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Farmers, ag economists forecasting feed prices to be lower in 2024

By Doug Schmitz
Iowa Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – As 2023 draws to a close, farmers and agricultural economists are already forecasting feed prices to be lower in 2024.

“It appears that there will be some relief in feed prices in 2024,” Tasha Bunting, Illinois Farm Bureau director of commodity programs and farm systems, told Farm World. “Recent reports have indicated that feed costs could be approximately 20 percent lower in 2024.”

Mark Legan, a Coatesville, Ind., soybean, corn, and pork producer who operates Legan Livestock and Grain, Inc., and farms alongside his wife, Phyllis, and their daughter, Beth, told Farm World, “I feel like 2024 feed prices should be a little lower than the previous year.

“Here in central Indiana, we had a very good growing season again, with many row crop producers reporting best-ever yields – our farm included,” he said. “We saw a wide harvest basis, particularly on corn, with local elevators and processors in our area having to shorten dump hours because they were running out of room.”

He said feeders that had adequate storage space should have had opportunities to buy corn at lower prices, compared to the past several years.

“Corn basis levels have already moved off the harvest lows as the calendar rolled to December,” he said. “With that said, soybean meal basis and futures prices rallied significantly from early October through harvest, largely because of last year’s drought in Argentina. Argentina has for the past several years been the leading exporter of soybean meal to the world.”

He said, however, “With last year’s drought leading to a 50-percent reduction in their domestic supply, they basically ran out of beans to crush, and many of the world’s soybean importers turned to the U.S. this fall.

“Soybean crush capacity continues to increase in the U.S., and will do so for the next two to three years as new plants come on line to meet the demand for renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuel,” he said. “As this happens, I would think we would see an abundant supply of soy meal as processors crush for oil and meal becomes the byproduct. This should also push the U.S. into exporting more soy meal.

“In my opinion, what feed prices

will be in the future will largely depend on weather in both North and South America,” he added. “Reports are some dry areas are affecting soybean and corn planting in Brazil, while Argentina seems to be catching good rains.”

He said in the last two years, parts of the U.S. Corn Belt have also faced drought conditions.

“This year, the increase in planted acres seems to have had as much to do with the 15-billion-bushel corn crop as the yield did,” he said. “While ethanol margins seem to have been good the last several months, I believe corn-for-feed demand and exports will be down, maybe significantly.

“We are looking at cycle lows in cattle-on-feed inventories, and not really any indication heifers are being held back to rebuild the cow herd yet,” he added. “Pork producers have faced significant monetary losses in the past year, and it’s only a matter of time before the sow herd and resulting pig crop will decline, lowering feed demand, not to mention what the effect of the highly pathogenic avian influenza could have on feed demand if it continues to spread.”

He said, “It also appears exports may face some headwinds with low Mississippi River and Panama Canal water levels. Also, reports are African swine fever is running hot again in the Chinese swine herd, resulting in lower feed grain and soy meal demand there.”

Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky extension professor of agricultural economics, told Farm World, “There is an unlimited number of feeds and feed rations that can be fed by livestock producers, and there are not really public price series that can be utilized for these feeds.

“However, corn tends to be the driver in feed markets, so that is the best place to look for direction,” he said. “For perspective, feed rations for most cattle operations decreased in price throughout 2023 as the size of the corn crop became more apparent.

“Cheaper feed certainly led to lower costs for dairy-, hog- and feed-based cattle growing programs in Kentucky,” he added. “That should largely carry over into the start of 2024 as well.”

As for feed demand, he said cattle numbers are decreasing, and swine and poultry numbers are likely steady to increasing slightly.

(Feed prices on page 2)



Left: The Farm World staff wishes all of our readers and advertisers a happy holiday season. May the New Year be filled with much happiness and joy.

As a reminder, our offices will be closed from Dec. 21-27. We will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

There will be no Farm World paper dated Dec. 29. Your next issue will be dated Jan. 5.

Photo by Connie Swaim

Indiana distiller wins coveted national award using local corn

William Flood
Ohio correspondent

ST. LOUIS — Ask a colleague what corn is used for and some version of it being foodstuff is the likely answer. If that colleague is a farmer, you’ll probably hear additional comments about corn used as livestock feed and maybe as an ingredient in biofuel. Rarely will corn’s application in whiskey come up, particularly related to craft spirits. Yet, the distilling outlet for corn is growing, driven perceptibly by local distilleries making a name for themselves.

Indiana is home to 22 distilleries, and that figure is destined to grow, meaning craft distilling — in-state or out — represents an increasingly conspicuous market.

In 2013, recognizing the rise of craft spirits, the American Craft Spirits Association was formed to help promote the industry. In 2017, they launched the Heartland Whiskey Competition, a biennial, blind-tasting contest open to craft distillers across the U.S. and its territories. This year’s competition was held in early August in St. Louis.

At the event, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) joined 18 other state corn marketing associations in sponsoring their homegrown distillers. ICMC President Paul Hodgen, a farmer from Roachdale, Ind., lauded the efforts, “We’re happy to support the whiskey competition. With this competition, ICMC is reaching a non-traditional audience and educating them on alternate uses of corn.”

Judging took place in multiple categories, including the “Best of State” award to a distiller’s product from each state with a corn association sponsorship. This year’s winner from Indiana was Hugh Hamer Straight Bourbon



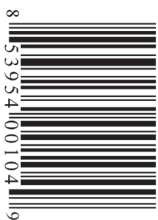
Above: From grain to glass, West Fork Whiskey Company from Westfield, Ind., uses all Indiana-grown grain. The company won an award at the Heartland Whiskey Competition in the Best of State Award for Indiana.

Rum Finish Cask Strength crafted by the West Fork Whiskey Company from Westfield, Indiana.

West Fork co-founders Blake Jones and David McIntyre set out to “create sip-able, smooth whiskeys that are always made with 100 percent Indiana-grown grain.” They added, “Our spirits are 100 percent Indiana from grain to glass...[paying] respect to one of the best grain-producing states in America.”

The duo was motivated to pay homage to Indiana’s rich distilling history. “We decided to resurrect the Old Hammer brand, as it has a unique place in the history books of whiskey in Indi-

(See Whiskey on page 2)



Trees may be a little pricier but supply is adequate . . . Page 1B



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Whiskey

From Page 1

ana.” It was based on a 19th-century recipe of 99-percent corn and 1-percent malted barley developed by Hugh and Thomas Hamer who settled Spring Mill, Indiana in the 1820s and ran a mill and distillery supplied with local corn. “In the 19th century, some called it the finest whiskey around,” McIntyre said. The original Hamer whiskey was sold as far south as New Orleans. West Fork’s rendition is just as popular, taking Indiana corn whiskey as far as New York and California.

Other awards included the “Top Farmer-Distiller” honor that recognized the best farm-to-bottle product. This year, farmer-distillers made up 32 percent of the entries, which was a record high. This year’s award went to a single barrel bourbon by Tobacco Barn Distillery of Hollywood, Maryland. Other medals went to corn-based spirits by distillers in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, New York, and Ohio.

Officials at the ACSA acknowledged how strong a role corn plays within the craft spirits industry and at the

Heartland competition. CEO Margie Lehrman said, “Corn farmers, through their state corn associations, have supported the U.S. craft distilling industry through this important competition,” adding, “We greatly appreciate their continued support and the fact they supply our members with the best corn product in the world.”

Corn’s use in whiskey distilling has roots nearly as old as the country’s. In the 18th and 19th centuries, whiskey-making was a way for farmers to convert corn and bulky grains into a liquid product that was both more lucrative and easier to transport. Distilled liquor was nearly three times more valuable than the agricultural ingredients themselves.

Back then, rural communities often built both mills and distilleries for processing part of the harvest. In Indiana, whiskey making can be traced to Lawrenceburg around 1802 when corn-based bourbon was becoming popular. Eventually, the entire Ohio Valley — including the eastern reaches of Indiana — developed a thriving corn-based whiskey industry. By the late 1800s, there were nearly 100 liquor-making enterprises statewide. Except for the

illicit trade, virtually all of it died off during Prohibition.

Post-Prohibition, commercial distilling recommenced, but it took years for corn liquors to regain popularity. However, two decades ago, a craft cocktail movement spurred a revived interest in whiskey, including corn-based varieties like bourbon and moonshine. Mixologists took a shine to classic, pre-Prohibition cocktails like Sazeracs and Old Fashioned that were whiskey — and often bourbon — recipes. It fueled a rebirth of the country’s distilling

heritage and corn went along for the ride.

Alongside craft distilling is the “grain to bottle” movement that favors locally-grown, often organic ingredients. Distillers aim to produce artisanal products reflecting the flavors and quality derived from local sourcing. Many of Indiana’s 30+ craft distilleries make products using locally-sourced corn.

To learn more about the Heartland Whiskey Competition, visit: <https://heartlandwhiskeycompetition.com/>

Feed prices

From Page 1

“Again, thinking about corn-for-supply perspective, the 2023 crop was fairly large and what happens (next) spring in South America will also have implications as well,” he said. “As we think about the 2023 crop in the U.S., stock-to-use is tighter on beans than corn, which suggests some shift of acreage out of corn is very possible.

“I suspect that is also a reason why the December 2024 futures contract is trading at a premium to December 2023,” he added. “By spring, we will have a feel for the South American crop, and the focus of U.S. producers will be on planting and new crop price ratios.”

Grant Gardner, UK assistant extension professor of agricultural economics, told Farm World, “We are looking at lower corn prices in 2024 than in 2023. The cash price is down \$1.78 per bushel from where we were 365 days ago (Barchart Cash Prices), and the stock-to-use ratio (indicates the level of carryover stock for any given commodity as a percentage of the total use of the commodity) is back to pre-COVID-19 levels, indicating prices are likely to stay low.

“Soybean prices are relatively high historically, but are still lower than last year,” he said. “Stock-to-use is tight, indicating higher but volatile prices, historically. Additionally, U.S.



Above: Corn is dumped at a grain elevator during harvest in southern Illinois. Tasha Bunting, Illinois Farm Bureau director of commodity programs and farm systems, told Farm World, recent reports have indicated that feed costs could be approximately 20 percent lower in 2024. (photo courtesy of Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau)

soybean crush capacity is in the middle of a large expansion.

“The expansion is largely driven by demand for soybean oil,” he added. “Still, soybean meal is a byproduct of soybean crushings, leading to record U.S. meal export projections in 2023/2024.”

He said current World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates projections indicate there will be around a million more metric tons of meal on the market in 2024, compared to 2023.

“Not a super large increase; however, meal prices should remain similar or slightly lower in 2024 after accounting for the still-high soybean price,” he said.



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				Tipton, IN.	Camden, OH.	Ada, OH.	Fredericktown, OH.	Hamler, OH.	So.Charleston, OH.	Tiffin, OH.	Wash.C.H., OH.
IS 2904E3S	2.9	109%	74.3	80.6	83.0	82.1	82.3			83.4	92.5
AGI 3729AE	2.9	109%	74.2	84.3		81.9	85.4			93.3	89.5
AGI 3734AE	3.4	106%	72.6	87.7	79.9			77.9	85.8	77.4	78.9
IS 3307E3S	3.3	106%	72.2	81.8	104.3	78.1				92.9	89.6

Seed Genetics Direct 2023 Replicated Testing--Medium/Late Yield Test - 10 Locations - 30 Replications

Variety	Relative Maturity	% of Mean	Ave. All Locations	Highlights						
				Vincennes IN.	Worthington, IN.	Camden, OH.	Ashville, OH.	So.Charleston, OH.	Wash.C.H., OH.	
IS 3188E3S	3.1	109%	82.0	85.0	90.0			72.6	124.7	
IS 3307E3S	3.3	105%	79.2	83.0	83.8	70.9	74.4	76.9	86.4	
IS 3537E3	3.5	103%	77.5	85.9	85.5	73.8		83.8	83.9	
AGI 0733AE	3.3	102%	84.1	87.7	82.2	82.2		69.7	82.7	
IS 3961E3S	3.9	102%	76.7	84.8	79.4	76.8	70.0	70.0	81.8	

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December WASDE report underwhelming

Very few changes were made to the domestic side the December World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate report which was not a surprise as only demand is updated in the December release. For corn there was a 25 million bu increase to exports that trimmed ending stocks to 2.131 billion bu. This is 769 mbu more than last year and a comfortable stocks to use of 14.7 percent. The USDA held its average cash price projection on corn at \$4.85.

No changes were made to domestic soybean balance sheets, holding ending stocks at 245 mbu. This is 23 mbu fewer than at the end of last year and a stocks to use of 5.9 percent. While this is a level where price rationing would be warranted, trade is becoming more comfortable with tight domestic soybean reserves and is not generating a bullish reaction, especially with much larger South American crops than last year. The USDA is projecting an average cash value on soybeans of \$12.90.

For wheat the USDA raised its export forecast by 25 mbu which lowered ending stocks to 659 mbu. This is a year-to-year increase of 77 mbu and a stocks to use of 35 percent. The average cash projection on wheat is \$7.30, 10 cents better than the November estimate.

Global ending stocks were also little changed from November. The world wheat carryout was projected at 258.2 million metric tons, just under the 258.69 mmt from the November report. Global corn carryover is now estimated at 315.22 mmt, up from the 314.99 mmt last month. The global soybean ending stocks estimate was also little changed at 114.21 mmt compared to 114.51 mmt last month.

The numbers trade was really



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

waiting on were the South American production figures, and these offered little market support. The Argentine production figures were left unchanged from November with 55 mmt on corn and 48 mmt on soybeans. While steady on the month, these are nearly twice the crops that the country grew last year. The USDA left the Brazil corn crop at 129 mmt but did trim the country's soybean crop to 161 mmt. This was down 2 mmt from November. Even with this cut both crops in Brazil will be record sized this year.

The only surprise in the global production was a 1 mmt increase to the Ukraine corn crop, putting it at 30.5 mmt.

Not many changes took place on the livestock side of balance sheets this month either. Beef production for 2023 was unchanged at 26.93 billion pounds. For 2024 U.S. beef production is expected to increase 180 million pounds and total 25.99 billion pounds. Pork production for 2023 was bumped up 20 million pounds to total 27.24 billion. Pork production for 2024 was left unchanged at 27.73 billion pounds. The average steer value for 2023 is projected at \$175.55 per hundredweight and for 2024 it is \$178.25 a cwt. On hogs the average value is estimated at \$58.70 a cwt for this year and an even \$60.00 per cwt for 2024.

Red meat exports were also little changed. Beef exports for 2023 were trimmed 5 million pounds to 3.03 billion pounds, and 2024 exports were unchanged at 2.845 billion pounds. Pork exports for 2023 were bumped up 15 million pounds to total 6.749 billion. Next year's pork exports are now projected at 6.85 billion pounds, a reduction of 100 million pounds. The burdensome hog supply in China and the loss of that country's de-

mand is behind the loss in export expectations.

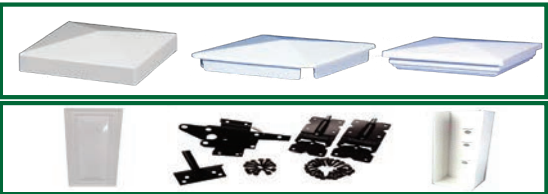
The USDA increased its beef import forecasts for 2023 and 2024 by 10 million pounds each. This now has beef imports at 3.663 billion pounds for 2023 and 3.7 billion pounds for 2024, both of which are record high.

Prior to this data being released, the Brazilian firm CONAB released its crop expectations. CONAB is predicting a Brazilian soybean crop of 160.17 million metric tons, just under last month's 162.42 mmt estimate. This decline was mostly from a 9.88-million-acre reduction to soybean plantings, which puts acreage at 111.89 million. CONAB is projecting a Brazil corn crop of 118.53 mmt compared to the November estimate for 119.07 mmt. Corn plantings are forecast at 52.06 million, down 136,000 from last month. What is more of a factor for the world market, especially the U.S., is that Brazil is forecast to export record volumes of corn and soybeans in 2024, reducing the U.S. global market share.

China released its November soybean import data, showing the country took in 7.92 mmt of soybeans. This was a 53 percent increase from

October and a 7.8 percent growth from November 2022. December soybean imports are forecast to be even higher, with a record 12 mmt being expected. Year to date Chinese soybean imports stand at 89.6 mmt, a 13.3 percent increase on the year. Total soybean imports for the 2023 year are pegged at 98 mmt.

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COLDWELL BANKER LINGLE



Three arrested in theft of cattle from Tennessee farm

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

ATHENS, Tenn. – Two men and one woman were arrested on Dec. 7 after five cattle were stolen from a farm near Englewood, Tenn.

McMinn County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) detectives said one of the suspects left a trail of theft two months earlier, which led to his arrest. On Oct. 10, MCSO investigated reports of a stolen Kubota tractor from near Englewood. Detectives determined that the tractor had been taken to Bristol and then to Hiwassee, Ga., a few days later. Gary Hill, of Sweetwater, was announced as a suspect in the case, according to MCSO.

Hill was also a suspect in the theft of five Angus cows.

The cattle were taken from McConkey Farm late night on Dec. 2. Stan McConkey wasted little time and offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the thief's arrest or recovery of his animals.

McConkey's video surveillance showed two trailers pulling into the farm and stealing the cattle. Thieves took panels from across the road to create a makeshift corral.

"I lost three and my son lost two," McConkey said.

The McConkey farm has been a family business for generations, and in a span of 30 minutes, they lost thousands of dollars. "In that time they stole approximately \$9,000 worth of cows," Jason McConkey said.

Two of the cows stolen were pregnant, making the loss even greater.

Luckily, McConkey's farm was well-equipped with surveillance cameras, catching the culprits in action. The cameras were useful in identifying the vehicles used in the heist.

On Dec. 4, deputies quickly responded to the report of the theft. During the investigation, Hill was identified as a suspect. Thomas 'Dewayne' Pressley, of Meigs County, was also identified as a suspect, as

was Donna Vaughn, of Athens, Tenn.

"Our detectives, along with State Ag Crimes investigator Clint Brookshire, found Mr. Dewayne Pressley and Ms. Donna Vaughn were directly involved in the theft along with Mr. Gary Hill," MCSO Sheriff Joe Guy said. "The cattle were located in Lincoln County and were returned to the owner. Over the course of the next few days, McMinn County sheriff's deputies, Sweetwater police and Agent Brookshire worked extensively on the case. Dewayne Pressley and Donna Vaughn, both from Athens, were located in Rural King parking lot in Sweetwater on Dec. 6 and were taken into custody."

On Dec. 7, MCSO Corp. Caleb Latham was able to negotiate a peaceful surrender with Hill. He was taken into custody and is being held on the following charges:

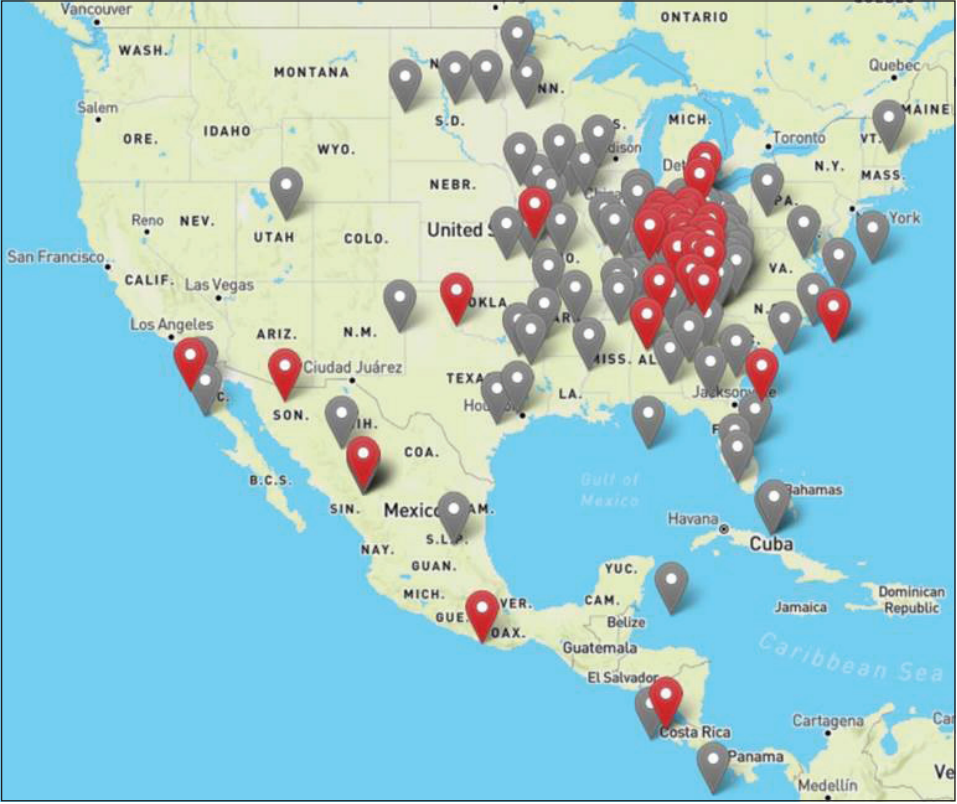
- Theft over \$5,000 for theft of the cattle
- Illegal possession or fraudulent use of a credit/debit card
- Theft of property for theft of horses (Monroe County Sheriff's Department)
- Theft of property for theft of horses (Loudon County Sheriff's Department)
- Violation of parole (Blount County Sheriff's Department)

Pressley and Vaughn are being held on charges of theft over \$5,000 for the cattle theft.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Crime Unit (ACU) was key in tracking down the suspects. Brookshire's investigation led him 130 miles west to Lincoln County, where he identified five cattle purchased by a citizen through a private Craigslist transaction.

