

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week, kid prices soften under heavy supplies in both San Angelo and New Holland goat auctions. San Angelo saw goat offerings more than doubled in a week with 5,584 head sold. The numbers of goats surpassed sheep sales for the first time this year. The report out of the USDA-Texas Department of Market News was that heavier volume is typical in the two weeks before Easter. However, a second explanation for increased offerings was that it is very dry in Texas and the cost of feed makes feeding prohibitively costly. Although producers may be taking goats to auction earlier than planned, there was no noticeable reduction in weights offered last week in San Angelo.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported last week that severe drought conditions exist in central and much of southern Texas (USDA, 3/11/08, <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Weekly/Wwcb/wwcb.pdf>). West Texas and the Panhandle are very dry with the likelihood of an impending drought. Dry weather conditions in central, southern, and western Texas sparked wildfires throughout February. By the end of February, 63% of the state's winter wheat crop was in very poor to poor condition.

As a consequent of the higher supply, kid prices softened by up to \$5/cwt. on average in San Angelo. Selection 1 kid prices fell by up to 19 percent for the 80-lb. to 100-lb. kids to \$98/cwt. The 60-lb. to 80-lb. kids lost 8% to average \$136/cwt. Goat receipts were up 742 head at New Holland last week to 1,958 head. Slaughter kids weighing less than 50 lbs. sold \$10/head lower, while heavier kids sold \$10 to \$20 per head lower (USDA/AMS, 3/10/08).

Market Trends for Week Ending March 14, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 3/1/08		10,454	1.2	1.7
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	140.00	4	6
	40-60 Lbs.	143.00	-4	2
	60-80 Lbs.	136.00	-8	1
	80-100 Lbs.	98.00	-19	-2
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	93.75	4	17
	100-150 Lbs.	99.00	-1	28
	150-250 Lbs.	89.50	2	30
Does	50-80 Lbs.	31.00	-11	-27
	80-130 Lbs.	47.50	-14	-23
	130-180 Lbs.	na	na	na
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	55.00	1	-4
	40-60 Lbs.	64.00	-14	-17
	60-80 Lbs.	84.00	-19	-10
	80-100 Lbs.	107.00	-14	8
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	129.00	-9	7
	150-250 Lbs.	150.00	-4	-6
Does	50-80 Lbs.	81.00	31	21
	80-130 Lbs.	79.00	-18	-2
	130-180 Lbs.	87.00	-11	4

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.