

Agriculture Risk Advisor

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FARM BILL UPDATE

On June 13, in a 20-1 vote, a Senate panel approved a modest, bipartisan rewrite of federal farm and nutrition programs. The sole vote against the bill was by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, because his amendment to limit subsidy payments was omitted.

If passed, the legislation would renew farm programs that include subsidies for crop insurance, farm credit and land conservation. It would also extend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly known as the Food Stamp Program—which helps feed more than 40 million people.

The House failed to pass a version of this bill in May due to a still unresolved immigration debate. Contrary to the Senate farm bill, the House is asking for greater job training opportunities for SNAP recipients. However, the bill has been heavily criticized for what some call a poor design and the possibility that it could exclude 2 million people from SNAP.

The current food and farm bill expires at the end of September. Although enacting the legislation this year is unlikely, a short-term extension is expected when the bill is brought back to the floor.

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NEW WEB TOOLS FOR CATTLE MARKET

Two new web tools created by the Noble Research Institute will allow cattle producers to easily access Oklahoma cattle auction data. The tools include a price slide table and market charts.

PRICE SLIDE TABLE

The first web tool is a breakdown of the price slide (PS) and value of gain (VOG) for the reported markets. The PS and VOG tool looks at the sales receipts for the selected market, as well as frame size, gender, yield grade and the sale date to give producers a glimpse at the type of cattle buyers are looking for.

Cattle with notes about their features aren't included in the table in order to prevent the PS and VOG from being affected. However, a link to the original USDA-AMS report is provided near the top of the page for producers who want more details and to see where the original data was taken from.

MARKET CHARTS

The second web tool is a set of charts for slaughter, feeder and replacement cattle. The tool offers an option to compare each group across whichever markets the user selects, either during a specific year or across years.

The auction comparison tool was designed to provide producers with information to help them in their marketing and purchasing options. By comparing years, producers can better evaluate how the current year is stacking up against previous years for a particular market.