

## The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week in New Holland demand was reported as very good with the approaching Greek Easter holiday. Under a market with lower week-to-week goat offerings, kid prices held “unevenly steady.” With a lighter supply, one would typically expect prices to strengthen, but strong demand kept prices firmer to higher. Higher prices are beneficial to an individual, but the combination of strong demand and more abundant supplies is what will allow the meat goat industry to grow. Goat offerings in New Holland last week fell to 838 head, down from 1,175 head the previous week and 1,651 head a year ago.

In San Angelo, 2,386 head sold last week with mostly stronger prices under strong demand. Selection 1 kids weighing 40-lb. to 60-lb. received \$144/cwt., which is good, but not as high as \$149/cwt. received during Easter 2004. Since 2004, kid prices for this weight category in San Angelo have been very cyclical, but trending downward. The same downward price trend is observed for Selection 1 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids. However, the same doesn't hold for 80-lb. to 100-lb. Selection 1 kids. Prices are volatile, but strengthened marginally since 2004.

Kid prices at auction might yet strengthen this week before weakening after the Greek Easter. Goat slaughter fell 24% at the end of March after a peak of 16,712 head the previous week in preparation for the Western Easter.

### Market Trends for Week Ending April 11, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
<b>Number of Head Slaughtered, 3/29/08</b>		12,671	-24	-9
<b>San Angelo, TX Prices<sup>1</sup> (\$/cwt.), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	127.00	6	na
	40-60 Lbs.	144.00	10	-3
	60-80 Lbs.	141.00	9	-7
	80-100 Lbs.	109.50	5	5
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	96.50	11	na
	100-150 Lbs.	90.00	22	8
	150-250 Lbs.	81.00	13	1
Does	50-80 Lbs.	42.50	55	-6
	80-130 Lbs.	47.50	12	-17
	130-180 Lbs.	49.00	32	-17
<b>New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	53.00	-5	7
	40-60 Lbs.	92.00	7	30
	60-80 Lbs.	110.00	2	29
	80-100 Lbs.	123.00	0	24
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	108.00	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	131.00	-10	na
	150-250 Lbs.	169.00	-5	3
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	72.00	-9	-11
	130-180 Lbs.	73.00	na	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.