

Midwest Messenger

## LIVESTOCK

ROUNDUP

Looking  
back...

Edward Blackly's grandchildren drive his horse and buggy around Ralston, Nebraska, possibly escorting the dairy cows from their acreage outside of Ralston to their winter quarters in town. Originally from Illinois, Edward and his wife, Emma, farmed in western Iowa for a time before moving to Ralston, where they first operated a harness shop in Ralston, then a restaurant, and finally ran a dairy and ice business at their home in town. From their milk and ice deliveries in the buggy to personally serving three meals a day to road crews as they worked on upgrades for Highway 30 in 1931 — including over 1,000 of Emma's homemade pies — the couple was well-known in the area. Photo submitted by Rymond Gregory, Scranton, Iowa.

**Building the bank**

## USDA makes first purchase for foot and mouth disease vaccine bank

By Amy Hadachek  
Midwest Messenger

After months of delays due to COVID-19, there is a big development in the plan for the U.S. to have a separate vaccine bank, in the unlikely but dreaded event of a foot and mouth disease emergency.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced July 8 the initial purchase of vaccine for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank. In a project connected to

2018 farm bill programs, APHIS will invest \$27.1 million in foot and mouth disease vaccine.

"While we are confident we can keep foot and mouth disease out of the country, as we have since 1929, having access to vaccine is an important insurance policy," USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Greg Ibach said in a statement. "Vaccines could be an important tool in the event of an incursion of the disease in the U.S, but their use will depend on the circumstances

**USDA: Supply, demand behind cattle market price disparities**

By Janelle Atyeo  
Midwest Messenger Regional Editor

This spring, the price difference between fed cattle going to market and whole sale boxed beef was \$279 per hundredweight — an all-time record.

The number, released last week as part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture investigation into the price spread, surprised even cattle producers.

Many producers cried foul and said the highly consolidated packing side of the business must be up to some sort of price gouging. The months-long investigation by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service didn't turn up any such wrongdoing, but it didn't preclude such a possibility.

USDA released a 21-page report July 22, detailing the findings of its look into cattle market disruptions that occurred after a fire at a beef packing plant in Kansas and earlier this year as the COVID-19 pandemic ramped up.

The investigation into potential violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act is ongoing, led by the Department of Justice.

"Everybody wants to hear that there was unethical

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# Vaccine

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of the incursion and require careful coordination with the affected animal industries.”

National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank is a U.S.-only vaccine bank, distinct from the existing North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank. The North American bank is a trilateral partnership between USDA, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food. Under that partnership, the U.S. gets about 70% of the vaccine. A U.S.-only bank increases doses available for U.S. producers.

“The NAVVCB is entirely focused on U.S. domestic preparedness, and is a distinct entity,” APHIS spokesperson Lyndsay Cole said, adding that the U.S. will continue to participate in the North American vaccine bank for foot and mouth disease.

Such diseases are not a threat to public health or food safety. Foot and mouth disease that affects livestock is not related to hand, foot and mouth disease, which is a common childhood illness caused by a different virus.

Vaccination helps control the spread of infection by reducing the amount of virus shed by animals and by controlling signs of illness. While an outbreak would temporarily disrupt international markets, vaccination would allow animals to move through domestic production



Submitted photo from USDA

**Cattle graze at an Angus operation in Pennsylvania. USDA purchased 47.5 million vaccine doses this month to begin its own foot and mouth disease vaccine bank.**

channels.

The vaccine bank is one component of a three-part program of initiatives established by the 2018 farm bill to support animal disease prevention and management. Along with the vaccine bank, there are programs for preparedness and response and for increasing the capabilities of animal health laboratories.

The newly purchased foot and mouth disease vaccines will be stored by the manufacturer. The APHIS purchased the

vaccine antigen concentrate, which has a minimum 10-year shelf life. When it's needed, the antigen is made into finished doses of vaccine, Cole explained.

APHIS is purchasing multiple antigens for a total 47.5 million doses.

In the event of an outbreak, animal health officials would decide when, where and how to use the available vaccine, based on the circumstances of the outbreak.

