

Over My Shoulder

A monthly review of the livestock market by J.D. Sartwelle, Jr.

July was a most eventful month for the industry. And it all started with abnormal and most unusual amounts of rainfall over a large portion of the state...and as usual, it rained on some and didn't rain on others.

Once again, the shifting rainfall patterns of the past few years have brought great relief during June or July following relative dry springs.

July rains came too late for most crop boys, grew a lot of grass for cowboys, and kicked off a round of hay making that relieved the minds of many as they gathered hay needs for the coming winter and maybe even gave them a little to sell to their neighbors.

The coastal bend fared best while others continue to need

more. Extreme heat took a toll in the West and North Central Plains states.

The industry saw much activity outside of the production arena.

On the BSE front, we observed Canada finding their sixth and seventh case of BSE; one a 12-year-old cow and one a 50-month-old cow that will redefine much of our thinking and doing.

Quickly, USDA withdrew the rule to allow cattle older than 30 months of age into the US.

During the month, USDA also announced plans to phase out the BSE Enhanced Surveillance Program that will reduce the number of animals that the US tests for BSE from 1000 per week to about 100.

The scientists say it is statisti-

cally valid and in line with international standards.

Break through trade news at the end of the month, saw Japan make their announcement to resume trade very quickly.

In the meantime, Malaysia opened up at the first of the month while Korea and Taiwan continue to find ways to drag their feet.

On the trade front, the World Trade Organization Doha Round saw negotiations break down after major trading nations reached an impasse.

Agriculture and beef were at the center of the controversies; and will probably prevent the US from coming up with a new Farm Bill, as we'll probably see a one-year extension of the current farm bill before we'll see another.

In the congress, a new horse

slaughter bill will be debated in the house probably beginning in September.

In the feedyards, where the month started with optimism because of better than expected prices, a relatively high priced red meat trade, supportive futures, and a bullish June Cattle on Feed Report, soon fell to disarray.

It seems that we simply can't stand any kind of good news without finding some kind of negatives to take its place.

By the second week of the month, the meat trade turned south, live cattle pricing became non-existent, and a large carry over seemed to stymie the market as weights crept upward, futures backed off, and choice beef lost \$10 from the beginning of the month.

At end of month, the July COF Report was as bearish as the previous month was bullish.

Heavy placement in June made for an increase of five percent more cattle on feed despite a six percent increase in marketings.

When it's all said and done when the industry finally figures out the big increase in placements came only in the lighter weights and not in the heavy weights, the news probably won't be as bad as first thought.

At end of month, the cumulative bad news, despite a supportive futures trade caused a trade below eighty dollars for the first time in a couple of months.

Meanwhile in the country and at the markets, where the

rains fell, market runs fell back to seasonally normal patterns while the areas that received little or no moisture began to sell more and more cattle to include large numbers of smaller calves and cows.

For the most part, calf prices were fairly immune to the industry bad news as they basically ended the month about like they started.

At months end the better light-weight steer calves could sell up to \$1.90-\$2, the three weigh calves to \$1.60, the four weights to \$1.40+, the five weights to \$1.25+ with the

heifer cattle not far behind. Not so with the cows and bulls, as by month's end it took a really good utility cow to bring \$47 and a really good bull to bring \$58.

The pork trade slipped back to hot summer month patterns as the top weight barrows and gilts traded high forties to low fifties for the month.

Except for month's end, July temperature moderated, we saw abnormal moisture and might even see it extend into August; it wouldn't bother any one that I know.



2006 State 4-H Dog Show:

Shown are members of the Colorado County 4-H Dog Club - PHYDO - with their dogs, winning trophies and ribbons, parents, and 4-H club manager. Left to right: Stacy Jobe and Zoomer, Jeri Jobe, Maggie O'Neil and Honzie, Joanna O'Neil, Kayley Kovar-Club Manager, Courtney Ashorn, Jamie Orser and Kamerad Aurora Borealis

Area 4-H'ers Compete At Dog Show

Three members of the Colorado County 4-H Dog Club - PHYDO - and their Club Manager, Kayley Kovar, traveled to Hutto to compete at the 2006 State 4-H Dog Show.

The 36th Annual State Dog Show was held July 14th and 15th at the Triple Crown Dog Academy.

These 4-H youth and their dogs competed for 2 days against other 4-H youth in the conformation and showmanship divisions, costume contests and obedience

trials. Other competitions held during the State Dog Show were Freestyle and Costume Drills.

Each member and their dog were successful and placed first in their conformation class.

Maggie O'Neil placed first in the Hound division with her dachshund, Honzie; Jamie Orser placed first in the Working Breed division with her Standard Schnauzer, Kamerad Aurora Borealis; and Stacy Jobe placed first

in the Mixed Breed Dog-Under 25 pounds with Zoomer.

In the Costume Contests Maggie and Honzie placed first in the Intermediate Division and Stacy and Zoomer placed eighth in the Senior Division.

Anyone interested in the Colorado 4-H Dog Club - PHYDO - or in participating in the 4-H Dog Project can contact the County Extension Office at 979-732-2530. Sign up for the 2006-2007 year will begin in September.

Tractor Pull Slated At County Fair

The 28th Colorado County Fair will be held on Sept. 14, 15, 16 and 17. The Fair will present the 17th Annual Antique Engine, Tractor and Equipment Show and the 5th Annual Tractor Pull on Saturday Sept. 16 in Columbus.

