

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Goat prices reflected increased demand for the end of Ramadan last week. Consumption of meat goat generally increases prior to religious and cultural observances for Moslems, Hindus, Jews, Hispanics, Chinese and Christians.

The Moslem observance of Ramadan ended a month of fasting on October 11. Ramadan typically ends with great celebration—Id al-Fitr, or Eid—and often with 50-lb. to 80-lb. male goats. Perhaps this may explain, in part, why prices in San Angelo were up to 5% higher for the week for bucks. While prices were up for all weight classes, the 70-lb. to 100-lb. bucks earned a premium at \$89.50/cwt. compared to \$75/cwt. for the heavier bucks. In San Angelo, 4,543 head were sold last week and 3,947 head two weeks ago. Greater numbers of goat offered, coupled with higher prices is often a signal of higher demand.

Goat supplies at auction were greater in Pennsylvania last week with 2,735 goats marketed the week of Oct. 8 compared to 1,790 head the previous week and 1,074 head a year ago. It was reported “the heavy supply of goats on offer offset demand, allowing buyers to be more selective on prices paid,” (USDA/AMS, 10/8/07).

Market Trends for Week Ending Oct. 12, 2007

| | | Last Week | Percentage Change from Previous Week (%) | Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%) |
|---|--------------|-----------|--|---|
| Number of Head Slaughtered, 9/29/07 | | 12,278 | -6 | -7 |
| San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1 | | | | |
| Kids | 20-40 Lbs. | 101.50 | -5 | -10 |
| | 40-60 Lbs. | 110.00 | 3 | 0 |
| | 60-80 Lbs. | 110.00 | 12 | 0 |
| | 80-100 Lbs. | 106.00 | -2 | 4 |
| Bucks | 70-100 Lbs. | 89.50 | 4 | 2 |
| | 100-150 Lbs. | 78.50 | 4 | 8 |
| | 150-250 Lbs. | 75.00 | 5 | 15 |
| Does | 50-70 Lbs. | na | na | na |
| | 70-100 Lbs. | 41.50 | 2 | na |
| | 100-140 Lbs. | 44.50 | 13 | na |
| Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1 | | | | |
| Kids | 20-40 Lbs. | 34.99 | -17 | na |
| | 40-60 Lbs. | 53.37 | -15 | -11 |
| | 60-80 Lbs. | 67.89 | -6 | -19 |
| | 80-100 Lbs. | 91.12 | -6 | na |
| Bucks | 70-100 Lbs. | 78.00 | na | na |
| | 100-150 Lbs. | 97.34 | -5 | 1 |
| | 150-250 Lbs. | 114.58 | -11 | -15 |
| Does | 50-70 Lbs. | 56.21 | na | -8 |
| | 70-100 Lbs. | 55.76 | -34 | -25 |
| | 100-140 Lbs. | 56.21 | na | -8 |

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.