Amy Hadachek can be reached at [editorial@midwestmessenger.com](mailto:editorial@midwestmessenger.com).

## LIVESTOCK CALENDAR

### JULY

- 31 Burwell Livestock Market, Special Weigh Up Auction, Burwell, Neb.
- 31 Ft. Pierre Livestock Auction, 27th Annual Summer Yrlg & Fall Calf Sale, Ft. Pierre, S.D.

### AUGUST

- 1 Ericson-Spalding Livestock Market, Special Cattle Auction, Ericson, Neb.
- 3 Wahoo Livestock Sales, Special Sheep Goat Breeding Sale, Wahoo, Neb. .... 22
- 4-5 Valentine Livestock, Cattle County Video Sale, Valentine, Neb. .... 23
- 5 Huss Livestock Market, Special Calf Feeder & Fall Bred Cows, Kearney, Neb. .... 24
- 5 Ogallala Livestock Auction, Special Stock cow & Stocker Feeder, Ogallala, Neb. ... 23
- 5 Sheridan Livestock, Special Yearling, Rushville, Neb. .... 23
- 6 Broken Bow Livestock, All Class Cattle, Broken Bow, Neb. .... 23
- 6 Valentine Livestock, Special Feeder, Valentine, Neb. .... 23
- 7 Burwell Livestock Market, Annual BBQ Auction, Burwell, Neb. .... 22
- 7 Dunlap Livestock Auction, 70th Annual BBQ & Special Calf/Yrlg, Dunlap, Iowa ..... 22
- 7 Ft. Pierre Livestock, Special Pairs, Bred Cattle & Weighups, Ft. Pierre, S.D. .... 23
- 7 Lexington Livestock Market, Special Feeder Auction, Lexington, Neb. .... 24

# Cattle market

Continued from page 20

or illegal action because that would be an easy fix,” said Eric Jennings, president of the South Dakota Cattlemen’s Association.

The USDA report instead explains the price disparities through supply and demand. After detailing the market conditions that surrounded the Holcomb fire and COVID-19 pandemic, the report offered possible solutions in the way of better price discovery, more competition in the marketplace and better transparency. It also made suggestions for helping smaller meat processors.

Many of those fixes are issue groups like the cattlemen’s association has been working to reform. Jennings said it’s reassuring that they’re on the right track.

He appreciates that USDA is considering things such as allowing for state-inspected meat to be sold across state lines — something that would help small processors — or updating livestock price insurance programs so producers have some coverage during major market disruptions.

Reorganizing its reporting regions for livestock markets is one solution that’s underway. In some regions there are too few companies involved in the cash market to report prices while keeping company details confidential. In Colorado, for instance, two plants — JBS in Greeley and Cargill in Fort Morgan — buy most of the cattle in Colorado and western Nebraska, but because of

confidentiality measures, those cattle are not reported. Having more reporting parties will improve price discovery, the USDA report said.

USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service may also ask beef slaughterhouses to give a 14-day projection of the number of head they plan to process, as they do with swine.

The report also discusses ways to help small processors such as lifting lending caps for USDA Rural Development programs, offering them risk management tools and updating the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Small producers are often the price-takers in the fed cattle market, lacking the volume of large producers to negotiate agreements with large meatpackers, the report points out. USDA suggests creating a contract library like there is for swine. It could help increase price discovery and access to market information for all sizes of operations, it said.

It’s been nearly a year since a fire closed the Tyson packing plant in Holcomb, Kansas, for four months. When the plant closed, it took out 5-6% of the nation’s slaughter capacity, having typically slaughtered 30,000 head each week. Afterward, there was a record \$67 per hundredweight gap between the price of dressed fed cattle and Choice boxed beef cutout values.

The COVID-19 pandemic topped that price spread. Through April, as packing plants closed and consumers started panic buying, the difference between Choice boxed beef and dressed fed cattle topped out at a record \$279 per hundredweight.

There was a gap in time between when Tyson announced it would have to close the plant and when it was announced there would be Saturday shifts to help cover some slaughter capacity. It wasn’t until 20 days after the fire that the USDA released its actual slaughter numbers that showed total slaughter numbers being down by 1,000 head — much less of an impact than

expected — compared to the week before the fire.

