The Cattleman's Advocate

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED:
Postmaster: Address changes may be sent to:
A&S Printing, Box 124 • Monroe City, MO 63456

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ASTORIA, IL
PERMIT NO 9

Serving Central & Eastern Missouri & Western Illinois Vol 22, Issue 11 November 2026

Power Play

Missouri farmer fights land seizure as biggest power line in U.S. history sweeps Midwest

By CHRIS BENNETT
Reprinted by permission of Farm Journal

Despite a farmer's pleas and protests, the biggest power line in American history is about to swallow Kevin Reed's land. At 800 miles in length, draped across the Midwest from Kansas to Indiana, Grain Belt Express is an $11 billion project boasting abundant green energy capable of powering 50 data centers.

However, Reed is unmoved by renewable energy promises. Under the thumb of eminent domain, his entire 246-acre row crop farm has been taken via permanent easement to the Grain Belt Express power line, with 20 acres slated directly for wires and towers.

His property has crashed in value.

"It's a heist. It's an abuse. It's an insult to our Constitution."

Ironically, as Grain Belt Express initially claimed land across four states, in the name of public good, it barely delivered a drop of power to Reed's own state.

"Think of the corruption," he contends. "A private company snatched up private acreage by force from people across Missouri for a 250-mile stretch, just so they could transmit power from Kansas to Indiana and get a higher dollar. And they got away with it."

"Look no further than Grain Belt Express if you want to see the fall of private property rights, the power of big business, and the political rot of eminent domain."



SOLUTION OR NIGHTMARE? "You can't make this stuff up," says Kevin Reed. "I've been dealing with it for 16 years and it's more tangled than anything from your worst nightmare." According to Invenergy, Grain Belt Express "is a solution to one of the top challenges worrying community, business, and economic development leaders across America: increasing energy bills." (Photo courtesy of KR Farms)

Colossal Wire

In the gentle hills of Caldwell County in western Missouri, Reed, 66, grows corn and soybeans on 246 acres on the outskirts of Cowgill, roughly one hour northeast of Kansas City. His rows, worked for generations by his forebears, rub the city limits of the town.

"I grew up in farming and experienced an economy gone to hell. I learned how quickly things can go wrong for a farmer, and I got into construction at a young age and made a good living. But I kept land and bought land, and always farmed on the side. Still do."

In roughly 2010, Reed caught wind of an incoming power line, Grain Belt Express. Colossal wire. Gargantuan project. The single most massive capacity transmission line in U.S. history.

Proposed by Texas-based Clean Line Energy, and starting in southwest Kansas' Ford County, the power line would carry watts 800 miles to higher dollar markets to the east, over Missouri and Illinois, and across the Indiana line.

See GRAIN BELT EXPRESS, page 11

Screwworm detected near next expected border reopening

"We are working closely with our state and federal partners to investigate these cases, increase surveillance and monitor for additional infestations," said State Veterinarian Dr. Samantha Holeck said.

State and federal animal health authorities confirmed two new cases of New World screwworm infestation recently in southwestern New Mexico in close proximity to the port of entry at Columbus, N.M., which was in line to be the next crossing reopened to Mexican cattle.

The new infestations afflicted a calf and a horse in Grant County, where a previous equine case was confirmed Sept. 17 by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

In response to the new case, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the state's Livestock Board declared two infested zones: around Silver City, the Grant County seat; and further south a second centered on the Coyote Hills and encompassing the Lordsburg, Playas and Nachita valleys. An adjacent surveillance zone envelopes both infested areas, taking up most of the southwestern corner of the state.

One of the infested zones extends into neighboring Luna County, and the surveillance zone stretches east up to Columbus.

"We are working closely with our state and federal partners to investigate these cases, increase surveillance and monitor for additional infestations," said State Veterinarian Dr. Samantha Holeck said.

After the reopening of the first cattle crossing on Aug. 24 in Douglas, Ariz., and the second, largest port of entry on Sept. 24 at Santa Teresa, N.M., Columbus was named by USDA as the next port in line for reopening to livestock. No official date has been announced, but cattle merchants were hoping for a continued 30-day pace of reopenings, which would suggest next week.

Health authorities have stepped up fly-trapping in the vicinity of the latest cases. The infested zones extend 12 miles or more beyond those locations, where animals are to undergo mandatory inspection and potentially treatment for any movement within or beyond the zones.

"We appreciate the continued cooperation of livestock producers, veterinarians and animal owners as we respond to these additional cases," said New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte. "Early detection and prompt reporting are critical to limiting the spread of this pest. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant and work closely with animal health officials."

– Meatingplace.com

'Affordable' beef imports falling far short of temporary quota

Imports from countries without their own tariff-rate quotas (TRQ) for beef appear to have fallen well below the 100,000 metric tons (mt) available in September as part of the White House-issued tariff holiday, based on both weekly U.S. trade data and Brazilian government reports.

Through Sept. 28, the tariff-free quota totaled only 37,486 mt, according to USDA weekly data compiled by University of Arkansas agricultural economist James Mitchell. The weekly pace actually declined during the month, with the slowest imports in the last week of the month at 6,357 mt. USDA will release official September agricultural trade data in early November.

President Donald Trump's order at the end of August allowed 300,000 mt of lean trimmings for ground products — 100,000 mt per month — starting in September in a bid to lower consumer beef prices, coinciding with the run-up to the midterm elections. The tariff holiday applies only to the "other" countries tariff-rate quota, in which Brazil and Paraguay are the only significant beef exporters. The White House has labelled that the "affordable" TRQ.

Multiple Brazilian media have reported that the country's trade

See IMPORTS, page 19

UPCOMING SALES

Tuesday, Nov. 3 – High Noon Cow Sale
Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Feeder Special
Tuesday, Nov. 17 – Regular Sale
Tuesday, Nov. 24 – Feeder Special
Tuesday, Dec. 1 – High Noon Cow Sale
Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Feeder Special
Saturday, Dec. 12 – Show-Me-Select Sale
Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Feeder Special
Tuesday, Dec. 22 – NO CATTLE SALE
Tuesday, Dec. 29 – NO CATTLE SALE

Cattle Receiving Hours
Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday: All Day Sale Day

F&T Field Reps

Al Dames
Owner
573-231-5634

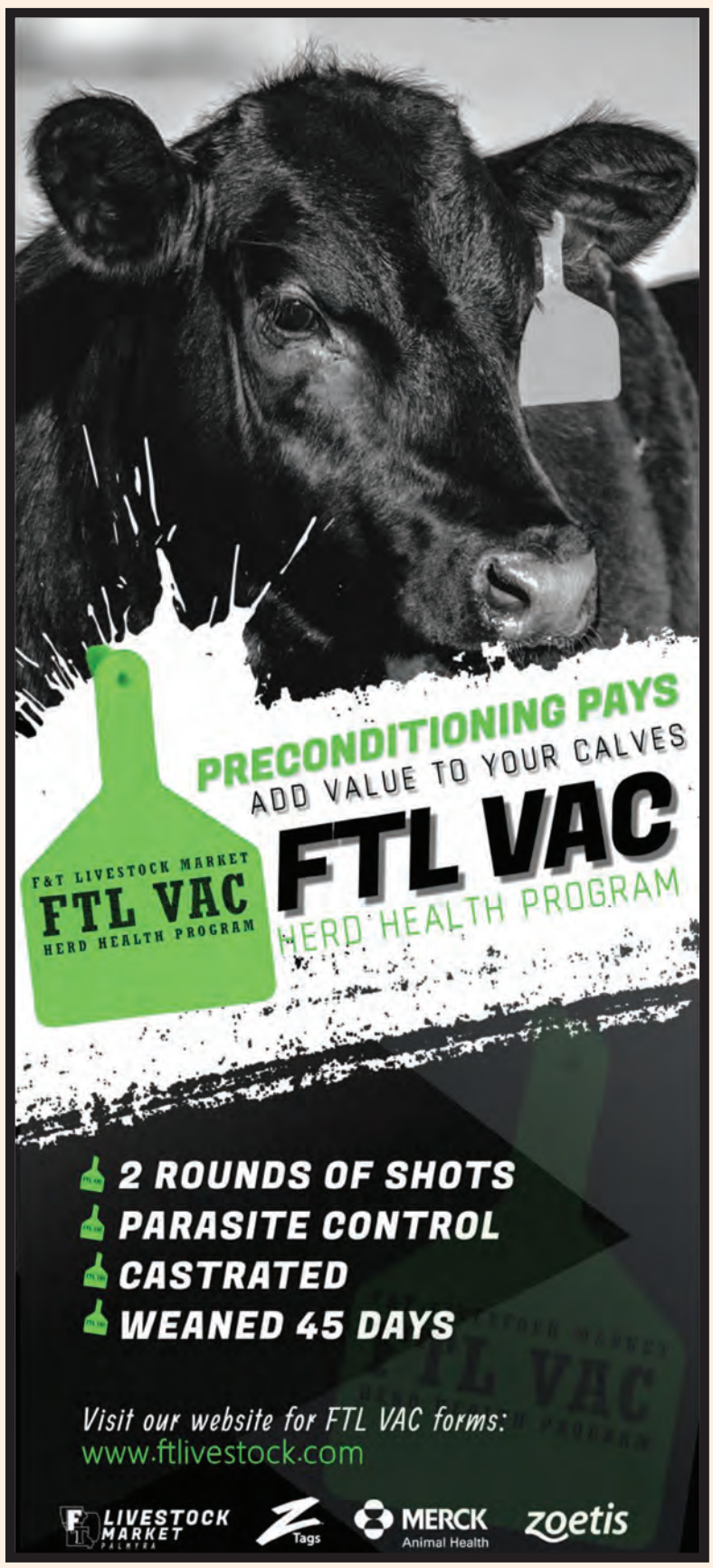
Tim Lay
Ewing, MO
573-248-4178

Justin Angell
Centralia, MO
573-819-8000

John Browning
Field Rep Manager
573-248-4004

Jeff Woods
Baylis, IL
217-491-0224

Tonya Teasley
Bowling Green, MO
573-470-3845



LIVESTOCK MARKET
PALMYRA

5864 Hwy 24 • Palmyra, MO 63461

573-769-2237 • Fax: 573-769-4374

Email: ftlivestock@gmail.com

www.ftlivestock.com

Office Hours: Mon – Fri: 7:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.

High Noon Cow Sale

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026 • Noon
F&T Livestock Auction, Palmyra, MO

The first Tuesday of every month is the High Noon Cow Sale.
Here is a listing of early consignments, we expect more by sale time.

Early Consignments
November 3

Mike Hendren
13 big red fall calving pairs, from five years to short solid mouth.

Bailey Family
Due to short grass the Bailey family will be sending another 40 head of really good home raised cows. These will mostly be from four to six years old and bred to black bulls.

Scott Hauck
10 running age pairs. These black and bwf cows will have 300 pound calves and have been running back with good SimAngus bulls.

CD Curren
40 young black cows to calve starting March 1 to black Angus bulls.

This is an early listing and there are several pending consignments, so be sure to check our website closer to sale day for the latest consignmentss.

If you have cattle to sell or need assistance procuring females
be sure and give one of us a call at F&T.
Remember that at F&T, both you and your business are appreciated!

Special calf and yearling sales are generally the second and fourth Tuesdays. If you have cattle to sell, contact the field representatives listed and go to ftlivestock.com for more schedule information, videos and updates.

For more information go to the website at ftlivestock.com.
If you want to do business where both you and your business is appreciated, call Al, Katie or one of the field reps listed above.

www.ftlivestock.com

NOW LOCATED AT THE LIVESTOCK MARKET

F&T TRAILER SALES
PALMYRA, MO 573-769-2237 & SERVICE

YOUR SOURCE FOR NEW & USED LIVESTOCK TRAILERS & SUPPLY

Visit our website:
FTTRAILERS.COM
573-769-2237



30N ASA 4586706

Homo Black, Homo Polled 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
CCR NIGHT SHIFT 4069J x SFLC LOTTIE 30L
Sells bred to GIBBS FOUNDATION 3019L.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
18	-3.4	65	106	18	0.79	144	78

M313 ASA 4539731

Homo Black, Homo Polled 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
LCDR ANTHEM 33K x BAR CK MS B1206Y 5229C
Sells bred to GIBBS CULMINATION.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
16	-3.2	74	105	17	0.59	174	96

801N ASA 4586697

Hetero Black, Homo Polled 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
TJ SANDHILLS SWAG 816L x JPLF MISS GLORIA F801
Sells bred to GIBBS FOUNDATION 3019L.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
8	1.7	79	109	15	0.72	119	77



M311 ASA 4539719

Homo Black, Homo Polled 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
LCDR ANTHEM 33K x BAR CK MS B1206Y 5229C
Sells bred to KBHR EL DORADO.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
12	-2.5	89	137	17	0.79	166	101



32N ASA 4586720

Homo Black, Homo Polled 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
CLRS HOMELAND 327H x ADV MS GOLD K2032
Sells bred to GIBBS FOUNDATION 3019L.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
12	1.0	90	138	21	1.16	151	89



N031 ASA 4587960

Homo Black, Homo Polled 1/8 SM 7/8 AN
G A F PLAY BALL 080-0209 x PVF 2545 H33
Sells bred to KBHR EL DORADO.

CE	BW	WW	YW	STAY	RE	$API	STI
15	-1.4	86	127	19	0.58	178	100

Female Sale

MISSOURI *Select Genetics*

• SATURDAY DECEMBER 12 1 PM •

25935 Hwy 5, Keytesville, Missouri 65261 • Two miles north of Keytesville

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION OF SIMGENETICS

SIRES INCLUDE: Gibbs Foundation 3019L • TJ Easy Rain • Herd sires out of TJ Arrowhead, TJ Gold and KBHR El Dorado

150 HEAD OF REGISTERED AND COMMERCIAL BRED HEIFERS

ALL BRED TO RIGHTMATE ACE VERIFIED BULLS

Schupback Farms
George and Jennifer Schupback
Lane and Morgan Springer
George 660-621-0121
Lane 660-621-0064
Morgan 660-621-2651

Terra Sol Beef
Jared and Terri Royer
Jared 573-489-2900

Bid Live Online
DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Marty Ropp 406-581-7835
Corey Wilkins 256-590-2487
Jared Murnin 406-321-1542
alliedgeneticresources.com

ALLIED GENETIC RESOURCES

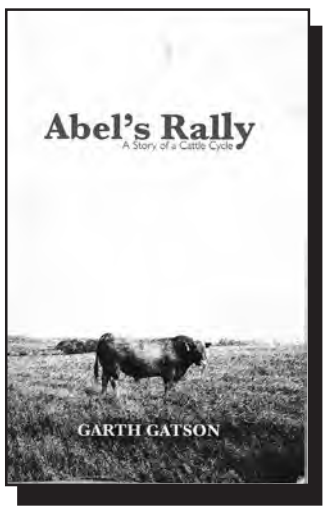
From the Publisher... Jon Angell



As for the feature this month, we have come across another story that I know many of our readers will be interested in. Private property rights and the use of eminent domain has been an ongoing issue. Specifically, many of our readers have been affected by The Grain Belt Express and the feature shares some details.

There is a lot going on this month. I'm being pushed on this issue as I am preparing to travel to Chattanooga to visit my daughter. We made plans that conflict with the press deadline. So, I worked some ahead, and the rest I'm leaving up to Chuck. Heck, maybe this issue will be better with me not getting in Chuck's way at the last minute.

So, I read a book this past month that you may be interested in. The book proclaims to be a story of the price cycles in the US Cattle Industry, particularly the one we are currently dealing with now. But the book does far more. Abel's Rally was written by Garth Gatson, he is one of our own friends and neighbor. Garth tells the bulk of the story from a personalized perspective, which gives the subject a lot of context. Yes the book explains the cattle cycle; the history, the mechanics, theory etc… all in a way that is very readable.



He also writes about how he and others have worked to use their understanding of the cattle cycle to their advantage and gain. He writes "what separates those cattle producers who successfully reach and keep great heights from those who don't, is rarely the sheer effort with which they work in their business. Often the differentiator is instead the effort with which they work on their business." Garth identifies using the cattle cycle as one of the ways to reach great heights in the cattle business. He is absolutely right! I'm gray enough to have lived through several cattle cycles. I have seen just what Garth speaks of play out for many cattlemen.

Some cattlemen are just plain lucky. The best operators anticipate and plan for and take advantage of the cattle cycle. Any cattleman would benefit from reading this book, but I would encourage new and younger folks wanting to participate in the cattle business; at any level understanding how the cattle cycles work is almost a basic requirement.

I found myself highlighting in my copy of the book some information or ideas I'd want to re-read or look back to. One thing Garth provided me, was the statistics to look for in the USDA Cattle on Feed Report that would indicate heifer retention to expand the herd. Well, you'll find it on page 116. "It almost always takes a figure below 37 percent [heifers on feed] to expand the herd" according to Garth. So, let's all look in upcoming reports to check Garth's work and get in touch with where we are and more importantly where we are heading.

Overall, I like the way Garth decided to organize and write this book. It is engaging, easily readable and filled with a bunch of useful information. For a regular reader it is no problem. For those of us that are less inclined to conquer whole books I think many of you will be happy you did with this one.

I did call Garth to report to him that I did complete his book, and I appreciated his efforts and hard work in writing it. I asked about how book sales were going and how he was promoting the book. Surprisingly, I got the feeling that promoting the book or selling it wasn't at all on his priority list. With a growing young family and a herd of cows the book was kind of on its own. So, if you are interested in reading Abel's Rally, go to Amazon to order.

Exports to China languish despite Beijing Summit, rival beef tariffs

China's renewal of the U.S. beef industry's export licensing has yet to unleash a resumption of 2024 trade volume, the USDA's latest export data shows.

August exports to China rose 10% from the July volume to 2,781 metric tons (mt), worth $25.6 million. That remains well below 2024 flows, when beef exports averaged about 15,000 mt per month.

The May summit meeting between presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump in Beijing produced an interim arrangement to ease trade conflicts including for agricultural goods. Immediately after, Chinese authorities renewed the export licenses that had been declared expired in March 2025 for nearly all U.S. beef packing and export facilities after Trump slapped unilateral tariffs on goods from China.

However, a large part of the industry remains separately suspended over alleged quality and phytosanitary violations that have accrued since 2020.

Over the summer, both Australia and Brazil filled their tariff-rate quotas set by Chinese authorities this year to protect the country's domestic beef producers, meaning any further beef from either major exporter faces an additional 55% tariff.

China allocated a 164,000 mt quota this year to U.S. beef, which has only reached 10,515 mt through the eight months. In 2024, U.S. exports to China were nearly 180,000 mt, worth $1.6 billion.

"The August increase is just a fraction of what would be possible in that market, especially since Australian beef has faced a 55% safeguard tariff since June 20," USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom said. "But China still needs to relist suspended facilities, and the U.S. industry needs further clarity on technical requirements before beef exports to China will significantly rebound."

In May, before the beef registrations were restored, U.S. exports were just 471 mt worth $2.7 million. Volume rose to 1,724 mt in June and 2,532 mt in July.

In March 2025, the last month before China declared export registrations expired with almost no warning, U.S. beef sales were 15,907 mt worth $141.5 million.

Globally, U.S. beef exports are down 7% by volume through eight months compared to last year's pace, as tight domestic cattle supplies constrain available product for export. Value is only 1% behind 2025.

Among the top beef destinations, volumes are down this year to Japan and South Korea, but exports to both markets rose in the latest data compared to August 2025. Exports to Canada continue to trail last year's pace, while Mexico is up 2% by volume through eight months.

Volume to Taiwan has surged 15% so far this year, with strong gains in August.

