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Could 2021 planting surpass 2017 record year? Time will tell

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. producers intend to plant an estimated 91.1 million acres of corn, and 87.6 million acres of soybeans in 2021, up less than 1 percent from last year, according to the USDA's Prospective Plantings Report, released March 31.

"Combined, corn and soybean acres would be an estimated 178.7 million acres, the second-highest acreage on record, behind only 2017, when more than 180 million acres were planted," said Shelby Myers, American Farm Bureau Federation economist.

"But with tightening supplies rapidly driving commodity prices higher over the last month, it's hard to believe farmers would not consider this incentive to plant more acres of both corn and soybeans, and surpass the 2017 record," she added.

Released annually in March, the Prospective Plantings Report provides the first official, survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers' 2021 planting intentions. The USDA's acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of nearly 80,000 farmers across the United States.

The report said planted acreage intentions for corn are up or unchanged in 24 of the 48 estimating states. The largest increases are expected in the Dakotas, where producers intend to plant a combined 8.9 million acres, an increase of 2 million acres from 2020.

In addition, U.S. producers across most of the Corn Belt intend to plant fewer acres than last year. If realized, the planted area of corn in Idaho and Oregon will be the largest on record.

The report also said U.S. soybean

growers intend to plant 87.6 million acres in 2021, up 5 percent from last year, the report said. If realized, this will be the third highest planted acreage on record. Compared with last year, planted soybean acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 23 of the 29 states estimated.

The report said corn acreage is expected to be the highest in Iowa at 13.2 million acres, down 3 percent from 2020, when 13.6 million acres were planted. Producers intend to plant 9.8 million acres of soybeans in Iowa this year, a 400,000-acre increase from 2020.

Iowa farmers intend to plant 150,000 acres of oats for all purposes, a 20,000-acre decrease from last year, the report said. Farmers also expect to harvest 1.15 million acres of all dry hay for the 2021 crop year, a 10,000-acre decrease from last year.

The report said the second-largest state for intended corn acres is Illinois at 10.9 million acres, down 4 percent from 2020, followed by Nebraska with 9.9 million acres, down 3 percent from 2020.

Illinois winter wheat area seeded last fall is estimated at 700,000 acres, up 23 percent from last year. Area planted to oats is expected to total 60,000 acres, unchanged from 2020. Producers intend to harvest 450,000 acres of all hay in 2021, down 8 percent from last year.

In Indiana, farmers intend to plant less corn and more soybeans, compared to last year, the report said. Acres intended for corn are 5.2 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. Indiana producers also intended to plant 5.8 million acres of soybeans, up 2 percent from last year.

(Planting Surpass on page 2)



Above: U.S. producers intend to plant an estimated 91.1 million acres of corn, and 87.6 million acres of soybeans in 2021, up less than 1 percent from last year, according to the USDA's Prospective Plantings Report, released March 31 (photo courtesy of the Iowa Soybean Assoc.).



Above: Llamas are a favorite with many 4-Hers. This llama is meeting the farm cat. Photo by Leondia Walchle

Public funding for Ag research and development is stagnant

By **Tim Alexander**
Illinois Correspondent

As Rebecca Tuxhorn was planning her dissertation while in the sociology department at Southern Illinois University, she was inspired by memories of growing up on her family's farm.

Her dissertation – which she successfully defended earlier this year – examined how women farmers navigate the gender structure of farming. Tuxhorn is currently a sociology instructor at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

She grew up in a farm family. Her parents lived in town, but after her grandfather was killed in farm accident, her dad bought the farm in central Illinois from her grandmother. "Being a girl, I did things like paint fences while my brothers were driving tractors. I never really questioned that arrangement.

"Eight years ago, I began dating someone. He wanted to farm. He thought since I grew up on a farm, I would know what I was doing, so he stuck me on a tractor. All the research I found talked about farm women, farm wives. It didn't talk about women farmers. That intrigued me."

To find women to discuss their experiences, Tuxhorn turned to Facebook groups for women in farming. She talked with 32 women in 11 states; one was from Italy. Twenty seven of the women are white and five are Black.

She was able to find a variety in size

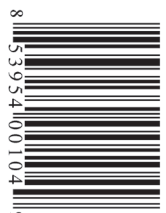
and type of operations. "They had to identify as a woman farmer. I had a mushroom farmer, corn and soybean farmers, an alpaca farmer. Others raised goats or cashmere sheep. Some of the women ran CSAs (community supported agriculture)."

Tuxhorn asked the women about their operations, how satisfied they were with their farming careers, if they had mentors and how they learned what they needed to know about farming. She questioned them about any barriers they'd encountered related to capital, if they felt accepted as farmers, what they liked and disliked about it and the division of labor on the farm. She asked if they agreed or disagreed that farming is a male-oriented profession and if they ever felt discriminated against.

"I believe women are looking to be seen as being as competent as men," Tuxhorn explained. "One of the biggest barriers I found through interviews and research is machinery. If you're not trained on the machinery, it can be very intimidating. This came up over and over – this connection to machinery.

"If you don't know about machinery and you can't operate it, that automatically limits you on the size of your operation. Most men learn how to farm from their dads. A majority of the women didn't learn from their dads. They learned instead through internships, books or the internet. It's so important

(Public Funding for Ag Research continued on page 3)



As spring blooms watch out for numerous tick varieties



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- Chris Peacock recognized as part of RLI's 2020 APEX Producers Club.Page 8B

Planting Surpass

FROM PAGE 1

Indiana winter wheat acreage seeded last fall for harvest in 2021 is estimated at 380,000 acres, up 27 percent from the crop seeded in 2019. Hay acres intended for dry hay harvest, at 520,000 acres, is 4 percent above the 500,000 acres harvested last year.

In Kentucky, farmers intend to plant 1.55 million acres of corn, 60,000 higher than 2020, the report said. Kentucky soybean acreage was expected to total 1.95 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year. Burley tobacco growers intend to set 36,000 acres for harvest, down 1,000 acres from 2020. Winter wheat seeded totaled 530,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year.

In Michigan, producers plan to plant 2.25 million acres of corn, down 4 percent from last year, the report said. Producers also intend to plant 2.25 million acres of soybeans, up 2 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 560,000 acres, were up 14 percent from 2019 fall plantings.

Michigan's area intended for harvest as dry hay, at 820,000 acres, is up 5 percent from last year. Oat planting intentions are up 7 percent from last year, to 75,000 acres. Michigan growers also intend to plant fewer sugar beets and dry beans in 2021 than they did in 2020.

In Ohio, corn producers intend to plant 3.4 million acres this spring,

down 4 percent from last year, the report said. Ohio soybean acreage is forecast at 5 million acres for 2021, up 2 percent from last year.

Ohio hay acreage for 2021 is estimated at 880,000 acres, up 2 percent from 2020. This includes alfalfa, grain, and all other types of hay intended to be harvested for dry hay. Winter wheat acreage for 2021 harvest is estimated at 570,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year.

In Tennessee, farmers intend to plant 1 million acres of corn, 130,000 higher than 2020, the report said. Soybean acreage was expected to total 1.7 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. Upland cotton acreage to be planted is forecast at 290,000, up 10,000 acres from 2020.

Tennessee burley tobacco growers intend to set 2,800 acres for harvest, unchanged acres from 2020. Winter wheat seeded last fall totaled 400,000 acres, up 100,000 acres from last year. Farmers also intend to harvest 1.7 million acres of all hay, down 49,000.0 acres from 2020.

The report said North Dakota is estimated to have the largest year-over-year change in planted corn acres, with an estimated 3.3 million acres planted, up 69 percent from 2020, when 1.95 million acres were planted.

Myers said, "When combined, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota lead the country in corn and soybean acres, with Minnesota being the only state with an increase in acres from 2020 to 2021."

The report said all wheat planted

area for 2021 is estimated at 46.4 million acres, up 5 percent from 2020, representing the fourth lowest all-wheat planted area since records began in 1919.

U.S. winter wheat planted area, at 33.1 million acres, is up 3 percent from the previous estimate, and up 9 percent from last year, the seventh lowest planted acreage on record, the report said. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2021 is expected to total 11.7 million acres, down 4 percent from 2020.

In addition, durum wheat is expected to total 1.54 million acres for 2021, down 9 percent from last year, the report said. All cotton planted area for 2021 is expected to total 12 million acres, less than 1 percent below last year.

Myers said, "Good news for farmers, tightened supplies and increased demand will help hold commodity

prices at current levels and could potentially drive them higher."

"Market reactions to the report's release caused corn prices to jump 25 cents on the day to above \$5.60 per bushel, and soybean prices to jump 70 cents to above \$14.30 per bushel, with markets increasing the daily price limit on futures contracts, 40 cents on corn, and \$1.05 on soybeans," she said.

Rich Nelson, chief strategist at Allendale, Inc., said he expected another higher trade last Friday (April 2) ahead of the three-day holiday weekend.

"Today's report likely disrupts the historical lower action in March and April that seasonals suggest," he said. "Some of today's bullishness will be blunted in the coming days by discussions about 'actual' acreage running higher than today, based on good planting weather ahead."

Quarterly USDA report shows grain stocks down

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. corn stocks totaled 7.7 billion bushels, on March 1 down 3 percent, soybean stocks, and wheat stocks were down 7 percent from March 1, 2020, according to the March 1 USDA Quarterly Grain Stocks Report, released March 31.

"Of the total stocks, 4.04 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year earlier," the report said.

Released the same day of the USDA Prospective Plantings Report, the grain stocks report said off-farm stocks, at 3.66 billion bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago.

"The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance is 3.59 billion bushels, compared with 3.38 billion bushels during the same period last year," the report said.

In addition, U.S. soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.56 billion bushels, down 31 percent from March 1, 2020.

"Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 594 million bushels, down

41 percent from a year ago," the report said. "Off-farm stocks, at 970 million bushels, are down 22 percent from last March.

"Indicated disappearance for the December 2020 - February 2021 quarter totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 39 percent from the same period a year earlier," the report said.

"On-farm stocks of wheat are estimated at 284 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March," the report said. "Off-farm stocks, at 1.03 billion bushels, are down 4 percent from a year ago.

"The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance is 388 million bushels, 9 percent below the same period a year earlier," the report added.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions totaled 42.7 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago.

"On-farm stocks, at 22.6 million bushels, are down 4 percent from March 1, 2020. Off-farm stocks totaled 20.1 million bushels, down 28 percent from a

(Quarterly USDA Report continued on page 3)



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Public Funding

FROM PAGE 1

to know women are just as capable as men. That message came through loud and clear.”

The women reported they had encountered some barriers in trying to access capital. Women don't have the background in farming and that lack of background and experience impacts their ability to secure financing, she said. “You can't just start farming, you need capital. One of those barriers was a lack of previous experience. The boys will be the ones inheriting the farm and will be the ones who learn how to farm. This lack of experience meant they needed to finance through sources other than farm loans and grants.”

None of the women Tuxhorn interviewed were able to access funding from the USDA. One woman told her if you're not looking for a loan for conventional agriculture, they don't know what to do with you.

Many of the women said decision making on the farm was pretty much equal. Not all of the women are married and for some who are, it is their operation and the husband works outside the home. In conventional farming situations, the women didn't seem to get as involved in decision making, Tuxhorn said. Some said they had no

input at all.

Some of the women she interviewed had a farm background while others did not. As for why those with no farm background opted for agriculture, Tuxhorn said, “You have a connection with the soil. I talked with a Black woman in her 20s. She grew up in the city. Her mother was murdered. Farming was a healing process for her. She connected with her mother through the soil. Black urban gardening was a healing process for her. People find the occupation and they fall in love with it.”

Chris Wienke served as Tuxhorn's dissertation chair. He is an associate professor and undergraduate director in the sociology department at Southern Illinois.

“I was very surprised at the class and educational characteristics of the samples,” he noted. “Well over half (of the women) were college educated. They had previous professions and turned to agriculture. They chose farming over the other options they may have had. I don't know if that's the same for men (in farming).”

Women who break boundaries in a male-oriented field have to present themselves as being better than men, Wienke said. Research such as Tuxhorn's may make people more aware of the situations women are facing, he added.

Quarterly USDA Report

FROM PAGE 2

year ago.

“The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance of 18.9 million bushels is 46 percent above the same period a year earlier,” the report added.

Barley stocks in all positions totaled 120 million bushels, up 4 percent from March 1, 2020.

“On-farm stocks are estimated at 55.9 million bushels, 8 percent above a year ago,” the report said. “Off-farm stocks, at 64.5 million bushels, are 1 percent above March 2020.

“The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance totaled 28.2 million bushels, 33 percent below the same period a year earlier,” the report added.

Oats stored in all positions totaled 51.5 million bushels, 8 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2020.

“Of the total stocks on hand, 16.9 million bushels were stored on farms, down 1 percent from a year ago,” the report said. “Off-farm stocks totaled 34.6 million bushels, up 13 percent from the previous year.

“Indicated disappearance during December 2020 - February 2021 totaled 11.1 million bushels, 78 percent above the same period a year ago,” the report added.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions totaled 137 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago.

“On-farm stocks, at 5.12 million bushels, are down 70 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 131 million bushels, are down 11 percent from a year earlier,” the report said.

“The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance from all positions is 83.1 million bushels, 3 percent below the same period last year,” the report added.

Sunflower stocks in all positions totaled 1.07 billion pounds, 40 percent above March 1, 2020.

