Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

High cost of raising cows expected to be higher yet in 2027

By Aaron Berger
Nebraska Extension

What did it cost to run a cow on your operation this year?

As the 2026 calf crop is weaned and the calendar year winds down, this is a good time for operations with spring calving herds to review what it cost them to produce a calf in the past year.

What did it cost to run a cow? How do you calculate the costs? How do you value raised feed, labor, equipment, as well as replacement females grown on the ranch? These questions are frequently asked when the conversation of annual cow costs comes up.

The Estimated Annual Cow Costs for Nebraska 2026, available at beef.unl.edu/estimated-annual-cow-costs-nebraska-2026, is a one-page sheet that producers can use to compare their costs and see the resulting total to produce a weaned calf under current market conditions.

This budget values all feed at market value, as well as labor, equipment, capital investment and the market value of replacement heifers at weaning. The Center for Ag Profitability's Cattle Budgets are another interactive budget tool that producers can download in Excel and use to calculate their own cost of production based on location and herd size within the state.

When either of these tools is used and all expenses are tallied, the total surprises many cow-calf producers.

Feed

Upon examining this budget, feed is the first and most significant expense. For many cow-calf operations, grazed and harvested feed makes up 40-70% of annual cow costs. The value for grazed feed was higher in 2026, while the market value of harvested feed prices decreased if it was purchased in the fall of 2025 or early in 2026.

For harvested feed purchased when drought conditions developed, hay prices were double or triple what they were in 2026. In this budget, when all pasture and feed are valued at market price, including what is needed for replacement heifers and bulls, annual feed costs are well over $800 per cow unit.

Current hay and protein prices will impact 2027 annual cow costs.

Labor and equipment

Labor and equipment are steady to higher again in 2026. When labor is valued at what it would cost to hire someone to do the work, and depreciation and expenses related to equipment ownership and operations are calculated, it frequently makes up 15-30% of the total annual cow costs. Insurance, repairs, maintenance and operating expenses trended higher in 2026.

Cow depreciation or replacement

Whether replacements are raised or purchased, the costs associated with getting a bred female into the herd are significant. The economic cost of getting a bred replacement into the herd in 2026 is higher than it was in 2025.

When heifers are valued at market price at weaning and all costs from weaning to entering the herd as a bred female are calculated, this total frequently comes in as the third most significant cost in a cow-calf budget. In a typical herd where open or old cows are sold and then replaced with bred heifers, the cost to do this often is 15 to 30% of total annual cow costs.

A quick way to gauge the significance of cow depreciation is to examine the relationship between the market value of bred replacements entering the herd and the total value of cull cows leaving the herd, as well as those that died. Assuming the cow herd maintains a constant head count, this value difference, divided by the number of cows in the herd, yields a current depreciation relationship value.

Interest and breeding costs in 2026

Interest, breeding, veterinary, marketing and other costs often add up to 10-30% of total cow costs. Although often not as large as other cost categories, they still require monitoring and analysis.

Interest rates have been generally steady over the last year to slightly higher. The Bank Prime Loan Interest Rate reported by the St. Louis Federal Reserve as of October of this year was 7%. This rate is what commercial banks typically charge customers who are deemed to be the lowest risk when lending money.

The reported prime loan rate from March 2008 through July 2022 was never higher than 5.5%. For several years during that period, it was 4% or less. In terms of breeding expenses, bull sale average prices were generally higher on average in 2026 than they were in 2025. These increases impact breeding costs per cow not only in 2026 but in future years as well.

Annual cow costs in Nebraska increased in 2026 and because of higher values for hay and protein supplements purchased this year to feed the cow herd in 2027, costs will likely be higher again next year.

Cattle prices have been excellent for several years now. However, cow costs are rising rapidly as well. Margins are still good for the cow-calf sector, but continually increasing costs are concerning when looking at what it costs to produce a weaned calf today.

Managing late-cut alfalfa

By Ben Beckman
Nebraska Extension Educator

With favorable weather this fall, some producers were still considering a final cutting of alfalfa as recently as last week. If you took a late cutting this year, what can we do now to improve stand health and productivity going into next spring?

A late alfalfa cutting doesn't necessarily mean we'll see injury this winter. If plants had adequate time to store root reserves prior to harvest and temperatures remained cool enough afterward to limit regrowth, plants may be in relatively good shape. However, removing that top growth does leave plants more exposed to winter conditions.

If you did cut later this year, avoid grazing off any remaining stubble or regrowth. Ideally, four to six inches of stubble will help catch snow and insulate plant crowns from temperature extremes this winter.

While it's too late for fertility applications to have much impact this year, fall is still a good time to soil sample, especially for phosphorus and potassium, which can help minimize additional stress on plants as they recover next spring.

Even without significant winterkill, stands harvested late may experience slower spring growth and reduced first-cutting yields. Next spring, prioritize scouting these fields. Look for slow or uneven growth and reduced stem density, and dig up a few plants to assess root and crown health.

If plants show signs of winter injury but the stand is worth keeping, consider delaying first cutting until plants begin to bloom. While we may sacrifice some forage quality, giving plants additional time to recover and rebuild root reserves can help improve productivity over the remainder of the year.

UNL FORAGE MINUTE

Winter insect mortality

By Samantha Daniel
Nebraska Extension Educator

Cold winters help prevent many potential pest insects from being established in Nebraska or require species that cannot survive our winters to migrate from southern states each year. The insects that are adapted to overwinter in Nebraska have several methods for avoiding winter conditions.

A few of our most significant pasture and forage pests spend the winter in

FORAGE MINUTE
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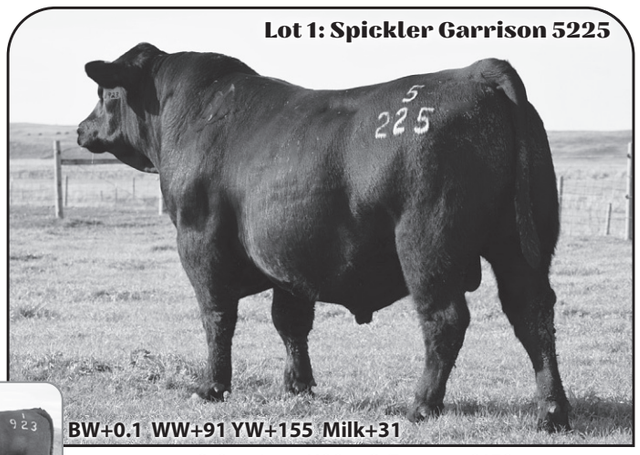

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BUTCHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and red Simmental cattle began in 1989. At the time, the commercial cattle were predominantly black-hided animals. However, the family recognized an opportunity to develop cattle that could provide Simmental performance and maternal characteristics while offering the uniformity and pigmentation producers wanted.

The goal was to produce cattle that would complement Angus-based cow herds while retaining the maternal strengths associated with Simmental.

That approach continues to guide the operation.

"We try to sell really balanced cattle that perform well in the feedlot and also make great cows," Logan said.

He describes the program as "traditionally maternal" in its focus, while also emphasizing that the cattle must perform beyond the cow-calf operation. Calving ease, moderate mature size, growth, milk production, carcass value, structural soundness and disposition as important priorities – traits Logan appreciates about Simmental cattle.

"They're wonderful, usable animals, especially when they're crossbred," he said.



Submitted photo

Logan Butcher raises Simmental cross cattle on his Montana Ranch. He said he loves the versatility of the breed, particularly when used in crossbreeding programs.

The operation has also been feedlot and carcass testing its genetics since 1994, reflecting the family's belief that seedstock producers should understand how their cattle perform after leaving the ranch.

Along with cattle, the operation puts up about 1,000 acres of hay annually to help feed its livestock through the winter. The area around Lewistown is a mixture of agricultural landscapes surrounded by four mountain ranges, which lends itself well to raising corn, wheat, and alfalfa.

"We sometimes mess around with pulse crops," Logan said.

He also emphasizes responsible land management, recognizing that the long-term health of the ranch is essential to keeping the operation viable for future generations.

For Logan, that includes his wife, Gabby, and four children, Bentley, Baker, Brodi and Bran.