– Meatingplace.com

THE Cattleman's Advocate



A monthly livestock magazine serving Eastern Missouri & Western Illinois

is a publication of

Jon & Charlotte Angell

Permission to reprint material from this magazine must be obtained from Publisher Jon Angell at:

The Cattleman's Advocate
P.O. Box C • Centralia, MO 65240
573-682-4656

Jon Angell, Publisher

Justin Angell, Contributing Writer

Carolyn Allen, Contributing Writer

Chuck Herron, Virtual Images Production & Design

You may send news and advertising information directly to Chuck Herron at:

Virtual Images Publications & Design
P.O. Box 26 • Paris, MO 65275
660-289-1090
E-mail: cattlemans@virtualimages.us

www.cattlemansadvocate.com

The Cattleman's Advocate is currently available free of charge at over 110 locations in Missouri and Illinois. If you would like to receive the publication each month at your home, subscriptions for one year are available by sending $30 and your name and current address to:

A&S Printing
Box 124, Monroe City, MO 63456

For news information, contact Chuck Herron at:

Virtual Images
P.O. Box 26 • Paris, MO 65275
660-289-1090
E-mail: cattlemans@virtualimages.us

POSTMASTER:
ADDRESS CHANGES MAY BE SENT TO:

A&S Printing
Box 124, Monroe City, MO 63456
573-735-2683 • Fax: 573-735-3567
Email: info@AandSPrinting.com

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

F&T Livestock Market . . . . . .page 2
Missouri Select Genetics Sale . . .page 3
Larry Clementz Real Estate . . . .page 5
Hopewell Farms . . . . . .page 5
Bowling Green Vet Clinic . . . . . .page 5
Sydenstricker Production Sale . .page 7
J&L Farm . . . . . .page 7
Headings Custom Grazing . . . . .page 7
The Bank of Missouri . . . . . .page 7
Farmer's Livestock Sales . . . . . .page 8
Meyers Truck Service . . . . . .page 8
Scotland Co. Livestock Auction .page 9
Girod & Sons Construction . . . .page 9
Eastern Mo. Cowboy Church . . .page 9
Callaway Livestock Center . . . .page 10
Audrain Building Supplies . . . .page 10
Ridgway Seed & Soil . . . . . .page 10
Meyer Implement . . . . . .page 11
Missouri Beef Industry Council page 12
Zuroweste Welding . . . . . .page 12
Agriland Realty Advisors . . . . .page 12
Boone Co. Cattlemen's . . . . . .page 13
Miller Brothers Lumber . . . . . .page 13
Central Mo. Feed & Supply . . .page 13
Meyer Cattle Co. . . . . .page 14
Railroad Millworks . . . . . .page 14
Hatton Vermeer Sales . . . . . .page 15
Beefland . . . . . .page 15
Circle 5 Beef . . . . . .page 16
Angell Livestock . . . . . .page 17
EMCC market report . . . . . .page 18
Sheep & Goat market report . .page 19
Angell-Thomas Charolais . . . . .page 20
Angell's Western Wear . . . . . .page 20
Albert's Shoe Repair . . . . . .page 20
Cary Livestock . . . . . .page 20
Pat Costello Painting . . . . . .page 20
National Polled Herefords . . . . .page 20
Mark Robertson . . . . . .page 20
Savannah's Farm Fresh . . . . . .page 20
Shannon Farms . . . . . .page 20
SHek Boutique . . . . . .page 20
Cattleman's Advocate ad rates .page 21
Purina. . . . . .page 23
Angell's Western Wear . . . . . .page 23
Eastern Mo. Commission. Co. .page 24

It's The Pitts...

Small is beautiful

By LEE PITTS
For The Cattleman's Advocate

In the town of my birth the local diner is now a MacDonalds and instead of buying a cup of coffee from someone I knew for a dime it now costs over $5 from a stranger at Starbucks. The local grocery store where we used to shop has been replaced by two chain stores that are owned by the same humongous company.

If you ask me, we've gotten a little too big for our britches in this country.



I've spent my entire professional life fighting for the small things in this world; small farmers and ranchers, small towns, small government and small business owners. As a champion of smallness it pains me to say this but I may have been fighting a losing battle.

In the town of my birth the local diner is now a MacDonalds and instead of buying a cup of coffee from someone I knew for a dime it now costs over $5 from a stranger at Starbucks. The local grocery store where we used to shop has been replaced by two chain stores that are owned by the same humongous company. The nice man at my local bank that loaned me $300 to buy a show steer in high school has been replaced by a kiosk.

I've always been a small town guy. I was born in a tiny hospital with only four beds. We got our news from a local newspaper and it wasn't fake news either. Parents bought extra copies and clipped out photos for their scrapbook whenever a child made the paper for playing football or winning an FFA speech contest. And the small town folks knew what the initials in FFA stood for too. I walked to school with my brother as early as the first grade and since we lived the furthest away from school we'd pick up our friends along the way and our parents never had to worry about lurking pedophiles.

Our Little League teams weren't named the Yankees or Dodgers but were called things like Harding Furniture, Agri-Serv or Citizen's Bank because every team was sponsored by a small business. And our parents in turn did business with them. I can't remember a single team named Safeway or Bank of America.

Multi-generations of family members tended to stay put even in death and you could trace a family's lineage by visiting their family cemetery plot. Kids played baseball in the streets and the only graffiti were the chalk marks on the sidewalk where we played hop scotch. At the local airport you were always #1 for departure.

My Grandpa, who was the most important person in my young life, owned a small furniture store and was Chief of the volunteer fire department for decades, as was my great-grandfather before him. When the call came he'd drop whatever he was doing and rush to the fire, even if he was close to closing a deal on a dining set that had been in inventory forever. I knew too, having dusted that same piece of furniture for years every Friday for which I got paid one shiny silver dollar.

My Democrat father was an independent trucker and my Republican mom was a professional seamstress, but although they had hellacious fights about everything else, I can never remember them fighting about politics one time. It was just something you didn't talk about. The same applied to whatever religion you were. Folks didn't fight about it or hate you because you were a Methodist, a Catholic or Jewish.

We grew avocados and lemons on our small acre of ground and sold them to Mitch's Market. The produce hadn't been shipped long distances nor was it grown in Mexico. The chilis weren't from Chile. Our milk came from a local dairy and was delivered every morning right to our front door. I can't remember anyone dying from salmonella, e coli or cyclospora.

Important politicians never came to our town but the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile did once and all the kids came out to see it and get a free whistle in the shape of a weiner. My grandma played the piano every Monday for the charitable Rotary Club and the Lions Club and Kiwanis members drove their pickups ever year for the FFA Roadside Cleanup. There was a sign at the city limits that bragged we were the Citrus Capital of the World and we celebrated the Lemon Festival and the annual rodeo that my Grandpa started with the Junior Jaycees.

There's a park there now with three ballfields where the rodeo grounds were that now bears his name.

We didn't have Facebook friends but real ones who'd bring a casserole when a loved one died. We weren't a community of strangers and everyone knew where all the kids and dogs belonged.

– www.LeePittsbooks.com

Agri Star continues post-fire recovery, rehires many workers

Postville, Iowa-based Agri Star has continued its rapid recovery from a devastating fire in July.

The blaze, which started accidentally in the plant's laundry room, burned for more than three days and destroyed 75% of the facility. KCRG reports, however, that Agri Star has now rehired 400 of the 600 workers who lost their jobs after the fire.

Shortly after the fire, Agri Star stated it was "actively working" with local, state and federal agencies to develop a plan to rebuild the facility and restore operations, and by mid-August the processor released a statement that it was preparing for a limited resumption of operations.

"Since the fire at our plant, tremendous effort has gone into cleaning, repairing and preparing our facility for the next chapter," the company posted to its Facebook page. "Although we still have a great deal of work ahead of us — and rebuilding will take time — bringing members of our team back through the doors and beginning production again represents an important and hopeful milestone."

One of the U.S.' top processors of kosher meats, Agri Star's shutdown provoked concern from rabbis that the lost capacity could affect the supply of kosher meats for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays.

– Meatingplace.com

City officials ratify purchase of Tyson property in Nebraska

City officials in Lexington, Neb., on Tuesday ratified an agreement to purchase Tyson Foods property near the beef plant the company shuttered earlier this year amidst historically low cattle supplies.

Among the parcels was a property south of the plant including the wastewater treatment facility Tyson used, according to city documents.

The Lexington City Council authorized the purchase in April and on Tuesday ratified the transactions had been completed. The city partnered with Tyson to include company assets in its proposed redevelopment of an industrial park to draw new private investment.

Tyson still owns the property on which its former beef plant sits. The company closed the plant, which employed some 3,200 people, in January.

More recently, Tyson announced the closures of beef plants in Joplin, Ill., and Eagle Mountain, Utah, as well as the sale of its beef plant in Pasco, Wash.

The moves reflect an industry aligning beef plant capacity with available cattle supplies in response to the lowest inventory in 75 years.

– Meatingplace.com

Got an idea for a story you'd like to see in The Cattleman's Advocate? Drop us a line and let us know at:
cattlemans@virtualimages.us

Here are the scheduled advertising deadlines for The Cattleman's Advocate through May 2027:

December issue . . . . ***Ad deadline: November 12***
January issue . . . . . ***Ad deadline: December 10***
February issue . . . . . ***Ad deadline: January 18***
March issue . . . . . . ***Ad deadline: February 15***
April issue . . . . . . ***Ad deadline: March 15***
May issue . . . . . . ***Ad deadline: April 19***

BROKER – INSURANCE
Larry Clementz Real Estate
Specializing in Good Farms
JEFF CLEMENTZ
Broker
Office: 573-682-5566
Cell: 573-881-7983
Centralia, MO
Sturgeon, MO
Larry Clementz, Founder

Bowling Green Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Ashley E. Bowers, DVM
Dr. Ashley M. Luebrecht, DVM
Dr. Christi A. Gober, DVM
Dr. Sonja C. Perry, DVM
Large & Small Animals
573-324-3145 • 1230 Bus. Hwy. 61 South
Please Call For An Appointment



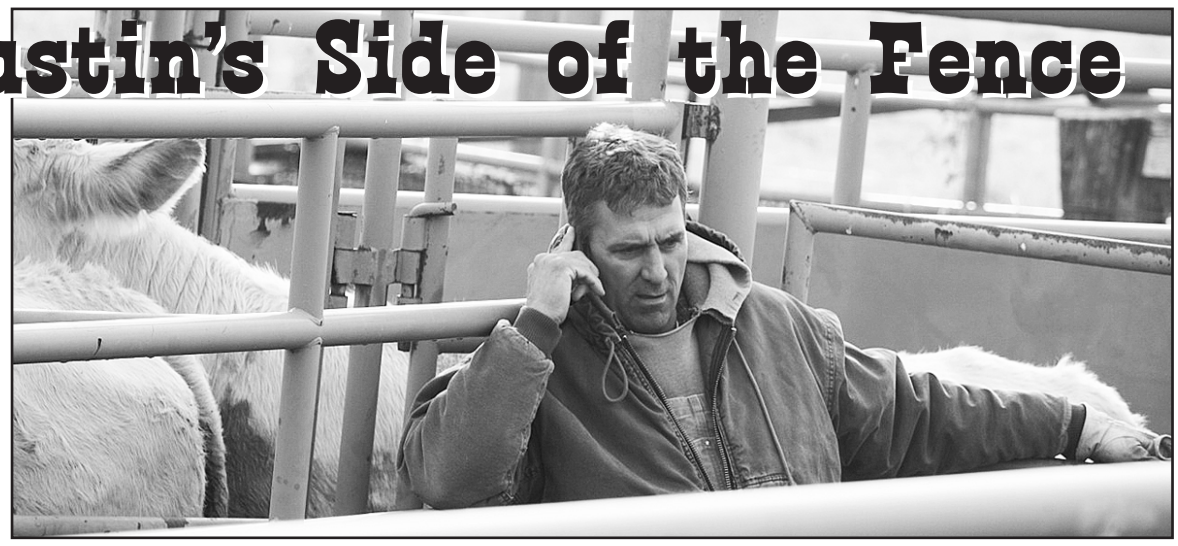
Registered Angus Bulls

Know Bull Tip!
An adult cow can drink 30-50 gallons of water a day. Make sure your cattle have access to clean water.



Bob & Lynn Fodge
Bobby & Patty Fodge
Alec & Annie Fodge
Find Hopewell Farms on Facebook!
24247 Monroe Road 836, Paris, MO 65275
Lynn's Cell: 573-721-5596
hopewell@hopewellfarmsangus.com
www.hopewellfarmsangus.com

Thoughts From Justin's Side of the Fence



By JUSTIN ANGELL

Finally fall weather has arrived. Leaves are turning, calves are soon weaned and harvest's end is near. With the calf weaning, also comes cow pregnancy testing. Early indications in my neighborhood indicate a lot of open cows. "A lot" is not just a few extra, I'm seeing and hearing open percentages often from 30% to 50%.

Exactly what is happening is unclear, but something is definitely amiss. I'm leaning toward a combination of periods of extreme heat and in conjunction with spreading Theileria. I'd like to keep track of this, so as you pregnancy test your cows and you hear of neighbors' percent opens, shoot me a text.

Nothing scientific, but this emerging story is important. Here's why; Missouri is the third largest cow calf producing state in America.

In the last two months in a row, placements in feed yards have been at all-time lows. If Missouri's beef industry's calf production falters, it could have significant downstream ramifications. I don't mean to diminish our Illinois contributions, but Missouri information is easily accessible and will prove my point. Missouri has 1.9 million head of beef cows producing $1.6 billion in revenue for the state. If Missouri ends up with an average of 20% open, that will offset half of all the imports from Mexico. The bottom line is we are keeping a lot of heifers to breed, but if my hillbilly intuition is correct, we will not see any big increase in national cow inventory because of an increased culling rate. Only problem is the government is in charge of the numbers, and the government wants the numbers bigger, so the price is smaller.

They are starting to have some drought relief in the west and far west. Last week, we loaded three loads of young cows off a ranch in central Wyoming where it has been chronically dry all year. Selling their young cows, but keeping the heifer calves to restart production next year. Ironically, it rained for three days before we loaded, washing out one of the roads off the ranch.

Fed cattle prices remain stable at $1.20 to $1.26, but there are signs of a rising market percolating. Feeder cattle and calf demand remains strong with prices edging higher rather than traditionally lower fall calf markets. The pound cow and bull market is still $40 cwt off the early 2026 market. I'm not sure when this market will recover due to continued huge lean grinding meat imports and increased numbers of open cows coming to town.

Available after our publishing date, the cattle on feed report will be significant. Specifically, the placement numbers. Will we have three months in a row of record low placements? Or the cynical me wonders if the figures will be massaged to show increased cattle inventories, causing a break lower in the market; similar to the latest USDA report on grain inventories and planted corn acres.

My South Dakota son-in-law told me that today (10/20/26) cash corn price with an $.85 basis at his South Dakota elevator is only $3.77 per bushel. The government can manipulate higher numbers, but they cannot manipulate more cattle.

Remember the USDA's #1 job is to keep food cheap, not to help farmers. I remain optimistic that the first half of 2027 will be very good.

One other thing available after the printing date is the election results. By then, we will have an indication which road our citizens choose and down which path our fortunes lie. Hopefully there will be a complete rejection of socialism and socialist candidates. Socialism historically always hurts agriculture, especially land ownership.

One other item of interest. Brother Jon and I reached a milestone having our first million dollar week out of our little collection point in Centralia. I would like to thank everyone, both buyers and sellers that have come to us to assist them in both procurement and marketing cattle.

Our biggest growth area has been in heifer and cow procurement when someone calls us with what cattle they are wanting, we go find them. This service includes arranging logistics, paying out of state buyer commissions, providing down payment money and payment generally by wire transfers on or before delivery. We have a wonderful midwestern network of very talented buyers that allows us to provide some very high-quality livestock at reasonable prices.

We sell livestock on the medium to high end of the price range, but we try to sell only on the highest end of the quality range. Our whole sales theory being that if we sell someone a set of cows, those cows are going to be high enough quality that we will want to buy the calves back. Most purchases are generally to graze, then feed, but sometimes developed as breeding stock. I will also add to specialize in buying imported cows and bred heifers. Although these imported cattle take a little extra care the first year, generally speaking, the genetics are very good and can be bought in volumes. There are also some times ranch deals where purchase prices for the quality are especially good values. This month's best value was three loads of two, three and four-year-old home raised ranch cows purchased and delivered for only a tick over $4000.

If a picture is worth 1000 words, that would make a video priceless. I'm working on getting stuff together for a web page that I hope will provide a little more clarity and allow smaller producers to buy with more confidence. That should be available for viewing hopefully in the coming year.

Print deadline is tomorrow so I guess that's all that I have for this month — come see me at the auction!

Here's a great gift for Winter!

Pay just $30 for a one-year subscription for mail delivery of The Cattleman's Advocate.

Make sure you don't miss an issue of The Cattleman's Advocate by sending your name, current mailing address and a check for $30 to:

The Cattleman's Advocate
c/o A&S Printing
P.O. Box 124
Monroe City, MO 63456

Make your check payable to The Cattleman's Advocate

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE_____ ZIP_____

☐ **I'd like to send a one-year gift subscription of The Cattleman's Advocate to the following address:**

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE_____ ZIP_____

Colorado rep offers 'More Beef, Lower Prices Act' to spur growth

Congressman Gabe Evans (R-Colo.) has introduced the "More Beef, Lower Prices Act," which aims to help grow the nation's historically small cattle herd by extending federal agriculture risk protections to ranchers and other producers who might otherwise hesitate to make the individual investments that would spur herd rebuilding.

Specifically, Evan's proposed legislation would "amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to expressly include bred cattle, replacement heifers, and cull cattle in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) programs beginning in crop year 2027."

Evans notes that as of January 1, the USDA estimated the U.S. herd at 86.2 million cattle and calves — a 75-year low that he says not only endangers the domestic food security, but also "makes American producers vulnerable to volatile markets."

Evans pointed to the USDA's Ranchers First Initiative, established in August, which included "a new Beef Retention and National Development (BRAND) endorsement for LRP," which "is designed to help producers manage the financial risk of retaining heifers for breeding rather than sending them to market, supporting efforts to rebuild the domestic herd."

The "More Beef, Lower Prices Act," Evans says, would build on BRAND, "by expanding access to risk-management protections … and [giving] cattle producers greater confidence to invest in their operations and support rebuilding the domestic herd.

The proposed "More Beef, Lower Prices Act" legislation is supported by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

– Meatingplace.com

USDA ramps up PSA hiring after staffing and budget cuts

USDA is ramping up hiring across its Packers and Stockyards Division as it implements President Donald Trump's directive for heightened enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, a senior department official told Meatingplace.

Dudley Hoskins, USDA under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, said the department is reprioritizing hiring at the division's headquarters, three regional offices and among field inspectors.

"We are reprioritizing a lot of the hiring, not just in the Packers and Stockyards headquarters and the division here, but also our three regional offices and all the field inspectors necessary just to be boots on the ground to do the inspections, talk to the producers and, if and when necessary, follow the evidence," Hoskins said.

The hiring follows Trump's Sept. 4 executive order directing USDA to increase staffing, resources and investigative capacity for Packers and Stockyards enforcement. The order also directed the department to prioritize and expand investigations of packers and other entities covered by the law.

The effort comes after previously reported staffing and budget reductions at the Packers and Stockyards Division. Investigate Midwest reported that the division's annual budget fell 22%, from $31 million to $24 million, after Trump returned to office and that USDA said the division had approximately 67 employees, down from 108 in 2022.

The Packers and Stockyards Division, housed within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, assumed enforcement responsibilities previously handled by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration after a USDA reorganization during Trump's first administration.

Hoskins said any entity regulated under the Packers and Stockyards Act would remain subject to enforcement, including as USDA considers the future of several Biden-era regulations affecting the poultry industry.

USDA's 2026 regulatory agenda identified three Packers and Stockyards regulations for proposed rescission. However, Hoskins stopped short of treating their repeal as a foregone conclusion.

"We will not prejudge the outcome of that process," Hoskins said. "We'll look forward to having a robust public comment period, and obviously we will evaluate and analyze and assess all the feedback we get through that process before any final decisions are made on an individual rulemaking or regulation."

The regulations include rules addressing poultry grower contracting and tournament disclosures, competition and market integrity, and poultry grower payment and capital improvement systems. The payment and capital improvement rule, finalized in January 2025, addresses payment practices under poultry grower tournament systems and requires certain disclosures related to capital investments.

Hoskins said the potential removal of regulations and increased enforcement of the underlying statute were not contradictory policies.

"Those two things are not in conflict with the actions of the executive order, and in fact, we think it actually complements them," he said. "That's really our focus, is to just get back to the fundamentals."

Hoskins declined to specify what poultry grower compensation, tournament or capital investment practices could trigger an investigation if the regulations are ultimately rescinded, saying USDA would continue to follow the statute and existing regulations and "follow the evidence" when potential violations arise.