“All stocks stored on farms totaled 415 million pounds and off-farm stocks totaled 659 million pounds,” the report said. “Stocks of oil type sunflower seed are 888 million pounds; of this total, 331 million pounds are on-farm stocks, and 557 million pounds are off-farm stocks.”

(Quarterly USDA Report continued on page 4)

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Quarterly USDA Report

FROM PAGE 3

"Non-oil sunflower stocks totaled 186 million pounds, with 83.8 million pounds stored on the farm, and 102 million pounds stored off the farm," the report added.

In Illinois, corn stocks in all positions totaled 1.23 billion bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2020. On-farm stocks totaled 530 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 703 million bushels. The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance is 616 million bushels.

The report said Illinois soybean stocks in all positions totaled 240 million bushels, down 38 percent from March 1, 2020. On-farm stocks totaled 90 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 150 million bushels. The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance is 298 million bushels.

In Indiana, corn stocks in all positions totaled 7.70 billion bushels, down 3 percent from March 1, 2020. The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance was 3.59 billion bushels, compared with 3.38 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The report said Indiana soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.56 billion bushels, down 31 percent from March 1, 2020. Indicated disappearance for December 2020-February 2021 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 39 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions totaled 1.31 billion bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago.

In Iowa, corn stored in all positions totaled 1.39 billion bushels, down 8 percent from March 1, 2020. Of the total stocks, 56 percent were stored on-farm. The December-February 2021 indicated disappearance totaled 484 million bushels, 23 percent below the 625 million

bushels from the same period last year.

The report said Iowa soybeans stored in all positions totaled 255 million bushels, 37 percent below the 403 million bushels on hand March 1, 2020. Indicated disappearance for December-Feb. 2021 is 151 million bushels, 37 percent above the 110 million bushels from the same quarter last year. Oats stored on-farm totaled 1.1 million bushels, up 22 percent from March 1, 2020.

In Michigan, corn stocks in all positions totaled 7.7 billion bushels, down 3 percent from March 1, 2020. Of the total stocks, 4.04 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, 3.66 billion bushels, were up 5 percent from a year ago. The December 2020-February 2021 indicated disappearance was 3.59 billion bushels, compared with 3.38 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The report said Michigan soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.56 billion bushels, down 31 percent from March 1, 2020. Indicated disappearance for December 2020 - February 2021 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 39 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions totaled 1.31 billion bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago.

In Ohio, corn stocks in all positions totaled 7.7 billion bushels, down 3 percent from March 1, 2020. The December 2020 - February 2021 indicated disappearance was 3.59 billion bushels, compared with 3.38 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The report said Ohio soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.56 billion bushels, down 31 percent from March 1, 2020. Indicated disappearance for Dec. 2020-February 2021 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 39 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions totaled 1.31 billion bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago.

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Vilsack: USDA looking to improve Food Box program

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
 Indiana Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack discussed his agency's plans for pandemic relief, equity and accessibility to programs during a speech before the 2021 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference.

Vilsack spoke March 17 during the three-day virtual event sponsored by Feeding America and the Food Research & Action Center. Vilsack, who served as agriculture secretary during the Obama administration, was confirmed in February by the U.S. Senate to head the USDA under President Joe Biden.

Noting the response of the USDA and administration to the pandemic, Vilsack said the 15 percent increase in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps) benefits has been extended through September. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefit has been increased about \$70 a month for the next four months.

The USDA is looking at ways to improve the Farmers to Families Food

Box program, he said. The Biden administration has extended the program through April. Meanwhile, USDA will evaluate the program and is seeking feedback from the public.

"We've heard a lot of concerns about it," Vilsack explained. "We've also heard some compliments about it. We are conducting, over the course of the next month or two, a series of listening sessions to get your feedback. What worked, what didn't work? What would be a better way to do this, what would be a way to modify or change the program so that more people would get help in a way that is most convenient for them?"

"We'll take a look at the resources we have available both through COVID relief through the American Rescue Plan, through our normal programs and try to figure out how best to allocate those resources in a redesigned way to make sure we get as much help to as many people as possible."

Moving forward, USDA will work with an equity commission "to look very closely and deeply into all of our programs to determine whether or not there is systemic racism in any of the programs, whether there are barriers in programs that prevent participation and if so, how they can best be removed. It's our responsibility, it's our duty, it's our moral calling to do this."

Vilsack listed some guiding principles for USDA over the next four years in terms of nutrition and food security. "First of all, I'm hopeful we do everything we possibly can at USDA to create a hassle-free system for those who need to qualify for programs," he stated. "We want full participation in these programs because they are so important in terms of providing a sense of hope, a sense of security, for families across the country."

"We want to make sure that when people participate they have access to healthy foods and we want to make sure that the benefits, when they are available, are conveniently available. We want to make sure that our consumers, as they are making choices, are informed about the healthy choices they can make and that there are incentives to encourage them to make those healthy choices. We obviously want a system that is a system with integrity but we want a system that's focused both on food security and nutrition security."

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Signs of inflation impacting commodities

Trade was surprised by the USDA's acreage estimates, as for corn and soybeans the totals were well below average expectations. Planted acres for this coming production year are predicted at 91.1 million on corn, 87.6 million on soybeans, and 46.4 million on wheat. These acreage estimates compare to the 90.8 million on corn, 83.1 million soybean, and 44.4 million wheat acres that were planted a year ago. The most



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

attention remains on soybeans, as even if the United States has a trend yield of 50.8 bushels per acre it is unlikely to produce a crop large enough to satisfy demand and allow for a build in reserves.

Quarterly stocks numbers were closer to trade estimates. As of March 1, the United States reportedly had 7.7 billion (bbu) of corn, 1.56 bbu of soybeans, and 1.31 bbu of wheat in inventory. These totals were all down from March of 2020 when inventory totaled 7.95 bbu on corn, 2.25 bbu of soybeans, and 1.41 bbu of wheat. There is little surprise that the most attention has fallen on soybeans to see if stocks will remain adequate through the end of the marketing year.

Now that all this data has been released, trade has started to incorporate them into current balance sheets. Not only is this for potential old crop ending stocks, but new crop production and carryout as well. Our next official view of these will come in the April WASDE report, but trade is showing more interest in the May release, as that will give us our first official look at new crop balance sheet projections.

A factor that is having more of an impact on commodities as well as other markets is the increasing signs of inflation. To see inflation develop when an economy builds is not surprising. This has been most notable in the energy complex with both crude and gasoline values on the rise. While this can cause economic pain for a consumer, it has been welcomed by the renewable fuel industry. Many plants have again been able to post favorable margins following the rise in energy values, as even with higher corn and soybean markets, energies have rallied harder.

The big question now is if inflation will continue to build and start to slow consumer demand. This could again halt the improvement we have seen in the renewable fuel complex. How much travel we see in the next few months will be a deciding factor in this development. With Covid re-

strictions being lifted many may opt to travel even if costs are higher. In turn, this will benefit other commodity demand such as in the foodservice industry.

The recent rise in the US Dollar has garnered considerable market attention recently, but this is reaching past the United States. At the same time the US Dollar has rallied, the Brazilian Real has traded to record lows. This has driven the value of Brazilian soybeans higher as they are based off the US Dollar, not the Real. As a result, Brazilian soybean farmers are making heavy sales to capture as much revenue as possible. This is also likely to encourage farmers to continue to expand plantings if they can keep selling at these levels.

While much of the interest in the market up to this point has been on exports, more is starting to be placed on domestic usage. Soybean crush has been above expectations for much of the marketing year, but there are thoughts this may start to slow. Many crush plants across the interior market claim they will soon take downtime for annual maintenance, and some may remain off-line until we get closer to the upcoming harvest given the current lack of soybean movement. While this is true for some plants, others are expected to remain in full production to capture as much of the current crush margin as possible.

We are also seeing differing opinions on the US ethanol industry. Ethanol production has been rebounding in recent weeks but remains well below the production volume of a year ago. Hopes are with the easing of Covid restrictions and the start of the US summer driving season we will see ethanol demand increase and production will rise with it. Even without domestic demand we are seeing record ethanol exports. As with all other commodities this is the result of Chinese demand, who accounted for 85.9 million gallons of the sales.

Secretary of Ag Vilsack has announced he wishes to expand the US's Conservation Reserve Program enrollment options to support ag prices. Vilsack claims he wants to work with states to offer higher payments for acres that are enrolled. He also believes this would help fight greenhouse gases. This is being questioned given the need for high US plantings to satisfy demand, especially on soybeans. There are currently 20.7 million acres enrolled in the

CRP, well short of the 25-million-acre limit.

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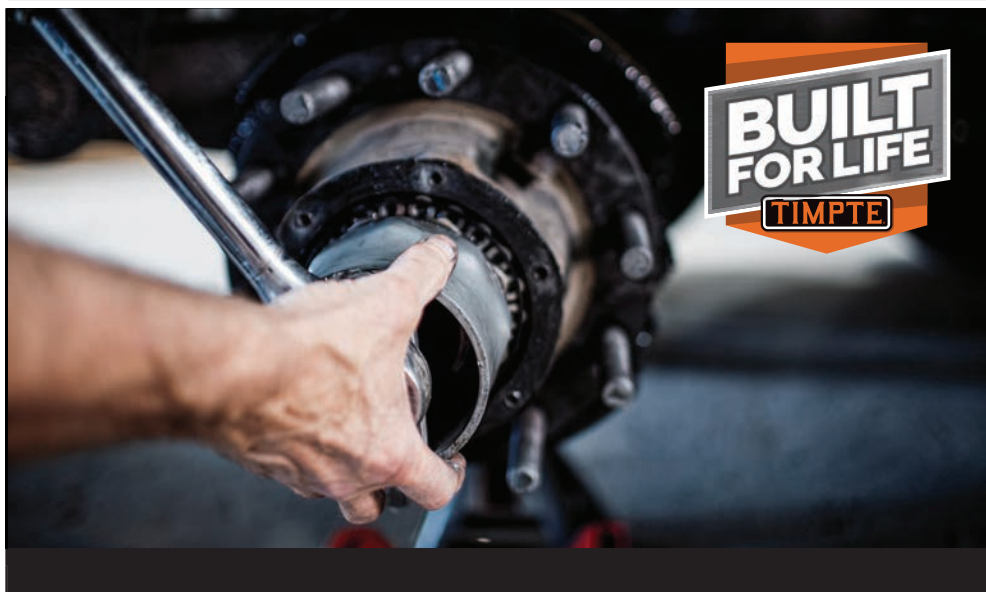
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Illinois Ag groups urge governor to incentivize farmers for environment

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A coalition of Illinois agricultural and environmental groups are urging Gov. JB Pritzker to recognize and help incentivize activities producers adopt to reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions and sequester carbon in soils. In a letter to the governor, American Farmland Trust (AFT) and 13 other Illinois farm and conservation-related groups identified no-till and the planting of cover crops as practices that should be encouraged to reduce GHG emissions associated with U.S. croplands.

“In Illinois, where over 23 million acres of cropland are available for the implementation of these practices, the potential benefits are substantial. In addition, this same set of practices when used at scale are key to achieving the state’s nutrient loss reduction goals — protecting clean water and restoring soil health,” the March 4 letter stated, in part. “Farmers across the state are already using their land for the development of renewable energy. They are implementing new, on farm technologies to become more efficient while also protecting the integrity of our food system.”

The letter went on to say that expanding farmers’ ability to use soils and agricultural practices as another tool for fighting climate change is the “next step to utilizing all our state’s assets to achieving our climate goals. We ask you to recognize the importance of these practices and to begin efforts to further utilize state resources and networks to promote climate resilience efforts on Illinois farmland. We are ready to assist in identifying goals and opportunities around this important work.”

The groups believe that attention to these practices, matched to the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) and other existing conservation infrastructure, can spur new investment and opportunity while fighting climate change. A recent study conducted by AFT indicates key conservation agriculture practices—

including crop rotation, mulching, strip-cropping, manure management and composting — have the potential to reduce millions of tons of new greenhouse gas emissions every year, while reducing excess carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it in ground soils.

“In other words, when these practices are put in place, it positions Illinois farmers to be a key part of the climate solution,” the letter stated. “However, Illinois’ farms have yet to be identified as part of the state’s climate strategy.”

AFT Midwest policy manager Max Webster said that as of March 22 the letter had not been officially acknowledged by the office of the governor.

“We have not received a formal response from the governor’s office yet but we’re in conversation and hope to have the next steps in place soon,” Webster said, in an email. “Given the load on the governor’s plate, we’re proceeding with patience which is something we just have to have at the current moment.”

The letter was sent just as the primary programs that support farmers in implementing environmentally sound production practices are coming up for review in the 2021 legislative session. The Partners for Conservation program and the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Premium Crop Insurance Discount program have been brought together in the same bill (HB179 and SB2474) as the Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act, pairing the state’s primary conservation programs together towards achieving the goals of the NLRs.

“This is a big deal. These bills need to be passed and funded this year or they could disappear, and Illinois funding disparities could get a lot worse at a moment when there is still so much work that needs to be done,” Webster said.

In addition to AFT, the ag practices letter to Gov. Pritzker was authored by Illinois Corn, Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois Soybean Association, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation, The Wetlands Initiative, The Conservation Fund and others.

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Michigan awards \$1.8 million for purchase of development rights

By Kevin Walker
Michigan Correspondent

LANSING, Mich. - A state of Michigan farmland preservation fund board has awarded \$1.8 million to several local governments to help complete the purchase of development rights of farmland. Purchase of development rights programs provide a way to financially compensate willing landowners for not developing their land.

