

# The Cattleman's Advocate

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## WAGONS, ON YOUR MARK

### Chuckwagon Race in Arkansas annually draws nearly 20,000

By SCHYLER ANGELL  
For The Advocate

Nearly 20,000 people travel to the National Championship Chuckwagon Race at the "Bar of Ranch" in Clinton, Arkansas every Labor Day weekend. The event started as a family gathering and has transformed into an iconic tradition that has become about more than just racing.

In 1987, Dan Eoff had the idea to add a chuckwagon race to his family's Labor Day Weekend gathering. There were only eight wagons in the first race, but from then on, the tradition remained.

Today the event has grown to over 150 teams that compete within five racing categories. The nine-day event is filled with multiple concerts, dances, vendors, trail rides and camping.

Dan believes the fellowship that the races began with is what keeps people coming back each year.

"We'd get along and have a wonderful time. We didn't argue, and we would just race," said

Dan in regards to their first chuckwagon race 37 years ago.

That atmosphere of good fellowship still remains as there is something of interest for everyone in the family. The event hosts people who have been attending annually for years, as well as many first-time visitors.

Jay Asbury, an Eastern Missouri Commission Company regular from Perry, Mo., attended the races for the first time three years ago and has not missed the event since. He enjoys watching the races and flag shows, and the overall patriotism of the event.

"There's never a dull moment," said Jay. "There's a lot of people that are just there to have fun and camp out."

Dan and his wife, Peggy, share important responsibilities while hosting such a large event.

"During the races, I am fortunate to be with the announcer, timekeepers and secretary. I get a bird's-eye view," Peggy said. "But Dan, he could be anywhere. He might be down in the bottoms one minute and the next he may be up on top checking the porta-

See **CHUCKWAGON  
RACES**, page 13



**CHUCKWAGON RACES:** An estimated 20,000 people annually travel to Clinton, Ark., to participate in the Labor Day Weekend National Championship Chuckwagon Race. The races have been taking place for nearly 40 years. More than 150 teams competed during the most recent nine-day event, which also includes multiple concerts, dances, vendors, trail rides and camping. (Photos by Porch Pig Productions)



## Florida crime ring busted in Midwest meat thefts, 3 men arrested

By JEFF BAHR  
Reprinted courtesy of The Grand  
Island (Neb.) Independent

Three Florida men were arrested last week as part of an investigation into beef and pork being stolen from packaging plants in the Midwest.

Some of the beef stolen originated at the JBS beef plant in Grand Island, said Capt. Dean Elliott of the Grand Island Police Department.

On June 27, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office began an investigation into several stolen semi-trailers and loads of frozen beef occurring in Nebraska, including Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Sheriff's office described the theft ring as a sophisticated and "highly organized criminal enterprise."

In the initial investigation, the estimated loss was \$1 million. Since June of 2021 the Lancaster County Sheriff's

**Law enforcement officials have identified approximately 45 thefts that have occurred across Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin totaling \$9 million in loss.**

Office, in conjunction with Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) Omaha has identified approximately 45 thefts that have occurred across Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin totaling \$9 million in loss. It has been determined through the investigation, led by the Lancaster County Sheriff's

Office and HSI-Omaha's Major Crimes Task Force, that the criminal enterprise is based in Miami, and has been targeting beef and pork packaging plants in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

On Oct. 20, HSI Omaha, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway

Patrol, with assistance from HSI Miami El Dorado Task Force South, identified and arrested three principal targets in the enterprise, recovering three tractor trailers with stolen merchandise valued at \$550,000. The three people that were arrested were Yoslany Leyva Del Sol, Ledier Machin Andino and Delvis L. Fuentes, all from the Miami area.

The three were arrested under statutes dealing with the transportation of stolen goods and money laundering.

The Hall County Sheriff's Department has also been

involved in the investigation.

Elliott believes beef was taken from York and Fremont, as well as Grand Island.

Some of the semis taken from Grand Island ended up in Lancaster County, Elliott said. In one case, a trailer from Grand Island was recovered in Lancaster County, but the meat was gone, Elliott said.

Since the summer began, the theft of four or five semis has been reported to Hall County law enforcement. Two of the trailers were recovered near Doniphan, Elliott said. But the beef was also gone in that case.

## Missouri governor signs bill with \$40 million in ag tax credits

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson signed House Bill 3 into law on October 5 that extends and creates \$40 million in annual tax credits for agriculture that will remain in effect for a minimum of six years.

House Bill 3 extends tax

credits to support expansion of meat processing facilities, in addition to credits for small farms, timber industries, biofuel producers and other segments of Missouri's agricultural economy.

An earlier version of the bill

that would have had the credits expire after two years was vetoed by Parson.

The legislation renews tax credits to encourage investment in new generation cooperatives and the production of specialty crops and expands eligibility

for participation in "Family Farms Act" lending programs. Newly enacted this year are incentives to encourage the production and sale of biofuels, specifically ethanol and biodiesel.

— Meatingplace.com



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# From the Publisher... Jon Angell

**Look who provided the feature this month.** Our youth editor and Arkansas Razorback Schyler Angell has stepped up her writing game. Is anyone interested in going to the races? As she describes it, it sounds like a real hoot of a wild time that might just have to be added to my bucket list.

**My comments are going to be really short** this month. I have been running hard and losing ground.

To illustrate this weekend, when I am supposed to be working on the paper, my farm help is out of town. The cows have gotten out Friday night, and again Sunday night and now this Monday morning on print day.

And if that isn't enough pressure, Chuck in the design and layout department has sent me two messages that state "Just remember the paper waits for no one..." I think he is trying to tell me something like; "cows out or not, ready or not, deadlines are real."

I believe he is serious. LOL

**I guess my fence patches and fixes** aren't doing the job anymore. They have got grass... but you know what they say about the grass on the other side. With fall in full swing – the days shorter and winter surely on the way – I am not ready!

Most of us can relate to the same feeling.

**Speaking of the other side...**the other side of election day Tuesday. There isn't any use in getting too political, since you will not see this issue until after the midterm elections.

As an unapologetic conservative, my readers no doubt understand that I am hoping and praying for what political pundits are describing as a red wave. If so, I wanted it stated here that I'm hoping that red wave is large enough to knock Sen. Mitch McConnell off from Republican leadership. Mitch is a District of Columbia Swamp Monster. He needs to go back to Kentucky if the results are what I think they might be

after Tuesday.

The incoming crop of young Senators have a lot of potential to give control of the Senate back to Republicans, but likely not enough numbers to not change RINO leadership. There is a lot of team rebuilding that needs done.

**As always, we have a lot of good stuff** in these pages. So take your time reading and enjoy. Thanks for your continued support of our efforts!

## Second railroad union rejects labor agreement

The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen announced Wednesday that its members voted against ratification of the national tentative agreement reached on Sept. 15.

The union represents more than 6,000 members affected by the negotiations, brokered by Joe Biden's Presidential Emergency Board.

At issue is paid time off for illness, union President Michael Baldwin said in a statement.

New contracts provide rail employees with a 24% wage increase during the five-year period from 2020 through 2024, including an immediate payout on average of \$11,000 upon ratification, following the recommendations of the presidential board.

The signalmen's rejection of the tentative agreement follows a vote by members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to reject the proposed contract.

A White House spokesperson said the country does not face an immediate rail shut down and that the administration is in regular contact with the unions and rail carriers. The administration urges good faith negotiations to avoid a rail shutdown, the spokesperson was quoted as saying.

## West Liberty Foods to close Iowa plant

West Liberty Foods on Friday announced it will shutter its Mount Pleasant, Iowa, facility in May 2023, affecting 350 workers.

West Liberty officials said in a news release that a "drastic reduction" in demand for pre-sliced deli meats caused a mismatch between the facility's capabilities and the company's future direction. The company will shift Mount Pleasant operations to its other plants in Iowa, Illinois and Utah.

"Respect and care for people is a core value of our company, and shutting down a plant is a tough thing to do," said Brandon Achen, president and CEO of West Liberty Foods. "Although we are taking steps to lessen the impact on our team members, we will be eliminating the jobs of some exceptional people through no fault of their own. I want each of them to know that we

value their contributions and deeply regret the need for this action."

The shutdown will occur in two phases. The first round of reductions will occur on Dec. 31, with all operations ceasing at the Mount Pleasant plant on May 7, 2023.

Employees were notified of the decision in one-on-one and group meetings.

"We are committed to providing our team members with support as we work through the process of closing the plant," said Tara Lindsay, chief talent and culture officer. "In order to lessen the impact of the plant closing to our team members, we will provide them with offers to work at one of our other plants, relocation and transportation services, stay bonuses, severance pay, reemployment services, and assistance with filing unemployment claims."

West Liberty's Mount Pleasant plant opened in 2003, and was the first facility in the nation equipped with its patented Clean Room Food Processing Systems. The plant produced hundreds of millions of pounds of sliced deli meats for foodservice and retail customers, but the company said it has seen a recent shift in the types of products and capabilities needed to support those customers.



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# From Our Side of the Fence

By JUSTIN ANGELL  
EMCC Owner/Partner

So, four weeks ago I had a complete shoulder replacement. Surgery went well and I have not had a bit of trouble with my shoulder; however, I've had a tough couple of weeks with a variety of odd complications. The first one was on the fourth night after surgery I had some kind of a reaction to my pain medicine that kept me from catching my breath. Didn't matter how deep I tried to breathe, it just wasn't enough air to satisfy my panicking brain. Somewhere along in there a vision of a bluegill tossed out on the bank of a pond entered my mind...

Lucky for me, Kelly, also known as Nurse Ratchet, was there to tell me that it was just anxiety. Easy for her to say; she was breathing just fine. Fortunately, I think we have everything straightened out now and I finally feel like I am getting much better quickly.

Two months ago if anybody would've asked me if I could stay in the house for a month, I'd have said impossible. Amazingly, I have basically stayed in the house for a month with only a few excursions into town — whenever I could find a driver. Kind of a sad day when the most exciting thing you do is get to ride to the post office to mail a check to Consolidated Electric.

Tomorrow being Friday, I have found a driver and I intend to head to the barn for the first time in four weeks. It'll be nice to be amongst cattle and my people again. I'm not gonna lie, when I stay in the house all day by myself without seeing anybody until Kelly gets home from work it is sobering. One time Kelly got home from

work and she said something to the effect that she couldn't tell whose tail was wagging harder, the puppy's or mine.

The cattle business is experiencing some good times right now. This week for the first time in a very long time in the five-state feeding area, the weighted average fed cattle price was \$150.06. Unfortunately, these high fed cattle prices are a bit deceptive because cattle feeders are currently experiencing very high costs of gain also.

In response, nutritionists are cutting corners trying to cheapen rations at every opportunity substituting corn and even ingredients like fat with cheaper less effective products. The result is a cheaper ration, but interestingly average carcass weights are bigger every week with October 15 at a whopping 924 pounds, while the percentage of choice and prime cattle is dropping like a rock. This week the choice select spread is over \$30 with choice beef at \$2.52 and select beef at \$2.22.

The trickle-down nature of the cattle business causes this handsome fed cattle price to be expressed at the livestock auctions selling feeder cattle at recent highs. Optimism among cattle feeders abounds and is justified by the sheer drop in supply of cattle caused by the last three years of severe culling across the nation, mostly due to drought in cow country.

Last week's cattle on feed was very positive, simply by not being at all negative. Placements at 96% and marketings at 104%. Supply is definitely shrinking.

With the continuing big cow culling process as we touched on earlier is still alive right now. It is being reflected in



lower pound cow prices due to the large number of cows coming to town because of an extraordinarily dry fall experienced over a very wide area in the Midwest. Cows are broadly worth \$.50-.70 and bulls \$1.00 but I think these lower prices will be transitory (I wanted to use that word).

The cattle cycle is still working and basically we are headed higher due to basic supply and demand. The cattle business will stay good for many months and probably several years as long as the economy of this world and this country remain stable. One problem arising in this country that everyone reading this will be interested in involves a shortage of diesel fuel. Since I have so much time, I've read extensively and researched government policies to explain why this is happening, but basically the bottom line is the United States only has 25 days of diesel fuel available. This shortage is acute in the New England states where heating oil is also widely used. Better stock up while you can.

To close this month, I'd like to touch on something that maybe as significant to the world economy as COVID turned into. This significant event happened last Friday at the close of the weekly news cycle, so it is very much under reported in the media. Something this big going on in China and the fact it's not being covered in the news is absolutely astounding. For some unknown reason, the Biden administration has all of a sudden started to play hardball with China... It's either hardball or Russian roulette.

Apparently, I owe China Joe Biden an apology because I have said before the \$31 million he and Hunter Biden extracted from Chinese communist party officials was his purchase price. Apparently, Joe was not sold, but only rented out. Last Friday, the United States, along with our global allies, embargoed the export of middle and high-end computer chips to China. This embargo includes any machinery or software necessary for their production.

Not only did the United States embargo chips and equipment, any American citizens working for any Chinese high-tech companies were given an ultimatum. American citizens had one week to choose between quitting their jobs and leaving China OR they would forfeit their American citizenship. I did not even know that was possible for the United States government to make that demand. Americans have been leaving China in droves.

Let me explain. I did not know that basically there are three types of computer chips. Tier 3 are low end chips that go in calculators watches etc. Tier 2 are mid range chips that are used in vehicles. Tier 1 are the high-end chips used in cell phones, bullet trains, aviation military applications etc. I incorrectly assumed China being a manufactured powerhouse that they have become in the last 20 years, would be able to fabricate computer chips. China consumes 70% of the world's chips but only produces 15% of all low-end chips.

Actually, for Tier 1 and Tier 2 chips, because of their highly technical manufacturing processes, China has imported all of the middle and high end microchips for all these years and are only able to produce low end micro chips.

I've highlighted China's problems before which include highly polluted water systems, government corruption, floods and drought that have strained their food production systems to the brink, and their demographics problem. Even if China was slowly on the way out, this embargo could push them back into the Stone Age.

So what will be the result of this embargo? Stocks are crashing proximately 46% for the year. Do you have 401(k) money I'd be reviewing what companies are in your basket. One example would be Tesla... No more cars to be built without microchips.

Another possibility may be found in our own history. A little-known fact is that up until 1940, 80% of Japan's oil came from the United States, along with most of its imported scrap metal and their airplane fuel. In response to the invasion of China by the Japanese, the American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt embargoed these products in 1941. Backed into a corner, Japanese Navy set sail for the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on November 26, 1941 resulting in "a day that will live in infamy" on December 7th. (Ironically the steel in the bombs and torpedoes and the fuel in the planes used to drop them was supplied by companies in the United States)

Just a quick item for everyone to note. Our November fall cow sale will be a fantastic offering of females. Please mark your calendars between now and then find someplace else to put a cow because when the spring gets here there's no telling what they will be worth.

That's all for this month I will see you at the sale... in about a month.

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# FARM & FOOD FILE

## USDA's 'deeply flawed' \$3 billion 'Climate Commodities' program

By ALAN GUEBERT  
For The Cattleman's Advocate

Even at first glance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recently announced \$3-billion-dollar "Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities" sounds like doublespeak, an Orwellian invention that reverses the meaning of words.



Or, more plainly, how can today's commodity-centered, industrialized agriculture be remotely "climate-smart" when everyone in the food business readily acknowledges it's an oil-gulping, climate-changing juggernaut?

The short, truthful answer is it can't.

But don't tell that to the blinkered politicians at USDA. On Sept. 14, USDA announced it "is investing up to \$2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities" to prove that it can be done.

