

NEWS & NOTES

Industry tidbits from around the country

Compiled by Shauna Hermel, editor

▶▶▶ Make your voice heard; send in survey

There's still time to give us your input to help guide our editorial focus in coming months. With the February issue, we mailed a readership survey. Please take a moment to fill it out and mail it back to us. Or, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/ABBreadership22> to fill the survey out online.



Your responses will ensure we provide the information you need, how and when you need it. We'll send the first 250 respondents a Black Book and enter all into a drawing for two \$500 gift cards.

▶▶▶ USDA trade mission visits Dubai

USDA visited Dubai mid-February for its first trade mission since November 2019. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack arrived in Dubai Feb. 18 with a delegation of representatives from U.S. agribusinesses, farm organizations and state departments of agriculture who are interested in exploring export opportunities across the Middle East.

"With annual agricultural exports averaging more than \$1.2 billion during the last five years, the United States is the UAE's fourth-largest supplier of food and farm products and is poised for further export growth," said Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Daniel Whitley. Trade mission

participants engaged directly with potential customers, received in-depth market briefings, and participated in site visits, including Expo Dubai 2020.

▶▶▶ USDA confirms HPAI in two states

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds in two states — a flock of commercial broiler chickens in Fulton County, Ky., and a backyard flock of mixed species birds in Fauquier County, Va. APHIS is working with state animal health officials in Kentucky and Virginia on joint incident responses. State officials quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the

properties will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Depopulation is complete in Virginia. Birds from the flocks will not enter the food system.

APHIS will continue to announce the first case of HPAI in commercial and backyard flocks detected in a state, but it will not announce subsequent detections in the state. All cases in commercial and backyard flocks will be listed on the APHIS website at <https://bit.ly/3sLpBAa>.

▶▶▶ NCBA, PLC express disappointment at ESA relisting of gray wolves

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Public Lands Council (PLC) Feb. 10 expressed opposition to the U.S. District Court's ruling to remand and vacate the gray wolf *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) delisting announced by the Trump administration in 2020.

"It's disappointing that environmental activism carried more weight than science in this case. Rather than ruling on due process and adherence to recovery criterion, Judge White chose to remand the rule and undermine one of the most successful ESA recovery stories in United States history," said NCBA Executive Director of Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "This is just another attempt by activist groups to ignore the facts and rewrite the history of gray wolf recovery in the U.S."

Data show the gray wolf population is recovered and no longer meets requirements for a listing. Since being listed under the ESA in 1974, the gray wolf population has seen tremendous

▶▶▶ Angus at Work podcast launched

It's no secret that cattlemen and women are busy, and no two days look the same. That's why the *Angus Beef Bulletin* team launched its new podcast, *Angus at Work*, March 2 to give cattlemen another option for on-the-go information.

Today's cattle industry is complicated by rising input costs, a fickle marketplace and pressure from outside forces. *Angus at Work* will help cattlemen and women stay informed on topics that affect their bottom line.

"One of the most interesting parts of our job as editors is getting to talk with cattlemen and industry experts around the country. So often we aren't able to use everything from an interview in a story, but now our audience can listen to these experts themselves," says Kasey Brown, associate editor and podcast host. "We all know people learn differently, and the podcast allows us to present information in a new way that may help these topics really sink in."

This is another way the *Angus Beef Bulletin* will

bring its tagline, *The Commercial Cattleman's Angus Connection*, to life.

"The focus has always been to provide practical information on management, marketing, genetics, health and nutrition, and industry and Angus news," Brown says.

In-depth or technical print articles are in the *Angus Beef Bulletin*. Shorter digital articles are in the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*. *Angus at Work* will provide conversations with industry experts and thought leaders.

Editor Shauna Hermel and Senior Associate Editor Miranda Reiman will also host episodes.

The podcast launched March 2, and will air twice per month. Early

episode topics include blind spots in calf health, intricacies of direct marketing, and programming fertility. Subscribe to the podcast at Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts, Pandora, Overcast, Castro, Castbox or Podfriend. Access *Angus at Work*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA* at www.angusbeefbulletin.com/extra.



recovery, exceeding recovery goals by 300%.

“ESA should not be used as a permanent management tool. Today’s decision conflicts with the intended purpose of the Act and removes critical management tools for wolves that pose a tremendous threat to farmers and ranchers, rural economies, and vital land and natural resource conservation,” said Glover.

▶▶▶ Dollars available for climate-smart projects

Vilsack announced in early February that USDA is seeking proposals for pilot projects that support farmers’ use of climate-smart practices and that create market opportunities for U.S. ag commodities produced using such practices.

USDA will provide \$1 billion for the selected projects through the Commodity Credit Corporation. Project proposals costing between \$5 million and \$100 million are due by April 8, 2022, and proposals ranging from \$250,000 to \$5 million in size are due by May 27, 2022. All proposals must provide sufficient incentives to encourage producer

participation and generate verifiable greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration benefits. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/3JIPUxX>.

▶▶▶ American ag exports shatter records

In 2021, the American ag industry posted its highest annual export levels ever recorded, according to Vilsack. The final 2021 trade data published by the Department of Commerce in early February shows that exports of U.S. farm and food products to the world totaled \$177 billion, topping the 2020 total by 18% and eclipsing the previous record, set in 2014, by 14.6%.

The United States’ top 10 export markets all saw gains in 2021, with six of the 10 — China, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, the Philippines and Colombia — setting new records. Worldwide exports of many U.S. products, including soybeans, corn, beef, pork, dairy, distillers’ grains and pet food, also reached all-time highs.

China remained the top export destination, with a record \$33 billion in purchases, up 25% from 2020, while Mexico inched ahead of Canada to capture the No. 2

position with a record \$25.5 billion, up 39% from last year.

