

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

As summer approaches, heavier supplies typically outweigh demand and put downward pressure on prices. However, remember that this report only covers the two busiest auctions for meat goats, and can't capture the volume or price trends in direct trade held privately between producer and buyer.

As the meat goat market develops, it is likely that auction markets will account for a shrinking proportion of goats marketed, as has been observed in the cattle and sheep industries. Lamb sales in direct trade based upon auction prices may not necessarily be a good representation of the market if the auction is capturing fewer and fewer market lambs.

In San Angelo last week, over 6,000 goats sold -- the highest level since Easter. The heavier supply put downward pressure on prices with kids up to \$5/cwt. lower. In New Holland, 1,025 head sold, down from 1,672 goats the previous week and 860 head a year ago. Heavy kids brought up to \$5/head more, but overall, kids were up to \$7 per head softer.

Market Trends for Week Ending May 23, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 5/10/08		12,532	7	1
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.			
	40-60 Lbs.	129.50	-3	-3
	60-80 Lbs.	129.50	-2	-3
	80-100 Lbs.	116.00	-1	-1
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	92.00	6	2
	100-150 Lbs.	81.50	-2	-4
	150-250 Lbs.	77.50	3	11
Does	50-80 Lbs.	29.00	-3	-39
	80-130 Lbs.	45.50	3	-25
	130-180 Lbs.	46.50	5	-25
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	40.00	-23	na
	40-60 Lbs.	92.00	-3	na
	60-80 Lbs.	86.00	-15	na
	80-100 Lbs.	124.00	12	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	178.00	51	na
	150-250 Lbs.	196.00	41	na
Does	50-80 Lbs.			
	*Selection 1 & 2	66.00	-26	na
	80-130 Lbs.	84.00	-2	na
	130-180 Lbs.	na	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.