This seemingly admirable attempt, suggests one Land Grant University agronomist deeply familiar with climate change ag research, is, in fact, USDA hoping to put 10 pounds of (organic material) into the proverbial five pound sack using just its checkbook. "Good luck," he offers.

But it will try, for example, by examining how "to accelerate long-term cover crop adoption by creating a platform" that "will quantify, verify, and facilitate the sale of ecosystem benefits, creating a marketplace to generate demand for climate-smart commodities."

The leader of this pie-in-the-sky, \$95-million effort is that agricultural research powerhouse, the National Fish &

**USDA doesn't say what these "new practices" might be but it will cost U.S. taxpayers another \$95 million to find out. Maybe.**

Wildlife Foundation.

Don't worry, though, the group will get ag help, explains USDA, from "other major partners" like the National Corn Growers Association and—curiously—two commodity checkoff groups, the National Pork Board and the United Soybean Board.

Even more curious is the presence of an even bigger helping hand, The Walton Family Foundation.

Why does the Wal-Mart clan want a fat finger in the cover-crop pie? USDA doesn't say but the best guess is that the nation's largest grocer needs a seat at this table so it can grab any hoped-for carbon credits to maintain—or even grow—its massive carbon footprint.

And so goes USDA's grant-winning efforts for 26 more pages and another almost \$2.6 billion of Commodity Credit Corporation cash.

Another program goal is USDA's plan to "build markets and provide funding to farmers via outcome-based contracts for the reduction and removal of carbon dioxide through the adoption of new climate-smart practices."

USDA doesn't say what these "new practices" might be but it will cost U.S. taxpayers another \$95 million to find out. Maybe.

USDA does acknowledge, however, that this project's "major partners" include PepsiCo, Cargill, Target, and Coca-Cola.

These agbiz super powers aren't the only elephants crowding USDA's carbon trough. Other partners in other projects include Archer Daniels Midland, John Deere, Campbell Soup, Keurig-Dr. Pepper, Nestle', Mosaic, Anheuser-Busch, Smithfield Foods, Bayer, and many more.

All, explains USDA, will dig into ways to make more than 50 commodities—from corn to flax to chickens to forestry to fisheries—"climate smart" in the next

two to five years.

How, of course, will be a real trick because today's American food production machine is a fully integrated, farm-to-table factory that hums on fossil fuels and belches out greenhouse gases like methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2.

Very few in ag research, though, expect any breakthroughs: Commodity agriculture can't be made "climate smart" because commodity agriculture, at its core, is already an incredibly productive, climate-changing machine.

"We know," says one Land Grant University agronomist, "that we can't sequester carbon in today's commodity production systems. Not through conventional tillage, not through minimum till, not through no-till. That's just an agronomic fact. So what are we doing with these USDA projects?" he wonders.

Another Land Grant University researcher is more blunt in his view of USDA's "climate-smart" effort: "A model relying on those that caused the problem to solve the problem is a deeply flawed model," he offers.

And, he adds, "[T]he 'smart'" to the money-dripping effort "is in those who get this type of money to do nothing. It's beyond smart, it is genius."

But it's not any real, lasting climate solution, notes a third Land Grant University researcher. "This is all greenwashing—vanity and greenwashing—to keep today's ag policies in place."

So up is down and smart is dumb, and somewhere George Orwell is smiling.

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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](http://farmandfoodfile.com).

## Protein buyers mull pork procurement strategies

CHICAGO — While the Supreme Court considers recent arguments on California's Proposition 12, protein buyers for restaurant chains that rely on pork in their daily operations aren't waiting to prepare their procurement strategies.

Buyers with Restaurant Services Inc. (RSI), exclusive purchaser for Burger King, and Cracker Barrel said here at Uner Barry's Global Protein Summit that one-third of the industry already is moving to comply with the statute, and they are, too.

Having taken effect Jan. 1 of this year, Prop 12 restricts sales of pork in California to product derived from breeding sows given at least 24 square feet of space. How that impacts supplies, with California sourcing nearly all of its pork from other states, is a concern. On top of that, other states have similar animal welfare laws in the works.

Joel Neikerk, president and CEO of RSI, said his company, already well-established in California, is moving along with the industry and working ahead with suppliers to ensure compliance and product availability. This, at a time when Burger King, for example, cooks raw

product fresh every day, and is leaning on its suppliers for a pre-cooked option to save several hours of labor and the associated costs.

"Unfortunately, the capacity in the industry for fully cooked is pretty tight right now, so even if I wanted to do it, I couldn't," Neikerk said. "So, I'm going to have to be super thoughtful about how we get out in front of this, on a logistics basis. But we've been watching [Prop 12] closely."

Bernardo Aguiar, senior manager of strategic sourcing, food and beverage, for Cracker Barrel, said Cracker Barrel similarly is monitoring the Prop 12 issue and working with suppliers to plan for its impact.

Cracker Barrel also currently does a lot of its own prep work with bacon, but on top of that the chain also uses the fat from its cooking process in a lot of its recipes, he noted.

"So that's another piece for us that we would have to solve for those restaurants that say, 'If we don't have that, then what do we do?'" Aguiar said. "There are options out there, of course, but that's just another layer of complexity for us."

— Meatingplace.com

### Here are the scheduled advertising deadlines for The Cattleman's Advocate through April 2023:

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# Livestock News & Notes.....

## McDonald's revs up marketing for McRib

Saying farewell may get easier with practice for fans of the McRib, as McDonald's is once again signaling the return of the pork sandwich with a cult following — touting it, again, as the menu item's final call.

Sales of the pork sandwich will commence Oct. 31 in what can best be described as a near-annual marketing ritual, with the fast-food chain dubbing the McRib's comeback as its farewell tour on social media.

McRib enjoyed its first "farewell tour" back in 2005, with the company repeating the marketing stunt for the following three years.

The barbecue-sauce-covered boneless pork sandwich made a limited debut in 1981, and has mostly been a seasonal item ever since.

The longest Americans reportedly have gone without the McRib was an eight-year stretch beginning in 2012. But even then, McDonald's reintroduced it for a limited time in 2018 through the Uber Eats food delivery service.

## Prop 12 may be driving drop in U.S. pork supply

The questions swirling around the potential impacts of California's Prop 12 on the pork industry may have something to do with the steeper-than-anticipated drop in the nation's supply of hogs and pigs, according to the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook published on Tuesday by the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The September reduction in breeding numbers is the ninth consecutive quarterly decline since September 2020, when inventory stood at 6.333 million animals, the report noted. That means that in two years the September U.S. inventory of breeding animals has lost the equivalent of 181,000 head.

"Producer reluctance to expand production capacity may be a collective response to per-

ceived uncertainty about the U.S. and world economies and to the potential implementation of state laws — in California in particular — that could affect most U.S. hog production models," wrote ERS analyst Mildred Haley.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering arguments for and against implementation of the Prop 12 rule, which would require pork sold in California to come from sows given 24 square feet of space.

## Marfrig, ADM prepping U.S. launch of plant-based burger

Just a week after the shuttering of JBS' plant-based Planterra business, another Brazilian meat giant is looking to take its place.

According to a report from Crain's Chicago Business, Marfrig Global Foods SA will be expanding its veggie burger from Brazil to the U.S. A collaboration with Chicago-based ADM, the PlantPlus Foods burger will appear in U.S. restaurants before the end of this year, albeit with a different recipe than the Brazilian product.

Since 2021, PlantPlus Foods has sold its products in Brazil, including to retailers and Burger King. The venture launched in 2020 and is 70% owned by Marfrig and 30% by ADM. Along with its own portfolio, PlantPlus has acquired Sol Cuisine and Drink Eat Well, two vegan plant-based companies.

## Walmart again accused of overcharging for meat

A Florida shopper is leading another class action lawsuit against Walmart, alleging the retailer is overcharging customers for meat and other products.

In the complaint filed recently in federal court in Tampa, Vassilios Kukorinis accuses Walmart of check-out prices that exceed a product's lowest advertised per-pound or per-ounce price.

The plaintiff in July purchased

a pound of beef bottom round steak for stir fry, originally priced at \$8.98 a pound, but with a rollback sticker showing the price reduced to \$7.98. Yet the consumer was charged and paid the higher price at checkout, according to the suit, filed by Chimicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson-Smith LLP of Haverford, Pa.

"Walmart's conduct is systemic and driven by its POS software that is programmed to falsify weights, unit prices and ultimate product prices," according to the suit, filed on behalf of Kukorinis and other customers of the global retailer, which operates more than 341 stores in Florida.

Walmart spokesperson Randy Hargrove said the company intends to defend itself against the allegations and will respond in court.

"We work hard to earn our customers' trust, and a big part of this is through our everyday low price model that helps them save money on the products they want

and need. Any idea that we would intentionally mislead customers with how we price our products is absurd," Hargrove told Meatingplace in an email.

The suit comes two years after Walmart agreed to pay up to \$9.5 million to reimburse shoppers to settle a 2019 class action lawsuit initiated by Kukorinis. The retailer also agreed to change its pricing practices.

## Lawsuit alleges Tyson violated vaccine law

A Tyson Foods worker may continue her lawsuit against the company over its mandate that employees be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Redina Hayslett can sue under a Tennessee law that prohibits most employers from compelling workers to show proof of vaccination against COVID, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee found, in dismissing Tyson's request that

the suit be dismissed.

Hayslett's motion to add a claim of religious discrimination was granted on Friday by the court, with Tyson and co-defendant Hillshire Brands not opposing the request.

Employed at a pork processing plant in Newbern, Tenn., for more than 25 years, Hayslett claims she was placed on unpaid leave on Nov. 1, 2021, after failing to comply with Tyson's safety requirement. Later that month, Tennessee's governor signed a bill into law prohibiting most employers from compelling workers to provide proof of vaccination against COVID. Hayslett initially filed suit in June, claiming her effective termination violated the recently enacted state law.

Tyson a year ago announced that more than 96% of its workforce was fully vaccinated against COVID.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com



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The Number 1 YW of all the fall bulls; he is sired by GAVEL and out of a beautiful 3-year-old ENHANCE daughter. He's Show-Me Select qualified and ranks in the top 2% for WW and 1% for YW—if you sell by the pound be sure to check this one out!!

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**Lot 158 SydGen Alternative 1523** DOB: 9/8/21 Reg. 20366421  
BW—82 WW—918 YW—1428 ADG—3.19 SC—33.3 Frame—5.89  
This stylish yearling boasts the Number 1 IMF scan of all the fall bulls plus the Number 4 RE and Tenth high YW! He's Show-Me select qualified and has 18 EPDs in the top 20% of the breed, including Hair Shed in the top 5%.



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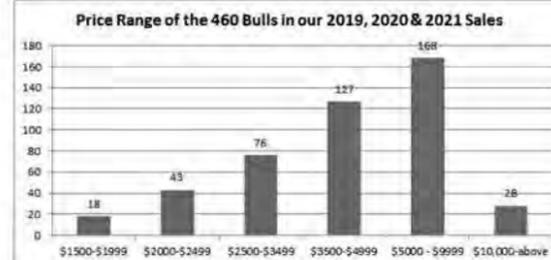
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Ranch Hand

# It's The Pitts...

## Epidermal Cowboys

By LEE PITTS  
For The Cattleman's Advocate

The most influential person in my life was my grandpa and I found it very comforting recently when I was told I turned out to be just like him. After my grandmother, rodeo was my grandpa's favorite thing, so much so that he started an RCA (forerunner to the PRCA) rodeo in our town and with the proceeds bought land for a big sports park that now bears his name.

My grandpa's favorite rodeo cowboy was Gene Rambo and he told me countless times that when Gene came to town for the rodeo he stayed in grandpa's "bunkhouse", which was just a big building behind grandpa's house for cowboys to stay.

The one thing I did in my life that most pleased my grandpa was I became friends with Gene. I wrote a story one time about Gene's setup where he could gather a single animal from the big country he ran in, take it to the corrals and lock the animal in the squeeze all by himself without getting off his horse through the use of cowboy engineering that included several ropes and pulleys. I wrote that Gene's commercial cattle were so good other cattlemen bought his crossbred calves to use as herd bulls.

My grandpa let me know he thought that story was my greatest literary accomplishment.

Another thing my grandpa always told me about Gene was that he always wore a cowboy tuxedo: clean Levis and a white

Watching a rodeo recently I saw a "tat" wink at me from the neck of a bull rider and I have a feeling there's a lot more of those than I'd like to think.

shirt. And he competed across the board, entering every event and I still have the entry sheets to prove it.

Gene competed at a time when other contestants looked like they shopped at Goodwill, picked out the cleanest shirt in the dirty clothes hamper and threw their clothes on with a pitchfork. So my grandpa didn't know how to take my next rodeo hero, Larry Mahan.

For you youngsters, Larry Mahan was one of the greatest rodeo cowboys to ever straddle a horse. He won six All Around Cowboy awards and two bull riding championships riding in all three rough stock events. "Larry literally could ride anything that wore hair." But old-timers like grandpa didn't know how to take Larry because they had preconceived notions of how a cowboy should look and Larry didn't look like that. He wore his hair a little longer, looked like he just stepped off a Hollywood film set and wore his pants so tight you could count the change in his pockets. In other words, he was no Gene Rambo. And guys like Gene never spent their days off in western wear stores. I don't know if Gene Rambo was ever in a "changing room" in his life. Let's just say that he was a man of few fashion surprises.

But then Gene Rambo never appeared in movies, released a record with Warner Brothers or signed big dollar deals with boot and hat labels that carried his

name like Larry did. And there was some resistance amongst old-timers because Larry didn't exactly come from rodeo country. I mean, for gosh sakes he was born in Salem, Oregon! That's one of the reasons I liked Larry – he was more living, breathing proof that the far west could produce championship cowboys too. And did Larry have charisma! I got to see this from a front row seat one time when he and Les Vogt invited my wife and I to a horse camp near my house to sit around a campfire singing old cowboy songs along with an original member of the Sons of the Pioneers.

Now I'm old and I can understand how my grandpa felt about guys like Larry Mahan. I was devastated the first time I saw one of my basketball heroes, Michael Jordan, wearing a diamond earring. And I was just getting used to guys wearing women's jewelry when along came tattoos. Watching a rodeo recently I saw a "tat" wink at me from the neck of a bull rider and I have a feeling there's a lot more of those than I'd like to think.

But I've learned my lesson. People with style like Larry are "trendsetters" and it's because of them we now have blunt toed cowboy boots, "formal wear" that includes shirts with advertising embroidered all over them, and cowboys with tattoos of ex-girlfriend's names they've tried desperately to have erased.

– www.LeePittsbooks.com

## Plaintiffs reach settlement in ICE raid lawsuit

About 100 Latinos detained in a 2018 raid at a Bean Station, Tenn., meat processing plant agreed to split a total of \$550,000 to settle their class action lawsuit, according to documents filed in the case, while individual plaintiffs in the case reached a separate settlement of \$475,000.

The preliminary settlements now are in the hands of a federal judge in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Tennessee. The proposed deal includes an additional payment by the U.S. government of \$150,000 to cover legal costs of

the plaintiffs, according to court documents.

The workers originally accused more than 90 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents of violating their constitutional rights in a police action that detained about 100 plant employees at the Southeastern Provision plant in 2018. The suit claimed that ICE agents singled out the Latino workers "without regard to citizenship or documentation," and only 11 of the detainees were charged with any

crimes. The suit also alleged that white workers at the facility were not arrested, detained or searched in the incident.

The filing also "balances immediate monetary and non-monetary class benefits with the risk of further litigation," according to documents filed late last week.