Labor Day played into it, as well. Retailers were starting to stock up on beef for grilling specials ahead of the holiday weekend.

At the beginning of 2020, the Tyson plant had come back online, and beef production outpaced 2019 levels, the report said. Boxed beef prices fell slightly in February and March, then the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S. Restaurant and school closures changed distribution lines, and consumer demand for beef increased on the retail side as shoppers worried about a shortage.

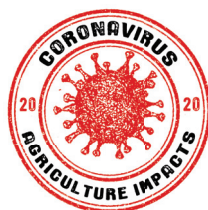
With workers in close quarters, coronavirus spread through packing plants, sickening many workers. At the height of the packing plant closures in late April, the U.S. lost nearly 40% of its beef processing capacity, the report said. Things began to stabilize as restaurants started to re-open in May.

Packers purchased fewer fed cattle. Cattle futures declined, possibly because people were uncertain how long or severe the COVID pandemic would be, the report said.

Weekly slaughter decreased by 36% — from over 684,000 head at the end of March to 439,000 a month later, according to the USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service. Following, the price of boxed beef increased 80%, from \$225 per hundredweight to \$459. From the beginning of April to the third week of May, the spread between boxed beef and fed cattle rose about 323%.

Since states have begun reopening, beef values have gone down and cattle prices increased. But the spread was still high by historical standards, the report noted. “It is too early to determine if this trend will continue as uncertainty persists for the recovery of the supply situation at beef plants and the recovery of food service demand amid continued COVID-19 concerns and any continued effects,” it said.

Janelle Atyeo can be reached at [janelle.atyeo@lee.net](mailto:janelle.atyeo@lee.net).



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**LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP**

**BURWELL LIVESTOCK MARKET  
FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2020  
ANNUAL CUSTOMER  
APPRECIATION BBQ AUCTION**