ACU law enforcement officers are charged with investigating and enforcing state laws related to the agriculture community. "The cattle were recovered and returned, and ACU recovered a portion of the money from the fraudulent sale for the buyer. The buyer is not believed to be involved in the theft," the ACU said.

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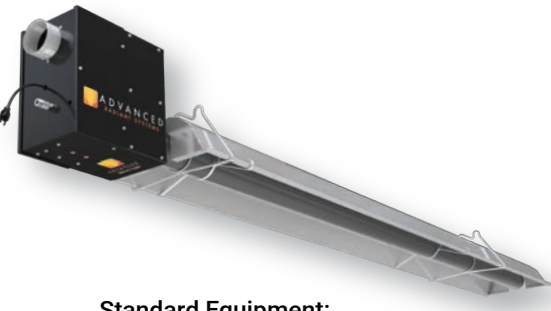




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Co-Alliance and Ceres merger one step closer

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana-based farmer-owned cooperatives Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc. and Ceres Solutions Cooperative, Inc. announced on Nov. 29 an agreement to pursue a merger. The cooperatives spent the past three months in a due diligence period to better understand the potential synergies of a combined organization. Upon reviewing the final due diligence report, the boards of directors of both cooperatives have unanimously approved a member vote for the merger.

“After considerable analysis, we believe this merger will provide a tremendous opportunity for our 20,000 farmer-owners. This will allow our team to provide more robust service offerings, greater investments in our assets and an unmatched customer experience,” said Jeff Troike, CEO of Ceres Solutions. “Together we know there will be great synergies from this historic merger with the Co-Alliance team.”

If the membership approves the merger, the new cooperative will have 1,800 full-time employees who will serve hundreds of rural communities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. The cooperative system plays a vital role in our rural districts, investing in facilities, sustainable agriculture, and the next generation of farmers. The employee team will be focused on collaborating to drive efficiencies, share expertise and deliver a diverse portfolio of services to customers.

“This merger drives our mission of serving our farmer-owners and the communities where we live and work,” added Kevin Still, CEO of Co-Alliance Cooperative. “The combined strength and legacy of success of Ceres and Co-Alliance creates a powerful partner for our farmer-owners and customers, helping them grow future generations. We are excited about this dynamic combination and what it means for the strength and future of the cooperative system.”

Ceres and Co-Alliance have tested their partnership approach with their joint venture, Endeavor Ag & Energy. Endeavor has successfully provided agronomy, propane, and feed services in north central Michigan. Membership voting will take place in the coming weeks with the hope of completing the merger in early 2024.

Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned supply and marketing operation delivering innovative solutions for farmer-members and customers across Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan specializing in agronomy, propane, fuels, grain, seed, hog production and feed.

Ceres Solutions Cooperative, Inc. is a 100 percent farmer-owned local cooperative headquartered in Crawfordsville that serves customers across 37 counties in Indiana and Michigan. The business offers a comprehensive line of energy, agronomy, seed and feed products and services.

Tennessee Agricultural Museum awarded grant to renovate artifacts

NASHVILLE – Outdoor artifacts at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum will undergo renovations thanks to a grant from the State of Tennessee.

The Oscar L. Farris Agricultural Museum Association (OLFAMA) will use a \$39,000 grant to replace roofs on all three museum cabins, including one that sustained severe storm damage earlier this year. As part of the museum’s collection, the historic cabins play an integral role in teaching visitors about how early settlers cleared land, built homes and performed daily tasks.

“The Ag Museum cabins showcase life in Tennessee before electricity and provide a unique hands-on experience,” Agricultural Museum Director Elaura Guttormson, Ph.D., said. “Replacing the roofs using historically accurate methods and materials will help us preserve the integrity of the buildings and ensure they’re safe for visitors for years to come.”

The Tennessee General Assembly made available \$5 million in funding from the 2023-2024 Appropriations

Act for the purpose of providing grants to museums for capital maintenance and improvements. The Tennessee State Museum will administer the grants that support preservation of local and state history.

The Tennessee Agricultural Museum is a free-admission museum that provides educational programs, exhibits and special events that attract more than 15,000 people annually. The museum includes more than 3,000 artifacts on two levels of exhibits, an heirloom garden, three historic cabins, and a replica schoolhouse.

OLFAMA supports the Tennessee Agricultural Museum through the maintenance, preservation, interpretation, and legal ownership of the museum’s artifact collections. The association also provides volunteers and funding resources to the museum.

The museum is at 404 Hogan Road in Nashville. Follow @TNAgMu on Facebook and @tennessee.agricultural.museum on Instagram to get all the news and highlights from the museum.



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MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 12/11/2023 - Final AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 12/4/2023	Last Year
Total Receipts:	923	2,777	1,503
Feeder Cattle:	759(82.2%)	2,605(93.8%)	1,269(84.4%)
Slaughter Cattle:	157(17.0%)	164(5.9%)	229(15.2%)
Replacement Cattle:	7(0.8%)	8(0.3%)	5(0.3%)

Groups of 20 head or more: Heifers
71 hd 730 lbs 183.75 Blk-Mixed
66 hd 821 lbs 183.75 Blk-Mixed

Compared to last Monday feeder steers under 550 lbs sold 5.00 to 8.00 higher with most advance on attractive quality 450-500 lb weaned packages with good demand; over 600 lbs sold 5.00 to 8.00 lower with light demand. Feeder heifers sold steady to 3.00 lower with moderate demand. Yearling steers lite test. Yearling heifers noticeably lower in a limited comparison. Slaughter cows sold 5.00 to 10.00 lower with light demand. Slaughter bulls sold steady with good demand. Supply included: 82% Feeder Cattle (26% Steers, 58% Heifers, 16% Bulls); 17% Slaughter Cattle (1% Heifers, 92% Cows, 7% Bulls); 1% Replacement Cattle (100% Bred Cows). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 51%.

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	260	260	260.00	260.00
1	365	365	289.00	289.00
6	385-395	390	259.00-287.00	271.07 Value Added
16	415-445	435	258.00-274.00	266.46 Value Added
2	465	465	249.00	249.00
25	450-499	476	256.00-270.00	264.26 Value Added
14	500-530	517	247.50-274.00	261.06 Value Added
6	560-593	578	231.00-240.00	238.01
15	560-572	568	242.00-254.00	246.83 Value Added
13	600-648	622	195.00-209.50	202.50
21	600-637	625	215.00-222.00	219.52 Value Added
9	655-690	669	189.00-203.50	199.13
15	660-692	676	204.00-218.00	212.69 Value Added
11	710-740	719	186.00-192.00	188.74
4	711	711	209.00	209.00 Value Added

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	335	335	210.00	210.00
3	511	511	231.00	231.00
5	550-585	566	221.00-230.00	228.14
6	620-625	623	170.00-190.00	183.50
1	655	655	186.00	186.00
1	730	730	182.00	182.00
1	780	780	169.00	169.00

STEERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	547	547	235.00	235.00
1	555	555	231.00	231.00
1	600	600	190.00	190.00
1	770	770	181.00	181.00
3	850-890	877	172.00-187.00	176.85

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	290	290	205.00	205.00
3	322-325	323	197.50-205.00	200.02
6	352-380	361	190.00-204.00	201.28
6	383-388	386	208.00-215.00	211.48 Value Added
23	430-438	437	195.00-203.00	197.60
17	455-495	480	190.00-194.00	192.54
6	451-480	456	205.00-209.00	208.30 Value Added
12	500-548	521	189.00-198.00	193.55
36	505-540	525	199.00-222.00	206.99 Value Added
29	555-590	579	187.00-196.50	192.92
20	560-588	569	199.00-200.00	199.65 Value Added
29	603-645	627	175.00-185.00	178.10
2	605-625	615	200.00-205.00	202.54 Value Added
22	650-683	664	175.00-181.00	179.98
71	730	730	183.75	183.75 Value Added
66	821	821	183.75	183.75 Value Added
3	885-890	888	157.00-163.00	158.99
1	985	985	150.00	150.00
1	1075	1075	100.00	100.00

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	285	285	174.00	174.00
3	305-345	322	170.00-192.00	179.55
1	365	365	185.00	185.00
3	410-430	423	180.00-186.00	181.94
6	460-495	477	173.00-189.00	181.93
4	500-540	525	173.00-182.00	178.70
4	565-595	578	170.00-176.00	172.28
4	605-635	624	153.00-171.00	163.86
8	665-680	669	153.00-166.00	156.39
6	710-737	726	131.00-140.00	134.14
2	805	805	113.00	113.00
1	865	865	116.00	116.00
1	910	910	111.00	111.00

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	380	380	182.00	182.00
1	560	560	186.00	186.00
1	620	620	172.00	172.00

1	735	735	151.00	151.00
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HEIFERS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	325	325	157.50	157.50
1	425	425	130.00	130.00
1	545	545	130.00	130.00
1	675	675	135.00	135.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	290	290	252.50	252.50
4	305-340	323	250.00-251.00	250.53
2	350-355	353	245.00-251.00	248.02
12	351-398	381	261.00-277.50	270.30 Value Added
6	405-427	414	223.00-250.00	239.90
7	451-485	466	208.00-252.00	224.42
3	505-540	528	215.00-232.00	223.98
8	555-585	571	198.00-247.00	224.43
6	610-645	625	170.00-205.00	183.68
3	646	646	195.00	195.00 Value Added
11	675-690	682	176.00-193.00	190.00
2	670	670	201.00	201.00 Value Added
5	718-745	726	165.00-180.00	174.91
5	758-785	769	170.00-180.00	175.92
1	950	950	160.00	160.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	272-285	276	202.50-207.50	205.78
2	335-345	340	210.00-220.00	214.93
2	365-380	373	189.00-200.00	194.39
2	425-440	433	180.00-202.50	191.45
3	530-545	535	190.00-200.00	193.40
1	585	585	170.00	170.00
6	605-645	628	140.00-151.00	147.38
1	690	690	145.00	145.00
3	730-732	731	140.00-158.00	145.99
2	750-790	770	131.00-158.00	144.15
2	872	872	129.00	129.00
1	940	940	120.00	120.00

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	682	682	170.00	170.00

BULLS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	350	350	132.50	132.50
1	445	445	142.50	142.50
1	560	560	120.00	120.00

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

HEIFERS - Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1180	1180	125.00	125.00	Average
COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
20	1320-1790	1509	82.00-88.00	85.75	Average
34	1270-2070	1531	88.00-96.00	90.65	High
5	1245-1675	1421	75.00-81.00	78.93	Low
1	1645	1645	71.00	71.00	Very Low

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
23	950-1545	1282	82.00-88.00	84.68	Average
14	1050-1680	1325	88.00-93.00	90.26	High
8	1000-1315	1197	74.00-82.00	78.12	Low

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
12	960-1200	1061	75.00-82.00	77.77	Average
4	960-1120	1043	83.00-84.00	83.77	High
7	1100-1395	1231	70.00-75.00	73.44	Low
4	760-915	831	58.00-69.00	63.35	Very Low

BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	1805-1925	1868	114.00-120.00	117.24	Average
5	1555-1940	1718	128.00-135.00	130.93	High
1	1430	1430	99.00	99.00	Low

REPLACEMENT CATTLE

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2	1	1080	1080	975.00	975.00

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2	2	1050-1140	1095	875.00	875.00

Please Note: The above USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted.

Explanatory Notes:

Stage (Cattle) - Represents pregnancy stage (O = open; T1 = 1st Trimester, 1 to 3 months; T1-2 = 1st/2nd trimester, 1 to 6 months; T2 = 2nd Trimester, 4 to 6 months; T2-3 = 2nd/3rd Trimester, 4 to 9 months; T3 = 3rd Trimester, 7 to 9 months; T1-3 = all trimesters, 1 to 9 months)

Age - Numerical representation of age in years.

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News
KY Dept of Ag Market News Bill Holleran
Frankfort, KY | (502) 782-4138 • www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov
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Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Friday, December 15, 2023 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS

Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 12/15/2023

Exchange	Commodity	483.00 (Mar 24)	495.25 (May 24)	504.75 (Jul 24)	505.50 (Sep 24)	512.25 (Dec 24)	522.25 (Mar 25)	527.00 (May 25)
CBOT	Corn	1315.75 (Jan 24)	1331.50 (Mar 24)	1343.00 (May 24)	1350.00 (Jul 24)	1331.00 (Aug 24)	1292.00 (Sep 24)	1276.25 (Nov 24)
CBOT	Soybeans	629.25 (Mar 24)	639.50 (May 24)	644.25 (Jul 24)	652.75 (Sep 24)	663.25 (Dec 24)	671.00 (Mar 25)	672.25 (May 25)
CBOT	Wheat	375.50 (Mar 24)	377.00 (May 24)	378.25 (Jul 24)	387.00 (Sep 24)	393.75 (Dec 24)	373.75 (Mar 25)	379.75 (May 25)
KCBT	White Oats	642.75 (Mar 24)	647.50 (May 24)	651.75 (Jul 24)	662.00 (Sep 24)	674.50 (Dec 24)	681.00 (Mar 25)	682.25 (May 25)
MGE	Wheat	730.75 (Mar 24)	739.50 (May 24)	745.50 (Jul 24)	751.50 (Sep 24)	761.75 (Dec 24)	764.25 (Mar 25)	769.00 (May 25)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	20.00Z		5.0300	UP 0.2625	5.0300

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	50.00H	UNCH	5.3300	UP 0.0375	5.3300
Ohio River - Lower KY	-10.00Z	UNCH	5.0225	UP 0.0375	5.0225
Purchase	25.00H	UNCH	5.0800	UP 0.0375	5.0800
Purchase	50.00H to 65.00H	UNCH	5.3300-5.4800	UP 0.0375	5.4050

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Purchase	-10.00H	UNCH	4.7300	UP 0.0375	4.7300	
Purchase	0.00H	UNCH	4.8300	UP 0.0375	4.8300	
Green River	-15.00H	UNCH	4.6800	UP 0.0375	4.6800	
Green River	5.00H	UNCH	4.8800	UP 0.0375	4.8800	
Green River	-20.00Z	UNCH	4.9225	UP 0.0375	4.9225	
Pennyrile	-20.00H to -5.00H	UNCH	4.6300-4.7800	UP 0.0375	4.7050	
Pennyrile	-5.00H to 0.00H	UNCH	4.7800-4.8300	UP 0.0375	4.8050	
Louisville	-25.00H to -16.00H	UNCH	4.5800-4.6700	UP 0.0375	4.6250	
Louisville	-25.00H to 2.00H	UNCH	4.5800-4.8500	UP 0.0375	4.7150	
Louisville	-25.00H	UNCH	4.5800	UP 0.0375	4.5800	
Bluegrass	-65.00H	UNCH	4.1800	UP 0.0375	4.1800	
Bluegrass	-10.00H	UNCH	4.7300	UP 0.0375	4.7300	

MARKETS

Missouri Direct Hay Report Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 12/15/2023

Although no one really wants to feed in the mud lack of moisture continues to be a concern. Granted the growing season is over but there has been nothing so far to replenish any subsoil moisture that is so important in the winter season. The latest drought monitor has basically the entire state in some stage of drought again. Hay movement and demand remains good as feeding is well underway. If there is any positive to be found it would be that the above average weather has cattle warm and dry and that does lessen feed requirements ever so slightly. The supply of hay is light to moderate, and prices mostly steady. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory> or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at <https://feedstufffinder.org>

HAY (Conventional)		
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)		
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-300.00	
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	10.00-15.00	
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)		
Medium Square 3x3	200.00-250.00	
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	150.00-200.00	
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	5.00-10.00	
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	125.00-150.00	
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	150.00-225.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	100.00-175.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	5.00-11.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)		
Large Round	50.00-100.00	

STRAW (Conventional)		
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	4.00-7.00	
Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News MO Dept of Ag Market News Jefferson City, MO (573) 751-5618 https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2929		



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Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, December 15, 2023

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week traditional slaughter lambs 5.00-9.00 lower, others mostly 5.00-30.00 lower. Slaughter ewes mostly steady to 10.00 higher. Feeder lambs 5.00 lower. At San Angelo, TX 8,877 head sold in a two day sale. Equity Cooperative Auction sold 680 slaughter lambs in Idaho. In Direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs not tested. 4,192 lamb carcasses traded with no trend due to confidentiality. All sheep sold per Hundred weight (CWT) unless specified.

*** This is the last report for this year. The next report will be issued Friday, January 12, 2024. Happy Holidays! ***

Slaughter Lambs:	Choice and Prime 2-3
San Angelo:	wooled and shorn 110-150 lbs 186.00-206.00.
New Holland, PA:	wooled and shorn 100-145 lbs no report.
Ft. Collins, CO:	wooled and shorn 100-140 lbs 170.00-200.00; 150-175 lbs 175.00-187.50.
South Dakota:	wooled and shorn 100-150 lbs 170.00-190.00; 150-170 lbs 161.00-171.00.
Kalona, IA:	wooled and shorn 100-140 lbs 160.00-215.00; 150-165 lbs 150.00-180.00.
Billings, MT:	wooled and shorn no test.
Missouri:	wooled and shorn 100-135 lbs 146.00-175.00.
Arkansas:	wooled and shorn no test.
Equity Coop:	wooled 135 lbs 184.00-184.25.
Slaughter Lambs:	Choice and Prime 1-2:
San Angelo:	hair 40-60 lbs 270.00-306.00, few 310.00-312.00; 60-70 lbs 240.00-296.00; 70-80 lbs 226.00-276.00, few 280.00-296.00; 80-90 lbs 214.00-247.00, few 252.00-265.00; 90-100 lbs 190.00-242.00. woolled and shorn 80-90 lbs 228.00-230.00, few 252.00; 94 lbs 224.00.
New Holland:	no report.
Ft. Collins:	wooled and shorn 60-70 lbs 200.00-265.00; 70-80 lbs 190.00-210.00; 90-100 lbs 192.50-200.00. hair 45 lbs 255.00; 50-60 lbs 210.00-260.00; 60-70 lbs 225.00-260.00; 70-80 lbs 202.50-220.00; 85 lbs 220.00; 90-100 lbs 200.00-205.00.
Kalona:	wooled and shorn 40-50 lbs 300.00-335.00; 50-60 lbs 260.00-275.00, few 337.50-350.00; 60-70 lbs 240.00-250.00, few 335.00; 70-80 lbs 214.00-250.00, few 260.00-285.00; 80-90 lbs 215.00-230.00, few 255.00-275.00; 90-100 lbs 185.00-210.00, few 230.00. hair 45 lbs 285.00; 50-60 lbs 250.00-290.00; 60-70 lbs 235.00-250.00, few 295.00; 70-80 lbs 205.00-210.00; 80-90 lbs 205.00-219.00.
South Dakota:	wooled & shorn 60-70 lbs 250.00-265.00; 70-80 lbs 225.00-255.00; 90-100 lbs 181.00-200.00. hair 56 lbs 285.00; 60-70 lbs 257.50-265.00; 70-80 lbs 195.00-205.00; 80-90 lbs 187.00-205.00; 90-100 lbs 195.00-200.00.
Billings:	no test.
Missouri:	hair 50-60 lbs 252.50-272.50; 60-70 lbs 230.00-255.00; 70-80 lbs 240.00-242.50; 80-90 lbs 190.00-195.00. woolled and shorn 86 lbs 186.00.
Arkansas:	hair 50-60 lbs 235.00-275.00, few 290.00-315.00; 60-70 lbs 245.00-295.00; 70-80 lbs 232.50-255.00, few 262.50; 91 lbs 200.00. woolled and shorn 93 lbs 210.00.
Slaughter Ewes:	
San Angelo:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 82.00-92.00,

New Holland:	hair 80.00-100.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 100.00-114.00, hair 94.00-118.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) hair 80.00-98.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) hair 60.00-74.00; Cull 1 44.00-48.00.
Ft. Collins:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no report; Utility 1-2 (thin) no report; Cull 1 no test. Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 75.00-95.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 67.50-95.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.
South Dakota:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 47.00-85.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 58.00-80.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 41.00-45.00; Cull 1 15.00.
Kalona:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) hair 67.00-69.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 80.00-100.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 72.50-82.50; Utility 1-2 (thin) 60.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 36.00-40.00.
Billings:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.
Missouri:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 80.00-84.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 68.00-77.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) 55.00-60.00.
Arkansas:	Good 2-3 (fleshy) 107.50, hair 75.00-110.00.
Direct Trading:	no sales.
Feeder Lambs:	Medium and Large 1-2:
San Angelo:	hair 30-40 lbs 285.00-292.00; 40-50 lbs 282.00-322.00; 50-60 lbs 290.00-312.00; 61 lbs 275.00.
Ft. Collins:	no test.
South Dakota:	40-50 lbs 295.00-310.00; 50-60 lbs 248.00-256.00; 60-70 lbs 240.00-253.00; 70-80 lbs 228.00-245.00; 80-90 lbs 206.00-212.00; 90-100 lbs 194.00-201.00; 100-110 lbs 171.00-181.00; 127 lbs 169.00. hair 85 lbs 201.00.
Kalona:	no test.
Billings:	no test.
Missouri:	hair 48 lbs 265.00.
Arkansas:	hair 30-40 lbs 280.00-290.00, few 315.00; 40-50 lbs 280.00-290.00, few 300.00.
Equity Coop:	no test.
Replacement Ewes:	Medium and Large 1-2:
San Angelo:	hair lambs 57 lbs 290.00/cwt, 60-80 lbs 252.00-275.00/cwt, 80-95 lbs 232.00-245.00/cwt; yearling hair 100-115 lbs 200.00-232.00/cwt; young hair 100-120 lbs 136.00-190.00/cwt; middle age hair 95-145 lbs 120.00-140.00/cwt.
Ft. Collins:	no test.
South Dakota:	yearlings 170.00-185.00/head; middle age 140.00-220.00/head.
Billings:	no test.
Kalona:	no test.
Missouri:	185.00-195.00/head; middle age 240.00/head.
Arkansas:	hair lambs 86 lbs 135.00/head; yearling hair 115.00-140.00/head; young hair 117.50/head; hair ewes and lambs 55.00-62.50/head.