The family continues to grow Gateway Simmental around the idea of producing cattle that are useful and profitable for commercial producers while maintaining the qualities that make a good cow herd – a philosophy summed up in the ranch's motto: "Buy the best – don't just buy a

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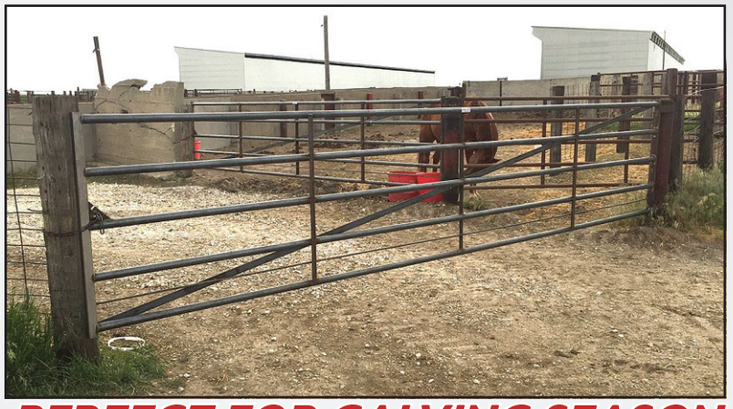

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HAGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"All four kids compete in rodeo. We spend our free time chasing the kids at local amateur rodeos all summer long. Bailee runs barrels, Pitch rides bulls, and Tripp rides saddle bronc and team ropes. Remmi runs barrels and poles," Leah said. "Tripp and Remmi also compete in the North Dakota High School and Junior High Rodeo Association. When the kids are not competing at rodeo or going to school, they are at the ranch helping in all aspects."

Leah has a valuable role at the ranch, doing all the bookwork for both ranches and the registrations and transfers for the registered Limousin and Lim-Flex. She takes care of all the advertising needs for Hager Cattle Co. and fills in on the day-to-day ranch tasks when needed.

The family home is located in McHenry County at the ranch near Karlsruhe, where they raise most of their feed crops. They do grow some corn at the east ranch in Pierce County.

At the McHenry County ranch on Monday, Nov. 9, Austin finished combining their corn for the year. With the drought most of the state experienced this year, the corn yields were variable, depending on location. Their corn in Pierce County did not get the moisture that the corn in McHenry County received. They were pleased with the McHenry County corn that yielded slightly above average.

The next day, he gave his first report of the season while in the tractor doing fall work. He said he needed to work some sloughs in the last cornfield.

"I'm in the tractor working some sloughs because we finished combining corn last night," Austin said. "Our corn in McHenry County was better than I expected it to be considering the summer was as dry as it was. But our corn in Pierce County was not very good. We had a lot less rain over there, so the yields were below average."

Austin's primary winter feed source is a ration consisting of corn silage, ground hay, and distillers grain. For hay, he raises forage oats, winter triticale and grass hay. The forage oats are taller, leafier, and have more tonnage than grain oats.

"We baled our forage oats and winter triticale this year, and we also baled grass hay in the summer. Our goal is to get to about 5,500 bales of hay every year," he said. "That's what we shoot for every year to get through the winter feeding months."

Four generations of Hagers have been ranching in the north-central part of the state since the early 1900s.

The Pierce County ranch started with Austin's great-grandfather. The ranch was passed down through the generations, from his great-grandfather to his grandparents, Raymond and Anne Hager. Austin's parents, Jim and June Hager, bought the original Hager family ranch in the mid-1990s. This was an addition to their McHenry County ranch that they started as a young couple in the late 1970s and was where Austin grew up. His family operated a commercial cow/calf herd and grew small grains.

In 2010, Austin and Leah purchased the McHenry County ranch from Austin's parents. Jim and June moved into town in Karlsruhe and slowly started turning things over to Austin. Twelve years later, Austin and Leah bought the original Hager Ranch in Pierce County.

"Leah and I would be the fourth generation of Hagers to own the east ranch over there in Pierce County," he said.

Austin is fortunate his dad still comes out and helps him around the ranch.

"My dad's semi-retired. He's still got a few cows he keeps out at our place, and he comes out to the ranch four or five days a week and helps out," he said.

From the time Austin was young, he enjoyed helping his dad with the cow/calf herd. He said he and his siblings were his dad's only help.

"I started helping my dad around the ranch when I was 5 or 6 years old. At first, I didn't have a choice but to work. He needed help and the only help he had was us kids," he said.



Submitted photo

The Hager family in front of grain bins. From left to right: Remmi, Pitch, Leah, Austin, Bailee and Tripp.

Austin's dad gifted all three of his children a calf and colt to raise and keep or to sell and make money with. That started Austin's commercial cattle ranching business.

"I have an older brother and a younger sister. When I was 7 years old, my dad gave each one of us kids a bottle calf and a weanling colt," Austin said. "I raised my bottle calf up and sold it and then started buying heifer calves. I was the only one to stick with cattle. Today, my brother farms and my sister is an occupational therapist that is married to a rancher."

By the time he was a teen, Austin had already decided that he wanted to stay a Limousin seedstock breeder and also be a full-time rancher. It was in his blood, and he never wanted to do anything else.

However, his parents had a different dream. They wanted all the kids to go to college and earn a degree before settling down.

"I didn't want to go to college in the first place because I knew I was coming back home to ranch, but it was my parents' wish that their three children all get a college education. So, I basically went to college just to pacify my parents," he laughed.

Originally, Austin was going to go to college to be a veterinarian, but when he started working on his degree, he realized it was a commitment for eight years. So, he switched to earning a bachelor's degree in animal science at North Dakota State University in Fargo, which was perfect for a seedstock breeder and rancher.

Austin also competed in rodeo growing up. He rode bulls at local amateur rodeos, high school, college and was in the Canadian rodeo circuit.

After college, he returned to the ranch, started building his herds, and sold Loomix to ranchers.

"When I first got out of college, I sold Loomix, which is a liquid feed supplement for cattle. I sold that for about 10 years, but then we started getting more cattle and growing our operation, and I just didn't have time anymore to work outside the ranch," he said.

The Hagers have always used ranch horses through the generations. Of course, there were only draft horses before machines and many ranchers had to feed their cattle with a team of horses even after tractors came out.



Submitted photo

Tripp Hager chases cattle down a road through pasture lands.

Growing up, Austin remembers moving cattle on horseback with his dad, and he and his family continue that tradition of using ranch horses.

"My great-grandpa had horses, and my grandpa fed cows with a team of horses," Austin said. "When my dad was young, he would have ridden on the wagon with the team and helped Grandpa feed cows. My dad continued to operate his ranch utilizing ranch horses, and today, we still use horses for all our cattle work."

Today, at the McHenry County headquarters ranch, Austin has already turned out the registered herd on corn stalks.

November is also the time to prepare to wean the calves, and all the cattle are moved to the headquarters ranch in the late fall and winter.

In the winter, Austin will feed the two herds hay and supplements in their separate locations from December to May.

He has already rounded up the first-calf heifers and cows into their own small groups in corrals located in various separate pastures.

"We are going to start giving pre-weaning shots and get ready to start weaning calves," he said. "When they are weaned, the calves will be in the lots at home, but we feed the cows out on fields all winter long."

He starts making AI decisions in the winter and will AI the registered heifers and cows in the spring of the year.

Austin manages calving with the two completely distinct and separate herds. Out in their calving pastures, there are plenty of permanent and temporary shelters and windbreaks for the cows during those windy, snowy days.

The registered Limousin/Lim-Flex cow herd begins calving in February/March at the McHenry County ranch, while the commercial cowherd begins calving in May/June out on pasture. Then, it will be time for moving the cows out to pasture in Pierce County for summer grazing.

"Our cattle typically go to grass around June 1, depending on the year and the conditions," he said.

Austin's primary focus is not just the registered cow herd.

"We know what it takes to make a living in production agriculture. Our crops and cattle herds, both registered and commercial, have to pay the bulls. So, all avenues of this operation must work," he said.

Being a registered and a commercial producer provides a unique outlook into both types of operations.

"If the bulls I am raising do not work for my commercial operation, they are not going to work for the guy down the road running his cow/calf pairs," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to provide customers with Hager Cattle Co. genetics that will allow them to be profitable in the cattle business."

Through the years, demand for the Limousin and the Lim-Flex bulls has been good and Austin has sold bulls all over the country.

"North Dakota winters can be long and hard, so I work diligently to breed cattle that are built tough to thrive in any environment," he. "Our main bull market is in North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota, but we have genetics that have spread as far west as Utah, south Texas, all the way to the east coast."

MORICAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

knew they would use, so they brought those fencing supplies, as well.

Liz's parents offered to sell them an old farmstead southeast of town.

"We purchased the land from my folks, and it included pasture and an old farmyard, where we live. My dad had used the pastures as seasonal summer grazing but there was not much for grazing infrastructure," Liz said.

