

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Fewer lightweight slaughter kids have been showing up at the two largest goat auctions. In New Holland last week, the scarcity of the lighter kids might explained the weekly 63% price jump for 40-lb. to 60-lb. Selection 1 kids. Alternatively, an infrequent buyer may have bid up the price to secure the kid for a special occasion.

Last week, 3,560 head sold in San Angelo, down slightly from 3,880 head two weeks ago. In New Holland, 1,601 goats sold last week, up from 1,248 the previous week and about even with a year ago. Although goat slaughter slowed during the last week of May, numbers were up for the year. In the five months through May, 246,577 goats were slaughtered in federally inspected facilities, up 4% year-on-year. Unfortunately, the number of goats slaughtered in state facilities (not typically federally inspected) is not recorded.

Perhaps the third largest auction, 1,109 goats sold in Bowling Green, Kentucky on June 12. Of note was that no Selection 1 slaughter kids sold. Prices for Selection 2 goats were noticeably lower than San Angelo Section 1 kids.

Market Trends for Week Ending June 13, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, 5/31/08		10,733	-14	-3
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	124.00	-3	1
	60-80 Lbs.	124.00	-3	1
	80-100 Lbs.	102.50	-2	-8
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	85.00	0	0
	100-150 Lbs.	82.00	1	13
	150-250 Lbs.	80.00	3	20
Does	50-80 Lbs.	25.00	-14	-47
	80-130 Lbs.	41.50	-6	-31
	130-180 Lbs.	41.50	5	-28
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	na	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	114.00	63	39
	60-80 Lbs.	99.00	-10	-9
	80-100 Lbs.	116.00	-1	-7
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	150.00	-21	15
	150-250 Lbs.	170.00	-23	12
Does	50-80 Lbs.	86.00	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	81.00	-28	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.