

National Weekly Lamb Report

Des Moines, Iowa
February 12, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB REPORT for week ending Monday, Feb. 10: SLAUGHTERED LAMB PRIOR WEEK: From Forward Contracts: Domestic: Imported 0. From Formula Arrangements: Domestic 21,069 head; Imported: 2,255.

SLAUGHTERED PACKER OWNED SHEEP: DOMESTIC: 730 head, 68-72 lbs

(avg. 67 lbs); dressing 50.0-50.0%, avg. 50.0%; Choice or better 100.0%. IMPORTED: None.

FORWARD CONTRACT PURCHASES: No trade reported.

FORMULA PURCHASES: DOMESTIC: 1,348 head, 49-65 lbs (avg. 59.8 lbs) 163.80-174.53, wtd. avg. price 168.84; 6,315 head, 66-75 lbs (avg. 70.7 lbs) 163.53-178.44, wtd. avg. price 170.98; 10,479 head, 76-85 lbs (avg. 76.6 lbs) 162.19-175.40 (165.05).

IMPORTED: 1,841 head, 70-80 lbs (avg. 72.9 lbs) 149.74-167.34, wtd. avg. price 158.77.

National Sheep Summary

San Angelo, Texas

February 11, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

At midwest market centers all classes steady. At New Holland, PA slaughter lambs steady to 5.00 higher and slaughter ewes steady. At Billings, MT compared to two weeks ago slaughter ewes 4.00 higher; feeder lambs steady to 2.00 higher. At San Angelo, TX slaughter lambs and slaughter ewes weak to 1.00 lower; feeder lambs not well tested. Estimated receipts 7,000 head for today.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Choice and Prime 2-3 90-150 lbs: San Angelo: shorn and woolled 85.00-95.50; few 96.00-99.00. Midwest: shorn 83.00-90.00; woolled 86.00-88.00. New Holland: 70-110 lbs 110.00-144.00; 110-140 lbs 90.00-130.00. Virginia: no test.

SLAUGHTER EWES: San Angelo: Good and Choice 2-4 35.00-41.00; Good 2-3 45.00-56.50; Utility and Good 1-3 51.00-58.50; Utility 1-2 41.00-52.00; few Cull and Utility 1-2 30.00-40.00. Midwest: Utility and Good 1-3 33.00-38.00; Cull 1 23.00-33.00. New Holland: Good and Choice 2-4 75.00-90.00; Utility and Good 1-3 50.00-82.00. Billings: Good 2-3

44.50-49.00; Utility 1-2 35.00; Cull 1 27.00-30.00. Virginia: no test.

FEEDER LAMBS: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: 70-90 lbs 93.00-99.00; new crop 40-60 lbs 110.00-115.00; 60-70 lbs 105.00-113.50; 70-80 lbs 103.00-111.00; 80-90 lbs 100.00-105.00. Midwest: 60-80 lbs 95.00-105.00; 80-100 lbs 85.00-95.00. Virginia: no test. Billings: 70-80 lbs 109.00-112.50; 80-90 lbs 104.50-109.50; 90-100 lbs 96.00-108.50; 100-110 lbs 94.50-101.50; 110-120 lbs 89.50-94.50; 130-140 lbs 84.50-92.00.

REPLACEMENT EWES: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: Mixed age 115-145 lbs 60.50-65.00 cwt. Billings: no test.

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Sheep Weekly Summary

Springfield, Ill.

February 7, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Sheep Weekly Report (includes lambs sold in IL., IN., OH., MI.) — Compared to last week, slaughter lambs were mostly 2.00 to 3.00 higher. Lambs under 80 lbs were unevenly

steady. Ewes were 1.00-3.00 higher. Goats were steady. Demand was moderate good. Trading was moderate. Lamb prices were stronger ahead of the upcoming Muslim holiday. Carlot lamb carcasses were mostly firm to 3.00 higher on weights over 40 lbs. Carlot lamb carcasses under 40 lbs were sharply higher. Confirmed sales this week about 79% slaughter lambs, 21% ewes and an additional 563 head of goats. Total sheep and lambs sales 1000, last week 800, and year ago 1075.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Choice 2-3 110-130 lbs 86.00-90.00; 90-110 lbs few 92.00-95.00; 55-80 lbs 104.50-111.50.

SLAUGHTER EWES: Utility to Good 1-3: 41.00-46.00; Cull to Utility: few 38.00-41.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS (cwt.): Kids: Selection 2: 20-40 lbs 92.00-102.00; 40-60 lbs 90.00-92.00. Selection 3: 20-60 lbs 50.00-57.00. Yearlings: Selection 2: 70-90 lbs 57.00-62.00. Does/Nannies and Bucks/Billies: Selection 2-3: 80-125 lbs 45.00-50.00 This report covers sheep and lambs sold direct off the farm through local country stations.

Note: receipts do not cover total movement in the area.

Weekly Meat Production Under Federal Inspection

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 7 — (USDA-NASS) — Total red meat production under federal inspection for the week ending Saturday, Feb. 8, was estimated at 884.0 million lbs., according to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. This was 1.1% lower than a week ago and 3.5% higher than a year ago. Cumulative meat production for the year to date was 1.1% lower compared to the previous year.