Sheep and lambs slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 42,000 compared with 26,000 last week and 35,000 last year.

Source: USDA AMS LPG Market News, San Angelo, Texas
Rebecca Sauder, 325-450-4265
www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn

Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection Friday, December 15, 2023

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
Friday 12/15/2023	121,000	1,000	478,000	4,000
Week ago	122,000	1,000	479,000	5,000
Year ago (act)	118,000	2,000	446,000	5,000
Week to date	626,000	5,000	2,392,000	38,000
Same Period Last Week	624,000	5,000	2,425,000	38,000
Same Period Last Year (act)	603,000	8,000	2,376,000	37,000
Saturday 12/16/2023	23,000	0	297,000	0
Week ago	11,000	0	249,000	0
Year ago (act)	20,000	0	203,000	0
Week to date	649,000	5,000	2,689,000	38,000
Same Period Last Week	635,000	5,000	2,674,000	38,000
Same Period Last Year* (act)	622,000	7,000	2,580,000	37,000
2023 Year to Date	31,113,00	275,000	122,688,000	1,758,000
2022 *Year to Date	32,570,00	347,000	120,705,000	1,684,000
Percent change	-4.5%	-20.7%	1.6%	4.4%
2023 *Totals subject to revision				
2022 *Totals adjusted to reflect NASS revisions				
Yearly totals may not add due to rounding				
Previous day	Steer and Heifer	Cow and Bull		
Thursday	98,000	27,000		
Source:	USDA Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division, St Joseph, MO			
	816-676-7000	e-mail: stjoe.lpgmn@ams.usda.gov		
		www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS710.txt		
		www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-grain		



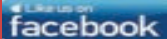
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Drone technology rapidly expanding as uses for agriculture growing

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. — The 42nd Greater Peoria Farm Show (GPFS) wrapped up its three-day run at the Peoria Civic Center on Nov. 30, bringing hundreds of local, national and international ag machinery companies and thousands of farmers together in Peoria's downtown. Ron Bormaster of Austen, Minnesota-based Midwest Shows and manager of the GPFS, said the 2023 show featured the latest in agricultural drone technology, with manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and applicators together under the same roof.

According to Bormaster, six agricultural drone companies were present at the Peoria show, including retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and drone service providers. "I've been here for 28 of the show's 42 years, and when you get something new (in agriculture) it's going to be at the GPFS. We've got all the drone companies within 200-300 miles sitting right here in Peoria," Bormaster said.

In addition to scouting for common crop pests and diseases, modern drone technology is now being directed to maximizing nutrient, pesticide and herbicide applications to corn and soybeans. In addition, recent drone research being pioneered by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture utilizes drones to scout pests and diseases in fruit, nut and row crops and apply targeted treatments.

Modern drone usage in agriculture also includes monitoring plant water stress to help farmers target irrigation resources where most needed, while enabling faster plant screening. Drones can also be used to detect stray

livestock herds, create 3D renderings of animals to calculate market value, and assess livestock forage quality. Additional research is being done to utilize drones to monitor water quality on a large scale and to provide higher resolution data for flood risk models and water resource management.

"In the last few years we've gone from drones being just a spot-spraying tool to now being used for mass soybean and corn fungicide applications, competing with the helicopter and airplane," said Ben De Bouf, location manager for Terraplex, an Iowa-based retailer of agricultural drones. "They are big enough and fast enough that they can take their place on the farm now."

The ability for drones to accurately scan crop imagery health is among the most exciting developments in the ag drone space, according to De Bouf, who manned the Terraplex booth with his wife, Terraplex sales support representative Katherine De Bouf, on opening day for the GPFS. The couple said multi-spectral drones that can produce high-resolution maps to help pinpoint soil health issues are now entering the marketplace.

"These drones look past what the human eye can see as far as light bands, and they pick up what parts of the field are stressed and what parts aren't," Ben De Bouf said.

As for current products, De Bouf said the XAG P100 Pro is the best and largest drone on the market, capable of speeds up to 31 mph and a 30-foot swath width. The vehicle can service 50 acres per hour and dispense around two gallons of applications per acre. Including eight batteries, char-

(Drone continued on page 17)



Above: Representing Iowa-based agricultural drone supplier Terraplex, Ben and Katherine De Bouf attended their first Greater Peoria Farm Show to tap into the expanding drone market.



Above: Gripp Custom Farming of Wyanet, Illinois was present at the 2023 GPFS to showcase their drone application service and new partnership with SweetWater Technologies.

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Bale Spear, 3 Pt., PTO,
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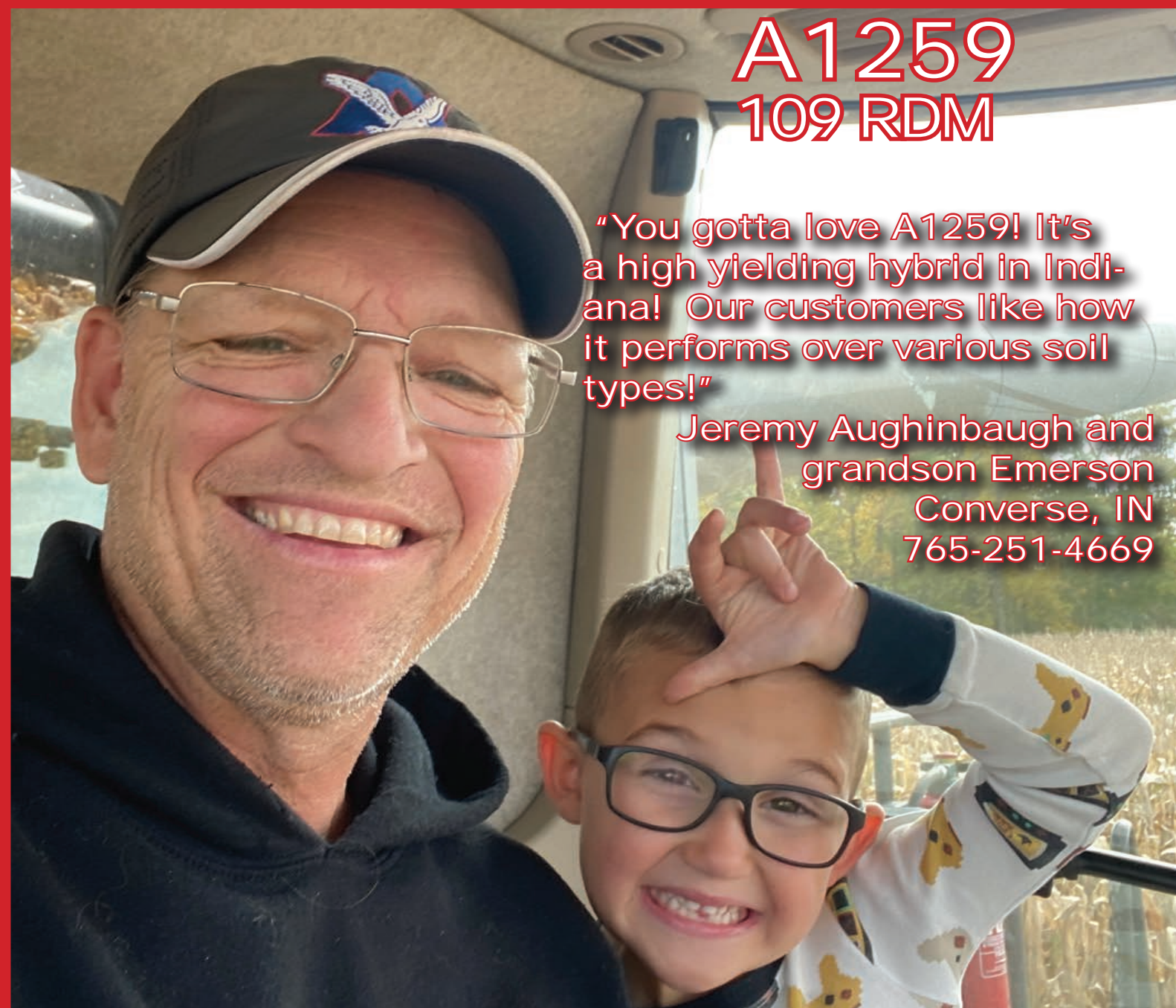


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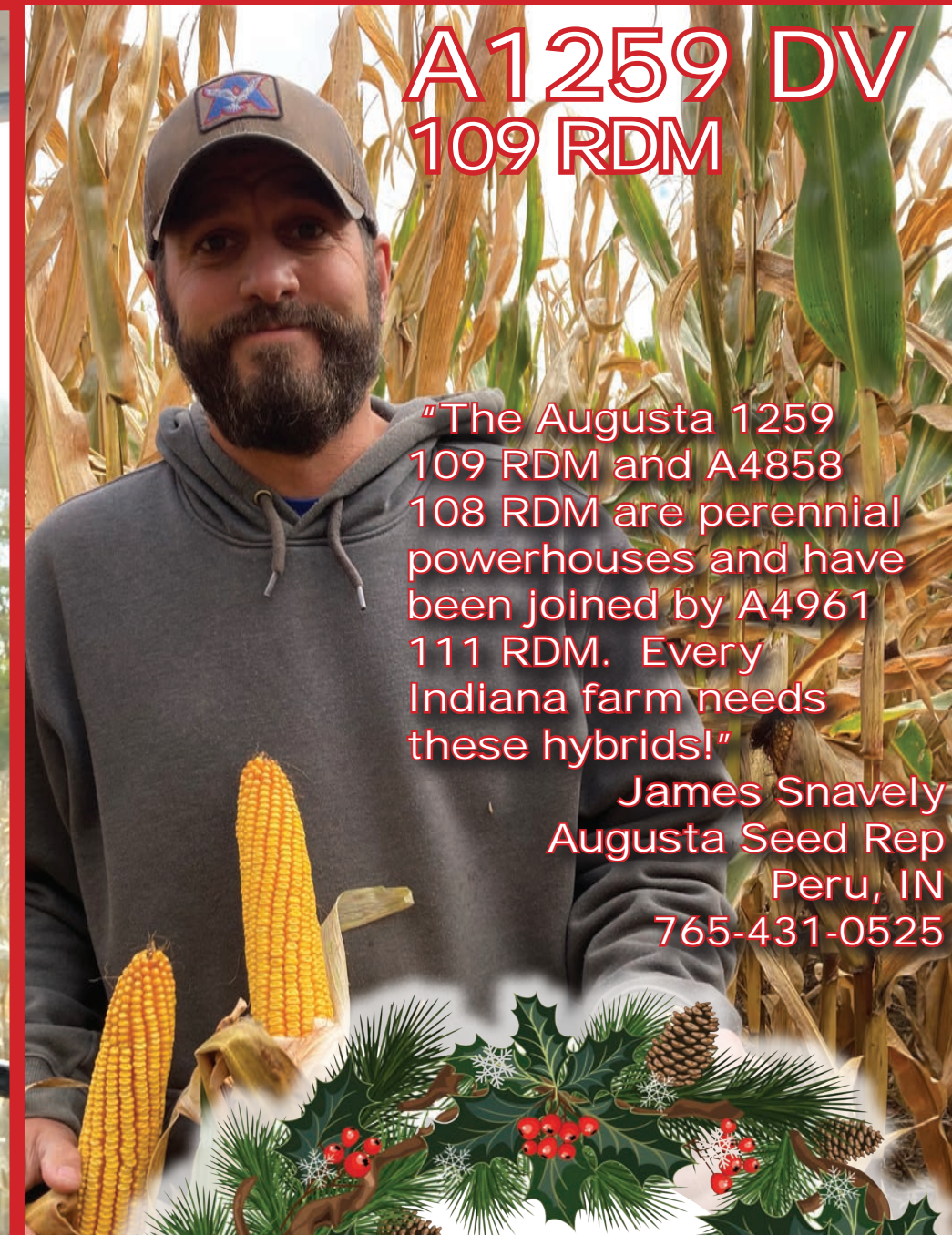
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Augusta Seed

Saving Ohio’s ag history, one old barn at a time

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Urban sprawl, combined with changes in agricultural practices and the downsizing of the family farm, are seen by many as a threat to the future of historic farm buildings and the rural landscape, most notably the barn.

In 2002, a non-profit organization, Friends of Ohio Barns, was formed to promote awareness of the significance of Ohio’s barns. Friends of Ohio Barns is a collection of timber framers, architects and preservationists who rally around Ohio’s barns.

Spearheading this barn rejuvenation effort is Friends of Ohio Barns Vice President Dan Troth, who is also owner of GreenTech Construction of Delaware County, Ohio.

Troth said barns – up to three per week – are being torn down by some people and they “are not being repurposed, but rather cut up and sold for their valuable wood in every state in the Union where they don’t have barns.

Friends of Ohio Barns have worked hard to open the public’s eyes to the beauty and significance of Ohio’s historic barns and the threats they face.”

Troth is a longtime member of the Timber Framers Guild. He took down his first barn in 1976 and at the time was only trying to get the slate from the roof to sell. Now, he has a deep appreciation for barns that stems in part from his childhood visits to the country while growing up in Ashland. His father was an attorney who had many clients that were farmers, and on Sundays they would visit the farms.

“Whenever they had a barn, we would

play in the barn,” Troth said. “Back in those days, you could build forts with the hay bales, and I just loved it.”

Troth lives in southern Delaware County in an 1828 barn that he and his wife, Robin, converted into a house.

Friends of Ohio Barns is based in Burbank, Ohio, but has members all across the state. The group works with other organizations, like the National Barn Alliance and Barn Again!, to connect Ohio barn owners with repair specialists. It also hosts an annual barn conference.

“We want people to understand the importance of Ohio’s barns and their agricultural heritage,” said Ric Beck, past president of Friends of Ohio Barns. “Many barns in Ohio were constructed with virgin growth, first-cut timber. If you want to learn about the history of Ohio’s forests, all you need to do is go into our old barns. Plus, these historic barns showcase the incredible, distinctive craftsmanship of our ancestors. They were often built by hand in about six to eight months, and there’s a lot we can still learn from their hard work.”

Much of the non-profit organization’s work culminates during the last weekend in April each year when they host the Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour. During the event, guests can tour century barns, learn from Ohio historians, and enjoy demonstrations and presentations from local experts on topics such as historic barn maintenance and repair. Last April the tour took attendees to six old barns.

“These barns are perfect examples of living history, and with some work they can still be enjoyed today,” Beck said.

(Saving continued on page 16)



Above: This old, run-down barn may look displeasing to the passerby, when it actually holds significant qualities to those who want to restore these old farm structures. (photo submitted)

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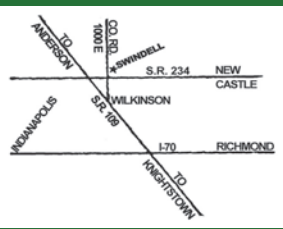
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Saving

FROM PAGE 14

“To preserve them is to save relics that can never be recreated and to hold onto important parts of Ohio’s history.”

In addition, Friends of Ohio Barns helps communities restore and repurpose their historic barns. For example, Beck said the group worked with the Timber Farmers Guild to save Upper Arlington’s oldest farm structure, which was built in 1838. Today, that building is known as the Amelita Mirolo Barn and serves as a favorite community destination, hosting weddings, graduation parties, family reunions, concerts and more.

Friends of Ohio Barns members have a newsletter that helps keep them informed about better ways to conserve and maintain these old barns. One way of doing this is by helping to put barn owners and barn repair specialists together.

Unfortunately, these old symbols of the state’s rural heritage are disappearing at an alarming rate. Some unwanted barns will be dismantled and rebuilt as a barn or as someone’s home, or for another purpose. Many others will end up in pieces, picked apart and scattered across the globe as lumber for flooring, cabinets, furniture and other wood products.

Ohio’s historic barns were built with the trees on farmers’ properties and the most common types of wood used were white oak, tulip popular and American beech.

Nick Wiesenberg, geological technician at The College of Wooster, provides the technical support and logistics to date when timber-framed barns or homes were built based on dendrochronology of the structures’ beams.

The technique employs a small diameter core sample drilled from numerous beams containing the outermost ring throughout the barn. A series of 10 to 15 of these cores is used to determine the age of the trees and what year they were cut.

The core is then mounted, finely sanded and examined under a microscope to obtain accurate measurements from each annual ring. Each sample’s ring series is then statistically matched with a computer program and adjusted accordingly to create a floating series that aligns the core’s unique pattern.

“We know that the build dates of the barns we are looking at fit into a window of time typically between 1800 and 1900,” Wiesenberg said. “We then compare the floating ring-width data with historical chronologies from nearby

structures that cover a timespan from about 1600 to 1900.”

The computer calculates where the samples fit best, therefore providing an exact span of dates on each sample. Based on the growth of the outmost ring, they can even tell at what point of the year the tree was cut.

“Most of the time we find the trees were cut after the leaves fell,” Wiesenberg said. “That would enable the settlers to work on squaring up the trees in the winter when they did not have field work to do and temperatures were more comfortable for felling trees and converting them into beams by hand.”


The oldest tree he and his classes have examined was a white oak which began growing before 1550. According to Wiesenberg, the earliest structure the college has dated was a house in the Columbus, Ohio, area built circa 1796. They find oak, ash and chestnut beams provide the most reliable ring structure for accurate dating. Unlike carbon dating, which is typically accurate to within approximately 50-100 years, dendrochronology can provide a date that is plus or minus zero.

“Every tree has a story to tell but it takes a special ear to know how to listen,” Wiesenberg said.




Above: Friends of Ohio Barns Vice President Dan Troth of Delaware, Ohio holds a framed photo of an old barn raising. Troth collects barn raising photos and has a keen interest in the events, which used to bring families, friends and neighbors together. (photo submitted)


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Above: Hayden Harshbarger, precision farming drone specialist for Birkey's Farm Store, confers with a potential drone customer at the GPFS. Birkey's entered the drone retail market just this year. (T. Alexander photos)

Drone

FROM PAGE 10

ger and sprayer module, the 2023 XAG P100 Pro can retail for around \$35,000.

The DJI Agras T-40 model is the newest drone to emerge from the spray drone pipeline carried by Terraplex. Capable of servicing around 40 acres per hour, this vehicle can retail for around \$20,000.