The executive order also directed USDA to coordinate more closely with the Justice Department on Packers and Stockyards enforcement. Hoskins said matters requiring legal action beyond the division's administrative enforcement tools could be referred through USDA's Office of General Counsel to DOJ.

"That has happened, is happening and will continue to happen," Hoskins said, adding that an existing USDA-DOJ memorandum of understanding provides another mechanism to "facilitate and expedite" that work.

– Meatingplace.com

The bank of *helping you grow!*

We're proud to be a trusted partner for farmers and ranchers. Whether you're working fields or running a modern agribusiness, our lenders work to understand your challenges and can help provide funding for all aspects of your operation.

THE BANK OF MISSOURI

Live well. Bank well.
bankofmissouri.com

Headings
Custom Grazing
Shelbyville, MO

We have excess pasture.
Looking to custom graze your cows & calves

Call Curtis
815-716-0328
for details

J&L Farm

"You will like the products and the competitive prices!"



Free standing panels
20'- $335
20' + 8' swinging gate - $495



Continuous panels
6 Bar - $138 • 5 Bar - $128

Weld-on gates
16' - $245 • 14' - $220
12' - $205 • 10' - $185

2 7/8" x 9' pipe post – $28
Caps and clips available



10' corral panels - $185
We also have panels with walk-through gates

Taking pre-orders now on the following products:
20' Freestanding windbreak – $710
20' Freestanding fenceline J-bunk – $995
20' Freestanding fenceline sheep/goat bunk – $695



J&L Farm
3615 Co Rd 1500 • Cairo, MO 65239
Call: 660-670-0673

The Newest Generation of Sydenstricker Genetics

48th Annual Production Sale
Saturday, November 21 ▪ 10 a.m. ▪ at the farm

Selling:
130 Fall Yearling Bulls *(Semen tested ready to work)*
50 Fall Calving Pairs
68 January Bull Calves *(Wintering program available)*
36 Spring Bred Cows
47 Spring Bred Heifers
85 Fall Yearling Heifers
42 Spring Heifer Calves



Lot 74 SydGen Smokey 5823 DOB: 9/7/25 Reg. 21611622
BW—84 WW—897 YW—1502 ADG—3.78 SC—35.8 Frame—6.9
A Show-Me Select qualified growth bull that also excels in carcass traits, scrotal, heifer pregnancy, milk, docility and hair shed. He scanned the largest adj. RE of all the fall bulls at 18.8 sq in and posted the 3rd highest IMF and 3rd heaviest yearling weight!

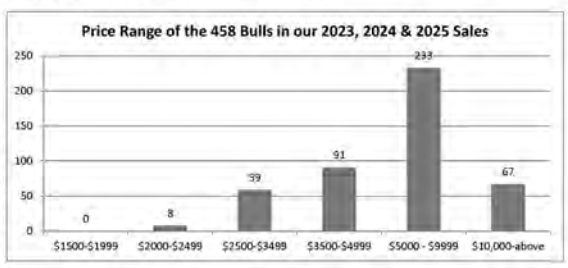
The AVERAGE bull in the entire offering ranks in the top 16% for **$Combination** at $351, with a CED of 7.9. In fact, the average bull ranks in the top 50% or better on 28 of the 32 EPDs and $ Indexes! All bulls have been genomic tested, parentage verified and the fall bulls all ultrasound scanned.



Lot 84 SydGen High Ground 5372 DOB: 8/26/25 Reg. 21635857
BW—86 WW—874 YW—1492 ADG—3.86 SC—36.2 Frame —5.7
A stout cows-only bull that will add the pounds! He ranks in the top 1% of the breed for Weaning, Yearling and Carcass Weight!! Additionally, he's top 20% for Milk, Docility and Claw & Angle EPDs.



Lot 133 SydGen Volunteer 5457 DOB: 9/6/25 Reg. 21611560
BW—82 WW—764 YW—1450 ADG—4.29 SC—36.6 Frame —5.3
The fifth high yearling weight of all the fall bulls, he's a maternal brother to the top-selling bull in our 2025 sale. He ranks high in growth, maternal, foot , docility and hair shed.



29th Annual SydGen Influence Commercial Heifer Sale



December 3—6:00 p.m.
Callaway Livestock Center, Kingdom City, MO
Selling 60 head of top commercial bred heifers & 2-year-old pairs from Mershon Farms, LLC. All heifers have met a stringent set of qualifications, & all will be sired by, bred to or calves sired by SydGen Herd Sires.

Catalog available online; mailed with November Angus Journal; or on request from the Farm Office

Check out our website for complete ultrasound, genomic, weights, calving, and other updates as they become available

Both Sales broadcast online at www.DVAuction.com

Registered Angus Cattle Since 1952

Eddie Sydenstricker
Sydenstricker Nobbe John Deere
eddiel@snpartners.com
Office: (573) 581-5900

Sydenstricker Genetics
3997 S Clark • Mexico, MO 65265
Farm Office: (573) 581-1225
www.sydgen.com ben@sydgen.com

Visitors Always Welcome

Ben Eggers, Manager
Cell: (573) 473-9202
Bub Raithel (573) 253-1664
Blake McDonald (573) 205-7914

Policy changes caused record high cattle prices; now unwinding

By COLLEEN SCHREIBER
Reprinted by permission
of Livestock Weekly

Even as supplies begin to recover, Blach expects herd expansion to proceed slowly. That contrasts with 2015, when the industry expanded at its fastest pace in history.

SEYMOUR, Texas — Two policy changes, the closure of the Mexican border to cattle imports and tariffs on Brazilian beef, pushed cattle prices to historic highs, but much of that added value is now coming out of the market, CattleFax CEO Randy Blach said.

Those policies also extended the market's upswing to six years, compared with the typical four to five, he said. The downside of the cycle generally lasts five to six years.

Speaking at a recent Zoetis-sponsored event, Blach estimated that, on an annualized basis, the border closure added about $18 per hundredweight to fed cattle prices, while the Brazilian tariffs added another $12.

"Higher prices had to ration the reduced supply," he said. Cattle producers have enjoyed historically strong profitability over the past 30 months, but the cycle highs are in for all classes of cattle, Blach said.

"It's been a wild couple of years," he said. "Finding true north on the compass has been difficult at best."

The border closure reduced feeder cattle and calf supplies by 1.2 million to 1.3 million head over two years, he said.

Cattle prices have fallen in recent months despite tight supplies because the market anticipates more cattle becoming available. Blach expects about 200,000 head of Mexican cattle to cross by year-end and perhaps 800,000 to one million head in 2027.

"We're now returning to the baseline that would have existed without the policy changes," Blach said. "Most of that adjustment is behind us but be careful. Don't expect calf prices to return to $524 this spring or 850-pound cattle coming off wheat pasture to sell for $370 or $380."

Prices have also fallen because higher beef prices have begun to weaken demand, requiring the market to win back consumers, Blach said.

"Beef demand has been phenomenal," he said, but it has weakened since March as consumers push back against higher prices.

He presented a graph tracking average retail beef prices from about $6 per pound in 2020 to the mid-$9 range today, an increase of roughly 50 percent. Blach again linked the sharp acceleration in prices to the July 8, 2025, Mexican border closure and the announcement of Brazilian tariffs the following day.

Prices have also fallen because higher beef prices have begun to weaken demand,requiring the market to win back consumers, Blach said.

"Beef demand has been phenomenal, but it has weakened since March."

He presented a graph tracking average retail beef prices from about $6 per pound in2020 to the mid-$9 range today, an increase of roughly 50 percent. Blach linked again the sharp acceleration in prices to the July 8, 2025, Mexican border closure and the announcement of Brazilian tariffs the following day.

Improved beef quality helped push demand to a 40-year high.

"Through about the second half of the 1990s between 30 and40 percent of the cattle weren't even quality graded because producers weren't being paid for quality. Now about 88 percent of the total fed supply grades Choice and Prime."

Per capita beef consumption has held at 59 to 60 pounds for the past decade, another indication of strong demand, he said.

"We've been able to sell the same per capita beef supply a $100 per hundredweight higher than just a few years ago," Blach said.

Ground beef now accounts for 54 percent of total U.S. beef consumption, he said. With demand strong and cow numbers low, imported lean beef is needed to blend with the 50- and 60-percent lean trim produced from U.S. fed cattle.

"Of the 85,000 items sold in retail stores, ground beef has been the number one item to increase in sales for two years running," Blach said.

In the last quarter, however, chicken breasts displaced ground beef as the leading item for sales growth. Lean trim prices are also beginning to weaken, another indication of consumer resistance.

Heavier carcasses have helped offset the shortage of cattle. "Carcass weights are up near 25 pounds three years running," Blach said. "That's equivalent to killing another million head of fed cattle a year."

Even as supplies begin to recover, Blach expects herd expansion to proceed slowly. That contrasts with 2015, when the industry expanded at its fastest pace in history.

Drouth is a common factor in both cycles, though the current drouth has been more prolonged for some producers.

Blach said El Niño is expected to bring several months of significantly improved moisture to much of the Southwest and other regions. However, CattleFax's consulting meteorologist,

Matt Makens, is not yet willing to say whether the strong El Niño will persist beyond late spring into summer.

Significant, well-timed rains will be needed to break the drouth, Blach said, but the anticipated moisture is a start.

Cow numbers remain well below their 1975 peak. Beef cow inventory reached 31.7 million head during the last cycle; he expects it to reach 29.5 million to 30 million during this one.

Dairy cows now play a larger and different role in the beef supply, he said. Dairy cow inventory is about 9.7 million head, up 200,000 from the previous year and 400,000 from a few years earlier.

Dairy-influenced cattle accounted for 16 percent of fed slaughter in 2015. Today, they account for 21 to 22 percent, or about five million head, he said.

"Our markets are changing; this cycle is different and we need to think about this differently than we have in the past," Blach said.

Steer and heifer slaughter is at its cycle low. Blach expects slaughter to increase by about 500,000 head in 2027, though the total will depend in part on Mexican feeder cattle imports.

Meanwhile, feedlot costs of gain are expected to rise from 95 cents to $1 per pound to about $1.20 to $1.25, he said.

"Higher trending markets make us all look like good operators because the market takes care of all our bad decisions. We are no longer trending higher, so make sure you're running your pencil."

Rains already beginning, along with those expected in coming months, could make the cattle market "pretty snappy," Blach said. Still, he cautioned against betting "the whole wad" on a rally and encouraged producers to manage their risk.

CattleFax expects fed cattle prices to average about $220 per hundredweight in 2027, with a range of $200 to $240. Lower anticipated fed cattle prices and higher costs of gain will put added pressure on feeder cattle values, he said.

Feeder cattle are expected to average about $330 per hundredweight, with resistance around $340 to $350. By 2028, feeder prices could return to the $240 to $260 range, Blach said.

One potential boost would be renewed access to China. If China reopens to U.S. beef, it could add another $10 per hundredweight to the market, he said.

Tight cattle supplies will continue to challenge packers

Blach criticized the Trump

See CATTLE PRICES, page 14

Farmer's Livestock Sales

Coatsburg, Illinois

Special Customer Appreciation Day for the Sale Saturday, October 31



Corbitt Wall, host of DVAuction's Feeder Flash will be a guest auctioneer and will spend the day meeting and visiting with folks. Come join us for our customer appreciation meal and for an enjoyable day at the auction. Since it is Halloween, we'll have gift bags for the kids of course there will be candy! Hope to see you there.

- **Special Cow Sale on Saturday, November 7**
- **Special Feeder Sale on Saturday, November 14**
- **Regular Sale on Saturday, November 21**
- **Regular Sale on Saturday, November 28**
- **Special Feeder Sale onSaturday, December 5**

Call ahead to consign so we can advertise and promote your cattle to our buyers.

"Prices that pay the bills."

Be sure to follow our Facebook page for consignment listings, sale information, and other timely updates.

View our sale broadcast on DV Auctions!

For more information contact:

Farmer's Livestock Sales

1947 US-24, Coatsburg, IL 62325

Office: 217-455-2505

Find us on Facebook

Robbie: 217-242-8874 • Quest Flesner: 217-506-0064

MEYERS Truck Service

is now your Meyer Equipment Sales, Parts, & Service Dealer

We will be carrying the full line of Vertical Mixers, Single & Twin, Manure Spreaders.

MADE IN AMERICA!!!

We are Your Complete Start to Finish Truck Mounted Equipment Specialist

Meyers Truck Service

Mexico, Missouri

573-581-3224

Ask for Bob Nichols

MANUFACTURED IN DORCHESTER WI BY MEYER

New Anderson Bale Wrappers in stock and ready to deliver.



Call Bob for details:

573-581-3224



Livestock News & Notes.....

Senate challenger roasts Washington's beef import policies

Nebraska Senate candidate Dan Osborn's latest campaign ad is serving voters a smorgasbord of familiar meat puns to remind his state's cattle industry about the Republican White House's support for beef imports.

President Donald Trump quadrupled Argentina's tariff-free beef quota for 2026 and ordered a tariff holiday for up to 300,000 metric tons of beef trimmings through the November mid-terms.

In the ad, Osborn holds up two different trays of wrapped ground beef, one with green animation implying a bad odor.

"This is Argentinian beef. This? Nebraska beef. In Washington, they give this beef discounts," he says, shaking his head at the first tray, "and that hurts our farmers."

Next, Osborn holds up a raw, stringy-looking chicken breast. "This Congress — it's too chicken to stand up to the corporations who've bought them off. In this Nebraskan," he says, pointing a thumb at himself, then holding up a huge slab of bright red, marbled steak, "they'll meet their match."

The ad makes no mention of his opponent, GOP incumbent Pete Ricketts, but Osborn holds up two raw shrimps — with the heads of Democratic former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Ricketts — and vows to "take on the coastal shrimps in both parties."

Ricketts has opposed the beef tariff holiday. In a statement to Politico, Ricketts said that Osborn was "reading a script his socialist ad agency wrote."

The Cook Political Report rates Nebraska's U.S. Senate race as "likely Republican," though the average of September polling shows a dead heat. There is no Democratic nominee. In 2024, Osborn, a former union leader in the food industry, was considered a strong challenger to GOP incumbent Deb Fischer but lost 53%-47%.

Beef packers profitable as feedlots struggle

U.S. cattle feedlot losses narrowed during the week ending Oct. 10 as slightly higher fed cattle prices and lower breakeven costs improved feeding margins, according to Sterling Marketing's latest Beef Profit Tracker from Drovers.

Sterling estimated average feedlot losses at $287.66 per head, compared with losses of $340.33 the previous week and profits of $490.04 per head during the same period last year.

The five-area direct negotiated steer price increased to $220.11 per hundredweight (cwt), up from $219.80 the previous week. Meanwhile, the calculated breakeven price for cattle marketed during the week declined $3.45 to $240.66 per cwt, reflecting lower feeder cattle purchase costs when those animals entered feedlots.

Despite the weekly improvement, feedlot margins remained under pressure from elevated cattle acquisition costs. Total costs for marketed cattle averaged $3,549.69 per head, compared with $2,936.09 a year earlier.

Beef packers remained profitable, although their estimated margins declined to $156.36 per head from $181.21 the previous week. The comprehensive beef cutout fell $4.16 to $375.85 per cwt. Packers recorded losses of $127.72 per head during the comparable week in 2025.

Total cattle slaughter declined to 531,000 head from 548,000 the previous week, while beef production fell to 471 million pounds from 487 million pounds. Fed cattle plant capacity utilization decreased to 79.9% from 82.5%.

The figures highlighted continuing pressure on cattle feeding operations as tight feeder cattle supplies and shifting slaughter capacity influence profitability across the beef supply chain.

Judge blocks USDA reorganization plan

A federal judge temporarily blocked the U.S. Department of Agriculture from implementing portions of its reorganization plan, in finding this week that the agency likely violated congressional spending restrictions by moving forward with office closures and employee relocations.

U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria of the Northern District of California issued the order in a lawsuit brought by federal employee unions, local governments and nonprofit organizations against USDA and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.

The ruling prohibits USDA from spending appropriated funds on certain office closures and employee relocations while the litigation proceeds. It applies to eight USDA components, including the Forest Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Food and Nutrition Administration and the department's research and rural development operations.

The court found that USDA's planned restructuring likely constituted an unauthorized reprogramming of federal funds. Congress had restricted the department's ability to use appropriated funds for reorganizations without congressional approval.

"Congress did not contemplate USDA using its appropriated funds to shut down offices or relocate employees," Chhabria wrote.

The reorganization, announced in 2025, included plans to relocate the Forest Service headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Salt Lake City, close nine regional Forest Service offices and consolidate research operations. Other proposed changes included relocating employees and consolidating offices responsible for nutrition assistance, agricultural research and international trade.

USDA argued that it had broad authority to reorganize the department and that the court's intervention should be limited. The judge rejected those arguments, finding that broader temporary relief was necessary to prevent potential harm while the case proceeds.

The plaintiffs, including the American Federation of Government Employees and three other federal employee unions, welcomed the decision.

The ruling does not permanently invalidate USDA's reorganization plan. The court noted that the relevant congressional spending restrictions are currently scheduled to expire Dec. 11, potentially allowing Congress to reconsider the department's authority to proceed.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com

GTROD & Sons CONSTRUCTION
POST FRAME BUILDINGS • METAL ROOFING
ALL TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION
420 HWY 161
MIDDLETOWN, MO
573-470-3660

Scotland County
LIVESTOCK AUCTION
P.O. Box 111 • Hwy 15 North • Memphis, MO
660-465-7213 • Jerry & Barb Blomme
Grant Blomme • 660-341-0069 • Rodney Garman 660-216-4674

"Give us a call when buying or selling, we'd be happy to visit, and look forward to working with you!"
-- Grant Blomme

SCAN ME
Scan the QR code to access updated early listings and sale results.

Sales every Tuesday selling all classes of cattle every week, while featuring yearlings and longtime weaned calves on the first and third Tuesday and featuring dairy cattle on the second Tuesday each month. All classes of cattle sold every Tuesday.

Please visit us on online at: www.scotlandcountylivestock.com for our weekly listings and market reports

Sale Schedule
Special Cattle Sale
Tuesday, Nov. 3 @ 12:30 a.m.
Dairy Sale
Tuesday, Nov. 10 @ 10:30 a.m.
Special Cattle Sale
Tuesday, Nov. 17 @ 12:30 a.m.
Regular Cow Sale & Hay Auction
Tuesday, Nov. 24 @ 12:30 a.m.
Hay Sale @ 11:30 a.m.
Special Bred Cow Sale
Saturday, Nov. 28 @ 12:30 a.m.
Special Cattle Sale
Tuesday, Dec. 1 @ 12:30 a.m.

EASTERN MISSOURI COWBOY CHURCH
Worship Service Every Tuesday Night Beginning at 6:30 p.m. and Every 2nd Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with carry-in lunch afterward.
15735 Hwy. Bus. 61 North
Bowling Green, MO 63334
Stan Henderson, Pastor
573-221-8429

R-CALF witness urges USITC to save America's family sheep ranches

Nevada rancher Michael Bardsley testified on October 16 before the U.S. International Trade Commission on behalf of R-CALF USA, describing how competition from imported lamb has contributed to lost buyers, devastating price swings and the disappearance of family sheep operations.

Bardsley, representing John Espil Sheep Company and serving on R-CALF USA's Sheep Committee, testified at the injury hearing in the Commission's lamb meat investigation, No. TA-201-80. His testimony reinforced R-CALF USA's October 8 prehearing brief, which argues that increased lamb imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry.

"Our family desperately wants to continue producing American lamb and contributing to our community," Bardsley said.

His family raises sheep and cattle in Nevada and northern California, continuing a sheep-ranching tradition that began in 1903. Bardsley described how that longstanding operation lost dependable marketing opportunities during the dramatic reversal in lamb prices in 2022.

In 2020, the operation received a feeder-lamb offer of $1.20 per pound. In 2021, shipping disruptions tightened supplies and the offer increased to $2.60 per pound for a similar lamb crop. The following year, Bardsley said, feeders who had purchased lambs at near-record prices faced heavy import pressure and devastating losses. One longtime buyer stopped buying lambs entirely. Others could no longer offer to purchase the family's lambs.

An established relationship with a family-run feeder allowed the operation to sell half its lamb crop that fall.

"For the lambs we did sell, we received less than half the price per pound we received the previous year," Bardsley said.

