

The Week in the Meat Goat Markets

Heavier goat offerings last week at the auction in San Angelo likely contributed to weaker prices. Selection 1 slaughter kids between 40 pounds and 80 pounds weakened by up to 14 percent. Last week, 4,194 head were sold compared to 3,560 head two weeks ago and 3,880 head three weeks ago.

Last week in New Holland, 1,084 goats sold, down from 1,601 head the previous week and down from 2,007 a year ago. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that goat supply “consisted of a generous amount of pygmies and young kid goats.”

The recently passed the 2008 Farm Bill will likely continue to support agricultural producers in the terms of subsidizes. And at even higher rates! Although, meat goat farmers don’t receive direct support for meat goat production, they might qualify for disaster relief payments. Although not federally legislated, the weak U.S. dollar is a type of protection – resulting in higher meat goat price for importers. Another related piece of legislation is the U.S. Department of Agriculture September 30 deadline to implement mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) of meat, poultry and produce. Hopefully, COOL will heighten consumers’ awareness of the origin of their food and provide a positive spillover effect for the American meat goat industry.

Market Trends for Week Ending June 20, 2008

		Last Week	Percentage Change from Previous Week (%)	Percentage Change From the Same Week a Year Ago (%)
Number of Head Slaughtered, June 7, 2008		12,336	15	-5
San Angelo, TX Prices¹ (\$/cwt.), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	105.00	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	107.00	-14	6
	60-80 Lbs.	108.00	-13	6
	80-100 Lbs.	106.00	3	0
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	83.00	-2	na
	100-150 Lbs.	79.50	-3	25
	150-250 Lbs.	75.00	-6	36
Does	50-80 Lbs.	25.00	0	-44
	80-130 Lbs.	39.75	-4	-32
	130-180 Lbs.	33.00	-20	-41
New Holland (Lancaster), PA Prices (\$/head), Selection 1				
Kids	20-40 Lbs.	34.00	na	na
	40-60 Lbs.	59.00	-48	-11
	60-80 Lbs.	82.00	-17	3
	80-100 Lbs.	na	na	na
Bucks	70-100 Lbs.	98.00	na	na
	100-150 Lbs.	151.00	1	25
	150-250 Lbs.	155.00	-9	20
Does	50-80 Lbs.	na	na	na
	80-130 Lbs.	96.00	19	na
	130-180 Lbs.	92.00	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.