-600 lb heifers, 600-650 lbs were not tested, with 650-700 lbs selling 3.00-4.00 higher and a light test of 700-750 lbs trading steady to 3.00 lower. Slaughter cows on a very active market sold 4.00-8.00 higher, spots 10.00 higher. Demand was moderate to good on a moderate offering. Feeder cattle market for the most part was very active despite fighting some headwinds this week, but a very nice quality offering of calves and yearlings weighing from mostly 500-750 lbs.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1 - 450-500 lbs few 190.00-195.00; 500-550 lbs 186.00-198.50, 550-600 lbs 175.00-186.00; 600-650 lbs 168.00-177.00, 650-700 lbs 163.00-165.00; 700-750 lbs 158.50-165.00, 750-800 lbs 149.50-153.75; 800-875 lbs 149.00-153.75; lot 925 lbs 145.75.

Large 1 - Lot 1020 lbs 139.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 330 lbs 200.00; 400-500 lbs 178.00-187.00; 500-550 lbs 170.00-181.00, 550-600 lbs 167.00-173.00; 600-650 lbs 160.00-164.00, 650-700 lbs 147.50-158.00; 700-800 lbs 145.00-157.00; 800-850 lbs 139.50-145.00.

Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 550 lbs 140.00; pkg 630 lbs 140.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1 - 350-400 lbs 172.00-177.00; 400-500 lbs 166.00-177.00; 500-550 lbs 155.00-162.50, 550-600 lbs 153.00-158.00; 600-650 lbs 153.00-157.00, 650-700 lbs 148.50-153.75, lot Replacement 659 lbs 164.00; 700-750 lbs 141.50-147.00, lot 752 lbs 139.00; pkg 838 lbs 136.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 500-600 lbs 143.00-151.00; 600-700 lbs 136.50-146.00; pkg 728 lbs 135.00.

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 442 lbs 183.00; 550-600 lbs 147.00-151.00; pkg 658 lbs 137.00.

Slaughter Cows: Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 78.50; and high dressing, 81.50-89.00.

Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 65.00-73.00; high dressing, 75.00-86.50; and low dressing, 58.00-62.00.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 64.00-73.00; high dressing, 75.00-86.50; and low dressing, 59.00-63.00. Few 88.50-90.00.

Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 58.00-64.50; high dressing, 65.00-74.00; and low dressing, 52.00-55.00. Thin 30.00-40.00.

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2400 lbs, 89.00-95.50; 104.00.

Slaughter Steers and Heifers: (40 Hd) Choice 2-3 - 1275-1595 lbs 135.00-139.50; Select 1-2 1300-1325 lbs 129.00-131.00.

Source: MO Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Bowling Green, MO, Greg Harrison, Market Reporter 573-751-5618. 24 hour recorded report 1-573-522-9244 www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/JC_LS156.txt

EMCC Representative Sales of 5 or more for 1-28-22

FEMALES				
9 Blk	364	170.00	\$619	HILLVIEW,IL
9 Blk	398	177.00	\$705	GREENFIELD,IL
7 Mix	445	155.00	\$690	HILLVIEW,IL
5 Blk	449	177.00	\$795	HILLVIEW,IL
7 Blk	474	166.00	\$787	BARRY,IL
7 Blk	480	169.00	\$811	CENTRALIA,MO
8 Blk	484	175.00	\$847	CURRYVILLE,MO
7 Blk	487	169.00	\$823	PALMYRA,IL
6 Mix	500	155.00	\$775	MOUNT STERLING,IL
5 Blk	508	158.00	\$803	FOLEY,MO
7 Mix	517	162.50	\$840	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Mix	538	163.00	\$877	MEXICO,MO
5 Mix	539	157.00	\$846	GREENFIELD,IL
9 Blk	542	147.50	\$799	BLUFFS,IL
6 Blk	562	158.00	\$887	CENTRALIA,IL
5 Blk	580	155.00	\$899	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Blk	582	156.00	\$907	GRIGGSVILLE,IL
6 Mix	585	157.00	\$918	ROCHEPORT,MO
7 Blk	588	149.50	\$879	MOUNT STERLING,IL
6 Mix	588	157.00	\$924	LOUISIANA,MO
12 Blk	590	155.75	\$919	BARRY,IL

