

Cattle on feed up 4 percent, marketings keep pace

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press File
The number of cattle on feed is the highest it's been since 1996, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Cattle on feed in large U.S. feedlots on July 1 were 4 percent higher than a year ago and the highest inventory since USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service began the on-feed series in 1996.

USDA's report held no surprises. It continues the trend of 4 percent to 4.3 percent increases that have taken place the last three months, Derrell Peel, livestock marketing specialist with Oklahoma State University Extension, said.

"Marketings are also up, so it doesn't really change the story at all," he said.

"We've got more cattle, and we're going to see more cattle — for 18 months anyway," he said.

It's an inevitable consequence of the herd expansion that began in 2014, he said.

"There's not much you can do to avoid the supply increase. But there are things you can do to make it worse like delaying marketings," he said.

That backs up cattle, leading to bigger supplies and heavier carcass weights. The combination results in an even bigger increase in beef production, he said.

June marketings of fed cattle going to slaughter were up 1 percent to more than 2 million head, and placements into feedlots were also up 1 percent to 1.8 million head.

Feedlots have stayed relatively current and are keeping carcass weights in check, although they're up a bit, he said.

"They're showing discipline in marketing more cattle through the system," he said.

The supply of cattle that have been on feed more than 120 days is running some 28 percent ahead of last year's pace, analysts with the Dai-

ly Livestock Report said on Monday.

"The large on-feed inventory and the large inventory of market-ready cattle should keep beef markets well supported in the short term. Marketings in August remain key and will be critical for cattle prices post Labor Day," they said.

Good demand is absorbing the extra supply, and all markets through the production chain have done pretty good for the most part, Peel said.

Increased placements were no surprise, as it continued the trend of the previous 18 months. What is notable is the number of heifers in the feedlot mix over the last year, he said.

Heifers on feed on July 1 increased 8 percent over big numbers in July 2017, which were 11 percent higher than July 2016. A 13 percent increase was noted in October and those heifer numbers were up 16 percent in January and 14 percent in May, NASS reported.

"The number of heifers in feedlots has been really big. It's one more indication that we are really slowing down heifer retention," Peel said.

Wolf depredation of livestock sets record in Idaho, commission finds

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press



IRRC
Wolves have killed 61 cattle and sheep in the first six months of the year, according to the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.

Wolf depredation cases this year in Idaho are at a record high, according to the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, which said the predators have killed 61 cattle and sheep from January through June.

"There seems to be greater awareness of cattle and sheep producers that the potential is there that wolves are coming into more conflict with livestock," said Todd Grimm, federal Wildlife Services director for Idaho.

From July 1, 2017, through June 30, federal authorities confirmed 113 wolf kills using necropsies on livestock. Overall, 217 ranches called authorities to investigate possible wolf kills.

Both are a record, the commission said in a press release.

"Chronic livestock depredation" issues affect Idaho counties Lemhi and Custer in the east central mountains, Valley in the west central mountains and Elmore east of Boise, the commission said, citing state and federal officials.

Last year, the number of confirmed wolf depredations in Valley County more than doubled to 38, from 17, after Cascade, Idaho, cattle rancher Phil Davis and commission staff met with ranchers to discuss the different kinds

of depredation that can occur. Davis has had more than 60 wolf kills on his family's land since the mid-1990s. Three of the six cattle that wolves killed there in 2017 were full-grown cows. Wolves, he said, "are getting more bold, more adept at it. And they're killing cows, not just calves now."

In an interview, Davis said that for years direct physical trauma was thought to be primarily how wolves killed livestock. But now there is growing evidence to suggest many of the deaths result from myopathy, muscle weakness caused by muscle fiber dysfunction and extended exertion after a wolf attack.

"Death can come in minutes, hours or days from myopathy," he said. For example, a cow defending a calf could die some distance from the

attack following extended exertion.

The commission recommends that Wildlife Services be called at 208-378-5631 to perform a necropsy if there is any doubt about the cause of death.

The commission said wolves have killed more than 700 cattle and 550 sheep in Idaho, impacting 412 ranchers statewide. Wolves, living in an estimated 80 to 100 packs, can be found in much of the state north of Interstate 84, the commission said.

IRRC board member John Peavey, a rancher near Carey, said it has been federal and state policy from the outset to control wolves when they prey on livestock.

"We need to keep wolf numbers down to a manageable level, and that takes per-

sistent diligence by all concerned to work on this chronic issue," Peavey said. "Wolves are here to stay, but we need to keep them as wild as possible to ensure they're eating wild game. ... Once they start killing livestock, they need to be removed because we know they'll go out and kill livestock again."

Davis said some of the increase in documented incidents could reflect that more livestock deaths once thought to have other causes now are being investigated as potentially wolf-related.

Wolves killed seven sheep in three separate attacks between July 9 and July 13 in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area outside Stanley. The Associated Press reported federal authorities in turn killed three wolves, in addition to 46 already killed this year through June 30.

Salmon Falls Land and Livestock was the site of the recent kills in a single band of sheep despite the ranch posting six guard dogs and setting up nighttime strobe lights and noise makers, the commission said.