Katherine De Bouf said the burgeoning retail agricultural drone market is becoming very competitive, making it imperative for new buyers to seek out responsible vendors who are available to answer questions and follow up on their sales. "Our top company value is customer service. All of our team members have previously experienced other drone companies whose customer service was lacking. Drones were not repaired quickly enough in-season, so applicators were losing money. There is a lot of licensing that comes with

drones, and other companies wouldn't help buyers with that service. We try to rise above the others by offering all of those services," she said.

Gripp Custom Farming of Wyanet, Illinois was also present at the GPFS, showcasing both their aerial innovation services and retail affiliation with SweetWater Technologies. Spokesman David Taylor said that though more farmers and ranchers are seeing the advantages in purchasing drones for their operations, demand for aerial crop application companies such as Gripp is also on the rise.

"This past year between 12 T-40s we covered 90,000 acres. We're spraying fungicides, insecticides, micro nutrients, plant growth regulators and whatever else farmers want," said Taylor, adding that because drone demand is so high Gripp Custom Farming is working to expand its aerial innovation network across the Midwest.

Birkey's Farm Store, an agricultural equipment and service provider with stores in Illinois and Indiana, was also present at the GPFS. Birkey's precision farming drone specialist Hayden Harshbarger said he was there to bring awareness to local farmers that Birkey's — which just began retailing agricultural drones this summer — can be trusted when it comes to consulting about drone purchases.

"As the weather gets nicer, we're looking to get out and demo these drones (and) show farmers how easy they are to fly with the controller, as well as how easy it is to maintain them and to stay legal with the licensing and things like that," said Harshbarger. "What we are doing here is to let people know that not only are we selling drones, we are maintaining them. We are going to have parts and service at all 17 of our locations. Instead of calling someone from out of state and having parts shipped to you, we're going to be right down the road to come and service you."

Other drone retailers and wholesalers, such as Missouri-based Gras Tech, Bestway Ag and Drone Deploy Aerotech were also present at the 2023 GPFS. Together, the spectrum of retailers, wholesalers and providers represented the expanding field of agricultural drone industry competitors. The U.S. agricultural drone market size was estimated at \$347.9 million in 2022 and is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 22.8 percent from 2023 to 2030, according to market research projections issued earlier this year.

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Non-native, invasive plants thriving in Ohio, elsewhere

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

CINCINNATI, Ohio – Of the approximately 2,300 vascular plant species growing in the wild in Ohio, about 78 percent are native. The other 22 percent – more than 500 species – are not native to Ohio, having been introduced from other states or countries. Most non-native plants have been introduced for erosion control, horticulture, forage crops, culinary and medicinal use, wild-life foods or by accident.

These species become very invasive and displace native plants in woodlands, wetlands and prairies, and oftentimes onto farms. Invasive plants are a major threat to the health of the ecosystems and to the viability of rare species.

University of Cincinnati botanist Denis Conover has studied the problems associated with invasive plants. Conover, along with his students, examined the impact that nonnative, invasive plants are having. His latest study was published in the journal Ecological Restoration.

“The nonnative, invasive species are very detrimental to native ecosystems,” Conover said. “Once they get going in the natural areas, they can take over and exclude the native plants and the animals that depend on them.”

In this study, Conover used the arboretum at Cincinnati’s Spring Grove Cemetery, which has recorded more than 1,200 species of trees, shrubs, vines and other plants over its 178-year history. The arboretum is home to 26 noteworthy, mature trees known as “champions” for being the largest or best representation of their species, including a national champion September elm tree and an Ohio champion American yellowwood.

Conover said the arboretum is home to many beautiful native plants, including an enormous white oak that was a sapling when the Mayflower dropped anchor in Plymouth Colony. But Conover said some exotic plants at the ar-



Above: University of Cincinnati professor Denis Conover said many nonnative and invasive plants spreading in woods were planted as ornamentals. (photo submitted)

boretum are bearing fruit and seeds that are being carried by birds or the wind to neighboring woods.

Some exotic plants introduced to people’s yards and gardens will never pose a problem, Conover said, while others can become invasive.

“You don’t know. It may take decades before they show any signs of being invasive, like the Callery pear tree,” Conover said.

Horticulturists introduced most of the nonnative plants from Europe and Asia as ornamentals. Their seeds eventually spread in the wild. The biggest culprit? Amur honeysuckle, a woody shrub that has taken over many eastern forests.

“It has escaped into the wild and is propagating on its own,” Conover said. “Amur honeysuckle is now the most abundant woody plant in Hamilton County. One bush can produce thousands of seeds that get dispersed by birds and mammals. In some woodlands, the Amur honeysuckle layer is so dense that the only native species remaining are older trees whose canopy is already growing above the shrub layer.”

Some invasive plants are successful because they produce chemicals that hinder the growth or germination of nearby competitors, an insidious weapon called allelopathy, Conover said. He said where these introduced plants are



Above: University of Cincinnati professor Denis Conover holds porcelain berry, one of dozens of invasive, nonnative species found during a recent plant survey in southwest Ohio. (photo submitted)

found, there is often far less biodiversity to support wildlife and the food chain. One they take hold, eradicating plants like Amur honeysuckle is labor-intensive, expensive and time consuming.

“Native plants just don’t have a chance. Everything that depends on the native plants – insects, birds – can be lost,” Conover said. “When they introduce nonnative plants to the United States, they can also import fungal diseases that can wipe out native trees, which is what happened with the American chestnut.”

Callery pear trees, with their pretty spring flowers and quick growing times, were a favorite tree to plant in front yards of new subdivisions. Today, they grow wild along highways and forests. Ohio lawmakers plan to phase in a ban on the sale of Callery pear trees.

Conover’s survey found dozens of other examples of foreign species that have taken root in southwest Ohio’s woods, ones that even farmers should be keen to. Winter creeper and English ivy are ground cover commonly planted in gardens, college campuses and cemeteries. White mulberry was introduced to the United States in colonial times to feed silkworms. Today, it takes over disturbed forest and road edges. Multiflora rose produces beautiful white flowers and a tangle of woody thorns that make removal particularly treacherous.



Above: Though it looks velvety and soft from a distance, kudzu is extremely invasive and has given those everywhere fits. The plant is visible as drivers enter Knoxville from the north in Interstate 75. (photo submitted)

Other invasive plants Conover included in his survey included porcelain berry, tree of heaven, winged euonymus, European buckthorn, Oriental bittersweet, common privet and lesser periwinkle. It also found Norway maple, Amur cork tree and white poplar along with herbaceous species such as lesser celandine, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and Japanese stilt grass.

Conover said Ohio’s biggest threats are garlic mustard, multiflora rose, shrub honeysuckles, Asiatic bittersweet and buckthorns.

The most invasive plants in Indiana are purple loosestrife, Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, glossy buckthorn and garlic mustard. In Kentucky, the list has tree-of-heaven, garlic mustard, musk thistle, oriental bittersweet, poison hemlock, crown vetch and Chinese yam.

Illinois: glossy buckthorn, bush honeysuckles, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, autumn olive, burning bush and Bradford pear. Tennessee: kudzu, ailanthus, paulownia, bush honeysuckle, Japanese stilt grass, bittersweet, honeysuckle vine and privet.

Michigan: Japanese stilt grass, autumn olive, tree-of-heaven, oriental bittersweet and spotted knapweed.

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• 1-3/0 walk-in door

• Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

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40'x64'x14'

• 1-20'x14' split slide door

• 1-3/0 walk-in door

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48'x80'x14'

• 1-20'x12' 6" split slide door

• 1-24'x14' split slide door

• 1-3/0 walk-in door

• Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

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60'x120'x16'

• 2-30' x 16' split slider doors

• 1-36" walk door

• Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

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1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

40' x 80' x 14'

1= 20' x 14' Split Sliding Doors

1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

60' x 88' x 16'

1= 24' x 16' Split Sliding Doors

1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

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1966 Chevy C-60 grain truck. All original V-8, call 217-497-9211 Sidel, IL.

1979 Ford LN800 tandem grain truck, 391 gas, 5 spd. plus 2, \$9000. 502-938-7314 Charles-town, IN.

1986 Int. tandem truck, DT466, w/Doyle lime spreader, very gd. cond. 847-738-4711 Burlington, IL.

1988 Ford 6000 diesel, tri-axle truck, blown Cummins motor, 22' bed, gd. shape, scissor hoist. 260-726-9456 Portland, IN.

2004 Chevy 2500 Duramax, 1 owner, 211k miles, newer tires, wheels, injectors, runs great. 765-561-0596 Glenwood, IN.

2006 Brenner 10,000 gal. tank-er, double conical, 2 baffles, SS sub-frame, all alum. wheels, 11-22.5 tires. For hauling liq. fert., very clean, \$39,500. Jerry Taylor 765-307-1832 Crawfordsville, IN.

2011 Freightliner Cornado SD, 420K miles, ISX-550HP, 13 spd., dual line wet kit, air ride, emis-sions delete, runs great, \$49,900. 989-213-7165 Free-land, MI.

2015 Mack tandem day cab, air ride, 445HP, M drive, 12 spd. auto., \$29,900; also 2016 avail-able, same specs. 765-993-4250 Liberty, IN.

80 TRUCKS

International day cabs: 2017 Pro Star, 450 HP Cummins, Eaton auto., 263k miles, \$49,900; 2018 L.T., 450 HP Cummins, Eaton auto., 354k miles, \$54,900; Both rust free southern trucks, serviced & DOT inspected. Neil at 260-413-0626 Decatur, IN.

New take off truck beds, tail-gates & bumpers. 317-512-2129 Franklin, IN.

90 TRAILERS

1977 Brenner 5000 gal. fertiliz-er tanker, 3 compartment, 11x22 tires, Budd wheels, nice looking trailer, needs cross members re-placed, \$16,000. 217-273-9111 Shelbyville, IL.

1980 Arco 6000 gal. stainless steel tanker, 3" Honda pump, exc. cond. \$29,900. 765-993-4250. Liberty, IN.

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45' drop-deck Air ride, gd. tires & brakes, \$7500 obo. 812-756-2022 Osgood, IN.

For Sale 2008 34' Jet grain trail-er. Very gd. cond., shedded, no salt. Asking \$24,000. 765-561-9544 Rushville, IN.

On sale: 2023 model close out Moritz & Delta GN flatbeds, BP equipment trailers, dump trailer, save big! 859-640-5833 Sparta, KY.

100 INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

1999 Terex RT230 rough terrain crane, 30T capacity, 94' boom length, Cummins dsl., 11,000 hrs., gd. cond., \$35,000. 765-238-9883 Hagerstown, IN.

2002 CAT 320CL excavator, gd. undercarriage, hyd. thumb, 36" bucket, 8500 hours, \$53,000. 765-564-5700 Delphi, IN.

2004 JD 310G 4x4, cab, Extend-A-Hoe, 1804 hours, CEMETERY MACHINE, (3) buckets, REALLY NICE, can deliver. \$53,000 765-332-2326 Straughn, IN.

2007 JD 310G 4x4 backhoe, 1580 hrs., extend-a-hoe, EROPS, gd. shape, \$42,900. 989-213-7165 Freeland, MI.

Clark CGP45 dsl. forklift, 10,000 lb. capacity, 2 stage, fork positioner, 6414 hrs., \$12,000. 765-238-9883 Hagerstown, IN.

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16' Bush Hog 2815 540 RPM, 8 Airplane Tires, Chain Guards . \$ 15,000
22' Bush Hog BCSS90 90" Skid Steer Mower \$ 14,900
10' John Deere FH15 1000 RPM, 8 Airplane Tires, Chains. \$ 14,000

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22' J&M 1112-20 w/Tarp, Scales (IFarm), V4LT Tracks \$112,000
22' J&M 1112-20 w/Tarp, Scales (IFarms), V4LT Tracks \$112,000
22' J&M 1112-20 w/Tarp, RH Unload, 1250/50R32 Tires \$80,000
98' J&M 750-14 w/Tarp, 30.5X32 Tires \$ 16,000
J&M 1150-20 w/Tarp, 76X50X32 Tires \$ 42,000
17' Brandt 1020XR Tarp, Scales, Tracks \$ 63,000
12' Brent 1282 w/Tarp, Scales (GT460), 1250/45R32 Tires. \$ 52,000
11' Brent 1282 w/Tarp, Scales, 520-65R38 Walking Duals . \$ 38,000
06' J&M 24 Ton Running Gear No Tires & Rims \$ 4,900
10' J&M 1000-20 w/Tarp, 900/60R32 Tires \$32,000
12' J&M 1326-22 Tarp, Scales, J&M Tracks \$82,000
13' J&M 1250-20 w/Tarp and 1250/45R32 Tires \$ 62,000
14' J&M 1326-22 w/Tarp and Tracks \$87,000
16' J&M 1112-20 w/Tarp, Scales, Tracks \$91,000
23' J&M 1412-20T w/Tarp, 900/60R32 Tires \$146,000
23' J&M 1112-20T w/Tarp, Scales, Tracks \$115,000
23' J&M 1222-20 w/Tarp, Scales, 1250's \$91,000
11' Unverferth 1315 w/Tarp, 520/65R42 Walking Duals . \$ 45,000
14' Unverferth 1110 w/Tarp, Scales, Tracks \$72,000
Unverferth 9250 w/Tarp, Scales, 900/60R32 Tires \$ 36,000
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2004 JD 6420, 1712 Hrs., 16 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 3 Rem., \$78,500



2007 JD 6415, 1190 Hrs., 16 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 2 Rear Rem., \$54,500



2007 JD 6320, 446 Hrs., 16 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 2 Rem., JD 640SL w/86" QA Bkt, \$89,800



2015 JD 6155M, 1103 Hrs., 1 Owner, 20 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 3 Rem., \$122,500



2006 JD 6120, 16 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 2661 hrs., JD H340 Ldr., Coming In



2014 JD 6105M, 24 Spd. PQ, 1325 Hrs., JD H340 Ldr., w/Grapple, Just In



2007 JD 5425, 3323 Hrs., 12x12 Synchro Trans w/LH Pwr. Rev., \$24,900



2019 JD 5090R, 814 Hrs., 16 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 3 Rem., \$78,500



2014 Case IH Magnum 220, 19 Spd. PQ w/LH Rev., 3771 Hrs., 4 Elec. Rem., Pro 700 Monitor/Case 372 Rec., \$118,500



2009 CIH Magnum 180, 1677 Hrs., \$129,500
2015 CIH Magnum 180, 3350 Hrs., \$115,000



1984 Case 2094, 7925 Hrs., Cold AC, 12x3 PS, 3 Rem., \$18,500



2002 Challenger MT565, PS, 3517 Hrs., 18-42's 4 Remotes, \$59,800



Kubota M6800, 1024 Hrs., 8 Spd. Trans. w/ LH Rev., 1 Rem., \$26,500



2019 Kubota M8-191, 619 hrs, w/Kubota M77 loader, 5 remotes, 18-46s, \$COMING IN



2013 McCormick X60.30, 519 Hrs., 36x12 Spd. w/LH Rev., 3 Rem., \$69,800



2008 Agco LT85A, 899 Hrs., 16 Spd. PQ w/ LH Rev., 2 Rem., \$Call



2017 NH T8.350, 3581 Hrs., CVT Trans., 5 Rear Rem., 3 Pt. Hitch w/1000 PTO & Aux Hyd., \$158,500



2007 NH T7050, 4021 Hrs., 1 Owner, 18-42 Duals, \$89,500



2012 NH TS6.125, 1141 Hrs., 16 Spd. w/Dual Pwr., LH Rev., 2 Rem., \$49,500



1997 NH 7740 SLE, 2243 Hrs., 16 Spd. PS w/RH Rev., 2 Rem., \$39,800



2022 NH T5-100, 207 Hrs., \$77,800
2018 NH Powerstar 100, 489 Hrs., \$54,800



2020 NH TS6.110, 58 Hrs., Open Stn w/Woods Boss EROPS, Cab & Climb Risers, 8 Spd. w/LH Rev., \$86,500



2015 Krone BP1290, 4355 Bales, High Speed Baler, 3x4, Twine Wrap, 1 Owner, \$135,000



2021 JD FC15E, 15' Batwing Rotary Cutter, 540PTO w/CV Joint, Stump Jumpers, Light Pkg., \$15,900



Kuhn Knight Slinger 8124, Twin Auger, 2400 Gal., 320 Cu Ft., 540PTO, \$32,500



Pequea SL10 Lime Fert., 10 Cu. Yd., \$26,000
Stoltzfus WLS 50, Wet Lime & Fert. Spreader, \$16,900



2021 Bell TC7A, 258 Hrs., Cab, Heat, Cummins B6.7, Coming In



2022 New Herbst 14 Ton Hi-Side, Swivel Pintel Hitch, Sprung Susp. Drawbar, 10 Bolt Axle, 81" Load Height, \$26,500 & \$24,500



2015 Bobcat T650, 1135 Hrs., 1 Owner, 74HP, Hand/Ft. Controls, 72" Hyd. QA, 12" Rubber Tracks, \$49,900



1981 Bobcat 741, 2123 Hrs., Open Stn w/ROPS, 30 Eng HP, Hand & Ft Controls, 60" Bkt w/Aux., \$9,950



2015 JD 655K, 272 Hrs., CHA, Hydrostat, 1 Owner, 94" Bkt., \$198,500



2014 Case 1150M LT, 2519 Hrs., Hydrostatic Trans., 120" 6 Way Blade, \$119,500



1987 CAT D8N, 22259 Hrs., 3 Spd PS, 150" Semi U Blade, 72" Pads, Hitch, \$64,500



2021 Cat D6, 2351 Hrs., Forestry Package, New Undercarriage, 4-Way Blade, \$395,000



2014 Komatsu D155 AX-7, 7395 Hrs., 13' Blade w/Dual Hyd Tilt, Top Con GPS, \$225,000



2015 JD 310SL, 1465 Hrs., Joystick Contr., 91" Bkt., 24" Backhoe Bkt., \$72,500



2021 Kubota KX033, 89 Hrs., \$47,500
2021 Doosan DX85R, \$79,800



2018 Hyundai HX220L, 335 Hrs., CHA, Pattern Changer, 32" Grouser, Hyd. Quick Coupler, \$129,500 Coming In



2019 Kobelco SK350LC-10, 2158 Hrs., 2 Spd., 268HP Hino Dsl., \$198,500



2005 CAT 930G, 3491 Hrs., 1 Owner, \$89,500
2016 Case 621F, 6079 Hrs., \$89,500



2019 Wacker Neuson WL95, 1155 Hrs., \$99,500
2109 Wacker Neuson 8085T, \$82,500



Cat 450F, CHA, 4WD, Pilot Controls, Ext Hoe, 2000 Hrs., Just In



Genie GTH 844, 1122 Hrs., 8000# Lift, 44' Reach, Just In



JCB 407, CHA, 2 Spd Trans., 764 Hrs., Just In

Christmas tree forecast: High demand, adequate supply

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The hunt for a Christmas tree is on for plenty of families wanting to snag the perfect Fraser fir or pine for their homes this year.

But spending on a real Christmas tree is yet another expense for households to add to their holiday budgets at the time when inflation remains a pesky problem that's keeping prices elevated on a variety of products and services.

On average, farmers across the country are promising there will be an adequate supply of trees this year. It typically takes eight to 10 years to grow a Christmas tree, depending on the variety and location, according to the National Christmas Tree Association, a trade group representing growers.

"I haven't heard of any community where people haven't been able to get a Christmas tree and I don't expect that will be the case this year," said Tim O'Connor, executive director of the association.

Still, O'Connor said farms are working with a tight, but sufficient supply of trees.

"There is an increase in trees coming but it's not ready to harvest yet," he said. "This has been the situation since 2016."

According to the association, the Christmas tree shortage started in 2006, but consumers felt the impact

much more starting in 2020. As people were homebound due to the pandemic, there was a surge in demand for trees. As a result, suppliers cut and shipped trees that normally would have been given another year to grow. This resulted in a shortage for the 2021 holiday season, as well as higher prices. This carried through to the 2022 season as well, as the lingering effects of early harvest, combined with drought and wildfire, meant that Christmas trees were harder to find and more expensive in 2022.

Fast forward to 2023, and things have shifted a little bit. As far as trees go, farms are promising there will be an adequate supply of trees this year. There is not an oversupply of trees, but there are enough to go around. One area, however, where availability could be an issue is for those people who want to buy Christmas trees wholesale to resell at tree lots or for fundraisers.

Valerie Graham, executive director of the Ohio Christmas Tree Association, agrees that the tree shortage began during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When we look at the COVID, more and more folks were going out to the farm. They continued to do that after the pandemic," Graham said. "That's a good thing for growers here in the state of Ohio and growers across the country. However, it kind of put a pinch in the demand that we had for Christmas trees."