7 Blk	591	149.00	\$880	WINCHESTER,IL
11 Blk	591	157.50	\$931	SANTA FE,MO
14 Mix	592	156.50	\$926	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Blk	600	154.00	\$924	ELSBERRY,MO
6 Blk	603	157.00	\$947	MEXICO,MO
10 Mix	608	153.50	\$933	MEXICO,MO
18 Blk	612	154.50	\$946	PERRY,MO
6 Mix	638	147.00	\$937	PEARL,IL
8 Blk	642	146.00	\$937	PALMYRA,IL
6 Blk	643	148.00	\$951	PARIS,MO
7 Mix	654	148.50	\$972	GREENFIELD,IL
39 Blk	659	164.00	\$1081	CURRYVILLE,MO
25 Blk	673	140.50	\$946	MOUNT STERLING,IL
7 Mix	680	144.00	\$979	MEXICO,MO
12 Blk	683	153.75	\$1050	CENTRALIA,IL
6 Blk	688	145.50	\$1000	FOLEY,MO
11 Blk	695	141.25	\$982	MIDDLETOWN,MO
14 Blk	733	143.00	\$1048	ELSBERRY,MO
6 Blk	734	147.00	\$1079	MEXICO,MO
5 Blk	743	142.00	\$1055	CURRYVILLE,MO
9 Mix	752	139.00	\$1045	PERRY,MO
5 Mix	838	136.50	\$1144	ELSBERRY,MO

MALES				
5 Blk	261	145.00	\$378	HILLSBORO,MO
5 Blk	274	200.00	\$548	HILLVIEW,IL
7 Blk	329	200.00	\$659	HILLVIEW,IL
7 Blk	426	186.00	\$793	HILLVIEW,IL
6 Blk	442	183.00	\$808	BLUFFS,IL
7 Blk	461	195.00	\$900	SPRINGFIELD,IL
6 Blk	478	178.00	\$850	HILLVIEW,IL
6 Blk	486	161.00	\$782	CARROLTON,IL
5 Blk	508	195.00	\$991	CENTRALIA,MO
23 Mix	527	198.00	\$1043	SPRINGFIELD,IL
5 Blk	531	186.00	\$988	HILLVIEW,IL
5 Blk	559	175.00	\$978	CURRYVILLE,MO
11 Blk	568	173.00	\$983	WINCHESTER,IL
6 Blk	574	179.50	\$1031	FOLEY,MO
8 Blk	576	177.00	\$1019	FOLEY,MO
5 Blk	585	179.00	\$1047	CURRYVILLE,MO
8 Blk	589	182.00	\$1073	ROCHEPORT,MO
6 Mix	591	162.50	\$960	BOWLING GREEN,MO
34 Mix	594	186.00	\$1106	SPRINGFIELD,IL
8 Mix	606	177.00	\$1072	CENTRALIA,IL
5 Blk	607	169.00	\$1026	BEAUFORT,MO
6 Blk	614	164.00	\$1007	BEAUFORT,MO
20 Blk	622	175.75	\$1093	SANTA FE,MO
11 Mix	625	176.50	\$1104	CURRYVILLE,MO
5 Mix	626	162.50	\$1017	PEARL,IL
10 Mix	628	174.50	\$1095	MEXICO,MO
7 Mix	637	160.50	\$1023	BARRY,IL
6 Blk	642	168.00	\$1078	ROCHEPORT,MO
5 Red	648	140.00	\$907	PLEASANT HILL,IL
8 Mix	658	137.00	\$902	BLUFFS,IL
12 Blk	665	152.50	\$1013	CURRYVILLE,MO
11 Blk	672	163.50	\$1099	MOUNT STERLING,IL
9 Blk	679	165.00	\$1121	IUKA,IL
5 Blk	696	155.00	\$1079	ROODHOUSE,IL
5 Mix	696	158.00	\$1100	PEARL,IL
9 Blk	700	160.00	\$1120	SANTA FE,MO
27 Blk	703	165.00	\$1160	PERRY,MO
9 Mix	710	163.00	\$1157	CENTRALIA,IL
19 Mix	711	160.25	\$1139	MOUNT STERLING,IL
10 Mix	712	152.00	\$1082	CARROLTON,IL
9 Blk	716	158.75	\$1137	FOLEY,MO
12 Blk	718	161.25	\$1158	ELSBERRY,MO
33 Mix	718	163.00	\$1170	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Blk	721	157.00	\$1132	PARIS,MO
9 Mix	723	163.50	\$1183	MO
9 Blk	724	159.00	\$1151	BROWNSVILLE,TN
6 Blk	727	158.00	\$1148	ELSBERRY,MO
20 Mix	731	158.50	\$1159	BEAUFORT,MO
37 Blk	732	160.25	\$1173	SANTA FE,MO
6 Mix	739	155.00	\$1146	PALMYRA,IL
10 Blk	747	157.00	\$1172	MEXICO,MO
5 Mix	754	154.00	\$1161	MEXICO,MO
6 Mix	762	139.00	\$1059	PERRY,IL
17 Blk	776	153.25	\$1190	NEW HAVEN,MO
11 Mix	794	153.75	\$1220	BROWNSVILLE,TN
11 Mix	795	149.50	\$1189	MEXICO,MO
8 Blk	795	150.00	\$1193	ELSBERRY,MO
13 Blk	807	150.75	\$1217	PERRY,MO
11 Mix	808	153.75	\$1242	BROWNSVILLE,TN
26 Mix	828	150.00	\$1243	MOUNT STERLING,IL
8 Mix	848	139.50	\$1183	CISNE,IL
8 Mix	848	145.00	\$1230	ELSBERRY,MO
28 Blk	858	149.00	\$1279	NEW HAVEN,MO
10 Mix	878	153.00	\$1343	BROWNSVILLE,T

