

Producers Livestock Auction Co.

Cattle News from Producers:

Going into the fall the rain in our trade area has been sporadic, especially to our west and south west. By mid-October areas to our north east and east have been blessed with good moisture, but planting of small grains is behind schedule for most. For the most part stockmen are still understocked and have grown some forage throughout the year. The vast majority of cattle sold this year have been in good body condition and are still dollaring out very well even on a slightly lower market.

Slaughter cows have followed the historical trend of lower prices heading into the fall season. Seasonal cutting of the northern herds and the cull dairy cows that yield such a heavy carcass are some of the cause for lower prices. Most likely we'll continue to see pressure until around Thanksgiving and then hopefully see some price improvement. Buyers have already and will continue to pay close attention to the health, quality, flesh conditions and of course the shot records of their calf purchases. But overall whether they're weaned or not weaned (and that's the vast majority) strong demand continues for the better quality calves especially the light to medium weights. Probably to no one's surprise, we have seen the heavy bull calves and bull yearlings trade lower in the last month or so. If you'd like to visit about this market trend or any others, give us a call!

Jody Frey, cattle sale manager (325) 234-7895

Sheep and Goat News:

We are over four months since the first screw worm case and many of the infested areas have not had a case in over eighty plus days, which have allowed them to be released. The inspection process has had a few issues, but the inspectors have been available anytime you need one. The Texas Animal Health bunch have tried to do their best with inspections and the release of sterile flies. USDA/Aphis has stated they are speeding up construction of the sterile fly facility in Edinburg with a projected completion date of April 2027. The facility in Edinburg will be able to produce 300 million sterile flies in a week. We are nearing cooler weather which will help with the fly issues. The New World Screw Worm is a tropical insect that does not like weather below 40 degrees and cannot stand freezing temperatures.

The ethnic market is still going strong and the market on sheep and goats has been good. Here we are in the middle of October and lots of areas need moisture. The heat and dry weather have forced heavy culling of livestock in much of our trade territory. Any moisture from now on will not do much for our warm weather grasses, mostly weeds and winter grass unless you have wheat ground. We are seeing more solar grazing projects around the state and many of those lambs are coming to the sale. I might add lots of the lambs are not in fleshy condition, and many are going to feed facilities. Weather people are insisting we will have a wet winter here in the south. That sure would be nice and it can not get here quick enough for me.

Benny Cox, sheep sale manager (325) 234-4277

General Information:

Marketing: As always, anytime you have a unique, large, or extra fancy consignment of cattle, sheep or goats please call as far in advance as you can. It is not mandatory, but we really encourage it as it allows us to advertise and market those consignments better.

Vaccination information:

Many of you are doing a great job of turning in detailed vaccination information on your cattle, but we still have people giving us very generic information such as the “cattle have had blackleg and IBR”. It is important that you know and tell us what the actual vaccinations were such as Vision 7 and Cattlemaster 4 as an example.

Weaning calves: When planning to wean calves to increase their value when marketing three things are important.

1. Try to wean calves for at least 30 days before selling.
2. Vaccinate the calves at least once with proper vaccines.
3. Make sure that the cattle hold their weight together or gain weight throughout the weaning process.

Feed Program: Our feed program is second to none as most auctions don't concern themselves with holding the weight of your livestock together the way we do. If you weren't aware of this, you may need to rethink the way you market your livestock.

Vet Service: Our vet service for the cattle sale is from 7 AM until 10 AM on Thursday mornings. For pregnancy testing cows, they need to be here on Wednesday or very early Thursday mornings to be processed. Pairs require a good deal more time to process and pair up and it helps when they arrive as early as possible.

We really appreciate all of our consigners & buyers. We can't provide this service without you all!

Charley Christensen, general mgr, (325)234-4939

We are available to help you find, buy, and sell the right kind of livestock for your ranching operation. Give any of us a call.

Benny Cox – 325-234-4277- Sheep Sale Manager

Jody Frey – 325-234-7895- Cattle Sale Manager

Charley Christensen – 325-234-4939 - General Manager

Mike Matthiesen- Controller- 325-340-3816

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