The Colorado County Fair Grounds are located 1.5 miles north of I-10 on the Hwy. 71 By-Pass.

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the exhibitors for the antique engine, tractor and equipment show move in and register for judging.

TATPA rules will apply for all tractor classes.

For more information please call Keith Potter at 979-732-6201 and Franklin Hudec at 713-224-5326.

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Los Padres de la Senorita Juana Maria Martinez cordialmente a todos los que quieren acompañarla en sus 15 años que se llevara a cabo este Sabado 5 de Agosto del 2006 en el Community Center. La comida sera de 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Baile de 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. con el grupo Espuelon de Oro. Atta. Maria Carrillo y Juan Martinez

St. Michael HARVEST FEAST

Sunday, August 13

Veteran's Memorial Park • Weimar, Texas

Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner

Beginning 11 a.m. Adults \$6.50 Children \$4 (12 & Under)

Drive thru take-home plates available at St. Michael Family Center Only

Auction 1:30 p.m.

Bingo 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. In Air Conditioned Hall License 1-74-1110101-1	Hamburgers & Cold Drinks
Train Ride	Ring Toss
Cake Walk	Treasure Chest Booth
Putt-Putt Golf	Moon Walk
	Fish Pond
	Lots More!

*** Drawing 9:30 p.m. ***

Shiner Hobo Band Noon till 2 pm

Czechaholics 2 to 6 pm

The Red Ravens 6 to 10 pm

Men's Softball Tournament Saturday & Sunday

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Twenty-four Sentenced In County Court

Twenty-four individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, July 26.

They included:

-James David Bruce, possession of marijuana, three days jail, \$350 fine.

-Juan Deanda, driving while intoxicated, pled to obstruction of highway, one year deferred adjudication, \$2,000 fine, attend driving while intoxicated class.

-Nicholas Anthony Gaston, possession of marijuana, one year deferred adjudication, \$500 fine.

-Michael Trehan Harris, driving while license invalid with previous conviction, 90 days jail; driving while license invalid, 90 days jail.

-Edward James Hernandez, fleeing police officer, 60 days jail.

-Stephanie D. Jackson, assault causes bodily injury, 30 days jail.

-Samuel A. Miller, theft stolen property of less than \$500 by check, \$100 fine, reduced to Class C.

-Raymond Navarro Jr., driving while license invalid, three days jail, \$350 fine.

-Michael Anthony Stafford, JP appeal, six months deferred adjudication, \$300 fine, 30 days jail, driver license suspension and alcohol awareness courses.

-Jehel A. Toles, possession of marijuana, 30 days jail.

-Stevan Wayne Torres, criminal trespass in habitation/super fund site, 90 days jail.

-Jesse S. Benavidez, possession of marijuana, one year deferred adjudication, \$250 fine.

-John A. Bravo, theft of less than \$500, three days jail, \$500 fine.

-Jason Cockren, driving while intoxicated, 60 days jail, \$500 fine, 12-months driver license suspension.

-Roy A. Ellerbe, possession of marijuana, 12 days jail, \$500 fine.

-Roderick A. Fluellen, driving while license invalid, three days jail, \$350 fine.

-Adrian Martinez, driving while license invalid, three days jail, \$350 fine.

-Brian Y. Montgomery, possession of marijuana, 20 days jail.

-David W. Schriefer, driving while intoxicated, 10 days jail, \$500 fine, six months driver license suspension.

-Michael S. Silgero, driving while intoxicated, seven days jail, \$1,500 fine, one-year driver license suspension and \$4,400 judgment lien.

-Ingrid Lavonn Tisdell, theft, stolen property of less than \$500 by check, two year deferred adjudication, \$100 fine and \$374.95 restitution.

-George A. Voss, driving while license invalid, three days jail, \$350 fine.

-Sheryl Wiese, theft stolen property of less than \$500 by check, \$530.35 restitution.

-Russell Smidovec, three days jail, \$500 fine.

One Suit Filed In District Court

One civil suit was filed in Colorado County District in the past week. On July 31,

Citibank (South Dakota NA) filed suit against Marlene Castleman in a dispute on payment for a credit card account. The suit claims \$5,906 is due on the account.

Twelve Sentenced In District Court

Twelve individuals were sentenced in proceedings on July 27 before District Judge Dwight Peschel in Colorado County District Court.

Those sentenced included:

-Frank Ashton, seven years in prison for possession of a controlled substance on May 29.

-Tyrone Berry, eight years in prison for possession of a controlled substance on Feb. 18.

-Willie Ladon Connor, five years in prison for evading arrest on March 8.

-Osiel Flores Garcia, six months in state jail for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on May 8.

-Christina Llanos, probation modified to include 60 days in jail for criminally negligent homicide on Nov. 5, 2004.

-Cruz Martin Molina, two years prison for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon on June. 6.

-Christopher Reed, probation modified for possession of a controlled substance on Aug 22, 2005, ordered to report to the Intermediate Sanction Facility.

-Reginal Scott, probation modified for delivery of a controlled substance, ordered to report to the Central Texas Treatment Center for four to 24 months.

-Dwayne Sidney, sentenced to three years in prison on two charges of assault on a public servant on Feb. 8.

-Willie Smith Jr., order to serve 50 days in jail for criminal trespass on April 25, reduced from burglary.

-Robert A. Stephan, sentenced to three years in prison for DWI on April 8.

-Robert Wayne Stevens, probation revoked and sentenced to

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