Consumers still shopping in stores amid COVID-19 spike, want more steps to protect them

Despite the nationwide spike in COVID-19 omicron cases, most shoppers are taking the same number of trips to the store as they were a month ago, according to a survey this month of nearly 8,500 consumers.

The survey, conducted Jan. 6-

13 online by shopping rewards app Shopkick, found 59% of shoppers are maintaining their in-store shopping routines, and more than half (53%) are still comfortable participating in public indoor activities.

While 66% of consumers said

they are not stocking up on essential items, Gen Zers are most likely to stock up (41%), compared to Baby Boomers (35%), Millennials (35%) and Gen X (34%), the survey found.

The majority (73%) of consumers have noticed a shortage

of retail workers while shopping in-person, and 71% have noticed an increase in wait times while checking out. Most consumers (73%) are taking additional safety precautions while shopping due to the rise of omicron.

Those measures include masking (90%), using disinfectants on hands and carts (79%), shopping at less busy times (69%), using self-checkout (63%), using touchless or contactless payments to avoid exchanging cash (31%), and fre-

quencing cashier-less stores (7%).

Shoppers also want retailers to take steps to protect them, with 71% saying they expect in-store safety precautions. Those ranged from disinfecting carts (84% expected), mandating masks (72%) and enforcing social distancing (65%) to limiting store capacity (40%) and putting a cap on the number of essential products each shopper can purchase (37%).

- Meatingplace.com

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Ranch group applauds Joint FTC and DOJ plan to update federal merger guidelines

BILLINGS, Mont. – R-CALF USA applauded a recent joint announcement by Jonathan Kanter, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, and Lina Khan, Chair of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), that they are updating federal merger review guidelines. The following is a statement by R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard regarding that announcement:

“The cattle industry is the single largest sector of American agriculture, generating about \$67 billion in annual cash receipts and R-CALF USA is the largest U.S. trade association that exclusively represents cattle producers within the U.S. cattle industry. We are very pleased by today’s announcement.

“The previous merger guidelines did not adequately address buyer power upstream in the supply chain. And far too much emphasis was placed on market efficiencies, which has resulted in the dismantling of the competitive marketing channels within our supply chain. This, in turn has hollowed-out Rural America. In addition, far too little attention was given to regional and local buyer power, where the competitiveness of regional and local markets can vary widely and harm to the supply chain can be devastating.

“The previous guidelines mistakenly presumed that the marketplace is competitive today and thus any post-merger reviews, based on changes from today to tomorrow were inherently skewed. Under the old guidelines, the trigger for antitrust scrutiny did not take into account that the market’s pre-merger condition already lacked competition. New guidelines should require a comprehensive analysis of the market’s preexisting competitiveness prior to the application of review triggers.

Far too little attention was given to regional and local buyer power, where the competitiveness of regional and local markets can vary widely and harm to the supply chain can be devastating.

“For the cattle industry, this analysis would require a review of historical indicators of competitiveness, such as the cattle industry’s historical cattle cycle driven by supply and demand signals. Today, that cattle cycle has been destroyed, much like what happened to the pork and dairy cycles after the concentrated meatpackers captured their respective supply chains. Unless a determination is first made regarding the extent to which a marketplace is competitive, the assessment of a merger’s potential to lessen competition would be perfunctory at best.

“Another deficiency in the old guidelines was a lack of attention to mergers in which one player has dominant control over product substitutes, in this case pork, chicken and soon, lab-grown protein. Failure to address such substitutes invites internal anti-competitive practices such as varying the output and price of substitute proteins to manipulate the demand for live cattle.

“Yet another serious deficiency in the old guidelines was their omission of factors unique to an industry that can make that industry uniquely susceptible to seemingly innocuous events. Indeed, the previous guidelines suggested that non-horizontal mergers, such as a vertical merger capturing the competitive marketing channels of the cattle supply chain, is less likely than horizontal mergers to create competitive problems. We believe that was a serious mistake.

“For example, treating the cattle supply chain as similar to the poultry or pork supply chain would ignore critical factors

including that cattle have the longest biological cycle of any farmed animal, fed cattle are highly perishable, it is uneconomical to transport fed cattle long distances, and the cattle market is highly susceptible to even slight changes in supplies.