That experience illustrates a central argument in R-CALF USA's brief: competition from imported meat reaches ranchers through the loss of domestic meat sales and the resulting reduction in livestock purchases. When packers lose sales, their demand for slaughter-ready lambs can decline, reducing feeders' purchases of the next crop from ranchers.

The brief cites an August 2026 grower and feeder survey in which 53 of 111 respondents reported that buyers referenced imported lamb or import prices when reducing bids, prices or purchase volumes. Responding feeders and combined feeder-grower reported a 45.4% decline in annual lamb marketings between 2021 and 2025. The survey describes participating operations and is not a statistically representative national sample.

According to USDA data cited in the brief, lamb imports measured in carcass-weight equivalents increased 14.3% between 2021 and 2025 and rose another 5% in January–July 2026 compared with the same months a year earlier. Meanwhile, the U.S. breeding-sheep inventory declined from 3.66 million head in January 2025 to 3.61 million in January 2026.

Bardsley described witnessing the loss of breeding operations firsthand. In 2024, his family traveled to Montana to purchase young ewes from a century-old ranch in Garfield County. The young couple operating the ranch told him that an inconsistent, declining lamb market had driven them to sell their remaining sheep, despite diversifying into cattle and hay.

The consequences extend to rural workers and businesses. Three generations of Bardsley's family work alongside approximately 15 sheepherders. The operation's annual sheep expenses exceed $1 million, supporting grocery stores, veterinarians, equipment dealers, trucking companies, shearing crews and other businesses.

R-CALF USA's brief acknowledges recent improvements in lamb prices, selected retail sales and processor profitability.

It argues that those gains coexist with a smaller breeding flock and weakened marketing relationships, and urges the Commission to consider the growers and feeders whose animals sustain domestic lamb production.

R-CALF USA requests an affirmative determination of present serious injury, or alternatively threatened serious injury, allowing consideration of relief and measures to help domestic producers rebuild.

"Based on our experience and R-CALF USA's prehearing brief, I respectfully ask the Commission to save America's family ranches," Bardsley said.

The Commission's injury determination is due by November 13, 2026, according to its investigation schedule.

Buying selling, custom cleaning of seed.
Specializing in cover and forage crops

TriCal Superior Forage

Taking pre-orders for TriCal Surge triticale seed.

ROYCE RIDGWAY
573.682.7176
GRANT RIDGWAY
573.682.4148
ridgwayseed@gmail.com

RIDGWAY SEED & SOIL LLC.

www.ridgwayseed.com

Complete Building Packages

Custom portable buildings • Custom livestock shelters and shades • Ag Panel • R Panel
Corrugated Board and Batten
M.F.G. Building Supplies
with Valspar Weather XL 40 year
Metal siding and gutter supplies

Large Enough to Accommodate Small Enough to Appreciate!

AUDRAIN
Building Supplies, LLC
5351 Highway Y • Clark, MO 65243
Or you can call 573-687-2287 M-F 2 pm to 3 pm

Fall Special!
Due to a strong response, Special pricing has been extended through the fall!
Cattle Shade/Shelter Package 20x60 choose from many colors,
ONLY $2,900!
Other sizes and installations are also available, contact us for details, options, estimates and/or bids.

We appreciate your business — both buyers & sellers!

Leachman Cattle
I-70 Gateway Fall Bull Sale
Thursday, November 5 @ 5 p.m.

Offering 65 Stabilizer Bulls!
Catalog available online: Leachman.com



Special Monthly Cow Sale
Thursday, November 5 @ 6 p.m.
following the bull sale

Early consignments

Oberlin – 90 blk or blwf cows. These cows will run 3-4 yr old with fancy black aug/sept calves by side, not exposed so you can bred back to bulls of your choice.

Craighead dispersal – 50 blk cows 4-8 yrs old w/fancy sydgen angus calves by side.

Bohanon – 15 Blk 3-4 yr old cows with fancy Blk Sept calves by side.

Pampering – 30 Angus 1st calf hfrs weigh 1200. AI bred. Due Dec 1st cleaned up 45 days. Fancy and Gentle!

Kincaid – 115 fancy 3-4 yr old blk or blkwf cows bred to Wheeler Angus bulls. Due to start Jan. 20th. Cowot wire broke and been on rotational grazing system, easy to handle.

Zimmerman – 11 blkwf open hfrs tract and pelvic scored ready to breed wgh 775 lbs.

www.callawaylivestock.com
Check our website for updated consignment listings, along with further details

SALE TIMES:
Monday:
12:00 p.m.
Fat Cattle,
Feeder Calves
Cows
Bulls

First Thursday of every month:
6:00 p.m.
Bred cows
Slaughter cows
Bulls

Callaway
Livestock Center
Kingdom City, MO

7238 Jade Rd.,
Kingdom City, MO 65262
Phone: 573-642-7486
Fax: 573-642-2492

Receiving hours:
Tues.: 8 AM-8 PM • Wed.: 8 PM-8 PM • Thurs.: 8 AM-5 PM

Owner
Jack Harrison
573-999-7197

Owner
John Harrison
573-220-1482

Claude Niemeyer 573-470-1017
Roger Temmen 573-680-4538
Glenn Stegeman 573-619-8495
Justin Oberling 217-440-7724
Kevin Miliken 417-440-7724
Chad Nickelson 573-681-1627
Jarred Simpson 573-247-0786
Miles McWhorther 573-263-3759.
Carson Poe 573-550-9133
Tyler Harris 573-220-2766
Craton Blettel 417-650-7688
Nathaniel Collard 469-412-1395

GRAIN BELT EXPRESS from page 1

From the get-go, Grain Belt Express was supposed to convey 3,500 megawatts. "Keep in mind, Missouri wasn't supposed to get any of that power," Reed says. "We were just supposed to give up our land."

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing," he adds. "A private company from out of state was about to run wires through my state, and force people by eminent domain to give up farmland and pastureland from border to border along Route 36."

"That has backroom deal written all over it. The politicians all knew there was a stench."

The Dotted Line

In 2014, Clean Line Energy (soon named Grain Belt Express) touted its power line project at community gatherings in Missouri. In Reed's geography, meetings were held in Cameron, Carrollton, and Polo. Ear to the ground, he attended all three.

"It was crazy. It was unbelievable. They needed our farms and pastures so they could make big bucks in another state far away. They just wanted our land, end of story. This wasn't about a local water line or highway improvement. This wasn't about the public good; it was about private good."

Roughly two years later, Reed got a phone call from a Grain Belt Express land acquisition agent: Here's our offer.

Grain Belt Express requested a complete easement over Reed's 246-acre farm and 20 acres for power line construction, including a 160' right-of-way.

"I was in shock. No. No. No. First of all, I didn't want them on my land, period. Second, they offered a pittance of a one-time payment. I met with them and it was a terrible experience."

"Their right-of-way makes a curve across the front of my farm. It not only impacts the 20 acres, but everything else, too. This is land that touches the city limits, and it's only about 60 miles from Kansas City, but now the full value is destroyed if I ever would have sold in the future. What buyer wants to find out the power line company controls 100 percent of the land?"

Additionally, Reed's farming practices would change overnight, he says. "Aerial application would be finished. And in those particular fields, I'm supposed to bring in 120' booms running over terraces with lines just 30' to 40' up? That's begging for something to go wrong in the long-term."

Bottom line, Reed was given a choice. Sign on the dotted line or go to court.

"Hell, no. I refused to sign."

Dog and Pony

In 2018, as Reed attempted to protect his land, Grain Belt Express changed ownership from Clean Line Energy to Invenergy (Chicago-based). The switch went from LLC to LLC.

"It made an obvious mess way messier. No way in hell, according to Missouri law, would a private LLC be able to wield eminent domain. Didn't matter. On with the show. After all, we're only talking about the single most powerful electric line in our nation's history generated by windmills. What could go wrong?"

"Look no further than Grain Belt Express if you want to see the fall of private property rights, the power of big business, and the political rot of eminent domain," contends Kevin Reed.

In increments, Grain Belt Express boosted its capacity projections, and agreed to divert increasing percentages of power to Missouri. By 2019, power line capacity was pegged at 4,000 megawatts, with 12.5% or 500 megawatts set for Missouri.

"They knew that was the only way to get our politicians to join in," Reed asserts. "They were getting away with it by dumping a token amount of power here in Missouri and pretending it was all about the public good."

In May 2022, Missouri lawmakers dropped H.B. 2005, a property rights bill, on the desk of Gov. Mike Parson. In June, he signed H.B. 2005, ensuring Grain Belt Express had exemption from new regulations on local energy delivery and from new rules ensuring landowners got at least 150% of market value for property losses. Bottom line: Grain Belt Express was grandfathered in.

Significantly, in July 2022, a month after the bill's signing, Invenergy expanded the project's capacity to 5,000 megawatts and announced half the capacity (2,500 megawatts) would be delivered to the Show-Me State. In a snap, Missouri instantly attained a five-fold wattage increase.

"It was a dog-and-pony show," Reed insists. "Invenergy, in my opinion, realized that public awareness had grown too big in Missouri about what Grain Belt Express was trying to pull. Suddenly, Invenergy was all about helping our state."

(Via email and phone requests, Agweb asked Invenergy reps: When Grain Belt Express was first proposed in 2010, how much power was supposed to be diverted to Missouri? Invenergy did not answer, instead issuing a statement: "Grain Belt Express has completed voluntary agreements with landowners for over 95% of the project's first phase, and the project's landowner protections, including its Code of Conduct, have been recognized by property rights advocates as essential for the respectful and fair treatment of landowners. Following extensive public reviews, Grain Belt Express has been approved in all four route states and project development is moving forward to meet the need for affordable, reliable power across the Midwest and grid regions serving 40% of American households.")

"Truth is, the cat was outta the bag and they were forced to do something or lose their power line," Reed says. "Out of the blue, they wanted to gift Missouri a whole boatload of electricity."

"Things just ramped up from there and got wilder. Next thing you knew, almost magically, Grain Belt Express got $5 billion from the U.S. taxpayer."

No Cards to Play

On Nov. 25, 2024, among the final acts of the Biden Administration, DOE announced $4.9 billion in government funding for Phase 1 of Grain Belt Express, touting the power line's "clean, reliable, and affordable power."

Eight months later, in July 2025, the Trump Administration canceled the funding. DOE pulled the plug. "I don't even think Grain Belt Express is going with wind-generated power anymore," Reed posits. "It's now very unclear where the power is even going to come from, but nobody seems to know anything."

(Agweb asked Invenergy reps: Is Grain Belt Express still going to be powered by wind turbines? If not, what is the power source? Invenergy did not answer.)

"You can imagine the scrambling and turmoil behind the scenes of all this," Reed says. "Nevertheless, with investment from Blackstone and others, the project gets CPR and still goes on. I'm still going to lose control of my land no matter what."

Reed currently stands on the cusp of a jury trial in January 2027. "Basically, I've got no cards to play except to find out how much money I do or don't get. After paying attorney fees and fighting this for going on 16 years, you can be assured I've been through a terrible, terrible time. Most landowners within close distance of me say they can't afford to fight and just take whatever they're offered. I don't blame them."

Across the length of Grain Belt Express, landowners had three choices: accept an offer, negotiate, or litigate. "We're talking 800 miles. I can't imagine how many farmers and lifetimes have been hurt by this abuse of eminent domain."

"I can't imagine how some of the landowners in Kansas feel or some of the landowners in Illinois. Most people can see this doesn't make sense," Reed adds. "Even Farm Bureau Illinois was against it. When even a big ag organization is willing to speak up, you know something is rotten."

In March 2025, then Attorney General Andrew Bailey issued a notably blunt press release regarding Grain Belt Express: This so-called renewable energy project is nothing more than a government-sponsored land grab disguised as environmentalism. Missouri farmers — the backbone of our state and nation — now face the prospect of watching their lands carved apart, all to satisfy the greed of private investors.



FOR PUBLIC GOOD... OR PRIVATE? "This wasn't about the public good; it was about private good," Reed says. "The politicians all knew there was a stench." (Photo by Chris Bennett)

Four months later, in July, Bailey stated that Grain Belt Express had "filed nearly 50 eminent domain lawsuits against Missouri landowners to seize property."

Bailey was then sued by Grain Belt Express to block a civil investigation into the power line. Grain Belt Express' lead counsel Catherine Hanaway spearheaded the lawsuit. Stunningly, in August 2025, one month after launching the Grain Belt Express lawsuit, Hanaway was appointed by Gov. Mike Kehoe to fill Bailey's attorney general post, who departed for Washington, D.C., as new co-deputy director of the FBI. Simply, Hanaway replaced Bailey.

"You can't make this stuff up," Reed says. "I've been dealing with it for 16 years and it's more tangled than anything from your worst nightmare."

Man Against La Mancha

Invenergy says Grain Belt Express will provide $52 billion in energy savings over 15 years, create 5,500 jobs, and potentially power 50 data centers, all backed by $11 billion in private investment.

According to Invenergy: "The biggest transmission line in the U.S. history, Grain Belt Express is a solution to one of the top challenges worrying community, business, and economic development leaders across America: increasing energy bills."

Reed does not buy Grain Belt Express's pronouncements. "They've used lawfare against farmers and landowners in the power line's way. They bleed your money. They tire you out with, 'Sign. Sign. Sign.'"

"Some people might look at me and say I'm swinging against windmills like Don Quixote or Man Against La Mancha. No, this is just a hard pill to swallow if you care about private property. I've tried my best to reach John Rich and I'm hoping he hears about this situation."

"I'll never forget when Grain Belt's land agents told me I'd get more money if I went down easy. I told them, 'I'm not signing and it's illegal for your private company to use eminent domain to take my land for this power line.'"

"They said, 'Well, your county is sure allowing it.' I answered, 'County? What about the Constitution?'"



Skimming the cream

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





We are importing far too many agricultural products that should be produced domestically.

It's hard to argue with real math but they tell me that the new cattle barns for the World Dairy Expo were built in Madison, WI 12 years ago. That means it has been 13 years since I attended an event that I used to never miss. News Flash: much has changed but quite a bit is still the same. Fewer people are milking more cows and I will get to that in a moment, but official reports suggest that 2,477 head of cattle were exhibited and attendees came in from 83 different countries, thus providing solid confirmation that this is truly a World Dairy Expo.

Right off the bat, the most interesting thing I learned was the fact that we have moved from 9 million dairy cows to 9.8 million nationwide in 2026. Unfortunately, I can make the case that this growth was not driven by higher demand for dairy but rather a federal government who wants to give away money to 20,000+ head dairies who will put in a biodigester to capture methane and pipe out liquid natural gas. Anyone who can't see the train wreck that's coming with that growth incentive beats to a different drum than I do.

What is going on with per capita dairy consumption at home and around the world? Since 2000, the global per capita consumption of fluid milk has gone from 197 lbs to 130 lbs in 2025. This is a very significant drop and the lion's share of that seems to be coming from European countries who have been the leaders in fluid milk consumption for quite some time. They are reporting a shift to "plant-based drinks", which I refuse to call milk and it's something we need to get a handle on here at home as well.

To make this whole discussion even more interesting, India is now responsible for 25% of global milk production and does not rank very well on the chart with per capita consumption at a mere 67 lbs /person/year. This undoubtedly means they are a threat to all countries in the import arena with their extremely low cost of production.

USDA has reported the following regarding trade negotiations with India:

"Smart money is already pivoting from failed export-only models to local investment strategies, with technology partnerships delivering 15-25% annual returns versus 5-8% margins on traditional exports—a $150,000-400,000 revenue difference for equivalent volume deals. While US dairy hit record $8.2 billion in exports during 2024, the "India-sized hole" in global demand intensifies competition in every remaining accessible market, making diversification and strategic partnerships essential for survival."

So clearly now the question is what exactly do we import from India? The following is information supplied by the Indian government:

India is a significant exporter of dairy products to the United States, which ranks as the third-largest importer of global dairy shipments and the top destination for Indian dairy exports. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the U.S. imported approximately 94,000 tons of Indian dairy products, valued at $180 million, making it India's largest market for such goods.

To make matters worse Cheese Reporter has a July 2026 analysis of cheese imports into the United States:

US dairy Imports during June were valued at $467.2 million, up 20% from June 2025, according to figures released Tuesday by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Dairy imports during the first half of 2026 were valued at $2.64 billion, up 2% from the first half of 2025.

Leading sources of US dairy imports during the first six months of this year, on a value basis, with comparisons to the first six months of last year, were: New Zealand, $408.5 million, up 9%; Ireland, $368.4 million, up 14%; Italy, $291.9 million, up 15%; France, $238.0 million, up 9%; Canada, $235.2 million, up 9%; Mexico, $141.5 million, down 29%; Denmark, $119.9 million, up 1%; and Netherlands, $113.1 million, down 17%.

Cheese imports during June totaled 38.4 million pounds, up 17% from June 2025. The value of those imports, $159.5 million, was up 32%.

June imports of butter and other milkfat-based products totaled 20.5 million pounds, up 112% from June 2025. Butter imports during June totaled 16.9 million pounds, up 182% from June 2025.

Folks, the story here is the same as it is for beef: we are importing far too many agricultural products that should be produced domestically. The whole reason I started this column and Loos Tales radio broadcasts was to remind Americans that domestic food and fuel are a means of national security. When will we see that the cream is being skimmed off the top and American consumers and producers are left holding the empty bottle?

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

Beef processor waste leaks into waterway; owner points to vandalism

A leak stemming from a Missouri beef processor caused waste material to enter a water before a nearby landowner alerted environmental authorities, who then contacted the slaughter facility, which immediately halted operations, according to NBC affiliate KYTV 3.

James Parker, who discovered the spill as the creek wended its way through his property, said the stench from the from the polluted water could be detected from a distance.

Members of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources followed the trail, which led to Best Beef Missouri, in Pleasant Hope in the Show-Me-State's Polk County.

The source of the leak was found to be a sewer line with a cap missing from a cleanout location. According to plant owner Brian Lillie, the line had been deliberately vandalized. He went on to say that two holes had been found in the property's fencing, per KYTV.

Best Beef ceased operations while the sewer line cap was replaced. It also paid for the cleanup. To prevent further damage to the creek, it was deemed necessary to erect a temporary dam further downriver from the polluted section.

Nevertheless, Parker told KYTV that authorities told him the pollution had essentially extinguished life in the affected part of the creek.

– Meatingplace.com

Get a full year of home delivery of The Cattleman's Advocate for just $30. See page 6 for details.



- Comes Standard withQuick Attach and 3 Point hookup
- Unrolling your bales in your vertical mixer saves grind time and wear and tear on your equipment
- Unroll into your bale rings to make it easier on your cattle pulling hay out
- Unrolling on the ground with the Hay Hand keeps a narrow window and less waste and spreads manure

ZUROWESTE WELDING
AUXVASSE, MO
573-253-1864
Custom Welding & Semi Trailer Repair





BARNS OF PIKE COUNTY

Early history of Brookhill Farm in Pike County is filled with tragedy

By CAROLYN ALLEN
Special to The Advocate

The history of Brookhill Farm in Pike County's Calumet Township reads a bit like a tragic soap opera.

The story started around 1904 when wealthy St. Louisan James Theodore "Ted" Walker (great uncle of President George Herbert Walker Bush) bought Dr. Sam Buckner's farm. Later that same year he married St. Louis heiress Lillian Lambert in what the St. Louis Globe Democrat called one of the "brilliant social events" of the year.

The couple built a large home on the farm they called Brookhill Stock Farm and apparently spent much of their time there.

Unfortunately, however, that time turned out to be short. Ted was killed in 1906 at the age of 27 in a gasoline explosion in the farm's garage – leaving his wife of 2 years as well as 9-week-old son Teddy to run the farm without him.

St. Louis newspapers called Ted a "gentleman farmer", while Clarksville newspapers described him as "much liked and esteemed."

Despite their loss, Lily and baby Teddy apparently still spent much of their time at the farm. Sadly, however, just three years later another gas explosion – this time in the basement of the house – caused the house to burn to the ground. Fortunately, this time nobody was killed. The Louisiana Press Journal noted that the only bright spot was that the barn, "as fine as an ordinary dwelling" and "always filled with fine horses and vehicles," did not catch fire.

Later in 1909, Lily married Dr. Malvern B. Clopton - a highly regarded St. Louis surgeon. The family wasn't finished with tragedy, however, and Lilly died two years later in 1911. That left Dr. Clopton to raise her young son - Teddy Walker - who was then technically the owner of the farm.