MEAT PRODUCTION (million pounds)
(excludes condemned)

Week Ending (1)	Beef	Calf/Veal	Pork (2)	Lamb/Mutton	Totals (3)
08-Feb-03	499.9	3.8	376.5	3.8	884.0
01-Feb-03	506.4	3.8	380.4	3.4	894.0
Change:	dn 1.3%	0.0%	dn 1.0%	up 11.8%	dn 1.1%
09-Feb-02	483.4	3.6	363.1	4.0	54.1
Change:	up 3.4%	up 5.6%	up 3.7%	dn 5.0%	up 3.5%
2003 YTD:	2838.0	21.0	2136.2	19.6	5014.8
2002 YTD:	2892.8	20.8	2133.8	21.9	5069.3
Change:	dn 1.9%	up 1.1%	up 0.1%	dn 10.7%	dn 1.1%

1- Previous week estimates may be revised. Year ago data are actuals.
2- Excludes lard.
3- Totals may not add due to rounding. 2002 totals are subject to revision.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER (head)

Week Ending	Cattle	Calves/Vealers	Hogs	Sheep/Lambs
08-Feb-03	655,000	20,000	1,888,000	56,000
01-Feb-03	662,000	21,000	1,908,000	51,000
Change:	dn 1.1%	dn 4.8%	dn 1.0%	up 9.8%
02-Feb-02	634,000	18,000	1,840,000	57,000
Change:	up 3.3%	up 11.1%	up 2.6%	dn 1.8%
2003 YTD:	3,629,000	117,000	10,624,000	293,000
2002 YTD:	3,780,000	107,000	10,762,000	313,000
Change:	dn 4.0%	up 9.3%	dn 1.3%	dn 6.4%

AVERAGE WEIGHTS (lbs.)

Week Ending. LIVE:	Cattle	Calves/Vealers	Hogs	Sheep/Lamb
08-Feb-03 Estimate	1270	319	268	135
01-Feb-03 Estimate	1274	309	268	134
02-Feb-02 Actual	1260	335	266	141
DRESSED:				
08-Feb-03 Estimate	767	195	200	68
01-Feb-03 Estimate	769	188	200	67
02-Feb-02 Actual	766	204	198	70

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SLAUGHTERED BY CLASS

Wk Ending	CATTLE				HOGS		
	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Bulls/Stags	Barrows/Gilts	Sows	Boars/Stags
25-Jan 03	46.4%	33.9%	18.0%	1.7%	96.6%	3.2%	0.3%
26-Jan 02	47.1%	34.9%	16.3%	1.7%	96.7%	3.0%	0.3%

Plants Providing Weapon Warnings?

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Colorado State University biologists have been awarded a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency grant to examine the possibility of genetically engineering plants to rapidly lose their green color in response to biological or chemical weapons.

The scientists' goal is to develop simple and affordable plants that can quickly sense deadly agents and warn the public of danger.

"The increasing threat of terrorism presents a great need for simple and robust detectors of harmful biological or chemical agents," said biology professor and principal investigator June Medford.

"Plants have evolved elaborate mechanisms to sense and respond to their environment. By

using advanced biotechnology methods, we believe we can genetically engineer these mechanisms to produce plant sentinels that can provide an almost immediate warning of biological or chemical agents."

Medford and co-principal investigator Anireddy Reddy are working on phase one of the 18-month DARPA grant to create plants that act as detection systems that are easy to understand, affordable, available to a mass public and can work quickly. The scientists will focus on genetically engineering plants to lose their color in response to a chemical, biological or viral compound introduced into the environment.

"Since Sept. 11, 2001, national defense has taken on a different meaning.

America has always been somewhat isolated from global conflict by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; however, we now must consider that warfare in the form of biological and chemical weapons could be deployed at home by terrorists," said Reddy, who also is a professor of biology at Colorado State.

According to the researchers, plants, unlike some technologies being proposed to detect biological and chemical agents, are much more affordable and can last for years.

"People are accustomed to plants and not to chemical sen-

sors," said Medford. "Plant sentinels would be unthreatening to the general public and could be deployed in shopping malls and office buildings where people would recognize an immediate loss of green color. In addition, the loss of green color could be rapidly quantified by authorities with portable hand-held equipment."

In vast geographic areas, the researchers said that detector systems could be introduced into trees and plants typical for landscapes, such as evergreens, and aquatic areas, such as algae, allowing satellites to monitor and perceive any change of color in response to detection of adverse agents.

"The plants would provide warnings so people could immediately vacate an affected area, and then experts could verify exactly what the agent is," said Reddy.

"Unlike the Bio-Watch plan which would take 12 to 24 hours to detect and report pathogens, the plants would give nearly immediate warnings."

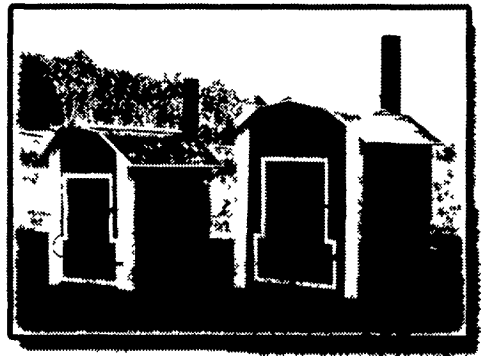
The Colorado State biologists would eventually like to create a separate type of plant and tree that would detect each type of threatening agent: biological, chemical and viral.

In nature, the color loss of plants and trees is a slow process; in the lab, the scientists are working to rapidly speed up that progression.



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AQUA COUNTRY IS PART OF MARCH 8 GROWER & MARKETER

We introduce a brand-new component of the *Lancaster Farming Grower & Marketer* section for the March 8 issue. It's called *Aqua Country*. Pages are scheduled to include reports on farming fish, including a large hatchery in Franklin County; trout hatcheries in Monroe County; a research update on the industry from select universities; and a listing and advertising from major aquacultural suppliers. Watch for it!

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