“Other factors that must be considered under new guidelines include that the cattle market is highly sensitive to shifts in procurement methods, some of which accord packers the same control as if they owned cattle outright; demand for cattle is bounded on a weekly basis, which basis is determined by the packers; and, that cattle producers are subjected to market access risk, meaning the availability of a timely market outlet, which, again, is controlled by the packers.

“In April of 2018 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigated the 2015 price-collapse in our industry. It found that packer concentration in any given area was associated with lower fed cattle prices in that area. The GAO surmised that some packers may have been able to exercise market power in areas with less competition. They also found that the farmer’s share of the consumer beef dollar dropped from about 65% in the 70’s to about 40% in 2018, suggesting to us that the present marketplace exploits producers on one end of the supply chain and consumers on the other.

“We look forward to working with both the DOJ and FTC as they begin the important process of updating the federal merger guidelines.”

– Meatingplace.com

Fewer fed cattle, higher operating costs ahead for beef

The North American beef industry should see recent pressure on packing capacity ease this year, but higher operating costs are expected to continue, according to a new report from Rabobank.

Rabobank’s latest Global Animal Protein Outlook 2022 predicts that the annual fed cattle slaughter this year could fall by as much as 2.5% compared with 2021 levels, with cattle numbers

and packing capacity finding relative balance by mid-year. Packers are expected to continue to post healthy margins compared with pre-pandemic levels, but the price spread between beef and cattle will begin a multi-year narrowing trend in 2022, the report projects.

Rabobank is forecasting a similar scenario for Canadian beef producers, with annual production expected to decline by

2% in 2022 from 2021 levels as U.S. cattle supplies challenge feeder cattle imports, and a decade of declining beef cow numbers limits the domestic cattle supply. Major drought conditions in Canada could also decrease the nation’s beef cow inventory by nearly 2% compared with 2021 rates, the report said.

Argentina to continue to limit beef exports

Argentina will keep in place limits on exports of some beef cuts through the end of 2023 in a bid to curb domestic inflation, Bloomberg reported.

The restrictions cover seven cuts of beef, including flank and short ribs, that are popular with Argentine consumers, the report said. The government is also prohibiting exporters from shipping full and half cattle carcasses, it said.

Argentina initiated a tempo-

rory ban on all meat exports in May, prompting a strike by producers in the country. It then extended the restrictions on certain beef cuts.

The country is in the third year of a recession. Price controls and the ban on some beef exports thus far have failed to rein in inflation, with beef prices up 48% year over year in Buenos Aires, the Bloomberg report said.

– Meatingplace.com

Keeping the EPA off our land

By REP. SAM GRAVES
Congressman, 6th District of Missouri

I’ve been farming since I was old enough to walk. I’m certainly not alone, most farmers grow up farming. Most learn to drive a tractor long before they get behind the wheel of a truck and most learn from their parents and grandparents how to care for the land, grow crops, and raise livestock.

Today, despite what you hear the talking heads say on cable news, nearly every farm in America is family-owned and family-run. In Missouri, 95 percent of the 95,320 farms here are family farms. That’s important to understand because it provides a window into our way of life. See, even though I graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in agronomy, much of what I learned about farming and taking care of the land didn’t come from a classroom or a textbook. I learned it working alongside my father and grandfather—just like they did.

That’s why it doesn’t matter how many degrees you have stacked up next to your name, nobody knows better how to manage the land than the family that’s been farming it for generations. Unfortunately, it seems like some folks in Washington don’t get that. Instead, they’re dead set on trying to revive Obama-era Waters of the United States (WOTUS) overreach without stopping to take the time to listen to farmers and ranchers.

Rather than holding the traditional public roundtables all over the country to hear comments on their plan, the EPA and Corps of Engineers decided to limit input to a few virtual meetings with just 15 stakeholders nominated by outside groups and hand-picked by the agencies. It’s clear their goal is to pave the way for Washington bureaucrats to control virtually every aspect of every farm in America.

Thankfully, Missouri Farm Bureau President Garrett Hawkins got a chance this week to let the EPA know how devastating gutting the sensible Navigable Waters Protection Rule and replacing it with Obama-era WOTUS overreach would be for family farms. His voice shouldn’t be alone, though.

I made a simple ask this week to fix this: extend the comment period and actually listen to what farmers and ranchers have to say. As I said in my letter to the EPA, “it is critical the Agencies implement a comprehensive process to solicit public feedback when initiating a new rulemaking process.”

It’s funny, we always hear liberal pundits talk about how much they love family farms when they’re bashing American agriculture, but a lot of what liberal politicians propose, from WOTUS to eliminating the stepped-up basis, seems designed to destroy family farms. If they care about protecting family farms, they should start listening to farmers, stop this WOTUS nonsense, and end their war on American agriculture.