Although the program allowing the creation of permanent agricultural conservation easements has been in place since at least 2005, the program was not sufficiently funded for about 10 years, according to Elizabeth Brost, the conservation easement coordinator for the state's Farmland Preservation Program. However, starting in 2016 there was a new funding mechanism to help pay for such easements. "In 2016 we got sustainable funding," Brost said. "We should have the funding every year from now on for \$2 million plus."

For this cycle, 24 local programs were eligible to submit grant applications for funding from the state. According to Barry Lonik, a consultant for Webster Township and Scio Township - each located due west of Ann Arbor, Mich. - there were 12 applicants for funding and seven of those received grants. Grants can only be awarded to municipalities, not individuals or other entities.

To qualify, a county or township must have zoning authority, be covered under a master plan that includes farmland preservation, passed a purchase of development rights ordinance and created a plan for monitoring conservation easements. Local programs are selected for state grants based on a scoring system adopted by the board, which focuses on quality agricultural parcels and program achievements.

The grantees included, Scio Township in Washtenaw County (\$825,000), Ottawa County (\$157,000), Kent County (\$201,294), Webster Township in Washtenaw County (\$200,000), Washtenaw County (\$244,800), Eaton County (\$46,725), and Barry County (\$130,000). Those farmland preservation programs will preserve 730 acres.

Farmer Mark Amsdill has sold development rights to his 120 acres of farmland in Webster Township, Mich. "It's what our parents would have wanted," Amsdill said. "My father was huge into farming. My father and mother passed, but it's what they both would have wanted. I feel great about this. I haven't heard anything negative about this program at all."

Amsdill said if he wants to he can still sell the land to another farmer, and he plans to do so at some point. He explained the purchase of development rights is the retail value of the land less the agricultural value of the property. As an example, he said if the retail value of the property is \$9,000 per acre, and the agricultural value \$3,000, then he would receive \$6,000 an acre for the development rights.

The fund will distribute \$1.8 million in grants covering up to 75 percent of the costs to purchase the development rights on the properties. In order to qualify for funding, the property must be an active farm. The state program also helps pay for some of the closing costs associated with the conservation easements. Local governments must come up with matching funds, however, a federal program at the USDA, called the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, also awards grants for that purpose and money from that program can be used to satisfy the local matching require-

ment, Brost said.

Brost noted that any land in the Ann Arbor, Mich. area and the Traverse City area are quite expensive due to development pressure. According to Lonik, the Scio Township and Webster Township properties are receiving 26 percent of their required funding from the state program, 49 percent from the USDA conservation easement program as well as a portion from the respective township governments. "Webster Township has a millage for this purpose," Lonik stated. "Voters passed on three separate occasions by at least 60 percent. We've also been very thankful to tap into the state program money," Lonik added. He explained that without the state grant, the Scio Township project could not have happened.

"At \$3 million, it's the biggest project that we've ever taken on, but we're confident now that we can do it, thanks to the state award," Lonik said. "The state award was really key to doing this."

To learn more about the preservation fund board and the program, visit www.michigan.gov/farmland.

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Organic micro-mill supports small-scale Kentucky farms

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Louismill is an organic micro-mill that produces stone-ground flour and grits. Stone-ground flour tastes better and is better for you than flour from a production-type mill. Louismill owner Tom Edwards sees that, along with milling corn into grits, as a way to support small Kentucky farms.

"We grow soft white wheat here in Kentucky," Edwards said. "The biggest challenge with farming small-lot wheat production is harvesting it. There are two methods: One is you have to cut it, thrash it and winnow

it, then clean it. That requires a lot of handwork. The second method is using a combine. They're expensive, large pieces of equipment."

Generating a lot of organic wheat in Kentucky is tough, Edwards said. He works with small-scale farmers, often with less than 10 acres. Farmers are familiar with corn, however. When they are finished with their organic vegetables and other things for the season, the corn for grits makes a nice cash crop.

As Louismill's production increased, rather than asking one farmer for more production, Edwards chose a different approach. As he

(Micro-mill continued on page 14)



Above: Tom Edwards, proprietor of Louismill, an organic micro-mill that produces stone-ground flour and grits. Stone-ground flour tastes better and is better for you than flour from a production-type mill.



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Indiana State Seed Lab has been examining seeds for 100 years

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

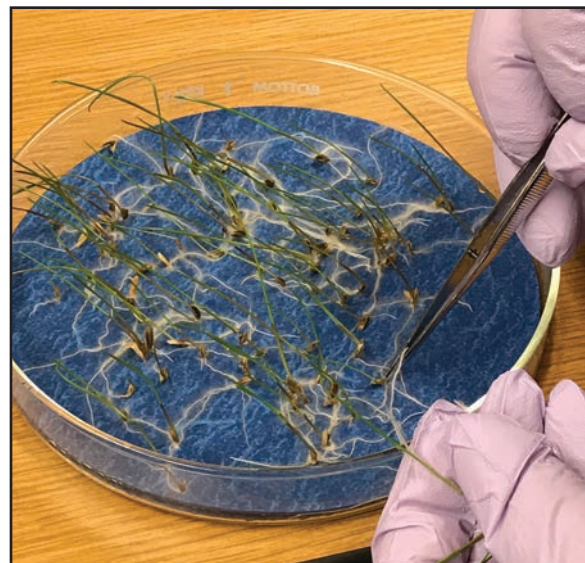
WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - The Indiana State Seed Laboratory, responsible for testing commercial crop seed sold in the state, is turning 100 years old in 2021.

The lab is housed in the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). It tests 2,500-3,000 seed samples annually for noxious weeds, purity and germination rates.

The state's seed law and the lab were created after some sellers were discovered offering seed with a lot of weeds in it, said Don Robison, seed administrator. The seed law sets labeling requirements for identification, purity and viability. Every state has a seed law but not every state has a state lab, he said. Indiana and 37 other states have seed labs. The remaining states use private labs for testing.

"The classification of professional seed sellers

(Seed Lab continued on page 13)



Left & Below: Ryegrass is tested at the Indiana State Seed Lab in West Lafayette (photo provided).



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Farm equipment sold at March Ohio auction

During a March 13 auction by Shane E. Sumner, of AA Brown Auction Service, a 1988 Case-IH 8920 MFWD (155 hp), s/n #89368, 3,573 hrs, 18.4x42 w/Duals, Front Weights, 540/1000 pto, 3 Hyds, sold for \$63,000. The auction was for Jim Evers, of Pioneer, Ohio.

Also sold were a Allis Chalmers D-17 Series IV, Gas, WF, PS, 3pt, w/Loader & Hyd Bucket, Good Rubber, for \$5,500, and a 1998 JD #750

s/n #27974 15' No-Till Drill, s/n #27974 w/Dolly Wheels & Markers, for \$19,250.

A Case-IH #496 18' Disk w/ Drag went for \$8,000; a JD #980 22' S-Tine Field Cult w/Rolling Baskets, sold for \$11,500; and a 1988 JD 7720 Titan II s/n #626354, 4,600 Hours, 30.5x32, w/Chopper was sold for \$10,000. A New Holland #461 Haybine, went for \$1,600, and Woods #184 7' 3pt Chopper w/Slip Clutch, sold for \$1,800.

Seed Lab

FROM PAGE 12

started 20-30 years before the seed lab began," Robison explained. "In Indiana, anyone could sell any kind of seed and get away with it."

Seeds are tested following guidelines established by the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

The lab tests seed from corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, vegetables and grasses, said Jessica McVay, lab coordinator. The lab will also test flowers and other seeds sent to it. If a problem is found, the sample is retested, she noted. If the retest finds the same issue, violation notices are sent out.

Sellers have 30 days to correct the violations. The lab may issue a stop sale order if the seller is in violation of the seed law due to having an expired germination test, an improper or missing label or they don't have a seed permit. The seller has 15 days to respond to a stop sale order. The lab will work with companies as long as they are making progress toward a compliant seed, Robison said.

The lab gives sellers the opportunity to change a label to reflect, for example, a lower germination rate, he stated. "There's a lot of incentive

for a seller to fix the label right away. Their incentive is they can still sell their seed. If a prohibited noxious weed seed is found, the lot automatically fails. We will do a third test if the seed has been cleaned and the seed distributor believes it is ready for sale. Depending on the value of the seed, it may be thrown away if prohibited noxious weed seeds are found."

The lab has been conducting more tests on cover crop seed over the last five years, Robison said. "Earlier, we had problems with some cover crop seed, especially rye. It was grown by farmers and had a lot of weeds and poor germination."

Some hemp seed sold to Hoosier farmers also had germination issues, he noted. "The biggest issue was the seed sellers weren't familiar with the seed laws. They aren't professional seed sellers. We had to do a lot of education. The seed has to be tested, it has to be labeled properly. The label has to be on the bag. This is where the seed law is equal for everybody, whether you know what you're doing or not."

Seeds to be tested are sent to the lab by OISC investigators who randomly visit sellers across the state. They pull bags of seed based on the amount of seed in stock - five bags plus 10 percent of the entire lot. Seed companies and farmers may also request their seed be tested. "We get professional bags of seed and we get it in coffee cans and panty hose," McVay said. "There isn't a charge for seed randomly pulled from sellers but we do charge for testing on seed sent to us."

The turnaround time for results is generally two-three weeks, though that is dependent on the amount of time it takes for seeds to germinate, she said. The lab charges \$6 per sample for a germination test and \$10 per sample for a complete test.

Indiana has 200-300 permitted seed sellers. Nearly all are sampled annually, Robison said.

The lab has five employees - Robison, an administrative assistant and three analysts, including McVay. The seven inspectors work for OISC.

"Each of our analysts is certified and has gone through rigorous testing," Robison said. "Most labs will have one certified analyst but not all. In our lab, everybody is certified in germination; two of the three are certified in purity. I'm very proud of our analysts. They're very good at what they do."

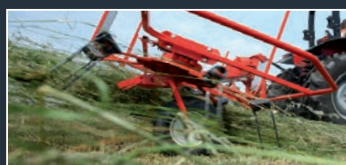
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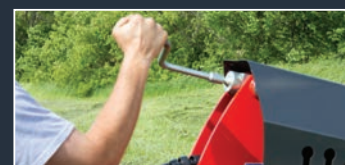
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Micro-mill

FROM PAGE 11

needed more product, he would add another farmer and allow them to share the benefits.

Edwards deals mostly with Mennonite farmers in the Liberty, Ky., area, he said. They do their work by hand. They harvest the corn when it is ready, not when it is convenient to get the combine in the field. They dry it on the stalks, which allows additional sugars to go into the corn.

At first, Edwards wasn't sure how much to pay the farmers. He knew the commodity price was not reflective of the true cost of farming. Rather than going with the commodity price, he asked a farmer what he would get at the feedlot.

"He gave me a price," Edwards said. "I said, 'if I paid you double that would that be attractive to you?' He said, 'absolutely!' It was an experiment where I saw could I do something where I break traditional rules concerning commodity and food production and create a winning environment where my customers get great ingredients that are grown responsibly in a sustainable environment by people who enjoy farming."

But would it work? It does, he said. Pre COVID they were shipping 4,000 pounds of grits a month to Washington, D.C., to a large restaurant group. Plus they sell quite a bit of retail.

"The economic impact for the farmers that we work with has been great," he explained. "It shows that a working farm model can work. We are willing to pay proper pricing for our food, it's just that the economics and the politics behind where we've gotten, no one is willing to change that."

Looking at traditional economics and applying it to the food supply chain doesn't work, Edwards said. Rather if the model got flipped, if one looked at microeconomics instead of macroeconomics, where you have thousands of small farmers nurturing and growing the land sustainably and responsibly, the consumers get better, healthier food at an economic cost.

"It's good for the farmer and also good for our society," Edwards said. "Our model economy is a little bit distorted right now. It is slow to change but I'm optimistic about it. We as consumers have to demand it. Hopefully, we can rekindle the small ag market to be able to have these kinds of local products."

Edwards is also the proprietor of MozzaPi Pizza, a restaurant on the site of the mill. He is a world-renowned artisan baker and has led artisan bread pizza classes in the United States and Europe.

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ISAP available to assist, educate farmers in carbon, water quality

By Tim Alexander
Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Farmers with questions about carbon offsets, water quality credits and other aspects of the burgeoning ecosystems market can turn to the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) for assistance.

"We have some tools and reports that can help you achieve a general conservation plan, help you know what to expect and help you decide if these markets are right for your farm," said Dr. Emily Bruner, ISAP midwest science director. "Depending on what level of interest you have in moving from practices to outcomes, there are a plethora of resources available."

Bruner referred interested farmers and landowners to USDA's COMET-Planner (www.comet-planner.com), which provides general estimates of the greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of certain Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practices. In addition, American Farmland Trust's (AFT) CaRPE Tool (www.farmland.org/project/the-carpe-tool/) expands the utility of the data reported by COMET-Planner by integrating cropland and grazing land acreages and data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Bruner further recommends consulting AFT's recent Combating Climate Change on U.S. Cropland report, which highlights an application of the CaRPE Tool along with a summary of the technical capacity of cover cropping and no-till to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions. Additionally, AFT's Guide to Water Quality, Climate, Social and Economic Outcomes Estimation Tools features 14 outcome estimation tools and two methods, according to Bruner.

The ISAP also provides an educational one-sheet for farmers and others who are confused by ecosystem market techno-jargon. Available for free download at www.ilsustainableag.org, ISAP's Ecosystem Market Information sheet includes definitions of ecosystem markets, carbon offsets, water quality credits and more.

