

**MAIL BAG**

## Osage County, Missouri - hand count vs. machine tabulation

The Osage County Clerk's office had a request from a group of citizens that would really like to try hand counting in the April 2023 Municipal Election to see if it is something that we could move forward with. The Osage County Clerk's office was told by doing hand counting instead of the electronic tabulation that this process will be more accurate, less rejected ballots, save money and time for the staff of the County Clerk's office that handles the process of elections. As always, the Election Authority was willing to try hand counting for the April Municipal Election to see if this is something that would be more accurate, save time and money for the county. Plus, it would be a great learning experience, even if it did not work for our county, to at least have a plan "B" if something were to happen during elections that we would need to be prepared to hand count.

The machines that are used for electronic tabulation during an election is the Democracy Suite 5.0 ImageCast Tabulator (Optical Scanner) by Dominion. This type of device is in no way connected to any internet and does not have the capability to connect through wi-fi or blue-tooth. This type of device just scans each ballot, like a scanner on a copy machine, to an SD card for the image of each voted ballot as a backup. This machine is programmed on the card to calculate where the circles are filled in by the voter to determine the voter's selections of their ballot. This machine is similar to the device that was used in schools that scanned the students answers on the MAP Test (Missouri Assessment Program) that is mandatory. This machine also is programmed to notify the voter if the voter had over voted in a contest and will give the voter a second chance to correct their ballot before casting. The machine is very efficient in tabulating results. To determine that the results were tabulated accurately, the bi-partisan team will randomly select not less than 5% of our polling places to do a manual "hand" recount of each ballot to determine the accuracy of the machines. If the machine results and the hand count results are consistent with each other, the election can be certified. If the results do not match, the bi-partisan team has to go through the process until results match accurately. There has not been an issue with inaccuracy during these recounts since I have been in the office from 2015 to present. See statutes 115.225 and 115.456 for information on Automated Voting Machines.

Prior to the April 4th, 2023 election, the election staff had to prepare for the election. With the choice to try hand counting for this election it did include more steps than we were initially expecting. The election staff had to prepare another bag for our hand count teams, prepare and organize the supplies needed for hand counting as well as our regular supplies for our election judges. Our office did have help organizing the binders correctly, but I know in the future our office would need to take on that task as we won't always be offered

help. The main thing that caught our attention was the amount of papers used to prepare the binders for the hand count teams. So much paper and ink costs were added to this as well as the time used to print, organize, and reload paper in the copier. With a staff of only 2 other full time employees in a 3rd class county it was very overwhelming for our office as we really don't have any extra time to do more than what we have done in the past as we do have regular duties to attend to throughout the day.

During election day things seemed to run pretty smooth although we did have a fair number of calls or visitors asking why we are hand counting this time. All of those citizens that had reached out to us during the election were not in support of hand counting. When the time for polls to close hit, we were told that every hand counter is planning on being done by 8:30 p.m. to bring in their results to us. That sounded great. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Out of 11 polling places, 4 were in by 8:30 p.m. The other 7 arrived by 9:00 p.m., 9:15 p.m., 9:25 p.m., 9:33 p.m., 10:00 p.m., 10:09 p.m., and 10:37 p.m. Our election judges had to wait on the hand count teams to be done before they could lock the polling place up as they were in charge of the key by the building owners. Although our election judges are paid on a daily rate, they did have to wait around without extra pay due to this hand count process, and I am sure after a long 14 to 16-hour day it was probably exhausting and frustrating for some. Most citizens may not know this but when time goes on after 8:30 p.m. our office constantly receives calls from those on the ballot, boards, media, etc. asking when all of the results will be posted. It then starts to get very overwhelming in the office after that time if we are not close to being done. Our office did not get done with the election and posting until 11:15 p.m. (18-hour day). Working 5:00 am to 9:00 p.m. is a very long day and by 9:00 p.m. the brain may not be functioning as good as it did the start of the morning. To work even later than that it can cause human errors in staff and election judges and we really do not want to have any errors.

In previous April elections, 2021 results were posted and the election was done approximately by 8:15 p.m. and 2022 results were posted and the election was done approximately by 8:45 pm. During this April 2023 election with the hand count it took 2-3 hours longer for some of the hand count teams to return the results to the office.