Animal activist again cleared of pig farm trespassing charges

Prosecutors have again dropped trespassing charges against Direct Action Everywhere (DXE) animal activist Matt Johnson, according to a report by the Des Moines Register.

The news comes about a year after Iowa Select Farms requested dismissal of felony charges in Grundy County, Iowa, against Johnson, who in early 2020 had secretly videotaped pigs being euthanized on two Iowa Select properties amid packer closures caused by COVID-19. The company said at the time that euthanasia was the safest and most humane option, and

although it condemned Johnson’s subversive practices, it wanted to avoid the distraction of a trial.

A separate trial concerning charges in Wright County, Iowa, was set to begin on Thursday, but prosecutors again moved to dismiss all charges “in the interest of justice,” and the judge approved, the Register reported.

Johnson, who once posed as a Smithfield executive on a Fox Business TV program, has been charged under the second and third iterations of Iowa’s evolving farm trespass policy. The first was declared unconstitutional.

Meatingplace.com

Got an idea for a story you’d like to see in The Cattleman’s Advocate?

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Laugh Tracks in the Dust.....

By MILO YIELD
Special to The Advocate

Miracles are far apart in these days it seems. But, "Mechanical Miracles" are even rarer in my life because I'm not a mechanically-inclined person. I'm just not, and readily admit it.

That's why I was astounded — as well as puzzled — at a "Mechanical Miracle" that happened in our home last week. Let me tell you about it:

It wuz the coldest night of the week. Now, Nevah and I turn the thermostat down to 66 degrees for better sleeping conditions. When I get up, the first thing I do is turn the thermostat up to 74 degrees — and then I get dressed for the morning.

Well, it didn't take long until I realized that it wuz really chilly in our home and the forced-air furnace hadn't kicked on. I checked the indoor thermometer and it read 58-degrees. I rechecked the thermostat and it still read 74 degrees. Br-r-r-r!

By then, nothing that Nevah or I could do would get the furnace going, so I called our regular furnace and air-conditioning company to schedule a repair visit. I wuz told that all its repairmen were already in the field working and couldn't get by Dampfewmore Acres until after lunch.

So, Nevah stayed in the kitchen and turned the oven on to give her a little heat and I went to the a-few-degrees-warmer basement to start writing my column. I have a little electric heater next to my desk and computer and it helped keep me from freezing.

So, there I wuz cussing my luck with all things mechanical when — voila — for no reason at all around 11 o'clock the furnace kicked on like it should have done four hours earlier. Before long, our home heated up and the furnace has ran perfectly ever since.

The repairman still got to our place that afternoon. He checked the furnace all over and could find no reason for it to quit working. The only thing he changed wuz the battery in the thermostat. Other than that he called it "a flukey thing."

He might call it a fluke, but to me, it wuz a Mechanical Miracle.

.....

This story wuz told to me as a true story. The guy called it his "Credit Card Blues" story. He said he got a credit card bill stating that he owed \$0.00. He ignored it and threw it away. Next month he got another and did the same thing.

The next month the credit card company sent him a very nasty note stating they were going to cancel his credit card if he didn't send them \$0.00.

He called them and talked to a company rep who said it was "a glitch" and told him the company would take care of it.

The following month he tried to charge something to his credit card and couldn't. So, he called the credit card company and the rep again said they'd take care of

it. The next day he got his bill for \$0.00 stating that he was very delinquent.

The victim figured the credit card company would take care of it, so he didn't worry. But, the next month he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that he had 10 days to pay or his account was going to collection.

So, he mailed the credit card company a check for \$0.00, and the credit card company's computer processed it, noting that his account was now paid in full.

A week later, the man's bank called him asking him why he wrote a check for \$0.00. He explained and they said, "Well, your \$0.00 check caused our check processing software to fail. We now can't process ANY of our checks from that day electronically because that \$0.00 check is causing the program to abort."

The victim, who had been considering buying his wife a computer for her birthday, bought her a nice birthday card instead and took her out to eat. Oh, and he told his bank to call his credit card company.

.....

After I heard that story, I heard another one somewhat similar, involving a practical joke with the phone lines. This is an old story from way back when folks in the Ozarks first began getting telephone service. The story goes that right after phone service came to the Ozarks, a practical-joking fellow called his neighbor and told him a rep from the phone company had been by his farm that morning.

He said the phone company representative had told him that the company would be blowing the dust out of the new phone lines that afternoon and that it

would be a good idea for everyone to cover their phone receivers with a cloth or bag to keep the dust from getting into their houses.

The phone company representative wanted this particular fellow to call his neighbors to relay the message. It seems that everyone in the entire neighborhood (save the one prankster) had their receivers covered awaiting the onslaught of dust — which never came. However, the wind did blow strong that day.

