

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

A heavier supply of goats in San Angelo put downward pressure on prices. Last week, 4,391 goats sold, up from 3,437 goats the previous week. The supply situation will most likely drive prices in upcoming weeks.

Last week in New Holland, strong demand led to stronger prices on the back of a marginal supply increase. Selection 1 kid prices gained up to 21% for kids less than 60 lbs., but prices weakened for heavier kids. Last week, 1,391 head were sold, up from 1,172 head the previous week and about even with 1,307 head a year ago.

Goat prices at auction are not only a function of the buyers present and supply offered, but also the level of imports as well as goat exports. In the first quarter of this year, goat meat exports to several Caribbean countries were up 3% year-on-year. Goat meat exports likely help support domestic prices and add value to the industry. Not only do producers benefit, but also goat packers, processors and exporters.

Live goat exports – primarily to Mexico, but some to Canada -- were down 47% in the first quarter, however. The decline in live exports suggests that it is more profitable to market goats domestically than to sell them across the border. Given the increased goat inventory, it is difficult to determine whether the decline in live exports in the first quarter caused softening in domestic prices at auction.

Market Trends for Week Ending May 16, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 5/3/08		11,674	-8	1
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	133.50	-3	-5
	60-80 Lbs.	132.50	-4	-5
	80-100 Lbs.	117.00	-3	-9
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	86.50	-13	-6
	100-150 Lbs.	83.50	-5	0
	150-250 Lbs.	75.00	-5	-4
Does	50-80 Lbs.	30.00	2	-35
	80-130 Lbs.	44.00	5	-24
	130-180 Lbs.	44.25	3	-24
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	52.00	21	-20
	40-60 Lbs.	95.00	13	-1
	60-80 Lbs.	101.00	-8	-12
	80-100 Lbs.	111.00	-9	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs. *Pygmies	57.00	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	118.00	-10	-22
	150-250 Lbs.	139.00	-14	-20
Does	50-80 Lbs. *Pygmies	33.00	-65	na
	80-130 Lbs.	89.00	-6	-3
	130-180 Lbs.	86.00	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.