In yet another cruel twist, Teddy was killed in a plane crash in 1927 on his way home after his graduation from Yale. His obituary said that "extensive improvements were planned for the Brookhill farm by the young livestock fancier and breeder."

Although Teddy was never able to implement those improvements, his stepfather, Dr. Clopton (who then inherited Brookhill), took good care of the farm and went ahead with Teddy's plans.

Dr. Clopton ran the farm for 20 years, and Brookhill served as a dairy - shipping milk to St. Louis and raising many fine horses as well as cattle and hogs. In addition, Brookhill's orchards produced many apples.



BROOKHILL BARN: This barn is one of only a few remaining on the Brookhill Farm in Pike County. It likely served as the farm's dairy barn because there was a fully enclosed pen on the ground floor for dairy bulls. After the farm was sold and the name changed to Rosebrook, this barn was used for show cattle during Rose family ownership. The concrete walls offered a cool place to work on cattle in the summer. (Photo by Carolyn Allen)

Local lore has it that there were over 800 acres and at least 13 outbuildings on the farm at one time. An article in the 1928 Bowling Green Times reporting on the annual Farm Bureau picnic at Brookhill noted that the picnic crowd had the pleasure of touring the massive stock barns on the farm.

The newspaper described a large coach barn that had just been completed for around $12,000. It was 96 feet in front with two wings each 72 ft long. It contained eighteen 12-foot stalls, three feed bins, a garage/carriage room in the center with a tack room and harness room all on the ground floor. The second story had a hayloft with holes in the floor to drop hay down into the stalls. It also had an apartment for the grooms.

The 1928 Clarksville Sentinel added that the barn had been built by Bill Sisson of Louisiana. In addition, there were two other horse barns on the farm at the time which provided a total of 45 stalls for horses.

Brookhill filled those stalls with fine saddle horses - winning many ribbons in competitions around the state and country. They were particularly proud of their saddle horse sire – Missouri Chief McDonald.

The 1932 Bowling Green Times even credited Brookhill (along with Walnut Valley) for making the Pike County Fair so popular due to the great horses they exhibited. Brookhill held an annual colt show at the farm, and newspapers reported that longtime farm manager J. Frank Parker ran things smoothly and made everyone feel welcome.

In addition to horse barns, a concrete hog barn was built in 1927. The Clarksville Sentinel noted that it would contain 24 farrowing pens as well as a sale pavilion. It would have electric lights, steam heat and running water in each pen.

A later article reported that the finishing touches were being added to the new hog house/sale pavilion so it would be ready for the October boar and gilt sale. The newspaper noted that Brookhill's award winning Poland China hogs were known all over the country. The farm even took out a full-page ad in the Clarksville Sentinel for their sale that year and in later years advertised Berkshire hogs as well.

Brookhill was also known for its dairy. A 1928 Clarksville Sentinel article described the new Brookhill dairy barn. It was 100' x 60' and built of concrete. It had 27 stalls, and at the time Brookhill had a herd of 30 registered Jersey cows. The farm shipped its milk to St. Louis, and like their horses and hogs, their cattle won many awards.

Although Brookhill Stock Farm saw more than its share of tragedies in its early days, the farm certainly flourished under Dr. Clopton's ownership.

Since his death in 1947, it has been reduced in size and has had several owners. Among those were U. S. Senator Ed Long who raised Hereford cattle there and Earl Rose, who changed the name to Rosebrook during his ownership.

Rosebrook is credited with introducing Limousin cattle to Pike County, and both Senator Long and the Roses continued the farm's prize-winning traditions.

The farm currently has new owners. but is once again listed by the name Brookhill in the platbook.

Somehow, that seems fitting.

Enjoy reading The Advocate? Get a full year of home delivery for just $30. See page 6 for details.

Boone County Cattlemen
Boone County Cattlemen's Annual Scholarship Fundraiser
Friday, November 6, 2026
Doors open at 6:00pm
Centralia Knights of Columbus
20650 N Hwy 124 Centralia, MO 65240
Please Join Us For:
Dinner, Raffles, Live & Silent Auctions
Tickets:
Adults: $35 - 10 and Under: FREE - Tables of 10: $325
Auction Items:
• Power Tools
• Seed Corn & Beans
• Feed, Mineral, Lick Tubs
• Gift Certificates & Baskets
• Household Items & Appliances
• Grills & Smokers
Contact Information:
Phillip Brooks
Email: 4brooksfarm@gmail.com
Cell: (573)819-0181

• Roofing
• Siding
• Windows
• Pole Barns
• Full Line Building Packages
MILLER BROTHERS LUMBER
5345 Audrain Road 225 • Centralia, MO 65240
573-682-4501

Waterers
PRIDE OF THE FARM
Energy Free
Hoskins Manufacturing Co., Inc.
CATTLE WATERERS
HOG WATERERS
Electric
We've Been Watering Livestock Since 1903!
Cyclops Fencer
110 & 120 Volt Models
• Strongest Lightning Protection Worldwide!
• Strongest AC Fence Charger Built in the USA!
• Strongest Battery Fence Charger Built in the USA!
• Strongest Solar Fence Charger Built in the USA!
• Best Quality Parts Worldwide!
• Best Price/Performance, Beats New Zealand IMPORTS!
• Service After the Sale, Typical 1 Day Turnaround
ANIMAL HOLDING POWER***UNSURPASSED***
We have temporary & permanent electric fencing.
We can help you with your Equip or DSP3 Projects.
We Sell Only Top Quality Products!
• Sun Guard Fiberglass Post • Commodity Feeds • For-Most Livestock Equipment • O'Brien's Step-In Post • Taragate Reels • Speedrite • Gallagher
Electric Fence System
In the Electric Business Since 1983
Central Missouri Feed & Supply
6775 West Bruce Lane,
Harrisburg, MO 65256
Cell 573-881-1798
email: ThreeBarL@hotmail.com
Call Before You Come!!

Lawmakers demand US diesel export ban as fuel prices soar

The average price of diesel fuel in the U.S. has nearly doubled since the start of the year, and lawmakers are demanding action with agricultural production costs in mind.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), on-highway diesel was up from $3.477 a gallon in January to $6.285 a gallon in mid-September, an 81% increase. Across every U.S. region, the EIA notes diesel prices of at least $6 a gallon, and more recent stats from AAA put diesel prices above $6.50 a gallon.

The rise in gas prices is primarily the result of the wars in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine, which has caused both supply bottlenecks at the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, and acute shortages of refined oil products.

In response to those record-high prices, some U.S. senators have demanded a federal ban on U.S. refineries from exporting diesel to other markets.

"Why doesn't Pres Trump put an embargo on diesel exports like presidents in the 70s put embargoes on ag products," Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) posted to his X account. "High diesel prices ARE KILLING FARMERS INCOME."

In subsequent posts, Grassley criticized the profits of oil corporations, and likened the embargo of diesel exports to U.S. restrictions on computer chip exports to China. "If our govt can embargo chips to China it can embargo diesel to help American farmers & truckers," he wrote.

Grassley is not alone in addressing that policy. Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett has introduced legislation to restrict diesel exports, and in comments to the media, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) voiced tacit support for a diesel embargo: "If the United States has the supply and is exporting it, that might be one way of getting at it," Thune said.

Some analysts argue, however, that a diesel embargo would not lower prices for American consumers and businesses. In posts to his own X account, Patrick De Haan stated: "Diesel export controls would do little to bring prices down significantly."

Oil refiners, De Haan continued, would likely shift their capacity to jet fuel or export unrefined oil to bypass the embargo and maintain profit margins.

"You don't think refiners would get creative to reduce impact of a blanket diesel export ban?" De Haan asked.

Last week, Tyson Foods confirmed that higher energy costs would be passed on to its customers.

– Meatingplace.com

Enjoy reading The Advocate? Get a full year of home delivery for just $30.
See page 6 for details.

CATTLE PRICES from page 8

administration's treatment of the large packers, saying they lost about $75 per head last year and an estimated $170 per head from January through June of this year.

"That comes to $14 million to $18 million a week," Blach said. "And they think we're going to replace these with mom and pop. It's silliness, absolute silliness that kind of conversation is going on."

Small slaughterhouses harvest only about 600,000 head annually, he said.

"That's one week's worth of harvest for the big packers," Blach said. "We need to be careful what we wish for.

That isn't the path we want to go down. That would be an absolute mess."

Although the large packers are making a little money again, Blach expects limited profits over the next year because there are still more hooks than cattle. He said additional plant closures remain a risk until supplies increase substantially.

Blach nevertheless expects several more profitable years for cow-calf producers.

"It's not going to be the huge windfall profits of $1300 to $2000 for every calf born in 2025-26," Blach said.

He expects many calves to sell for roughly $1800 to the low $2000 range over the next two or three years. A declining market does not eliminate opportunities for profit, but managing risk will be critical to retaining those profits, he reiterated.

"We are in that part of the cycle where the market's going to have a little more tug to the downside, so we want to be more risk adverse," Blach said. "We've had an amazing run. The key thing now is not to give it all back."

RAILROAD MILLWORKS
"Where we Customize Your Dreams into Reality."



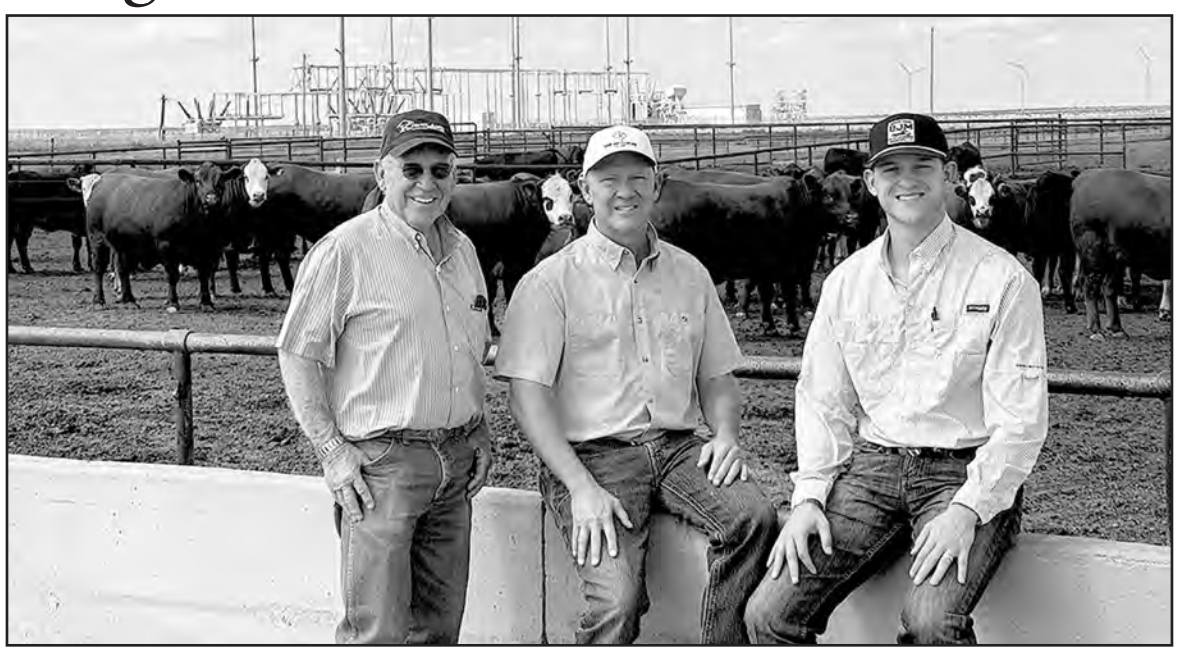
Specializing in . . .
☑ Hardwood & Vinyl Flooring
☑ Interior Doors
☑ Custom Mouldings
☑ Rustic Beams & Mantels
☑ Staircases & Accessories
Installation Available
RAILROAD MILLWORKS
5592 Highway Y, Clark, MO
Call 573-489-3848
M-F (8am-10am)



NOVEMBER 6, 2026
1:00 PM | EASTERN MISSOURI LIVESTOCK COMMISSION | BOWLING GREEN, MISSOURI
Offering 25 HIGH QUALITY 18-20 MONTH OLD BULLS
SALE LOCATION 16367 BUSINESS HIGHWAY 61 · BOWLING GREEN, MO 63334
Meyer CATTLE
14353 HWY 61 · BOWLING GREEN, MISSOURI
BROCK MEYER 573-808-0624 • MICHELE MEYER 573-694-1622 • LEXI KOELLING 573-777-0327
EMAIL BROCK@MEYERCATTLE.COM • MICHELE@MEYERCATTLE.COM
WWW.MEYERCATTLE.COM
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Family feedyard grew one bunk at a time with faith, hard work

By COLLEEN SCHREIBER
Reprinted by permission of Livestock Weekly



THREE GENERATIONS and 40-some years later, Kirkland Feedyard is one of the few remaining independent feedyards in the Texas Panhandle. Perry Kirkland, left, had a vision to feed a few cattle, but that vision quickly transformed when customers came knocking. His son, Robby, center, and grandson, Carson, are the next visionaries. (Photo by Livestock Weekly)

VEGA, Texas — Perry Kirkland started feeding cattle with five-gallon buckets in a small 800-head grow yard that had no bunks, feed trucks or mill.

He expanded only when the yard could pay its own way. As money allowed, he poured a bunk or two and used hot wire until he could build more fence.

Four decades later, the family-run operation, now involving three generations, has grown to a 30,000-head onetime capacity feedyard with 80 percent of the inventory being customer-owned cattle.

The Kirklands' roots in Oldham County run deep. Perry's father helped pioneer irrigation in the Texas Panhandle. In the early 1950s, his drilling business began gravel-packing irrigation wells.

"For the first six years of my life, we moved every six months," Perry says. "He would drill 30 wells in Dumas, then move on to Spearman and put down 30 wells and then on to Stratford, Sunray and Hereford."

After drilling wells for a family west of Vega, Perry's father had the opportunity to lease their farm. The property gave the Kirklands a foothold in farming and became the place where Perry grew up. His father raised wheat, milo, corn and hay on the leased farm until retiring in the mid-1970s.

Perry attended West Texas State for a time, then returned to the family farm and began running stocker cattle.

"It was something I always wanted to do," he says.

When his father retired, Perry took over the farming operation, leased more land and continued running stockers. In 1983, he bought a section of land with the small grow yard. He intended to use it for his own cattle, but within three months, others were asking him to feed their cattle.

"I knew absolutely nothing about the feedlot business," he admits.

He credits mentors and customers who supported him and stayed with him. Local rancher John B. McNaughton was his first customer.

"When he wanted to put cattle in here, I told him I didn't know if I was ready, and he said he'd help and he did," Perry says.

Dick Montgomery, a rancher from Henrietta with farmland in the Panhandle, sent his calf crop. Tom Baynum, who handled cattle from the Farmington and Chama, New Mexico, area, helped keep the yard full in its early years. Perry also bought cattle wherever he could make the numbers work, including lightweight Mississippi calves, some weighing as little as 250 pounds, that he conditioned and resold.

"I've been handling twoweight cattle basically all my life," Perry says.

His first ration included dry-rolled cracked corn, hay and sugar beet pulp for conditioning.

The first silage pit was built with No. 2 alfalfa square bales.

When he began finishing cattle, he saw the need for a steam flaker to improve feed efficiency and returns. It took time to afford one. He rented a portable unit first. He made do with other things. He bought his first elevator leg in Roswell, dismantled it and moved it himself.

His son, Robby, now runs the feedyard. Robby's son Carson, a recent Texas Tech animal science graduate, has joined the management team. Robby and Carson each had the option to pursue another path; both chose the family business.

"I was raised to be very humble, and I've tried to raise my kids to be very humble, but I get really proud when I talk about working with these two every day," Robby says. "It doesn't happen in every family, and I do not take it for granted."

"Once I was mature enough to realize what the two of them had done together, it was a nobrainer for me," Carson adds. "They're great leaders, and I've made plenty of mistakes since I've been back from college, but they've been patient with me."

The industry changed considerably between Robby's departure for Texas Tech and his return to the business full time in 1994, and it has continued changing. The family's commitment to its customers, however, has remained central.

"The customer is just part of our DNA," Robby says. "Customer's needs and wants drive a big part of our decision-making process. It took a lot of faith to grow this, faith that the customers were going to show up, faith that they would be profitable and faith that if we added on more, we'd have more customers come."

Some customers have never met the Kirklands face to face. Those relationships depend on trust.

"When someone puts $30,000, $40,000 worth of cattle on a truck to send to you, they have to trust we're going to take care of them," he says. "Now it's $200,000 for a load of cattle. They must know that we're honest and that we're going to do what we said we'd do."

The yard feeds English-influenced and Continental cattle with varying degrees of Brahman influence, a few Holsteins and, increasingly, dairy-beef crosses.

"The most money I've ever made on a pen of cattle was on a pen of Holsteins," Perry says.

"And the most money I ever lost on a pen of cattle was on a pen of Holsteins. If I'd sold them when they walked off the truck, I'd have been better off."

The Kirklands accommodate producers with as few as 20 head. Regular communication with customers is part of their service. Robby believes customers should hear promptly about any issues with their cattle and how their cattle perform.

"We don't have any secret sauce," he says. "We simply treat our customer's cattle like they're our cattle."

Word of mouth from satisfied customers is the primary way their business has grown.

"Honesty and hard work are key in this business," Robby says.

Most of the cattle they feed today are ranch calves, and about 40 percent have been backgrounded. Texas, particularly the Gulf Coast, is their largest source of customer cattle, followed by Florida.

See KIRKLAND, page 22

We feed a lot of cattle from The Cattleman's Advocate coverage area, we know and like feeding those cattle. Folks can stop in or call anytime, we'd like to visit with them.

Adam Peterson
Manager of Beefland

GRAINS CATTLE FEEDS
Beefland
12500 S. Beefland Road
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS 67846

Beefland is a part of the Irsik and Doll Company. Established in 1961, Irsik and Doll were pioneers in Kansas cattle feeding. Through conservative, yet a growth oriented philosophy, with dedicated employees and strong customer loyalty – our commitment to the cattle industry remains strong.

Capacity: 45,000

Office Phone: 620-275-2030
Adam's cell: 620-255-5107



Livestock News & Notes.....

New polling finds strong support for MAHA, National Food Standards

New polling research from FTI has confirmed strong public support for MAHA and a number of its objectives.

Shared last week at the Protein Solutions Summit in New Orleans, the research began with an important distinction — support for MAHA does not automatically translate to support for HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. So while 68% of voters support MAHA — more than half of them identifying as "conservative Republicans" — 53% support Kennedy himself, with 29% holding "very unfavorable" views.

Concerning policy, FTI polled voters on several matters of food regulation, including:

• 53% of voters (including 61% of Republicans) agree with the statement "The federal government should set uniform national standards for food, agriculture, and ingredients to prevent a confusing patchwork of state laws," versus 32% opposing including 39% of millennials.

• A near-majority (47%) agreed with the statement that "Food, agriculture, and ingredient companies should have a seat at the table in discussions about food policy."

• 59% of voters support direct FDA action in clarifying food labeling, versus 27% opposing.

• At the same time, there remains division on the matter of additional government regulation. While 45% of voters opposed more lawsuits/regulation for healthier food, 41% agreed with a statement that "Food, agriculture, and ingredient companies won't make their products healthier on their own. … These companies prioritize profits over people's health."

• Consistent with previous surveys, 52% of voters support FDA limits on the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, compared to 31% opposing.

• Finally, 54% of voters are skeptical of online health influencers and agree with the statement "Influencers often lack formal medical or scientific training, and their content may be driven by paid company sponsorships or trends rather than solid evidence."

Senator unveils 'Rebuild the American Herd' policy amid re-election

Republican Senator Pete Ricketts of Nebraska has a new policy to beef up his support with voters in agriculture.

Titled the "Rebuild the American Herd Plan," the policy was unveiled at the Sustainable Beef in North Platte, and comes amidst a surprisingly tough reelection campaign for Ricketts.

"Nebraska produces the best beef in the world," the policy begins. "Senator Ricketts will continue to stand up to cheap foreign beef that undercuts Nebraska farm families."

From there, the policy points to an expansive array of Ricketts' positions on animal agriculture and meat processing, including:

• Opposition to increasing beef imports from Argentina.