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I can't keep from mentioning the Kansas City Chiefs' over-

time football playoff win against the Buffalo Bills. I call the outcome of the game a "Football Miracle," and it certainly fits. Both teams scored a combined 25 points in the final two minutes of the game. KC tied the game with a last-second field goal and won the game in overtime. I wuz glad, but I felt sorry for the Bills.

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Words of wisdom for the week: "The consistent pursuit of cheap goods results eventually in consistent poverty for all." Have a good 'un.

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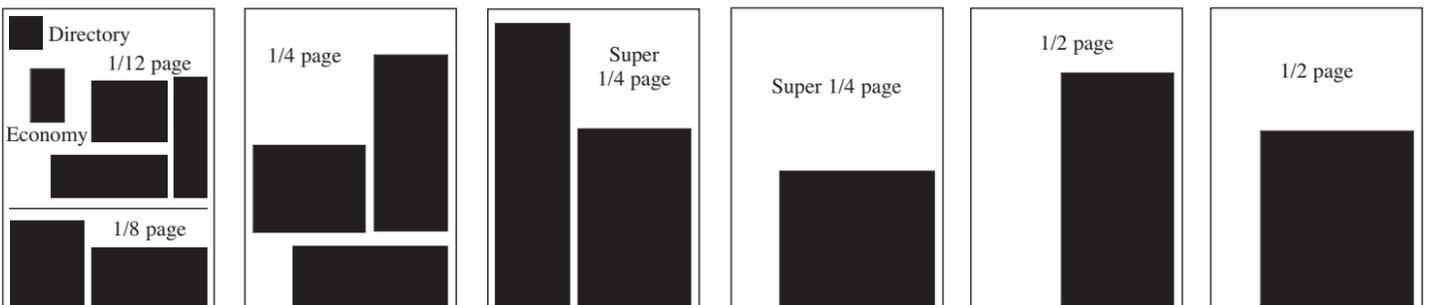
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Livestock News & Notes.....

Food Technology's '22 prognostications

The editors at Food Technology magazine, published by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), have announced their predictions for the hottest food trends for 2022.

Among them are:

Alt-meat consolidation: The alt-proteins sector shows every sign of being ripe for robust M&A activity in 2022. It's a classic build-it-or-buy-it scenario, as upstarts in the plant-based and cellular market look to quickly fortify their first-mover advantage, while traditional giants invest to hedge against seemingly inevitable market shifts. The plant-based front-runners, including Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat, have been accumulating cash needed for bold moves. Meanwhile, traditional meat companies like Tyson and Cargill have spread investments across a field of cellular protein companies, including New Wave Foods, Memphis Meats Aleph Farms and Future Meat Technologies.

Discriminating consumers will get choosier: A growing group of highly health-aware consumers, concerned about the impact of specific food groups (meat, dairy, sugar) on their well-being, will embrace dietary changes, creating more opportunities for the next generation of plant-based foods, lower-sugar offerings, and other healthy lifestyle products. The trend will be driven by aging boomers facing medical problems and nutritionally savvy millennials.

Upcycling on the upswing: The concept of upcycling food waste has been around for years but expect it to become front and center for food manufacturers in the coming years. As higher commodity prices continue to stress bottom lines, companies are looking for new revenue streams from outputs that used to be considered waste. Consider the company in Oklahoma that is working with Oklahoma State to get regulatory approval to ship its meat snacks made of hide.

Smarter era for food processing: As we continue to talk about the "New Smarter Era for Food Safety," processors look for ways to transform their operations to be more digitally integrated. However, this also creates reservations due to the fears of data breaches, and lack of capacity to meet the workforce needs of the future. There will be a renewed interest in the smart use of sensors, data, and AI models with strong prediction capabilities as digital tools promise increased efficiency, safety, and sustainability in the food processing industry.

Moving toward more intelligent packaging: Scientific advances and economic need will spur the development of consumer- and retailer-friendly intelligent packaging. The science includes big data; the link between shelf life and pH, hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide for specific foods; and advances in reactive inks. The economic need

includes consumers realizing that food waste is expensive and inconvenient as they are faced with higher food prices and fewer store trips, and retailers realizing they can ease logistical stresses if they reduce in-store waste.

A stall on the path to the 'New Normal': The food/beverage and restaurant industries' long-awaited journey to a "new normal" has stalled and run smack into economic headwinds, supply chain/labor issues, and a new set of COVID-19 variants. Higher menu prices have caused a downturn in restaurant revenues adjusted for inflation. Online food shopping is fast approaching the pandemic high of 20%. COVID churns on and its influence will continue to skew traditional consumer behavior. However, true product innovation, greater personalized premiumization, restaurant/retail culinary wars, and an even more aggressive self-care movement will be among the emerging positive trends going forward.

Walmart ramps up delivery into the home

Walmart recently said it plans to scale up its in-home grocery delivery to reach 30 million U.S. households in 2022.