(See Trees on page 2B)



Above: Cut-your-own-tree farms are still popular with many, but 80 percent of the U.S. population still opts for the artificial trees. (photo submitted)



Above: Tree farms need to stagger their harvests to have a steady supply of trees for future harvests. (Bert Cregg photo)

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USDA announces public comment period for new program

By Doug Schmitz
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The USDA recently announced efforts to bolster U.S. agricultural trade, including the agency’s planned trade missions for 2024, and the opening of a public comment period for its new Regional Agricultural Promotion Program.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said these efforts will help to support further growth in U.S. agricultural exports, and introduce high-quality U.S. agricultural products to new markets.

“Market diversification is an important tool for maximizing growth opportunities for U.S. agriculture, as well as hedging the risk of market contraction, and general volatility in the global marketplace,” he said.

“The USDA is committed to promoting export opportunities in non-traditional markets, and ensuring that U.S. agricultural commodities and products are available to diverse consumer groups around the world.”

In a Dec. 7 joint statement to Farm World, the USDA Press Office said, “The idea for the new Regional Agricultural Promotion Program came about due to the recognition of the need to provide U.S. agricultural producers with the additional support they need to strengthen U.S agriculture’s presence in existing markets, open up new market opportunities, and build on our relationships and connections to ensure that high-quality American agriculture and food products reach where they are needed in the world.”

The USDA said the program will provide cost-share assistance to eligible U.S. organizations for activities such as consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, participation in trade fairs and exhibits, market research, and technical assistance.

The program is available to all sectors of U.S. agriculture, including

fish and forest product producers, mainly through partnerships with non-profit national and regional organizations. The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service administers the program under authorities of the Commodity Credit Corp. Charter Act, which became effective Aug. 10, 2012.

According to the USDA Farm Service Agency, the act’s purpose is for “stabilizing, supporting, and protecting farm income and prices, of assisting in the maintenance of balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities products (such as) foods, feeds, and fibers, and of facilitating the orderly distribution of agricultural commodities.”

In October, Vilsack announced the USDA will use \$1.3 billion from the Commodity Credit Corp. funds to establish the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program, to “bolster and diversify U.S. agricultural export opportunities, and strengthen support for specialty crop industries. This investment will enable American exporters to enter new markets, and expand market share in current and growth markets.”

The USDA said U.S. agricultural exports totaled a record \$196 billion in 2022, following a record setting year in 2021. The agency added USDA export promotion programs support efforts to continue market expansion for U.S. food and agricultural products.

The agency said these programs are just one tool the USDA utilizes to ensure market access new opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers, including:

- Vietnam opening its market for U.S. grapefruit exporters;
- India dropping the retaliatory tariffs on apples, chickpeas, lentils, almonds and walnuts. The Indian government also reduced tariffs for turkey, duck, blueberries, and cranberries;
- Canada approving legislative recognition of U.S. biofuels, maintain-

ing the largest and most dependable export market for U.S. ethanol and biodiesel;

- Mexico granting market access to U.S. potatoes, following more than 20 years of engagement;
- Japan renegotiating beef safeguard levels under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, reducing tariffs, and generating growth opportunities for \$150 million in beef exports; and
- Brazil agreeing not to change import certification requirements, ensuring continued exports of U.S. milk, beef, and seafood to this important market.

The USDA said it plans to build on these successes and highlight export opportunities in additional markets through a robust agribusiness trade mission schedule next year.

The USDA will lead trade missions to the following markets in 2024:

- Seoul, South Korea – Week of March 25, 2024
- New Delhi, India – Week of April 22, 2024
- Vancouver, Canada – Week of June 17, 2024
- Bogota, Colombia – Week of July 29, 2024
- Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (with buyers from Thailand) – Week of Sept. 9, 2024
- Casablanca, Morocco (with buyers from Senegal and Francophone West Africa) – Week of Dec. 2, 2024

When asked how these countries were selected and planned for the 2024 trade missions, the USDA

Press Office told Farm World, “The USDA utilizes trade data and the expertise of USDA staff around the world to identify markets that offer opportunities for U.S. exporters. The USDA works with all trade mission participants to provide them tailored experiences that make their international experiences valuable.”

The USDA Press Office added eligible organizations representing any U.S. agricultural commodity, except tobacco, are eligible to apply to participate in the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program.

“Participation in the USDA trade missions is also open to all U.S. agricultural commodities, although the (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service evaluates applications to ensure that the products being promoted make sense in the market. Given limited space, Foreign Agricultural Service typically focuses on participation by small- and medium-sized companies,” the USDA Press Office said.

“The public comment period on the recently published Regional Agricultural Promotion Program regulations will end Dec. 18, 2023,” the USDA Press Office added. “Foreign Agricultural Service will review the comments received, and may consider the comments when determining whether any changes to the regulations are warranted in the future.”

For more information about agribusiness trade missions and the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program, visit www.fas.usda.gov.

Trees

FROM PAGE 1B

Farmers like Will Stribny, manager at Shawnee Trail Tree Farm in Hudson, Ohio, north of Akron, are still catching up to meet the increase in demand.

“It’s just a matter of planting as many trees as possible and trying to keep them alive,” he said. “If every single one of my trees survived that I planted, we would be fine. We’d have more trees than we need. It’s just a matter of figuring out how to kind of cut your losses.”

If farmers were able to plant a thousand trees, they’d only expect about 40 percent to make it to the ideal, 6-foot size and shape to be able to sell, Stribny said. About 20 percent die in the first year, while another 20 percent just wouldn’t have that “perfect” tree look.

“Trees can be affected by fluctuating weather patterns like heavy rain and periods of drought. But this year provided excellent growing conditions for trees at Shawnee Trail Tree Farm,” Stribny said.

“We had some good rain in the early spring and then it kind of dried up until late June. Then we had good rain from June until about the second week of August.”

The majority of experts agree that natural Christmas tree prices will be about 10 to 15 percent higher this year than last year.

For many families, the ongoing

higher prices have them taking a longer look at artificial trees. Of the 94 million U.S. households that display a tree, the National Christmas Tree Association estimates that about eight in 10 will favor artificial ones this year. But those opting for an artificial tree will likely still see higher prices as well.



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2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)

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MCDONOUGH COUNTY, IL

LAND AUCTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



285.86 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 4 TRACTS

The Thompson Farm is located north and east of Blandinsville, IL (approximately 15 miles northwest of Macomb, IL or approximately 25 miles southeast of Burlington, IA). Tracts 1, 2 and 3 are located in Section 9 and Tract 4 is located in Section 34 of Blandinsville Township, McDonough County, IL.


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MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAND AUCTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



104.36 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 2 TRACTS

The farm is located approximately 1 mile west of Carlock, IL, or 11 miles northwest of Bloomington, IL. The land is further described as being located in Sections 25 & 26, T25N-R1W, Danvers Township, McLean County, Illinois.


Farmers & investors don't miss this opportunity to purchase a high producing McLean County farm located close to excellent grain market outlets.

MARIAN R. WIEGAND ESTATE & KAREN WIEGAND

Representing Attorney: James J. Stoller | Stoller Law Office
15 W. Front St., El Paso IL 61738 | (309) 527-4300

Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767


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LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT}



318.28 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 4 TRACTS

Tracts 1-3 are located 6 miles west of Streator, IL or 40 miles north of Bloomington, IL. Tract 4 is located 3 miles northwest of Ransom, IL or 8 miles northeast of Streator, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 35, T31N-R2E, Eagle Township, and Section 6, T31N-R5E, Allen Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.


Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity! Tracts 1-3 represent a large block of Class A soil with tremendous eye appeal. Tract 4 contains productive soils with additional wind energy income.

MICHAEL & HARRIETT MCDONALD ESTATE

Representing Attorney: Frank J. Black | Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty St., Suite 211, Morris, IL 60450 | (815) 942-0594

Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767


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IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



80 TAXABLE ACRES± • 1 TRACT

The land is located 2 miles northwest of Loda, IL, or 30 miles north/northeast of Champaign, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 18, T24N-R10E, Loda Township, Iroquois County, Illinois.


Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a high ROI farm with quality soils that is close to excellent grain market outlets.

IVEN L. LOWE ESTATE
ALICE LAVONNE WADE, EXECUTOR

Representing Attorney: Justin J. Stoller | Stoller Law Office
15 West Front Street, El Paso, IL 61738 | (309) 527-4300

Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767


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MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAND AUCTION

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



83 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 1 TRACT

The Simpson farm is located 8 miles northwest of Minonk, IL or 34 miles north/northwest of Bloomington, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 26, T29N-R1W, Bell Plain Township, Marshall County, Illinois.

Farmers, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a well-located farm with the opportunity to rent the adjoining 125 acres!

JANE SIMPSON - SELLER
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Representing Attorney: Michael L. Neff | Fort & Neff
108 S Broadway St. Stronghurst, IL 61480 | (309)924-1211


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MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



191.45 TAXABLE ACRES± • 3 TRACTS

Tracts 1 & 2 are located 2 miles northeast of Cooksville, IL or 17 miles northeast of Bloomington, IL. Tract 3 is located 4 miles north of Towanda, IL or 10 miles northeast of Bloomington, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 6, T24N-R5E, Martin Township, Section 1, T24N-R4E, Blue Mound Township, and Section 20, T25N-R3E, Money Creek Township, McLean County, Illinois.


The Lobdell Trusts farmland auction has something for everyone. Tract 1 consists of Class A soils with tremendous eye appeal. Tract 2 consists of productive soils with highway access. Tract 3 is a mixture of productive farmland and mature timber. Farmers, investors, & hunters, don't miss this opportunity to purchase desirable McLean county land!

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Beginning farmers face another hurdle – high farmland prices

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – As if beginning farmers didn't have enough to worry about, the USDA announced in November that the average price of cropland in Ohio rose 8.6 percent last year, with an average price per acre at about \$8,200. The values of farmland in states bordering Ohio were: Indiana (\$8,000 per acre), Kentucky (\$4,350 per acre) and Michigan (\$5,850 per acre).

Some advocates say that's making it increasingly hard for beginning farmers to enter the market. When talking about the challenges facing beginning farmers and ranchers, the first items that generally come to attention are access to land and access to capital. The availability of land is limited, at least at price levels thought to be competitive for beginning operators.

Kyle and Dawn Heidlebaugh are fourth-generation corn and soy farmers in Findlay, Ohio. They own about 1,600 acres worth of farmland and will soon transition their farm to two of their daughters.

Dawn said doing that right now is challenging, especially because many farm lenders won't approve loans to beginning farms with no collateral.

"Even now, if they were able to get some ground, whether it be rent ground or buy ground, they would still have to have their dad's equipment," she said. "So, I mean we would help them with whatever they need. It's just very hard for these kids to get into this industry."

Adding to the pressure is increasing input prices with a projected decrease

in farm revenue at the end of 2023, according to the USDA.

Dawn said seeing the same land the family bought just a few years ago keep rising in price is stressful.

"If it keeps going up 10 percent, that means next year, the same ground that we bought could be 10 percent more. Can you imagine buying it again? It's just outrageous," she said.

Elizabeth Long, an area manager at AG Resource Management (a specialty financing group with offices in Bellefontaine, Ohio) said operating a farm is hard. But it's even harder for beginning farmers looking to apply for a loan for land or equipment.

"The biggest question they're going to ask when they're looking at financing is what are the collateral?" Long said. "A traditional lender will look at a young farmer and say, 'well, you don't have equipment and you don't have real estate.'"

Long said inflation and investors buying land for development are driving farmland prices higher. Because of those barriers, she's seen more beginning farmers use creative approaches to enter the market, like growing wheat or hops and using their crop insurance as collateral.

The Heidlebaugh family is working with financial advisers to figure out how to best transition their farm but Dawn said it won't be easy.

"We are a very small family business and it's all pretty much all hands on deck when it comes to farming," Dawn said. "We've got four kids and we've got two who want a farm. So, it's kind of

(Young Farmers continued on page 5B)



New Year's Day Deadlines

In observance of New Year's Day our offices will be closed

Monday, January 1

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Friday, December 29th, 11 AM

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In observance of the Christmas Holiday, our offices will be closed from Thursday, December 21st through Wednesday, December 27th and will re-open on Thursday, December 28th. There will not be an issue published on Dec. 29th

Young Farmers

FROM PAGE 4B

rough to try to figure out how we're going to transition."

Opportunities and support for beginning farmers and ranchers have long been core to discussions about agriculture and rural America. Whether through the broader farm bill or through various state and local efforts, policies and programs that target beginning farmers and ranchers are popular and widespread.

Many extension offices in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana offer beginner and small farm schools for those wanting to start a small farm. At these schools, attendees can pick up valuable tools to get started, such as learning about farm taxes, obtaining farm financing, insurance and liability for their farm, developing real-life expectations, developing a farm business plan, learn about marketing and selling agricultural products, developing a family

and farm balance sheet and so much more.

According to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, a little more than 25 percent of the two million-plus farms and ranches in the U.S. were operated by a principal producer that was a new or beginning farmer.

And there's another big issue facing the first-time farmer. A recent study conducted by Ohio State University (lead author Fiona Doherty) has brought to light the prevalent mental health issues faced by beginning farmers. The study surveyed a group of farmers from Ohio and Michigan, finding that 58 percent of beginning farmers reported experiencing mild to severe symptoms of anxiety or depression.

These mental health challenges faced by beginning farmers stem from a combination of factors, including the demanding nature of farming, financial pressures and social isolation. Additionally, beginning farmers often face unique challenges due to unequal access to land, farm resources and capital.



Above: After purchasing a few acres of rural land, many new farmers find they lack the equipment and finances needed to have a larger operation. (photo courtesy Ohio State University)

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1998 John Deere 5410 Tractor

2019 Moritz International Tilt Deck Equipment Trailer

2019 Dodge Charger Passenger Car

2016 Dodge Ram 5500 Bus

2019 Ram 3500 Chassis Pickup Truck

2005 International 4300 Reefer Box Truck

2003 Sterling L9500 Series Boom Truck

2007 Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty Truck

(3) DC Solar SCT20 Hybrid Light Tower Trailers

1994 Caterpillar D3C Dozer

2001 Bandit 1890XP Chipper

2010 Buick Enclave Multipurpose Vehicles

(2) New Landhonor Graders

(3) New Wolverine 3 Blades Mowers

(2) New Landhonor Digger Backhoes

(2) New 20' One Trip Shipping Containers

(5) New 40' High Cube Multi-Door Shipping Containers

New Steelman Work Bench Toolboxes

(2) New 20' yard Roll Off Dumpsters

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1999 JCB 550 Telehandler

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2018 Mahindra 7085 PST Tractor

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Clark Forklift

1989 Hyster S40XL Forklift

Barrett WC-40-TTH Forklift

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Ring 1

Ring 2

Rice farmer discusses sustainable ag at Farm Foundation Forum

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

OAK BROOK, Ill. – The latest Farm Foundation Forum focused on sustainable agriculture, and included a rice farmer in Arkansas who has made a change in how he grows his crop in an effort to be more environmentally conscientious and a better steward of the land.

"We on our farm this year grew rice in a climate-smart manner," said Philip "P.J." Haynie III, who also owns a rice mill in the state. "Traditionally, rice is grown in paddies. We've learned through some of the research that has been done that paddy rice and standing water on soil tends to release methane gas. We try to produce it in a more climate-smart way using a row watering method. On our farm this year, 100 percent of our acres (were) row water rice."

The forum was Dec. 12.

A fifth-generation farmer, Haynie is owner and CEO of Haynie Farms LLC. In addition to rice, he raises corn, wheat, soybeans and canola in four counties in Virginia. He's also chairman of the National Black Growers Council.

“We talk about sustainability and that was at the core of our footprint on our operation because we farm in a completely non-irrigated platform on the coastal plains of the Chesapeake Bay. Growing up planting double crop soybeans behind wheat was a natural way of life for us to try to make a crop there.”

The mission of the National Black Growers Council is to improve the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of Black row crop farmers, he said. The Council was started after Black row crop farmers realized they had a lot of similar challenges, Havnies added.

Farmers need to be rewarded for the work that they put into their operations and environmental efforts, he noted.

"As a farmer, I'm reminded to let everyone know we do the same amount of work but mother nature holds the cards for us. We can put the same

amount of work into cover crops and into sequestering carbon and all that we're trying to do, but the volatility that we see in weather patterns really changes that. We may put out the same amount of work this year and get half the yield as next year."

Agriculture is challenged with feeding seven billion people in the world a day, and by the year 2050, that number is projected to jump to nine billion, Haynie said.

"With less and less land, and with more roads and buildings and infrastructure being built, we have to grow more with less. Again, that takes us right back to our method of sustainability. Less land to produce more food, less natural resources, and we're in an ever-changing climate."

Trey Malone, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the University of Arkansas, talked about a recent global forum on farm policy and innovation in Paris, France.

One topic of conversation was on the needs at the industry level to move sustainability forward in the agri-food system, he said. Participants suggested such ideas as focusing on outcome-based approaches, and a larger focus on global cooperation, Malone added.

There was also a heavy emphasis on economic viability and productivity, he said.

“For as much as we discuss the importance of sustainability, it is not abundantly clear to consumers and other stakeholders that profitability is a part of this conversation,” he stated.

Earlier this year, Consumer Reports surveyed consumers, asking them which phrases they were familiar with related to regenerative agriculture and sustainable farming, said Sylvia Wulf, chair and CEO of AquaBounty Technologies Inc.

Of the respondents, 72 percent said they were familiar with the term organic farming, while 57 percent had heard of sustainable farming. Nineteen percent were aware of climate-smart farming, and 18 percent were familiar with regenerative farming. Seventeen

percent said they had not heard any of the terms.

"So, what is it that we need to do as an industry to engage in that conversation with consumers?" she asked.

The Consumer Reports survey also asked consumers what they think the phrase “sustainable food” means. Participants were given 12 possible responses, plus options to say “none of the above” or “unsure.” Respondents could choose more than one option.

The top response was food is produced without depleting soil, Wulf said. Second was food is produced

with a low carbon footprint, followed by food is produced using less water than traditionally produced food.

“(Consumers) really want a purpose-driven purchase strategy for themselves and they want to understand traceability,” she explained. “These are aspects that we really need to work on collectively as an agricultural industry to help consumers understand what regenerative ag and sustainability really mean and the roles that farmers and ranchers are playing in making sure that we bring this to light.”

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Reflect on what you have

Hebrews 3:15 “... Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked me.” (NASB)

“This too shall pass!” I can still hear my grandmother speaking this phrase. She meant it in terms of difficult things and times. But the phrase rings true for everything in this life. Each day holds twenty-four hours; every week seven days; and each year twelve months. The seconds steadily tick away as if to emphasize the truth: “This too shall pass.”

This has been a special holiday for some and a difficult one for others. We have had the joy of hosting all of our family at one time. This doesn't happen as regularly as it once did now that four of the five are married. But this week we have spent many pleasant hours eating, talking, playing games, and loving on one another. I have clung to every moment knowing full well that the special time is brief. This too shall pass!

Others have spent the first holiday without a loved one nearby. Family hasn't made it home this year or a special friend has gone to their final home in heaven. The sadness sits heavy on the heart and mind. But even this debilitating sadness will pass as time marches on.



VERSES FROM MAMA
By Sandra Sheridan

Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that things change and the sun sets on moments that never can be recaptured. This is why we must make the most of the opportunities we have. The final days of the year are upon us, so it is a good thing to take inventory of all we have been given.

The writer to the Hebrews understood the brevity of life. He encouraged his readers not to fall away from God, but to encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today’ so that none of them would be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

He reminded them of the children of Israel, who, having been brought out of Egypt, hardened their hearts and chose not to trust God. Instead they provoked Him and in so doing lost the opportunity to enter the Promised Land of rest.

This unfortunate outcome is an example for us today. God is calling each person to respond to His gift of salvation in faith. It is not something we should put off until tomorrow because the window of opportunity will someday close.

So as the countdown of the final days of 2023 continues, consider the warning in Hebrews: “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.”

Now is the day of salvation! But this, too, shall pass!

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HARVEST EQUIPMENT: CIH 6088 combine, 2106 eng. 1382 sep; Geringhoff 6x30 corn head, only 48hrs (LIKE NEW); CIH 25' Terra flex platform w/HT25 head cart; JM 875 Grain cart; J&M 425 wagon; 4 KB 385 wagons; J&M 250 wagon; Parker 2200 wagon.

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MISCELLANEOUS & FARM RELATED: CAT 246B skid steer, 4564 hrs; Pallet forks, skid steer hookup; Loftness Rock Bucket, hyd.drive; Brandt 1070 swing-away 10"x70' auger; Sudenga 10"x71' swing-away auger; Sudenga 8"x36'auger; Bush hog 3210 rotary mower, 10' pull type; 10'Bush hog, 3pt blade, hyd. tilt and angle; Cushion Air 1000 Turbo Air vac; Hardi Ranger 2000 pull-type sprayer, 60' boom; Klongskilde II knife NH3 applicator.

