

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week's goat auction in San Angelo saw 5,285 head sell—likely in preparation for the Greek Orthodox Easter on April 27. San Angelo Selection 1 kid prices didn't see a lot of movement, but that's okay because with nearly 4,000 more head selling than the previous week, you cross your fingers and hope demand can support the heavy supply. Last week's sale is only slightly below the 5,584 head that sold in mid-March in preparation for the Christian Easter. Reportedly, the Greek Easter is a bigger holiday than the Western Easter in San Angelo and goat offerings may yet increase this week as well.

Last week, 1,175 goats sold at New Holland, down from 1,523 head the previous week, and down from 2,560 head a year ago. Demand picked up last week in New Holland after a lackluster sale the previous week. Kid goats gained about \$15/head to \$25/head. Selection 1 kids between 60-lbs. and 80-lbs. gained 46 percent to \$108/head.

It might be to the advantage of the meat goat industry to have the Western and Greek Easters at least four weeks apart. This only occurs roughly every five years, however. Producers breeding during different times during the early fall can take advantage of the high-priced spring holidays. If more producers receive net positive profits they are more likely to reinvest back into their herds and expand. In 2009, the Christian Easter is on April 12 and the Greek Easter falls on April 19. In 2010, both Easters fall on the same Sunday, April 4.

Market Trends for Week Ending April 5, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 3/22/08		16,712	36	53
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	120.00	na	-9
	40-60 Lbs.	130.50	1	-7
	60-80 Lbs.	129.00	-1	-7
	80-100 Lbs.	104.50	5	5
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	87.00	2	na
	100-150 Lbs.	74.00	-13	-1
	150-250 Lbs.	72.00	-8	9
Does	50-80 Lbs.	27.50	0	na
	80-130 Lbs.	42.50	0	na
	130-180 Lbs.	37.00	6	na
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	56.00	na	7
	40-60 Lbs.	86.00	32	25
	60-80 Lbs.	108.00	46	23
	80-100 Lbs.	123.00	na	24
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	146.00	27	na
	150-250 Lbs.	178.00	2	na
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	79.00	na	-6
	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.