The Moricals wanted to begin rotational grazing. Fortunately, they brought some fencing material with them and set to work building fence, so the cows could utilize more of the pasture.

"Prior to our switch of ownership, the first pasture had water. From there, they'd open the gate to the second one, but they still came back through the first pasture for water," Tayler said. "So, there were spots where there was definite cattle impact, and there were spots when we were out there walking around that we wondered when the last time a cow had even walked out onto this portion of the pasture."

About once a month, the couple drove back and forth from Garfield to Hettinger and back again for the summer of 2016. Liz's parents helped with the cow herd.

"The cows moved out that summer and I came in October, and Taylor came when the harvest wrapped up that year, so maybe closer to December or thereabout," Liz said.

For the last 10 years, the Moricals have been growing their operation. They decided to calve in May and June, so the cows mainly calve out on stockpiled pastures.

When the couple was still in Minnesota, their cows calved in March, and they decided they didn't want to continue that.

"We had a barn and calved out critters in March in Minnesota, so May/June calving was a very intentional decision on our part," Liz said. "It was not only for improved animal impact, but also from the labor and infrastructure side of things. We just knew that putting money into building calving sheds wasn't the route we wanted to take."

Spring calving isn't just something commercial operators do, Liz said. She knows of a seedstock breeder in Hettinger who calves in May/June, as well.

They have gone through some Mother's Day snowfalls, however, since they started May/June calving.

"We have experienced calves running around in the snow, but it's a lot different than a February blizzard. It's wet snow and sometimes it's gone in about a day or so," she said. "I'm not saying that we don't calve in snowstorms, but they're less likely, and usually a little bit different than a February snowstorm."

Liz opened her own photography studio in Hettinger in 2021. The photography studio she worked at in high school was no longer there, but she waited to open her business because she was "a bit burned out from the Minnesota studio."

"In Minnesota, we did about 100 seniors, 30 weddings, and many kids and family sessions every year. I was a little burned out, so I packed my camera away when we got back to Hettinger," she said.

It was a busy time for them when they began establishing their new ranch. In addition to young calves, the couple had two of their kids.

"We added two kids in about 16 months. But I woke up one morning and I realized that I didn't have a single photo of my kids on the wall – just a whole camera roll on a cell phone," she said.

That was the day Liz decided she was ready to open her own business in Hettinger.

"I moved my gear into a shop on Main Street and took a couple of pictures of my kiddos. And in a smaller town, you don't just do something on Main Street and have people not see it."

Liz said her studio, Morical Made Studio & Framing, has turned into a photography studio that is needed in Hettinger. In addition to photography, she does custom framing and provides other services. The studio is open two days a week but that could be more or less, depending on the season.

There is a sign on her shop door with her number and "by appointment anytime" on it. If the time works for her, she'll "head straight from the ranch with boots, dirt, kids and all."

"From how it got started to where it is now is not at all where I expect it to be. I added a custom framing component to it, as well. I'm a full-service studio. I offer prints, framing, albums and wall art," she said. "When they leave, all they do is walk home or walk into their house, put it on their wall, and then they have that for the years looking back on it."

On the homefront, Liz and Taylor have been busy with their kids. Laurel, their oldest, is attending first grade at Hettinger Public School and likes school and has a great teacher.

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SUPERSIZE ME
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Submitted photos

A side-by-side comparison shows the typical size of a 1,200-pound market steer about 20 years ago, left, and a 1,900-pound steer in today's feedlot, right. Dressing out at 1,251, the steer on the right had a Yield Grade 4 and just over 1 inch of backfat for a USDA Grade Prime.

Between 1964 and 2023, the average hanging weight of a finished market animal has increased 4.5 pounds per year. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data from the past two years suggests an even higher jump. The most recent National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) report published Aug. 20 had the average live weight up 28 pounds from the previous year to 1,438 pounds.

Considering that dressed percentage is estimated in the 63% range, carcass weights are tipping the scales, as well. Over a 60-year period, carcass size has nearly doubled, said Warren Rusche. He serves a dual role at South Dakota State University (SDSU) as assistant professor of animal science and SDSU Extension feedlot management specialist.

"In the late 60s, the average carcass weight was around 660 pounds. Now we are greater than 900-915 pounds," said Rusche, who was involved in his family's feedlot and cow-calf operation in Kingsbury County, South Dakota, from 1998 to 2011.

Such phenomenal growth has been achieved through genetic selection and technology, said Rusche, listing advancements in cattle feeding such as growth-promoting implants and greater feed efficiency through beta-adrenergic agonist compounds. Cattle are also being fed longer, from 200 to 270 days. For those producers pushing average daily gains of 3 or more pounds, this extra time on feed can amass hundreds of pounds when cattle are hauled to the packer.

The weight is not necessarily all muscle, though.

"As we've fed cattle longer, we've made them fatter," Rusche said.

This increased proportion of fat carves out profitability. Trim loss has become a challenge for the industry, acknowledged Rusche, saying, "We've produced more fat that doesn't end up on the plate." The renewable biofuel market has added value to tallow, but—pound for pound—fat is still worth less than saleable meat.

From a marbling standpoint, the extra intramuscular fat has only nourished consumer demand for beef. Rusche pointed to the strong beef market as evidence when he said, "This is the result of the entire beef industry creating higher quality cattle, which produced higher quality meat and great consumer satisfaction."

Quality grade verifies enhanced meat quality. A July 2026 article by Cattlefax market analyst Patrick Linnell states that quality grade is at a record high. He wrote, "The grade improvement has been so strong that the number of USDA Prime carcasses is actually up 284,000 head from year-ago, despite the sharp decline in total fed slaughter." Mid-year USDA market trends show Prime grade averaged 15.6% through June 2026, compared to 9.2% in 2023.

"We have bigger cattle, and they are higher quality," Rusche said.

Lambs limited by tight supply

Beneath a deceptively inflated wool cover, market lambs have accumulated muscle mass over the years, as well. When Rusche was a youngster, his family raised lambs that topped 120 pounds live weight on the top end. Now fat lambs weigh in at around 150 pounds.

"Generally speaking, lambs have gotten bigger," he said.

Spence Rule of Brush, Colorado, also grew up on a family farm that raised sheep and lambs. He was still in high school when he began feeding his own flock in 1970.

When asked if the size of carcasses have changed over his 50-plus years in the sheep business, Rule responded, "Definitely. From then to now, the carcass size has increased without a doubt."

He has also seen industry trends from the packer side. The Rule family ventured into the meat packing industry in 1977 when they opened the Denver Lamb packing plant. They now co-own and operate Colorado Lamb Processors in Brush, which has capacity to process 1,800 lambs daily.

"Back then, the genetics were much smaller. A 105-pound lamb was a big lamb," Rule implied.

With a dressed percentage yield of 51% for a clipped lamb and 50% for a wool lamb, these lightweight lambs were cutting out 55-pound carcasses. Rule said they now sell carcasses anywhere between 60-95 pounds.

Finished weight for a lamb is highly determined by frame size, breed and genetics. Lambs are typically harvested at 6-12 months of age. Ideally, they are fed out to a backfat of about 0.25 inches, the breaking point between a USDA Yield Grade 2 (0.16-0.25 of an inch) and Yield Grade 3 (0.260-0.35 of an inch), according to Penn State Extension. This provides an adequate amount of finish for "a high-quality carcass with enough fat to produce meat with desirable sensory qualities."

"Their preference is still a well-marbled piece of meat that they can buy at a reasonable price," Rule said of consumers.

The problem is that lambs are being sent to the packer before they can reach their prime.

"We're getting lambs off the market before we can produce more pounds," said Kevin Coan, a sheep producer from Platte Center, Nebraska. He is also the territorial buyer for Colorado Lamb Processors.

Ironically, demand has slaughtered potential for the market lamb sector to truly grow. American Lamb Board (ALB) executive director Megan Wortman asserted that so far 2026 has seen strong demand and tight supplies. In turn, how long lambs remain in the feedlot is impacted.

"The really tight demand has kept market weights down," said Wortman.

The USDA Livestock Slaughter report for the week of Sept. 24 reflected these trends. The average live weight for lamb and mutton was 109, down 3 pounds from August 2025. Harvesting lambs at a lighter weight has contributed to an overall production reduction of 8%, further clenching the supply. ALB attributes strong market conditions and widespread drought for the lower production volumes; 45% of the U.S. sheep inventory fell into drought this summer.