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## COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"I wrote a book about how crooked the President is, and it sure beats tryin' to ranch in a drouth."

## Supermarket super-merger to get Senate scrutiny

The proposed combination of Kroger and Albertsons will be the subject of a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights in November, Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Mike Lee (R-UT), Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the committee, have announced.

"We have serious concerns about the proposed transaction between Kroger and Albertsons.

The grocery industry is essential, and we must ensure that it remains competitive so that American families can afford to put food on the table. We will hold a hearing focused on this proposed merger and the consequences consumers may face if this deal moves forward," they said in a statement posted on Sen. Klobuchar's website.

Details of the meeting have not been set.

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# It's Odysseus' Siren call that could doom independent cattle producers

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

Recall Homer's Odyssey? When Odysseus told his crew to tie him to the mast so he couldn't react to the Siren's alluring call to steer his ship into the rocks, where all would perish?

Well, it's time for us to remember, and learn from this ancient Greek poem as the Siren's are now upon us.

Today's Siren call is this: "Do nothing to interfere with the current structure of the cattle market because cattle prices are rising just as they should be."

Some, if not many more independent cattle producers will soon perish if they become enchanted by this modern Siren call.

Let's see why.

After the Beef Checkoff Program was passed in the 1985 Farm Bill, beef demand declined for 13 years. During this period, and until the early 2000s, returns to cow/calf producers trended sharply downward, and in the mid-90s cow/calf producers suffered historic losses on a per bred cow basis – including a loss of nearly \$160 per bred cow during on of those years.

But suddenly, in the early 2000s, cattle markets were hit with a historical and extreme shock...the supply of cattle was suddenly reduced by 5-6%. This was caused by the closure of the Canadian border to live cattle imports when Canada was experiencing widespread BSE outbreaks. R-CALF USA sued the USDA to keep the border closed until Canada eradicated BSE.

In 2004 and 2005, cow/calf producers were earning record returns, a function of the market's reaction to the extreme shock.

But the Siren's alluring call, which was, "Cattle prices increased because of strengthening beef demand and the border closure was actually hurting U.S. cattle producers." This Siren call was so enchanting that

nearly the entire industry fought to normalize trade, to reopen the Canadian border.

And they did reopen it in mid-2005. So the market shock was over. And for the next four years, returns to cow/calf producers averaged well below zero.

The Sirens won. The market was returned to the status quo and packers bought their cattle cheaper.

But in another few years, beginning in late 2010 through 2013, another extreme market shock hit the cattle market – a widespread drought that caused year-over-year cattle liquidations, resulting in the lowest number of U.S. beef cows in over 70 years.

The market again reacted to this extreme shock: in 2013 cow/calf returns were almost as high as the previous 2005 record. But in 2014 and 2015, cow/calf returns jumped to never before seen levels. It was amazing.

The Sirens then called again: "See," they sang, "don't worry about packer concentration or rising imports, the markets are functioning just as they should...supply and demand is working so don't do anything to reform the market."

And so no reforms were made. And cow/calf returns quickly began crashing over the next six years, through 2021.

The Sirens won again. The market quickly returned to the status quo and packers bought their cattle cheaper.

Now, this year, yet another extreme market shock has struck. Another widespread drought causing huge liquidations of cattle. At the beginning of this year, the beef cow herd was only about a million head over the historic low of 2014.

And beginning recently, the market is again reacting to this extreme market shock, and cow/calf returns are likely to improve substantially in 2022.

But the Sirens are now calling

as loudly as ever. They're calling again: "See," they sing, "don't worry about packer concentration or rising imports, the markets are functioning just as they should...supply and demand is working, so don't do anything to reform the market."

Will our industry again become enchanted by the alluring Sirens' song? Will we do nothing to reform the cattle market, yet again?

You know the rule: Three strikes and you're out.

During the past 35 years, cow/calf returns of over \$100 per bred cow per year happened only 5 times.

In other words, the cattle market does not respond to everyday supply and demand signals. You know this because you've gone for the past several years with incredibly strong beef demand and record exports, yet your cattle market persistently produced depressed cattle prices.

When supply and demand forces only work when the market experiences extreme shocks, then that market is fundamentally broken.

And your cattle market is fundamentally broken. Don't succumb again to the Siren's alluring song. Don't continue supporting the status quo.

Help us fix our broken cattle market to put an end to this vicious feast or famine cattle market cycle. Help us restore

mandatory country of origin labeling for beef. And help us force the packers to begin competing in the cattle market, not just when supplies get historical-

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All heifers passed disposition test. This set of heifers was synchronized and bull bred. they were untrounded twice and are to start calving February 4, 2023 for a 15-day window. All heifers bred first cycle. Heifers were fetal sexed. The bulls we use are purchased from Meyer Cattle Co. in Bowling Green, Mo., or Mead Farms in Versailles, Mo. Bulls are all Registered Black Angus and are Show-Me-Select qualifying! With most double digit CEDs. However, E&A doesn't just use single trait bulls, E&A tries to buy quality bulls with balanced EPDs, especially high numbers in \$M, \$W \$B. **E & A's goal is to sell a heifer that milks and a healthy calf that is vigorous and grows!! Heifers developed through the E&A Belgian and Cattle Program are conditioned and designed to stay on the farm a long time!**

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# Volatility in farm input prices here to stay, says MU researcher

Increased volatility in prices of farm inputs such as fertilizer is likely here to stay well into 2023, says Ben Brown, University of Missouri senior research associate for the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute.

U.S. prices for fertilizer stabilized in June and then declined in July and August, but Brown says it is unlikely they will remain low. "It is difficult to get downward pressure on input prices when output prices remain high," he says.

Unfortunately, producers have few ways to respond to price increases for inputs. Fertilizer is by far the most complex market

that farmers encounter currently, says Brown.

Farmers and ranchers experienced 200%-300% increases in fertilizer costs in 2021 and the first half of 2022 due to reductions in supply and strong demand. Many of the same factors look poised to return in 2023, says Brown.

Natural gas is a major component in the manufacture of anhydrous ammonia. Tightness in European gas markets resulted in increased prices in the U.S. Gulf. Strong demand for product also appears likely as the U.S. makes preparations for fall wheat planti-

ng and 2023 acreage decisions.

"Fertilizer prices induced the largest behavioral change for U.S. ranchers and forage producers on weaker to negative margins and expanding drought designations," says Brown.

Farmers who bought fertilizer early last year saw better prices than those who waited. There is no way to predict if that will happen again this year, says Brown. "Winter weather forecasts in Europe will play an unusually large role in U.S. fertilizer prices this winter. One option to spread the price risk is to split nitrogen applications in fall and spring."

Brown gives a global timeline showing factors that played into rising fertilizer prices, beginning with the COVID pandemic.

Following sanctions, Belarus and Lithuania halted transit of potash to the Baltic Sea. In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and markets saw record high material costs. Then food and fertilizer exports from the Black Sea were disrupted. By May 2022, sanctions on Russian individuals and entities and a global food crisis brought concerns.

Unfortunately, farmers can't keep profits steady when prices go up and revenue opportunities remain the same, says Brown. Global trade policies and relations also affect markets, with one of every three rows of U.S. soybean going to China.

Breakeven prices will almost certainly be higher in 2023, says Brown. Corn and other commo-

ty prices must maintain current levels to offset increased input prices to achieve profit margins at the farm gate. "A lot will happen in the next 12 months to influence commodity markets," he says. "Naturally, when prices move higher, we increase the potential for lower prices creating more risk and stress for farmers and ranchers."

To combat rising prices, Brown recommends the following:

- Review crop insurance to make sure that coverage meets current situations.
- Create a well-defined grain marketing plan that provides some price protection.
- Lock in delivery prices and insure with a Basic Revenue Protection Combination Plan.

## Smithfield antitrust deal with foodservice operators approved

A federal judge in Minnesota on Wednesday signed off on Smithfield Foods' \$42 million settlement with foodservice operators that alleged the company and other processors conspired to inflate pork prices.

U.S. District Judge John R. Tunheim granted final approval of the settlement agreement, six months after giving it his preliminary OK.

The company has also reached an \$83 million settlement with wholesalers and a \$75 million agreement with consumers, announced last month.

Smithfield has denied liability in the cases and said it believes its conduct has always been law-

ful, but negotiating a settlement was in the best interest of the company.

Originally filed in 2018, the case alleged price-fixing behavior by Clemens, Hormel, Indiana Packers, JBS USA, Seaboard Foods, Triumph Foods, and Tyson, along with the data analysis firm Agri Stats. The defendants were alleged to have conspired to share pricing and margin data since at least 2009.

JBS last month settled with consumer plaintiffs for \$20 million in the pork litigation, and previously settled with restaurants and retailers, also for \$20 million.

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# Here's help for calculating winter feed costs for beef cows

By GENE SCHMITZ  
Field Specialist in Livestock  
University of Missouri Extension

**SEDALIA, Mo.** – Escalating costs for hay and supplements has many cattle producers concerned, especially in the face of very poor pasture conditions and limited hay supplies in some areas of the state.

Current feed costs have been run through the University of Missouri Extension Beef Cow Feed Cost Dashboard spreadsheet to estimate daily feed costs for a beef cow. The dashboard is an Excel spreadsheet that was developed to estimate winter feed costs for beef cows based on varying quality and price of hay, comparing fall- and spring-calving cows and purchased vs. raised hay.

Input prices are current from a local feed supplier and Missouri Department of Agriculture estimates for hay prices of varying quality. Raised hay prices are based on 2022 MU Cropping Budgets. Spring-calving cows are assumed to be dry and in mid-gestation.

Hay prices: Good hay, \$150 per ton; fair hay, \$125 per ton; poor hay, \$115 per ton, based on reported prices per bale and estimating a 1,200-pound bale weight. Raised hay was estimated to have a value of \$90 per ton, regardless of nutrient quality. Hay quality was classified by USDA standards for protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN).

Several diets using various ingredients were calculated within each hay quality classification to get a median supplement cost for each type of hay. Average supplement per head per day for dry spring-calving cows, including salt and mineral, was 2 pounds of supplement for good hay, 3.2 pounds of supplement for fair hay and 5.2 pounds of supplement for poor hay. Fall-calving cows averaged needing 2.8 pounds of supplement for good hay, 4.8 pounds of supplement for fair hay and 6.3 pounds of supplement for poor hay.

The breakdown of feed costs per head per day for spring-calving cows is as follows. For purchased hay: good hay, \$2.68; fair

hay, \$2.38; poor hay, \$2.48. For raised hay, daily feed cost is estimated to be \$1.75 for good hay, \$1.86 for fair hay and \$2.15 for poor hay.

Fall-calving cows have higher feed costs due to lactation. Using purchased hay prices, estimates of daily feed cost are \$2.90 for good hay, \$2.68 for fair hay and \$2.68 for poor hay. Fall-calving cows fed raised hay have estimated daily feed costs of \$1.94 for good hay, \$2.16 for fair hay and \$2.34 for poor hay.

These feed cost estimates do not include hay waste in the calculations. Poorer quality hay can be expected to have higher feed waste than higher quality hay, and this needs to be considered in calculating your per head feed costs.

These calculations are based on reasonable estimates of hay quality for each hay quality classification and should be used for comparison and planning purposes only. A hay test costs about \$20 and provides information to more accurately calculate supplemental feed needs than these estimates.

These estimates are designed to give cow/calf producers a general idea of winter feed costs based on current prices. They may help with the decision to keep or sell livestock and to buy or not buy additional hay or other feed supplies.

Before making these decisions, however, producers should have a clear understanding of their feed inventories, the quality and amount of additional supplement that may be needed and the cost of feed ingredients. Weigh the potential for large amounts of waste, bringing in weed seeds

and other factors before making a final decision on whether to purchase additional feed resources. There are other implications associated with selling off cows or bred heifers, so those need to be considered as well.

If you would like additional assistance with any winter feeding decisions, interpreting hay test results or assessing supplemental feed needs, contact your local MU Extension livestock field specialist.

You can download the Beef Cow Feed Cost Dashboard spreadsheet at <https://mizzou.us/BCFCD>.

## Enroll steers for the 2022-2023 Profitability Challenge

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association is gearing up to launch another year of the Profitability Challenge "Top 100" Steer Feedout and FFA Fantasy Feedout. The association has made changes this year with the goal of increasing participation in the program, which is now in its fourth year. Specifically, the program will now include regional dropoff points across the state to prevent producers having to drive to Columbia. While the program still requires two rounds of shots, bunk broke and 45 days weaned, it will not longer require participation in a specific program. All that will be required is an affidavit from the veterinarian or supplier.

"This is a terrific program that allows producers to learn more about their cattle. The data they get back can be put to good use when it comes to genetic selection. We want to increase participation so we are taking steps to

make participating easier," said Deering.

The program is hosted at the University of Missouri South Farm Research Center where steers are on full feed and closely monitored by researchers. Missouri FFA chapters will view cattle via a virtual field day, after which they composed their "pens" for a Fantasy Football-style livestock evaluation contest. Both producers and chapters receive updates with data collected throughout the feedout.

"I am aware of no other program like this in the country. The focus is profitability for producers," said Deering. "The FFA component of this program is unique to Missouri and garners outstanding participation from school districts throughout all regions of the state."

The 2022-2023 Profitability Challenge is sponsored by MFA, Inc., Elanco Animal Health, the

University of Missouri, Idexx, GrowSafe Systems and Y-TEX. To learn more or to enter your steer(s) in the challenge, contact MCA.

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# RAMBLINGS OF A CONSERVATIVE COW DOCTOR

## Did you look?

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

When I was a pup, my father lectured me repeatedly how to properly wrangle horses in the horse pasture of the Little Horn Cow Camp. It was a rugged, massive pasture and horses could hide in dozens of little pockets secluded by gullies and timber. Many asked to wrangle horses returned an hour later saying there were no horses in the pasture. Top hands took great delight ribbing the greenhorn, asking if he looked here or there and the answer was usually a sheepish "no." Because the pasture sometimes contained horses from two or three different ranches which rarely hung together, finding a dozen horses did not mean you found them all.



I was twelve before I was asked to wrangle horses, and I rode out of camp determined to die of exhaustion rather than cir-

## Inflation varies wildly across meat types: CPI

While inflation continues to impact all sectors of the U.S. economy, price increases are being felt differently across meat types.

According to the latest CPI from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices in the "meat, poultry, fish, and eggs" category were up 9% YOY in September, compared to 11.2% for food, 19.8% for energy and 8.2% for all major categories.

More detailed price breakdowns, however, indicate that inflation is not being felt equally across the meat industry.

Poultry continues to see the biggest price increases, with the overall category showing a 17.2% increase from September 2021. Chicken was up 17.2%, fresh whole chicken was up 14.9%, and fresh/frozen chicken parts were up 18.4%.

Close behind poultry were frankfurters and lunchmeats, with price increases of 16.5% and 17%, respectively.

Price increases for pork products were more modest: 6.7% for all pork, 8.1% for ham, 5.5% for pork chops, and 3.7% for bacon. Prices for breakfast sausage, though, were up 14.7%.

The key contrast came in the beef category, where prices actually fell 1.1%. Although prices for ground beef were up 3.9%, they fell for beef roasts (-2.8%), steaks (-4.8%), and other beef/veal (-0.3%), CPI reported.

- Meatingplace.com

**Historically, mankind suffered myocarditis at a rate of four per million. Since 2021, myocarditis has rocketed to 25,000 per million. This is not a simple ibuprofen deficiency, and it kills real people.**

cle back to the corral empty handed.

