

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

In the first week following Easter goat offerings fell sharply in San Angelo and New Holland last week. Goat offerings were down 50% in San Angelo to 1,548 head. Reduced supply most likely helped support prices, which were up to \$8/cwt. higher for Selection 1 kids. In New Holland 1,523 goat sold last week, compared to 3,372 head the previous week. Evidently demand was also down. Kids sold mostly lower, billies were also weaker, and nannies were not well tested, which means supply was very thin.

Easter came early this year so it was expected that prices would be much lower during the week following Easter than during the same time last year. Prices at auction may begin to slow as summer approaches. Since 2002, kid prices at San Angelo have remained steady between March and April then fell an average 1% between April and May and then fell an additional 8% between May and June. Recall that the selling price is only one part of a producer's bottom line. The return is important, revenue less costs.

While the Christian Easter is now past, the Orthodox Easter, on April 27, is rapidly approaching. The holiday represents another good opportunity to market goats. I recommend calling your local auction--sometimes buyers fill orders as early as 10 days prior to the holiday.

Market Trends for Week Ending March 28, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 3/15/08		14,486	18	33
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	129.75	2	-7
	60-80 Lbs.	129.75	2	-5
Bucks	80-100 Lbs.	100.00	8	5
	70-100 Lbs.	85.00	0	-4
	100-150 Lbs.	85.00	-6	21
Does	150-250 Lbs.	78.50	-4	31
	50-80 Lbs.	27.50	-2	-42
	80-130 Lbs.	42.50	4	-29
	130-180 Lbs.	35.00	-23	-40
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	46.00	-26	-12
	40-60 Lbs.	65.00	-2	-11
	60-80 Lbs.	74.00	-9	-8
Bucks	80-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	114.00	-2	-2
Does	150-250 Lbs.	174.00	20	28
	50-80 Lbs.	No Selection 1 does offered last week.		
	80-130 Lbs.			
	130-180 Lbs.			

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.