Domestic lamb supply is also clenched by the growing ethnic market. Coan has seen a heavy shift over the last 10 years toward this non-traditional market, which prefers young lambs at 50-80 pounds live weight, long before they reach full size.

"We're not getting the big carcasses we'd like to see," Coan said.



Midwest Messenger photo by Kristen Sindelar

A backfat of about a quarter inch is ideal on a finished market lamb. Carcass weights are typically between 60-95 pounds at Colorado Lamb Processors.

Big pigs kept in check by barn space

Market hogs have also been packing on the pounds.

The lean frames of the 1990s are filling out, producing carcasses today that weigh just shy of a live hog 30 years ago.

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service cited 215 pounds as the standard baseline carcass index for mid-September this year. That was closer to 175-180 pounds a few decades ago.

In 1989, the average dressed weight of a market hog was 179 pounds. It jumped up 12 pounds within a decade. By 2003, average hanging weight hit 203 pounds.

Hogs dress out between 72-76%, so the high range of these market hogs are weighing in around 350 pounds.

"When I was loading out pigs as a child in the late 80s and early 90s, we looked at a live weight pig of 230-240 pounds," said Johnson, the ISU extension specialist from the top pork producing state in the nation, Iowa.

He credits the gains to production efficiency, such as genetics and nutrition, as well as improved housing conditions that have positively affected rate of gain. "We have very consistently increased carcass weight by 1.3 pounds per year," Johnson said.

However, certain nuances within the hog industry are likely to restrict similar trends over the long-term future. Commercial farms are growing pigs on a rigid 130-day schedule, Johnson affirmed. When it's time to wash the barns for the next group to come in, every pig in the barn has to go to market.

"We aren't entirely finishing on a weight basis—we're also balancing a time basis," said Johnson.

Hog facilities would have to be redesigned to accommodate larger animals. Johnson said gestation and farrowing stalls are already "maxed out" by the current size of breeding stock. But to maintain structural soundness of the pig would require bigger-boned sows.

SUPERSIZE ME
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

WILSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

I'll admit, I'm not always the greatest at slowing down long enough to appreciate them.

I'm thankful for the people who show up and help when a job needs doing, for the chance to learn something new, and for the little wins that sometimes don't look like much to anyone else.

I'm thankful for airline miles, and those opportunities to explore new places and meet new people.

I'm thankful for the crew that we have, and the family environment we worked so hard to try to set up.

I will also say I am not thankful to gophers, mice, net wrap and the Canadian Food Inspections Agency that is taking way too long to let embryos in.

More than anything, I'm thankful I get to live this life. It's not always easy, and there have been plenty of days this year when I've questioned my sanity. But I get to work with cattle, be part of agriculture, meet people from all over the world and come home to a place that means more to me than I can explain.

Not everyone gets to say that.

Whatever this year has thrown at you, I hope there's time this week to enjoy the people who matter and remember the things that still make life pretty dang good. You don't have to pretend the hard stuff isn't there to be grateful for the good.

Happy Thanksgiving, and have a blessed week!

Jaclyn Wilson is more than a rancher, raising Red Angus cattle at Wilson Ranch near Lakeside, Nebraska. She's an artist with a welder's torch. She holds leadership positions with several agriculture organizations. She can be reached at jaclyn@flyingdiamondgenetics.

SUPERSIZE ME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

"The larger you finish a pig, you have to have other carcass characteristics like fat and strong bones to be able to carry a heavier carcass," Johnson explained.

Additional intramuscular fat could infuse pork with enough flavor to spice up a stagnant hog market. A Sept. 22 article in National Hog Farmer reported that processors paid almost 11% lower prices this year compared to August 2025. "The slowdown in processor demand is, in turn, driven by slower demand for pork products," the article stated. August wholesale pork carcass cutout values were 14% lower, and even select sizes of hams were down 31% and bellies 17% below last year's prices.

Johnson deduced that as demand for protein is increasing, pork has not been competitive with beef and chicken. He said the problem began in the 1990s.

"We made pigs so lean, we sacrificed taste," said Johnson, "but the longer we feed them and potentially fatter we get them, the more meat quality and savor might improve."

How pork is fabricated is another way to pique consumer appeal. When Johnson lived in Europe for a year, he saw not only different ways to prepare meat but also variations in how the meat is cut compared to U.S. standards. Carcass weight impacted these differences, he said. Other countries are commonly finishing hogs at higher weights, although harvest weight is "extremely dependent" on whether the market is domestic or exports, he added.

Nearly 30% of U.S. pork is exported, according to the Pork Checkoff website. Other than a small percentage of niche marketers, the majority of hogs are being grown on commercial farms to fit a specific mold.

"We have one commodity, and that's a pig," said Johnson. "All are very similar in genetic background and carcass weight. Right now, the focus is on a 215-pound carcass."

Larger-framed animals not only weigh more but their muscles are naturally bigger, resulting in larger cuts of meat. A whole pork loin, for example, carries 1.2-2 pounds more than it did 30 years ago, Johnson said.

This raises the question: at what point is a piece of meat too large?

We'll explore the consumer end of this super-sized trend in our next article.

Reporter Kristen Sindelar has loved agriculture her entire life, coming from a diversified farm with three generations working side-by-side in northeastern Nebraska. Reach her at Kristen.Sindelar@midwestmessenger.com.

FORAGE MINUTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

protected sites that keep them insulated from freezing temperatures. Alfalfa weevils overwinter as adults in leaf litter and debris near alfalfa fields, while stable flies and horn flies spend the winter as pupae in winter hay feeding sites or below cattle dung pats, respectively. Face flies overwinter as adults and find shelter in attics, barns, and sheds.

Other important insect pests overwinter below the soil surface. Army cutworms spend the colder months in soil as larvae while grasshoppers overwinter as eggs in the soil of pastures, ditch banks, and fence rows. While soil temperature is dependent on many factors, it generally does not fluctuate significantly, even during extreme cold snaps. Soil that is covered by crop residue or snow will be further protected from bitter air temperatures. This means that the insects overwintering belowground are protected as well.

Even though insect pest populations will undoubtedly survive whatever this coming winter brings, remember that beneficial insects like parasitoids and natural

Sonstegard Cattle Co. L.L.C.

3th Annual Female Sale,
Saturday December 5th, 2026
1 p.m. at the Ranch, Montevideo, MN
Selling 200 Red Angus females!



11 Outstanding Open heifers like this Berwald 890 daughter sell!



Offering 85 Commercial Red Angus Bred Heifers bred to our 1A calving ease Red Angus bulls



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"At Varilek Angus we have come to have a great relationship with Jeff and have the privilege of working with him and his team. Working with Jeff through paper advertising and now digital advertising has always been smooth and simple. Jeff has been with us for decades and has become a familiar face at our sale as everyone knows jeff and looks forward to visiting with him. We hope to continue that relationship with Jeff and his team."

– Varilek Angus, Geddes, SD





"At Sonstegard Cattle Co we have 2 production sales a year, Jeff and his team do a great job of putting together a marketing plan that covers all the bases for promoting our sales. They have tremendous knowledge of the industry and know the best most cost-effective options to promote our sales. We have been very happy with the results we get from the print ads and the social media responses they produce.

– Sonstegard Cattle Co, in Montevideo, MN

"We are so happy with the advertising video that Jeff and his team made for us! We feel like it generated some new interest! We recommend them highly!"

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"We have been working with Jeff and Kirby and their team for decades and they go to work to help make our annual sale a success. They're known for honestly evaluating our cattle for potential and existing customers. The ad production staff is also first rate!"