Hand count also involves more citizens to work the election. Previous elections using electronic tabulators, we have only needed 28 citizens for an April or Special Election and 50 citizens for Primary and General Elections for Presidential, State, and County contests. If we were to continue hand counting we would need an additional 44 citizens to work. That would mean we would need 72 citizens for April or Special Elections and 94 citizens for Primary and General Elections. Unfortunately, we do not have

that many citizens in our county willing to be an election judge. This is also another cost to the election that would need to be paid if the citizen did not waive payment for working. Yes, we are able to use other citizens from different counties but I do prefer to use the citizens in our county holding elections. This hand count team that was used for this April Election only consisted of 11 citizens from Osage County and the other 33 were from other counties of Missouri. Their help was very much appreciated.

When Osage County announced that we were going to try hand count this time, I was asked by the Secretary of State's Office how I was going to make sure the hand count teams had accurate results. I was unsure what they meant. They proceeded to explain to me that when we use the machines we do a checks and balances by doing a manual recount of not less than 5% of the polling places to ensure accurate results for certification. They recommended that I get one tabulation machine to do an internal audit for accuracy on the hand count results. If there are any discrepancies between hand count and machine tabulation, the bi-partisan team would need to do a manual recount of that polling place to make sure we have accurate results when we certify the election with the Official Results. I had agreed to do this and thought it was a great way to do our checks and balances for accuracy since this was the first time this election group has done hand count and we want fair and accurate election results. During the internal audit we did notice a few discrepancies. I was actually very happy with the amount of accuracy these hand count teams had but there is always room for human error and unfortunately there was a few cases of human error. I had noticed in one particular contest that a few votes were accidentally transposed. The vote was counted towards one candidate when it should have been counted towards another candidate. In no way do we suspect this was intentional as human errors do occur. I am glad we were advised to take this extra step so we knew what polling places and or contests needed to be hand counted again by our bi-partisan team before certification to make sure all results were accurate. The other thing that was noticed during this internal audit was some voters that had cast their ballot in the box did not get a second chance vote if they had overvoted on a contest and with it being overvoted you do not know the intention of the voter and that particular contest could not be counted. Those voters may not have been aware that they had overvoted. If our machines were in use during this election, there would have been fewer rejected contests and the machine would have notified the voter of the overvote to give them a chance to correct the ballot before casting it and let their vote count.

Costs for this election were actually higher than the past April 2022 election that had the same number of political subdivisions and approximately the same number of voters as both elec-

tions had a county wide question on the ballots. Comparing the two elections we did save money from not using the tabulators. Tabulator costs include ballots, software, key coding, SD cards, and layouts that result in approximately \$14,000. \$4,200 of that cost is just for ballots alone. \$9,800 of that is for the remaining costs stated above. Since we did not have those costs for the tabulator, I thought our county would be saving a great deal of money. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

Last year the total cost for elections in April 2022 was \$20,796.18. This April Election the total cost was \$21,271.69. That is a \$475.51 difference. Potential costs for this election should have been \$25,278.21. However, we did have 36 hand count judges that had waived payment for services. If all wanted payment for their services it would have been \$4,705.70. We had only paid out \$699.18 for those that did want payment for services. That is a difference of \$4,006.52 that could have raised our total to the \$25,278.21 which was mentioned above.

After elections were completed, our office had many more calls from citizens concerned about the hand count process. A majority of our election judges raised concern of hand count and asked to please not do hand count again or they will have to quit being an election judge as it is very overwhelming and time consuming. I do understand their concerns and do take them into consideration. I have also contacted political subdivisions for their input on tabulation machines and hand count as these political subdivisions do pay for these elections and should have a voice. I have not received all political subdivisions preferences yet, but those that I have received thus far is unanimous preferring the electronic tabulation machines over the hand count.

Along with the extra costs for hand count workers that had only worked a few hours starting at 2 p.m. at four polling places and 5 p.m. at seven polling places, I fear costs would greatly increase for bigger elections with a higher voter turnout, hence more ballots to count. Another concern is the setup of some of the polling places we use are not accommodating to have a separate area for hand count teams to count in order to not distract the teams or the voters.

After considering all factors of this election and comparing it to other elections that are similar, I fear that if we were to continue hand counting it would cost us more in time, money, losing volunteers, and accuracy of votes. Our tabulation machines that the county uses for elections are faster, accurate and more efficient to get the job done. With the process of the recount when using tabulation machines, we can ensure there is no fraud and everything is accurate in a timely manner for our citizens. Our office intends to move forward with our tabulation machines for upcoming elections.

