

## The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

As we count down the weeks toward the December holidays, the numbers of goats showing up at auction is likely to increase. Demand is expected to rise to meet increased supply and keep prices strong, but last week is a good example where this is not always the case. In San Angelo, 3,577 goats sold, up 73% from the previous week. On average, prices gained. However, producers sending goats in Lancaster were not as fortunate.

Last week, 2,342 goats sold in Lancaster, up 39% from the previous week, and up 58% from a week ago last year. However, prices of kids, nannies, and billies of all quality weakened. Selection 1 kids lost up to 14% in one week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported, "The heavy supply allowed many buyers to be more selective with their bids," (USDA/AMS, 11/12/07). "It's a numbers game," commented Benny Cox, Sheep and Goat Sales Manager at San Angelo's Producers Livestock Auction when speaking about the seasonality in goat prices.

The volume of goat meat imports can double between November and December, but it's possible that imports slow this holiday season. The weak U.S. dollar might increase the price of imported goat. Also, Australia is facing a persistent drought, which may slow its goat exports. The majority of U.S. goat meat imports come from Australia, while small volumes come from New Zealand and Mexico. From January through September, Australian goat meat imports were down 5% year-to-year and total imports were down 6%. If imports slow or come in at higher prices this December then the domestic market might see some additional price strengthening.

### Market Trends for Week Ending November 16, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
<b>Number of Head Slaughtered, 11/3/07</b>		12,473	2	14
<b>San Angelo, TX Prices<sup>1</sup> (\$/cwt.), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	116.50	7	-3
	40-60 Lbs.	113.50	4	1
	60-80 Lbs.	110.00	0	6
	80-100 Lbs.	106.50	4	12
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	83.00	-8	-5
	100-150 Lbs.	88.00	8	1
	150-250 Lbs.	89.25	21	5
Does	50-80 Lbs.	31.50	9	-15
	80-130 Lbs.	44.00	1	-19
	130-180 Lbs.	45.00	1	-17
<b>Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	50.00	-9	na
	40-60 Lbs.	71.00	-13	0
	60-80 Lbs.	80.00	-14	-9
	80-100 Lbs.	89.00	-14	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	94.00	2	2
	100-150 Lbs.	106.00	-13	-16
	150-250 Lbs.	137.00	-17	-25
Does	50-80 Lbs.	62.00	na	-26
	80-130 Lbs.	66.00	-31	0
	130-180 Lbs.	86.00	na	-8

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); Julie Shiflett.

<sup>1</sup>San Angelo, TX and Lancaster, PA are the two auction markets with goat sales exceeding 50,000 head in a year.

<sup>2</sup>na = 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](http://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/SA_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS320.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS321.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS321.txt); and

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS322.txt](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](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS711.txt), also a USDA/AMS report.