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Dairy/Livestock



Dairy West dietitian Chelsea Schoenfelder.

Dairy West dietitian honored by peers

Capital Press

The Idaho Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has recognized Chelsea Schoenfelder as Idaho's Young Dietitian of the Year.

Schoenfelder is a registered dietitian with Dairy West, which manages the marketing and promotion work for Idaho and Utah dairy farm families, according to a press release from Dairy West.

She oversees the nutrition education materials and curriculum provided to all health and school professionals. As health and wellness manager, she also serves as a vital link supporting nutrition science and research to educators, school foodservice professionals and health professionals.

"We are very proud of Chelsea and the work she does on behalf of dairy farm families to promote nutrition and healthy activities throughout the state," Crystal Wilson, Dairy West vice president of health and wellness, said.

"Not only is Chelsea deserving of this recognition, she is a role model for other young dietitians in her passion and enthusiasm for her role in the fields of food and nutrition," she said.

Previous to her work with Dairy West and the Idaho Dairy Council, Schoenfelder worked at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise as a community outreach and clinical dietitian and at Ennis Endocrinology Clinic in Meridian as an outpatient dietitian.

She currently serves as secretary for the Idaho Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and as co-chairwoman of Treasure Valley Dietitians. She previously represented the state as its 21st Century Liaison to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Sheep head to high country for summer grazing

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Southwest Idaho sheep rancher Frank Shirts likes the look of this year's lambs.

"They're healthy. The feed has been pretty good," said Shirts, whose operation is based near Wilder. "The lambs are good lambs."

His sheep drew a crowd April 20, when they crossed the busy intersection of the north-south Idaho Highway 55 and Beacon Light Road north of Eagle, a quickly growing community in the Boise metro area. Pedestrians and motorists stopped to view the annual spectacle as more than 2,000 animals, and a crew of herders and dogs, trekked to higher pasture.

Shirts moves the sheep from low ground near Wilder to high-elevation pasture east and north, on state and U.S. Forest Service land in the Idaho City-Atlanta area. He said the lambs will "follow the green in the high country" and stay until August, when they will be shipped to market.

The lambs' weight gain can change from year to year, depending on range conditions. A late frost can kill flowers and forbs the lambs eat, reducing the animals' contentment and weight.

"Right now, everything looks good and they will just keep climbing, following the feed," Shirts said.

His lambs had a good winter, with favorable weather and a strong survival rate, he said. Last year's class also was good despite an unusually snowy January that prompted the rancher to feed them for an extra month.

What the sheep rancher does not want is snow and rain in the first couple of months of the calendar



Sheep rancher Frank Shirts, center, and herder-tender Mario Inga, left, guide animals across busy Idaho Highway 55 north of Eagle, Idaho, on April 20.



Sheep herder and tender Mario Inga helps guide animals owned by Wilder, Idaho-rancher Frank Shirts across busy Idaho Highway 55 north of Eagle on April 20.

year. "That's hard on the lambs," Shirts said.

Though January 2017 saw the most snow in southwest Idaho in

decades, the lack of a traditional thaw that month helped the lambs, he said.

Shirts is running 2,300 to 2,400

sheep to the high country. Headcount will be 1,600 to 1,700 after he sells lambs this summer. Then, two groups of ewes will be combined into a single winter band and joined by bucks. Ewes will graze on different routes. They will head back to lower ground starting around Oct. 10 and eventually start grazing alfalfa. Ewe shearing is expected near the end of October.

He has downsized total operations by about a third in the past few years because of environmental and other regulatory concerns, labor issues and global market factors including unrestricted lamb imports, he said.

"The sheep are the best environmental tool in the forest, but the environmentalists don't agree," Shirts said. Their grazing helps remove fire fuels such as forbs, brush and weeds, he said.

Nominations open for Young Cattle Producer Conference

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Cattle Association are calling for participant nominations for the second annual Young Cattle Producer Conference.