Nicci Kammerich,  
County Clerk/Election Authority  
Linn

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### South Central Regional Stockyards

Vienna, Mo.  
FEEDER CATTLE - MAY 3, 2023  
CATTLE RECEIPTS: 2112  
LAST REPORTED: 723 • YEAR AGO: 877

Compared to the last trended sale two weeks ago, feeder steers under 550 lbs 4.00-12.00 lower, over 550 lbs steady to 3.00 lower. Feeder heifers under 600 lbs 4.00-12.00 lower, over 600 lbs 2.00-4.00 lower. Slaughter cows steady compared to last week. Demand moderate. Supply heavy. Feeders were lower, especially the lighter cattle as big losses in feeder futures so far this week took a toll along with the dry weather becoming a major concern. Several nice cattle in the mix with numerous reputation consignments scheduled in for the next few weeks. Supply included: 94% Feeder Cattle (60% Steers, 39% Heifers, 0% Bulls); 6% Slaughter Cattle (90% Cows, 10% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 16%.

HEIFERS		BULLS	
Medium and Large 1		Medium and Large 1-2	
245 lb.	262.50	425 lb.	238.00
325-395 lb.	231.00-246.00	630 lb.	186.00
410-490 lb.	225.00-248.00		
505-590 lb.	212.50-231.00		
605-648 lb.	205.00-210.00		
710-720 lb.	187.50-189.75		
Fleshy: 465-475 lb. 214.00-227.00; 535 lb. 218.00; Unweaned: 430-480 lb. 207.00-220.00; 505 lb. 220.50; Full: 425-480 lb. 217.00-225.00			
Medium and Large 1-2		Medium and Large 2	
300-395 lb.	212.00-238.00	465 lb.	192.00
405-495 lb.	216.00-234.00	560 lb.	185.00
505-555 lb.	201.00-220.00		
645 lb.	201.00		
700-715 lb.	181.00-182.50		
Unweaned: 575 lb. 185.00			

STEERS		BULLS	
Medium and Large 1		Medium and Large 1-2	
280 lb.	260.00	425 lb.	238.00
310-390 lb.	240.00-270.00	630 lb.	186.00
400-495 lb.	242.00-281.00		
500-585 lb.	241.00-276.00		
610-685 lb.	224.50-244.00		
705-795 lb.	203.00-218.00		
835-840 lb.	190.00		
Unweaned: 425-495 lb. 230.00-242.00; 500-590 lb. 218.00-235.00; Fleshy: 455 lb. 243.00; 545-575 lb. 236.00-241.00			
Medium and Large 1-2		Medium and Large 2	
365-395 lb.	247.00-262.00	425-485 lb.	221.00-238.00
405-495 lb.	226.00-261.00	580 lb.	221.00
510-570 lb.	232.50-252.00	620-625 lb.	184.00-207.00
605-625 lb.	221.50-232.00		
720 lb.	213.25		
Fleshy: 450 lb. 227.00; Full: 430 lb. 237.00			
Medium and Large 2		Medium 1	
425-485 lb.	221.00-238.00	365 lb.	241.00
580 lb.	221.00		
620-625 lb.	184.00-207.00		
Medium 1-2		Medium 1	
330-348 lb.	230.00-235.00	365 lb.	241.00
445 lb.	238.00		

**SLAUGHTER CATTLE COWS**  
Breaker 75-80%  
1410-1465 lb. High Dressing: 98.50-99.50;  
1875 lb. Average Dressing: 98.00  
Bonor 80-85%  
1105-1305 lb. High Dressing 97.00-98.00;  
1105-1395 lb. Average Dressing: 88.50-96.50;  
1250-1350 lb. Low Dressing 86.00;  
Lean 85-90%  
1050-1095 lb. High Dressing: 89.50-91.00;  
990-1175 lb. Average Dressing: 80.00-89.00;  
855-1080 lb. Low Dressing: 70.00-76.00

**BULLS 1-2**  
2135-2150 lb. High Dressing: 120.00-122.00;  
1310-1920 lb. Average Dressing: 107.50-116.00;  
1870-1895 lb. Low Dressing: 105.00-108.00

