

## The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Last week in San Angelo, 2,739 head sold, down moderately from two weeks ago and down significantly from 5,285 head that sold a month ago. Kid prices were marginally softer. Last week in New Holland, prices for kids weighing less than 80 lbs. weakened while heavier kids sold steady to \$5 per head higher (4/21/08). Goat receipts last week at New Holland totaled 1,613 head, about even with 1,628 the previous week, but up from 1,235 during the same week a year ago.

With volatile and high corn prices in the headlines, it's tough not to look at the impact on the meat goat industry. Granted, the cost and availability of pasture and hay are most important, but grain costs can be important too. Average corn prices reached \$4.83/bu. in March after hovering around \$2/bu. from 2004 to 2006. By using the meat goat budgets by A. Diaw and A. L. Meyer from the University of Kentucky for a one-billy and 22-nanny operation, the corn costs are an estimated 11% of total feed costs at \$2/bu. and 8% of total operating costs. If the price of corn increases by 142% -- as it has since 2006 -- then total operating costs can increase 11%. This increase can make or break an operations' profitability.

### Market Trends for Week Ending April 25, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
<b>Number of Head Slaughtered, 4/12/08</b>		11,474	6	1
<b>San Angelo, TX Prices<sup>1</sup> (\$/cwt.), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	127.00	0	na
	40-60 Lbs.	140.50	-3	-2
	60-80 Lbs.	140.50	-4	1
	80-100 Lbs.	109.50	2	14
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	100.00	1	16
	100-150 Lbs.	90.50	1	12
	150-250 Lbs.	78.00	-5	12
Does	50-80 Lbs.	31.50	3	-30
	80-130 Lbs.	45.00	2	-20
	130-180 Lbs.	44.00	-13	-22
<b>New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1</b>				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	60.00	28	-5
	40-60 Lbs.	77.00	-13	-12
	60-80 Lbs.	105.00	-5	-9
	80-100 Lbs.	128.00	8	11
Bucks	70-100 Lbs. *Pygmies	65.00	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	132.00	3	-2
	150-250 Lbs.	153.00	0	-6
Does	50-80 Lbs. *Pygmies	44.00	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	na	na	na
	130-180 Lbs.	80.00	7	-13

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); Julie Shiflett.

<sup>1</sup>San Angelo, TX and Lancaster, PA are the two auction markets with goat sales exceeding 50,000 head in a year.

<sup>2</sup>na = 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](http://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/SA_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS320.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS320.txt);

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS321.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS321.txt); and

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN\\_LS322.txt](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](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS711.txt), also a USDA/AMS report.