The conference will give young cattle producers an opportunity to receive in-depth education on the cattle industry in Idaho. Participating in this conference will provide valuable tools that will help young producers be successful in the cattle business, organizers said.

The program will be offered annually to young producers between the ages of 18 and 40. Anyone can nominate a young producer or nominate themselves for the free conference. Only 20 participants will be selected to attend.

This year's conference



A Young Cattle Producer Conference will take place June 20-22 in Caldwell, Idaho. It is sponsored by the University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Cattle Association.

will be June 20-22 in Caldwell and the surrounding area. It will begin at 1 p.m. on June 20 with an overview of the cattle industry in Ida-

ho. Speakers include representatives from the packing, feedlot, stocker, cow-calf and purebred industries. The afternoon will conclude with a

panel discussion on marketing beef cattle and a steak dinner.

The next day, participants will hear speakers from Northwest Farm Credit Services, University of Idaho Extension and the Public Lands Council to learn about current issues facing the cattle industry, including financing a cattle operation, risk management and public land issues.

A meat cutting demonstration and taste testing will be conducted before lunch. In the afternoon, participants will load a bus for a tour of the cattle industry in western Idaho. Stops include a feedlot, packing facility and a Treasure Valley purebred operation.

The evening will conclude with a barbecue dinner at Shaw Cattle Company and a round table discussion with members of the Idaho Cattle Association and University of Idaho Extension faculty.

Friday, June 22, will begin early with a session on "how to become involved" with speakers from the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Beef Council, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and Idaho Farm Bureau.

Following the morning session, participants will be recognized in a short graduation ceremony, and the conference will adjourn at 11 a.m.

Nomination forms are available from Jim Church, University of Idaho Extension, (208) 983-2667, jchurch@uidaho.edu or a local University of Idaho Extension office. Nominations are due on May 10.

There are also opportunities to contribute to this program by becoming a program sponsor or to sponsor an attendee by contacting Church. Sponsorship forms are also available at www.idahocattle.org.

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Spring flush pushes cheese production

By LEE MIELKE
For the Capital Press

Dairy prices were mostly higher last week as the Midwest dug out from an unusual Mid-April blizzard. Cheddar block cheese climbed to \$1.6350 per pound Thursday but closed Friday at \$1.6025, down a quarter-cent on the week and 5 3/4-cents above a year ago, as traders awaited the afternoon's March Milk Production report.

Dairy Markets
Lee Mielke



The barrels closed at \$1.50, up 4 cents on the week and 7 1/4-cents above a year ago, with 55 cars selling on the week and just 5 of block.

The blocks were up 2 3/4-cents Monday, as traders anticipated the afternoon's March Cold Storage report,

but inched back a quarter-cent Tuesday to \$1.6275. The barrels were down a penny Monday and also lost a quarter-cent Tuesday, slipping to \$1.4875, 14 cents below the blocks.

Midwest cheese contacts tell Dairy Market News that demand has been solid but, with increasing spring flush milk production and spot milk loads regularly available at \$2 to \$3 under class, manufacturers report "active production."

Western cheese output is

following normal seasonal trends, with most plants at full capacity due to the spring flush. Cheese supplies are heavy, but manageable, says DMN. "U.S. cheese prices are competitive with international prices and export interest remains active."

Cash butter closed Friday at \$2.3150 per pound, up 2 3/4-cents on the week and 22 1/2-cents above a year ago, with 39 cars exchanging hands last week.

Monday's butter inched a half-cent higher and jumped 5 1/2-cents Tuesday to \$2.3750, highest price since Oct. 18, 2017, with 10 cars sold Monday and 23 Tuesday.

DMN says Class II processors are pulling more milk fat volumes, but cream is readily available for butter manufacturing and most regional balancing plant operators are actively producing butter. U.S. butter prices are still below international values and "could represent a possible export opportunity for some domestic processors/traders."

Western butter output is at a steady clip with ample supplies of cream, though volumes have eased slightly in the southern parts of the region. Some international buyers are looking at the favorable U.S. butter price points compared to European and Oceania prices.

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