The InHome service is currently available to 6 million households.

Walmart in 2019 began delivering fresh groceries and other items directly into customers' homes, including placing food in the kitchen or garage refrigerator. It also picks up Walmart.com returns.

To make a delivery, a Walmart associate uses a one-time access code to unlock the customer's door or garage through the InHome app, which pairs with smart entry technology. The app notifies the customer and a camera, worn on the associate's vest, records the entire delivery. Customers have access to the recording from their phones for up to a week after each delivery.

To support the expansion, Walmart plans to hire more than 3,000 associate delivery drivers this year and build out a fleet of electric delivery vans, the retailer said in a press release.

"We've been operating InHome in select markets over the last two years and have found it is a perfect solution for customers who want to live their lives without worrying about making it to the store or being home to accept a delivery," said Tom Ward, senior vice president, last mile, at Walmart U.S.

The service costs \$19.95 a month, or \$148 per year. Tips are built into the membership price.

The role of associate delivery driver is a new full-time position that will pay an extra \$1.50 per hour from most current store roles, a pay differential designed to attract top talent, Walmart said. Associates qualify for medical, vision and dental insurance, 401(k) matching, paid time off, no-cost counseling and free college tuition and books.

Wisconsin doles out \$5M for meat talent development

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced on Wednesday up to \$5 million in funding to support students going into meat processing and connect the industry with potential employees.

"The last several years have brought challenges to every sector of our agricultural economy, including meat processing," Evers said in a news release. "This investment will reduce barriers to careers in meat processing, provide new opportunities to workers across our state, and ensure our food supply chain remains resilient and successful well into Wisconsin's future."

With more than 500 state and federally inspected meat plants, Wisconsin's meat processing industry has a substantial workforce and role in the state's economy. But the industry has struggled to find enough workers to fill critical positions.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Evers proposed in his 2021-23 biennial budget \$2 million for meat processors to expand and modernize their operations, \$2.63 million for a Meat Talent Development Program, and additional meat inspectors to keep up with the industry.

"Gov. Evers recognizes that agriculture is our strength, and he is continuing to invest in our agriculture industry," said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. "With up to \$5 million available for meat talent development programming, people across Wisconsin will have the opportunity to access and obtain training they might not otherwise be able to afford, and we will be able to better connect potential employees with the industry. Today's announcement builds on the investments in the 2021-23 budget and strengthens our food supply chain and workforce for years to come."

Tyson exec to lead GRBSB committee in '22

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) recently announced its 2022 executive committee will be led by Tyson Foods' Ian McConnel.

In the year ahead, the organization will focus on advancing its work toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions through its global sustainability goals, GRSB said in a press release.

The new six-member executive committee came into effect on Jan. 1 and includes:

- President: Ian McConnel, Tyson Foods
- Vice president: Bob Lowe, Tri-L Ranch
- Secretary-treasurer: Justin Sherrard, Rabobank
- Member at large: Jeannette Ferran Astorga, Zoetis
- Member at large: Lucas McKelvie, McDonalds Corp.
- Immediate past-president: Bob McCan, McFaddin Enterprises

McConnel is director of sustainability for Tyson's International Business unit. Before his current position, he was global beef lead for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), overseeing the group's approach to creating and communicating a more sustainable global beef industry. He previously served as GRSB vice president, and as GRSB secretary-treasurer in 2019 and 2020.

GRSB announced its global sustainability goals in June 2021, which include reducing the net global warming impact of beef 30% by 2030, ensuring the beef value chain is a net positive contributor to nature by 2030, and increasing the adoption of animal health and welfare best practices.

More than 500 companies and producer organizations work with GRSB and its members, including regionally focused beef sustainability roundtables and initiatives in Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Europe, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, southern Africa and the United States.

As AI spreads in Europe, OIE official warns of potential for jump to humans

The Netherlands reported a second culling of thousands of chickens in a single week because of bird flu, while the director of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has said new variants raise the risk of avian influenza spreading to humans.

Dutch authorities said about 190,000 chickens will be culled after the highly pathogenic H5N1 AI strain was confirmed at a farm in the eastern part of the Netherlands, according to a report from Reuters. Another 225,000 chickens were culled in the northern part of the country earlier this week, bringing the total to about 415,000 birds culled so far in 2022, the report said.

More than 40 countries have been dealing with extensive AI outbreaks since July, with France reporting 13,000 turkeys affected by bird flu and Israel noting that H5N1 was confirmed among 48,000 laying hens and turkeys this week alone.

Meanwhile, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is warning that the latest wave of new avian influenza variants is increasing the possibility of the virus mixing with the human flu virus and opening the door to infections among humans. OIE Director Monique Eliot told Reuters that more variants make bird flu more difficult to track, and the H5N1 strain is known to have the ability to be passed along to humans, affecting 850 people in recent years, half of whom died, OIE reported.