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John Deere tractor pulled \$30,030 at Butler consignment sale

By William Flood
Ohio Correspondent

HARNED, Ky. – Butler Auctioneers conducted their November consignment sale, held mid-month, on Hibid.com. The 480-lot auction included trucks, tractors, farm and construction equipment, lawnmowers and trailers, along with new and used tools.

The auction's highest bid of \$30,030 went for a 2022 John Deere 5045E tractor with 48 hours. The 4WD unit featured a 45 hp engine, 9 forward/3 reverse gears, 520M loader with 6-foot bucket, Global/Euro quick attach, 16.9-24 fluid-filled industrial rear tires and 12.5/80-18 front tires.

Taking second place, at \$13,530, was a 4WD Kubota L3240 HST tractor with 1,279 hours. It featured a 34 hp engine, hydrostatic transmission, LA514 loader with 5-foot bucket, skid steer quick-attach mount, auto throttle advance, 420/70-24 rear tires, and 10-16.5 front tires.

Among the other available tractors was a running-condition late 1970s John Deere 2940 with 12,690 hours that sold for \$7,535. The 2WD tractor was equipped with a 6-cylinder 85 hp diesel engine, 16 forward/8 reverse gears, two rear remotes, 8.4-34 rear tires, and 10.00-16 front tires. Two lots later, a running 1970s Massey Ferguson 1085 with 5,291 hours hit \$6,050. It featured a Perkins 81 hp 4-cylinder diesel engine, multi-power transmission with 2 forward/4 reverse gears, one rear remote, 18.4-34 rear tires, and 12.5-15 front tires.

Two trucks closely vied for the auction's third place. Bidding went to \$11,990 on a 1990 International 4700 dump truck with 194,601 miles. The RWD truck held a DT-360 engine, 5-speed manual transmission, 2-speed rear end, tag axle, air gate, 12-foot bed, and 3-stage hoist. The hydraulic cylinder had an identified leak. Coming close, at \$11,660 was a 2015 2WD Chevrolet Silverado in drivable condition, with a rebuilt title indicating 67,396 miles. It held a 5.3-liter V8 engine, AC, power windows, and power locks.

Several trailers pulled nicely, including a 2023 Load Trail 83"x14' dump trailer that went for \$10,560. A 2023 Load Trail GS252 102"x25' trailer was not far behind at \$9,790. It featured a gooseneck, two 7K axles (14,000Lb GVWR) with electric brakes, 5-foot dovetail with max ramps, 2 speed 10K jacks, chain box, and LED lights. A third 2023 Load Trail picked up \$7,920. The 26-foot model GC262 had a gooseneck, two 7K Dexter axles with brakes (14,000Lb GVWR), max ramps, fork holder, rub rail, 2-speed 10k jacks, chain box, and LED lights.

Some rather interesting pieces of rolling stock included an operating 2016 4WD Mahindra XTV 750-C with 4,600 miles, 1,046 engine hours, and an electric dump bed that landed \$7,425. Minutes later, a 2015 31-foot Forest River Grey Wolf 26DBH travel trailer with a rebuilt title rolled away for \$9,075. Features included a slide-out, power awning, one queen and dual bunk beds, and a flatscreen smart TV. Then came an operating Hyster H60XL 6,000LB capacity forklift that sold for \$5,830. It was outfitted with a propane engine, side shift, 42-inch forks, and pneumatic tires.

Heavy equipment and accessories included a Wolverine CB-11-750F hydraulic hammer breaker with 2 breaker bits and tools that hit \$2,255. A skid steer mount Wolverine model ADB-13-1218r auger with 12- and 18-inch bits scored \$2,090. A set of Agrotk 48-inch, 4,000-pound skid steer forks sold for \$660.

Agricultural equipment included an Aer-Way 3-point, 7 1 / 2-foot aerator with seed box that reached \$1,375. A LandHonor model HAG-12-24Q 8-10 bale grapple snagged \$1,210. Later, a new 8-foot 3-point grader box with seven shanks managed \$1,155.

Four commercial-grade mowers were offered, including a Dixie Chopper LT2000 with a 50-inch cut, Kohler Command 20 engine, and 589 hours, that bid to \$990. A Bad Boy MZ Magnum with a 54-inch cut and 646 hours on a Briggs engine went home for \$880. Next came a John Deere Z225 with a 42-inch cut that went for \$770.

For bidders with smaller wallets, plenty of lots sold for under \$100, including several pieces of worthwhile equipment. Those included a 24-inch tooth Bucket (\$68.20), a Statesman tiller good for a small garden (\$59.40), and a 3-point PTO Seeder (\$28.60).

The auction also contained hundreds of lots of hand and power tools, ranging from power shop tools to mixed collections of screwdrivers. Two of the tools lots that hit three figures were a used but working Delta band saw that sold for \$115.50 and a Mac tap and die set that lacked a couple of pieces but still managed \$110.

At the other end of the spectrum was a Porter Cable 20-volt 11-piece oscillating tool set (\$29.70), a set of 6 DeWalt 7"x1/8"x5/8-11 grinding wheels (\$17.60), and an Ideal 7-piece adjustable torque screwdriver kit (\$13.20).

For information on Butler Auctions' upcoming sales, visit: butlerauction.com



Above: Professional-grade lawnmowers sold from \$231 to \$990 for this 50-inch cut Dixie Chopper.



Above: A well-equipped Kubota Model L3240 HST took the auction's second place at \$13,530.



Above: Seven tractors were available. This John Deere 5045E got the auction's highest bid of \$30,030.



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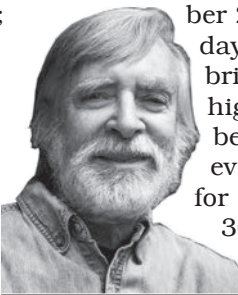


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Now groane the Zephyrs;
Poplars shudder, naked
Like the Ears of Asses
Propheysing Storms and
Snow.
Now Beasties roll about
And frolick in the Face
of wintry Times!
Columenus



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

The Moon: The Mistletoe Moon, full on December 26, wanes through the week, entering its final phase on January 3. Rising in the night and setting in the day, this moon passes overhead before dawn.

The Sun: Although sunrise time remains stable for another week, days start to lengthen at the rate of 60 seconds every 24 hours - thanks to sunset occurring a minute later every day.

The Planets: In January, Venus in Ophiuchus is still the bright Morning Star, rising in the dark before sunrise.

The Stars: Orion stands in the evening's eastern sky throughout Deep Winter. Son of the sea-god Poseidon, Orion was said to have been able to walk on the water because of the powers of his father. After many adventures, Orion was finally killed by a giant scorpion, and Zeus, king of the gods, placed him in the stars.

Weather Trends: As the old year ends, the chances for bitter weather actually decrease from last week's chances. Below-zero temperatures are rarely recorded between the Decem-

ber 27 and January 1. The mildest day of the period is the 29th; it brings a 25 percent chance for a high above 50 degrees. Each day between the 28th and the 31st even brings a 40 percent chance for a high above 40 degrees. The 30th is the sunniest day, opening a break in the clouds six days out of ten. The 28th and the 31st are the darkest days, each having just a 70 percent chance for totally overcast conditions. Chances for snow decline from those of last week, but watch the odds for rain or sleet to increase as New Year's Eve approaches.

The Natural Calendar: Multiflora rose buds swell in the sun. The hydrangea heads are drooping, and the Jerusalem artichokes have fallen over. Grasses are pale and bent. Hoary goldenrod and brittle great ragweed have broken. Chicory stalks are leaning. Pokeweed, hollow and empty, rattles in the wind. The snow and the overwintering robins pull off the last honeysuckle berries. Winterberry branches are bending to let down their fruit. Bittersweet hulls continue to split away from their branches. The evergreen foliage of the hardiest herbs and flowers collapses tight against the frozen but nurturing ground: Sweet rocket, garlic mustard, ragwort, celandine, poppies, thistles, chives and parsley crouch in wait for the moons of spring. Sometimes a fat camel cricket will emerge in the kitchen at night, searching for crumbs.

In the Field and Garden: In the chicken brooders, pullets that will

(Poor Will continued on page 14B)

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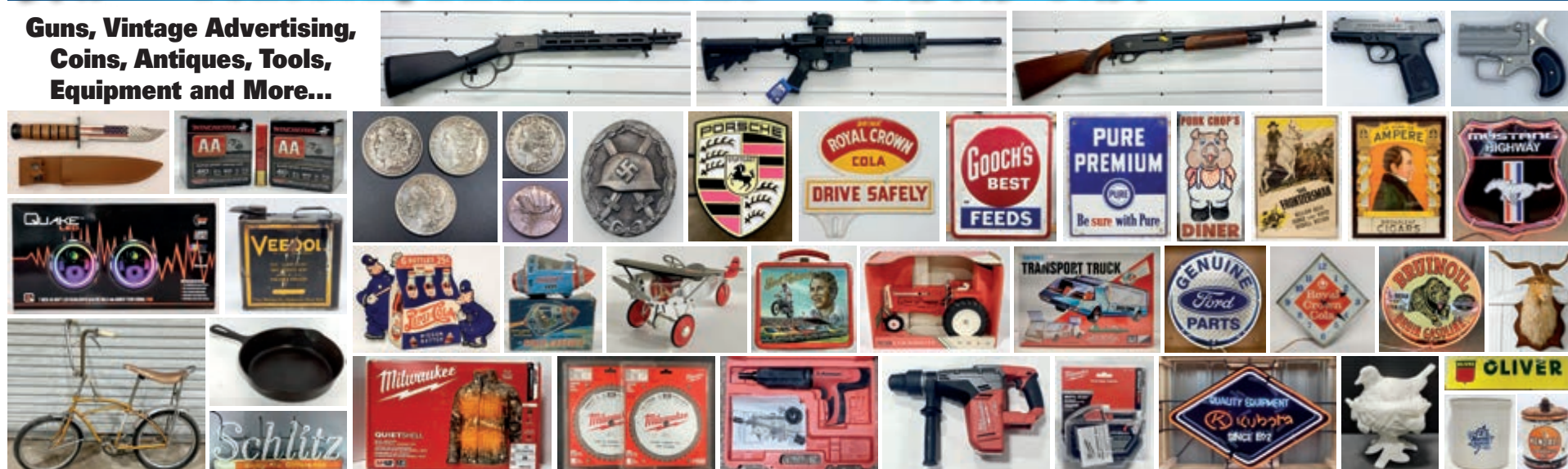
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Poor Will

FROM PAGE 10B

produce summer eggs are hatching. Mites and lice, however, lurk around your chicken coop; check your birds regularly for infestations.

In the warmth of greenhouses, bedding plants scheduled to be sold in April and May may have four to six leaves.

The water for your livestock should remain between 50 and 60 degrees throughout the winter. If you don't have water warmers, plan on breaking the ice every few hours during the coldest spells. And expect all your pregnant animals to be drinking a lot more as their young develop (if they don't increase their fluid intake, they may be having problems)!

Lunar strength and some of the most powerful high-pressure systems of the year continue to create prime conditions for abortions in livestock. Take special care with those animals!. Foxes and coyotes are becoming more active as they begin their courtship rituals. Watch for them frolicking in the fields. And keep the hen house all buttoned up!

Mind and Body: Just when the short days and cold weather tell your body to hibernate and rest after the dramatic changes of autumn, the holiday season sends a different message, says that you should be outgoing, happy and thinking of others. The conflict between those two opposing points of view can cause depression and anxiety. Try to have it both ways. Schedule extra quiet time for yourself before New Year's Eve.

Markers for progress of spring
Although winter may seem long and gray, its progress slowly unravels spring. Any natural calendar offers reassurance that the coldest days of the year will really and truly lead to warmth.

January 1 – 26: Deep Winter begins - a six week period when high temperatures often stay below freezing and the most snow falls.

January 2: Tufted titmice begin mating calls.

January 4: The Earth reaches perihelion its position closest to the Sun.

January 1-10: Sunrise is the latest of the year in most of the nation.

January 11: The Sun rises earlier for the first time since the middle of June.

January 19 - 23: Average date of the January thaw.

January 26: Cardinals begin their spring mating songs, and Deep Winter ends.

January 27: The day's length (now growing at the rate of two minutes each 24 hours) reaches ten hours, and Late Winter begins – a three-week transition to Early Spring.

January 28: Average temperatures start to rise one degree per week.
January 30: The earliest robins and bluebirds arrive from the South.

Almanack Classics The Untold Story by Faye Grubb, Cynthiana, KY

A few months before my father's death at age eighty-six, he shared a story I had never heard. Always a storyteller, he had kept this particular one folded secretly in the pages of his memory. It was the story of his humble birth.

February 7, 1894, his parents Haley and Willis, tenant farmers, were moving to another farm. They packed their sparse belongings into a wagon, and with their seven children, started for a new home. The older children chose to walk in order to play with their dog and look after the milk-cow tethered to the back of the wagon.

Snow clouds hung low in the gray sky and began to release their burden as a raw wind picked up. The children climbed aboard the wagon to huddle for warmth as they endured the bone jarring ride over the frozen ruts in the road.

Darkness was falling as the family topped the final hill of the journey. There was their prospective home, lamplight glowing from the windows. But the house was supposed to be empty! A man answered Willis' knock

and said illness had kept them from moving. Since there was no room for them there he offered the barn for lodging.

Willis pulled the team and wagon into the barn and closed the doors against the winter storm. The featherbeds and bedclothes were unloaded and spread on the stripping-room tables. Warm milk from the cow and food Haley had packed were welcomed before they settled deep in the feather mattresses to sleep.

Around midnight Haley roused her husband. The jolting wagon ride had hastened the arrival of their expected baby. When morning came the children were ecstatic to find a new baby brother. Their big sister Ella said in wonderment: "It's just like the Christmas Story in the Bible. There was no room for us in the house so the baby came here, 'midst the animals." The other children, with eyes bright and shining, listened in awe to her revelation.

I too listened in awe to the story of how my earthly father had been born in lowly circumstances so similar to the ones of my Heavenly Father.

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In order to estimate your SCKRAMBLER IQ, award yourself 15 points for each word unscrambled, adding a 50-point bonus for getting all of them correct. If you find a typo, add another 15 points to your IQ. Yes, you are a genius.

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USDA again lowers milk production forecasts for 2023, 2024

The Agriculture Department again lowered its milk production forecasts for 2023 and 2024 in the latest World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates report. The 2023 forecast was reduced from last month due to slower expected growth in milk per cow. Production in 2024 was lowered due to lower milk cow numbers and reduced milk per cow.

2023 production and marketings were estimated at 226.9 and 225.9 billion pounds respectively, down 200 million pounds on both from a month ago. If realized, both would be up 400 million pounds or 0.2 percent from 2022.

2024 production and marketings were projected at 229.0 and 228.0 billion pounds respectively, down 1 million pounds on production and 1.1 million pounds lower on marketings. If realized, 2024 production would be up 2.1 billion pounds or 0.9 percent from 2023.

The fat basis import forecast for 2023 was raised due to higher imports of cheese. Skim solids imports were lowered due to fewer shipments of milk protein products. The fat basis export forecast was lowered due to lower butter exports. The skim-solids export forecast was raised due to higher whey product shipments which more than offset the lower expected nonfat/skim powder.

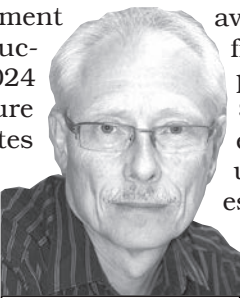
The 2024 import forecast was raised on a fat basis but lowered on a skim-solids basis. Fat basis exports were lowered for 2024 on lower expected butter shipments, while a higher skim-solids basis forecast reflects higher nonfat/skim powder and whey product exports.

Cheese and butter price forecasts for 2023 were lowered while the nonfat dry milk price was raised. Whey was unchanged.

The Class III and Class IV milk price forecasts were lowered due to lower expected cheese and butter prices. The 2024 cheese price forecast was lowered, while butter, NDM, and whey prices were raised. The Class III price forecast was lowered due lower cheese prices. The Class IV price forecast was raised due to higher butter and NDM price forecasts, according to the WASDE.

The Class III price is expected to average \$17.05 per hundredweight in 2023, down a nickel from last month's estimate, and compares to \$21.96 in 2022 and \$17.08 in 2021. The 2024 average was estimated at \$16.85, down 85 cents from last month's estimate.

The 2023 Class IV was projected to



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

average \$19.10, down a dime from a month ago, and compares to \$24.47 in 2022 and \$16.09 in 2021. The 2024 average was projected at \$18.90, up a nickel from last month's estimate.

Checking Chicago as traders anticipated Monday's November Milk Production report, CME block Cheddar closed the third Friday of December at \$1.52 per pound, down 6 cents on the week,

lowest since Dec. 1, and 45.75 cents below a year ago when it dropped almost 12 cents.

The barrels finished Friday at \$1.45, 10.50 cents lower, 29 cents below a year ago when they plunged 21 cents and are 7 cents below the blocks. CME sales totaled nine loads of block on the week and 27 of barrel, 11 on Friday alone.

Midwest cheesemakers tell Dairy Market News that milk is available, allowing them to run steady production. Spot milk prices ranged from \$4-under to \$1-over Class. Volumes are not excessive, but some sellers are offering milk at below Class ahead of the end of year holidays. Demand is seasonally steady for American and Italian type cheeses. Softening demand has contributed to a steeper decline in CME prices for barrels than blocks, according to DMN.

Western retail cheese demand remains steady while food service remains steady to moderate. Price competitiveness of domestic cheese has improved but still has not manifested into strengthening moderate export demand.

StoneX says, "Supply remains constrained with milk production running weak. U.S. production was much weaker than forecast in October, down 0.5 percent. The biggest surprise was production per cow which is below trend by a record amount. Milk production, and production per cow, remain well below a year ago in California and there isn't any sign that they are improving quickly, so that will be a drag on total U.S. production even if the rest of the country does improve in coming months." That said, schools are closing for the holidays and thus pushing more milk into manufacturing.

Milk production also slowed more than expected in Europe during September and October, says StoneX, and should remain at, or below year ago levels, through the first quarter. Production in Argentina is also down.

"U.S. Cheese inventory in November was up 1.3 percent, and the market was about 18 cents lower than

you would expect with inventories up that much," says StoneX. "Either inventories for November are bigger than expected or the market was really undervalued in November. To fully justify a \$1.60 block price for December, inventory would need to be up about 3.3 percent. It is possible that inventory isn't up that much and the market is still just running weak relative to the fundamentals for other commercial reasons. Whichever way you cut it, at present it seems that U.S. spot cheese prices are undervalued."

CME butter fell to \$2.46 per pound Wednesday, lowest since June 30, but it closed Friday at \$2.49, down 18 cents on the week, ending three weeks of gain, and is 36.50 cents below a year ago. There were eight loads sold on the week.

Central cream is "looser," says DMN, and some butter makers say it's plentiful. Some anticipate heavy Class I milk orders will largely slow down as schools close for the holidays. Churning and micro-fixing will keep pace with much of the past month. Plants report strong to steady production, says DMN.

Western cream volumes have improved along with strengthened average butterfat levels in milk. Butter makers anticipate more milk clearing to Class IV in coming weeks as bottling demand declines with breaks at educational institutions. Although this has strengthened bulk butter production schedules, bulk butter avail-

ability is on the tight end, says DMN. Domestic demand remains strong to steady while demand from international buyers remains moderate.

Grade A nonfat dry milk closed Friday at \$1.16 per pound, a half-cent lower on the week and 19 cents below a year ago, on six sales put on the board.


Dry whey saw a Friday close at 39.50 cents per pound, unchanged on the week but 6 cents below a year ago, with two sales for the week at the CME.

The Federal Reserve announced that it will leave its benchmark interest rate unchanged. Meanwhile, retail dairy prices continue to improve for consumers, particularly for cheese. The U.S. retail price of Cheddar in November was \$5.65 per pound, down 20 cents from October and down 4.8 percent from a year ago. Butter was down 3 cents from October and 2.6 percent below last year.

Checking the demand side of the equation, the USDA's latest data shows cheese utilization is sputtering. October usage totaled 1.2 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from October 2022, following two months of loss, and year to date was up just 0.1 percent.

The increase was led by strong domestic consumption, according to HighGround Dairy economist Betty Berning in the Dec. 18 "Dairy Radio Now" broadcast, up 1.1 percent, and led by other than American type cheese.

