

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

After a couple weeks of recess, the two largest goat auctions were busy in early January. A “weaker undertone” was noted at the San Angelo market for all classes of goats. Softer prices may be attributed to the build-up in supply at the first sale after a 2-week break. About 4,301 goats sold last week in San Angelo compared to roughly 3,500 per week during the last couple months.

By contrast, kid prices were higher in New Holland last week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture market reporter cited a heavier supply of Selection 1 kids as explanation for stronger kid prices at that market. Goat numbers were down 24% last week in Pennsylvania from a year ago. This may be a reflection of the market broadening to other sale barns such as the Smoker goat auction in Pennsylvania. We may see other auctions picking up more supplies, particularly if gas hits \$4/gallon!

Goat slaughter dropped 26% in the last week of December following the holidays and may continue light until closer to the Easter holidays. In both 2006 and 2007 weekly goat slaughtered dipped lower in late January and February before rising sharply for Easter.

Market Trends for Week Ending January 11, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 12/29/07		13,847	-26	-0.19
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	108.00	-12 (Compared to week ending 12/22/07)	-20
	40-60 Lbs.	112.50	-7	-11
	60-80 Lbs.	112.50	-7	3
	80-100 Lbs.	110.00	-9	-18
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	100.00	4	na
	100-150 Lbs.	87.50	-15	3
	150-250 Lbs.	85.50	-2	22
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.50	0	-36
	80-130 Lbs.	42.00	-8	-27
	130-180 Lbs.	41.00	-20	-30
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	75.00	18 (Compared to week ending 1/5/08.)	10
	60-80 Lbs.	89.00	20	-3
	80-100 Lbs.	98.00	7	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	138.00	9	28
	150-250 Lbs.	161.00	-6	7
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	84.00	14	-12
	130-180 Lbs.	78.00	5	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.