• His support for the Sustainable Beef facility, as well as government support for "more independent and rancher-owned packers so producers have more buyers."

• Expanding trade access to more countries "so Nebraska ranchers aren't at the mercy of Communist China."

• The restoration of the MCOOL labeling requirements for beef products "so shoppers know what's American and what's not."

• And funding/border checks to contain New World screwworm.

Dan Osborn, the independent candidate challenging Ricketts, has made agriculture policy a consistent feature of his campaign. Last year, Osborn called on the federal government to utilize Packers Stockyards powers to force the sale of Tyson's soon-to-close Lexington facility, and last month Osborn produced an ad mocking President Trump's latest effort to increase beef imports to the U.S.

State offering butchers up to $20K to help buy equipment

Eligible Meat Processing Businesses in Iowa can apply for grants of up to $20,000 toward equipment in support of expansion, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship announced Monday.

The program is aimed at small-scale meat processors and custom meat lockers to help such community businesses acquire equipment for cold storage, processing or packaging to boost capacity.

"As I travel the state meeting with farmers, I consistently hear about the need for more local meat and poultry processing," Iowa Agriculture Mike Secretary Naig said in the announcement. "That need continues to intensify as we see larger plants closing and Iowa's livestock producers working to grow the U.S. beef herd."

The equipment-only grants are part of the state's Choose Iowa Butchery Innovation.

The department has allocated $105,000 for butchery grants in the 2027 fiscal year and is seeking additional appropriations from the state legislature, Naig said.

"These investments help businesses modernize operations, improve efficiency, and create opportunities for future growth while continuing to provide high-quality processing services to Iowa livestock producers and consumers," Iowa Meat Processors Association President Katie Anderson said.

Applications are due Nov. 20, with grants to be announced in December. Details on eligibility and the application process are at the Choose Iowa website for the butchery program.

Beyond Meat trademark award slashed by $23M

A federal judge reduced a $38.9 million trademark infringement verdict against Beyond Meat to about $15.4 million after finding that the plaintiff failed to prove most of the actual damages awarded by a jury.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani of the District of Massachusetts reduced the $23.5 million in actual damages awarded to Sonate Corp., which does business as Vegadelphia Foods, to $37,500. Talwani allowed a separate $15.4 million award representing disgorgement of Beyond Meat's profits to stand, bringing the final judgment to $15.44 million.

The dispute centered on Beyond Meat's use of the phrases "Plant Based Great Taste" and "Great Taste Plant Based." Vegadelphia alleged the slogans infringed its registered "Where Great Taste is Plant Based" trademark.

Following a two-week trial in November 2025, a jury found Beyond Meat liable for trademark infringement and rejected the company's fair-use defense. Jurors awarded Vegadelphia $23.5 million in actual damages and $15.4 million in disgorged profits.

In her Sept. 18 ruling, Talwani concluded Vegadelphia was entitled to only $37,500 in actual damages. The court also denied Vegadelphia's requests for prejudgment interest and an increase in the disgorgement award. The resulting $15.44 million judgment consists of the $37,500 in actual damages and $15.4 million in Beyond Meat profits.

Beyond Meat disclosed the ruling in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company said either party could pursue additional post-trial motions or appeals related to the judgment.

USDA lowers beef, pork production forecasts for 2026-27

The USDA lowered its forecasts for U.S. beef and pork production in 2026 and 2027, citing reduced slaughter expectations and lighter carcass weights, according to its latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. The agency reduced its overall red meat and poultry production forecast for 2026, as declines in expected beef and pork output more than offset increases in broiler and turkey production.

Beef production was lowered for the second half of 2026 as reduced steer and heifer slaughter and lighter carcass weights were expected to outweigh increased cow slaughter. Pork production was also revised downward because of slower anticipated slaughter and lighter dressed weights.

For 2027, USDA lowered its beef production forecast based on lighter dressed weights and fewer-than-expected feedlot placements during the second half of 2026, which are expected to reduce cattle marketings in the first quarter of next year.

Pork production expectations for 2027 were also reduced following USDA's Sept. 24 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report, which showed a smaller June-August pig crop and lower farrowing intentions for September-November. The findings supported expectations for reduced hog slaughter during the first half of 2027.

Meanwhile, USDA raised its broiler and turkey production forecasts for both years, reflecting stronger slaughter expectations and recent production data.

The agency increased its 2026 beef import forecast, primarily because of stronger shipments from Australia, and raised its import outlook for the second half of 2027 amid expectations for increased global supplies. Beef export forecasts remained unchanged for both years.

Pork export forecasts were lowered for 2026 and 2027 because of reduced domestic production and weaker shipments to Western Hemisphere markets. Broiler and turkey export forecasts increased for both years.

USDA left cattle price forecasts unchanged for 2026 and 2027 but lowered hog price expectations for the remainder of 2026 and the first half of 2027, citing continued weakness in pork cutout values.

Many of the preceding items were taken from Meatingplace.com

1972 CIRCLE 5 BEEF

Commercial Cattle Feeding

316 Road B
Henderson, NE 68371

Circle Five Beef, Inc.

14,000 head capacity between two yards in Henderson, NE and Fairmont, NE. Located in the heart of Nebraska corn country. Regularly marketing fed cattle to Six major and regional packing plants.

Office: 402-723-5764

Travis Miller - Manager
Cell: 308-746-2446
Email: twmillerc5@gmail.com. Fax: 402-723-5768

Cross currents in election season; Navigation gets tricky in 2026

By STEVE DITTMER
Executive Vice President
Agribusiness Freedom Foundation

General chaos is one thing. Cattlemen are used to that. Politicians and groups jockeying for position with elections coming up is typical.

Being abused politically is -- most of the time -- par for the course. We've all appreciated that President Trump's policies have usually benefitted our industry.

But cross currents circulating now could not only discourage any herd rebuilding but damage the very foundations of the production and marketing chain that's achieved record success.

If those with very narrow vision from within our industry convince politicians, in an election year, to implement the radical views they're espousing, the industry could be in for a rough ride.

President Trump and his team have accomplished great things and convincing Congress to cooperate has been an amazing achievement. The tax provisions, the deregulation, the success with border security and resultant crime and poverty decreases are powering a major economic boom.

But he and his team understandably have little experience with the complex beef production chain. He does appreciate the importance of the cattle industry. But some folks President Trump has been listening to are not free market people. The within-industry radicals savvy little about economics and nothing about processing beef at tremendous scale.

Trump's intentions are good but attacking the big packers through the DOJ or attempting to negotiate discounts on beef prices will not help cattlemen or hasten herd rebuilding. The big packers represent 80 percent of the capacity of an industry that involves quickly processing fresh food with a limited shelf-life and tremendous volume. Our 26 billion pounds annually comes to over 100 million pounds a day. That's a the delicate balance not to be trifled with.

Allowing ranchers to process their own meat might sound plausible to those who don't understand food safety. But USDA inspection is the cornerstone of food safety and beef consumer confidence. We cannot allow amateur butchers to sell un-inspected beef into commerce. It is simply unthinkable.

The painstaking efforts of state and federal agencies over decades has crafted a complicated system of regulation and enforcement. Even with the safest, biggest and most thorough food safety system in the world, the industry is dealing with sanitation, pathogens and perishability issues involving biological specimens. Even with that, perfection is not possible. And imagine recall and investigation difficulties if we add thousands of amateur sources of problems.

Once a company or an industry has established a market for a product or service, there is the implication of a promise to keep supplying that product.

We have been very successful -- with the help of grocers, restauranteurs, fast food chains, the long-running cattlemen and cattlewomen promotions and prominent chefs -- to create a tremendous demand for ground beef. The product has taste, versatility and a price advantage. Plus, the U.S. population has nearly doubled since 1960 (179 million) to now (estimated 343 million). We simply can't keep up.

When we gas up our car, do we know what fraction of it came from Canada, Venezuela, Nigeria or Texas? Was the sugar cane in your soda pop grown in Brazil, India, Thailand or Louisiana? Are you able to eat out-of-season fruit because it was all grown in American climates or greenhouses? Is all beer brewed or whiskey distilled in the U.S.?

Trade is often a two-way street. We secure and retain access to foreign markets by allowing them to sell to us. Nowhere in all the latest rhetoric about mCOOL have we heard anyone remind everyone that Congress rescinded mCOOL the last time because Canada had a long list of retaliatory prohibitions ready, carefully calibrated to hit certain Congressional districts whose constituents exported lots of goods and services to Canada and costing billions of dollars in dozens of industries.

Canada is already angry with us because we don't like them allowing China to trans-ship products through Canada to the U.S. There are different kinds of trade regulation.

Claiming that forcing the major packers to track every one of the hundreds of pieces of beef from each carcass wouldn't cost much is disingenuous.

True, packers produce different grades or special branded programs off their lines. But those are premium products that cost more. And the volume is

See PACKERS, page 18

Angell Livestock

Dealers of all classes of cattle • Centralia, Missouri

Cattle procurement is harder than ever, but we are quietly doing it every week. We help source cows, pairs, heifers, feeders and grazers for our clients and some want us to arrange private treaty sales. WE have been active in this strong cattle market in recent weeks, here are some examples:

Recent placement/sales

- 12 mix steers
- 21 Char yearlings
- 12 Blk steers
- 31 bwf replacement heifers
- 18 calves
- 15 calves
- 138 Spring calving cows
- 23 yearling heifers
- 28 backgrounded yearling heifers
- 11 open pairs with big calves
- 3 calves
- 3 calves
- 47 pairs bred back with big calves
- Etc, etc….

Inventory changing weekly — Available For Sale Now:

- 4 three year old black pairs with 300 pound calves running back with Angus
- 7 big fall calving bred CharX heifers
- 380 bred heifers, red and black, from Flinthills
- 40 redneck F1 bred heifers AI to calve March 1 to March 10 to red bulls
- 76 black fall calving cows mostly 3 to 5 years calving now
- 20 fancy AI bred black heifers to calve Feb 26



Give us a call, let's talk about what you're looking for and what we can do to help.

Justin Angell: 573-819-8000 Jon Angell: 573-682-4656

The Cattleman's Advocate is available free at the following area locations:

Area livestock markets

- **Callaway Livestock Center** Fulton, MO
- **Eastern Missouri Commission Co.** Bowling Green, MO
- **F&T Livestock Market** Palmyra, MO
- **Scotland County Livestock** Memphis, MO
- **Carthage Livestock** Carrthage, MO
- **Edina Livestock Sales** Edina, MO
- **Fairview Sale Barn** Fairview, MO
- **Greenville Livestock Auction** Centralia, IL
- **Jones Brothers Livestock Auction** Marshall, MO
- **Kingsville Livestock Auction** Kingsville, MO
- **Kirksville Livestock Market** Kirksville, MO
- **Lolli Brothers Livestock Auction** Macon, MO
- **Mid-Missouri Stockyards** Lebanon, MO
- **New Cambria Livestock Auction** New Cambria, MO
- **North Missouri Livestock Auction** Milan, MO
- **South Central Regional Stockyard** Vienna, MO
- **Unionville Livestock Market** Unionville, MO
- **Wheeler Livestock Auction** Osceola, MO
- **Windsor Livestock Auction** Windsor, MO

Other locations

- **A&S Printing** Monroe City, MO
- **Abel's/McDonald's** Bowling Green, MO
- **Agriservices of Brunswick** Brunswick, MO
- **American Bank of Missouri** Wellsville, MO Middletown, MO Montgomery City, MO
- **Angell's Western Wear** Centralia, MO
- **Bank of Montgomery County** Montgomery City, MO
- **Bowling Green Tractor** Bowling Green, MO
- **Bowling Green Veterinary Clinic** Bowling Green, MO
- **Central Elevator** Silex, MO
- **C & S Grocery** Harrisburg, MO
- **Dawson's Store** Thompson, MO
- **Dearwester Grain Services** Mt. Sterling, IL Golden, IL Carthage, IL
- **Eastern Missouri Commission Co.** Bowling Green, MO
- **Farmers Cooperative** Ewing, MO
- **Farmers Cooperative Services** New London, MO
- **Farmers Cooperative Services** Palmyra, MO
- **Farmer's Elevator & Exchange** Monroe City, MO
- **FCS Financial** Columbia, MO Hannibal, MO
- **Feeders Grain, Inc.** Bowling Green, MO
- **Fish Hook Market** Baylis, IL
- **Grotjan Conoco Station** New Franklin
- **FarmersCo-op** St.Peters, MO
- **Hannibal Tractor** Hannibal, MO
- **Hatton Vermeer Sales** Auxvasse, MO
- **Hilty's Meats** Bowling Green, MO
- **HNB Bank** Bowling Green, MO Hannibal, MO Monroe City, MO Perry, MO
- **Jones Brothers AgriServices** La Monte, MO
- **Jonesburg Grain Co.** Jonesburg, MO
- **Josephville Meat Processing** Wentzville, MO
- **Kingdom Feed** Fulton, MO
- **Kyle Hendricks** Buffalo, MO
- **L & S Equipment** Hermann, MO
- **Lehenbauer Farm Repair** Auxvasse, MO
- **Liberty Feed Mill** Liberty, IL
- **Littrell Feed & Seed** Thompson, MO
- **Martinsburg Farmers Elevator** Martinsburg, MO
- **Mellor Trailers** Boonville, MO
- **Meyer Implement** Bowling Green, MO Monroe City, MO
- **MFA Home Office** Columbia, MO
- **MFA Agri Services** Boonville, MO Canton, MO Centralia, MO Columbia, MO Elsberry, MO Fayette, MO Fulton, MO Glascow, MO Kahoka, MO Hannibal, MO Jackson, MO Jefferson City, MO Kirksville, MO La Belle, MO Laddonia, MO Macon, MO Mexico, MO Moberly, MO Montgomery City, MO Owensville, MO Perryville, MO Shelbina, MO Vandalia, MO Warrenton, MO Washington, MO Wentzville, MO
- **Missouri Cattleman's Association** Columbia, MO
- **Missouri Valley MFA** Alma, MO Higginsville, MO
- **Monroe County Abstract & Title** Paris, MO
- **Monroe County Co-op** Paris, MO
- **Montgomery City Grain** Montgomery City, MO
- **Moscow Feed and Grain** Moscow Mills, MO
- **New Haven Farm & Feed** New Haven, MO
- **People's Savings Bank** Hermann, MO Montgomery City, MO New Florence, MO New Haven, MO New Melle, MO Rhineland, MO
- **Pike Feeds** Pittsfield, IL
- **Prairie Home Coop** Prairie Home, MO
- **Quinn Farm Supply** Monroe City, MO
- **Rickett's Farm Service of Cairo** Cairo, MO
- **Ricketts Farm Service** Salisbury, MO Shelbina, MO
- **Rural King** Wentzville, MO
- **Ruyle's Angus** Roodhouse, IL
- **Scheidt Bros. LLC** California, MO
- **Shelton Seed** Centralia, MO
- **Shetler Feed** Clark, MO
- **State Farm Insurance** Centralia, MO Vandalia, MO
- **Straatmann Feed** New Melle, MO
- **Strattmann Feed and Transfer** Labadie, MO
- **Twillman Feed** Fulton, MO Mexico, MO
- **USA Market News Office** Country Club, MO
- **Windmill Ridge** Shelbyville, MO

Digging Deeper....

By JUSTIN ANGELL

Jordi Vesser basically said within 36 months we will have AI agents acting as personal assistants. We will be seeing the beginnings of AI guided robots that will be doing many mundane chores and duties that will rapidly increase in complexity and volume of service.

This month's article will completely bore many of you to death, but I think it is essential we start wrapping our minds around what is soon about to happen.

We are living in a fantastic age of wonder. The progress we've made as a society in all fields for one generation is astounding. The world is changing all around us so fast and discreetly that we are hardly noticing it.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently being relabeled by our President and renaming things in chief, Donald Trump as "supreme intelligence". I dig the label "AI" so henceforth, I choose to rename "artificial intelligence" as "advanced intelligence".

All kidding aside, I have tried to keep on top of the advanced intelligence (AI) evolution, but there's just too much information and too many things changing in such a broad array of areas… so many moving parts I have found it impossible to stay completely informed.

I know even very informed and situationally aware people are being overwhelmed by the speed of change.

Unfortunately, the ever-increasing compression of time and increasing speed of change, I am afraid will lead to ever increasing chaos.

I watched an interview of Jordi Vesser about the coming AI age and I was stunned at what he represented as a sure thing, I'm going to call it a prediction.

Jordi Vesser basically said within 36 months we will have AI agents acting as personal assistants. We will be seeing the beginnings of AI guided robots that will be doing many mundane chores and duties that will rapidly increase in complexity and volume of service.

With all this going on, it seems like every news story has an angle. For instance, the sensationalized claim that within 10 years advanced intelligence could destroy the human race.

I will have to admit, one of the most interesting documentaries I've seen is currently on Netflix called "AI gone wild". Fascinating story about AI agents and how they interact with each other and our world. It's 28 minutes that might not necessarily scare you, but it will sure make you pause and wonder if this is a good idea.

Since everyone has an angle, I would be remiss if I did not point out that scaring the public will result in more government regulation which becomes a de facto barrier to entry for new companies.

So yes, the big companies in partnership with big government may be intentionally heading down the road of big regulation.

We have seen this pattern before. In the 1970s, our small meat packers did not just go out of business. They were regulated out of business by our government generally with extremely burdensome health and safety codes.

So, it's not a stretch to think that they will pull the same play out of the playbook.

Personally, I've never seen or imagined this headlong rush spending hundreds of billions of dollars developing this type of broad infrastructure with no regard for cost. I've commented for years about how our money is broken.

I cannot help but wonder if all this building and investment is being made to somehow facilitate a new monetary system. This would make sense of a lot of what is now occurring if you consider this a race to rehabilitate our financial system before the current one collapses.

Interesting times.

Again… "AI Gone Wild," watch it on Netflix

That's all for this month.

Regional Grazing Schools impact producers' bottom line at local level

Missouri Grazing Schools are a multidisciplinary collaboration among University of Missouri Extension field specialists, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, and farmer-cooperators.

Southeast Regional Grazing Schools include 12 counties, with Ste. Genevieve and St. Francois counties to the north and Pemiscot and Dunklin counties to the south, also reaching surrounding counties outside the region. In 2026, two regional schools reached 31 participants, who received a mixture of classroom and on-farm education.

The goal of Grazing School is to educate forage/livestock producers about managed intensive grazing (MiG). Regional grazing schools deliver research-based methods to develop an economically viable managed grazing system to local producers. When adopted, forage producers optimize forage yield, quality, persistence, and utilization while meeting the nutritional needs of livestock. Long-term impacts of MiG include improved manure distribution, reducing input costs on fertilizer; extended grazing days, reducing the costs associated with harvested forage; and reduced weed pressure, reducing the hidden costs of weeds and input costs used to control them.

A 2018 University of Missouri study looked at these impacts on the bottom line from producers across Missouri who attended Grazing School. The study, "Economic Impact of the Missouri Grazing Schools," estimated producers were increasing returns by $61.50 per acre annually when shifting from low-intensity pasture management of cattle to a high level of pasture management (MiG).

A highlight of school is the on-farm tour where research-based classroom information meets the proving grounds of MiG on an actual working farm from a past Grazing School participant/producer's perspective.

Participant's quotes typically indicate the in-depth information, resources and plans to add something they learned to their operation.

One producer said, "I plan to make full use of the wealth of information. It is amazing to have so many experts/resources/information in one three-day program." Survey responses indicated that 63% plan to adopt MiG while 33% indicated they currently use some level of managed grazing, while 92% of respondents plan to extend grazing days.

Surveyed participants also indicated they planned to better manage soil fertility and feed less harvested forage, such as hay.

PACKERS from page 17

smaller than the major runs. Scheduling is more carefully controlled. And there is not the same kind of penalties built into those systems as federal penalties for mislabeling products at retail.

It would not only raise costs to packers, reduce return to cattlemen and increase prices to consumers, it would also affect supplies. Packers coped the last time by limiting what plants could buy from feedyards in certain regions to certain days in order not to run afoul of the law. We get beef and sell beef to Canada and Mexico every day. Do we want to vastly complicate that commerce and those trade relationships? Remember how last time Mexico disallowed entry of big bulk bins of ground beef and required ground beef to only enter in individual, small packages?

