

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Goat prices have been relatively high this year, and not necessarily because of higher demand. Supplies were down 32% last week in New Holland to 889 head. It may be a lean time of year: new crop kids won't be born until the spring and goat producers may be waiting for the Easter holidays to sell their supply. Levi Geyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture market reporter for New Holland explained that after a heavy run from last Easter to Christmas, goat supplies were relatively light this past January (2/5/08).

Supply was more current in San Angelo with 2,123 head offered last week. Selection 1 kid prices strengthened week-to-week, with 60-lb. to 80-lb. kid prices bringing \$1.27/lb. Kid prices will likely increase steadily until the high demand Easter holidays. Over the past three years, 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids received an average \$133.21/cwt. in February and \$136.13/cwt. in March. In the next couple months we may see the lighter-weight goats (20-lb. to 60-lb.) reach up to \$143/cwt., as they did last year.

Of note last week was that Selection 1 80-lb. to 130-lb. nannies brought \$64/head to \$80/head last week in New Holland, but 'fancy' nannies brought up to \$100/head. U.S. Department of Agriculture uses the term 'fancy' to describe goats that received higher prices than the typical range for the day. These goats might be particularly attractive for some reason, nice coloring or nicely rounded, for example.

Market Trends for Week Ending February 1, 2007

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 1/19/08		11,615	2	22
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	124.50	3	na
	40-60 Lbs.	127.00	2	na
	60-80 Lbs.	127.00	6	2
	80-100 Lbs.	104.50	14	-18
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	99.50	3	na
	100-150 Lbs.	86.50	-1	na
	150-250 Lbs.	77.00	-4	na
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.00	0	na
	80-130 Lbs.	40.00	-4	na
	130-180 Lbs.	46.00	33	na
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	61.00	9	12
	40-60 Lbs.	77.00	13	3
	60-80 Lbs.	95.00	19	-3
	80-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	112.00	22	14
	100-150 Lbs.	129.00	2	16
	150-250 Lbs.	134.00	-14	2
Does	50-80 Lbs.	69.00	-1	-4
	80-130 Lbs.	72.00	na	-19
	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.