"According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ecosystem services markets allow companies, communities and other beneficiaries to pay landowners and managers to protect, restore or mitigate for impacts to ecosystems. While many of the practices that offer the greatest ecosystem benefits are typically encouraged via traditional state and federal financial assistance programs, market payments are generated via outcomes verified at the field level and are not necessarily practice-specific," the one-sheet reads, in part. "Current active and pilot markets exist for several ecosystem services including carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, water quality and quantity improvements, as well as wetland and habitat creation, among others."

Common questions asked by farmers include, "What is a carbon offset?" According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a carbon offset is defined as a measurable reduction of GHG emissions from an activity or project in one location that is used to compensate for emissions occurring elsewhere. Carbon offsets are typically measured in metric tonnes (2,205 pounds) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e).

Also, "What is a water quality credit?" The EPA defines a water quality credit as a unit of pollutant reduction usually measured in pounds

(ISAP continued on page 16)

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3pt Hay Spear	2018 Corn Pro 16' Stock trailer	IH Manure Spreader
Grapple bucket	2015 -Easy Haul 20' Hay trailer (5 bales/bumper hitch)	2009 JD 620i Special Edition 4x4 Black Gator
Shaver HD -10 post driver/pounder. Loader attachment	PJ 25' Equipment trailer	2003 Yamaha Bear tracker ATV
Box blade	Cattle working system/feed lot (see pictures on website)	2017 Black Diamond 22ton log splitter
		New 10,000W gas generator

5744 E Smith Drive -- FARM items for sale/inclusion w/REAL PROPERTY: List Price \$699,900 (Option 2)

2010 John Deere 4720 Tractor/loader/backhoe	2 Hay rings	IH Manure Spreader
JD hay spear	4 Feed troughs	2017 Black Diamond 22ton log splitter
JD Pallet forks	1- 3000lb Bulk Feed Tank	New 10,000W gas generator
Cattle working system/feed lot	275 gal. Overhead fuel tank	
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ISAP

FROM PAGE 13

equivalent. Credits can be generated by industrial and municipal point sources implementing new treatment technologies or via implementation of management practices that improve water quality above an established baseline. General water quality market information can be found on EPA's Water Quality Trading Basics and Policy Resources page, the ISAP one-sheet noted.

The informational sheet also includes background on four current carbon market entities - Nori, Indigo Ag, Soil and Water Outcomes and the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium - along with information on contracts and payment schedules. These companies are among carbon markets actively recruiting farmers to implement new conservation-related practices on their lands, offering contracts ranging from one to ten

years.

"This document is a great resource for those who are ready to dig into what the ecosystems market can have to offer," Bruner said. "It will help you to discover what level of commitment and what market opportunities will best fit your farm operation."

Producers with questions about ecosystem market opportunities are welcome to contact Jean Brokish, midwest program manager for the ISAP, at (217) 281-1822, or via email at ilsustainableag@gmail.com.

"The Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership is a non-profit organization whose mission is to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland and promoting sound farming practices," said Brokish, commenting during ISAP's Farming for the Future: A Forum Exploring Ecosystem Markets webinar held Feb. 12, 2021. "There are a lot of questions about ecosystem markets right now. It's a hot topic of discussion."

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Reports are optimistic for exports of meat in 2021

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

DENVER, Colo. - While January represented a solid start to 2021, the U.S. Meat Export Federation cautioned that exports still face COVID-related obstacles, and significant transportation and labor challenges.

That's according to January data recently released by the USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

"As key destinations for U.S. red meat roll out COVID vaccination programs, the outlook for 2021 is optimistic, with retail meat demand remaining strong, and the expectation that foodservice will rebound in more and more regions," said Dan Halstrom, U.S. Meat Export Federation president and CEO.

"But transportation challenges are currently a dominant concern, particularly the congestion and container shortages at our West Coast ports where short-handed crews are handling record-large cargo volumes," he added.

He said labor is also at a premium in processing plants, which affects the industry's ability to fully capitalize on demand for certain labor-intensive cuts, and variety meat items.

"Although the global foodservice sector still has a long recovery ahead, international demand for U.S. red meat remains impressive and resilient," he said. "But a range of logistical challenges must be overcome in order to fully satisfy this demand."

The report said U.S. beef and pork exports opened 2021 below the large volumes posted a year ago.

U.S. beef exports totaled 105,047 metric tons in January, down 2 percent from a year ago, while value slipped 3 percent to \$653 million.

"The decline was due mainly to lower beef variety meat shipments, as muscle cut exports were steady, with January 2020 at 81,398 metric tons, valued at \$584.4 million (down 1 percent), and accounted for a larger share of production than a year ago," the report said.

January's U.S. pork exports totaled 248,656 metric tons, down 9 percent

from a year ago, but slightly above the federation's projections; export value was down 13 percent to \$642.8 million.

"Pork muscle cut exports were down 11 percent in volume (208,234 metric tons), and 15 percent in value (\$551.3 million), while pork variety meat shipments trended modestly higher than a year ago," the report said.

However, January beef exports equated to \$311.78 per head of fed slaughter, up 3 percent from a year ago, the report said. Exports accounted for 13.3 percent of total beef production, and 11 percent for muscle cuts only, above the January 2020 ratios of 13.1 percent, and 10.6 percent, respectively.

U.S. beef exports to South Korea opened 2021 on a very strong note, climbing 20 percent from a year ago in volume (21,355 metric tons), and 22 percent in value (\$158.7 million), the report said.

On Jan. 1, U.S. beef received another tariff reduction under the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement; the rate is now 13.3 percent - about one-third of the pre-free trade agreement rate of 40 percent - and will decline to zero by 2026.

"The U.S. has a tariff advantage, compared to Australia (18.6 percent), and Canada (21.3 percent) in 2021, and tariffs do not phase to zero for Australia and Canada until 2028 and 2029, respectively, under their free trade agreements with Korea," the report said.

Moreover, January was another big month for U.S. beef exports to China, which were up nearly 800 percent from a year ago in both volume (7,862 metric tons), and value (\$58.1 million).

"In September (2020), the U.S. overtook Australia as China's largest grain-fed beef supplier," the report said. "In January, Australia's grain-fed exports to China were 3,345 metric tons, down 49 percent from 2020."

However, Japan remained the leading volume market for U.S. beef at 22,018 metric tons, down 13 percent from a year ago, but slipped to second place in value (behind Korea) at

\$138.1 million (also down 13 percent).

"Most of Japan's major cities have been under a COVID-related state of emergency since early January that includes reduced hours for restaurants and cafes," the report said. "Restrictions were recently eased in some areas but remain in place in the Tokyo metropolitan area."

"Japan's imports of U.S. beef have also been impacted by the U.S.-specific safeguard, which is likely to trigger in March, even as importers have slowed volumes to avoid reaching the safeguard threshold. If the safeguard is triggered, the duty on U.S. beef muscle cuts will increase from 25.8 percent to 38.5 percent for 30 days," the report added.

While the federation said it expects exports to the region to remain below 2020 levels throughout the year, the report said China still has a pressing need for imported pork.

"January exports included a mix of frozen cuts, bone-in hams, and boxed carcasses," the report said. "Carcass export volume was 5,923 metric tons, the largest since June."

"Despite the continued 25-percent retaliatory duty on U.S. pork and pork variety meats, China's demand for pork variety meat remains strong, with January exports of pork variety meat to China/Hong Kong increasing 18 percent from a year ago to 24,475 metric tons," the report added.

U.S. pork exports to Japan opened 2021 on a positive note, increasing 2 percent from a year ago in both volume (32,332 metric tons), and value (\$134.6 million), the report said.

"Demand for chilled U.S. pork remains very strong in Japan's retail sector, and the U.S. industry has reclaimed market share for ground seasoned pork since the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (implemented in January 2020) slashed the duty rate, and eliminated a severe tariff disadvantage," the report said.

"Japan's duty rate on ground seasoned pork will notch down again on April 1 to 6.6 percent, compared to the pre-trade agreement rate of 20 percent," the report added.

Ending a record year in 2020, the

report said, "Pork exports to Central America continued to shine in January at 11,023 metric tons, up 56 percent from a year ago, valued at \$26.9 million (up 43 percent)."

"January export volume was the fourth largest on record, and significantly above the usual seasonal trend, as exports more than doubled to Panama, and posted impressive growth in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica," the report said.

In addition, U.S. lamb exports climbed 7 percent in January to 1,027 metric tons, although value fell 43 percent to \$1.2 million, as volume growth was driven by lamb variety meat demand in Mexico, and Canada.

"Lamb muscle cut exports trended higher than a year ago to Bermuda, and Japan," the report said.

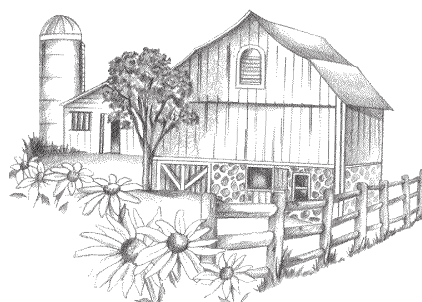
Other January highlights for U.S. beef exports include:

- Following a big rebound in December, beef exports to Mexico eased to some degree to 18,045 metric tons (down 18 percent from a year ago), valued at \$87.8 million (down 25 percent). However, exports remained well above the low levels posted in mid-2020 during the height of Mexico's foodservice restrictions, and high U.S. prices resulting from supply challenges.

- After setting a fifth consecutive volume record in 2020, exports to Taiwan trended lower in January at 3,833 metric tons (down 27 percent from a year ago), valued at \$38.7 million (down 11 percent). The outlook for U.S. beef remains very positive in Taiwan, based on strong retail and foodservice demand.

- U.S. beef exports to Canada continued to gain momentum in January, climbing 5 percent from a year ago in both volume (9,905 metric tons), and value (\$61.8 million).

- Following a down year in 2020, U.S. beef exports to the Middle East rebounded to 6,847 metric tons, up 6 percent from a year ago, while value jumped 20 percent to \$20.4 million. U.S. beef variety meat exports to mainstay market Egypt were steady last year, while muscle cuts posted impressive growth in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.



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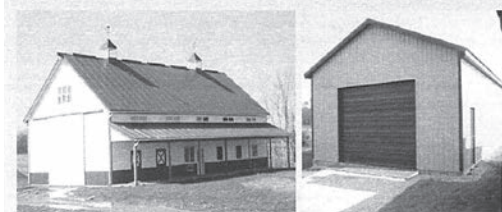
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Experience on farm is key to grain bin rescue

By Stan Maddux Indiana Correspondent

SHEPHERD, Mich. — A childhood spent working on a farm paid off for a Michigan firefighter as he rescued a man buried up to his neck in a grain bin full of corn.

Capt. Brad Doepker said it was his first rescue attempt from a grain bin. He said his training combined with the time he spent doing chores inside silos while growing up made the difference.

"Life experiences always help. My experience as a kid helped me save a life," he said.

He's been a member of the Shepherd Volunteer Fire Department north of Lansing for 24 years.

On Feb. 24, Doepker was first to arrive at the farm belonging to a man in his 60s, who had just his head and arms from elbows to hands above the surface of the corn.

Doepker said the farmer was removing corn from the silo when he went inside to break up clumps of grain obstructing the flow. He placed a 10-inch-wide board on top of the corn to stand on and while breaking up the clumps of grain, a cavity formed beneath his feet. The farmer and board he was standing on fell into the funnel shaped cavity.

Doepker said he went inside the bin with the auger pulling the corn from the bin still on.

Fortunately, someone outside quickly turned off the auger, keeping the man from possibly being pulled entirely below the corn and into the machine, he said. Doepker said the farmer was at great risk of slipping deeper into the corn and suffocating, though, because a nylon rope the man wrapped around himself and tied to a metal beam inside the bin snapped during the fall.

"The rope was probably not rated for that type of strength," he said.

Doepker said he and another firefighter went inside and placed crates on the corn to stand on. They also wore harnesses fastened to safety graded ropes tied to a ladder stretched above their heads from a fire truck parked outside the bin.

A rope was thrown to the man who was able to loop the line underneath his arm pits and cinch it so he wouldn't sink even deeper. Four plywood sheets were also inserted into the corn to form a wall around the man.

Doepker said he scooped out the corn inside the boxed-in area until the man's upper body was exposed and pulled him out by his belt. The man, with some assistance, made it out of the bin about 90 minutes after the accident.

Doepker said he was fully aware of the hazards going in from doing things like helping empty bins and load trucks on the farms of his friends while growing up. "I know how corn reacts when you walk on it, move on it and all of that stuff," he said.

The best thing corn producers can do is take preventative measures to minimize the need to go inside a grain bin, said Craig Anderson, manager of agricultural labor & safety services for Michigan Farm Bureau.

Anderson said tightening nuts and bolts and covering any other gaps blocks moisture from getting inside bins and causing kernels to stick together. Anderson said farmers having to go inside should also use harnesses and other proper gear. He said a lot of farmers are struggling financially but the cost of safety equipment in most cases is no longer in the thousands of dollars like it was many years ago.

"Now, you can probably put together a decent system for a few hundred dollars," Anderson said.

He also said augers should be turned off because as they're pulling in corn the chances of cavities forming inside the grain are greater.

Farmers should also have a second person nearby to call for help, if necessary, he said.

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This Section!