### Callaway Livestock Center Inc.

Kingdom City, Mo  
573-642-7486

Feeder Cattle Sale every Monday, 12:00 Noon  
Slaughter Steers & Heifers sell first

**FEEDER SALE REPORT: MAY 8, 2023**  
3241 HEAD  
STEERS: 1768  
Medium & Large frame:  
Computer Avg. Top  
(37) 300 & down 254.00-302.50  
(134) 300-400 lb. 244.00-297.00  
(396) 400-500 lb. 248.00-292.00  
(602) 500-600 lb. 233.00-270.00  
(382) 600-700 lb. 218.00-242.50  
(52) 700-800 lb. 179.00-213.00  
(96) 800-900 lb. 185.00-202.75  
(13) 900-1000 lb. 162.00-175.75

**HEIFERS: 1126**  
Medium & Large frame:  
Computer Avg. Top  
(32) 300 & down 220.00-275.00  
(161) 300-400 lb. 210.00-245.00

(399) 400-500 lb. 209.00-272.00  
(284) 500-600 lb. 200.00-239.50  
(97) 600-700 lb. 183.00-226.50  
(136) 700-800 lb. 173.00-190.00  
(12) 800-900 lb. 133.00-160.50

**BRED COWS: 23**  
Better Cows: 1,100.00-1,425.00  
Others: 875.00-1,000.00

**PAIRS: 8**  
1,185.00-1,700.00

**SLAUGHTER COWS: 326**  
High Dressing: 90.00-108.00;  
Bulk: 80.00-92.00;  
Low Dressing: 80.00-85.00;  
Thin: 70.00 + Down

**SLAUGHTER BULLS: 33**  
112.00-129.00;  
Thin: 100.00-105.00

**STEERS & HEIFERS: 9**  
Choice 2 & 3: 159.00-177.00

\*Cattle low quality-no shots-unweaned bulls sold below above average

## OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

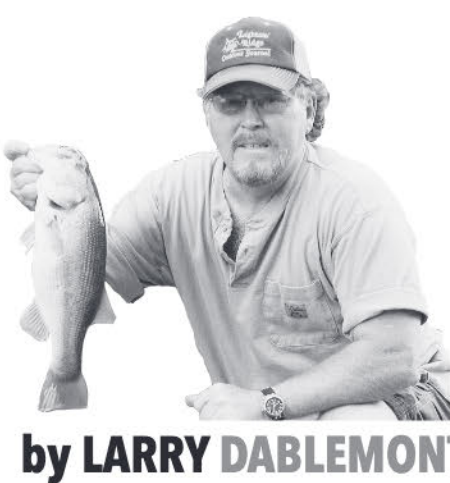
### Lunkers under the lights

Night fishing under submerged lights has supplied me with some great fishing memories and stories. I thought the other day about the great fishing Bull Shoals Lake had produced back when I lived in North Arkansas and my Uncle Norten was still alive, many years ago.

There was one fish in particular! We had fished most of the night, and by 7:00 a.m. I was bone tired. It was daylight, but the submerged lights on either side of the pontoon boat were yet burning, and threadfin shad were still circling by the thousands, their masses making a slight whirring, rustling sound in the water around us. The shad nets were so full of shad you could barely lift them out of the water. We had limits of crappie and walleye and a number of big white bass.

I hooked one of the thread-fin shad onto a quarter ounce jig-head I had just tied on, and cast it out away from the boat toward the steep rock bank about thirty feet away. Immediately a fish took it. I set the hook, and the fight was so-so, even though I could see in the clear water that it was a pretty good bass. In fact it weighed a little better than five pounds by my best estimation, even though it fought like a bass half that size.

Examining the fish, I could see why. Apparently it had been injured at one time or another, seriously enough that one side of its body was stiff and in-



by LARRY DABLEMONT

flexible, like it was made from a hard Styrofoam. I called Uncle Norten over to look at it, even though he had just landed a nice walleye and was much more interested in it than my rather ordinary bass.

And then he too was amazed. "Never seen nothin' like it," he told me. "That bass is stiff as a board. Wonder how he swum like that?" And that's when I said it. "Yeah, he's been injured and those muscles on one side have 'atrophied'. it's a wonder he has been able to survive."

