

## The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week in New Holland, kids weighing less than 50 lbs. made price gains in spite of heavier supplies, and nannies less than 80 lbs. also gained. At New Holland, 1,204 head sold, up from 1,116 head the previous week, but down from 2,533 head during the same week a year ago. Prices may have softened in San Angelo due to the increased supply. An estimated 2,800 head sold last week in San Angelo, up from 1,473 head the previous week.

Over the past four years, the average Selection 1 kid price in San Angelo was \$127/cwt. in March and \$130/cwt. in April. In the last two years, 60-lb. to 80-lb. Selection 1 kids received up to \$143/cwt. in the month leading up to Easter while 40-lb. to 60-lb. kids received about \$1/cwt. higher. Further price gains for kids are still likely in the 4 weeks until Easter.

As goat prices increase seasonally, producers are encouraged to calculate whether the increased fuel and feed costs are reducing returns. In 2007 livestock feed costs increased 20%. Higher fuel and feed costs are pushing lamb returns into the red, but this may not necessarily be the case for meat goats—it depends on the production system. Those trying to feedlot goats will definitely face higher input costs. Remember that transporting goats to auction is just one marketing option. There are a couple electronic goat auctions available in the United States as well as the option of selling goats direct to customers. These marketing alternatives can save on transport costs.

### Market Trends for Week Ending February 29, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
<b>Number of Head Slaughtered, 2/16/08</b>		11,191	1%	8
<b>San Angelo, TX Prices<sup>1</sup> (\$/cwt.), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	129.50	0	-3
	40-60 Lbs.	135.00	-3	-1
	60-80 Lbs.	135.00	-3	4
	80-100 Lbs.	106.00	2	3
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	93.00	0	11
	100-150 Lbs.	93.50	0	21
	150-250 Lbs.	87.00	0	16
Does	50-80 Lbs.	33.00	8	-31
	80-130 Lbs.	47.00	9	-22
	130-180 Lbs.	46.50	8	-23
<b>New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	74.00	19	32
	40-60 Lbs.	79.00	-13	-4
	60-80 Lbs.	106.00	-3	13
	80-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	128.00	-4	-9
	150-250 Lbs.	151.00	-3	-13
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	79.00	-1	0
	130-180 Lbs.	79.00	-10	na

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

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

<sup>2</sup>na = 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](http://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/SA_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS320.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS321.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS321.txt); and

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS322.txt](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](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS711.txt), also a USDA/AMS report.