

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Meat goat prices are generally soft at this time of year, but holding strong considering the volume of goats at auction has increased year-on-year, which generally has a price dampening effect. This is a sign that perhaps more buyers are present at auction, helping to bid prices up. Prices were mixed in the first week of October, with lighter-weight Selection 1 kid prices in San Angelo and Lancaster gaining while weakening for heavier kids.

Part of the price volatility in the goat market stems from the volatility in offerings week-to-week. The number of goats slaughtered may drop 20% week-to-week during both the high-demand season and like the current off-season. For example, in the first week of October, 3,947 head sold in San Angelo--18 percent less than a week ago.

In Lancaster, the heavier kids, 60-lbs. and up, brought \$5/head less while the lighter categories gained up to \$5/head. In general, demand has been light for goats in Pennsylvania at this time of year, which can dampen prices. However, reports out of Pennsylvania routinely comment that as buyer attendance increases so do prices. With fluctuating volume offered for sale, buyer attendance can have a substantial affect on price levels.

Market Trends for Week Ending Oct. 5, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 9/22/07		13,079	-18	5
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	107.00	2	4
	40-60 Lbs.	106.50	2	1
	60-80 Lbs.	106.50	-6	-6
	80-100 Lbs.	108.00	2	8
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	86.00	1	11
	100-150 Lbs.	75.50	-7	4
	150-250 Lbs.	71.50	-3	14
Does	50-70 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	40.50	-2	na
	100-140 Lbs.	39.50	5	na
Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	42.00	2	na
	40-60 Lbs.	63.00	5	-2
	60-80 Lbs.	72.00	-8	-8
	80-100 Lbs.	97.00	-3	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	103.00	-18	5
	150-250 Lbs.	129.00	-12	-5
Does	50-70 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-140 Lbs.	85.00	6	20

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); Julie Shiflett.

¹San Angelo, TX and Lancaster, PA are the two auction markets with goat sales exceeding 50,000 head in a year.

²na = Price not available.

Meat Goat Market Report Source

The goat prices published in this report are gathered from prices published by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Agricultural Marketing Service Market New Reporters across the country visit select sheep and goat auctions weekly and monthly to record goat prices and goat volumes. Current and historical prices are available on AMS' website: www.ams.usda.gov.

Current market news reports for San Angelo, TX and Lancaster, PA, the two largest auctions, are available at the following links:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SA_LS320.txt;

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS320.txt;

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS321.txt; and

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS322.txt.

Historical prices are available through AMS' Livestock & Grain Market News Portal at <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/lg>.

The number of goats slaughtered each week can be found at http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS711.txt, also a USDA/AMS report.