This lesson reappeared when I was in vet school. Students were told, "for everything you miss because you did not know, you will miss ten things because you did not look." This proved to be the most valuable axiom of my professional studies and many times over my 40 years I have asked myself am I missing something because I am not looking. This brings me to my point.

Tragically, few of my human

medicine colleagues ever received similar advice about looking and none ever gathered the Little Horn horse pasture. The idea of looking for pathologies, diagnostics, and therapeutics outside what is stamped "safe and effective" is strictly forbidden. They are either cowards void of scientific curiosity, or they are big pharma whores. There is no third option.

An epidemic of excess deaths is sweeping the world, and many countries, other than ours, are investigating mortality and mor-

bidity data.

When confronted with stroke poke induced death and injury claims, the CDC demands the little people prove causation before they will come down from their ivory tower to view the carnage their pro-poke advocacy created.

Consider this: Historically, mankind suffered myocarditis at a rate of four per million. Since 2021, myocarditis has rocketed to 25,000 per million. This is not a simple ibuprofen deficiency, and it kills real people.

Gwen Casten, the 17-year-old, fully vaccinated daughter of Congressman Sean Casten, recently died in her sleep. The cause of her death will never be known because the ruling elite refuse to look. Closer to home, the probable stroke poke death toll of my friends, family and

acquaintances has hit 14 and is growing.

Before you roll up your sleeve for a booster you better look at the data because your doctor will not.

*For three decades, Kraton 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.*

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# U.S. Supreme Court session kicks off with WOTUS case

The new session of the U.S. Supreme Court — the first including Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson — launched today with arguments in *In Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, in which the reach of the federal Waters of the U.S. rule will again be considered.

The battle over the definition of "waters of the U.S." as part of the Clean Water Act has been ongoing since 2014. At issue for agricultural interests, including livestock producers, is the extent to which farm and ranch water runoff may, or may not, meet the bar for federal regulation.

Although the *Sackett* case does not directly involve agricul-

tural interests — the case is over plans to build a residence on land that the Environmental Protection Agency has declared protected wetlands — the facts mirror the challenges many producers face: Whether the waters that flow across or under the plot affect any "navigable" body, and whether that navigable body is important to interstate commerce.

The EPA has argued that the Clean Water Act is meant to "protect 'traditional navigable waters,' which can be significantly affected by nearby wetlands and tributaries — even if there is not a continuous surface connection to those waters," as explained by

SCOTUSblog.com, which tracks and analyzes cases before the Supreme Court.

Even as the arguments were being made in Washington, D.C., the National Cattlemen's Beef Association issued a statement, saying, "Since the passage of the Clean Water Act, cattle producers have experienced the regulatory whiplash of shifting WOTUS definitions — on average, a change every 3.8 years,"

said NCBA Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "NCBA is hopeful that the court will support NCBA's argument for clear and limited WOTUS definition, but in the meantime, we call on the EPA to suspend their rulemaking until the outcome of the case is clear."

NCBA also filed comments on the Biden administration's proposed "Waters of the U.S."

rule. NCBA is calling for this rulemaking to halt until the Supreme Court issues a ruling in the *Sackett v. EPA* case. In June 2021, The EPA and the U.S. Army announced they would revise the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS), reversing a Trump administration policy that the agencies say is reducing clean water protections.

— Meatingplace.com

## 24 meat groups ask USTR to reject report for probe of Mexico imports

A group of 24 U.S. organizations representing a variety of agricultural companies — including meat processors — want the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to reject a petition from members of Congress seeking an investigation into fresh produce from Mexico. Specifically, they have voiced concerns about potential retaliation that could hurt the U.S. meat industry.

In a letter to USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai, the group claims that the petition for a Section 301 investigation would "undermine our relationship with one of our largest agricultural trading partners and create a substantial risk of retaliatory actions."

The petition filed last month by U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (D-FL) and U.S. Rep. Al Lawson (D-FL) seeks a Section 301 probe of fruit and vegetable imports from Mexico in order to "secure trade relief for Florida (produce) growers," among others.

The letter to reject the petition's request was signed by such organizations as the Meat Import Council of America, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the North American Meat Institute (NAMI).

The letter also asked USTR to work instead to open new markets for U.S. ag exports "in the Indo-Pacific, Taiwan and elsewhere."

— Meatingplace.com

## Freight rail strike threat revived as union rejects labor agreements

The possibility of a national freight rail strike potentially sprang back to life after more than half of the members of the nation's third-largest railroad union voted against the proposed settlement announced two weeks ago.

The track maintenance workers represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division — International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED) voted 6,646 to 5,100 against ratification of the tentative national agreement that would have settled several labor issues for the next five years.

"Railroaders are discouraged and upset with working conditions and compensation and hold their employer in low regard," BMWED President Tony D. Cardwell said in a statement. "The result of this vote indicates that there is a lot of work to do to establish goodwill and improve

the morale that has been broken by the railroads' executives and Wall Street hedge fund managers," he added.

Cardwell also noted that the nation's freight railroads did not address the issue of paid time off, specifically sick time, and working conditions resulting from job cuts affecting nearly one-third of union jobs since 2016.

Four other railroad unions approved their agreements with BNSF, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific. BMWED plans to return to the bargaining table and will continue to work under the old contract. The union also said it will delay any movement to strike until five days after the U.S. Congress reconvenes on Nov. 14 in order to allow for enough time to reach an agreement that the members can vote on.

— Meatingplace.com

## JBS Missouri plant to feature newly acquired Italian brand

An upcoming JBS USA processing facility in Columbia, Mo., will spotlight its recently acquired Italian brand Principe, according to an announcement from the processor.

The Principe brand was part of JBS S.A.'s \$92.5 million acquisition of Italy-based King Grupo in

December 2021. JBS took over four King Grupo facilities in Italy, as well as the USA operations of Principe (which included a New Jersey facility).

"To meet growing consumer demand for ... Italian meats and charcuterie, Principe is opening a new facility [and] expanding the

authentic artisan offerings of Principe in the United States," JBS' statement read.

Announced last April, the \$200 million plant will be a Swift Prepared Foods facility. At 325,000 square feet, the plant will create more than 250 jobs, and is set to open this December.

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**Got an idea for a story you'd like to see in The Advocate? Drop us a line and let us know at: [cattlemans@virtualimages.us](mailto:cattlemans@virtualimages.us)**

## Senate bill would double funds for ag export program

A bill recently introduced in the Senate proposes doubling the funding for two agricultural export market development programs administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

The bipartisan bill was introduced by Sens. Angus King (I-Maine), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa).

Several ag groups urged passage of the bill, called the Cultivating Revitalization by Expanding American Agricultural Trade and Exports (CREAATE) Act of 2022, which would increase funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) under FAS.

"MAP funding has not been increased from \$200 million since 2006, and FMD funding has not changed from \$34.5 million since 2002, but our foreign competition in most global markets ... has grown," U.S. Wheat Associates Chairperson Rhonda Larson said in a press release.

The Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports said both programs are critical to expanding global market access for U.S. produced agricultural exports. It cited a study by agricultural economists at IHS Market and Texas A&M University that predicted that doubling funding for the programs would generate an additional \$44.4 billion in U.S. agricultural exports over the 2024-29 time period.

"This would directly benefit farmers, livestock producers, dairy operators and small businesses as they work to maintain and expand their global presence," a statement from the coalition said.

Additionally, a recent economic analysis by Glynn Tonsor of Kansas State University and Derrell Peel of Oklahoma State University found that a 10% reduction in U.S. beef exports and imports over 10 years would generate \$12.9 billion in losses for feeder cattle sellers, and \$6.75 billion in losses at the fed cattle level.

## Tyson to consolidate its corporate staff in Arkansas

Tyson Foods Inc. said Wednesday it is preparing to bring all of its corporate team members to its world headquarters in Springdale, Ark., affecting current offices in two U.S. states.

The effort, dubbed "OneTyson," will involve moving employees from the company's Chicago, Downers Grove, Ill., and Dakota Dunes, S.D., offices and will include an expansion of the company's global headquarters.

The relocation effort will roll out in phases starting in early 2023 and ultimately will affect about 1,000 corporate team members in the three offices, a

Tyson spokesperson told Meatingplace in an email, noting that no layoffs are associated with the plan.

The headquarters expansion will include indoor and outdoor spaces "designed to foster collaboration, connection and creativity," Tyson said in a news release. The move is intended to encourage faster decision-making in running its vast protein businesses, the release said.

Tyson is expected to continue to operate its beef plant in Dakota City, Neb., and cold storage facility in Sioux City, S.D., according to a report in the Sioux City Journal.

- Meatingplace.com

## CHUCKWAGON RACES

from page 1

potties or visiting with people at the concession trailers. He's liable to be anywhere."

Although it's uncertain what the races will bring, the true

challenges occur before the gates even open to the public. Preparation for the races begins about 60 days ahead of time.

"We start with the bulldozing,

gravel hauling and creek crossing," said Peggy. In some areas of the farm, they also brush hog and cut hay in preparation for the races.



**NINE DAYS OF FUN:** Nearly 20,000 people annually travel to Clinton, Ark., to participate in the Labor Day Weekend National Championship Chuckwagon Race. The event have been taking place for close to 40 years.

Featuring chuckwagon races in five racing categories, the festivities also include multiple concerts, dances, vendors, trail rides and camping. (Photos by Porch Pig Productions)

## Illinois launches grant program for meat processors

The State of Illinois has established a \$6-million capital grant program that aims to ultimately strengthen the region's meat and poultry supply chain.

Independently owned meat processing companies are eligible to apply for grants that will range from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity said in a statement. The program is designed to include a company match of at least four times the amount awarded to successful applicants.

"By building capacity in the meat processing industry in Illinois, we are strengthening the supply chain, creating and retaining jobs and working to lower costs for families, Gov. Pritzker said.

The Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program is

expected to allow processors to invest in new facilities, expanding or renovating existing facilities or modernizing processing and manufacturing equipment.

Program managers plan to focus on meeting the needs of applicants in underserved or rural areas, the announcement added.

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## Local control should be the cornerstone of governance

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

Local control gives us our greatest strength and my message is constitutional authority is granted at the county level. I will never sway from that point.

In visiting the Republic County, Kansas, website there are plans for a wind energy project by the developer of NextERA Energy that have been the works since March, although the general public appears to have been made aware much later.

The project announced is a 559-megawatt output of electricity, which I believe makes it the largest wind project in Kansas and Nebraska. Data from the Republic County website indicates that NextERA Energy in the name of High Banks Wind project will contribute to Republic County of \$932,201.86 and contributions of \$745,758.14 per year for 10 years. Apparently, payments of this nature have become standard because counties have typically provided a 10-year tax abatement for similar projects.

Now right off the thing that caught my attention was the fact that Republic County has secured an attorney from Wichita who specializes in energy negotiations. In fact let me just share with you what Trish Voth's website from Foulston Attorneys at Law says about her.

"Trish Voth heads up Foulston's wind and solar energy practice, and is also a leader in the firm's real estate practice, applying her 20 years of experience and commitment to the real estate, renewable energy, and legal industries."

So one would think that this county has hired someone who understands the law and is committed to protecting the landowners of Republic County, Kansas. Well, that flies out the window, in my opinion, when you learn she is working for the "county" although her fees are paid by the wind developer NextERA Energy. That, my friends, is what really captured my attention in the entire situation.

I am an advocate for property rights and land ownership in the United States. When you talk about property rights, the landowners should have the right to sign up for wind turbine easements if they want to and I agree it is your land to use it as you see fit. But wait, there may be more.

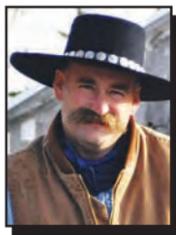
A case in point comes from a conversation I recently had with Mike Nasi from Texas. Two years ago Nasi told me Texas was told that if you rely on more than 20% of your electricity to come from wind and solar, you are vulnerable to a crash. Today, for the record, Texas is 34% dependent on wind and solar, so get ready.

I saw Nasi again within the past month and he had new statistics that need to be shared. He told me that replacing a coal-fired power plant that has on average an 800 MW production output would require all the lithium mined in one year to make batteries. We all know that wind and solar are completely dependent on the battery system to store electricity produced for storage as needed. Folks, 95% of the rare earth minerals used to make these batteries comes from China. We are walking a path of China controlling us at every turn again if we turn away from the most reliable resources we have for energy production.

In closing, my friends in Cherry County, Nebraska, have been down all of these dusty trails when it comes to balancing the alternative energy capture yet maintaining property rights for all involved. One might be well served to look up their published plan for the expenses of demolition and managing the red blinking lights that created a system at the local government level that actually made sense.

We need total community buy in to the projects and if we continue to divide, we will be conquered.

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](http://www.LoosTales.com), or email Trent at [trentloos@gmail.com](mailto:trentloos@gmail.com).



## Nebraska Beef reaches plea agreement to pay \$200K to settle federal beef grading lawsuit

Omaha-based Nebraska Beef Ltd. agreed to pay \$200,000 to settle a federal lawsuit accusing the company of knowingly providing false grading records for cattle and boxes of beef products six years ago.

The case began in 2016 when federal authorities specifically accused two former employees of knowing that beef products classified as No-Roll and Select by USDA inspectors because of the age of the cattle had

been secretly and illegally relabeled as Choice and Prime. The former workers eventually reached a plea agreement that included \$1,000 fines and probation.

Federal officials ordered Nebraska Beef in June 2016 to produce grading records for 30 carcasses of beef that were suspected to have been altered when processed, prompting further investigation and a guilty plea.

The latest plea agreement with fed-

eral prosecutors reached last month calls for the company to pay a fine \$200,000 over the false labels, according to court documents filed in the U.S. District Court of Omaha.

The company still faces up to five years of probation and a mandatory assessment of \$125 for each misdemeanor count that Nebraska Beef pleaded guilty to when the final sentence is levied at a hearing scheduled for Dec. 9, the filing added.

## Easterday gets 11-year prison sentence in ghost cattle scheme

A federal judge in Washington state sentenced Cody Allen Easterday to serve 11 years in federal prison for his role in a scam to defraud Tyson Foods Inc. and another company of more than \$244 million for cattle that did not exist.

Easterday pleaded guilty in March 2021 to charges that he and his company billed Tyson and Segale Properties for the purchase, feeding and raising of 265,000 head of cattle that never exist-

ed over a four-year period. Easterday used most of the fraudulent gains to cover an estimated \$200 million in losses he incurred from commodity futures trading on behalf of his company, Easterday Ranches Inc., according to a U.S. Justice Department news release announcing the sentence.

Chief District Judge Stanley A. Bastian also ordered Easterday to pay more than \$244 million in restitution, subject to unspecified offsets he has

already paid. He also imposed a three-year period of supervised release after Easterday exits federal prison, the DOJ statement said.

Easterday's attorney reportedly claimed that Tyson owes Easterday \$163 million for allegedly using his name and photograph to sell "Cody's Beef" in Japan in addition to other unpaid feed bills. Tyson has not commented on that claim.

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# Tight labor market challenges farm employers to rethink compensation

By LINDA WHELAN GEIST  
University of Missouri Extension

PARIS, Mo. – Today's tight labor market makes it harder for farm employers to compete for workers, says Ryan Milhollin, University of Missouri Extension agricultural economist.

Farm laborers work long hours, sometimes in inclement weather. Workers may need diverse skills to fill roles such as truck driver, mechanic, nutritionist, forage specialist, veterinarian, babysitter and weather forecaster. For this demanding work, farmworkers often receive pay and benefits below those offered in other industries.