– Lazy TV Ranch, Selby, SD



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Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

Classifieds Sale Barns

Livestock Supplies

Used oil well sucker rod & pipe. Pre-cut pipe available in 2 7/8" x 8'/9'. Also, fiberglass rod. Jim Boyles cell: 308-870-1119

Other Livestock

Old Blue Roan Perch X Quarter gelding, gentle, started driving, riding 417-770-1375

Cattle

50 Western Origin cows, 3-4 yr old, calve May & June, bred to Angus Bulls CD Curran, AlbiaIA 641-226-1650

Sale Barns

Cattle

Angus bull, Large frame 2yrs
(3) Bred Summer Yearling Heifers, Purebred Angus, calving ease
Shell Creek Angus
402-615-1921

F1 Baldy bred heifers,(19-count) Polled Hereford bred heifers (8-count) Calve February-1 for 50-days,bred to light weight birth Angus
402-750-7719

Sale Barns

Cattle

Pen space available (to help with the drouth conditions)
Or commercial feeding partner pens
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Sale Barns

Sale Barns

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Sale Barn 308-536-2436 • Fullerton, Nebraska

NOTE START TIME

SPECIAL FEEDER CALF SALE
FRIDAY, DEC 4, 2026 • START 12 NOON
EXPECTING 600-800 FEEDERS

FOR MORE INFO CALL KEN, KC OR BARN AND VISIT www.fullertonlivestockmarket.com

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Visit us on the web at www.fullertonlivestockmarket.com
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Sale Barns

Sale Barns

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FEEDER CALF AUCTION
TUES, DEC 1, 2026 - 11:30 AM
EXPECTING 1500 HEAD

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WEDENSDAY DECEMBER 2ND • SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION

BUTCHER COWS 8:00 • FEEDERS 11:00 • CALVES TO FOLLOW

FEEDERS & WEANED CALVES
300 Angus Red X Stee3rs & Heifers 700-850 #4PW ..... BRANT & BREANNA JOHNSON
280 Angus & (35) Red Angus Steers-no implants 975-1075 #4PW ..... TIM & TRENT ERIKSEN
250 Angus & few X Steers & Heifers 850-950 #4PW ..... STEVENSON CATTLE CO
240 Angus Bwf few Red Steers & Heifers 500-675 #2PW .. KEVIN & JULIE GABIEL
200 Red & few Blk Angus Steers & Heifers 600-800 #4PW ..... CLIFF & BROOKE MAZOUR
182 Char X Steers & Heifers 600-725 #4PW ..... SCHOEN FAMRS INC
170 Angus Steers 800-950 #4PW ..... MAC & BRAD CAMPBELL
165 Angus Ang X Steers 800-950 #4PW ..... BRIAN & SHELLY LENNEMAN
127 Angus Ang X Steers 850-900 #4PW ..... KEN STAAB
90 Angus Hereford X Steers & Heifers 400-700 #4PW JOHN, EVA & MIKE HARMS
80 Angus Bwf Steers & Heifers 700-800 #4PW ..... JEFF & JAYDN GRABILL
70 Angus Steers & Heifers 600-800 #4PW ..... JARED HARRINGTON
65 Angus Bwf Steers & Heifers 525-625 #2PW ..... BRIAN & JEREMY HENKEL
65 Angus X Steers & Heifers 750-900 #4PW ..... JIM MEYER
47 Angus Char X Steers & Heifers 800-925 #4PW ..... DON PITZ
16 Angus Bwf Steers 900-1000 #4PW ..... BRYCE & LORI ROYLE
12 Angus Steers & Heifers 650-675 #4PW ..... RANDY ERICKSON
5 Angus Ang X Steers 550-650 #2PW ..... JESSICA JOHN

CALVES
90 Angus Bwf Steers & Heifers 500-625 #42P ..... GLEN BONIFAS
85 Char X & Ang X Steers & Heifers 450-625 #42P ..... FELLS FARMS
85 Angus Steers 575-675 #42P ..... BRAD & ROCHELLE PLAMBECK
65 Angus Ang X Steers & Heifers 550-700 #42P ..... MIKE RYAN
60 Angus Steers & Heifers 375-500 ..... KENT SMITH
50 Angus Steers & Heifers 550-650 ..... HARLAN & DEB HERMAN
44 Angus Bwf Steers & Heifers 500-650 ..... DAN SAATHOFF
35 Angus Ang X Steers 500-600 #42P ..... ALLAN DUSH
30 Angus Ang X Steers & Heifers 450-600 #42P ..... WES & JAMI SPOTANSKI
30 Angus Steers & Heifers 500-600 #42P ..... CASEY FLYNN
20 Angus Stees & Heifers 550-650 #42P ..... RON LONG
20 Angus X Steers & Heifers 450-600 ..... RUSS KOSMICKI
13 Angus Ang X Steers 500-700 #2 ..... DAN NEAL

MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH • SPECIAL BRED HEIFER & COW AUCTION

BUTCHER COWS 8:00 • BROKEN MOUTH COWS 10:30 • BRED HEIFERS NOON

BRED HEIFERS
515 Angus Heifers-Ai'd Benoit Angus Rainfall 004-Calf Feb 4th-Clean up Benoit Angus-Calf Feb 20th-Bull Breds ultra-sounded for 30 day calving groups ..... CIRCLE BAR SIMMELINK CHAD 785-545-5670
60 Angus Heifers-Ai'd Woodhill Patent-Calf Feb 2nd ..... JASON & MIECHELLE SWANSON
52 Angus & Bwf Heifers-(23) Ai'd Krebs 44 Faithful-Calf Feb 19th-(23) Bred Sons Of Krebs 8N Academy-Calf Mar 10th for 50 days-1st Scour Shot ..... JEFF BOURKLAND
40 Angus Heifers (Oetken)-Ai'd Wood Hill Patent-Calf Feb 21st-Clean up Son of Schieflen Gabel for 50 days ..... DUSTIN CLARK

PAIRS
30 Angus Cows w/Calves-Young ..... SHELLY KELLEY

COWS
110 Angus Cows-Bred Clausen Angus Bulls-Calf Feb 20th-2nd Calf ..... DARRIN STEVENSON
90 Angus Cows-Bred Angus-Calf Mar 1st-2nd & 3rd Calf ..... STANDAGE FARMS
85 Angus Cows-Bred Vermillion, Hoffman or Express Angus Bulls-Calf Mar 1st Comp Vac & Scour Shot-2nd Calf ..... FLAG RANCH
64 Angus Cows-Bred Angus-Calf Feb 27th-Scour Shot-4 to 6 Yrs Old ..... KLEIN BROS
55 Red Angus Cows-Bred Red Angus-Calf Mar 10th-4 to 10 Yrs Old ..... JM KUEHN
50 Purebred Angus Cows-Ai'd & Clean up A & B Angus-Calf Feb 13th-2nd & 3rd ..... A & B CATTLE
45 Angus Cows-Bred Johnson Ang-Calf Mar 5th-Scour Shot-2nd Calf ..... STEVE & LEE KLEIN
40 Bwf Cows-Bred Clausen Ang-Calf Mar 1st-2nd Calf ..... JAMIE STEVENSON
40 Angus Cows-Bred Char-Calf Mar 1st-Broken Mouth ..... ALAN CROW
14 Angus Red Angus-Bred Hereford-Calf Apr 1st-Solid to Broken ..... MARK MOELLER

SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTIONS: DECEMBER 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH
SPECIAL BRED HEIFER & COW AUCTION: DECEMBER 21ST

EARLY LISTING CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEB SITE • www.HUSSLIVESTOCK.com

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Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

Classifieds
Sale Barns

Sale Barns | Sale Barns | Sale Barns | Sale Barns

DUNLAP LIVESTOCK

WED., DECEMBER 2ND @11AM
SPECIAL BRED FEMALE/PAIRS EXP. 1000HD

Heifers

- 235 Blk/Bwf 1st Calf Heifers, 126hd AI'd to Fairbanks & Riverbend New Era due 2/14, 67hd Wagonhammer bulls bred 2nd cycle, 42hd bull bred 3rd cycle. All heifers have been pelvic measured & ultrasounded. NE & SD Origin
- 100 Blk/Bwf/Herf 1st Calf Heifers 1100#. Black Heifers: 36HD AI'd to Topp Hereford and 25HD cleaned up with Topp Hereford bulls. BWF Heifers: 26HD AI'd to Jannsen Angus and 3HD cleaned up with Jannsen Ang. Valley son. Herf. Heifers: 11HD AI'd Topp Herf. & 5HD cleaned up w/ Jannsen Ang. Valley son, Due 1/24, will have ultrasound data.
- 50 Blk 1st Calf Hfrs, 1150-1200#, mated Galaxy Bulls, due 1/15 for 16 days
- 47 Fancy Red 1st Calf Hfrs, 1150#, 2 day AI'd to Bieber Jumpstart, cleaned up with Bieber LBW bulls for 45 days, due 3/16.
- 15 Fancy Blk/Bwf Sim 1st Calf Heifers 1200#, Mated to LBW PB Angus bulls, due 3/10
- 13 Red/Rwf 1st Calf Heifers 1150-1200#. York Creek genetics, mated to York Creek Red Angus calving ease bulls. Ultrasounded, due end of January/February.

Cows

Dispersal of 65 Red & Charx Cows, 2nd calf to solid mouth. Mated Red Sim/Ang bulls due 3/1. This is an outstanding set of calf raisers!

