

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Characteristic of this time of year, goat slaughter fell sharply for the second consecutive week following the December holidays. It is likely that goat slaughter will be volatile during the first-half of the year, with a spike for Easter, and then trend upward during the second-half of the year.

Prices for Selection 1 kids were stronger in San Angelo last week, but prices softened for Selection 1 bucks and nannies. Eighty-pound to 90-lb. Selection 1 fancy kids received a 29-percent premium. In San Angelo, 4,183 goats sold, down 183 head from the previous week. Prices were mostly softer for Selection 1 kids, bucks and nannies last week at New Holland. Last week, 1,733 goats sold, up from 1,365 the previous week. Perhaps the larger offering caused prices to soften.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture 2007 goat inventory numbers are due out Feb. 1. If goat inventory increases, demand will also have to increase in order for prices to strengthen. In 2006, there were 2.4 million meat goats, up 5% from 2005. Demand is likely to increase because ethnic populations are increasing and goat is being discovered as a leaner meat by the food service industry. Be aware, however, that prices received at auction can be very unpredictable, a function of the supply and quality of goats offered that day as well as how many and which buyers are present.

Market Trends for Week Ending January 18, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 1/5/08		10,787	-28	-11
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	114.00	6	na
	40-60 Lbs.	113.50	1	-11
	60-80 Lbs.	112.00	0	-10
Bucks	80-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	95.00	-5	na
	100-150 Lbs.	77.50	-11	-10
Does	150-250 Lbs.	76.50	-11	20
	50-80 Lbs.	27.50	-10	-39
	80-130 Lbs.	39.50	-6	-32
	130-180 Lbs.	36.50	-11	-34
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	56.00	na	1
	40-60 Lbs.	60.00	-38	-10
	60-80 Lbs.	67.00	-30	-11
Bucks	80-100 Lbs.	87.00	-19	na
	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	126.00	9	2
Does	150-250 Lbs.	150.00	18	3
	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	74.00	-12	-21
	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.