"I don't know what more we can do," said rancher Mark Henslee of Salmon Falls. "We haven't had any problems in several years. But with as many wolves as we have had in Idaho, you're going to get hit somewhere, sometime."

Beef herd growth slowing; plenty of feeder cattle

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press



Capital Press File
Beef cow replacement heifers are down 2 percent at 4.6 million head, NASS reports.

The number of beef and dairy cattle in the U.S. on July 1 totaled 103.2 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Beef cows and heifers that have calved increased 1 percent year over year to 32.2 million. Their dairy counterparts held steady at 9.4 million, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service reported on Friday.

Beef cow replacement heifers were down 2 percent at 4.6 million head, and milk cow replacement heifers were unchanged at 4.2 million.

Lower heifer retention in the beef industry and double digit increases in beef cow slaughter imply a smaller beef cow herd by next year, Daily Livestock Report analysts said on Monday.

They estimate beef cow slaughter is up 10.8 percent in the first half of the year compared with the same period last year.

"Dry conditions in a number of key cow-calf producing regions have impacted feed supplies and likely pushed more cows to market this year," they said.

"The beef industry has a tendency to overshoot the market during expansion, leading to liquidation immediately after. That may not happen this time," Derrell Peel, livestock marketing specialist with Oklahoma State University Extension, said.

A lot could happen to change the outlook, but it looks like cow numbers will reach a peak, stabilize and move sideways more than anything else, he said.

"It almost looks to me like we could stabilize and do a soft landing," he said.

But there are lots of feeder cattle available, and they'll keep coming for another 18 months.

This year's calf crop is estimated at 36.5 million head, an increase of 2 percent year over year and the largest calf

crop since 2007. About 73 percent have already been born with an additional 9.9 million expected in the second half of the year, NASS reported.

The combined inventory of steers, heifers not retained for replacement and calves adjusted for cattle on feed shows an estimated July 1 feeder supply of 37.1 million head outside feedlots, he said.

That's up half of a percent year over year. It's not a big number, but cattle supplies

will continue to grow, he said.

"I think we're adding modestly to the herd, so there'll be more ahead into 2020. Even if we stop expanding today, we have enough feeder supply for another year and a half at least," he said.

The number of beef cows is up almost 1 percent year over year, and he expects the January to January beef cow inventory on Jan. 1, 2019, to be up 0.5 percent.

So there'll be that many more additional calves, plus or minus, he said.

CS Beef Packers proposes air-quality permit modification

CS Beef Packers has requested the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality modify the company's air-quality permit.

The permit regulates emissions from the packing and rendering plant in Kuna.

The proposed permit modification would allow CS to increase throughput to the rendering plant and to increase biogas generation, with a subsequent gain in biogas combusted in the boilers and flare, the department said in a release. Emissions must remain within legally allowable limits.

Idaho DEQ will provide a 30-day public comment period if it receives a written request by 5 p.m. Mountain Aug. 3.

The company said in its July 11 application to modify the 2015 permit that while capacity remains about 1,700 head of cattle per day, "having operated the facility for approximately one year, CS

Beef identified some operational differences between what was expected when the facility was designed and the actual functioning."

CS Beef proposes to increase the daily meat and bone meal throughput limit from 102 tons to 262 tons — initial assumptions may have been underestimated for the facility design, the company said — but leave blood meal throughput unchanged.

Sulphur dioxide emissions would increase from two of the plant's four boilers. CS said proposed changes would not affect compliance with applicable ambient air-quality standards.

Requests for a comment period and related questions should be directed to Tanya Chin, DEQ State Office Air Quality Division, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, Idaho 83706, or tanya.chin@deq.idaho.gov.

www.rmnw-auctions.com

AUCTION

No Starting Bids and No Hidden Reserves!

Two Southwest Washington Tree Farms

- 20 to 33 year old well-stocked Douglas-fir
- Proximity to both domestic and export log markets

SEALED BIDS DUE AUGUST 29, 2018
Broker Cooperation Invited

CALL NOW FOR FREE COLOR CATALOG #1807
1-800-845-3524

WA Auction License #1917
Realty Marketing/Northwest, Broker
522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 – Portland, Oregon 97204

WESTERN PACKAGING

Your Future is Our Future...

WE SPECIALIZE IN BULK BAGS!

<p>BAGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Bags • Fertilizer Bags • Feed Bags • Potato Bags • Printed Bags • Plain Bags • Bulk Bags • Totes • Woven Polypropylene • Bopp • Polyethylene • Pocket Bags • Roll Stock & More! 	<p>HAY PRESS SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay Sleeves • Strap • Totes • Printed or Plain • Stretch Film (ALL GAUGES) 	<p>WAREHOUSE PACKAGING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch Film • Pallet Sheets • Pallet Covers 	<p>LOCATIONS:</p> <p>Albany, Oregon (MAIN OFFICE) Ellensburg, Washington</p> <p>CONTACT INFORMATION:</p> <p>Phone: 855-928-3856 Fax: 541-497-6262 info@westernpackaging.com</p> <p>CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

www.westernpackaging.com