Those who say mCOOL is not expensive and would boost beef prices should reflect that our record cattle and beef prices have occurred without mCOOL -- because it is not a primary concern of most consumers. Consumer surveys have backed that up.

Our industry has worked hard to satisfy the tremendous demand for ground beef, using properly inspected (USDA or equivalent), imported lean beef, to supply our customers who depend on us and make our Choice trim worth much more money.

It is ironic that the same cattlemen who want mCOOL are the same people who have fought RFID tooth and nail. They don't want cattle traced but they want every piece of beef traced? The mind boggles at such mental contortions.

Retail ground beef labeled 80/20 lean-to-fat ratio is not really 80/20. The penalties are so draconian for retailers missing the mark, that 80/20 is more like 82/18. Safety margin. No one wants to risk penalties or consumer confidence. Why do you think so much ground beef comes in chubs processed at the packing plant, with the most sophisticated equipment for calculating that ratio?

And ground beef is processed under the most rigid sanitation conditions at major processing plants to avoid pathogen problems. Why do processing plants have testing labs right on site to prevent contaminated ground beef from entering the market?

How many ranchers would have a testing lab in the machine shed before shipping ground beef out to customers?

We know this is a pivotal election year but we must not allow our industry to be used as a political pawn, after decades of work to build our demand.

Market Reports

Sponsored by Prairie Queen Transportation, LLC

Eastern Missouri Commission Company, Bowling Green
Market Report for Friday, October 16, 2026
Receipts: 768 Weeks ago: 759 Year ago: 515

Friday's auction was a special bed cow and pairs sale with the main attraction being a consignment of good quality 48 hd of young western 3-5 yr old bred cows in the 2nd stage selling form 3850.00--4150.00 per head, the balance mostly young 3-6 yrs in the 2nd stage with several short solid mouth cows also in the 2nd stage all selling with moderate to good demand. Package of 2nd calf heifer pairs with good big calves by side sold for 6050.00 per pair. Feeders were mostly sold in small packages but all sold with a steady to firm undertone on comparable sales and quality. Slaughter cows on a good offering sold steady to firm with last week.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1 – Few 400-450 lbs 485.00-487.50; few 500-530 lbs 430.00-432.50; pkg 602 lbs 405.00.
Medium and Large 1-2 – Pkg 345 lbs 495.00; 400-450 lbs 430.00-455.00; few 450-460 lbs 400.00-425.00; 550-600 lbs 390.00-414.00, pkg fleshy 595 lbs 360.00; 600-630 lbs 366.00-387.50, 650-700 lbs 340.00-352.50; 750-760 lbs 343.00-350.00.
Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1 – Pkg 458 lbs 405.00; lot 554 lbs 380.00; 900-938 lbs 305.00.
Medium and Large 1-2 – Pkg 335 lbs 495.00, pkg 392 lbs 420.00; 400-450 lbs 390.00-415.00, 450-500 lbs 372.50-377.50; 550-600 lbs 325.00-352.00, pkg fleshy 590 lbs 307.50; 600-650 lbs 320.00-340.00; pkg 762 lbs 293.00.
Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1 -2 – Pkg 495 lbs 365.00; pkg 532 lbs 380.00; pkg 620 lbs 342.50.

Replacement Cows: Medium and Large 1/1-2 – Mostly 3-5 yrs 1200-1400 lbs 2nd stage 3550.00-4150.00; 7 yrs to short solid mouth 1300-1500 lbs 2nd-3rd stage 2550.00-3200.00; few 3-6 yrs 1250-1400 lbs 1st stage 2700.00-2750.00.
Pairs: Medium and Large 1 – Pkg 2nd calf heifers w/200-250 lb calves 6050.00 per pair.
Medium and Large 1-2 – Mostly 3-5 yrs few bred back 1st stage 1100-1200 lbs w/200-300 lb calves 4600.0-5400.00; short solid mouth cows 1300-1550 lbs w/150-250 lb calves 3500.00-3775.00.
Slaughter Cows: Premium White (65-70% lean) Average dressing, 125.00-130.00.
Breakers (70-80% lean) Average dressing, 129.00-139.00; high dressing, 140.00-145.00; and low dressing, 119.00-125.00.
Boners (80-85% lean) Average dressing, 129.00-138.00 ; high dressing, 139.50-149.00; and low dressing, 121.00-127.00.
Lean (85-90% lean) Average dressing, 121.00-129.00; high dressing, 132.00; and low dressing, 115.00-118.00.. Shelly/Thin 90.00-105.00.
Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 – 1400-2500 lbs, few 185.00-190.00 166.00-181.00.
Slaughter Steers and Heifers: (40 head) Choice 2-3 – 1400-1650 lbs 220.50-222.00; Select and Choice 1-3 – few 1325-1600 lbs 215.99-217.00, pkg mostly Selects 1169 lbs 214.50..

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

Back in court: The fight to stop mandatory EID moving forward

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

Our case challenges a rule requiring electronic eartags for certain cattle and bison moving across state lines, subject to exceptions. Our central argument is that USDA imposed an expensive mandate without adequately explaining how its requirements solve the problems the agency identified.

Our lawsuit challenging USDA's mandatory electronic identification eartag rule is moving forward again. The parties asked the court to pause proceedings while exploring settlement, but no agreement was reached. The government's reply brief is due October 16, and a hearing is scheduled for November 18 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

R-CALF USA, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, and ranchers Kenny and Roxie Fox and Rick and Theresa Fox are represented by the New Civil Liberties Alliance.

Our case challenges a rule requiring electronic eartags for certain cattle and bison moving across state lines, subject to exceptions. Our central argument is that USDA imposed an expensive mandate without adequately explaining how its requirements solve the problems the agency identified.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act, agency decisions must be reasonable, supported, and internally consistent. We argue this rule fails that test.

First, consider the contradiction at its core. USDA says handwritten identification numbers and inaccessible paper records can delay disease tracing. Yet its rule still allows ranchers and veterinarians to read electronic tags visually, write the numbers by hand, and maintain paper records. Electronic readers and electronic recordkeeping are optional.

So a rancher can be required to buy a more expensive tag while using it exactly like the cheaper tag it replaced. We argue USDA has preserved the very problems it says justify this mandate.

Our reply brief makes this practical point: scanning an animal later cannot correct a number that was copied incorrectly when that animal was vaccinated or sold. Nor does a scanner automatically recover missing paper records.

Second, the costs are real, while the claimed benefits remain inadequately supported. USDA estimated additional annual tagging costs of $26.1 million without federal funding. Kenny and Roxie Fox reported paying $3.50 per electronic tag, more than USDA's highest estimated average price. Government promises of free tags cannot erase those actual expenses or guarantee future congressional funding. We also challenge USDA's assumptions about outbreak probabilities, potential losses, and the savings supposedly attributable to electronic tags. Our argument is that speculative benefits do not adequately justify mandatory costs.

Third, USDA failed to adequately explain its reversal on visual tags. The earlier system allowed them, and tracing exercises showed substantial improvements before this mandate. We cite evidence that average tracing times had already fallen below a previously identified benchmark of 48 hours.

That does not mean every trace succeeds. It means USDA needed to explain why the existing system's performance justified eliminating this lower cost option.

We also question why USDA considers a rule reaching roughly eleven to twelve percent of the national cattle and bison inventory sufficient when its earlier statements suggested effective traceability required much broader participation.

Fourth, the rule treats identification methods inconsistently. USDA continues allowing brands under certain conditions despite acknowledging their limitations for tracing individual animals. We argue the agency never adequately explained why those exceptions remain while newly applied visual-only tags lose their status as official eartags.

Fifth, USDA overlooked an obvious alternative: readability standards for visual tags. If numbers are difficult to read, improving their legibility could address transcription errors while preserving a less expensive option. USDA imposed readability standards on electronic tags but failed to properly consider comparable standards for visual tags.

Our filings also question whether USDA adequately explained its data collection practices and fully addressed the resulting privacy and data security concerns.

Finally, we argue the government cannot repair deficient reasoning by introducing new explanations during litigation. The agency must defend the reasons it actually gave when adopting the rule. We also contend the administrative record does not adequately substantiate the required determination that this restriction on interstate movement is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of livestock disease.

We are asking the court to set aside the rule and restore producers' ability to choose visual or electronic eartags. That relief would preserve identification requirements while restoring the flexibility producers had before this mandate.

These are our arguments, and the court must decide them. We will continue pressing for a decision that holds USDA accountable to the law and protects independent producers from an inadequately justified federal mandate.

IMPORTS from page 1

ministry announced September beef sales to the United States at least 44,400 mt. Even combined with Paraguayan exports, the total would only about half fill the 100,000 mt quota for September.

According to USDA data for the first eight months of 2026, both Brazil and Paraguay had their lowest monthly totals of the year in August, on the eve of Trump's announcement of the tariff holiday. Brazilian imports are mainly used for ground beef in the fast-food industry, leaving little potential to impact supermarket prices, according to Oklahoma State University beef economist Derrell Peel.

Beef imports from Brazil in August were 25,040 mt, slightly less than in July. Brazil, which is the No. 2 source of imports, is at 284,422 mt through eight months of 2026. Paraguay's 2,851 mt tons in August brought the eight-month total to 49,612 mt, nearly half of which entered in January.

Both countries typically send their largest shipments in the first weeks of the year, as U.S. imports race for a share of the 52,005 mt "other countries or areas" quota, paying only a 4.4-cents per kilogram duty. Imports exceeding the quota are assessed a tariff of 26.4%.

U.S. beef imports through August were more than 1.53 million mt, nearly 15% ahead of last year's pace. Imports in 2025 were worth $14.3 billion, likely to be exceeded already this month.

Among 2025's top 10 sources of beef imports, all but Brazil and Paraguay have their own quota levels — Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay and Argentina — or are granted unlimited access under free-trade treaties, including Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Outside the top 10 sources, no country exported more than 3,300 mt of beef to the U.S. last year.

– Meatingplace.com

If beef is too expensive, 'Eat chicken, pork, salmon, eggs,' Ag Sec. Rollins says

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins recently suggested that other animal proteins could be affordable alternatives to beef for inflation-pressed consumers.

In an interview this week with Trump administration-aligned podcaster Benny Johnson, she said that beef prices have fallen "by 5%, so that we are trending in the right direction."

Cattle imports from Mexico have recently resumed, but "it just takes a long time to rebuild the herd," Rollins said. Last month, the USDA announced a Beef Retention and National Development (BRAND) endorsement for the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program, which is intended to reduce the risk of breeding heifers to encourage herd rebuilding by U.S. producers.

"Coming to you soon: cheaper beef, even better beef," Rollins said. "America does it better than anywhere in the world, and saving these American ranchers and incentivizing them that we are on their side and they should keep building their herds going forward."

Despite high supermarket prices, consumer beef demand remains robust. Rollins gave the Trump administration some of the credit for the strength in consumer demand.

"The demand has never been higher than it is today. Bobby Kennedy and I, MAHA, flipped the dietary guidelines, put beef at the very top. People are like, 'I want beef,'" Rollins said. "… Instead of eating less beef as the price continued to rise, which is supply and demand, Americans began to eat more beef, and even though a price of a pound of ground beef was $6.50, most Americans say, 'I'm good with that. I want this protein for my family,' and so they continue to buy."

She pointed out that U.S. consumers have plentiful options.

"We have more people eating beef than ever before. But if it is too expensive, unlike fuel, Benny, you can eat chicken, pork, salmon, eggs," Rollins said. "There are other sources of really good protein, and all of those prices are coming down as well."

– Meatingplace.com

THE Cattleman's Advocate



A monthly livestock magazine serving Eastern Missouri & Western Illinois

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

Chuck Herron
660-289-1090
cattlemans@virtualimages.us

Monthly Sheep & Goat Market Reports

Sponsored by The Bank of Missouri

Montgomery County Livestock Auction, Montgomery City
Market Report for Sheep & Goat Auction
Thursday, October 8, 2026
Receipts: 730 Last month: 600 Year ago: 926

Montgomery County Livestock held their Sheep and Goat sale Thursday evening October 08, with the best test of lambs weighing 60-70 lbs trading steady to firm with a couple of the larger groups of better quality lambs selling 5.00-10.00 higher than last month, all other weights of slaughter lambs were not well tested. Feeder lambs and slaughter ewes had limited comparisons. There was a large offering of goats with slaughter kids selling mostly steady with last month on a much larger offering with feeder goats and a large offering of nannies lightly tested with last months light offering. Montgomery County holds their sheep and goat sale the 2nd Thursday of each month. All prices are cwt unless otherwise noted.

SHEEP (prices per hundredweight)
Feeder Lambs: Small and Medium 1-2 – Few 35-45 lbs 405.00-425.00; few Small 2 – 34-37 lbs 315.00-330.00.
Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3 – 50-70 lbs 330.00-365.00; pkg 75 lbs 327.50; pkg 91 lbs 262.50.
Choice 1-2 – 60-70 lbs 287.50-322.50; 70-80 lbs 280.00-292.50.
Slaughter Ewes: Utility and Good 1-2 – Few 120-130 lbs 165.00; Utility-Cull 1-2 – 95-150 lbs 115.00-140.00.
Replacement Ewes: pkg 65 lbs open young ewes 405.00 cwt; solid mouth 135-165 lbs open 165.00-205.00 cwt.
GOATS: (prices per hundred weight)
Feeder Kids: Selection 1-2 – 27-30 lbs 370.00-400.00; 32-35 lbs 355.00-385.00; lot 46 lbs 365.00.
Selection 2 – Lot 33 lbs 320.00. Selection 2-3 pkg 20 lbs 255.00; pkg 31 lbs 285.00.
Market Kids: Slaughter: Selection 1-2 – 47-50 lbs 332.50-340.00; 50-60 lbs 340.00-365.00; 60-65 lbs 335.00-345.00.
Nannies/Does: Selection 1-2 – 75-80 lbs 165.00-180.00; 80-87 lbs 160.00-185.00; pkg 96 lbs 170.00; pkg 100 lbs 180.00 all cwt.
Replacement Nannies/Does: Selection 1-2 – Young mostly 2-4 yrs exposed 70-97 lbs 235.00-270.00 per lb; lot exposed 101 lbs 210.00; 80-92 lbs 180.00-205.00 per lb.

Source: MO Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Montgomery City, MO, Greg Harrison, Market Reporter

In a Pickle: Struggling Wendy's sees major franchisee enter Chapter 11

Embattled burger giant Wendy's faces an additional challenge with one of its largest franchisees — operating 314 restaurants across 15 states — seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Meritage Hospitality said it will continue operating the stores while restructuring its obligations under court supervision. Court documents list Wendy's as Meritage's top unsecured creditor, owing nearly $25 million in franchise fees.

Meritage said it had been "working constructively with its lenders and its franchisor toward a solution" for more than a year before management decided to seek court protection.

"The filing follows a candid assessment of the financial pressures facing the Company, including the sustained system-wide headwinds affecting the broader Wendy's brand over the past few years," Meritage said. "The Company has a high level of confidence in the opportunity for a brand turnaround."

Across the chain, Wendy's has reported declining same-store sales for six straight quarters, and lost the No. 2 spot in fast-food burger rankings to Burger King. The company's share value has fallen by more than half since 2024.

Wendy's CEO Bob Wright, who took the helm in May, told the Wall Street Journal last month that the chain was acting to reprioritize ingredient quality, after overemphasizing cost controls and discounts to drive traffic.

Meritage cited the cost of beef as a contributing factor to its struggles.

– Meatingplace.com

FREE CLASSIFIED AD!

As a service to our readers, The Cattleman's Advocate is offering a FREE one-month classified ad. To place an ad of up to 20 words for the next issue, simply email your ad to: cattlemans@virtualimages.us; or fill out the form below, clip it out and mail to:

Cattleman's Advocate, P.O. Box 26, Paris, MO 65275

☐ For Sale ☐ To Lease ☐ Hunting ☐ Hauling
☐ Wanted to Buy ☐ Acreage ☐ Livestock ☐ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Email your ad to: **cattlemans@virtualimages.us;** Or clip & mail to:
Cattleman's Advocate, P.O. Box 26, Paris, MO 65275

Classified ads must be received by the 10th of the month for the next month's issue.

The publishers reserve the right, at their discretion to decline advertisements deemed in conflict with the publication's goals or those of our other interest – commercial cattle marketing.

CLASSIFIEDS

Livestock For Sale

Standardbred Bay stud weanling, ready to go in July, $900. Donnie S. Hostetler, 1331 Topsy Road, Randolph, Mississippi 38864.

For Sale

For Sale free standing panels, continuous panels, weld-on gates, corral panels and pipe post. "You will like the products and the competitive prices!" J&L Farm 2665 Audrain Rd. 154 Clark, MO. Call and leave message at 660-670-0673.

For Sale

Reclaimed barn wood, lumber and tin salvaged from local barns. Weathered white barnwood, oak beams, vintage 5-V tin. Various lengths. Salt River Salvage Co., Paris, MO. 573-721-1111.

For Sale

Good and average quality hay for sale. 3x3 big squares. Call for pricing. Xenia, IL 618-237-6084.

Services

Headings Custom Grazing Shelbyville, MO. We have excess pasture. Looking to custom graze your cows & calves. Call Curtis, 815-716-0328 for details.

Local Livestock Hauling

Livestock hauling available from Boonville, MO, serving most of Central Missouri big jobs and little jobs with various size gooseneck trailers by Schmidt's Custom Livestock Hauling, contact David 660-672-9914.

THE Cattleman's Advocate Directory

If you are a seedstock producer or a livestock service provider, your ad can economically appear here for as little as $20 or less per month.

3 months – $80 6 months – $120 12 months – $200

Contact Chuck Herron at 660-289-1090 • Email: cattlemans@virtualimages.us

ANGELL-THOMAS CHAROLAIS
Registered Charolais Bulls and Females
Russ & Sally Thomas
573-682-7348
17445 Mon. Rd 817 • Paris, MO 65275
angellthomas.com

Friendly small town service, with big town selection for 3 generations.
Angell's Western Wear & More
Centralia, Missouri
107 N. Allen St.
573-682-2555

Advertise in The Cattleman's Advocate and get results

ALBERT'S SHOE REPAIR
"Custom Leather Work"
Deborah & Stephen Albert
Chris Hinds
112 W. Railroad
Centralia, MO 65240
Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sat. 8:00 to 12:00 Noon
573-682-5722
Authorized Dealer For
Double H • Carolina • Georgia • Durango
Thorogood • La Crosse • Wolverine
John Deere • Iron Age

Your ad can appear here each month

Cary
Livestock & Equipment LLC
FARM
carylivestockequipment.com
660-882-6440 • 660-888-6354
carylivestockequipment

Your ad can appear here each month



NATION
Polled Herefords
Bulls & Females for Sale
573-473-8646
William R. Nation
Vandalia, MO 63382

Mark W. Robertson, PLS
Licensed Professional Land Surveyor
660/287-0614 (24/7)
www.MarkRobertson.org
PLS@MarkRobertson.org

Advertise in The Cattleman's Advocate and get results

Savannah's Farm Fresh Beef Retail Cuts and Quarters/Halves
Savannah's Farm Fresh
Savannah Moore
573-682-4562
Centralia, Missouri
savannahsfarmfresh.com

Get a full year of home delivery of The Cattleman's Advocate for just $30. See page 6 for details.

FOR SALE
Angus Bulls
Tested, vaccinated, guaranteed. We'll keep bulls until you are ready. Free delivery.
Shannon Farms
Bowling Green, MO
Herd Established in 1946
573-470-1416

SHēk Boutique
Selestia Angell
125 N Allen Street
Centralia, MO 65240
573-682-0448
Shop online at
ShopShekMo.com

Laugh Tracks in the Dust.....

Beef industry political'isms'

By MILO YIELD
Special to The Advocate

Amidst this high-tension political season, everybody and their dog (er, cow) wants to lay strident, negative political monikers on all the political persons that they disagree with. All the good ol' political system standard "isms" have been put into play.

I'm talking about fascism, nazism, socialism, libertarianism, communism, and capitalism, and others.

Well, one of my fine readers from Wyoming has taken note of this political slandering trend and emailed me his version of what he termed as "Cowpitalism." He wrote, "Milo, all major social structures in the world today affect agriculture, and the beef industry, in one way or another. Here's how I decipher it."

Here is how his email went. It described:

• Socialism: You have two cows and happily give one to your neighbor to equal things out. Both of you stay hungry.