- 65 Blk & Red Mostly 2nds, few 3rd calvers. SD Origin, mated Weaver due 2/25.
- 50 Fancy Blk 2nd Calf Hfrs, western origin, mated to front-end Upstream Herf. bulls, due 2/1 for 20 days by ultrasound
- 44 Blk 2nd & 3rd calvers bred to Nichols & Elben bulls due 3/1 for 60 days. Fully vac & great mineral program
- 40 Most Blk 5-9yr old cows with 45-90 day old calves at side. No bull exposure, good disposition, good udder quality, would make great recips!
- 20 Blk/Red Middle Age cows with 2 month old calves @ side. Rock & Wakefield Char bulls turned out November 1st.
- 15 Fancy Blk/Red pairs 2nd-5th calvers with 200-300# calves at side. Running back with outstanding Black Sim bulls
- 6 Fancy Blk Angus 1st Calf Heifers with September calves on side. No Bull exposure

WESTERN IOWA PRECONDITION FEEDER
ALL CATTLE GREEN TAGGED VAC AND MOST WEANED 60-90 DAYS
FRI., DECEMBER 4TH @10:30AM EXP. 3000HD

Feature Consignment:

- 375 Blk/Red S/H 700-875#, 2 Loads Strs 835-875, 1 Load Replacement Quality Hfrs, GT vac X2, 90 days weaned, homeraised, no implants, werning genetics, don't miss!
- 114 Charx S/H 500-750#
- 120 Blk/Bwf S/H 750-950#, Churchhill Red Thunder Hereford & SAV genetics. Hfrs replacement quality.
- 100 Blk/Red/Charx S/H 450-650#
- 100 Blkx S/H 500-600#, Gold Tagged
- 100 Fancy Blk Sim S/H 600-800#, hfrs replacement quality
- 97 Char/Angx S/H 700#, weaned 90 days
- 85 Reputational Blk/Bwf S/H 600-750#, Van Newkirk & Schaaff Genetics. Excellent replacement quality
- 85 Red/Blk S/H 750-900#,
- 85 Blk/Red S/H 625-750#
- 85 Blk/Bwf S/H 750-900#, SAV & Churchhill Red Thunder Hereford genetics, Hfrs Replacement quality.
- 75 Fancy Blk/Bwf S/H 550-650#
- 65 Blk S/H 425-625#, Gold Tagged, Nichols Sim sired
- 65 Blk S/H 500-700#
- 60 Blk/Bwf S/H 700-850#
- 53 Simx S/H 750#, weaned 90 days
- 52 Blk Sim S/H 500-700#, Gold Tagged

800-1000hd in smaller consignments

Office: 712-643-5761
Jon: 263-0755
Don: 263-7505 Will: 269-5677
www.dunlaplivestock.com

Find it in the Midwest Messenger

WEST POINT LIVESTOCK AUCTION

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Monday December 7, 2026
Pre-Condition Feeders
Auction starts at 10:30 AM
Expecting 2500 HD

107 Blk S/H 550-650.....L/J Reuter
95 Blk S/H 600-700.....E Pearson
90 Blk/WF S/H 600-700.....C/K Kabes
75 Blk Mstly Strs/H 600-700.....T Hoffman
75 Blk S/H 625-725.....C Settje

Check out our website! Many great sets on the list! www.westpointlivestock.com

Brian Brester: 402-750-5821

DENISON LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Denison, Iowa

WESTERN IA PRECONDITIONED CALF & YEARLING SALE
Thursday, Dec 3rd, 2026
11:30 a.m.
Expecting 1800 - 2000 Calves & Yearlings

Most Calves will be weaned and many weaned over 60 days and G.T VacX2 w/modified live vaccine

325 Bl X SH 600 - 825
300 Bl/BWF SH 675 - 875
175 Bl/BWF SH 575 - 800
138 Bl SH 500 - 700
130 Char/Red Angus SH550 - 750
60 Bl/BWF/Red X SH 550 - 750
60 Bl Sts600 - 800
58 Bl SH 550 - 750
51 Bl SH 400 - 600
50 Bl SH 550 - 750
50 Bl/BWF/RWF SH 600 - 750
40 Char SH 400 - 600
39 Char X SH 500 - 650
36 Bl SH 500 - 700
36 Bl SH 500 - 700
300 - 500 head 350# - 1050# in late and smaller consignments

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NORTH PLATTE STOCKYARDS

Dec 1
Regular Sale w/Special Stocker Feeder Sale

Dec8
Regular Sale w/Special Bred Stockcow & 1st Calf Heifer Sale

Dec15
Regular Sale w/Special Stocker Feeder Sale

Dec 18
Special Bred Stockcow & 1st Calf Heifer Sale

Dec 22
Regular Sale

Dec 29
NO SALE

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE CONSIGNMENTS!
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Jay Nordhausen – Owner/Manager 308.289.1548
Lance Van Winkle – Owner/Manager 308.874.4435

ERICSON-SPALDING
LIVESTOCK MARKET

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2026
SPECIAL CATTLE AUCTION
3000-3500 Head Expected
Weigh-ups at 8:30; Odd Lots 10:00; Yearlings 11:00; Calves to follow
Most calves have been weaned & preconditioned: vac. Info will be announced as claves enter the ring. Ericson-Spalding Livestock Market is a SAV, NHTC, VNB approved sale barn with IMI Global.

YEARLINGS

250 ANG HFRS 850-950# ..... **BLACK RANCH**
125 ANG YRLING STRS, OFF STALKS 1000-1100# ..... **RON KLIMEK**
60 ANG X STRS 700-900# ..... **TYSON DINSLAGE**

CALVES

500 ANG CALVES, PREC, WEANED, HFRS RQ 450-600# ..... **MARK PRIBIL**
330 ANG CALVES, PREC, HFRS RQ 500-600# ..... **ONDRACEK & DUGAN**
230 ANG CALVES, PREC., WEANED 600-750# ..... **ALLEMANG & BOLLING**
180 ANG CALVES, PREC, WEANED, HFRS RQ 550-700# ..... **WILLOW CREEK CATTLE**
140 ANG CALVES, PREC, HFRS RQ 550-650# ..... **RANDY, KIRSTEN, LEVI & KRISTEN WETLAUFER**
135 ANG CALVES, PREC 500-650# ..... **JERRY CHILDERS**
135 ANG & CHAR X CALVES, PREC, WEANED 450-550# ..... **JIM CONNOT**
130 ANG CALVES, PREC, HFRS RQ 500-600# ..... **ONDRACEK FARMS**
120 ANG CALVES, PREC 500-650# ..... **KEHLER FARMS**
100 ANG CALVES, PREC. 500-600# ..... **MARV & BARB YRKOSKI**
100 ANG STRS, PREC., WEANED 550-650# ..... **KEITH & MATT TOMJACK**
100 ANG STRS, PREC, WEANED 1 LOAD 550# ..... **BLACK RANCH**
95 ANG CHAR X, PREC., WEANED 550-700# ..... **TONY & MIKE PSOTA**
85 ANG CALVES, PREC. 500-600# ..... **ROGER & BRAD VOICHOSKI**
75 ANG CALVES, PREC., WEANED 500-600# ..... **DOUG LAMBRECHT**
52 ANG CALVES, PREC 500-600# ..... **TIM & CONAGHER JONAK**
50 ANG & ANG HERF X STRS 550-650# ..... **JIM GOTSCHALL**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH - SPECIAL BRED COW/PAIRS AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - SPECIAL CATTLE AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH & JANUARY 2ND - NO SALE

Current listings can be viewed at www.ericsonspaldinglivestock.com
view & bid: www.cattleusa.com please request approval prior to sale day.
If you would like to purchase cattle on cattleusa.com
please request approval ***prior*** to sale day.
OFFICE 308-653-3111
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Stan Klug 308-750-2142
Kevin Mahony 402-340-3829 • Tyler Swett 308-201-0079

Sale Barns | Sale Barns

FT. PIERRE LIVESTOCK
FT. PIERRE, SD
TWO BIG SALES THIS WEEK!!

Friday, December 4th
Special Spring Calf & Yrlg Sale
5000 to 6000 or more High Quality Cattle 9 AM CT

Yrlgs (750-1100#) All off grass - lots of non implant cattle.
Valburg, 500 Ang PO hfrs (Raven genetics-off grass) 1000-1100
Miller/Mathews, 200 B,Bwf PO hfrs (off grass) 700-800
Plus many more yrlgs by sale day, including 100-200 PO hfrs 1000-1100.