For a detailed summary of 2021 U.S. agricultural exports by market, view the 2021 U.S. agricultural exports by market summary at <https://bit.ly/3p10GHL>.

▶▶▶ Repro leader honored

David Patterson, University of Missouri’s (MU) Chancellor’s Professor in the Division of Animal Sciences, received the inaugural Achievement Award from the Missouri Livestock Symposium Dec. 3. Patterson will become a member of the Missouri Livestock Symposium Hall of Fame. The award recognizes livestock industry leaders for career achievements.

Patterson’s research efforts gained wide industry acceptance over the course of his career, resulting in new strategies to synchronize estrus and ovulation in postpartum beef cows and replacement heifers. His work led to the development of the Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program, a program that enables participants to make practical production, management

and marketing decisions based on economics. Patterson was a founding member and chair of the Beef Reproduction Task Force, a group formed to provide scientific-based recommendations for the application of reproductive technologies in cattle.

▶▶▶ Ag economy barometer declines, producers concerned

Farmer sentiment weakened in January according to the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer, which declined 6 points to 119, down from 125 a month earlier, report James Mintert and Michael Langemeier of the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture. The month’s decline leaves the barometer just three points higher than in November. It is the second-lowest sentiment reading since July 2020.

January’s sentiment decline was driven primarily by weaker perceptions regarding the current situation. The *Index of Current Conditions* fell 13 points from the month previous to 133. Concerns about rising input costs and ongoing supply chain disruptions contributed to weakness in the current conditions index.

The *Index of Future Expectations* changed little in January, falling just two points from a month earlier to 112. However, future expectations index values have been weak dating back to September as the index ranged from a low of 110 to a high of 116 from September 2021 through January 2022. This contrasts with future expectations readings from January through August 2021 that averaged 147.

The Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer sentiment index is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers’ responses to a telephone survey. The January survey was conducted from Jan. 17-21, 2022.

For more about the report, visit <https://bit.ly/33xlyFm>.

▶▶▶ USDA, DOJ launch tool to report anticompetitive practices

Farmers and ranchers now can anonymously report potentially unfair and anticompetitive practices in the livestock and poultry sectors using an online tool the USDA and Justice (DOJ) launched Feb. 3. The launch of the new tool, located at <https://www.usda.gov/farmerfairness>, will advance the goals of the Biden-Harris administration’s “Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain,” including by creating more competitive agricultural markets that are fairer to producers and consumers. The agencies are signing an interagency Memorandum of Understanding to further foster cooperation and communication between the agencies and effectively process the complaints received through the portal.

Complaints or tips will go through a preliminary review by USDA Packers and Stockyards Division staff and DOJ staff. If a complaint raises sufficient concern under the *Packers and Stockyards Act* or antitrust laws, it will be selected for further investigation by the appropriate agency. This

action may lead to the opening of a formal investigation.

Users can submit information under their names or anonymously. If a complainant provides their personal information, DOJ or USDA staff will only contact them if additional information is needed.

The meatpacking industry has consolidated rapidly in recent decades. Meanwhile, farmers’ share of the value of their agricultural products has decreased, and poultry farmers, hog farmers, cattle ranchers and other ag workers may struggle to retain autonomy and to make sustainable incomes. For example, ranchers received more than 60¢ of every dollar a consumer spent on beef 50 years ago, compared to approximately 39¢ today.

Producers who prefer not to use the portal can submit complaints or tips about potentially anticompetitive practices by emailing PSDComplaints@usda.gov; calling 833-342-5773; or mailing Stop 3601, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-3601.



The 2022-2023 Henry C. Gardiner Scholarships were awarded to (from left) Sage Dierks, Lukas Dierks, Joshua Waller, Chesney Effling, Grace Knepp and Riley Krehbiel.

▶▶▶ **Henry C. Gardiner scholars announced**

Six students earned Henry C. Gardiner Scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year: twin brothers Sage and Lukas Dierks, Douglass, Kan.; Joshua Waller, Hoehne, Colo.; Chesney Effling, Highmore, S.D.; Grace Knepp, Lincolnville, Kan.; and Riley Krehbiel, Kingman, Kan.

Thirty-three students, the largest group to date, applied for this year's scholarships. Academic standing, community service, work ethic and future goals are taken into consideration. A panel of Kansas State University (K-State) faculty and industry leaders review the applications. Finalists are selected and compete in a rigorous interview process.

The students are academically elite ag undergraduates enrolled at K-State and plan to continue careers in agriculture.

"Dad was passionate about education, critical thinking and lifelong curiosity," said Mark Gardiner. "Henry was adamant that students should have the opportunities to succeed. The six recipients of the Henry C. Gardiner scholarships are models for the level of excellence Dad would have appreciated."

The Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship is made possible through the contributions of Gardiner customers, friends and family. To date, 42 undergraduate students have received \$195,500 in scholarships.

Students classified as a rising-junior, junior or senior, either

enrolled in or planning to enroll at Kansas State University with a major in Animal Science and Industry or closely related field may apply. Scholarships are awarded annually to students meeting rigorous criteria and exhibiting a commitment to focus on improving the beef industry and food animal production.

More information can be found at www.gardinerangus.com.

▶▶▶ **Did you miss these stories?**

The *Angus Beef Bulletin's* digital supplement, the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*, is published twice per month and has plenty of exclusive content. If you're not subscribed, you may have missed these recent articles:

- ▶ Challenges and Costs of Keeping Bulls
- ▶ Cost-effective Management Practices
- ▶ Feeding Cows During Feed Shortages
- ▶ Congestive Heart Failure in Fed Cattle
- ▶ Direct-marketing Beef

Check out these articles and more at www.angusbeefbulletin.com/extra.

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published until June. In the meantime, don't miss out on valuable information that

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