To help farms attract and retain workers in this environment, Milhollin recommends considering nonmonetary compensation.

"Farm employers can use nonmonetary compensation to tap into what makes working on a farm unique and provide an inexpensive yet meaningful benefit to farm employment," says Milhollin, an author of MU Extension's Missouri Farm Labor Guide.

Benefits could include free housing, hunting privileges on farmer-owned land and continuing education opportunities. Milhollin says the key is getting to know your employees and what they enjoy. Choosing benefits you know the farm team will value will have a greater impact on retaining team members.

Lynn Fodge, of Hopewell Farms in Monroe County, says she, her husband and their two sons and their spouses try to show their deep appreciation for their two farm employees, Trevor Cockrell and Dakota Beckfield. The Fodges farm about 5,000 acres of row crops and pasture and have 550 head of fall- and spring-calving Angus cows.

The Fodges communicate their appreciation by thanking the workers for their many efforts, giving bonuses when sales are good and offering meat and other products of the farm. They also provide some insurance benefits and a retirement plan.

Other perks include being able to borrow farm equipment, trucks and tools for personal use. The farm allows flexibility in work hours to accommodate family time, school schedules and community events.

Hopewell Farms' two employees came to them by chance meeting and word of mouth. Neither had extensive agricultural backgrounds, so the Fodges trained them. Cockrell has worked on the farm for 12 years, and Beckfield joined the team eight months ago.

"We know there is too much work for the family without

**Fewer young people want to return to the farm, and there are financial obstacles to entering the industry.**

them," says Lynn Fodge. "We depend on them, and we are grateful for them."

Farmhands once were a fixture of farmsteads. Now, like

farmers, they are a vanishing breed, she says. Fewer young people want to return to the farm, and there are financial obstacles to entering the industry.

Wages for farmworkers are rising at a slower pace than non-farm wages, according to the USDA Economic Research Service. In 2020, the average farm wage was \$14.62 per hour, just 59% of the nonfarm wage (\$24.68). And the hired farm workforce is aging — another obstacle for those seeking employees.

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## Mongolian Beef good off the stove or as leftovers

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

### Jon's Rating:

This Cattleman's Advocate Test Kitchen team is great. The cook just keeps delivering winning recipes. This one was not only good right off the stove; it warmed up nicely for a quick microwaved leftovers lunch. The ginger and the brown sugar clinging to the beef pieces was pretty tasty.

On my 4 hat rating scale this one is a strong 3 and a half hats.

### Mongolian Beef

Source: [thewoksoflife.com](http://thewoksoflife.com)

1 pound Savannah's Farm Fresh stew meat

1 tsp. vegetable oil (plus 1/3 cup for frying)

1 tbsp. corn starch (plus 1/4 cup, divided)

2 tbsp. brown sugar

1/4 cup hot water (or hot low sodium chicken or beef stock)

1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce

1/2 tsp. ginger, minced

5 dried red chili peppers, (optional) I omitted this

2 cloves garlic, chopped (used less)

1 tbsp. cornstarch (mixed with 1 tsp. water to make a slurry)

Combine the beef with 1 teaspoon oil, one teaspoon soy

## Latest meat case study shows growth in case-ready packaging

Consumer trust and acceptance of case-ready meat is on the upswing, according to a the 2022 Cryovac Brand National Meat Case Study, sponsored by Cryovac Sealed Air and conducted by 210 Analytics for the North American Meat Institute.

The company's latest National Meat Case Study found that case-ready represents 83% of protein packages, up from 49% of fresh meat in 2002 and 81% in 2018. The study also found that case-ready is now the norm across all proteins, led by turkey (99%) and chicken (96%). And although beef is more likely to be cut in stores, case-ready beef increased to 71% in the latest survey from 66% in 2018, the report noted.

Cryovac found that 51% of product was being cut and processed at the store level when the first report was issued in 2002 and now 83% of meat in stores is being processed and packaged away from the store.

As case-ready figures are rapidly growing, the number of fresh meat SKUs declined by 10% than corresponding figures in 2018. The study also found that more retailers are moving to some form of sustainable packages, more rigid trays, less foam and less in-store overwrap with foam.

- [Meatingplace.com](http://Meatingplace.com)

sauce and 1 tablespoon cornstarch in a large Ziploc bag. Marinate for 1 hour. The beef should still be quite moist after it has marinated.

Next, dredge the marinated beef in the remaining 1/4 cup cornstarch until lightly coated.

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and hot water until the sugar is dissolved. Mix in 1/4 cup soy sauce. If you don't have low sodium soy sauce, substitute 2 1/2 tsp. of regular soy sauce and 1 1/2 Tbsp. water.

Heat 1/3 cup vegetable oil in a wok or large skillet over high heat. Just before the oil starts to smoke, spread the meat pieces

evenly in the pan, and sear for 1 minute (depending upon the heat of your pan). Turn the meat over and let the other side sear for another 30 seconds. Remove to paper towel to drain. Repeat with the rest of the meat.

Drain the oil from the pan, leaving 1 tablespoon behind, and turn the heat to medium-high. Add the ginger and dried chili peppers, if using, stirring. After about 15 seconds, add the garlic. Stir for another 10 seconds and add the premixed sauce.

Let the sauce simmer for about 2 minutes and slowly stir in the cornstarch slurry mixture. Cook until the sauce has thick-

## Jon's rating



3 1/2 cowboy hats out of 4  
ened enough to coat the back of a spoon.

Add the beef and toss everything together for another 30 seconds. There should be almost no liquid, as the sauce should be clinging to the beef. If you still have sauce, increase the heat slightly and stir until thickened. Plate and serve with steamed rice

I added shoestring carrots and broccoli to add color to the dish. Savannah's Farm Fresh has a recipe for freeze this meal prior to cooking.

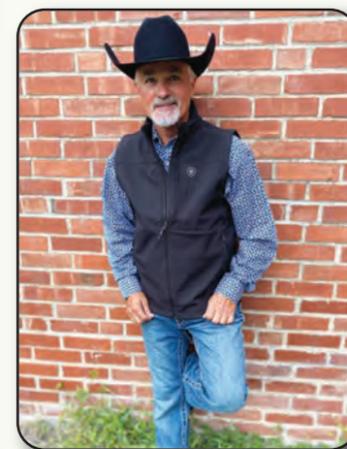
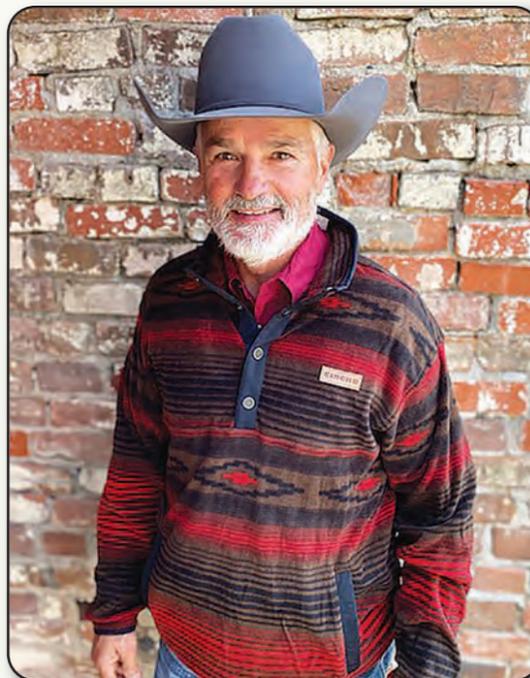


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# Here are the top three reasons for the broken beef market

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

America's beef market is so broken it's sinister. If you're a mom or dad trying to buy high quality American-born and -raised beef for your family, you should be outraged!

Because here's what's going on in your beef market:

The globalist, transnational beef packers claim there's a shortage of beef in the U.S. market and that has driven the price of beef skyward. Consumers have witnessed year-over-year beef price increases for more than five years, and this year will likely set a new record...with the all-fresh beef prices averaging well north of \$7 per pound.

Meanwhile, the packers have been boasting of record U.S. beef exports for the past several years, with last year's exports exceeding the previous all-time high set just back in 2018.

So this means that rather than ensure that American families have an abundant supply of affordable beef, the globalist, transnational beef packers are instead shipping more and more beef abroad, to whichever foreign country will return the greatest profits.

But that's not all.

While these globalist beef packers are shipping more and more high quality, American raised beef abroad, and advertising those exports as "US Beef" using the American cattle producers' beef checkoff program to do so, which of course worsens the already short supply of beef in the U.S. market, they're also import-

ing near record volumes of cheaper, and mostly lower-quality beef from abroad.

And, as everyone knows by now, those cheaper, mostly lower-quality imports can be labeled as "USA Beef" in your grocery store in an attempt to make you believe that the higher-priced beef can at least be justified on the basis that those higher prices are helping to support American cattle farmers and ranchers.

What a hoax! The American cattle farmer and rancher has been receiving the lowest share of every dollar that you, the consumer, spend on beef than ever before.

So, again, you, the consumer, should be outraged! But you may be asking how can this happen? How can a handful of globalists be allowed to continuously hollow out our rural communities and threaten our nation's food security by brazenly exploiting consumers on one end of the beef supply chain and cattle farmers and ranchers on the other?

Well...the buck stops with Congress. Congress sees nothing wrong with you paying all-time record prices for beef; with cattle farmers and ranchers being squeezed to the point of economic failure, and with a handful of globalists cashing in on record profits.

Let's look at the top 3 reasons that you, the consumer, and you, the cattle farmer and rancher, are being treated like pawns in America.

The first reason: Congress won't force the globalist beef packers to accurately label the beef in your grocery store with its

country of origin. Congress refuses to let you know where your beef was born, raised, and slaughtered.

The second reason: Congress won't force the globalist beef packers to compete for the available supply of cattle in America. Congress sits on its hands while packers have all but destroyed the competitive cash market that sets the price of slaughter-ready cattle sold by American cattle farmers and ranchers.

And the third reason: Congress won't stop the globalist beef packers from continually deploying their competition-destroying instruments of cattle procurement in America's cattle markets. These instruments include forward contracts that require cattle farmers and ranchers to commit cattle to a packer without even knowing what the price will be when the cattle are delivered. These instruments also include preferential compensation made to the globalists beef packers' preferred cattle suppliers, ensuring that they remain profitable while family-sized cattle suppliers drop from the industry like flies. Economist Robert Taylor explained that these preferential or sweat-heart deals are in the form of bonuses, financing and risk-sharing agreements.

So there they are...the top three reasons that you the consumer and you the cattle farmer and rancher are being exploited for the benefit of a handful of globalist, transnational beef packers and their handful of friends.

You don't know where your beef comes from.

The globalist beef packers

don't have to compete for cattle in the competitive marketplace.

And, the globalist beef packers are allowed to use competition-destroying purchasing practices for the vast majority of slaughter-ready cattle they extract from American cattle farmers and ranchers.

Congress can fix these three things, but first Congress will have to be made to believe that

the millions of you are more important than the handful of globalist, transnational beef packers.

You can help us make that happen. Go to [labelourbeef.com](http://labelourbeef.com) and follow the suggestions as to how you can put an end to this exploitation. We need your help, so please join with us to restore competition in your U.S. beef market.

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## Supermarket giants in talks to merge: reports

Supermarket chain giants Kroger and Albertsons are in talks to merge, according to a reports by CNBC and Bloomberg.

Kroger, the largest supermarket operator in the U.S., could announce an acquisition of Albertsons as early as Friday, according to the report.

Cincinnati-based Kroger owns some 2,800 stores in 35 states,

employing 420,000 people. Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons has more than 2,200 stores in 34 states and Washington D.C., with 290,000 employees.

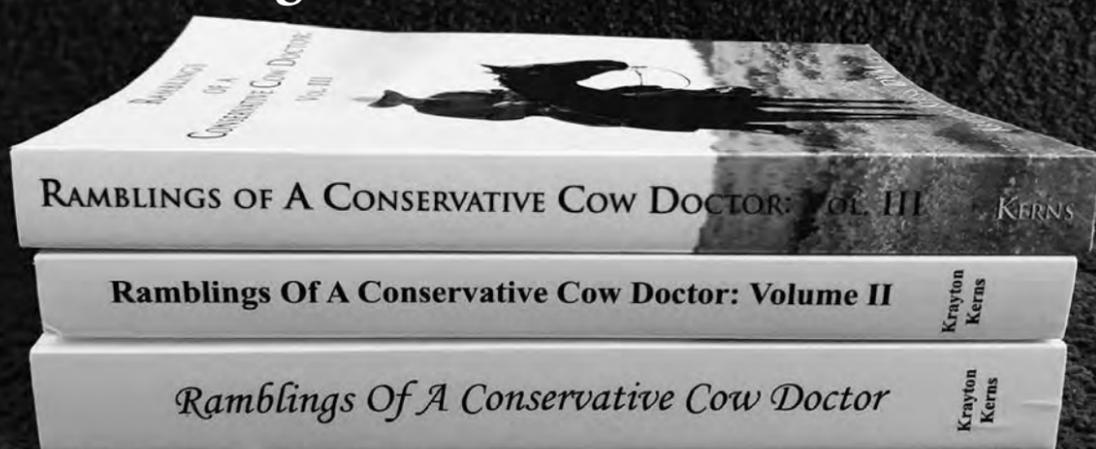
The two companies have a combined market value of about \$50 billion.

Traditional supermarkets — as opposed to other types of retail such as supercenters and ware-

house clubs — still are consumers' first choice for buying meat, although their portion of the market has been sliding for years. According to the 2022 Power of Meat study, 48% of consumers said supermarkets were their go-to option for buying meat products at retail, down from 57% of consumers in 2018.

— [Meatingplace.com](http://Meatingplace.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, October 7, 2022**  
**Receipts: 606 Week ago: 794 Year ago: 1,515**

Compared to last week, a light offering of mostly small packages of unweaned/short weaned calves in the offering had few good comparisons. Slaughter cows sold 2.00-4.00 lower.

**Feeder Steers:** Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg unweaned 402 lbs 190.00, 480-500 lbs unweaned 178.00-185.50; pkg 538 lbs unweaned 168.00, 550-600 lbs unweaned 150.00-158.00; few 600-700 lbs 152.00-159.00.

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 419 lbs unweaned 165.00, pkg 450 lbs 173.00, unweaned 450-500 lbs 154.00-160.50; few 600-660 lbs 142.00-152.50; few 700-800 lbs 138.00-149.00.

**Feeder Bulls:** Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 445 lbs 172.00; 500-550 lbs 158.00-165.50, pkg unweaned 592 lbs 144.00; few 615-650 lbs 145.50-150.00.

Medium and Large 2 - pkg 498 lbs 146.00; pkg 520 lbs 130.00; pkg 608 lbs 140.00.

**Slaughter Cows:** Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 81.50-83.50; and low dressing, 75.00-76.00. Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 75.50-81.50; high dressing, 86.00-91.50; and low dressing, 65.00-73.50.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 71.00-81.50; high dressing, 83.50-87.50; and low dressing, 62.00-67.00. Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 70.00-77.00; and low dressing, 57.50-66.50. Shelly 45.00-55.00.

**Slaughter Bulls:** Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2200 lbs, 104.00-113.00; 90.00-98.00.

**Slaughter Steers and Heifers:** (55 hd) Choice 2-3 - 1150-1350 lbs, 144.00-148.50; Pkg Choice-Prime 2-3 - 1398 lbs, 151.00; Select 1-2 - Pkg 1235 lbs, 142.00.