Spring Clvs (250-700#) Nearly all clvs spring & fall vaccinated – majority clvs non-implant. Lots of front end replacement hfrs. (AIT= All In Town)
Hight, 275 1st X Bwf (AIT-Fawcett genetics-no brands) 525-650
Kleinschmidt, 265 B,Bwf 550-600
WR Consignor, 245 B,Bwf 450-600
Reichert, 200 Red Ang 400-550
Iversen, 180 Blk strs 500-675
Lemler, 175 Red Ang (AIT-no brands) 600-625
WR Consignor, 160 B,Bwf 400-525
Anker, 150 Blk strs 500-600
Dustman, 140 B,Bwf (Jon Millar genetics) 450-600
Gebes, 139 B,Bwf strs 575-700
Schreiber, 120 B,Bwf 450-550
Willis, 110 B,Bwf 500-600
Murdock, 110 Ang strs 550-650
O'Daniel, 100 Blk strs 500-550
C/D Letellier, 100 B,Bwf strs 600-650
Stoeser & Nicholas, 100 B,Bwf & Herf 450-550 (B, Bwf AIT)
Hendricks, 100 Blk & 1st X Bwf 475-575 (Bwf AIT-no brands)J Letellier, 75 Hereford 475-500
Knutson, 70 Blk 400-500
Roghair, 60 B,Bwf strs 425-500

Saturday, December 5th
Special Bred Cow, Hfr & Weighup Sale
1500 to 2000 or more High Quality Pairs & Bred Cattle – 1:00 PM CT
Including over 600 hd First Calf Hfrs & coming 3's!!
1500 or more Weighups, incl Hfrtts, Cowtts, Feeding Cows & Bulls 7 AM CT

Bred Cattle
Pazour, 200 Blk hfrs (1150#) Al'd Fortune Triangle S Ang (1 day) clf 2-1, vacc/scour program
Schmiedt, 180 Blk hfrs (1100#) bred LBW Sonne, Randall & Mowry Ang, clf 2-10 (10 days) vacc/scour program
Reid, 50 Blk hfrs (1050#) Al'd Ang JBob Remarkabull 230, (3 days) clf 3-1 vacc program
Reid, 50 Bwf hfrs (1050#) bred LBW Ang, OCC Downtown sons, clf 3-10 (21 days) vacc program
Fuoss Angus, 150 1st X Bwf hfrs (1100#) bred proven LBW Ang, 100 hd clf 3-1 (20 days) & 50 hd clf 3-21 (20 days) vacc/scour program
Hokana, 50 Ang hfrs (1150#) (D/D Knox & G Smith origin) Al'd SAV Courage (1 day) clf 3-5 vacc/scour program
Ledeboer, 100 Blk hfrs (1050-1100#) 60 hd Al'd Koupal B&B Diverse 3181 (1 day) clf 2-28 & 40 hd bred LBW Payer Ang, 23 hd clf 3-15 (21 days) & 17 hd clf 4-6 (25 days) vacc/scour program
Austin Clving Disp, 30 HR Ang hfrs (1050#) bred LBW Ang, clf 4-9 (45 days) vacc/scour program-cake broke
Pending, 97 Ang cows (coming 3's) bred Hett Ang, clf 3-26 (45 days) vacc program-cake broke-gentle
Anders, 200 Blk cows (4-5's) bred Trask Ang, 105 hd clf 3-1 (20 days) & 45 hd clf 3-21 (40 days) vacc program
Pending, 130 Blk cows (coming 3's) bred Ang, clf 4-5 (50 days)
Wiesinger Cmplt Disp, 80 Ang, few Red cows (3-BM) bred Blk Ang, clf 4-5 vacc program
Brovont Age Disp, 55 B,Bwf cows (SM-BM) Al'd Ang & bred Ang, clf 2-20 (60 days) vacc program
WR Consignor, 80 HR Ang cows (SM-BM) bred Ang, clf 4-1 (60 days) vacc program
O'Daniel, 25 Blk BM cows, bred Jorgenson Ang, clf 3-24 (60 days)
Plus many more bred cattle by sale day, including 800 to 1000 yng, SM & BM cows.

Our web site is updated daily, for current listings check our web site.
Bryan Hanson 605-280-1283 Dennis Hanson 605-280-1030 Willie Cowan 605-223-2576 Nick Moreland 605-280-3392 Sale Barn 605-223-2576
or 1-800-280-7210 or visit our web site at www.ftpierrelivestock.com.
Sales broadcast on live bid format at www.cattleusa.com.

MARYSVILLE LIVESTOCK INC.
1180 US Hwy. 77, Marysville, KS 66508
Barn Ph: 785-562-1015

BREDS & PAIRS SPECIAL
Tuesday Dec. 1st, 2026 at 11 AM

1ST CALF BRED HEIFERS:
- **60** Blk/BWF 1st Calf Bred Heifers: Al Bred (5/2/26) to T Seven Rainfall 1046(CED+16, BW-4.0) Herd Health: (3/11/26) Pelvic Measured, Cattle Master GoldFPS L5, MultiMin & Poured; (8/19/26) Ultrasounded, ViraShield 6+VL5 HBSomnus, Cambridge Autogenous Pinkeye Bio One & Poured; (9/28/26) 1st RdUltra Choice 7; (11/14/26) 2nd Rd Ultra Choice 7, Autogenous Vacc & Poured;Complete Mineral Program of Imogene 12-8-12 Chelated Mineral-Farmatan, StartCalving Feb 1st
- **30** Blk OCV 1st Calf Bred Heifers: Bred to Blk Angus NextGen & CCR SimmAngus Bulls, Vacc w/PregGuard Gold FP 10, Ultra Choice 7, AutogenousPinkeye, Poured w/Cydectin, Calve Feb 12th-Apr 24th, On Vita Ferm MineralProgram, Home Raised
- **32** Blk 1st Calf Bred Heifers: 27 Bred to Polled Hereford Expedition (CE+12 BW-0.3) & Outlast (CE+12.7, BW-1.0); 5 Bred to Blk Angus Bridger (CED+16, BW-3.4);Vacc w/ Pre-Breeding & Pelvic Measured, (10/27/26) 1st Rd Scour Boss & Pouredw/Ivermectin, Bulls in April 13th for 45 Days, Calve Jan 15th

REPLACEMENT QUALITY HEIFERS:
- **35** Blk Simm Angus RQ Heifers: Moser Genetics, 2 Rd Vacc w/BoviShield Gold, 1Rd Vacc w/Ultra 7, 750-800#
- **5**Polled Hereford OCV RQ Heifers: Mar-Apr Born, Dylan & Land Grant Sired,Nov 16th Vacc & Poured, 550-600#

More consignments by sale date!

MARYSVILLE LIVESTOCK * www.marysvillelivestock.com
JIM DALINGHAUS, BARN MANAGER – 785-799-5643
DENNIS HENRICHS, SALE MANAGER – 402-239-8741

Go Online To
www.midwestmessenger.com

BUFFALO LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Austin Snook 307-290-2161
Taylor Snook 307-290-2273
Craig Deveraux 307-746-5690
Dan Catlin 406-671-7715
Auctioneer: Curt Westland 605-210-3329
Office: 307-684-0789

Sales Start at 10:30am unless otherwise stated

December 2nd, 2026
Regular Weigh Up Sale: Selling All Classes

December 5th, 2026
Bighorn Mountain Heart of the Herd Bred Cow and Heifer Special

December 9th, 2026
Spring Calf and Weaned Calf Special

December 16th, 2026
Regular Weigh Up Sale: Selling All Classes

December 19th, 2026
Cows of Christmas: Bred Cow and Heifer Special

December 23rd, 2026
NO SALE, Merry Christmas!

December 30th, 2026
NO SALE, Happy New Year!