**EXPECTING 5000 HEAD  
9:00 CALVES FOLLOWED BY FEEDERS  
NO WEIGH UPS  
SUMMER CALVES**

- FALL CALVES**
- 10 B/BWF B/H, 1-2 MO OLD, CVP ..... GLEN JOCHEM
- 450 CH X/FEW BK S/H, 725-750# ..... J & B BARTAK CATTLE
- 111 B/BWF/HERF STRS, 625-675#, WEANED ..... CIRCLE A RANCH
- 110 BK S/H, 550-675#, WEANED ..... GOFF INC
- 90 BK S/H, (HFRS: G.O.), 750-825# ..... LONNY, RANDY, SCHYLER & STEFAN FRANSSSEN
- 90 B/FEW CH X S/H, 700-750#, WEANED ..... TY & TABBII SEEVERS
- 90 B/FEW RED S/H, 600-650# ..... SPLIT EAR RANCH
- 80 B/BWF S/H, 775-875#, (HFRS: G.O.) ..... LARRY & DEB LARSEN
- 75 BK ANG S/H, (50 STRS, 25 HFRS), 600-700#, WEANED ..... CARL & TYLER MOLESWORTH
- 68 BK S/H, (HFRS: SPAYED), 700# ..... MCFADDEN & JORDAN
- 60 B/FEW RED S/H, (HFRS: G.O.), 500-600# ..... DENNIS & AARON JACOBS
- 49 BK S/H, 650-750#, WEANED ..... CURTIS & MICHELLE GURNEY
- 40 B/BWF S/H, 600-700#, WEANED ..... BRIAN & DENNY BROWNELL
- 40 RED ANG/RED ANG X S/H, (BIGGER HFRS: SPAYED), 400-600#, WEANED ..... BILL & BRAD DOWNING
- 27 HERF STRS/BV HFRS, (HFRS: G.O.), 700# ..... MYRON NOVAK
- 16 PUREBRED CHAR RQ HFRS, 725-750#, WEANED ..... RIFLE CREEK CATTLE CO
- 15 BWF/RWF/HERF S/H, 675-775#, WEANED ..... BRETT & ERRIN NELSON
- 4 B/BWF/RWF S/H, 500-600#, ALL NATURAL ..... DENNIS DEARMONT
- FEEDERS**
- 535 B/BWF STRS, (420 STRS: 850-950#), & B/BWF/RED HFRS, (115 HFRS: 750-800#) ..... MIKE BURNHAM & HELDT CATTLE CO
- 400 BK STRS, 650-800# ..... COTTONWOOD CATTLE CO./LAZY 9
- 300 B/BWF STRS, 875-925#, NE & WY ORIGIN ..... STEVE SINTEK
- 300 B/BWF STRS, 800-850# ..... MITCH, BEN, GRANT WELNIAK
- 260 BK S/H, (120 STRS @ 900#, 140 HFRS @ 850-875#, G.O.) ..... JEFFRES & SONS INC.
- 232 B/BK BALDY/RED/CH X S/H, (86 STRS, 146 SPAYED HFRS), 700-800# ..... RON & KIM REESE
- 210 BK STRS, 800-850#, ALL NATURAL ..... KOELLING FARM & RANCH
- 140 BK S/H, (HFRS: G.O.), 850-900# ..... DENNIS & AARON JACOBS
- 140 B/BWF S/H, 850-950# ..... DON, SANDY, & RYAN PSOTA
- 139 B/BWF S/H, (80 STRS: 950#, 59 HFRS: 875-900#) ..... STOUT RANCH
- 120 BK S/H, 750-850# ..... GOFF INC
- 70 BK HFRS, 750-850#, G.O ..... CRAIG STRUCKMAN
- 65 BK HFRS, 700-800#, G.O., ALL NATURAL ..... KOELLING FARM & RANCH
- 54 B/BWF/RED/RWF STRS, 850-875# ..... TODD JEFFRES
- 40 BK ANG HFRS, 925-975#, PG OPEN ..... KRAYE ANGUS
- 30 BK ANG S/H, (HFRS: G.O.), 775# ..... DAVE MITCHELL
- 20 B/BWF/HERF HFRS, PREG OPEN, 900-950# ..... CIRCLE A RANCH
- 20 B/RED HFRS, OPEN, 650-700# ..... KEVIN GABRIEL
- 20 B/RED STRS, 750-850# ..... KEVIN GABRIEL
- 20 B/CH HFRS, 650-750# ..... TOM GORECKI
- 16 RED ANG S/H, 725-750# ..... ADAM & ANGIE KOKES
- 15 BK S/H, (HFRS: G.O.), 775# ..... JUSTIN MITCHELL

**UPCOMING AUCTIONS:**  
AUGUST 14-SPECIAL WEIGH UP AUCTION  
AUGUST 21-SPECIAL CATTLE AUCTION

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**JAKE GIDEON 308 214 0992**  
**TODD EBERLE 308 870 1783**  
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350 Blk & Red Hfrs 750-900#, mostly western SD origin  
300 Blk & Bwf Hfrs, 700#, vac X 2, BVD free  
300 home raised Blk S/H 600-1000#, light flesh, outstanding quality  
210 Blk & Bwf Strs 500#, vac X 2, off grass  
200 Blk & Redx Strs 775-875#, really green set to feed  
200 Mostly Blk Strs 650-800#, vac X 2  
200 Blk & Bwf xbred S/H 625#, vac X 2, off grass  
180 Blk S/H 600-800#, Schaff breeding, off grass  
175 Blk Strs 725-825#  
150 Blk & Red yrlg S/H 675#  
144 Blk Strs 800-900#, Schaff breeding  
126 Blk & Red S/H 725#, g.t. vac, wean, home raised  
125 Fancy home raised F1x Bwf & few Rwf Hfrs 800-950#, out of Upstream & Hoffman Bulls  
120 Blk & Bwf S/H 650-850#, hay fed & g.t. vac  
120 Blk nose Char S/H 550-700# vac X 3 long time weaned  
114 Blk & Xbred S/H 725# g.t. vac  
100 Xbred Hfrs 600#, off grass  
90 Blk & Red S/H 650-850#  
90 Rep. home raised, mostly Blk Strs 850-900#, direct off grass. Top auction last several years.

