

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

A heavier run last week in San Angelo put downward pressure on kid and nanny prices. Last week in San Angelo, 3,437 goats sold, up from 2,468 the previous week. It's very possible that San Angelo kid prices will continue to soften in upcoming weeks. In New Holland last week, lighter supply of kid goats and good demand pushed prices \$8/head to \$12/head higher. Goat offerings fell to 1,172 head, down from 1,492 head the previous week and 1,436 head a year ago.

Taking all your goats to auction on a single day can be risky. As can be seen from this report, it is not unusual for prices to be up or down 10% week-to-week. Since 2002, Selection 1 kid prices at San Angelo have dropped as much as \$27/cwt. week-to-week, but have also gained \$16/cwt. in a week. Goat prices are very seasonal so price volatility can be expected to some extent. Since 2002, the degree to which kid prices were spread out from the year's average, the standard deviation, has increased. This means that price peaks have gotten higher and troughs, lower, over time.

Market Trends for Week Ending May 9, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 4/19/08		12,731	-0.12	20
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	137.50	-5	-5
	60-80 Lbs.	137.50	-5	-6
	80-100 Lbs.	121.00	0	-8
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	99.00	-3	10
	100-150 Lbs.	87.50	-4	7
	150-250 Lbs.	79.00	-2	9
Does	50-80 Lbs.	29.50	-8	-37
	80-130 Lbs.	42.00	-13	-27
	130-180 Lbs.	43.00	-11	-18
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	43.00	-17	-14
	40-60 Lbs.	84.00	-16	1
	60-80 Lbs.	110.00	18	8
	80-100 Lbs.	115.00	7	-5
Bucks	70-100 Lbs. *Pygmies	72.00	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	131.00	18	-8
	150-250 Lbs.	161.00	26	-8
Does	50-80 Lbs. *Pygmies	45.00	na	-39
	80-130 Lbs.	81.00	31	0
	130-180 Lbs.	95.00	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.