Officials in China reported 21 human infections of the H5N6 variant of avian influenza in 2021, according to the World Health Organization, as reported by Reuters.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com

THE Cattleman's Advocate

To schedule an ad
in the next edition, call or email:

Angela Young
Advertising Consultant

573-864-6132

cattlemansadvocate@gmail.com

**Friday auctions can now be viewed
in real time online at:
www.dvauction.com**

**EMCC Monthly Cow Sale
Friday, February 18**

**Weigh cows and bulls followed by odd lots start at 9:30 a.m.
Take-home cows, pairs, bulls and bred heifers start at 12:30 p.m.
Feeder calves and yearlings to follow.**

Early Consignments

Gerald Merz of Bowling Green, MO

80 Cow Dispersal These will be all home raised cows, mostly black cows with a few reds, these will be Angus and Gelbvieh influenced crossbred cows. Most recently using two black Balancer bulls we think are near 4 to 5 years old purchased from the Judd Ranch of Pomona, KS that will be tested and also sell. The bulls were put in June 11 to start calving mid-March. The start with 20 three-year-olds coming with their second calves with the remaining cows of running ages up from there. There is A LOT to like about this consignment.

Jeff Miles of Barry, IL

23 Cow Dispersal These cows will be Angus and Angus cross spring calving cows that run from six to aged. They have been running starting June 15 with a good registered Angus bull from CR Angus Farm of Wellsville to start calving the latter half of March. These cows are mostly home raised - native cows that are being hand fed, gentle, productive cows.

Judy and Alois Orf Jr. of Wentzville, MO

18 black heifers. The Orfs for many years had a replacement heifer pair program that they sold with us in April. However, with the Covid issues and many years behind them they have shortened their program. They will sell 18 heifers originating from the Palmer herd in Center. Four will be AI bred to "Comrade", three due March 12 and one due March 25. Then there will be seven due March and four due in April to a Son of Comrade. Then to show you what you are getting with these bred heifers, he bred and calved out three as pairs that came in January. This will be an excellent opportunity to add some great genetics in smaller lot offering.

Haegle Farms of Alhambra, IL

10 Cows. These will be mostly black with a few black whiteface cows of running ages. These have been bred to a good black Panther Creek Angus bull to start calving March 1 through early April. They are up to date on all their pre-breeding shots. Poor weather last month postponed this consignment to this sale, unless the river floods they will be here this month.

Danny E Petersheim of Clark, MO

5 Pair. These cows will be of mixed ages with all their shots current. They all have black November and December babies at their side with shots and ear tagged to match moms.

**These consignments have been compiled well in advanced
with many pending and smaller consignments to come. Also look
at our website for the most up to date information and to look
at a few photos. Mark the date and plan on attending.**

www.emcclivestock.com



**With your help, EMCC continues to grow its reputation with
buyers as a volume source for high quality, healthy cattle.
It all starts with you! Keep up the good work and we can
grow together in the years to come. Thank you.**

Mike VanMaanen 573-881-0402	Jon Angell 573-682-4656	Justin Angell 573-819-8000	Terry Syrcle 217-440-8384	Frank Scherder 573-669-5321	Mike Magruder 314-605-1094	Tom Morehead 217-371-0702	Cody Hanold 618-781-9810
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COMMISSION COMPANY

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Bowling Green, MO 63334 • 573-324-2295



**For the most current updates,
photos and extra information, go to:
www.emcclivestock.com**

**Dates to Remember
at Eastern Missouri Commission
Company in Bowling Green**

EMCC Friday start times

9:00 a.m. start time for fed cattle & pound cows, followed by bred cows
12:30 p.m. start time with veals, followed by yearlings and calves

Cattle receiving hours

Wednesday by appointment only.

Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. • Friday starting 6:30 a.m.

**We feature certain classes of cattle SOME Fridays, but we sell
ALL classes of cattle each week and ALL classes are welcome.**

Upcoming Sales

**These are dates set well in advance and subject
to change as current situations warrant:**

- Friday, February 4.....Regular Friday sale
- Friday, February 11 .Special Yearling & Weaned Calf Sale with regular sale
- Friday, February 18.....Cow Sale in conjunction with Regular Friday sale
- Friday, February 25 .Special Yearling & Weaned Calf Sale with regular sale
- Friday, March 4.....Regular Friday sale
- Friday, March 11Special Yearling & Weaned Calf Sale with regular sale
- Friday, March 18.....Cow Sale in conjunction with Regular Friday sale
- Friday, March 25Special Yearling & Weaned Calf Sale with regular sale
- Friday, April 1.....Regular Friday sale
- Friday, April 8.....Special Yearling & Weaned Calf Sale with regular sale