• Communism: You have two cows. The government takes both of them and gives you back some of the milk, but none of the beef and fat.

• Fascism: You have two cows. The government takes both cows and sells you back some of the milk and some of the beef, and keep all the fat.

• Nazism: You have two cows. The government takes both of them and shoots you and give the cows to the military.

• New Dealism: You have two cows. The government takes both -- then shoots one, milks the other and throws the milk away.

• Libertarianism: You have two cows. You turn both of them loose to forage on their own and hope they eventually come back go you in marketable condition.

• Capitalism: You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull to build your herd long-term.

• Democracy: You sell one cow to buy a bull. Then you mortgage the remaining cow to pay the income tax on the cow you sold. Then you mortgage the bull to buy feed for the remaining cow and bull. Then you mortgage the unborn calf to pay property tax on the cow and bull. Then, last but not least, you go to town and get a job to pay the interest on the three mortgages.

Now even if you don't agree with the political education offered by my Wyoming reader, I hope you can better understand all the political badmouthing going on in these midterm elections.

••••••••••••••••••••

I read that there is a new and fancy dance-step craze sweeping Washington. It's called the Balanced Budget Shuffle.

Here's the way it works: You try to step on everyone else's toes without getting your own mangled. And like trying to balance the budget, it's great fun until you start getting walked all over, which today a lot of people are. Folks in Washington are attempting to try and cut the budget this year with the same enthusiasm it has shown over the years in creating multi-trillion dollar deficits.

The twinkle-toes and Fred Astaires of Capitol Hill probably clearly haven't mastered the shuffle-step well enough to completely balance the budget, and after the election, they'll likely return to their beloved Deficit Disco.

But for the time being, it's nice to see the Washingtonians trying to learn the Balanced Budget Shuffle -- since it's a dance most Americans have been doing in their homes for decades.

••••••••••••••••••••

Not all my readers lay accolades on me. Some of you send missiles that I can't tell if you're hot under the collar, just gently chiding me, or just plain ol' funning with me just to get kicks.

I recently got an email from a Missouri reader. She said that I sometimes "go off the rails" with some of my column material.

In her parting shot, she made a statement that made me laugh. She wrote: "The trouble with column writers is that too many of them have half a mind to express themselves in a column. And, they do so. You are one of them."

Yep, kind friend, and I've been doing so for 53 years -- all with half a mind. Thanks for your correspondence.

••••••••••••••••••••

Someone recently suggested we're in so-much trouble in this country because people won't work. He suggested that the government ought to find all the immigrants, refugees, and folks out of work and put them to work clearing cedar trees in the Flint Hills.

For sure, that's a big need in the Flint Hills as they are quickly turning into the Cedar Hills.

But, as I contemplated that idea, I decided there's a mighty big difference between good sound reasons and reasons that sound good."

••••••••••••••••••••

Here are my words of wisdom for the week:

• "Farming and ranching always looks fun, easy, and profitable from a car window."

• And, "No one is rich enough to be happy without good friends and good neighbors."

Have a good 'un.

••••••••••••••••••••

The Cattleman's Advocate is now available online! You can see each month's new issue or old back issues by going to: CattlemansAdvocate.com

The Cattleman's Advocate

Serving Central & Eastern Missouri & Western Illinois • Published Monthly

ADVERTISING RATES

Effective Jan. 1, 2026

Ad Size		Cost per month
Economy ad:	1 month	.....$50
	6 months	.....$45
	12 months	.....$40
1/12 page:	1 month	.....$90
	6 months	.....$81
	12 months	.....$72
1/8 page:	1 month	.....$120
	6 months	.....$108
	12 months	.....$96
1/4 page:	1 month	.....$220
	6 months	.....$198
	12 months	.....$176
Super 1/4:	1 month	.....$310
	6 months	.....$279
	12 months	.....$248
1/2 page:	1 month	.....$380
	6 months	.....$342
	12 months	.....$304
Jr. page:	1 month	.....$470
	6 months	.....$423
	12 months	.....$376
Full page:	1 month	.....$610
	6 months	.....$549
	12 months	.....$488
Directory ad:	3 months	.....$80
	6 months	.....$120
	12 months	.....$200

(Additional discounts do not apply to directory ads)

Color

Economy, 1/12 & 1/8 page ads $50
1/4 page ads $80
Super 1/4 and 1/2 page ads $100
Junior and Full page ads $120

NO CHARGE FOR AD DESIGN

Advertising deadline is 6 days prior to the print date for each month's issue

If you would like to receive The Cattleman's Advocate each month, subscriptions for one year are available by sending $30 and your name and current address to:

A&S Printing
Box 124, Monroe City, MO 63456

If you contract for at least 6 issues in *The Cattleman's Advocate*, you will receive a 10% discount off all ads placed.

If you contract for 12 issues in *The Cattleman's Advocate*, you will receive a 20% discount off all ads placed.

To schedule an ad in The Cattleman's Advocate, call or email:

Chuck Herron
660-289-1090 • cattlemans@virtualimages.us

Production details and ad construction are handled by Virtual Images
You may send news and advertising information directly to Chuck Herron at:
Virtual Images • P.O. Box 26 • Paris, MO 65275
660-289-1090 • Email: cattlemans@virtualimages.us

The preferred ad format for camera ready ads is high resolution pdf, but we can handle numerous other formats. Please contact us with any questions.

Advertising Dimensions

DIRECTORY AD
1.85" x 1.85"

ECONOMY AD
1 column x 3"

1/12 PAGE
1 col. x 6.5"
2 col. x 3.25"
3 col. x 2.25"

1/8 PAGE
2 col. x 4.75"
3 col. x 3.25"

1/4 PAGE
2 col. x 9.5"
3 col. x 6.25"
4 col. x 4.75"

SUPER 1/4 PAGE
2 col. x 14.5"
3 col. x 9.75"
4 col. x 7.5"

1/2 PAGE
3 col. x 12.75"
4 col. x 9.55"
5 col. x 7.75"

JUNIOR PAGE
4 col. x 13"
5 col. x 10.5"

FULL PAGE
5 col. x 15.25"

COLUMN WIDTHS

1 column.....1.92" 4 columns.....8.17"
2 columns.....4" 5 columns.....10.25"
3 columns.....6.09"

KIRKLAND FEEDYARD from page 15

Many Florida calves arrive directly off the cow, especially those from farther south.

"The further south you get, the harder it is to wean with the rain and mosquitoes," Robby says.

Their first Florida customer had a specific location in mind after trying feedyards farther north.

"He wanted to feed cattle as far north as he could but south of the Canadian River," Perry recalls. "I told him he'd called the right place because we are 20 miles south of the Canadian River and the closest feedyard to it. He turned out to be one of our best customers."

Louisiana is their third-largest source, with some cattle also coming from New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

When bankers hesitated to finance cattle sent across state lines, Perry created Kirkland Ag Credit to meet out-of-state customers' needs. Rather than seeing the venture as a risk, he viewed it as an opportunity to expand that business. The operation still follows the same basic model today.

"Dad has always been a forward thinker," Robby says. "It's fairly common now among feedyards, but it wasn't in 1990."

Effective animal health management is critical to a feedyard's success, and Robby relies on everyone from pen riders to his nutritionist and consulting veterinarian. In the early years, cattle were treated mainly for blackleg and IBR.

For other illnesses, Perry recalls trying various treatments and three-day protocols. Although medicines have improved, he and Robby believe cattle face more health challenges today.

"There are better vaccines, better antibiotics and better technology along with better genetics, and now we wean heavier cattle at a much younger age, and their immune system is not as developed so they're just not as tough," Robby says.

They also wonder whether changes in pathogens and the industry's drive for faster gains play a role.

"We push these cattle so hard, the ranchers, the stocker operators, backgrounders, feeders, we all do it," Perry says. "We think something is wrong if we're not getting 2.25-2.50 pounds a day on wheat. Back in the 80s if I got a pound and a half, I was excited. So that could be some of it too," he admits.

The yard has used SenseHub early detection tags for about three years. Robby says the technology helps but does not replace skilled pen riders.

"It's a tool, not a silver bullet," he says.

These days, finding good employees can be challenging, but Kirkland Feedyard's staff are the staying kind. Robby works hard to ensure their contributions and input matter.

Marketing has changed, too. Until the mid-1990s, the yard sold cattle primarily in the cash market. When Perry started, Excel and IBP buyers came to the yard to negotiate over individual pens.

"We'd dicker over a quarter," Perry says. "Back then 50 cents was a big move. We went from one-on-one selling with a very small margin to now $3, $5, $10 moves. We never know how much it's going to move from week to week."

As customers became interested in grids and wanted more information on how their cattle performed, the yard shifted toward grid marketing. Consolidated Beef Producers now helps market customers' cattle.

Robby says price discovery matters as much as ever, particularly as the cash market has thinned. He points to the recent loss of reporting in Texas and Kansas under USDA confidentiality rules. The industry continues to discuss solutions, he says, but has yet to settle on one.

Some customers tell him the CME is irrelevant. Others question why funds and managed money can trade cattle futures contracts or why the basis is so wide. Robby understands their concerns, but says futures remain the available tool for managing price risk.

There is also the continual speculation as to when the independent cattle feeders will get swallowed whole by the corporate yards.

"It's harder for independents," Perry admits, "But there's still room for anyone who is willing to do what it takes to make it work."

As a past chairman of Texas Cattle Feeders, Robby is keenly aware that Texas feedyards have been running at about 75 percent capacity since the border closed to Mexican cattle. The Kirklands typically feed 15 to 20 percent Mexican cattle, though some Texas yards rely on them much more heavily.

"We've all had to pivot, readjust to something a little different," he says.

He is anxious to see how cattle movement develops as the Santa Teresa port settles back into a routine. So far, heavier cattle are crossing. He was recently offered a group of calves weighing 450 to 650 pounds, but he couldn't make the numbers work.

"They're not cheap, but nothing is cheap right now," Robby says. "We could be more aggressive if we had some wheat to turn out on, but penciling them straight into the feedyard to come out in May or June, I just couldn't make that work."

He expects lighter Mexican cattle to come eventually, but he isn't sure imports will return to the previous norm of one million to 1.2 million head annually.

The September cattle on feed report held no surprises for him.

"The fundamentals haven't changed," Robby says. "We know we're short of cattle. We sure know we're short of placements. We know we're feeding cattle longer in the yards. The packers are wizards as far as managing their product, but as far as the numbers, it didn't surprise us."

As he sees it, the industry is working hard just to maintain numbers.

"Some people think maybe next year we might be up a percent in terms of total inventory, but when I look at the cow country, and I watch the drouth monitor all summer long, it's hard to really believe there's a lot of rebuilding going on."

Normally, the family plants a considerable amount of dryland wheat, though they hadn't yet sown an acre by mid-September. The summer has been one of the driest Perry can remember.

Over the years, the family has accumulated about 20,000 acres of deeded ground encompassing about 9000 acres of farm ground. The rest is in grass.

"Grazing comes first, hay comes second, and if we have anything left, we got a combine," Perry says. "But basically, we're a beef producing company, so that's where most of our crops are going to go."

At 77, Perry says the next chapter belongs to Robby and Carson.

"My vision from day one until we got to this capacity, to this spot in our legacy, was pretty easy," Perry says. "I knew I wanted to grow. I knew I wanted to own more land. I wanted to make the feedyard bigger. So, my vision, I'm not saying it's come to an end, but the next vision is going to be Robby and Carson."

Robby expects that vision may mean a divergent path.

The most recent pens, built two years ago, have left the yard constrained by drainage. Future growth might mean buying into another feedyard or reopening two grow yards that have sat idle.

On the grazing side, the family will consider opportunities as they arise.

"We don't have a set playbook," Robby says.

Around 2000, Perry and Melanie, his first-grade sweetheart and wife of 56 years, began taking an annual two-week "vision retreat" to reflect on their goals, land purchases and accomplishments.

Although Perry has entrusted the business's future to the next generations and is confident in their direction, he still intends to make time for reflection. They were set to leave on their next retreat the following week.

"If the vision or legacy changes later, that will be fine."

Former Advocate feature writer, Susan Denkler, passes away

EDITOR'S NOTE: Susan Denkler served as a feature writer for The Cattleman's Advocate from October 2006 until December 2013 and wrote nearly 60 feature articles for the publication during that time, as well as shooting many of the photographs for the articles.

Susan Isabel Steers Denkler
October 14, 1953 - September 23, 2026



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Susan Isabel Steers Denkler on September 23, 2026, at her home in Wright City, MO.

She was born October 14, 1953 to John Clark "Jack" and Freda May Steers in Hannibal, MO.

Susan graduated in the top of her class from Hannibal High School in 1970. She then attended Hannibal-Lagrange Baptist College for 2 years before transferring to University of Missouri "MU" in Columbia, MO.

She graduated from MU with a degree in Journalism in 1975 and began working as a journalist for the Hannibal Courier Post winning several regional and national awards for her work. She also taught journalism and led public relations at Hannibal-Lagrange Baptist College.

Later in life she wrote for the Cattleman's Advocate newspaper. She greatly enjoyed investigative journalism.

Susan met James "Richard" Denkler during her junior year of high school, and they dated until marrying on November 30, 1975. They shared over 50 years of loving marriage. Richard survives her, along with their two children, Jennifer Susan Denkler-DeMaio and John Landon Denkler.

Susan is also survived by nine grandchildren: David Denkler, Brody Denkler, Liam Denkler, Bentley Winemiller, Chandon Winemiller, Lucy Denkler, Gwen Winemiller, Jordan DeMaio, and Rocco DeMaio.

She is survived as well by her brother- in-law, Vance Baugher, nephew, Greg Baugher, and niece, Laura Cox, sister -in- law, Joyce Stone, brother -in- law, Chuck Stone, along with their children, Charles, Carla, and Carrie; brother -in- law, Bill Denkler (Debbie); and their son Troy Denkler; her sister- in- law, Jan DeSmith; and her daughter Eryn.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Freda Steers; her sister, Jackie Baugher; and one granddaughter, Jessah DeMaio.

Susan was a woman of great faith in Jesus Christ and used her biblical studies and knowledge to spread the Faith through churches and bible studies. She was heavily involved in church planting and growth, the charismatic movement, revivals, marches of life, volunteered with the Salvation Army and often used her platform as a journalist to spread God's Word. She was a beautiful pianist who used her talent to provide worship music in church.

Susan deeply enjoyed spending time with family, vacations to the lake, boating, skiing when she was younger, and fall leaves changing color right around her birthday each year. Later in life she enjoyed traveling with Richard in their camper to visit family and see new places.

She was and avid genealogical investigator, creating a very large family tree dating back to the 1700's.

Susan was laid to rest with a graveside service at the Wright City Cemetery.

Donations in lieu of flowers are welcome to the Wright City Community Church of the Nazarene c/o Martin Funeral Home, 510 East Main Street, Warrenton, MO 63383 and /or Barnes Jewish Hospice Care at https://www.bjchospice.org/donate. Online condolences may be made at martinfunerals.net.

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

The Cattleman's Advocate is now available online! You can see each month's new issue or old back issues by going to: CattlemansAdvocate.com

Try roasted carrots with honey herb butter with round steak

Made and reviewed
by CHARLOTTE ANGELL,
rated by JON ANGELL
For The Advocate

Jon's Critique: I like cooked carrots. The best carrots are cooked with a beef roast in a Dutch oven that allow the carrots to take on the beefy flavors. The cook may have found a recipe for the second-best way to eat cooked carrots. These roasted carrots had plenty of flavor and complemented the round steak the cook paired them with. They looked great on the plate too!

Roasted Carrots
with Honey Herb Butter
Ree Drummond

4 lb. medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped (I used dry, 2 tsp.)
1 ½ tsp. Kosher salt, plus more to taste
Black pepper, to taste
4 Tbsp. salted butter
2 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
½ cup chopped fresh parsley
¼ cup chopped chives (I omitted these)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Put the carrots in a large bowl and drizzle with the olive oil.

Sprinkle with the thyme, salt and a few grinds of pepper and toss well to coat.

Divide between 2 rimmed baking sheets, spreading the carrots in an even layer (reserve the bowl).

Roast, switching the position of the pans halfway through, until the carrots are browned and tender, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Whisk in the honey, vinegar and a pinch of salt.

Bring to a boil and cook until just slightly thickened, 1 to 2 minutes.

Remove from the heat and whisk in the mustard, and then whisk in the parsley and chives (if using), reserving a tablespoon of each garnish.

Transfer the roasted carrots to the reserved bowl. Drizzle with the honey-herb butter and toss well. Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle with the reserved parsley and chives.



Carcass size, efficiency drove profits in the 2025-26 Missouri Steer Feedout Finale

STOCKTON, Mo. – "The Missouri Steer Feedout Finale showed that the most profitable steers led the group in efficiency and carcass size," says Patrick Davis, University of Missouri Extension livestock field specialist. The Sept. 30 meeting concluded the 2025-26 Missouri Steer Feedout and presented results for 49 steers from six producers fed at the Show Me Feedlot near Newport, Mo.

Held at the Show Me Youth Ag Academy Farm near Lamar, Mo., the event was supported by MU Extension, Missouri State University, Show Me Youth Ag Academy and U.S. Premium Beef. Brian Bertelsen of U.S. Premium Beef, which purchased the steers at slaughter, also discussed the company, grid marketing and industry trends.

"The most profitable steers combined larger carcasses and efficient gains with low costs of gain," says Davis. The top steer, owned by Ronnie Vieth of Purdy, Mo., earned $1,025.27. It ranked second in average daily gain (ADG), dry matter conversion (DMI:ADG) and cost of gain (CG), and placed among the top five in carcass weight (CW) and carcass value (CV). It also qualified for Certified Angus Beef (CAB) and prime carcass premiums. Its initial value ranked in the bottom half of the steers on feed, further supporting profitability.

The second most profitable steer, owned by Chase Daniel of Arcola, Mo., earned $964.08. It ranked first in ADG, DMI:ADG, CG and CW and second in CV. However, it was one of two steers discounted for an overweight carcass, which also made it ineligible for a CAB premium, and it did not earn a prime quality grade premium.

"Poor performance and small carcass size characterized the least profitable steers," says Davis. One of the group's least profitable steers ranked next to last in ADG, DMI:ADG and CG and had the 10th-smallest carcass among the steers on feed. Although it ranked second in initial value, its carcass value ranked 41st. Together, these factors produced a loss on this steer of approximately $450. Three other steers also lost money and showed similar performance and financial characteristics.

"Costs, gains, feed conversion, carcass traits, premiums and initial value all affected producer profitability in the program," says Davis. Chase Daniel of Arcola, Mo., was the most profitable producer, with his nine steers averaging $528.64 in profit per head. His group led in average CW, ribeye area, backfat and yield grade and ranked second in ADG, DMI:ADG and CG. This group's initial value also ranked third, which, together with lower costs, boosted profitability.

Ronnie Vieth of Purdy, Mo., ranked second in producer profitability, with his six steers averaging $504.31 in profit per head.







Please check our website for information on consignments and updates

www.emcclivestock.com

Upcoming Sales

at Eastern Missouri Commission Company in Bowling Green

October
Friday, October 30 .....Regular Friday sale

November
Friday, November 6 .....Regular Friday sale
(includes Special offering of high quality bulls from Meyer Cattle)
Friday, November 13 .....Special feeder sale with regular Friday sale
Friday, November 20 .....Regular Friday sale
Friday, November 27 .....NO SALE

Saturday, November 28
Annual Fall Bred Cow Sale



EASTERN MISSOURI COMMISSION COMPANY

North Business Loop 61 • P.O. Box 87
Bowling Green, MO 63334 • 573-324-2295
easternmo@gmail.com

EMCC Friday start times

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

Cattle receiving hours
Thursday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday starting 6:30 a.m.

We market ALL classes of cattle each week.

Friday auctions can now be viewed in real time online at:

www.dvauction.com



We would like to thank all our customers. If anyone needs anything, please give one of us a call.

Mike VanMaanen	Lori VanMaanen	John Sutton	Terry Syrcle	Frank Scherder	Mike Magruder	Damon Luebrecht	Cody Hanold	Mike Bolte
573-881-0402	573-682-7008	702-336-4713	217-440-8384	573-669-5321	314-605-1094	573-470-6150	618-781-9810	573-470-2988