

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Kid prices in Lancaster strengthened last week while prices in San Angelo were mixed. Numbers of goats offered in San Angelo increased 22% week-to-week and 28% in Lancaster. The number of goats at auction will likely continue to rise as the end of the year approaches. On average, the numbers of goats slaughtered increases 2% a week during the last 12 weeks of the year until slaughter numbers spike upwards in the last couple weeks. Increased demand during this period typically helps to strengthen prices. On average, Selection 1 kid prices increase \$2/cwt. between October and November.

Revenue for the 80-lb. to 100-lb. Selection 1 kids has been generally higher than revenue for lighter-weight kids in San Angelo since 2002. The heavier kids received \$98.12/head in Lancaster last week compared to \$77.78/head for 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids. Revenue is price multiplied by weight if goats are paid per hundredweight. Heavier kids can receive lower prices, but weigh more so you have to do the math. Recall that revenue is only gross margin, not your net margin, or profit, which takes costs into account.

It is sometimes unclear whether additional weight increases revenue. Since 2002, the 20-lb. to 60-lb. Selection 1 kids in San Angelo received decidedly lower levels of revenue than kids weighing 60 pounds and up. Greater revenue can typically be expected for 80-lb. to 100-lb. kids; however, there are times of the year--such as around the March to May holidays--in which the 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids bring more. This is typically not the case in the fourth quarter. In fact, the premium received for 80-lb. to 100-lb. kids is most pronounced during the last 12 weeks of the year.

Market Trends for Week Ending Oct. 19, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 10/6/07		12,278	13	12
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	105.50	4	3
	40-60 Lbs.	106.00	-4	6
	60-80 Lbs.	106.00	-4	6
	80-100 Lbs.	104.50	-1	10
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	91.00	2	6
	100-150 Lbs.	80.00	2	2
	150-250 Lbs.	72.50	-3	12
Does	50-70 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	30.00	-28	-24
	400 130-140 180 Lbs.	37.00	-17	-26
Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	42.84	22	na
	40-60 Lbs.	61.03	11	-8
	60-80 Lbs.	77.92	13	0
	80-100 Lbs.	98.12	8	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	77.78	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	120.17	18	19
	150-250 Lbs.	149.53	29	5
Does	50-70 Lbs.	53.96	-5	-2
	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-140 Lbs.	81.10	na	na

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.