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 10-7-22 FEMALES**

7 Mix	450	173.00	\$779	NEW LONDON,MO
5 Blk	453	160.00	\$725	SILEX,MO
5 Blk	487	160.50	\$782	NEW LONDON,MO
9 Blk	496	154.00	\$763	HANNIBAL,MO
8 Mix	661	152.00	\$1005	MEXICO,MO

**MALES**

6 Blk	402	190.00	\$763	NEW LONDON,MO
7 Blk	444	172.00	\$764	MEXICO,MO
5 Mix	480	185.50	\$890	NEW LONDON,MO
6 Red	498	146.00	\$728	PEARL,IL
6 Blk	563	158.00	\$890	NEW LONDON,MO
8 Blk	592	144.00	\$852	HANNIBAL,MO
6 Mix	608	140.00	\$852	PEARL,IL
5 Blk	693	152.50	\$1057	TROY,MO

**Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green Market Report for Friday, October 14, 2022**  
**Receipts: 1,636 Week ago: 606 Year ago: 804**

Compared to the last special two weeks ago, 400-500 lb steer calves sold mostly steady, with 500-650 lbs selling 5.00-10.00 lower and over 650 lbs not tested. Feeder heifers on a light test weighing under 600 lbs sold with a lower undertone, over 600 lbs on a light test traded steady to firm. Slaughter cows- high dressing cows traded mostly steady with the bulk average to low dressing cows selling 2.00-4.00 lower. A nice quality offering of steer calves weighing 400-650 lbs sold with good demand, despite 5 weight steers backing off from their lofty prices remain in good demand on the long timed weaned calves with vaccination shots. A good quality offering of a pot load of 810 lb heifers and several consignments of 550-750 lb heifers sold with good demand.

**Feeder Steers:** Medium and Large 1 - 400-450 lbs 210.00-222.00, 450-500 lbs 203.00-215.50; 500-550 lbs 200.00-211.25, 550-600 lbs 192.00-200.50; 600-650 lbs 184.00-194.00, 650-700 lbs 191.00-192.50, pkg 700 lbs 188.00, 750-800 lbs 175.00-182.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 377 lbs 200.00; 450-500 lbs 188.00-195.00; 500-600 lbs 178.50-195.00, unweaned 165.00-170.00; 600-700 lbs 168.00-181.00; 700-750 lbs 165.00-177.00; pkg 850 lbs 165.00; 915-955 lbs 146.00-156.00.

Medium and Large 2 - Pkg 575 lbs 164.50; 600-625 lbs 164.00-165.00; 650-700 lbs 150.00-152.00.

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium and Large 1 - Pkg 440 lbs 180.00, pkg unweaned 460 lbs 160.00; 500-600 lbs 166.50-177.00; lot 618 lbs 177.25; lot 740 lbs 167.50; pot load 812 lbs 168.00, pkg 857 lbs 157.50; part load 930 lbs 146.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 350-400 lbs 177.00-188.00; 450-500 lbs 165.00-172.00; 500-600 lbs 157.00-167.50, unweaned 144.00-151.00; 600-700 lbs 156.00-159.50; 700-775 lbs 156.00-163.00; pkg 895 lbs 147.50.

Medium and Large 2 - 400-420 lbs 159.00-160.00; 500-550 lbs 152.00-155.50; 700-750 lbs 140.00-153.00.

**Feeder Bulls:** Medium and Large 1 - Pkg 375 lbs 221.00; 415-430 lbs 203.50-204.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 298 lbs 202.50; 450-500 lbs 175.00-189.00; 500-550 lbs 165.00-176.00; pkg 626 lbs

135.50.

Medium and large 1-2 - Pkg 415 lbs 197.00; 500-600 lbs 174.00-181.00; lot 696 lbs 165.50.

**Slaughter Cows:** Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 80.00-84.00; high dressing, 86.50-90.00, and low dressing, 74.00-76.00.

Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 75.50-82.50; high dressing, 84.00-90.50; and low dressing, 64.00-70.00.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 71.00-80.00; high dressing, 86.50; and low dressing, 62.00-70.00.

Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 67.00-72.00; high dressing, 77.00; and low dressing, 57.50-66.50. Shelly 45.00-54.00.

**Slaughter Bulls:** Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2200 lbs, 103.00-111.00; 115.00-126.00; 90.00-98.00.

**Slaughter Steers and Heifers:** (12 hd) Choice 2-3 - Few 1125-1285 lbs, 147.50 -149.00.

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 10-14-22 FEMALES**

7 Mix	394	177.00	\$698	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	478	171.00	\$817	ELSBERRY,MO
6 Mix	480	165.50	\$794	NEBO,IL
6 Blk	496	167.00	\$828	EOLIA,MO
14 Mix	509	159.50	\$812	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Blk	516	144.00	\$743	GREENFIELD,IL
10 Mix	526	167.50	\$881	RHINELAND,MO
6 Blk	527	177.00	\$932	ROCHEPORT,MO
5 Blk	532	151.00	\$803	ROCHESTER,IL
8 Blk	534	165.00	\$882	HERMANN,MO
9 Blk	543	160.00	\$868	MOBERLY,MO
5 Blk	543	157.00	\$853	CURRYVILLE,MO
6 Blk	554	172.00	\$953	SALEM,IL
30 Blk	557	175.00	\$974	ROCHEPORT,MO
14 Blk	561	146.00	\$820	GREENFIELD,IL
5 Blk	578	166.50	\$962	RHINELAND,MO
5 Mix	587	169.00	\$992	HERMANN,MO
5 Blk	591	161.00	\$952	BOWLING GREEN,MO
15 Blk	618	177.25	\$1096	WASHINGTON,MO
7 Mix	639	165.00	\$1054	HERMANN,MO
5 Gray	675	153.50	\$1036	BOWLING GREEN,MO
16 Blk	741	167.50	\$1241	SILEX,MO
6 BWF	746	160.00	\$1193	IUKA,IL
5 Blk	776	156.00	\$1211	SALEM,IL
67 Blk	812	168.00	\$1365	MAYWOOD,MO
6 Mix	857	157.50	\$1349	ROODHOUSE,IL
5 Blk	894	147.50	\$1319	GREENFIELD,IL
23 Blk	930	149.50	\$1390	MAYWOOD,MO

**MALES**

5 Mix	219	202.50	\$443	JERSEYVILLE,IL
9 Mix	298	211.00	\$629	JERSEYVILLE,IL
7 Blk	375	221.00	\$829	BLUFFS,IL
5 Mix	419	160.00	\$670	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Mix	426	204.50	\$871	WINCHESTER,IL
5 Blk	428	203.50	\$871	BLUFFS,IL
6 Blk	463	160.00	\$740	NEW HARTFORD,MO
13 Blk	464	215.50	\$1000	ELSBERRY,MO
7 Blk	479	188.00	\$901	BOWLING GREEN,MO
8 Mix	484	206.00	\$997	RHINELAND,MO
5 Blk	485	203.00	\$985	NEW LONDON,MO
17 Blk	488	210.00	\$1024	MIDDLETOWN,MO
9 Mix	511	178.50	\$911	BOWLING GREEN,MO
6 Blk	513	176.50	\$906	MARTHASVILLE,MO
18 Blk	519	211.25	\$1097	ELSBERRY,MO
8 Blk	524	173.00	\$907	NEBO,IL
10 Blk	542	170.00	\$921	NEW HARTFORD,MO
15 Blk	542	205.50	\$1114	ROCHEPORT,MO
6 Mix	543	194.00	\$1054	HERMANN,MO
15 Blk	556	200.50	\$1115	BOWLING GREEN,MO
8 Blk	557	185.00	\$1030	GREENFIELD,IL
16 Blk	559	200.00	\$1119	MIDDLETOWN,MO
7 Blk	573	192.00	\$1100	MOBERLY,MO
10 Mix	573	194.50	\$1114	HERMANN,MO
9 Mix	579	199.00	\$1152	EOLIA,MO
28 Mix	580	183.50	\$1065	BOWLING GREEN,MO
18 Mix	582	199.25	\$1159	HERMANN,MO
15 Mix	584	187.00	\$1091	HERMANN,MO
14 Mix	586	195.50	\$1145	RHINELAND,MO
6 Blk	587	170.00	\$997	NEW LONDON,MO
8 Mix	600	165.00	\$990	HERMANN,MO
5 Blk	605	185.00	\$1119	VIRGINIA,IL
6 Blk	626	135.50	\$848	NEBO,IL
5 Blk	628	168.00	\$1055	BOWLING GREEN,MO
23 Blk	635	186.00	\$1181	GREENFIELD,IL
5 Blk	650	180.00	\$1170	LOUISIANA,MO
7 Red	658	150.00	\$987	VIRGINIA,IL
19 Blk	663	192.50	\$1277	BOWLING GREEN,MO
5 Mix	668	152.00	\$1015	TIMEWELL,IL
9 Mix	697	178.50	\$1245	HERMANN,MO
5 Mix	701	188.00	\$1318	SILEX,MO
5 Blk	732	177.50	\$1299	DONGOLA,IL
27 Blk	757	182.25	\$1379	BOWLING GREEN,MO
58 Mix	798	175.00	\$1396	UNION,MO
5 Blk	915	156.00	\$1427	HUNNEWELL,MO
5 Blk	954	146.50	\$1398	CLARK,MO

**Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green Market Report for Friday, October 21, 2022**  
**Receipts: 1,014 Week ago: 1,636 Year ago: 1,345**

Friday's auction was a Special Bred Cow and Pairs sale with several consignments of 4-7 year old pairs with 150-300 lb calves sold with moderate demand as overall quality was average. A large offering of slaughter cows sold 2.00-4.00 lower. Feeder cattle were very lightly tested with sales mostly small packages and singles. Cattle on Feed report was issued Friday afternoon with On Feed coming in at 99 percent, Placements at 96.2 percent and Marketings at 104 percent all with in the average guess.

**Feeder Steers:** Medium and Large 1-2 - 450-500 lbs 167.00-172.00; 550-600 lbs 170.00-171.00; pkg 670 lbs 170.50; pkg 838 lbs 153.00; pkg 980 lbs 134.00.

Medium and Large 2 - 450-500 lbs 158.00-166.00; pkg 548 lbs 160.00.

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium and Large 1 - Pkg 510 lbs 180.00. Medium and Large 1-2 - Pkg 390 lbs 169.00; pkg unweaned 435 lbs 155.00, pkg 438 lbs 176.00, 450-500 lbs unweaned 155.00-159.00; 500-550 lbs 154.00-160.00; pkg 628 lbs 164.00; pkg 770 lbs 156.00.

**Feeder Bulls:** Medium and Large 1-2 - 600-700 lbs 130.00-139.00.

**Replacement Cows:** Pairs - Medium and Large 1-2 - 4-7 yrs 1100-1400 lbs w/150-300 lb calves 1400.00-1660.00; 7 yrs to short solid mouth 1150-1300 lbs w/150-250 lb calves 1130.00-1400.00; Aged/Broken Mouth - 1050-1100 lbs w/150-200 lb calves 1080.00-1090.00. Bred Cows - Medium and Large 1-2 - 4-6 yrs 1175-1250 lbs 2nd-3rd stage 1090.00-1280.00; Medium and Large 2 4-6 yrs 1150-1275 lbs 2nd-3rd stage 910.00-1100.00.

**Slaughter Cows:** Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 78.50-83.50; and high dressing, 89.50-95.50. Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 71.00-78.50; high dressing, 82.50-89.50; and low dressing, 67.00-70.00.

Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 70.00-78.00; high dressing, 79.50-84.00; and low dressing, 61.00-68.00. Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 65.00-72.50; high dressing, 74.00-77.00; and low dressing, 57.50-65.00. Shelly 42.00-53.00.

**Slaughter Bulls:** Yield Grade 1-2 - 1300-2200 lbs, 101.00-110.00; 90.00-96.00.

**Slaughter Steers and Heifers:** (30 hd) Choice and Select 1-3 - Few 1125-15505 lbs, 144.00-148.00; Select 1-2 - 1150-1300 lbs, 137.00-142.00.

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

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 10-21-22 FEMALES**

8 Mix	509	150.00	\$764	LADDONIA,MO
5 Blk	742	150.00	\$1113	ROCKBRIDGE,IL

**MALES**

5 Mix	455	166.00	\$755	LADDONIA,MO
5 Blk	469	167.00	\$783	BOONVILLE,MO
5 Blk	478	157.00	\$750	LOUISIANA,MO
5 Mix	483	158.00	\$763	LADDONIA,MO
6 Mix	498	170.00	\$847	CLAYTON,MO
7 Mix	556	170.50	\$949	LADDONIA,MO

**Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green Market Report for Friday, October 28, 2022**  
**Receipts: 1,533 Week ago: 1,014 Year ago: 602**

Compared to the last special two weeks ago, steer calves weighing 400-600 lbs sold steady to firm, with spots 3.00 higher on the 500-550 lb steers, 600-750 lbs sold 3.00-5.00 lower with weights over 750 lbs scarce. Feeder heifers weighing 400-500 lbs sold with a higher undertone on a light offering, with 500-700 lbs trading with a lower undertone on a light test, a good offering of good quality 8 weight heifers traded with a firm undertone. Slaughter cows sold steady to 3.00 lower. A good quality offering of steer calves weighing 400-600 lbs sold with good demand as did the 8 weight heifers.

**Feeder Steers:** Medium and Large 1 - 350-400 lbs 216.00-226.00; 400-450 lbs 209.00-226.00, 450-500 lbs 207.00-215.00; 500-550 lbs 203.00-214.00, 550-600 lbs 190.50-205.00; 600-650 lbs 179.00-191.00, pkg fancy 601 lbs 199.50, 650-700 lbs 177.00-185.50; 700-750 lbs 176.00-182.00, lot fleshy 733 lbs 170.50.

Medium and Large 1-2 - 400-500 lbs 190.00-200.00; 500-600 lbs 170.00-185.00; 600-700 lbs 170.00-173.50; 700-800 lbs 169.00-172.50; 800-820 lbs 173.00-174.50, pkg 895 lbs 149.50.

Medium and Large 2 - 350-400 lbs 160.00-165.00; pkg 480 lbs 181.00; pkg 740 lbs 162.50.

**Feeder Heifers:** Medium and Large 1 - 400-450 lbs 182.00-191.00, 450-500 lbs 177.00-188.00; 500-550 lbs 171.00-175.00, 550-600 lbs 162.50-165.00; 600-700 lbs 162.50-165.00; 800-820 lbs 166.50-169.00, pot load 863 lbs 163.25, part load 858 lbs 160.50.

See EMCC MARKET REPORTS, page 19



# Washington state settles with Tyson Foods in price-fixing suit

Tyson Foods Inc. is now the third company to pay the State of Washington to resolve a lawsuit filed in connection with the lengthy price-fixing lawsuit over allegations of rigged prices paid to local poultry growers for decades.

Tyson will pay \$10.5 million to end a separate lawsuit filed by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson that accused the nation's largest chicken producer of colluding with 18 other chicken companies to drive up the price of

chicken since at least 2008. Ferguson filed the lawsuit — which claimed “the conspiracy” harmed about 7 million state residents connected to the industry — in King County Superior Court in October 2021, according to a news release

from the attorney general's office.

The agreement also calls for Tyson to help Ferguson's office uncover additional information and documentation relevant to case that the office filed against 16 other companies over the same allegations, the statement added. Mar-Jac Poultry agreed

to pay \$725,000 to the state to close the price-fixing charges in May and Fieldale Farms Corp. reached a \$475,000 resolution with Ferguson's office in August. The Tyson payment brings the total payments so far this year to \$11.7 million, the statement added.

