

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Goat numbers in San Angelo continued to be heavy with 3,250 head offered last week. Goat offerings in New Holland last week were down again last week to 874, but remained higher than numbers a year ago. Prices were strong in San Angelo last week, but mixed in New Holland.

Regardless of the numbers of goats offered, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reporters will often comment that if trading is active this is synonymous with good demand. This is typically the case, and a good sign the market is competitive. For a fixed supply of goats, price offers will often rise if more buyers are present. Buyers compete against each other, bidding up the price of goats.

There have been cases in U.S. history, however, where buyers at an auction will collude, they agree beforehand not to compete. As an example, buyers may only bid on goats with certain color patterns so they don't compete against each other. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Packers and Stockyards Administration monitors competitive behavior in the livestock markets so if any such practice looks suspicious, I recommend reporting it. Collusion can lower prices goat producers receive.

In New Holland last week "a light supply of slaughter kids sold uneven," (USDA, 2/4/08). However, a broader weight range of Selection 1 kids was offered last week. Selection 1 kids weighing 10-lbs. to 20-lbs. sold for an average \$43.50/head. Selection 1 kids ranging from 100-lbs. to 120-lbs. received from \$117/head to \$140/head. In this case, it paid to bring in a heavier goat, goats ranging from 80-100 lbs. brought only up to \$127/head. Prices of all weight categories are likely to strengthen as the Easter holidays approach.

Market Trends for Week Ending February 8, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 1/19/08		10,513	-9	25
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	126.50	2	-1
	40-60 Lbs.	128.50	1	4
	60-80 Lbs.	126.50	0	5
	80-100 Lbs.	101.50	-3	5
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	99.00	-1	na
	100-150 Lbs.	93.00	8	22
	150-250 Lbs.	79.50	3	27
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.00	0	-33
	80-130 Lbs.	39.50	-1	-32
	130-180 Lbs.	45.00	-2	-20
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	51.00	-45	-14
	40-60 Lbs.	73.50	-33	-23
	60-80 Lbs.	98.50	-16	-17
	80-100 Lbs.	116.00	na	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	87.00	-5	-22
	100-150 Lbs.	137.00	30	-16
	150-250 Lbs.	147.50	36	-21
Does	50-80 Lbs.	56.00	-19	-47
	80-130 Lbs.	88.50	9	-2
	130-180 Lbs.	98.50	22	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.