As spring blooms watch out for numerous tick varieties

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The most prevalent ticks found in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, Illinois and Tennessee are the American dog tick (which carries Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), the Black-legged tick (also known as the deer tick), which carries Lyme disease, and the Lone Star tick, which is a vector for Ehrlichiosis.

Now two more ticks have been added to the list: The Woodchuck tick and the Brown dog tick (kennel tick).

"Now we have lots of tick threats," said Dr. Timothy McDermott, an Ohio State University extension educator in Franklin County. "Just last year alone two new types of ticks were established in Ohio."

"Last year in 2020, as if we didn't have enough to worry about, we got confirmation of the very first case of the true invasion Asian longhorned tick. That was found on a dog in Gallia County, and we also verified the establishment of breeding colonies of the Gulf Coast tick."

The Black-legged (or deer) tick is of concern to most as it is the transmitter of Lyme disease. According to the Ohio Department of Health, there were 293 cases of Lyme disease in 2018 and 325 cases in 2019. More than 400 cases of Lyme disease were reported in 2020. "We've



Above: The Brown dog tick is among the latest recorded ticks spotted in the Midwest. It is found in all states except Alaska and Hawaii. It can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever. (photo submitted)

seen an increase in Ohio in Lyme cases over the past 10 years, and it mirrors the United States," McDermott said. According to McDermott, symptoms of Lyme disease overlap with symptoms of COVID-19. He added that's why it's important to check for ticks because if you know of a tick bite, you can test for a tick-borne disease.

The Black-legged tick is prevalent in the entire eastern half of the United States and are at their worst in summer and fall. These ticks search for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing.

The American dog tick is widely distributed east of the Rocky Moun-



Above: The Woodchuck tick can be found east of the Rocky Mountains. It can transmit Powassan virus, a potentially deadly tick-borne illness. (photo submitted)

tains, as well as limited areas on the Pacific coast. Most bites occur in the spring and summer months. This tick transmits Tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

The Lone Star tick is widely found in the southeastern and eastern portions of the country. It is a very aggressive tick that bites humans. Its bite could lead to the transmission of Heartland virus and Ehrlichia ewingii, which can cause human ehrlichiosis.

Brown dog ticks have been found in every U.S. state except Alaska and Hawaii. Dogs are the primary hosts for these parasites, but the tick may also bite humans or oth-



Above: The American dog tick is found east of the Rocky Mountains. This tick transmits Tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. (photo submitted)

er mammals. It can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

A sixth tick, the Rocky Mountain wood tick, is not a threat to the Midwest. The tick is found in Rocky Mountain states and southwestern Canada from elevations of 4,000 to 10,500 feet.

A seventh known tick, the Western black-legged tick, has been spotted in all of California, and portions of Utah, Nevada, Washington and Oregon.

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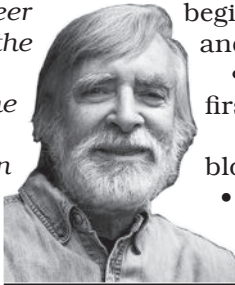
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--	---	--	---

When Arcturus is in the West at 11 p.m. it is safe to plant

When daffodils begin to peer
With hey the doxy over the
dale,
Why then comes in the
sweet o' the year
And the red blood reigns in
the winter's pale. — William
Shakespeare



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

The Moon and Stars

The Robin Mating Chorus Moon wanes through the period, becoming the Cows Switching Their Tails Moon at 9:31 p.m. on April 11. Rising in the morning and setting in the evening, this moon passes overhead in the middle of the day, encouraging creatures to feed around that time, especially as the cold front of April 11 approaches.

Now Arcturus, the brightest star above you at bedtime, still hangs a little to the east of the center of the sky. But as that star shifts into the west, it pulls the chances of a freeze with it. When you check the sky and see Arcturus well into the west at 11:00 p.m., you should be able to plant any vegetable or flower you want.

Weather Patterns

Chances of highs below 50 degrees fall to less than ten percent in April's second week, where they remain until they drop to five percent on April 22. And milder highs above 60 occur better than half the time on all the days of this week except on the 10th, when cooler conditions typically prevail. And this year's new moon on the 11th is likely to intensify the cold wave that often arrives near that date. Lows in the cold 20s are rare (just a five percent chance on the 17th and 18th), but light frost still strikes an average of one night in four.

Zeitgebers

(Events in Nature that Tell the Time of Year)

House wrens migrate as velvety wild ginger leaves unfold on the hillsides. The wood grouse drums for his mate, and wood thrushes sing in the trees. Downy woodpeckers are mating. Newborn groundhogs have come out of their dens.

Hobblebush is leafing in the woods. Nettles are about half a foot tall in the pastures. Tadpoles swim in the pools and ponds.

Columbines and bleeding hearts are bushy and nearly a foot tall. Rhubarb leaves are bigger than a big man's hand. The grass is long enough to cut. Redbud branches turn violet as their buds stretch and crack.

Privets are filling out. Branches of the multiflora roses are almost completely covered with foliage. Early tulips are at their peak. Virginia bluebells are in full bloom. Wild turkeys are gobbling.

Deer are born and bullheads begin their spawning run. Wood ticks have emerged as far north as Minnesota. Along the beaches of the Northeast, piping plovers are returning to establish their nests.

Trees are in full flower throughout the Central Plains, the Northeast, the Northwest and the Rocky Mountains. In the Southeast, all the grasses are coming into bloom.

Countdown to Spring

- One week until the Great Dandelion and Violet Bloom begins
- Two weeks until azaleas and snowball viburnums and dogwoods blossom
- Three weeks until iris and poppies and daisies come into flower
- Four weeks until the

beginning of clover time in yards and pastures

- Five weeks until the first orange day lily flowers
- Six weeks until roses bloom and thistles bud
- Seven weeks until the first strawberry shortcake
- Eight weeks until cottonwoods bloom and send their cotton through the air
- Nine weeks to the first mulberry pie

In the Field and Garden

Asparagus is up in the garden when toad trillium blooms in the woods and the first strawberries are in flower. Japanese beetle grubs move to the surface of the ground to feed as the weather warms.

Sow sweet Cicely, lavender, marjoram, rosemary, sage, thyme, and parsley in your pasture in order to increase your milk yield. Remember that a pasture that is unmanaged may provide more roughage than real nourishment.

About a fifth of Ohio River tobacco beds are seeded now. Average highs reach 60 in central Ohio and Indiana.

Mounds begin to rise in the lawn as moles wake up and hunt grubs and worms. Some sheep owners are putting their flocks to work cutting grass, controlling weeds and reducing the undergrowth in forests.

Most weeds have sprouted by the middle of April. Walk new pastures looking for unfamiliar plants.

After the April 11 high-pressure system crosses the several dry days often follow in its wake. This is the period during which you should try to complete all your early planting. Five more weeks remain until frost-free gardening in most of the region.

Almanack Favorites A Seismological Alert By Clarence Dinnen, Jamestown, Ohio

This story has been passed down to me by my mother. It is about her father, my grandfather. I have no recollection of my grandparents, as they died before or shortly after I was born. I was born in 1931 BC (before cholesterol).

My grandfather was an outdoorsman. He loved to hunt and fish. One of his favorite meals that he prepared was roast possum with sweet potatoes. My grandmother would not eat it.

He owned a farm in southern Ohio that had a small coal mine on it. It provided coal for his winter heat. One day, he was working in the mine and his coonhound came to the entrance and began barking and howling. The dog persisted and would not stop.

Grandfather thought the dog had a raccoon treed and came out of the mine to investigate. The dog stopped barking, jumped on him, and greeted him.

Grandfather took out his pocket watch and saw it was almost time for dinner. He and the dog went to the house. He ate his noon meal and rested for a while.

When he returned to the mine, the whole hillside had caved in. The mine was buried, along with his tools. The dog sensed what was going to happen and saved my grandpa. He never forgot what a great dog he had.

Poor Will Needs Your Stories!

Poor Will pays \$4.00 for unusual and true farm, garden, animal and even love stories used in this almanack! Send yours to Poor Will's Almanack at wlfelker@gmail.com or to the address below.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S SCRAMBLER

In order to estimate your

SCRAMBLER IQ, award yourself 15 points for each word unscrambled, adding a 50-point bonus for getting all of them correct. If you find one of Poor Will's typos, add another 15 points to your IQ.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
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| AGOHPELCRI | ARCHIPELAGO |
| TAIOHCUM | MUSTACHIO |
| IIOONCGNT | INCOGNITO |
| OALVCN | VOLCANO |
| IOIRV | VIREO |
| TIOGRVE | VERTIGO |
| MOERO | ROMEO |
| OOETRML | TREMOLO |

THIS WEEK'S RHYMING SCKRAMBLER

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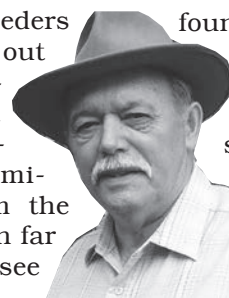
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Get welcome mat ready for the return of the hummingbirds

Get your hummingbird feeders cleaned and ready to be put out for the first arrivals. According to the interactive map at <https://www.hummingbird-central.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2021-map.htm> the first hummers have arrived in far south Kentucky and Tennessee as of last week. The map is automatically updated by hummingbird fans documenting their first arrivals so you can check to see how the birds are advancing.



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

Before being put out, hummingbird feeders need to be thoroughly washed with a bleach water solution and well rinsed before being filled. The recipe for hummingbird sugar water is 4 parts water to one part sugar by volume. A variable amount can be mixed using different size containers. Mix 4 pints water and one pint of sugar or just take a common drinking glass and combine 4 glasses of water with one glass of sugar.

The mixture should be boiled and allowed to cool to room temperature before hanging out for the early arrivals. Feeders should be emptied and cleaned every 7-10 days to ensure the birds get a healthy, uncontaminated meal. Never, never use food coloring to give the sugar water color! It is unnecessary and bird biologists believe it may be detrimental to the birds.

Don't call them "bird brains!" Hummingbirds are disproportionately smart for their size! Hummingbirds recognize and remember people and have been known to fly about peoples' heads to alert them to empty feeders, or to sugar water which has soured or gone bad.

Sometimes, hummingbirds will get overly affectionate and fly right up into your face. This is not a reason for alarm. Hummingbirds generally fly up to someone's face because they are curious or investigating a situation. They are extremely inquisitive about their surroundings and enforce caution and safety in their territory. They also recognize, associate, and expect food from a homeowner when trained to be fed at a feeder.

Years ago, I had just refilled and brought the sugar water feeder back out into the yard and was about to hang it on the shepherd's hook when a hummer approached. Holding very still, I simply extended my arm to see if the tiny, feathered critter would come and eat. Sure enough, with no hesitation, the little rascal hovered at the feeder drinking its fill.

I should have remembered how territorial hummingbirds can be... fighting and chasing one another away from a feeder.

As I stood there calmly watching the little fellow eat, a rival came screaming past my ear, ducked under my arm and ran the other one off.

Hearing the sudden and totally unexpected loud buzz of wings in my left ear, the primitive man inside alerted me my body was under attack by an eight-pound bumblebee. It was a case of immediate fight or flight!

I chose flight and screamed like a two-year-old child and took off! I was halfway across the yard before I realized I had just been strafed by a one-ounce bundle of feathers. Thankfully none of the neighbors saw my side yard shenanigans.

Second Bald Eagle Found Shot

Indiana Conservation Officers are now investigating the shooting deaths of two juvenile bald eagles

found shot to death in the same area of the state.

Officers located the second juvenile eagle after responding to a call to a rural area in Northern Sullivan County along County Road 800 West, approximately 8 miles west of Shelburn. As part of the investigation, the body of the eagle was recovered from a tree and found to have been shot.

Officers believe the shooting occurred in early January.

The first juvenile bald eagle determined to have been shot was discovered in a southern Vigo County tree on March 10. Officers determined the juvenile eagle was killed from a gunshot to the breast area.

A joint \$2,000 reward is being offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Indiana Turn-in-a-Poacher, Inc. (TIP) to anyone with information leading to conviction of the responsible party/parties. If you have information, or know who is responsible, please contact DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536 or the TIP hotline at 1-800-847-4367 (TIP-IDNR).

Patoka Lake Hosts Beginners' Kayak Lessons

Patoka Lake interpretive naturalists will host a kayak lesson for beginners on Saturday, April 17 at 12:30pm.

During the lesson, participants will get the opportunity to try several different styles of kayaks and paddles. Instructors will also cover the gear needed for a safe trip and the best places to paddle on Patoka Lake.

All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. The event is open to anyone age 12 and older. Cost for the lesson is \$5 per person, and space is limited. Advance registration is required by calling the Patoka Lake Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$9 for out-of-state residents is required for the Newton Stewart State Recreation Area, Patoka Lake, located north of Wickliffe on State Road 164. For more information regarding the program other interpretive events at Patoka Lake, please call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

Readers can contact the author by writing to this publication, or e-mail to jackspaulding@hughes.net.

Spaulding's books, "The Best of Spaulding Outdoors," and his latest, "The Coon Hunter And The Kid" are available from Amazon.com.

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USDA reports corn and soybean production

Ag in the Classroom helps kids learn about farming

See Farm to Food Series Page 18

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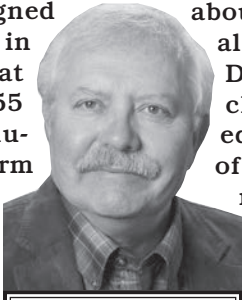
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Folk culture has many ties to life down on the farm

Little did I know when I signed up for Mr. Lumpkin's course in Folk Music and Literature at the University of Colorado 55 years ago that he would influence my appreciation for farm culture.



