

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Following the large post-holiday sale, goats offered were down 12% last week in San Angelo to 3,134 head. However, last week 2,017 goats sold at New Holland compared to 1,318 the previous week and 2,567 head a year ago. Demand was lighter than last week. A heavier supply of kid goats sold at New Holland with prices mostly \$10/head lower (USDA/AMS, 12/3/07).

San Angelo buck prices were high for all weights and billies in New Holland sold firm as the Moslem holiday, Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice), approaches on December 20. Eid al-Adha is often thought of as the second most important Islamic holiday after Eid al-Fitr, Festival of Breaking the Fast. The festival is celebrated by sacrificing a lamb or goat and distributing the meat to relatives, friends, and the poor. The demand for goats for Eid al-Adha is typically unblemished, fully intact male goats from 60 to 100 pounds live weight (Miller, S. K., 2006).

Another Moslem holiday, Muharram, the Islamic New Year, is fast approaching in January, but it is a much quieter holiday, filled with prayer. The next holiday celebrated by different ethnic groups in which the goat markets are already likely feeling some influence is Christmas. Goats weighing 20 to 45 pounds and milk-fed kids are often desired (Miller, S. K., 2006).

Market Trends for Week Ending December 7, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 11/24/07		13,032	1.4	16
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	114.00	-2	12
	40-60 Lbs.	111.50	-3	1
	60-80 Lbs.	110.00	-4	-2
	80-100 Lbs.	114.00	2	7
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	102.50	4	12
	150-250 Lbs.	97.50	4	10
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.00	-9	-32
	80-130 Lbs.	40.00	-10	-27
	130-180 Lbs.	38.00	-5	-33
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	52.00	8	na
	40-60 Lbs.	74.00	-1	na
	60-80 Lbs.	77.00	-13	5
	80-100 Lbs.	97.00	-5	87
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	102.00	na	17
	100-150 Lbs.	135.00	10	13
	150-250 Lbs.	163.00	-9	12
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	70.00	15	-11
	130-180 Lbs.	na	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.