

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week in the meat goat market, Selection 1 kid prices gained an average 3% in San Angelo to \$107.38/cwt. Prices in Lancaster gained an average 8% to \$83.50/head. In both markets, lighter supplies most likely led to higher prices. Supplies have been lighter than this time last year in San Angelo thus the recent price gains may have been supply-induced rather than due to stronger demand.

It is hypothesized that goat sales across the country are becoming more dispersed which may explain lower numbers in San Angelo. It is hypothesized that some of Texas' trade has been replaced by auctions in California. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't cover auctions in California so it is difficult to follow that market. Another possible explanation is that more direct trade is occurring between producers and handlers or consumers. As producers work together or herds get larger, it may be increasingly profitable for goat handlers to fill a trailer direct from farms. I believe this may be more the case in the eastern states rather than in Texas.

If the last five years is a good predictor, Selection 1 kid prices are likely to gain an average \$6/cwt. between November and December in San Angelo. Kid prices were an average \$7/cwt. higher in the first ten months of 2007 than during the same ten months over the last five years. Kid prices were an average \$4.40/cwt. higher this year between January and October than last year.

Selection 1 buck prices in San Angelo could gain up to \$15/cwt. from November to December. Between January and October, Selection 1 buck prices were \$1.40/cwt. higher than average prices between 2002 and 2006. Prices were \$4/cwt. higher between January and October than during the same period in 2006.

Market Trends for Week Ending November 9, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 10/27/07		12,181	3	34
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	108.50	5	7
	40-60 Lbs.	109.00	5	7
	60-80 Lbs.	109.50	5	8
	80-100 Lbs.	102.50	-2	6
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	90.00	1	5
	100-150 Lbs.	81.50	3	7
	150-250 Lbs.	73.50	-1	1
Does	50-80 Lbs.	29.00	5	-18
	80-130 Lbs.	43.50	5	-17
	130-180 Lbs.	44.50	9	-16
Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	55.00	8	na
	40-60 Lbs.	82.00	6	na
	60-80 Lbs.	93.00	12	18
	80-100 Lbs.	104.00	6	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	92.00	39	6
	100-150 Lbs.	122.00	13	-6
	150-250 Lbs.	166.00	22	0.3
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	96.00	43	na
	130-180 Lbs.	na	na	na

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.