FARM & RANCH LIFE
By Dr. Rosmann

On the first day of class Mr. Lumpkin, who had a doctoral degree in literature but eschewed the title of "Dr.," assigned all the students into a seating arrangement which he recorded. Students who had questions had to raise their hands, and when called upon, they had to stand. Most students were afraid of Professor Lumpkin.

I learned that folk music, which now is largely labeled as country music, descended from Scotch and Irish immigrants who brought their musical instruments, such as banjos, with them to America, as well as their traditional songs.

Something which has always stuck with me is that the words, "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme," in the Simon and Garfunkel tune, Scarborough Fair, were condensed by the often illiterate, but otherwise accomplished immigrants, into something like, "Every rose grows merry with age and time." Understanding matters like this were important to me because I enjoyed playing the guitar and singing contemporary folk music at all sorts of events.

When I raised my hand to ask about the cultural significance of growing up in a German Catholic agricultural area of Western Iowa, Mr. Lumpkin asked me to sing and play a tune and to tell a story that I had learned as a youngster.

As I prepared for my upcoming recital, I remembered a ditty that Emil, a local farmer, told me I should learn to play and sing, "Ist Das Nicht Ein Schnitzel Bank."

I also recalled a folk story I acquired as a youngster. Mr. Lumpkin submitted it to the Midwest Folklore Journal, where it was published. I don't remember who told me the story; it goes something like this.

"When St. Boniface Church, was built in the western Iowa Catholic community of Westphalia during 1881-82, the steeple was the last and most important feature to be constructed. As local farmers and craftsmen raised the last timbers of the 126 ft. steeple, one of the carpenters at the top lost his grasp. As he fell, he yelled out. His brother, 80 ft. below him, held out an axe. The falling gentleman snagged and thrust the axe into a rafter as he descended. He hung onto the axe until he was rescued and saved from almost certain death."

Most anyone can detect why this might be a folk story. I know the supposed names of the two long-deceased heroic brothers and their descendants, which makes the story juicier and only slightly more plausible, but I will say no more.

A few years after 1882, the neighboring community of Earling constructed their church steeple 5 ft. higher than the "mother" community of Westphalia that spawned four nearby parish communities. No one in my community has forgotten this affront.

New farming communities, whether Protestant or Catholic, constructed churches with tall steeples. Usually, they were about five miles apart so that farm residents could see the church cross at the top of its steeple and hear its bell.

Another shaping experience

about the culture of agricultural people occurred in 2001. Dr. Lynda Haverstock, a psychologist who was appointed the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and the representative of the Queen of England, deserves the credit.

John Reed of Australia, and I were principal speakers at a conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to help the Canadian Government develop support services for distressed farm people. After a long day of presentations and discussions, John and I shed our suit coats and ties to loosen up before the dinner event by taking a walk to stretch our legs.

No, we didn't visit any taverns, but we were perspiring from our vigorous exercise as we arrived back at the hotel.

A polished black limousine pulled up to the hotel entrance and the aide-de-camp escorted a regally gowned woman into the hotel. John blurted, "I hope she's not going where we're supposed to be heading."

Yup, John and I were seated on the dais next to Dr. Haverstock in our open-collared and sweaty garb. I spilled pasta sauce on my white shirt.

Dr. Haverstock took everything in stride during her address. "The 'culture' part of the word, 'agriculture,' is more important to understand than the 'agri' part of the word when assisting farming people with their mental health, as my two compatriots from Australia and the United States demonstrate. A farm girl myself, I understand."

Dr. Haverstock's pronouncement became a cornerstone principle of agricultural behavioral health. Understanding the culture of agricultural producers and their unique backgrounds are key to acceptable assistance from providers of professional service, whether it's counseling, business expertise, agronomic advice, or something else.

Participants in "agri-culture" owe much to the expressions of our way to life through music, literature, dance, painting, photography, and other artistic forms. Folklore exhibits our culture.

Dr. Mike is a farmer and psychologist at Harlan, Iowa. Contact him at: mike@agbehavioralhealth.com.

PRODUCTIVE CROPLAND GILEAD, IN | MIAMI CO.

AUCTION

April 13th, 6:30 pm EST
MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | 1029 W 200 N, PERU

TRACT 1
75.7+/- Acres

TRACT 2
63.59+/- Acres

TRACT 3
80+/- Acres

TRACT 4:
36+/- Acres

PROPERTY LOCATION:
3.5 miles southwest of Gilead, IN. The north side of CR 1250 N and west of SR 19.

HALDERMAN REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT
800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Contact us today!
AJ JORDAN: 317.697.3086
LARRY JORDAN: 765.473.5849

4 TRACTS
255.29+/-
total acres

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU1000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, OWNER: SHARON MEENEN FARM, HLS#TML-12608

ONLINE BIDDING IS AVAILABLE AT HALDERMAN.COM

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★ ANOTHER ★ BOSTON ★ AUCTION ★

ONLINE ONLY 2-DAY TOOL and TOY TRACTOR AUCTION

TOOLS - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 BEGINS CLOSING @ 6 PM EST
TOYS - THURSDAY, APRIL 15 BEGINS CLOSING @ 7 PM EST

SULLIVAN, IN (25 mi. south of Terre Haute, IN)

LOCATION: Boston Auction's Online Center @ 5189 West State Road 154, Sullivan, IN 47882. DIRECTIONS: From US 41 and St. Rd. 154, take St. Rd. 154 west 5 miles.

Due to health reasons, lifelong mechanic (incl. large ag & mine equipment), Ed Hunsicker, will sell the following @ ONLINE ONLY AUCTION.

INSPECTION for both auctions: Sunday, April 11th from 2 - 5 PM EST
To register and begin bidding now, or during the "Race Horse-Style" closing, visit bostoncentury.hibid.com

SALE #1, WEDNESDAY - TOOLS and EQUIPMENT: This sale features a huge asst. of name brand mechanic's tools & equipment incl. Snap-On, Proto, MAC, Matco, S-K, Wright, Williams, Blackhawk, KD and more; floor jacks up to 10 ton; trailer jacks; air / hyd. bottle jacks up to 30 ton; clevises up to 35 ton; c-clamps from sm. to lg. incl. Bessey; air tools incl. new IR 3/4" & 1" impacts; Lincoln welder; specialty tools; shop and farm consumables; oil and grease dispensers; commercial fire extinguishers; pallet fork extensions; air & electric hoists incl. hook mount & trolley.

SALE #2, THURSDAY - TOY TRACTORS and RELATED: Over (150) lots from small to large scale incl. vintage (from the 70's) and recent; also "Special Editions" and many unusual models.

TERMS: All items sold As-Is. 15% Buyer's Premium.

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AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

20th ANNUAL INVENTORY REDUCTION AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM

St. Rt. 33 at the Midway Plaza (8793 Twp. Rd. 239), LAKEVIEW, OH 43331
(Approximately 15 miles Northwest of Bellefontaine, Ohio)

The auction will be conducted LIVE on-site along with live remote streaming and internet bidding available via www.EquipmentFacts.com to accommodate any and all buyers.

** Preview: Fri., April 9th during regular store hours **

COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS - COMMERCIAL FRONT MOUNT - ZERO TURNS
LAWN & GARDEN TRACTORS - ATTACHMENTS

John Deere Z425 ZTR w/54" cut & 341 hrs; Cub Cadet RZT w/50" cut & 390 hrs; Craftsman riding mower w/42" cut and bagger system; John Deere 318 w/50" cut and 2280 hrs; John Deere 345 w/54" cut & 1629 hrs; Gravely 260Z ZTR w/60" deck & 530 hrs; John Deere F525 w/48" cut & 894 hrs; Gravely ZT54 XL w/54" cut & 692 hrs; Grasshopper 618 front mount ZTR w/61" deck, 1214 hrs; Gravely 260Z w/60" cut & 900 hrs; Cub Cadet Pro Z 160S w/60" cut & 131 hrs; Craftsman GT5000 w/48" deck; Toro Zmaster w/62" cut & 804 hrs; Toro Titan ZX5400 w/54" cut & 188 hrs; Gravely ZT1640 w/40" cut; John Deere SX85 w/30" deck; John Deere 185 w/46" deck; Gravely ZT48XL w/48" deck & 122 hrs; John Deere X740 Ultimate w/62" deck & 444 hrs; Murray garden tractor w/40" deck; Gravely residential w/48" cut & 846 hrs; Ariens Zoom 2350 ZTR w/50" deck; Craftsman YT3000 w/46" deck; Huskee riding mower w/46" deck; John Deere LA135 garden tractor w/42" cut & 701 hrs; John Deere GT275 garden tractor w/48" deck; Cub Cadet ZForce w/48" deck & 513 hrs.

Terms & Conditions: Some items are subject to prior sale with additional units traded in on a daily basis. The auction listing will most likely have a few changes and many additional, NOT LISTED units will be added by sale day. TERMS: All items sell "as is" some items may have warranties. A 10% buyer's premium will be applied to all purchases. All Ohio state sales tax laws apply. Cash or good check accepted with proper ID. MasterCard and Visa accepted with 3% clerking fee added. Additional terms will apply to online buyers. All items must be paid for in full day of auction.

See photos and more info at www.midwest-auctioneers.com and www.auctionzip.com auctioneer ID #12379.

Milke Baker CAL, Auctioneer
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NAA Auctioneer

Lakeview Home Center Hardware

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION



87th Indiana Beef Evaluation Program Performance Tested Bull Sale

Saturday, April 17, 2021 - 2 pm (EDT)

Sale Location: Springville Feeder Auction - Springville, IN

Broadcast Live on [CattleUSA.com](https://www.CattleUSA.com)

Angus · Charolais · Hereford · SimAngus · Simmental

Sale Eligible Bulls

- ✓ Top performance indexing of their breed
- ✓ Parentage verified to sire and dam
- ✓ Passed an evaluation for structure
- ✓ Passed an evaluation for disposition
- ✓ Passed a breeding soundness exam
- ✓ Several with GE-EPDs
- ✓ Negative John's test on dam
- ✓ BVD negative
- ✓ Bruceellosis negative
- ✓ Tuberculosis negative

Link to Bull Videos <https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/Pages/2020Winter.aspx>

Catalog request can be made to minton@purdue.edu or calling the IBEP Bull Test Station

IBEP Test Station 1117 SR 458 Bedford, IN 47421 812-279-4330 <https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/Pages/default.aspx>

FARM MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT PUBLIC AUCTION

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021, 10:00 AM FARM MACHINERY FOR: CONSIGNORS

WHERE: 3910 CR 106, OAK HARBOR, OH 43449

PLEASE WEAR FACEMASKS AND MAINTAIN PROPER DISTANCE AT ALL TIMES.

AUCTIONER'S NOTE: No small items. Be on time.

DIRECTIONS: From Oak Harbor, Ohio take SR#163 west to south on SR#590. Left on Elmore Eastern. Approx. one mile turn right on Slemmer-Portage Road (about 1.5 miles to sale). Follow signs to the sale. From Fremont, OH take SR#20 west turn right onto CR#106. Go over turnpike - approx. 2 mi. to sale on the left.

TRACTORS: Case 2394, 4500 hours, cab air & heat, 4 hydr outlets, 24 speed power shift, radar, 1000 pto, S/N 9933298; MF 135 gas, good tires, power steering, multi-power, 3 pt, 540 pto, 3220 hrs, 1-set hydr., S/N SGW64103969; MF 1080 diesel, PS, 5232 hr rear weights 3 pt dual hydr. **DOZER:** Komatsu 1979 D31P, 6-way front blade, diesel w/new batteries. **GRAINTRUCK:** 1979 Chevy 366 gas 37,071 mi. original w/5&2 speed, airlift chaster, hoist, roll tarp 16 ft Knapheide grain bed. **MACHINERY:** Gleaner 8200 flex grain head 35 ft single pt hook-up; White 6106 6-row w/5-row splitter, dry fert. & auger; JD chopper 6 ft. 3 pt pt 603 rough; Amco 3 pt power furrower; Elmer's 12 row guidance culti w/rear assist wheels; Elmer's 6 row guidance culti; EZ trail 880 header wagon for 35 ft header; White 4-16 auto reset semi mounted plow 3 pt; 7 ft Woods 3 pt chopper; 51 ft 8" Hudson auger w/hydr lift; Brushnell gravity wagon w/gear (approx. 240 bu); McCurdy gravity wagon w/gear; Imco 8 ft 3 pt blade; 2012 Diamond 6 ft mower, side mount, flail mower; 1974 semi trailer for storage; Gregson trailer sprayer w/28% droplets, monitors, chemical fill, clean-out tank; 30 ft. semi trailer sprayer, single axle tandem w/1200 gal water tank.

Terms: Cash or check with proper ID. All items sold as is where is. Not responsible for accidents, or items after they are sold. Statements made the day of sale supersede all printed matter. Licensed by the division of Licensing, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and bonded in favor of the State of Ohio.