Check Our Website Ad/Or Facebook For Current Consignments & Weekly Market Reports
Buffalolivestockmarketing@outlook.com
buffalolivestockwyo.com
CattleUSA | DVAuction Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Burwell Livestock Market

SALES EVERY FRIDAY

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

DEC 4: SPECIAL BRED COW & HEIFER AUCTION
DEC 11: SPECIAL SPRING CALF & FEEDER AUCTION

AUCTION MARKET 308-346-4257
JAKE GIDEON 308-214-0992 | TODD EBERLE 308-870-1783
DREW GAFFNEY 308-872-1105
View, Pre Register & bid on our auctions live online at:
dvauction.com & CattleUSA.com

Broken Bow Livestock Market

Visit brokenbowlivestock.com for complete listings

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

DEC 3: SPECIAL WEIGH UP AUCTION
DEC 10: SPECIAL BRED COW & HEIFER AUCTION
MONDAY DEC 14: SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION

AUCTION MARKET 308-872-3334
JUSTIN FRENCH 308-872-1421 | TODD EBERLE 308-870-1783
View, Pre Register & bid on our auctions live online at: CattleUSA.com

LEXINGTON LIVESTOCK MARKET, LLC

LEXINGTON, NE

DECEMBER 4TH 2026
SPECIAL CALF/FEEDER AUCTION

BUTCHER COWS @8:00 AM CALVES/FEEDERS@ 11:30 AM

WEANED CALVES/FEEDERS
54 Angus & Bwf Steers & Heifers 700-800 #4PW ....ALAN, MORGAN, & JACOB FOUTS

CALVES
180 Angus & Bwf Steers & Heifers 500-700 #2P....DOUG & ERIC SINDT
170 Angus & Bwf Steers & Heifers 500-650 #2P....RABE/RABE/SAND
100 Angus Steers & Heifers 400-500 #2P....TYLER & DARCI SHEA
50 Angus & Bwf Steers & Heifers 550-650 #2P.... TOM LEISING
50 Angus Steers & Heifers-no implants 600-700 #2P ....CRYSTAL & SHANE MAX
50 Angus & Bwf Steers & Heifers 550-675 #2P...JEFF & LAUREE HEINE
40 Lim X Steers & Heifers 450-650 #2P....BRIAN BORDEN
40 Angus Steers & Heifers 550-700....KRAIG & BLAKE OSBORN

SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION • DECEMBER 11TH & 18TH
SPECIAL BRED COW/HEIFER • DECEMBER 15TH
Also visit: attheyards.com for more info on upcoming listings

OFFICE 308-324-4663 • www.lexlivestock.com
RICK SHOEMAKER, OWNER 627-7284; Jeff Rogers 325-1272
Jeff Marshall 233-4633, Ryan Rogers 325-1273
Dean Dallman 380-2615, Gary Cook 870-0414
Geoff Cook 870-2791, Brian Eberle 440-4798

Valentine Livestock Auction

Thursday, December 3, 2026
Special Spring Calf Sale featuring weaned calves

S.T. 11:30 a.m. Expecting 3500 hd

Valentine Livestock Health Protocol 2026
#4: 7-way (2), 5-way viral (spring & fall), Pasteurella, and poured or injected w/Ivermectin (fall) • **#3**: 7-way (2), 5-way viral (spring & fall), Pasteurella, no pour on • **#2**: 7-way (2), 5-way once • **#1**: 7-way only

Yearlings: *sell first*
100 blk strs NI 700-750#.... Mark Pieper
80 blk, bwf, few rd hfrs G.O. 1 ld @ 950# hay & cake 900-975# ....Dan & Kim Epke

Weaned calves:
500 rd angus strs NI running out condition 475-600#.... McLeod Rn #4
360 angus strs NI Connealy genes on meadow, no grain 550-675# .... Glen Coble & Sons #4
175 blk strs NI one cut 650#....Larry, Danny & Craig O'Kief #4
234 blk, few bwf strs NI long, meadow & cake 575-700# ....Gunner H Partnership #4
170 angus strs NI 575-675# ....Diamond G #4
100 blk strs NI 550-650# ....Brad & Derek Waits #4
250 angus strs NI always good! 600-750#....LB Haase & Sons #4
75 blk strs NI top end TK, Hoffman Connealy genes 750-775# .... Randy, Schylar & Steffan Franssen
280 angus NI (180s-100h) 500-650#....Krueger Cattle Co #4
135 blk, bwf hfrs NI 50-75 deserve a tag! 525-625# ....Gunner H Partnership #4
87 blk, bwf (F-1) hfrs NI 650-700#....Joe & Stevie Wilson
40 blk Mohnen genes- hfrs not topped 650-750#....Mike Harris
120 blk, bwf NI Nutter & Klein genes running out 500-650# ....Rick& Dawn, Reed and Rhett McFadden
190 blk, bwf (100s-90h) cake & range 425-550#.... Robert & Shane Keller
90 blk (few rd) 450-600#.... Joey Morava
50 blk (2 bwf) NI 550-675#.... J, K & H Hammond & S Solida #4
45 blk, char-x strs NI 625-650#.... Rocking Arrow #4
40 blk & bwf strs NI 625-700#.... Brady & Anna Allison #2
30 angus strs NI Connealy genetics 450-550#.... Levi & Steph Cloyd #3
Plus more from Rafter L, Kime, Diebler & Albert.

Non-weaned calves:
250 rd angus April & May born 400-550#.... Todd & Kim Larabee #4
75 blk, bwf strs NI 575-675#.... Kelly Green
27 blk NI 475-500#....Tom Mulligan

402-376-3611 • www.valentinelivestock.net
Market Reps: Greg Arendt 402-376-4701
Brogan Arendt 402-389-0281 • Marty Monroe 402-322-3941
View live broadcast on cattleusa.com or DVauction.com

BASSETT LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026
Special Feeder Cattle Auction

Weigh Ups 9am-12pm Yearlings then Calves
View & bid live on CattleUSA & DVAuction

Yearlings:
400 blk-few bwf strs 975-1050.... Lazy J Land & Cattle
125 blk strs (HR) 875-975.... McGinn Ranch
60 blk strs 1000.... Morgan Ranch
15 blk hfrs (PO) 900-1000.... Herrington Ranch

Weaned Spring Calves:
450 blk strs 475-700....Bestol & Masek
450 blk strs 475-700.... Gordon & Dillon Simonson & Jason Behrhorst
300 blk strs 450-650....Herrington Ranch
260 blk strs 575-725....Green Valley Cattle
220 blk strs & hfrs (inc 160 strs & 60 hfrs) 475-700 .... Corey & Julie McFadden
210 blk strs & hfrs (inc 165 strs & 45 hfrs) 500-700.... 7J Land & Cattle
200 blk-bwf strs & hfrs 550-650 .... Ted Morton, Tim Kummer, & Chris Hjorth
170 blk strs (1 load at 750 lbs, 1 load at 650 lbs) 650-750 .... Ben & Lynn Kartak
170 char x strs 600-725.... Kenner Inc
150 blk strs & hfrs 425-625....Jon Seidel
150 blk strs 550-725....Troy Peters
150 blk strs 700-750.... Jeffrey Leber
130 blk strs & hfrs 550-800....Everett Thompson & John Dykshorn
90 blk strs & hfrs 500-650....Kristin Linse
85 blk-bwf strs 625-675....Stewart Hereford Ranch & Chad Bode
50 blk strs 550-650....Blayne & Kadi Bradley
45 blk strs & hfrs 600-675....Warren & Dawn Dorsey
40 blk strs 600-675.... Benny Burdick
20 blk strs & hfrs 550-700....Calvin & Katelyn Boelter
20 blk strs & hfrs 625-675....Monty Andrews

Non-Weaned Spring Calves:
100 blk-few bwf (inc 60 strs & 40 hfrs) 500-675.... Greg & Amanda White

Several pkgs of 5-40 head of fall calves & yearlings with more listings by sale time.

Bassett Livestock Auction 888-684-0584 or 402-684-2361
www.bassettlivestock.com
Jake Maurer 402-822-0080 • Shane Kaczor 402-336-7011
Joe Leonard, Fieldman 402-376-4988• Payton Shankland, Fieldman 402-822-0226
Andrew Wewel, Fieldman 402-760-2267

Bassett Livestock is approved to sell cattle in the following programs: Age & Source Verification, China EV, NHTC, Saudi Arabia EV, Verified Natural Beef, BQA, Beef Care, & 100% Vegetarian Fed.

Bowman Livestock Marketing

701-523-5922

Owner/Manager - Austin Snook 307-290-2161
Auctioneers - Seth Weishaar: 605-210-1124 • Curt Westland: 605-210-3329

Calves Sell Monday & All Weigh-Ups Sell Friday

Monday, November 30
Spring & Weaned Calf Special plus Weigh-Ups

Friday, December 4
Bred Cow Special featuring Richard Angus Genetics

Monday, December 7
Bred Cow Special plus Weigh-Ups

Monday, December 14
Spring & Weaned Calf Special plus Weigh-Ups

Friday, December 18
Tri-State Holiday Bred Special

Monday, December 21 & 28 - NO SALE

Check Our Website And/Or Facebook For Current Consignments & Weekly Market Reports
www.bowmanlivestockmarketing.com

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