86 Fancy Blk & Bwf Strs (fall) 850# nice!!  
80 Blk S/H 900#, home raised, g.t. vac all natural  
80 Blk Strs 825#, g.t. vac wean, implanted  
76 F1x S/H fall calves 725#, g.t. vac  
75 Blk Strs 700#, vac X 2  
68 Fancy Blk & Bwf Strs 475#, vac X 2, weaned, off grass  
65 Blk & Bwf S/H 550#, g.t. vac & home raised  
64 Blk Strs 800#, vac off grass  
60 Char x S/H 1000-1150#, home raised, g.t. vac  
60 Blk Hfrs 700#  
60 Mostly Bwf 375-475# vac, out of Heim Herf bulls  
55 Xbrd Strs 850#  
51 Blk & Bwf Hfrs 825#  
50 Blk Hfrs 825#  
48 Blk Hfrs 725#, strictly green  
44 Blk Mostly Strs few Hfrs 700#, vac X 2  
41 Red Angus Hfrs 800#, off grass  
40 Mostly Blk Strs 825#, g.t. vac  
40 Blk Simx S/H 650# g.t. vac  
40 Blk Strs 625#  
40 Xbrd Strs 875#  
40 Blk S/H 525#, vac X 2  
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40 Blk & Red Hfrs 650-700#, home raised, vac X 2  
40 Blk Strs 650#, vac X 2, off grass

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## Lexington Livestock Market, LLC

300 PLUM CREEK PARKWAY • LEXINGTON, NE 68850

August 7th 2020

Special Feeder Auction 1500 HEAD

Butcher Cows 8:00 AM • FEEDERS @11:30 AM

(#2 - 7 Way, 4 Way & Pasturella, #4 - #2 with Booster, P - Poured & W - Weaned

## FEEDERS

200 Angus Spayed Heifers 775-825 #4PW.....JEFF BARTLETT

192 Angus & few Char X Heifers 875-925 #4PW.....TOM RUBENTHALER

180 Angus Steers 900-925 #4PW.....JEFF & BECKY MARSHALL

180 Angus & few Red Steers 900-925 #4PW.....M & M FARMS

180 Angus Steers 900-950 #4PW.....QUARTER CIRCLE S RANCH

(GEORGE & RAY SITIRIOUS)

100 Angus Steers 875-925 #4PW.....JERRY & KELLY BENTLEY

60 Angus (30) Spayed (30) PO Heifers-home raised 875-950 #4PW.....SELLERS CATTLE CO

50 F1x Bwf & Hereford Steers & few Heifers 750-850 #4PW.....OWEN MEADER

40 Angus Heifers-home raised 875-925 #4PW.....BRUCE & MICHELLE SMITH

NO CATTLE AUCTION\* AUGUST 14TH  
SPECIAL CATTLE AUCTION\* AUGUST 21ST

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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

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www.hussauction.com

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5TH

SPECIAL CALF, FEEDER &

FALL BRED COWS AUCTION

BUTCHER COWS 8:00 • FALL COWS 11:00

FEEDERS NOON

## FALL COWS 11:00

60 Red Angus & few Rwf & Angus Cows-Bred Red Angus-Calf Aug 15 for 45 Days-3 to 5 Yrs Old.....JKS CATTLE

23 Angus Cows-Bred Angus-Calf Sept 1st-2nd & 3rd Calf  
.....AMSBERRY FARMS

## FEEDERS

195 Red Angus & Red Angus X Steers, 800-900 #4PW.....BOCK BROS

180 Angus & Angus X Steers, 850-900 #4PW.....BOCK BROS

94 Angus Spayed Heifers, 775-825 #4PW.....FRED & KAY MEYER

31 Angus Steers, 800-900 #4PW.....TERRY ROSENTREADER

26 Bwf & Rwf Steers, 900-950 #4PW.....ROYAL & ADAM BETKE

SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTIONS

AUGUST 26TH

SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION ALONG

W/VIDEO AUCTION AUGUST 12TH

RICK SHOEMAKER 308-627-7284