— Meatingplace.com

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**Classified ads must be received by the 25th of the month for the next month's issue.**

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# Livestock News & Notes.....

## Tyson reorganization effort sparks backlash from local leaders

News in October that Tyson Foods Inc. is closing three regional offices and moving about 1,000 employees to its Springdale, Ark., campus is being met with criticism from local political leaders whose cities will be affected by the OneTyson effort.

Sioux City, Iowa, Mayor Bob Scott noted at this week's City Council meeting that the move will affect more than Dakota Dunes, S.D., as more than 500 of Tyson's corporate employees there shift to Arkansas.

"Iowa is going to be affected, Nebraska is going to be affected; those employees live and work in all the different communities," Scott said during the session. "Those jobs are vitally important to us, those employees do a lot of things to make our community better and they're going to be really difficult to replace," he added in a comment near the end of the meeting.

Mayor Scott's statement partially echoed one issued by South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem when the announcement was released. "We were disappointed to learn about this news Wednesday, but we will continue to work with Tyson on the jobs that remain in South Dakota and on future opportunities," she said in a statement.

Local political leaders in Chicago and Downers Grove, Ill., have yet to make public statements on OneTyson, although Tyson is the sixth company in 2022 to announce its intentions to leave Illinois. A Tyson spokesman told Bloomberg that the decision to move about 500 corporate employees from the Chicago area next year was based on consolidation of its team members and was not related to crime rates or high taxes.

"Bringing our talented corporate team members and businesses together under one roof unlocks greater opportunities to share perspectives and idea, while also enabling us to act quickly to solve problems and provide the innovative products solutions that our customers deserve and value," Tyson President and CEO Donnie King said when the moves were announced.

## Labor Dept. nixes processor's appeal for temporary foreign workers

The U.S. Department of Labor's Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals has again denied a meat processor's application for temporary foreign workers.

The processor, Nicholas Meat of Loganton, Pa., submitted its application on July 8. It sought to hire 100 workers from Oct. 1 through June 30, 2023 via the H-2B program, which permits employers to hire foreign workers to perform temporary non-agricultural work within the U.S.

In its application, Nicholas Meat "explained that it employs permanent workers in this position, but that COVID-19 resulted in losing several of its workers which created a demand to supplement its staff," the Labor Department said. "Further, Employer (sic) stated that this position is short term, and the workers will not become part of its permanent staff."

After an initial denial and appeal, however, the department has rejected Nicholas Meat's request because it did not "establish the job opportunity as temporary in nature," and it did not show an actual need for 100 additional temporary workers, given the business' demand from Oct. 1 through June 30, 2023.

Nicholas Meat provided the following statement to Meatingplace: "Nicholas Meat, at the direction of a third-party hiring agency, applied for an H-2B visa program to help secure additional employees needed at the plant. However, what we learned through the process is that this program does not fit our needs – it is for seasonal work. Yes, our application was denied because we need employees year-round, not just for a one-time occurrence. It's the wrong program for our employment needs."

A request earlier this year from House of Raeford, which sought to hire 120 temporary foreign workers for meat cutting from April 4 until Dec. 31, was also rejected on appeal.

## NCBA bashes Google's new sustainability search feature

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is up in arms about a new sustainability search feature being offered by Google, saying the company is offering "inaccurate climate information on cattle production" to bias people against eating meat.

The company should "consider the science of beef production before making this new feature widely available," NCBA said in a news release.

Asked to clarify how the company was misrepresenting facts in its new feature, an NCBA spokesperson told Meatingplace in an emailed statement that Google had not provided detailed information on the data the Interget giant is using for determining emission levels.

"We would expect Google to rely on a data source like FAO STAT from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, however FAO STAT level out critical data like emissions from manufacturing and processing, thus creating an incomplete representation of the emissions from various foods. Many of the foods Google used as an example of 'more sustainable,' like tofu or pasta, are highly processed products and their true emissions value would be higher than what FAO STAT reports," the spokesperson stated.

Google did not respond to a request for comment on NCBA's

claim that it was ignoring science that shows "beef's sustainability and value to the environment."

"When people come to Google Search with questions about climate change, we'll show authoritative information from sources like the United Nations, in addition to existing news sources that we currently raise up in the carousel," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said in a blog post focusing on the ability to see the environmental impact of choices, including food.

## JBS shuttering plant-based Planterra business

JBS USA is shutting down its plant-based business Planterra, according to a report from the Denver Business Journal.

The closure will affect 121 workers in the Denver area. Workers at Planterra's Lafayette HQ were sent home midweek, and JBS will shut down the recently built Planterra manufacturing plant in Denver by mid-December.

On Friday, Planterra filed a shutdown notice with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. JBS will help workers find jobs elsewhere in the company, and is also offering severance/unemployment benefit access.

Planterra launched in 2019, and produced the Ozo line of plant-based burgers, cutlets, and ground products. Its CEO was Darcy Macken, who previously worked with Noosa yogurt.

In a statement to Meatingplace, JBS USA's Nikki Richardson said: "We continue to believe in the potential of plant-based options for consumers and remain committed to the alternative protein market. JBS will focus its efforts on its plant-based operations in Brazil and Europe, which continue to gain market share and expand their respective customer bases."

Parent company JBS SA has invested in plant-based protein lines from Brazilian meat company Seara and Dutch company Vivera (which it spent \$400 million to acquire in 2021).

## Major to be featured equine expert at Missouri Livestock Symposium

**KIRKSVILLE, Mo.** – Horse owners will learn health care, behavior and tack tips at the Missouri Livestock Symposium, December 2 and 3 in Kirksville, MO.

Nationally known trainer Mike Major headlines the Equine speaker section this year with 3 talks aimed at making better and safer horse owners. His three talks include, "Colt Starting: Mindset and Preparation," "Preparing a Horse for Their Purpose with Proper Riding Techniques" and "Tack Selection, Bridles, Bits and More."

Zac Erwin, MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock and Symposium vice-chairman, describes Mike as a modern-day cowboy with decades of experience both in and out of the arena. Erwin continues, "The Symposium committee is excited to bring Mike to Kirksville in December. He has a practical approach to training horses; this is a huge opportunity for local horse enthusiasts to interact with someone that has amassed a lifetime of knowledge."

Mike Major has bred and trained horses at the highest level and has a successful showing career in multiple disciplines. Mike was also one of four selected to compete in the 2022 "Road to the Horse" competition.

Lynn Martin, DVM with the University of Missouri Veterinary School, will provide two talks, "Setting up Your Pregnant Mare (and future foal) for Success" and "Common Equine Eye Conditions: Let's Take a Look at Your Horse's Eyes."

According to Erwin, Dr. Martin is highly a highly sought-after equine speaker and we are thrilled to have her in Kirksville.

Concurrent sessions on Saturday by national leaders will also cover beef cattle, sheep, meat goats, forages, stock dogs, horticulture, farm management and more, Erwin says.

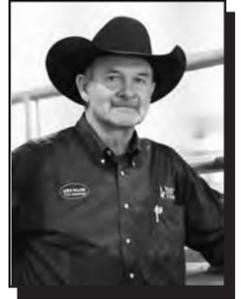
The Livestock Symposium opens at 4:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2 with a trade show. Following a free beef supper at 6 pm, our evening program begins at 7 pm with keynote speaker Diana Rodgers, a "real food" nutritionist and sustainability advocate from near Boston, Massachusetts.

Saturday, December 3 the trade show opens at 8:00 a.m. with educational sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. A free luncheon begins at noon. All are at the Matthew Middle School, 1515, S Cottage Grove, Kirksville.

Meals for this event are sponsored by Missouri commodity groups. A volunteer symposium committee organizes the event.

Program is free in large part to the Platinum level sponsors University of Missouri Extension, Sullivan Auctioneers, LLC, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council, FCS Financial, KTVO Studios, and the Missouri Beef Industry Council.

For details visit our webpage at [missourilivestock.com](http://missourilivestock.com) or call the Adair County Extension Center at 660-665-9866.



Mike Major

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# Laugh Tracks in the Dust.....

## Expensive Good Samaritanism

By MILO YIELD  
Special to The Advocate

I learned the hard way last week that being a Good Samaritan can turn out to be expensive. Here's what happened:

On the day before a forecasted crop-killing freeze, I picked about two bushels of green tomatoes off of my plants with intentions of giving them away to my neighbor who wanted them for making a lot of green-tomato salsa and relish.

Before I gave them away, I wanted to sort off a batch of the ripest and keep them for ourselves — an end-of-gardening-season tomato bonus. So, I sat a bushel of 'maters on a working table in our garage. Before I started the sorting work, I laid my glasses on the table because I don't need glasses for such close-up work.

After I finished sorting off our tomatoes, I started to set what was left of the bushel back on the floor. Alas, inadvertently, in the process I knocked my glasses off the table and onto the floor and, as Murphy's Law would dictate, I planted one foot squarely on the wire-framed glasses — smashing them flat, popping one of the lenses 15 feet away on the garage floor, and twisting the wire frames.

I invented some new words as I searched for the popped-out lens. After a minute or so, I found the lens and had a chance to fully assess the damage done to the glasses. Luckily, I wuz wearing my old "work" glasses, not by best ones. I decided to try to self-repair them.

First, with small needle-nosed pliers, I somewhat straighten out the wire frame. Then I struggled, but finally managed, to snap the lens back in place. I kept working at the ear-pieces, and the nose-bridges, and eventually had the glasses back into what resembled a normal shape — except they didn't fit right.

That's when I knew ordering new glasses wuz gonna be a necessity.

So, that afternoon, I made a trip to my optometrist, ol' T. Ryan Fittum, and ordered a new pair of glasses. And for good measure, I ordered a twin pair of prescription sun glasses, because Ryan had a special if I ordered two pair of glasses at once.

Before I left, my Good Samaritan deed cost me around \$350. But, looking on the bright side, I now have a new pair of driving glasses and a new pair of sunglasses. I also have two pair of "working" glasses and my old sunglasses. Plus as bonus, before I left, Doc Ryan, voluntarily repaired my "squashed" glasses back into usable shape. All in all, I'm "glasses rich" at present.

Since the frost I've noticed a succession of trees lose their leaves. This fall the drought squelched most of the fall color,

but we've had a little. It's interesting that the ash trees lost all their leaves the day of the frost, followed the next day by the hackberry, walnut, red bud, locust, and hawthorn trees. As I write this column, the maples, hedge, mulberry, Chinese elms, apples, cherry and apricot have lost probably half of their leaves. The pin oaks, the burr oaks, and the (I think) lone red oak are still hanging tight to their leaves. If it's like most years, the pin oaks won't drop most of their leaves until spring.

I see protesters around the globe are still screaming for the "end of oil." They are demanding that all oil drilling stop to save the planet. I even saw one bunch of zealots had glued their idealistic butts to the pavement in protest.

That got me to thinking of a world without oil. A simple

Google search revealed that 8-10% of all the oil consumed in the U.S. is used for plastics manufacturing. I assume it's the same everywhere in the industrialized world.

In the future, do the "no-oil greenies" want to live their pampered lives with no plastic? That means a life without plastic containers, plastic wrap, plastics in furniture, flooring, windows, roofing, street coverings, clothing, and even vehicles. The list is endless and probably includes glue. Hope they like cotton and wool.

I found that, assuming that an average car weighs 1,300 kg and that plastics content represents 12-15% of its mass (50% of car volume), this amounts to 150-200 kg of plastic per vehicle, and this is expected to increase in the coming years due to a growing demand from the market for high-performance, lightweight

and better fuel-efficiency. Say goodbye to all of that.

And, just think of how much heavier vehicles will be -- electric or not -- with no plastics. All those millions of tons of extra metal rolling down the "no-oil" gravel roads are going to require more electricity generation.

If I recall correctly, not all that long ago, it was similar "save the forest" protesters demanding we all switch from paper grocery bags to plastic grocery bags to save the trees.

I don't have anything against protesting. It's the American way. But, I'd suggest a little critical thinking would be helpful before hitting the streets.

Sadly, I report that passing of another American rock & roll music icon. I learned that "The Killer" — Jerry Lee Lewis — hit the final note of his 87-year life this week. What I hadn't realized is that Jerry Lee wuz inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame just recently — deservedly so.

Back in my teens, I sweat a lot and had a ton of fun on the dance floor dancing to the music of Jerry Lee Lewis. He was one of a kind. RIP.

Words of wisdom for the week: "Turn the music up so loud you can feel it in your bones." Have a good 'un..

**Do you know of someone who would make a great story for The Cattleman's Advocate? Email us at: [cattlemans@virtualimages.us](mailto:cattlemans@virtualimages.us)**

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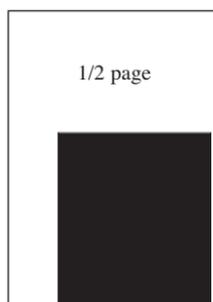
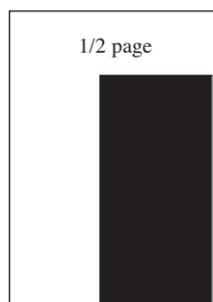
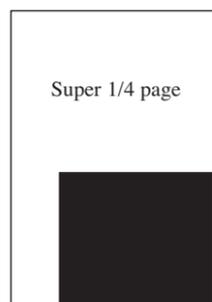
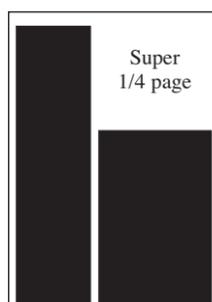
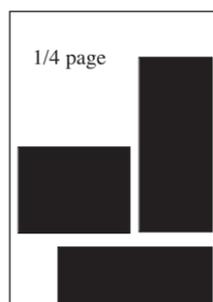
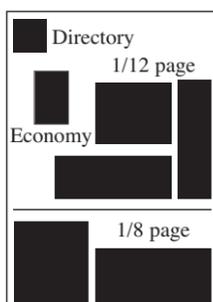
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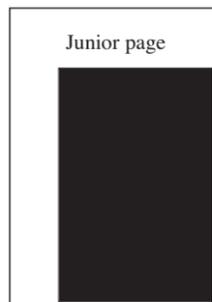
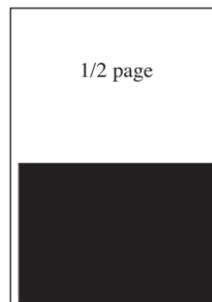
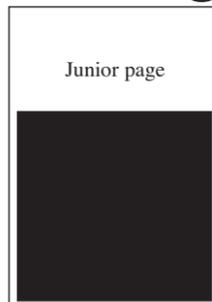
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# Livestock News & Notes.....

## Appeals court revives Tyson workers' COVID-19 suit

A lawsuit by workers accusing Tyson Foods of failing to take protective measures against COVID-19 at the company's Amarillo, Texas, plant has been returned to a federal district court for further proceedings.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on Monday vacated the district court's orders dismissing the workers' claims and denying a remand to state court. The case was sent back to federal court in the Northern District of Texas.

The plaintiffs, 41 Tyson employees, originally sued the company in 2020 in Texas state court. Tyson succeeded in having the case moved to federal district court, which ultimately granted its motion to dismiss the workers' complaint, concluding that the company was acting under USDA's direction to guarantee an adequate food supply.

The appeals court, in its decision to vacate the district court's orders, disagreed with that conclusion. The appellate judges said the court already addressed the question of whether Tyson was acting under direction of the federal government, in a ruling in a separate case involving keeping its poultry plants open during the early months of the pandemic.