CHAD W. BROUGH - 419-262-7408



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Spring Hudsonville Equipment Auction

Saturday, April 17 | 10 AM | Hudsonville Fairgrounds

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT: Skytrak 8042 Extend-A-Boom Forklift; JLG 450AJ boom lift, 4X4, Deutz diesel, 45' platform height, 33x155x16.5 tires, SN# 300113496; Rayco RG 1620 JR Stump Grinder & Trailer, fresh filter & oil, new teeth, new battery, 476 hours; New HT824 Hydraulic Thumb, fits mini excavators from 4,000 - 9,000lbs; New MT2650 Heavy Duty Universal Thumb, fits excavators up to 50,000lbs; New HT2650 Hydraulic Universal Thumb, fits excavators up to 50,000lbs; RAYCO Super RG50 Stump Grinder with Trailer, 4WD, new engine; RAYCO RG1665 Stump Grinder, trailer mounted, diesel, new engine; Mobile Office Trailer **SKID STEERS & ATTACHMENTS:** 2015 Bobcat T550 Rubber Track Skid Steer, OROPS, aux. hydraulics, joystick controls, 16" tracks, 74" bucket, SN# AJZV12024; 2011 Bobcat T750 Rubber Tracks Skid Steer, cab/ac, aux. hydraulics, 2-spd, power-bobtach, dual controls, 18" tracks, 85-HP Kubota diesel, 80" bucket, SN# ANKA11174; 2015 Bobcat S450 Skid Steer, OROPS, aux. hydraulics, diesel, new 10-16.5 tires, 60" bucket, 900 hours, SN# AUJB12046; 2015 Bobcat T450 rubber track skid steer, OROPS, aux. hydraulics, 2-speed, diesel engine, new 12" tracks, 56" bucket, SN# AUJVP11443; 2013 Bobcat T590 Rubber Track Skid Steer, OROPS, aux. hydraulics, 66 HP Kubota diesel, 12" tracks, 68" bucket, SN# A3NR13139; Bobcat 72" Pickup Broom Attachment to fit skid steers; Bobcat HB980 Hammer Attachment to fit skid steer loader; New 90" Snow & Mulch Skid Steer Bucket; New 80" HD Root Grapple Attachment; Case 40XT Rubber Tire Skid Steer; Bobcat Auger, Melroe Model 20, barely used; Bobcat Concrete Breaker, Melroe Model 25003, barely used; (2) New Sets of 48" Pallet Forks, fits skid steer loaders 5,000lbs capacity; (10) Unused 2021 Skid Steer 72" Brush Cutter Attachment; (1) Unused 2021 Skid Steer 48"D x 8"W Trencher Attachment; (6) Unused 2021 Skid Steer Auger Drive & Bit Attachment, comes with auger; (4) Unused 2021 Skid Steer 72" Tiller Attachment; (2) Unused 2021 Skid Steer 72" Box Broom Sweeper Attachment; (2) Unused 2021 Skid Steer 72" Angle Broom Attachment; Unused 2021 Skid Steer 60" Vibratory Roller Attachment, stimulation force: 3.3T; Unused 2021 Skid Steer Concrete Mixer Attachment, Capacity: 300L; Unused 2021 Skid Steer Concrete Mixer Attachment, Model: 750; Unused 2021 Skid Steer 30" Rock Roller Attachment; Unused 2021 Skid Steer 72" Snow Pusher Attachment; Unused 2021 Qty of 6 Pallet Racks; Unused Lowe Hyd Auger 750 w/ 9' x 12' with skid steer quick attach; Unused Stout Brush Grapple HD72-8 with Skid Steer Quick Attach; Unused Stout Brush Grapple XHD 84-6 with Skid Steer Quick Attach; Unused Stout 72-3B Grapple with bold on sides with skid steer quick attach

CONTAINER: Unused 2021 40' High Cube Multi-Door Container, (4) open side doors, (1) end door, lock box, side forklift pockets

TRUCKS: 1994 Ford LTL 9000 Semi Truck, double frame, heavy specs, Detroit 430 hp engine, 13 spd trans, 449,145 miles; 1992 Freightliner Tandem Axle Semi Truck with sleeper; International Single Axle Semi Truck

TRACTORS: John Deere 2555 Tractor with 245 wheel loader, 3PT, PTO, 1 remote, 4WD, 16.9-30 rear tires, 11.2-24 front tires, 11,751 hours, SN# L025555N725712; John Deere 5103 Tractor, 3PT, PTO, 2 remotes, 13.6-28 rear tires, 1,386 hours, SN# P45103U0008860; John Deere 3020 Tractor; New Holland TC330 HST tractor w/ loader, MFWD, 3PT, PTO, OROPS, 1,645 hours; Kubota L3130 Tractor w/ LA723 Loader, MFWD, 3PT, PTO, OROPS, 1 remote, 6,083 hours, SN# 53657; Kubota B8200 Tractor, 4WD, 3PT, PTO, 959 hours; Case 1070 Agri King Tractor, 18.4 tires, 2nd owner; Case 45 Tractor with L350 loader attachment, 3PT, PTO, 4WD, 780 hours; John Deere 50 Tractor, gas, narrow front; John Deere 50 Tractor; John Deere 60 Tractor; John Deere B Tractor; John Deere B Tractor, gas, narrow front; John Deere B Tractor, gas, narrow front; John Deere A Tractor; John Deere A Tractor; Case 730 Tractor, wide front; Farmall M Tractor, gas, narrow front; Farmall H Tractor, gas, narrow front; Allis Chalmers D17 tractor, gas, wide front

FARM: Penta 2410 Mixer Wagon; Vicon RP 1210 Round Baler, 4x5 bales; New Holland 273 Baler, 54A belt kicker; New Holland Square Baler; Case IH SMX91 Hay Baler; John Deere 336 Square Baler; John Deere 327 Square Baler; John Deere 24T Square Baler; Massey Ferguson #9 Square Baler; New Holland 315 Baler; Rotogrind 760 Hay Grinder; Gehl 120 Feed Grinder Mixer; John Deere 336 Square Baler; New Holland 492 9' Sickle Haybine; John Deere 74 Hay Rake; New Holland Super 55 Hay Rake; Kuhn side rake, 8', 3PT; H15 7' Hay Tedder; Hoelscher 5 Bale Accumulator; H & S Bale Throw Wagon, 18' ; H & S Bale Throw Wagon, 16'; Wood Kicker Bale Wagon with Kewanee 8 ton gear; New Holland 1030 Bale Wagon; John Deere 856 12-Row Cultivator with opening disks, rolling shields, and gauge wheels; Glencoe 5 Shank Disc Chisel; Massey Ferguson model 52 13' Disk; John Deere Semi Mounted 4 Bottom Plow; Oliver 8' Pull Disk H.D. with 20" blades; Brillion 5' Packer; John Deere 1 Bottom Plow; Cultipacker, pull style with pin hitch, 65" wide overall; Cultivator, 6', 3PT, new spring tines; Crows Foot Cultipacker, pull style with pin hitch, 5' wide overall; Brillion 12' Packer; 16' Drag; Top Air Towable Sprayer, foam markers, 750 gallon tank, 45' boom, hydraulic pump, spray mate 2 monitor; Hardi 3PT Boom Sprayer; 200 Gallon Sprayer, 20' boom; Case 881 Chopper with 2 row corn head & hay head; Header Cart; John Deere 643 Corn Head; IH 249 2-Row Planter, trailer type, 36" wide, disc openers on seed & fertilizers; John Deere 2-Row Planter; Woods 6' Ditchbank Rotary Mower; Woods 2126 Brush Mower, pull type; Woods BB60 Brush Hog; Sitrex 90' 3PT 5 Spindle Finish Mower, rear discharge; King Cutter 5' Brush Cutter; Brent 420 Grain Cart; (2) Webber Lane Chopper Wagons, high dump, Horst 14 ton gear; J & M Gravity Wagon; 1890 Doctors Buggy made in Marshall MI with canvas top. Buggy has brass tag; Raw Reel Towable Irrigation Reel, hard hose with nozzle; Towable Irrigation Pump; New Holland 1/4 Turn Bale Chute; Land Roller, 7'; Woods RB72 3PT Backblade; King Cutter 6', 3PT Blade; Land Leveler 6'; Land Pride 3PT Hitch Attachment; Woods 7500 Backhoe 3PT Attachment; Ox 7' Back Blade; Goodyear 18.4-34 Tires

BOATS: Slick Craft 16' open bow boat, inboard/outboard; Fisher Hawk IV fishing boat with trailer, 12', mercury force 40 outboard

MISC. EQUIPMENT: Ingersoll 226 Lawn Tractor, tiller, 16 hp; Craftsman Miter Saw; 50 Amp RV Cord; Ladder Jacks; Barrel Pumps; Power Bagger for John Deere 525 mower; 300' metal shelving; Commercial Air Compressor, 3-phase, no tank; 18' Garage Door; Utility Box

Much more equipment to be added. List is subject to change. Visit our website for additional equipment

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Stop paving Paradise to put up a parking lot

Joni Mitchell is a Canadian singer-songwriter whose songs draw from folk, pop, rock, classical, and jazz. In 1970, she released the song Big Yellow Taxi that had the chorus line, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." This has been going on in rural America for a long time but, in the last few decades, has accelerated exponentially.



HOOSIER AG TODAY
By Gary Truitt

According to Modern Farmer, 31 million acres of farmland were lost to development between 1992 and 2012. That's 175 acres per hour of agricultural land lost to development - 3 acres per minute. In the last 20 years, more than 11 million acres of U.S. farmland have been converted, fragmented, or paved over by development projects, according to a report by the American Farmland Trust.

I have been a witness to this trend every day. Living just outside the Indianapolis metro area, hardly a day goes by that a once productive farm field is turned into a new housing development or strip mall. A large tract of land across the road from my house had been a soybean field but now is being transformed into a golf course and residential community. The impact of this loss of food producing ground has been masked by the continuing increases in production on less and less ground by American farmers. It is ironic that the technology that has made this possible, biotechnology, chemical fertilizers, and herbicides, is the technology that the consumers who now live on this former farm ground criticize. They call for natural food production but support zoning policies that make that impossible.

Efforts both public and private have

been successful in protecting farmland for many years. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has offered conservation easements through the Farm Bill for 28 years, through programs like the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements. NRCS announced last week that 5 million acres of wetlands, grasslands, and prime farmland - an area the size of New Jersey - have been enrolled since October of 2020.

In the effort to protect our limited natural resources, productive farmland has a new ally, one that will bring much needed attention and government funding to the effort. Climate change is a much-touted priority of the Biden administration, and the USDA is now working with landowners to partner with NRCS to implement voluntary climate-smart management practices that maximize the amount of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and stored in soils or plant biomass across these landscapes. While having the support of the USDA is nice, actual authority on land use resides in other federal agencies including the EPA, BLM, and Corps of Engineers.

While federal programs can be helpful, the front line on the efforts to protect farmland is on the state and local level. County commissions and zoning boards must balance productive farmland against the need for local jobs, tax revenue, and housing. In Indiana, the authority over land use is divided between several different state agencies including IDEM and DNR. The State Department of Agriculture is not on that list. The state has developed guidelines for land use, but most policies are left on the local level.

So, while protecting our farmland may seem like a big national cause, it is an issue that needs to be talked about and discussed locally. Public officials who support a balanced and planned approach to land use need to be supported, while those who advocate uncontrolled and irresponsible development need to be defeated. Let's stop paving paradise.

The Best of Spaulding's columns over 30+ years. Enjoy his humorous trials in the outdoors, and colorful stories of his rural Indiana childhood. Available through Amazon.com in paperback for \$14.95, and for Kindle at \$3.99.

You're not just buying a Bull

You're getting a part of the cow



Lot #138

Pathfinder Dam - Sire AAR Ten X

- 4 calves with Weaning Ratio of 118
- 2 calves with Yearling Ratio of 115
- 2018 son won the SIU Bulltest
- 2019 son in the IBEP Bulltest 1st in Performance Index


2020 son - Lot #138 - in IBEP Bulltest

- #4 in Performance Index of 115.6
- #1 in Feedlot Value at 138
- #1 in Beef Value at 204
- #1 in Combined Value at 324

3 sons of Jindra Acclaim
Lots #135, #138 and #143

4 sons of SydGen Enhance
Lots #137, #139, #140 and #142

1 son of Mill Bar Hickok - Lot #136
Phil @ 309-370-3014 pabada54@gmail.com



Out of sight



Out of mind

Don't let this happen to you!

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Bane-Welker expands base with purchase of Evolution Ag

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. — Bane-Welker Equipment has purchased the sales and service areas of the Evolution Ag dealerships in Circleville, Utica and Plain City, Ohio. Bane-Welker will offer parts, sales, and service at all three locations.

The investment was made to better serve the firm's valued Ohio customer base. This addition brings the total of Bane-Welker dealerships to six in Ohio. The 55-year-old Case IH dealership purchased locations in Georgetown and Wilmington Ohio in 2014 and purchased a location in Eaton Ohio in 2016. Bane-Welker also operates nine locations in Indiana.

"We couldn't be more excited about the growth we've seen in Ohio," said Jason Bane, President of Bane-Welker Equipment. "Ohio has welcomed us with open arms, and we are deeply committed to these communities. We're looking forward to serving as partners in these counties with our new customers."

Customers can rest assured that BWE is committed to a smooth transition. Customers can also depend on BWE for customer service well beyond the sale.

"We are working hard to make sure this is a seamless transition for our customers," said Phil Bane, CEO of Bane-Welker. "Our team is working hard, so we would just ask for patience as we move through the process. We promise the change will be well worth it."

"Our goal has always been growth and innovation," stated Phil Bane. "We have always strived to be the best so we can help our customers achieve their goals. The world of agriculture is changing every day. We want to be

right there, in the thick of it so we can assist our customers in every way possible."

While Bane-Welker has grown into one of the largest Case IH dealers in the United States, they have remained true to a hometown mentality where customer service and loyalty are of the utmost importance.