A day or so later, drinking coffee in a small Ozark café just after sunrise, he told his buddies that on a fishing trip just a couple of nights before his nephew had caught a "petrified bass" of better than five pounds, twenty inches long and hard as a board. That was a story

even they couldn't believe! He had them looking at each other with winks and nods that had him a little miffed. 'If he said we had caught a petrified bass, they ought to believe him', he figured. I bailed him out by coming along a day later and putting an end to the snickers and winks. Uncle Norten hadn't exactly lied. The fish was atrophied, not petrified. And while they accepted what I said, they weren't real sure what the difference was either.

M y uncle wasn't actually lying; it was just a matter of choosing the wrong word! We are at the prime time for night fishing beneath the lights. On Bull Shoals the best of it will be the period of total darkness in late May after the moon is gone. You find a good place off the main lake channel, along a bluff somewhere and put out submerged lights, and wait for the threadfin shad to move in. There is no better place or method to catch a giant walleye than on Bull Shoals or Norfolk in early summer beneath submerged lights. My biggest walleye there on Bull Shoals was eleven pounds, but I was with a fisherman who caught a sixteen-pounder one early morning back in the late 70's. But in more recent years, there have been many four- to six-pound walleye taken from my boat on Bull Shoals beneath the lights in May, sometimes as many as ten or 12 per night. And the crappie there are huge, commonly thirteen- or fourteen-inches in length, and often

up to sixteen-inches. On Bull Shoals under the lights, three- to four-pound white bass are often taken, and once in the early 80's a Nebraska client of mine took a five-pound, four-ounce white, just a few ounces under a lake record

Night fishing beneath the lights on Stockton Lake in Missouri lasts through much of the spring and it too is spectacular at times. Just last week I went out on a 45-degree night when the moon was full. Because of the bright moon and cold, I didn't expect much, but between 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. I caught a limit of twelve- to fourteen-inch crappie and nine big whites up to fifteen-inches. None had spawned, neither crappie nor white bass.

We'll fish there with submerged lights again this week. On Stockton there are no threadfin shad, so you have to take minnows, or fish with white jigs or spoons, or white pork-rind. But there are plenty of nice walleye on Stockton too, though not quite as many nor as big as we find on Bull Shoals.

Write to me at Box 22, Bolivar, Mo. 65613 or e-mail me at lightninridge47@gmail.com

Our new spring magazine is out. Full color, 112 pages about the outdoors and the Ozarks. If you want to get a copy, call me at 417 777 5227. I hope you will take a look at my website sometime, www.larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com.

### MARKET SUMMARY

Thursday, May 5, 2023  
SPECIAL COW SALE RECEIPTS  
1668 HEAD  
PAIRS: 371  
1st calf heifers & calves: 2,650.00-3,000.00;  
Smaller: 1,900.00-2,100.00  
3-6 years with baby to 300 lb calves: 1,800.00-2,300.00  
Smaller: 1,500.00-1,800.00;  
6-8 years with baby to 300 lb calves: 1,600.00-1,725.00;  
SS & Aged with baby to 300 lb calves: 1,200.00-1,625.00;  
Smaller frame cows and calves: 1,000.00-1,200.00

**BRED COWS: 412**  
Better 3-6 years 2nd and 3rd period: 1,300.00-1,775.00;  
3-6 years 1st period: 1,200.00-1,375.00;  
SS & aged: 1,150.00-1,410.00;  
Smaller frame: 775.00-1,000.00

**BRED HEIFERS: 24**  
Several Medium Quality: 1,550.00-1,900.00;

**BREEDING BULLS: 56**  
Better Bulls: 2,900.00-3,550.00;  
Others: 1,400.00-2,400.00

**SLAUGHTER COWS: 401**  
High dressing: 95.00-108.00;  
Bulk: 80.00-90.00;  
Low: 60.00-70.00;  
Thin: 50.00 + down

**SLAUGHTER BULLS: 33**  
107.00-135.00;  
Thin: 75.00-100.00

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John P. Harrison (573) 220-1482	Eldon Foster (573) 234-6745
Claude Niemeyer (573) 470-1017	Glenn Stegman (573) 619-8495
Jarrod Simpson (573) 247-0786	Lynn Crouch (417) 399-4148
Roger Temmen (573) 680-4538	Chad Nickelson (573) 631-1627

Market Report - (573) 522-9244 24 Hour Recording  
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