"We concluded that Tyson was not acting under direction of the federal government and that federal officer removal jurisdiction thus did not exist over claims materially identical to those at issue here," the appeals court said. "We reasoned that although the food industry was designated as 'critical infrastructure,' the federal government's guidance to critical infrastructure industries was non-binding."

The appeals court also instructed the district court to address the question of federal jurisdiction.

## Renaissance man: An interview with Manny Encinias

Dr. Manny Encinias educates a wide variety of audiences. But be they fellow cattle producers in New Mexico, his students at Mesalands Community College, or one of the many indigenous tribes he consults across the country, he is consistent with his messaging.

"We say, 'You know what? Don't hire somebody from the outside to do this for you. You have those skill sets,'" Encinias says. "You know this already; you know a lot of it."

Those concepts of local power, local resources, and inter-community knowledge are embedded in Encinias' own business. Part of a multi-generational ranching family in the Land of Enchantment, Encinias oversees a cattle operation that stretches across four counties, and over the decades, he has expanded and refined his business with ambition and dedication. Whether it be improving soil

health, collecting data on water use to manage droughts, or forging a new private enterprise with fellow producers to better control costs, Encinias has been nothing if not visionary. And those innovations allowed him to not only adapt to the market disruptions of 2020, but also thrive despite them.

Case in point: While widespread plant closures left many producers without a place for their animals, Encinias had already invested in direct marketing systems. He had a 15-year relationship with a small, local USDA plant, and even with restaurants shuttered on lockdown orders, Encinias simply transitioned to selling his beef immediately to families, which he maintained for a year.

"We were feeding, on average, 947 families beef directly every week," Encinias says, adding they also developed a presence in e-commerce and farmers markets. "We used to be independent and very private, and today we're so transparent with our customers. 'Hey, come to the ranch! You want to come see what we do?'"

And the key, Encinias says, is capitalizing on the insights and knowledge that a community already has. In his case, his teenage daughters were an integral part of their e-commerce operation.

"They really, truly, helped build the online presence [and] provided all the inventory control," he says. "I was 46 at the time, and 13- and 17-year-old kids [helped feed] 947 families. It's mind-blowing."

In an expansive interview with Meatingplace, Encinias expands on those thoughts and more: his unique pedagogy at Mesalands, his inspiring work with indigenous tribes, and his aspirations for animal agriculture.

Read the full interview in the October issue of Meatingplace: <https://meatm.ag/ren-man>

## Arkansas courts strike down meat label law

The Good Food Institute, Animal Legal Defense Fund and The American Civil Liberties Union have secured a court order that finds an Arkansas food label censorship law unconstitutional and permanently blocks enforcement of the law against Tofurky for its use of terms like "sausage" and "burger" when accompanied by terms like "vegan" or "plant-based," according to court documents filed in the case.

Judge Kristine G. Baker of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas found that the challenged provisions of the Arkansas law unconstitutionally limited Tofurky's commercial free speech rights.

The order further found one provision of the law to be unconstitutionally vague on its face and prohibited its enforcement statewide, ensuring that it cannot be used to prosecute other plant-based food companies.

"The state appears to believe that the simple use of the word 'burger,' 'ham,' or 'sausage' leaves the typical consumer confused,

but such a position requires the assumption that a reasonable consumer will disregard all other words found on the label," wrote Judge Baker in the order. "The state has not come forward with any evidence of broad marketplace confusion around plant-based meat alternatives to bolster its claim."

The law would have imposed fines of up to \$1,000 for every plant-based and cultivated meat product marketed or packaged with a "meat" label. The labels would be subject to fines within state borders even if followed by modifiers such as "vegan," "vegie" or "plant-based."

"This order is a win for consumers, who do not need government interference from the use of well-understood terms to describe plant-based products," said Madeline Cohen, The Good Food Institute's regulatory attorney.

The lawsuit, filed in July 2019, argued that the Arkansas law violated the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause by censoring Tofurky's truthful claims on product labels and creating confusion among consumers. The law's proponents have admitted that the law's purpose is to protect the agricultural producers in the state.

"The passage of this law was never about helping consumers, it was a naked attempt by the state legislature to interfere in the marketplace and limit competition against animal agriculture interests," said Jaime Athos, Tofurky CEO and president.

The Arkansas law is similar to meat-labeling censorship laws passed in Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota and other states. A number of those laws face similar legal challenges. Earlier this year, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana halted the enforcement of the label censorship law, ruling it unconstitutional after a First Amendment challenge from Tofurky.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com

## Ounce of prevention in fall is best medicine for garden success in spring

**COLUMBIA, Mo.** – Ben Franklin's adage of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could be gardeners' theme song for November.

Gardeners should close the curtain on this season and begin looking forward to the next, said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. Next year's success is influenced greatly by this fall's cleanup.

"Garden cleanup does more than just improve the appearance of the garden during the mundane, lifeless months of winter," Trinklein said. It reduces the amount of disease inoculum and insect infestation that might remain.

Prevention is the best cure for any plant-related problem, he said. Here are his tips:

- Begin fall cleanup by removing plant debris. Pull annual flowers and vegetables. Dispose of healthy plant material properly by making a compost pile. Discard diseased or insect-infested plants. When in doubt, throw it out.

- Cut back herbaceous perennials to the crowns after they go dormant. This usually happens after the first hard freeze.

- Mulch tender perennials, including roses, after several hard freezes. This allows the soil to cool. Mulch provides protection from winter weather.

- Remove weeds from gardens to curb weed population next year. Careful hand or mechanical weeding works best, Trinklein said. You can also use nonselective herbicides such as glyphosate on living weeds. Keep in mind that post-emergence herbicides applied in cool weather take longer to work, he said.

- When removing weeds, cut back and put in a plastic bag to take them out of the garden. Weeds such as pigweed can produce up to 600,000 seeds, so you want to avoid spreading seeds as you remove the weeds.

- If it has been several years since your garden soil was tested, now is a good time to take a soil sample for testing. Go to [soilplantlab.missouri.edu](http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu) for more information.

- Improve garden soil with well-rotted manure or other organic matter. Incorporate several inches of organic matter to flower and vegetable gardens. If needed, add limestone and other slowly soluble fertilizers to this.

- Gather and drain garden hoses. Store inside to avoid cracking.

- Clean garden tools and coat with a light layer of oil to prevent rust. Sharpen tools used for cutting so they are ready for use next spring.

- Drain irrigation lines.

- Clean hotbeds and other "season extenders" in the fall. If you don't have one, consider building one as a winter project, suggested Trinklein.

- Winterize mowers and tillers according to the owner's manual instructions.

- Finally, "think spring," Trinklein said. "Remember: Winter is only 90 days long."

Now is a good time to assess your gardening activities from this year, he said. Make notes of what worked and what did not. This will help you on "cabin-crazed snow days" as you plan next year's garden.



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# Big Annual Autumn Cow Sale

**Saturday, November 26**  
**(No sale Friday, November 25)**

**In conjunction with our regular sale**

**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

### Mike and Stacey Magruder of Shelbina, MO

120 cows and pairs. These will all be red and black cows of running ages but mostly in the heart of the producing years from 3 years and up. The herd originated from Lewis' in their retirement from daily ranch chores. An overwhelming majority of these cows would have originated out of the Deer Creek Cattle Co replacement heifer program as the Lewis's were volume buyers of Deer Creek black and red bred heifers over several years. The popular and successful Deer Creek program is no longer offering its replacement females, but if you would like the some of the genetics and program results this maybe your last chance in any volume. Most will be offered as pairs as many will have some summer and numerous fall calves by their side mostly out of Mead Angus bulls. They have been exposed to other red and black bulls.

### Zach Martin of Kingdom City, MO

100 head dispersal. After spending several years building a herd, Zach has decided to enlarge his crop farming and spend more time on his other business operation. He will be dispersing near 80 percent of his herd. This dispersal will run from 12 open replacement heifers through some mature BWF cows that originated the start of his herd that were purchased through EMCC from the herd of the Late John Waddell of Curryville. Most cows will be black hided with a mixed of good crossbreds with the majority being home raised females. Zach had a preference for black whiteface cattle and in recent years has been using some true F1 Black Hereford bulls from such places as Smithton Ranch in Kansas. There will be around 55 pairs with calves that started coming from the last week of August with the bulk of calves coming through September. Also 35 spring calving cows that start calving in March cows. These are big frame productive cows with a complete nutrition program and health program with consultation with Bishop Reproductive services. Life happens and priorities change; this is a rare dispersal of one man's dream herd and a chance for a leg up on yours.

### Jonathan Shrock of Middletown, MO

70 Bred Hfs. These heifers will all be black hided native North Missouri heifers. They were chosen out of hundreds of females, went through pre-breeding screening and health program under Dr. Neal Martin's direction. At sale they will be current with all shots including their first Scourboss shot. All of these heifers bred AI first cycle with NO clean up bulls making these females naturally very fertile, more productive and profitable for the commercial cattleman. The sire is a Hoover Dam son; CCR Boulder 1339A (ASA 2880390). He is a SimAngus one of ABS's most popular sire across all breeds - black, polled, and a long-proven history of both calving ease and growth. They are due to calve tightly near February 3. These heifers have been rotationally grazed and hotwire broke, currently being hand fed just a bit. There is a lot to like about the Shrock heifer development program.

### E&A Belgian and Cattle Farms of Curryville, MO

72 Bred Heifers. This outstanding set of fancy black Angus and black angus cross commercial heifers have been through the complete Show Me Select Heifer Program from calthood vac, track scored, pelvic measured, vaccinated with Vira-shield 6-VLS- BVD - also PI3 tested negative, have had their first round of Scour Boss 9 and have been dewormed several times throughout their development. They will be carrying tags in their ears. These heifers originate from trusted herds right here in Northeast Missouri. Born, Bred and Raised on fescue. E&A Replacement Heifer Program, hand feed and walked through heifers daily, for the best disposition results! Heifers were synchronized and bull bred. Bulls are purchased from Meyer Cattle Co of Bowling Green or Mead Farms of Versailles MO. Bulls are all Show Me Select qualifying for calving ease, however bulls are not just a single trait with high CED but E&A selects for bulls with extremely good numbers on \$M, \$W, and \$B. This set of heifers was ultra-sounded twice. They are due to start calving Feb 4 of 2023. They were ultra-sounded to calve in a 15-day window. These heifers all bred first cycle. These heifers have been fetal sexed and all info is available to buyer. If you are interested in high quality, fancy set of frame-y heifers that have been conditioned and designed to stay on the farm a long time; do not miss these!

### Joe Grote of Bowling Green, MO

60 Cows. These cows will all be Spring calving black cows running from second calf heifers to a few mature solid mouth cows. A lot of these will be home raised, first time to town or a or a few will be from purchased as first calf heifers through the years out of EMCC. They will be bred to black bulls from Shannon Angus, JK Ranches and from Jackson Lashmett.

### Richards Farms of Keytesville, MO

60 Bred Heifers. These are extra fancy high quality, big framed commercial Angus bred heifers with an excellent disposition. All the bred heifers are sired by Connealy Angus bulls. 45 are due to start calving February 14 and 15 for March 5 in a guaranteed 30 day calving period to low birth weight full brothers from Henke Angus Farms with CEDs 11 & 13. \$C 304 & 312. These heifers are Western origin and all from one ranch in Nebraska and have been acclimated to Fescue hay and pasture for over a year. These Heifers will be up to date and current on all worming, pouring, and vaccinations to include Lepto booster and Scour-Bos 9. In the Spring of 2022 wormed with Longrange and in the Fall of 2022 wormed with Safeguard. They have a complete nutrition and Vit-A-Ferm program. The Richards family have a proven replacement heifer program. There is a reason their heifers stay in demand and have so many repeat buyers.

### Ben Kellogg of Madison, MO

26 young cows. These will be young black or red cows from 3 to 5 years old. All of these cows weaned of nice calves and will be bread back to black bulls to calve starting Feb 20. These will be good native type working cows.

### Riverhills Farm of Washington, MO

25 Cows and Pairs. Over the next year the Meyer Family plans on transitioning a few pasture acres to row crop acres and will reduce the herd to right size for less grass. All the cows will be black hided and young running from three to five years old. Fifteen will be Spring calving bred to a registered SimAngus bull. Ten will be offered as pairs with fall born calves by their side also exposed to the registered SimAngus bulls. They are up to date with all vaccinations and a complete health and mineral program.

### Andy Ray of Mount Sterling, IL

15 Bred Heifers Home raised black heifers. Andy has several generations of Musgrave Angus genetics including names like "Big Sky", "Black Loch", "Top Gun," among many others. These heifers will be AI bred Musgrave "Exclusive" and "Redemption" which are both top notch bulls. These heifers should start calving February 12 AI'd and then clean-up bred by sons of Musgrave Angus "Stunner" and "Stunner". This is an outstanding and rare opportunity for our customers to introduce powerfully stacked genetics into their herd, to gain ground in quality genetics in a hurry.

### Jeff Chapuis of Louisiana, MO

20 Bred Heifers. These heifers will be all black hided Balancer heifers. They are bred to either good registered black Gelbvieh or black Balancer bulls. They will be due to start calving March 1 for a total of no more than 30 days.

### Garth Gatson of Vandalia, MO

12 Heifer Pairs. These red heifers were purchased in 2021 as open replacements from reputation Missouri herds. They were developed, bred, and calved out on pasture. They have Red Angus sired fall calves by side. These heifers have recently been de-wormed and vaccinated but have not been exposed back to a bull.

### Tyler Wassmann of Boonville, MO

10 Bred Heifers. These fancy black heifers originated from the Monte Niemeyer herd in Bowling Green. They have been grown and bucket fed just a little for a gentle disposition. They were AI bred to Select Sires SimAngus bull; "Wide Range" to start calving March 1. A good Lucas Cattle Co. black SimAngus bull was used for clean-up and taken out so that they shouldn't calve past May 15. This will be a very nice package of genetics that will produce calves to do well fed out or in a sale ring anywhere.

### Greg & Garth Gatson of Vandalia, MO

9 Red Fall Pairs. Calm, sensible, home raised Red Angus X Gelbvieh cows with Red Angus sired calves. Four 3 & 4 year olds, four 6 & 7 year olds, and one 9 year old. The calves have been castrated and the cows wormed and vaccinated. They are ready to turn out with your bull.

### Rhodes Angus of Carlinville, IL

3 Bulls. These bulls will be coming 2 year olds in December and January. Rhodes Hoover 190 (Angus reg # 20145603), Rhodes Beacon H59 (Simangus ASA reg # 3921972) and Rhodes Cowboy H14 (Simangus ASA reg # 3921959). The bulls will be tested up to date on health program and ready to go to work. They have been 50K genomic tested. The steer siblings to these bulls go to locker beef customers or to Creekstone Farms for harvest. The following is the grading information on our Creekstone steers from 2018 to present: % Prime 21, % High Choice 60.5, % Low Choice 16.5, % Select 2, Average Yield Grade 2.73 and the Average Hot Carcass Weight 903. If you would like more info about Rhodes Angus breeding program goals or objectives, we would be happy to get you in touch with Larry Rhodes directly.

### Brent Schuring of Thompson, MO

1 Bull. This will be a coming four year old low birth weight calving ease commercial Angus bull in working cloths. He will be current on pre-breeding shots semen tested and trich tested and a proven bull on heifers with no problems and eager to go to work in a new herd.

**This Big Annual Autumn Cow Sale is one of our most popular for buyers and sellers alike. The quality will run very deep and wide. Look for details, photos, and new consignments as we get them closer to the sale day on our website.**

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