"Our internal commitment at BWE is that customers are priority number one," explained Jason Bane. "We're here to help. It's that simple. We want to make a positive impact and leave a lasting footprint in our ag communities. Our people are passionate about what they do, and I am proud of that culture we have created within our company. That mindset benefits our team and most importantly, our customers."

Bane-Welker Equipment, founded in 1967 by Kenneth and Patricia Bane, is an agriculture equipment company representing Case IH and other complimentary brands. Bane-Welker offers new and used equipment, parts, sales, service, precision farming, online parts sales, and customer support. The company operates nine stores in Indiana including Crawfordsville,

La Crosse, Lebanon, Remington, Terre Haute, Pendleton, Plymouth, Winamac, and Wingate, and six stores in Ohio, including Circleville, Eaton, Georgetown, Plain City, Utica, and Wilmington. In 2018, the company became 100% employee owned, illustrating a strong commitment to people and the future of the company.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Karl Locascio at 765.866.0494. Or visit www.Bane-Welker.com.

Chris Peacock recognized as part of RLI's 2020 APEX Producers Club

Chris Peacock, with Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management, is a member of the 2020 APEX Producers Club by the Realtors® Land Institute as a part of the RLI APEX Production Awards Program, sponsored by The Land Report. Chris was recognized by RLI CEO Aubrie Kobernus as well as The Land Report's Co-founder Eric O'Keefe at a special awards ceremony on March 17, during RLI's 2021 Virtual National Land Conference.

"Being part of such a prestigious group of land professionals is very humbling and a credit to our entire Halderman team," said Chris upon receiving the award. In addition to Chris, the East-Central Indiana and West Central Ohio Halderman team includes Lauren Peacock and Carla Peacock. Chris has over 24 years of experience with Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management, assisting clients in all areas of agriculture and winning numerous awards for his innovative approach to the agriculture business as well as top awards for real estate sales and farm management within the Halderman Companies.

"Chris Peacock is a true professional who represents his clients and the Halderman Companies to the very best of his ability every day! His customer service is outstanding, and this honor recognizes his contributions to his clients and the industry. Chris is an innovator at Halderman and is always looking for new challenges. We congratulate him on this honor. He is very deserving," said Howard Halderman, President of Halderman Real Estate Services and Halderman Farm Management Service.

"We are proud of Chris Peacock and all of our members that were recognized as part of our award programs for their accomplishments in 2020. They truly



Chris Peacock

are the cream of the crop when it comes to land real estate professionals," said RLI's CEO Aubrie Kobernus, MBA, RCE. Top awards winners will receive national recognition in The Land Reports spring magazine as well as additional promotions throughout the year.

All land professionals recognized as part of the RLI APEX Producers Club are active members of RLI. The APEX Awards Program celebrated its fourth year by tripling in size since its inception, with 140 applicants totaling a combined \$3.5 billion in qualifying transaction volume. For more information on the award winners, make sure to get a copy of The Land Report, one of the industry's leading magazines for landowners and land professionals, which will be publicizing the top winners in their upcoming spring 2021 issue. All land real estate professionals are invited to join RLI and apply to the prestigious APEX Awards Program next year. Learn more at rlliland.com.

HUGE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

7620 ROCKY RIVER RD • CONCORD, NC 28025

Directions: From Hwy 49 S turn Left onto Old Charlotte Rd which turns into Rocky River Rd go approx. 3 1/2 miles to sale site which will be on your Right

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH @ 10:00 AM

***NOTE: All Health & Safety rules will apply unless other standards change and goes as follow Face masks must be worn and the 6 ft social distancing applies as well.**

ITEMS TO INCLUDE: To date approx. 30 tractors to include 2 Cubs, Styled G, Unstyled G, Bs As, 1066 Int., Several mowing machine, Chevy truck, Volkswagen, Mustang, Smalls and Who knows what else will come up...

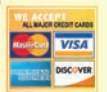


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SPRING EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT FARM & CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS TUES. APRIL 13
6954 Corydon Ridge Rd - Lanesville, IN • Near I-64 Exit #113, Lanesville Exit!

NOTE: Just added 150 lots from Middletown Equipment Rental
SKID STEERS/EXCAVATORS: (2) Bobcat T590 track loaders; (2) Bobcat S150 SS; Bobcat 751 SS; Bobcat E32 mini-exc; Bobcat E26 mini-exc; Ditch Witch MX9 mini-exc; KOBELCO SK150LC exc; Toro Dingo TX525D track loader; Case 1737 SS; JD 240 SS; Terramite T5C mini backhoe
CONSTRUCTION/ATTACHMENTS: '17 HAULOTTE 4527A 45' boom lift; (25) skid steer attachments (most new); (2) harley rakes; trenchers; (3) Vermeer chippers; hyd breakers; trash pumps; stump grinders; masonry saws; scaffolding; (2) Allen power dumps
TRUCKS/TRAILERS: '09 IH Pro Star Limited; '10 Mack Pinnacle; '03 Freightliner ST120; '96 Freightliner FL70; '84 AM General; '75 Kenworth cabover; '93 IH 4700; '12 Stoughton 40' grain hopper; '13 EBY alum 18' trailer; (4) semi flatbed trailers; (2) 48' van trailers; (17) bumper hitch utility trailers
STORAGE BUILDINGS-NEW: 40x60; 30x60; (2) 20x30; container shelters; 20x20 shelters
SHOP TOOLS/STORAGE-NEW: (3) 10K auto lifts; 50-ton shop press; tire changers/wheel balancers; work benches/tool chests; (10) generators; (10) shop heaters; (10) shop fans; air compressors; surface grinders; pressure washers
ANTIQUE TRACTORS: JD 3010 utility; Farmall 130; JD 50; (3) Farmall Cubs; (5) Farmall Ms; JD A; (2) JD D; Ferguson TO-30; IH T-6 crawler; CAT crawler; IH/JD weights
TRACTORS: '13 JD 6105 M 4x4 w/loader; '10 JD 7130 4x4; IH 966; JD 2440; Farmall 656; AC 185 w/loader; IH 444; Oliver 1755; MF 65; JD 3010
COMPACT TRACTORS: Branson 4720i 4x4 w/loader; Kubota L35 4x4 w/loader; Case-IH 245; JD 2320 4x4 w/loader; JD 750 w/mower; Ford 1100 4x4; Century C47L 4x4 w/loader; Ford 1310
FARM EQUIPMENT: JD 9670 4x4 combine; grain heads/carts; JD 6600 combine; (3) grain augers; Kilbros 1170 grain cart; (3) 45' sprayers; (3) anhydrous applicators; (3) 15' batwing mowers; tillers; finish/rotary mowers; post drivers/diggers; box blades; plows; wagon gears; (6) round hay balers; (5) disc mowers; rakes; wagons; bale accumulator
WOOD POSTS: (120) 8"x8"; (550) treated 4"x8"; (500) 3"x7"
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LAWN/GARDEN: 25+ late model mowers-most ZTR; sod cutters; power seeders; tillers; aerators; sprayers; 50+ pcs of L&G equipment
VIEWING: Mon-Fri 8-4:30; Sat 8-12 or by appointment



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26th Annual FFA Farm Machinery Consignment Auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 - 9:30 A.M.

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS - STANFORD, KY 40484

3 miles south of Stanford on US 27. 40 miles south of Lexington and 30 miles north of Somerset

Expected consignments include:

- Farm Tractors
- Hay Equipment
- Grain Equipment
- Farm and Garden Items
- Trucks
- Trailers
- Construction Equipment

Consignments will be received the following days:

- **Wednesday, April 7th**
- **Thursday, April 8th**
- **Friday, April 9th**

For early consignments and advertising of your items contact **Garrett Napier** at (606) 669-4554
 Pictures will be posted as they are received. Due to late consignments some items may not be posted, so come out and see what you can find!

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CONTACT THE EVENT MANAGERS AT



Ag groups hope gains made on estate tax aren't lost

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As President Joe Biden announced last week he was seeking to increase some corporate taxes, agricultural groups voiced their concerns over the fate of gains made on the estate tax and other tax provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

Biden introduced his \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan March 31. The plan calls for improving infrastructure, including highways, bridges, the electrical grid and broadband. To pay for it, he has proposed changes to the corporate tax code, such as raising the corporate tax rate to 28 percent from 21 percent.

The TCJA, signed into law by then-President Donald Trump in December 2017, roughly doubled the estate tax exemption per person to \$11.18 million, according to the USDA's Economic Research Service. The exemption amount is indexed for inflation – last year, it was \$11.58 million per person and \$23.16 million for a married couple. The TCJA extended the new threshold through 2025. The legislation calls for the exemption amount to drop to \$5 million (it will be adjusted for inflation) beginning in 2026.

The tax bill also maintained the previous law regarding stepped-up basis. It increased the maximum deduction under section 179 expensing from \$500,000 to \$1 million, the Internal Revenue Service said. The TCJA limited like-kind exchange (section 1031) treatment to exchanges of real property, the agency said.

Organizations such as Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB) would prefer to see a permanent repeal of the estate tax, said Bob White, INFB's director of national government relations. At the very least, he noted, the exemption amount should be kept where it is and not revert to the pre-TCJA rate.

"At minimum, please Congress, keep it at \$11 million per person," he said. "If you allow it to fall back, that will impact almost every farmer in the U.S. Also, a lot of small businesses out there that are family run have the same concerns."

In Indiana, about 7,500-8,000 farmers were impacted by estate taxes when the exemption amount was \$5 million, White noted. At the \$11 million level, about half that number was impacted.

Nationally, 65 percent of farmland could be impacted if the estate tax exemption returns to \$5 million, he said. If that happens, "there will be a loud roar that comes from rural America," White stated. "In some cases, farmers will have to sell the farm or a parcel of it just to pay the estate tax. That's not good business when trying to pass the farm on to children." It's also important to farmers to keep stepped-up basis where it is, along with sections 1031 and 179, he said. Farmers use section 1031 for such things as expanding their operations, upgrading structures and moving out of the path of urban development, White pointed out.

A new tax proposal would cause uncertainty for farmers once again, he said. "All farmers want is stability. Change every few years is not the stability we want. To bring some certainty to all of this would be a blessing. We don't want to be on a yo-yo here."

White said he's not certain how all of this will play out, though he called a permanent repeal of the estate tax unlikely. He urged farmers to contact their representatives and senators. "It's an ongoing process. Make a relationship. Make it personal. Tell them how (any tax changes) will affect your operation."

Legislation – the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2021 – introduced in the U.S. House (H.R. 1712) and Senate (S. 617) in March seeks a permanent repeal of the estate tax. The House bill was introduced by Reps. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) and Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.); the Senate plan was introduced by Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.).

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said it supports the legislation. "The estate tax disproportionately harms cattle producers because with few options to pay off tax liabilities, many farm and ranch families are forced to make tough choices at the time of death – and in worst-case scenarios, must sell off land to meet their federal tax burden," said Jerry Bohn, NCBA president.

More than 40 percent of farmland is expected to transition in the next two decades, Bohn said. With that in mind, Congress must prioritize policies that support land transfers to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, he said.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, urged Congress to disregard proposals made by some lawmakers to tax unrealized capital gains at death and roll back the stepped-up basis on those capital gains.

"Taxing capital gains when a loved one passes away would have a devastating impact on farm and ranch families, even more so if the stepped-up basis tool is taken out of the toolbox," he explained. "Stepped-up basis encourages families to grow their businesses and pass them onto another generation, and elimination could force those families to sell their farms just to pay the taxes. The value of many farms is tied up in land and equipment. Cash flow on most farms is much too small to pay large capital gains taxes. The taxes would cause further consolidation in agriculture with small farms more likely to be forced out of business by the tax liability."

68th Semi-Annual Milroy Amish School Auction

Saturday, April 24th – 9:00 am

At Milroy Amish School, 2101 W. 900 S., Milroy, IN 46156

Auction Contact: 765-561-9824 or 765-629-2345

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We reserve the right to reject any consignments of little value.

WANTED: Farm Machinery Consignments

Shop and Power Equipment, Horses And Antiques & Collectibles

Commissions \$2.01-\$99.00 – 20%

\$99.01 to \$499.00 - 10%

Over \$499.00 is 8%

Maximum \$200 per item

Horses \$30 consignment fee – payable morning of sale

Takes care of commission up to \$500.00

Horses Selling Over \$500 = 6%

Furnish Halter and Lead Rope for Your Horse

No Payout on items \$2.00 or less

No Payouts on Day of Sale

SALE ORDER

9 AM - Antiques

Horse Tack until Noon, Horses sell at 12:00 Noon

Small Items Starting Approx. 5 Different Rings

10 AM – New Furniture, Followed by Quilts

2 PM – Buggies and Machinery

ALREADY CONSIGNED: Saddles and Harnesses; Antique China Hutch w/diamond inlaid beveled glass in sides and front; framed 1992 Larry Bird Super Star off Corn Flakes box.

Call Michele At:

1-800-876-5133, Ext. 122

For Auction Advertising Information

2-DAY ONLINE ONLY FARM & EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

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BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE AT 5 PM CDT / 6 PM EDT

LOCATED AT 9224 S 875 E, WALKERTON, IN

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VIRTUAL PREVIEW ON KRAFT AUCTION FACEBOOK PAGE: APRIL 12TH 5PM-6PM

AUCTION PICK-UP: APRIL 14TH-16TH 9AM-5PM AND APRIL 17TH 9AM-2PM

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TUESDAY,
APRIL 13TH
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APRIL 14TH
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