

Angus Raisers Need Immediate Help To Revive Good Spirits

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MERTZON — Angora goat herders have cried so long now, no one remembers what their specific troubles are. Sidewalk observers are at a loss to explain why they are so grief-stricken; neither general practitioners nor specialists in human behavior can diagnose why the hair peddlers are suffering illusions of ill-being. But some people keep trying to pinpoint their ailment. Livestock market experts claim the past five years of sub-bottom packer and stocker goat prices have shattered the spirits of the ranches. These analysts contend that any time the price index of an industry falls 18 inches below the quotations on secondhand street cars, the participants are bound to suffer some symptoms of despair. According to this theory, the joy of any business is going to be dampened when the base product becomes harder to sell than false eyebrows in the heart of Borneo's bush country.

Newspaper editors stationed in the goat ranching areas blame the dismal price of mohair as the sole factor in the goatman's dilemma. Backed by interviews with warehouseman and mohair buyers, the newsmen argue that far too much emphasis is being placed on the steady decline in the mohair market. They say that as long as goat herdsmen allow their equanimity to be shaken every time the market drops a nickel, a downcast attitude is going to prevail throughout all of goatdom from time to time.

On the inside of the fence, spokesmen for the Anora people give a number of vague excuses for the gloom within their camp. One group seems to believe the modern tendency to foster, nourish and protect predatory animals whose favorite diet is goat meat could be a depressing factor.

Other industry leaders get involved in an effort to prove that the apparent daily increase in operating costs versus hourly decreases in revenue has shot to pieces the nerves of everybody in the business.

Oldtimers add to the confusion by claiming they can't remember a time in history when any goat owner was happy to learn that the net receipts of a truckload of young nannies would barely pay the freight to town.

It's impossible to say what might happen if the goatmen don't rally in the next 30 days. Not one in 20 is in any condition to withstand a light frost, much less a hard freeze.

Our only hope is that some textile manufacturer somewhere on this cold old earth will develop a sudden appetite for a few million pounds of hair.