

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Selection 1 kid prices in San Angelo were weaker to steady last week, but Lancaster saw some early seasonal strengthening. The goat market at any one auction is generally thin at this time of year. This means that small week-to-week changes in the volume of goats offered or the number of buyers present can have a large affect on prices and thus result in price volatility.

Given the seasonal nature of supply and demand in the goat industry, prices often follow predictable price trends throughout a year. This historical price trend is used to develop a seasonal price index, which can help forecast future price trends. Such an index was computed for San Angelo Selection 1 kid prices back to 2002. It was in 2002 that quality determination by Selection was introduced. According to the seasonal index, prices in October will likely be 2% higher than this September's average, but 12% lower than the average high for April. Prices are highest from February through April and lowest in August and September.

The index doesn't capture the premium received by lighter-weight kids. Since 2002, Selection 1 kids in San Angelo weighing 40-lb. to 60-lb. kids. received \$3/cwt. more than 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids. On average, 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids received \$18/cwt. more than 80-lb. to 100-lb. kids.

Market Trends for Week Ending Sept. 28, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 9/15/07		15,904	23	36
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	104.50	0	-1
	40-60 Lbs.	104.50	-2	-3
	60-80 Lbs.	104.50	-4	-2
	80-100 Lbs.	104.00	0	7
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	85.00	-6	-3
	100-150 Lbs.	81.25	-1	9
	150-250 Lbs.	74.00	-1	11
Does	50-70 Lbs.	na ²	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	30.50	8	na
	100-140 Lbs.	40.50	-2	na
Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	41.00	6	na
	40-60 Lbs.	60.00	11	-12
	60-80 Lbs.	78.00	5	-15
Bucks	80-100 Lbs.	100.00	6	na
	70-100 Lbs.	87.00	na	-7
	100-150 Lbs.	125.00	-4	14
Does	150-250 Lbs.	147.00	6	10
	50-70 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	71.00	-4	-1
	100-140 Lbs.	80.00	na	-13

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.