

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Prices mostly held or gained in San Angelo with reduced numbers of goats offered last week. At an estimated 1,473 head, goat numbers sold in San Angelo were down 50% from the previous week. Last week 1,116 head was sold at New Holland, about the same as the previous week. At New Holland, "demand was very good, especially for kids weighing between 30-80 pounds," (USDA, 2/18/08).

As most of you already know, the goat industry is approaching a high demand period of the year. The Roman and Greek Christian Easters as well as the Jewish holiday, Passover, are often celebrated with "fleshy, milk-fed, kids between 20 lbs. (25 lbs. for Passover) and 50 lbs.," (Miller, S. K., 6/2006). These desired specifications are important to remember in marketing, but also the timing of your sale. Not all of the above holidays fall on the same date, but within weeks of each other.

The U.S. goat supply is increasing. At 44,346 head, January's goat slaughter was up 5% above last January's numbers. As goat production increases it will increasingly compete with imported goat if demand doesn't expand. The volume of goat imports fell 8% between 2006 and 2007, compared to an average annual increase of 14% since 2001. It is likely that the weaker U.S. dollar, which makes imports more expensive to U.S. importers, and the prolonged drought in Australia and New Zealand is affecting import levels. Imports from Australia and New Zealand fell 7% and 36%, respectively, by volume between 2006 and 2007.

Market Trends for Week Ending February 22, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 2/9/08		11,124	8	12
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	129.50	4	-14
	40-60 Lbs.	139.25	-1	-1
	60-80 Lbs.	139.25	7	3
	80-100 Lbs.	104.00	1	7
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	93.00	4	5
	100-150 Lbs.	93.50	12	21
	150-250 Lbs.	87.00	10	18
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.50	11	-34
	80-130 Lbs.	43.00	9	-26
	130-180 Lbs.	43.00	13	-29
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	62.00	17	0
	40-60 Lbs.	91.00	3	12
	60-80 Lbs.	109.00	1	22
	80-100 Lbs.	116.00	-1	5
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	80.00	-42	-24
	100-150 Lbs.	133.00	6	3
	150-250 Lbs.	156.00	na	-7
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	80.00	7	-7
	130-180 Lbs.	88.00	17	-3

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.