

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Due to the holiday-shortened week, no sale was held in San Angelo last Wednesday and goat numbers in Lancaster were down 20%. In Lancaster, kid goats prices of all quality were \$3/head to \$5/head lower with mixed prices on nannies and bucks holding steady. In Lancaster, 40-lbs. to 80-lbs. Selection 1 kids received weaker prices while lighter and heavier kids gained.

Prices for kids ranging from 40-lbs. to 80-lbs. historically tend to follow each other very closely. This weight range is the most popular. In 2006, the average live weight for goats was 62.50 pounds in 2006 and 61.40 pounds in the first 10 months of 2007. The volume of trade for the lighter and heavier classes of kids is lower, on average, and thus more susceptible to price volatility from small changes in volume offered or numbers of buyers present at auction. Since 2002, prices for the 20-lb. to 40-lb. kids and for the heavier 80-lb. to 100-lb. kids tended to diverge more often from prices received by the average 61-lb. kids.

Between January and October, commercial goat production was up 9% from the same 10 months a year ago. Live weights were down 2%, but the number of head slaughtered was up 12%. Commercial production includes both federally inspected and non-federally inspected slaughter facilities, but not on-farm slaughter. It is likely that the number of goats slaughtered will swell until the third week of December when numbers will increase sharply.

Market Trends for Week Ending November 23, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 11/10/07		13,212	6	14
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1, Nov. 14, 2007				
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
Lancaster, PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	51.00	1	na
	40-60 Lbs.	68.00	-3	-4
	60-80 Lbs.	76.00	-10	-14
	80-100 Lbs.	91.00	3	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	92.00	-2	0
	100-150 Lbs.	114.00	8	-38
	150-250 Lbs.	143.00	4	14
Does	50-80 Lbs.	51.00	-18	na
	80-130 Lbs.	75.00	14	-10
	130-180 Lbs.	80.00	-7	-14

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.