YEAR END ONLINE EQUIPMENT AUCTION




Items located in NW Ohio

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ENDING DECEMBER 27-28-29th

Kongsilde VM45-3B TMR mixer, Int. Eagle 9300 day-cab semi, Case 580CK backhoe, Convey-All seed tender, Valmar 6056 air seeder, AC 7030, AC 185, AC 190, AC D15 II, trailers, grain augers, tillage equipment, chopper mowers & more

Owner: Multiple Consignors
Auctioneer: Darren Bok

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AUCTION


Tuesday, January 9th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

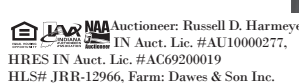
TRACT 1: Approximately 1/2 mile north of the intersection of CR 300 N and CR 200 W on the west side of CR 200 W.


TRACT 2: Southeast corner of the intersection of CR 300 N and 200 W.

TRACT 3: Approximately 1/4 mile south of the intersection of CR 300 N and CR 200 W on the east side of CR 200 W.

Contact us today! Jon Rosen: 260.740.1846
AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 | Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

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**NAA**
Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer
IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019
HLS# JRR-12966, Farm: Dawes & Son Inc.



TRACT 1
TRACT 2
TRACT 3

159.114 +/- total acres

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ONLINE at halderman.com

AUCTION

Tuesday, January 16th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

2 TRACTS

110 +/- total acres

PROPERTY LOCATION:
East of Columbus, IN along CR 850 E, south of SR 46 E in Clifty Twp, Bartholomew Co

TRACT 1: 22 +/- Acres (16.55 +/- Tillable • 4.5 +/- Woods • 0.95 +/- Other)

TRACT 2: 88 +/- Acres (86.32 +/- Tillable • 1.68 +/- Other)

Dave Bonnell: 812.343.4313 • Michael Bonnell: 812.343.6036

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Additional information including photos and drone flight are available at halderman.com.

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, HLS# PDB-12979, Farm: Frank W. Tilton



TRACT 1
TRACT 2

PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND • POTENTIAL BUILDING LOTS • DELAWARE CO, IN

Thursday, January 18th, 6:30 pm ET

AUCTION

Delaware County Fairgrounds, Heartland Hall
1210 N. Wheeling Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303

PROPERTY LOCATION:
TRACT 1: on the north end of S Hickory Lane in Daleville, IN

TRACT 2: 9500 W Smith Street Yorktown, IN 47396

TRACTS 3-7: 7090 S CR 800 W Daleville, IN 47334

OPEN HOUSES:
December 17th, 1:00-2:00 pm (Tracts 3-7) & 2:30-3:30 pm (Tract 2)

January 3rd, 4:00-5:00 pm (Tracts 3-7) 5:30-6:30 pm (Tract 2)

Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592 • AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086
Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359 • Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

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TRACT 1
TRACT 2
TRACT 3
TRACT 4
TRACT 5
TRACT 6
TRACT 7

107.329 +/- total acres

Tract 1: 28.78 +/- Acres
Tract 2: 0.2 +/- Acres
6-Unit Apartment Complex

Tract 3: 5.01 +/- Acres
• 1.5 Story Home w/ 3 Beds & 1 Bath
• 56' x 40' Shop w/ 12' x 32' Attached Lean-to
• 14' x 24' Livestock Shelter
• 40' x 38' Cattle Barn
• 12' x 13' Milkhouse
• 28' x 36' Bank Barn
• 36' x 22' Bank Barn w/ 36' x 15' Attached Lean-to

Tract 4: 29.119 +/- Acres
Tract 5: 29.47 +/- Acres
Tract 6: 6.38 +/- Acres
Tract 7: 8.37 +/- Acres

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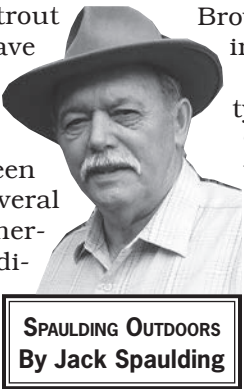
**FarmWorld**
USDA reports corn and production

Brown and rainbow trout stocked

A total of 7,250 brown trout and 1,955 rainbow trout have been stocked in 17 bodies of water across Indiana.

“The demand from trout anglers for brown trout has been increasing over the past several years,” said Matt Horsley, fisheries biologist for northeast Indiana. “Stocking brown trout into our northern lakes and streams has the potential to extend trout fishing opportunities from just a month or so to several months, possibly even the entire year.”

The stocked brown trout averaged 8.25 inches in length.



Brown trout stocking locations include:

- Fancher Lake, Lake County, 200 trout
- Harbor Lake, Porter County, 240 trout
- Little Kankakee River, LaPorte County, 250 trout
- Potato Creek, St. Joseph County, 150 trout
- Pinhook, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
- Lawrence Lake, Marshall County, 1,380 trout
- Myers Lake, Marshall County, 1,920 trout
- Sand Lake, Noble County, 400 trout

- Fairfield Northeast Lake, Tippecanoe County, 350 trout
- Boones Pond, Boone County, 550 trout
- Brookville Lake Tailwater, Franklin County, 1,610 trout

Rainbow trout stocking locations include:

- Pinhook Lake, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
- Shoaff Park Pond, Allen County, 300 trout
- Memorial Park Pond, Huntington County, 200 trout
- Johnson Lake, Jefferson County, 300 trout
- Oak Lake, Clark County, 405 trout
- Garvin Park Lake, Vanderburgh County, 550 trout

Anglers 18 and older will need an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp to fish for trout. The bag limit for trout is five. The limit includes any combination of brook, rainbow or brown trout, but no more than one may be a brown trout. There is no minimum size limit for lakes except for the 18-inch minimum size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County. Streams have a 7-inch minimum size limit. There is no closed season for taking trout from inland lakes. Streams are closed to trout fishing from Dec. 31 to the last Saturday in April.

more than 13 miles from downtown Fort Wayne to the county line.

“There are now over 140 miles of trail in Allen County creating a network of well-used active transportation and recreation opportunities,” said Megan McClellan, Fort Wayne Trails executive director. “This new 4.33-mile stretch of the Pufferbelly Trail will connect thousands of additional residents to this system, while also connecting to beautiful natural areas like Payton County Park and Willow Creek.”

Wilbur Wright Trail opens

On Nov. 17, the Indiana DNR and the Health Communities of Henry County opened the recently completed Wilbur Wright Trail.

The 2.6-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by Healthy Communities of Henry County with help from a \$1.3-million Next Level Trails (NLT) grant.

“When Next Level Trails launched in 2019, it set a mission to provide greater connections between and within communities,” Bortner said. “This new segment is the next step to providing greater connections across east-central Indiana, working toward making another important connection to the Cardinal Greenway, Indiana’s longest recreational trail.”

The new trail was built on former railroad corridor beginning at County Road 625 East in Blue River Township. The trail extends northeast through the town of Mooreland to County Road 525 North alongside State Road 36 where it ends. The trail is a part of a larger visionary trail network to connect to the existing Wilbur Wright Trail in New Castle, as well as to the Cardinal Greenway in Losantville. Key partners for the project include the Town of Mooreland and Henry County.

“As a state visionary trail, the Wilbur Wright Trail is an excellent example of how Healthy Communities of Henry County and our partners connect people and communities through trails,” said Jeff Ray, the organization’s trails director. “This 2.6-mile segment is helping us open new opportunities for families and individuals to enjoy the outdoors in the Mooreland area. We are only 2.12 miles from connecting Mooreland to the Cardinal Greenway in Losantville.”

Contact the author by writing to this publication, or by e-mail to jack-spaulding1971@outlook.com.

Spaulding’s books, “The Best of Spaulding Outdoors,” and his latest, “The Coon Hunter And The Kid,” are available from Amazon.com in paperback or as a Kindle download.

Pufferbelly Trail extension

On Nov. 20, The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Allen County celebrated the opening of the Pufferbelly Trail extension.

The 4.33-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by Allen County with help from a \$3.2-million Next Level Trails (NLT) grant.

“This extension of the Pufferbelly Trail is a key connection – in the region and as part of our continued growth of trails across the state as part of the Next Level Trails initiative,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director.

The new trail extends the existing Pufferbelly Trail north from the Life Bridge Church Trailhead at Union Chapel Road to Fitch Road near the Allen County and DeKalb County line. The trail is a part of the planned Poka-Bache Trail, an 81.3-mile State Visionary Trail. The Poka-Bache Trail will ultimately connect Pokagon State Park in Angola to Ouabache State Park in Bluffton.

In April 2022, the city of Fort Wayne received a round-three NLT grant to complete the final gap of the Pufferbelly Trail within Allen County. Once complete, the entire trail will extend

Southeast Indiana • North of Liberty • Union County

LAND AUCTION

Wednesday, January 17 • 1pm

96± Acres
Offered in 2 Tracts

• 2024 Crop Rights to be Conveyed to Buyer(s) • Location Just S of Richmond & N of Liberty • Hwy 27 Nearby • Top Farm Area • Brookville Lake Recreation Area Nearby • Nice Combo of Cropland & Woodland • Crops, Building Site or Recreation - This has it all!

AUCTION SITE: Union County 4-H Community Bldg/Liberty • From intersection Hwy 27 & Hwy 44. East on Union St to end of street. 411 Patriot Blvd.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 3 mi. northwest of Liberty. From Hwy 27 at CR 200 N. Then west on CR 200 N 1 mi. to CR 100 W then north to CR 225 (Byrd Rd) ½ mi. to farm on the right.

INSPECTION DATES: Fri, Dec. 22 • 9-11am & Fri, Dec. 29 • 9-11am

OWNER: Myrna J. Schenck & Lisa Schenck, Co-Trustees of the Joint Revocable Trust of Jack M. Schenck & Myrna J. Schenck under date of November 16, 2019.

SALES MANAGER: Steve Slonaker #AU10100108 • Cell: 765.969.1697 • Office: 1.877.747.0212
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ENDS: TUES., JANUARY 2, 2024 – 5:30 PM

OPEN HOUSE: SAT., DEC. 30, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM & MON. JAN. 1, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
PICKUP: SAT., JAN. 6, SUN., JAN. 7, & MON., JAN. 8, 2024 – 9:00 AM-4:30 PM EACH DAY

Watch www.kikoauctions.com for updates. Approx. 600-700 lots
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TRANQUILITY FARM AUCTION

Located at 9059 Prospect Rd. Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. Follow Prospect Rd. off SR 73 OR SR 124 to auction.

SAT. JAN. 6, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.

FURNITURE APPROX. 11:00 AM, EQUIPMENT APPROX. NOON





1963 COLLECTOR TRUCK, JD & KUBOTA TRACTORS, UTV, GOLF CART, EQUIP. & LIVESTOCK ITEMS, SHOP ITEMS, BOATS & MISC. COLLECTIBLES, APPLIANCES & MODERN FURNITURE: Auctioneer's note: Steve has sold the farm and has no further use for these items. There are some good items in this auction, with some nice furniture as well. Plan to be on Prospect 1/6/24. TERMS: Cash or check w/ proper ID. Any announcements made by the auctioneer on the day of sale will take precedence over this ad.

Owners: Tranquility Farm

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Christmas lighted tractor parade

These are significant events in some European and American communities at Christmas time.

Incredible effort goes into some of the entries, even with lighted reindeer out front of the tractor and Santa Claus coming along behind – everything covered with Christmas lights.

The Lebbeke, Belgium, Parade is a large, annual event near Brussels, typically with over 50 tractors of all makes, European and American. Other parades occur nationwide at Putte, Budingen, Bertram and more.

The annual Christmas tractor parade in Menagh, Ireland, draws huge crowds and usually has over 100 entries.

The annual Linesville, Pa., event is advertised as “The Largest in the U.S.A. Their Christmas tractor parade drew 120 participants last year. Greenwich, Conn., holds similar events, and 2022 was their tenth.

You can watch videos of these parades on YouTube. The ingenuity of some entries is outstanding. Typically, the videos are short, under 15 minutes, and at Christmas, your family might really enjoy watching them.

The magic of toy tractors

There’s something extraordinary about a toy tractor, especially if it’s the same model you grew up around. I have a model 10-20 McCormick Deering here in my office. The farm toy business is huge. Some now sell for \$250 or more.

Brett Berghorn, of Walworth, Wis., is a collector.

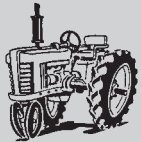
Serious collectors like Berghorn can best explain their passion for toy tractors and implements. “When I reflect back, my fondness for farming was greatly influenced by my early years when I played make-believe farming. I was a true carpet farmer!”

Berghorn has a red and green collection. His green and yellow tractors are the largest of his collection, numbering over 400. At age 7, he drove his first tractor, a J.D. with a loader. Other colors are in the minority. His four-wheel drive collection is all colors and all four-wheel drive.

As a kid, he would jump off the school bus and look at his uncle’s toy collection. That curiosity became a passion

ALL ABOUT TRACTORS

BY PAUL WALLEM



and soon became a dedicated hobby. He enjoys restoring toy tractors. He found a 1/16 International 1456 basket case at a flea market and tells this story:

“I completely restored the tractor, including additional outside rear wheels, new tires, and chrome exhaust. I repainted it and applied new details.”

Another project is his Ford 1/12 scale die-cast Model 961, which was restored. His collection includes a rare John Deere Model D, a sand-cast model with a spoked flywheel.

Berghorn said his family has been able to coexist with the toys in their home. Then he said, “They may have to take up residence elsewhere if the collection continues to grow.”

Collector Tom Steffensmeier is from Dyersville, Iowa.

Steffensmeier is a serious collector who calls his town, “The wheelhouse of farm toys.” Scale Models, Ertl (now TOMY) and SpecCast all maintain offices in the community.

Sentimental favorites started his collection - and it kept growing. He has 3,000 1/64 scale models, as they occupy less shelf space. His second choice is a 1/16 scale and number over 300 on his shelves.

The remaining part of his collection (200-plus) includes combines, corn pickers, implements, and trucks. A rainbow of different colored brands makes up his collection, including an Allis D-17 just like he drove at age 7. He said once he started driving the real thing, the toys didn’t get his attention back then.

But over 40 years ago, he began collecting and has never stopped. He avoids buying online, preferring to examine each item before buying it. A lot of time is spent at toy shows.

E.R.B.’s Coleman Museum is in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Ed Erb has the most extensive Coleman collection in the country. Also in his museum are Scale Model tractors and implements, all 1/8 scale.

There is no brand preference in his collection. He first acquired a 1/8 scale Farmall M in 1984 and has continued collecting to this day. Among his favorites is a trio of gold-plated tractors: an Allis Chalmers WD-45, a Farmall M, and a Farmall 806.

Erb emphasized that being a col-

lector of 1/8 scale replicas by Scale Models can be challenging as they are highly collectible, more expensive, and difficult to find. However, he added, “They are fantastic models, hold their value – and they are truly models for the ages.”

There are other toy manufacturers and many more impressive collections throughout the country. Those above are a few examples of devoted collectors.

Collector information is courtesy of Heritage Iron Magazine.

Paul Wallem was raised on an Illinois dairy farm. He spent 13 years with corporate I.H. in domestic and foreign assignments. He resigned to own and operate two I.H. dealerships. He is the author of THE BREAKUP of I.H. & SUCCESSES AND INDUSTRY FIRSTS of I.H. See all his books on www:Paul-Wallem.com. Email your comments to pwallem@aol.com.



Above: Linesville, Pa., Christmas tractor parade, December 2017



Above: Brett Berghorn’s red and green collection

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Thurs., Jan. 4th • 3-5pm
Sat., Jan. 13th • 9-10:30am

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AUCTION MANAGERS: Drew Lamle, 260-609-4926
& Arden Schrader, 260-229-2442

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AUCTION LOCATION: Saturn Christian Church, 6731 E 800 S, Columbia City, Indiana 46725
PROPERTY DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of State Road 14 (Illinois Road) & W County Line Road (S 800 E) – Travel south on W County Line Road (S 800 E) for 2.3 miles & the property entrance will be on the right (West side of the road).
TRACT DESCRIPTIONS:
TRACT 1: 53[±] ACRES this tract is accessed from W County Line Road. The gently rolling topography and wooded boundary line offer a scenic setting!
TRACT 2: “SWING TRACT” : 49[±] ACRES of mostly, productive tillable farmland. Study the opportunity to add this tract to your existing farm or combine with Tract 1 for a total of 102[±] acres!

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319.33± Acres • White County, Indiana

Best Western Plus Brandywine Inn & Suites | 304 South Sixth Street | Monticello, Indiana

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM EST

Bidding starts | Monday, January 15, 2024 at 8:00 AM EST
Bidding closes | Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at close of live event
To register and bid go to: WWW.FNCBID.COM

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Cass County, IN

AUCTION

FARM EQUIPMENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD • 11AM

LOCATED: 9848 E CR 275 S, Peru, IN 46970. Approximately 3 miles south of the intersection of US 24 & US 31 on US 31 to W. Airport Rd and go west. Follow W. Airport Rd ½ mile to CR 250 S and proceed west 2 miles to CR 500 W then south ¼ to CR 275 S take CR 275 S west 1 ¼ miles to the auction. • ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE •

- 2012 John Deere S 680 combine, 650/85R38 duals, 750/65R26 rears, power tail, power hopper ext, Ext wear rotor, 26’ auger, 2329 eng, 1672 sep • John Deere 640 FD Hydra flex draper head, 500 acres on new belts and sickle bars • Industrias 2042 tandem dolly wheel head cart, 16” tires, light kit • 2007 John Deere 893 corn head, hyd deck plates, end cone reels, header control, lateral tilt • 20’ head cart, 26x12.00-12 tires, ends to make 30’ • 1994 Case IH 7240 MFWD tractor, 18 sp powershift, 480/80R42 hub duals, 14.9R30 fronts, quick hitch, pto, 3 remotes, 5396 hrs • Willmar 8100 Eagle 4WD sprayer, Aire Glide suspension, 825 gal SS, 90’ booms, ARC 6000 auto rate controller, Raven light bar, painted screen, 5513 hrs • Kinze 3600 16/31 no-till planter, new seed disc openers, beam units, KM 3000 monitor • 20’ Brillion soil finisher, flat fold, walking axle, 5 bar flex harrow • 13 shank anhydrous pull type tool bar, coulters, mole knives, disc closers, Hiniker flow control, (needs new hoses) • Ag Chem 440 gal pickup sprayer, 40’ boom, Honda 5hp motor & pump • Killbros 1600 grain cart, 30.5L-32 tires, roll tarp • 1998 International 8100 semi-tractor, day cab, Cummins M-11, 10sp, 11R22.5 tires, 372,769 miles • 1993 Ford L 9000 semi tractor, day cab, L10 Cummins, 9sp, 11R22.5 tires, 229,792 miles • 2000 Jet 34’ hopper bottom trailer, steel, 11R22.5 tires, roll tarp • 7 1/2’ Befco C70 finish mower, 3pt • Fuel trailer with tool boxes, (2) 110 gal tanks, 12v pumps, w/battery • John Deere 2600 screen, SF1, auto steer, 946 hrs • John Deere 2600 screen, SF2, auto steer, 3146 hrs • John Deere 3000 globe, 3913 hrs

INSPECTION DATE:
Tues., Jan. 2nd • 10am-4pm

OWNER: Jim Schmidt, 765-472-8176 | AUCTION MANAGER: Arden Schrader, 260-229-2442

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EXCELLENT FARMLAND • BENTON CO, IN

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AUCTION

Thursday, January 18th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION:
Tracts 1 & 2: Pine Twp, Benton Co
11501 E 250 N, Remington, IN 47977

Tract 3: Center Twp, Benton Co
3439 E 300 S, Oxford, IN 47971

336.6+/- total acres



Contact John today!
John Bechman: 765.404.0396

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: R. Keith Long, HLS# JRB-12978

Tract 1: 150.2+/- Acres
Tract 2: 69.8+/- Acres
Tract 3: 116.6+/- Acres

- Windmill & Substation
- Income Producing Wind Lease
- Pattern Tiled

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4th Quarter Virtual Farm Consignment Auction

Bidding: December 27-28th @3:00 p.m.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Harmeyer Auction is planning an Online 4th Quarter Consignment Auction. We are currently looking for consignments of farm equipment. We are limiting this auction to just tractors, vehicles, implements, livestock equipment and other larger farm related items. We are not looking for tools or smaller garage/shop items for this auction. No need to haul your items to us. We will come to you and picture your pieces right where they sit. If you are interested in consigning to this online auction, please call Rusty @ 765-570-8118, Kevin @ 765-960-6737, or the office @ 765-561-1671.

CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL DECEMBER 20th

1954 International Truck; Flat Trailer w/Sideboards; 4 row IH Cultivator; 7' Sickle Bar Mower; National Grain Drill; 7' Snowblower; Field Cultivator; 10' Wheel Disk; Semi Mount Plow; 30' Elevator; Ranch King Lawn Mower; Tandem Axle Trailer; Slip Scoop; 3 Row Cultivator; Windrower; 1 Bottom Plow; JD 8300 Tractor; JD 1690 Bean Planter; Sunflower 26' Finishing Tool; Auger Fuel Tank w/Electric Pump; Air Compressor; Battery Charger; Wrench Set 1" And Larger; New Roll Of Fence; Chains; Grain Cleaner w/Screens; TC 55 Utility Tractor, 4x4 w/New Holland Loader, Just Under 1100 Hours; 1997 GMC 3500 Dump Truck; 1986 Pontiac Parisienne Brougham 94k Miles, One Owner; 1954 International RC-160 Truck; 1955 Ford Backhoe; Small Utility Trailer; 4 Row 3 Point Cultivator; 7' Pull Type Sickle Bar Mower; National 12 Hole Grain Drill; IH 80 3 Point Snowblower 7'; IH 10' Field Cultivator 3 Point; IH 370 Wheel Disk 10'; IH 540 Semi Mount Plow 4 Bottom; New Idea 30' Elevator With Electric Motor Or PTO Drive; Ranch King 18 Hp Lawn Mower; Small Tandem Axle Utility Trailer; 3pt Slip Scoop; JD 2 Row Cultivator 3pt; 1 Bottom Horse Drawn Plow; Horse-Drawn Potato Harvester; Small Seed Cleaner; Armitage Mouse Hole Anvil; Flatbed/Hay Wagon With Sides; IH 496 Disk 32'; Glencoe Field Finisher 22'; 2007 Chevy Suburban 285k, 4x4, Trailer Hitch, Leather; JD 4400 Combine, JD 1250 6 Row Planter, New Idea Corn Picker; 30' Paddle Elevator; 150 & 200bu Gravity Wagons; Allis Chalmers 6 Row Cultivator; 200 Gal Pull Type Sprayer; 6 Row Cultivator; 12' Cultipacker; JD Van Brunt Drill; Ford 7' Sickle Mower; 50' Auger; Snorkel Lift; 1984 Ford F-800 Bucket Truck; Phillips 66 Gas Pump; chain boomers, radial arm saw, and table saw; fence stretchers; International 1586; John Deere 4020; Gates; John Deere 450 5 bottom plow; Flail mower; Duetz Allis 7 Shank Chisel plow; Brillion Cultimulcher; 600 Gal Hardi Sprayer; Gravity Wagons on John Deere Gears; NH3 Tool Bar w/ cooler and control; Ditchwitch 3200 w/ trailer.

Harmeyer Auction & Appraisal Co & Steiner Auctions
Gene Steiner, 2004000096
Phone: 513-616-4086
Rusty Harmeyer, 2001014575
Phone : 765-561-1671

Harmeyer
AUCTION & APPRAISAL CO.

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
758 Tranquility Pike Seaman, Oh. 45679.
Sat., Dec. 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM

TRACTORS, LOADER & EQUIP.: JD 2008, 6603 TRACTOR, 3 REMOTES, 1930 HRS.; KUBOTA 2011, L3700SU TRACTOR, 195 HRS.; 4 WD, HST; KUBOTA 2020, BX2380 TRACTOR, 170 HR., LA344S LOADER, R4 TIRES; KUBOTA L3940 TRACTOR, 4 WD, HYD. TRANS., FAILED ENGINE; NH TC30 TRACTOR, LOADER, 4 WD GEAR DRIVE; NH 2017, C238 TRACK LOADER, 910 HRS.; JD 467 TWINE ROUND BALER, 4X6 BALE ; JD 926 DISCBINE; JD 2018 MX5 ROTARY CUTTER, 3 PT.; JD 2018 MX8 ROTARY CUTTER, 3 PT., DUAL TAIL WHEELS, LAMINATED TIRES; WOODS 208 ROTARY CUTTER, 3 PT.; WOODS BB72 ROTARY CUTTER, 3 PT.; WOODS DIXIE CUTTER; NH 145 MANURE SPREADER; JD PALLET FORKS; JD 6X4 GATOR; LAND PRIDE RB1560 SNOW BLADE; BAD BOY ZERO TURN MOWER; BLADE, 7' 3 PT.; SCRAPER BLADE; POST DIGGER; RTV900 PLASTIC TOPS; SKID OF EX MARK & KUBOTA RTV900 ACCESSORIES; ALUMINUM RAMPS, FOLDABLE 7.5'; CULVERT PIPE; KUBOTA T1880 RIDING MOWER FOR PARTS ONLY; EX MARK MOWER FOR PARTS ONLY; KUBOTA T1400 RIDING MOWER FOR PARTS ONLY; **TRUCKS:** 2004 CHEVY C4500 TRUCK W/KILAR 18 FT. ALUMINUM ROLL BACK BED, 474,930 MI.; 2004 DODGE RAM EXTENDED CAB TRUCK WITH SERVICE BED, 173,694 MI.; **STILL TAKING CONSIGNMENTS! ITEMS MAY BE CONSIGNED UP TO THE DAY OF AUCTION. Consign & bring items early so they can be on display for the buyers to view! Tractors will be offered throughout the day in the lines . Any announcements made by the auctioneer on the day of sale will take precedence over this ad.**
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Auctioneer

Reflecting on Christmases of the past

Reflecting on Christmases of the past

My wife and I have been talking about how hard it is to get into the Christmas spirit with all the advertising and distractions going on. Most people know, that read my articles, that I am a FarmTube watcher. I just finished watching Messicks Christmas 2023. Truly a well-directed and produced light show. I'd be interested in opinions of how other folks see it compared to years past. I'd also direct yourselves to pay close to the theme of each of their productions.

Continuing the thought of how hard it has been to get in the spirit, those who do not believe in God, should maybe move on to another article in Farm World. Did you know that the agriculture industry is polled as the number one industry with people of faith? No doubt there are non-believers and atheists in agriculture, but they are few and far between.

As I think back to Christmas's past in our home, each began with the unwrapping of a nativity scene. Crowning the Christmas tree was a star, or sometimes an angel. Each demonstrated the core meaning of Christmas to people of faith. Long ago, God loved mankind so much that He devised a way to send a Savior to be born among mankind.

55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT
BY BILL WHITMAN

That Son was born in a stable, a lowly stable, where His earthly parents welcomed Him into this world. That Son would ultimately be sacrificed on a cross

for my sins and the sins of all mankind that would accept Him personally into their lives.

Fast forward to now. I never wonder why pews in churches of every faith are occupied on Sunday mornings by farmers and ranchers. Each day, our lives are impacted by the hand of God as we experience the awesomeness of new life born on livestock operations, the loss of some, but always we see and "feel" the power of life, and death. When the farmer waits on the weather for planting, growing, and harvesting crops, we see the amazing miracle of a seed firmly bedded into the ground, take root and grow. We wait patiently for rain or endure too much rain, storms, winds, tornadoes and weather conditions I don't know the name of for a crop to be produced. Each year we trust in the Lord to see a harvest and be able to look forward to another year, and somehow, every year, in His way, He provides.

At least personally, this has been a difficult year for losing neighbors and friends. In some cases, I know that I know that I know, I will see them again for they knew the Lord. In other cases, I just don't know but I'm glad that God is the final authority.

So, in a world that seems to distance itself from acknowledging any Creator, we farmers and ranchers are still drawn to remembering a baby, born in a stable some 2,000 years ago who would live a sinless life and go to a cross to be the sacrifice for sin. It's personal, for no matter what we've done, (and I've done far more than most), the promise of life today, life tomorrow, and life eternally is available to all. This year, like years in the past, families will remember a nativity scene and a star on top of the tree to guide them through another year. Everything else... is just a distraction.

IndianaAg@Bluemarble.net

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 • 6:00 P.M.

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FARM LOCATION: 11 miles east of Hillsboro, OH, 9 miles south of Greenfield, 1 mile north of Rainsboro off SR 753 on Beaver Road. (Watch for signs)

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Still waiting for my award from the American Quarter Horse Association

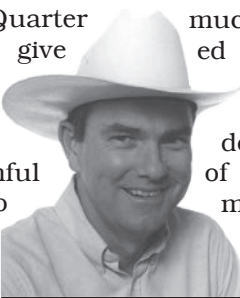
I think the American Quarter Horse Association should give me a lifetime achievement award for all the contributions I've made to promote the breed and for the harmful genetics I DID NOT add to the gene pool.

What are these contributions I've made? Well, there have been so many I hardly know where to begin. When I first got hired at the age of 21 to be a field editor for Western Livestock Journal I think there were more horses in my territory than there were cattle so I worked ring at a lot more horse sales than I did cattle auctions. Two of the highlights of my career as a ringman were taking bids from D. Wayne Lucas and Bob Baffert who both started out running Quarter Horses before they became world famous for training all their client's Triple Crown winning Thoroughbreds.

In my job with WLJ I fell in with the reps from the horse associations and magazines and I was soon offered a job at a regional quarter horse magazine to write stories, work ring and cover all the Quarter Horse events. Because I love horses I was tempted to take the job and to this day I don't know why I didn't. Considering how many people I've made angry in the cow business can you imagine the devastation I could have caused the horse world had I taken that job? So not taking that job was my first major contribution I made to the AQHA.

My second major contribution to the horse world was becoming a collector at an early age of old bits, spurs and other cowboy paraphernalia. On my walls at home are countless cruel spade bits, Mexican ring bits, high curb bits and long shanked US cavalry bits. I also have spurs with three inch rowels and even worse, the quarter sized rowels with serrated edges that could do more damage than even the long rowels.

I've also collected old quirts, whips and romels that can no longer inflict torment or torture. By gathering up all this stuff you can imagine how



It's THE PITTS
By Lee Pitts

much pain has NOT been inflicted on horses? I also collect old barbed wire which is horse's worst night-mare. I've no doubt saved an untold number of horses grievous injury by removing the wire from sagging fences from sea to shining sea.

Much to my wife's displeasure I also collect old saddles and sidesaddles like my severe Mexican and US Cavalry ones that look more like a carpenter made them than a saddlemaker.

Those actions alone should qualify me for some kind of recognition but I haven't even got to my major contributions yet. Long time readers will know that my number one mount was a horse I named Gentleman because that's what he was. Prior to gaining worldwide fame Gentleman was known as Eleven and a Half and I asked Ken, the cowboy I bought Gentleman from, why he called him that. He said it was because when you were mounted on him you were darn near afoot.

Ha ha. I also asked Ken why Gentleman had been left a stud and he made another good point. "You know he has zero energy, can you imagine how lazy he'd be without any testosterone at all?"

Perhaps the AQHA hasn't given me any plaques because I'm not 100% sure Gentleman was a pure Quarter Horse. Sometimes he acted more like a mule and the hair on the back of his legs suggested he may have pulled heavy beer wagons prior to his career as a cow pony.

In Gentleman's defense he knew way more about the cattle business than I did and he was my favorite color: gentle. I loved that old horse and he attracted fans across this country and Canada. We even wrote a book together called a Gentleman and A Scholar. Considering his body of work and the fact I didn't let him pass along numerous deleterious genetic defects into the Quarter Horse genetic code I think Gentleman and I deserve to be in the AQHA Hall of Fame.

United
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Bred Commercial Beef Cow Sale

Friday, January 5 at 1 p.m.

All Cattle must be pre-consigned

Early Consignments include:

Bob Delong: 10 SM cross

Walnut Springs 10 Red Angus,


Ananias Hershberger: 20 Black Angus

Jason Schulz: 30 Commercial

Checked by accredited vet on site day prior to sale

For more information or to consign, contact:

Justin Taylor
(740) 438-4889

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(231) 920-8263

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2024 New Salem Lions Club Fall Consignment Sale

February 24, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

New Salem Lions Club Building
4324 US 52 Rushville, IN 46173

Auctioneer's Note: The 58th Annual New Salem Lions Club Consignment Auction will have multiple rings running sale day with one ring having live simulcast bidding. The online bidding will take place at harmeyerauction.hibid.com. The online ring will have the higher interest items like good running tractors, vehicles, implements, and anything else the sale committee deems appropriate. Bring a friend, or three or four and don't miss out on this auction guaranteed to be full of things to take home and put to work! Visit www.harmeyerauction.net for complete details & updates on inventory often.

Accepting Consignments

February 4th thru February 20th, 2024

Monday thru Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sundays: 12:50 p.m.

No consignments accepted after February 20th

NOTE: *Absolutely No Household Goods *No smalls * Good tires on rims considered *Items accepted at the discretion of the sale committee

For information or to consign:

Call Rick Hartwell 765-938-9596
Lisa Hartwell 765-938-9595 or
Harmeyer Auction & Appraisal Co.
765-561-1671

Consign early for free advertising

Auction day announcements take precedence over printed material.

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16751 Co Rd N 30, Pioneer, OH 43554

AUCTION

Wednesday, December 27 • 10:30am

• **2021 JD 8R410 MFWD tractor**, 480/80R50 tires & hub duals, 420/85R34 front tires & duals, deluxe cab, deluxe lighting, ILS, E-23 trans, Command Screen, 5 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, front & rear weights, auto steer, integrated receiver (only 256 hours) • **2011 JD 7200R MFWD tractor**, 18.4R-46 tires & axle duals, 420/90R30 fronts, deluxe cab, deluxe lighting, 20sp auto Quad plus, 3 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, Command Screen, auto steer w/JD 3000 receiver, 1388 hrs • **1978 JD 4640 tractor**, 20.8-38 tires & clamp on duals, 2 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, front & rear weights, 6292 hrs • **1971 JD 4320 diesel tractor**, 18.4-38 tires, 2 remotes, 3pt, pto, Canopy, aux fuel tank, front fenders, 7437 hrs • **1964 JD 3020 diesel tractor**, NF, 15.5-38 tires, 1 remote, 3pt, pto, front weights, 7710 hrs • **1963 JD 3010 diesel tractor**, NF, 15.5-38 tires, 1 remote, 3pt, pto, tach shows 15 hrs • **1970 Case 570 gas tractor**, WF, 16.9-28 tires, 1 remote, 3pt, pto, rear weights w/NL loader & material bucket, 3842 hrs • **2016 Terex TLB 840R Backhoe**, shuttle, 4x4, Extend-a-hoe w/24" bucket & material bucket w/fold down forks (only 503 hrs) • **2022 JD XUV 835R Gator**, 4x4, deluxe lighting, Cab air-heat, elec dump, 57hrs/235 miles • **Farmall B gas tractor**, NF, 10-

24 tires, pto • **2008 JD 4730 sprayer**, 380/90R46 tires, SS 800 gal tank, 90' boom, hyd fold, 5 nozzle, Norac height control, hyd adj axles, front quick fill, foamer, inductor, Chafer 28% streamers, JD 6000 receiver & JD 2630 screen, 1184.4 hrs • **25' 2022 JD 2680H High Speed disc**, hyd front fold, rubber rollers & hyd scrapers (like new) • **30' JD 1990 CCS air seeder**, 7.5" spacing, spoke cast closing wheels, light package, Unverferth fill auger • **29.6 2020 JD 2230LL field cultivator**, hyd fold, walking tandems, 6 bar spike drag, rear hitch & hyd • **32' Brilliant XL32 cultipacker**, hyd X-fold, Ductile rolls, scrapers • **Kuhn Krause Dominator 4855 deep ripper**, 7 shank, hyd disc w/reel • **22' JD field cultivator**, Danish tine, hyd fold w/basket • **JD 2700 plow**, 6 btm, onland, spring loaded coulters • **JD 2500 plow**, 6 btm, semi mtd, auto reset • **JD F-145 plow**, 6 btm, semi mtd • **20' Krause 1925 disc**, hyd fold, 21" bladed, 8" spacing • **JD 85 row crop cultivator**, 8x30, hyd fold, gauge wheels, c-shank • **JD RM cultivator**, 8x30, end tow • **(2) 10' JD RWA discs** • **12' Harrogator** • **JD 450 grain drill**, 21x7", grass seed • **JD spring tooth harrow** • **Vandale feed wagon**, single axle • **NH 30 blower**, whirl-a-feed • **9' AGCO 5409 disc bine mower**, 3pt, (missing 1 disc) •

75' Meridian belt conveyor, 10" w/transport, hyd raise, elec drive (like new) • **Daewoo G25 E-3 fork lift**, LP, triple mask, side shift, pneumatic tires, 2040 hrs • **14' Sure-Trac dump trailer**, tandem axle, like new • **10'x80" Alum trailer**, single axle, double fold ramp • **Liebrecht tile cart** (like new) • **30" new sticks of tile** • **(4) 12" rolls of tile** • **Misc tile fittings** • **B&B 1000 gal nurse trailer**, tandem shuttle platform, inductor, pump & motor • **Clark 1000 gal nurse trailer**, tandem, shuttle platform, motor & pump • **(4) Snyder 2500 gal flat bottom poly tanks** • **Wilmar 600 fert spreader**, 6 ton, tandem • **7' JD 717 rotary mower**, 3pt • **8' Big Ox grader blade**, 3pt • **8' JD 65 grader blade**, 3pt • **PK Sprayer 300 gal**, 3pt, 40' boom, pto, pump • **Ag Chem brush sprayer**, 25 gal w/booms • **Set 18.4-38 duals** • **JD 425 lawn mower**, 60" Mulcher deck, 1343 hrs • **JD X350 lawn mower**, 48" deck, 294.8 hrs • **1000 gal NH3 wagon w/gear** • **14' JD No27 flail chopper** • **(2) Killbros 350 gravity wagons w/JD gears & roll tarps** • **McCurdy gravity wagon w/JD gear** • **(2) Parker gravity wagons w/gears** • **Killbros gravity wagon w/JD gear** • **(2) 14' Flat rack wagons w/gears** • **17' & 16' Flat rack wagons w/gears** • **1000 gal fuel tank w/pump** •

500 gal fuel tank w/pump • **275 gal fuel tank w/pump** • **JD Quick hitch** • **3'x10' Steel bench w/JD vice** • **Jenny horizontal air compressor**, 5hp, 220v regulators • **Ram air vertical air compressor**, 220v • **Craftsman 17 gal air compressor**, 1.1hp, 150 psi • **HD vertical manual press** • **Misc implement tires** • **Winpower 45/25 PT2 generator w/trailer** • **Clipper fanning mill** • **Large wood bench** • **Harris Acetylene torch & tanks** • **JD CS36 chain saw** • **Stihl MS 194T chain saw** • **Husqvarna 435 chain saw** • **Shop Vac** • **(2) Pressure washers w/Honda motors** • **(2) Battery chargers** • **Tool Boxes** • **(2) Alum Harvest Handler conveyors** • **(2) Mini bulks** • **Metal racking** • **Star Fire ITC receiver** • **Cast closing wheels & boots for JD 1990** • **JD Plus 50 oil** • **Metal chop saw** • **Transfer pump & motor** • **Elec cords** • **Many hand tools & wrenches** • **Lincoln 225 welder** • **Master Mechanic tool box** • **Alum step ladder** • **Railroad jack** • **Hyd jacks** • **Shock hitch** • **Various elec motors** • **JD combine parts** • **Battery powered grease gun** • **JD Kerosene heater** • **Bench grinder** • **15.8'x13" steel I-beam** • **New filters** • **¾ air impact** • **Misc steel seed advertising signs** • **Many other items too numerous to mention**

INSPECTION: Fri, Dec. 22 • 9am-4pm



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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Wabash County, IN: January 9 (ONLINE) 159.114⁺ Acres • 3 tracts
Excellent Soils • Tillable Farmland Contact: Jon Rosen: 260.740.1846,
 AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086, or Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

Bartholomew County, IN: January 16 (ONLINE) 110⁺ Acres
2 Tracts • Excellent Cropland • Potential Building Sites
 Contact: Dave Bonnell: 812.343.4313 or Michael Bonnell: 812.343.6036

Delaware County, IN: January 18 • 107.329⁺ Acres • 7 tracts
Productive Farmland • 6-Unit Apartment Complex • Home • Pond
Potential Building Lots • Outbuildings Contact: Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592,
 Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359, AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 or Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

NEW! Benton County, IN: January 18 (ONLINE) 336.6⁺ Acres
3 Tracts • Excellent Farmland • Income Producing Wind Lease
Pattern Tile Contact: John Bechman: 765.404.0396

Wells County, IN: January 23 (ONLINE) 207.3⁺ Acres
3 Tracts • High Quality Farmland Contact: Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181

NEW! Clinton County, IN: January 25 (ONLINE) 35⁺ Acres • 2 tracts
Productive Farmland • Development Potential • Tillable Acreage
 Contact: Sam Clark: 317.442.0251 or Jim Clark: 765.659.4841

NEW! Wells County, IN: January 30 (ONLINE) 36.75⁺ Acres
High Quality Farmland • Tillable Acreage
 Contact: Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 or Neal Wolhuter: 260.336.2219



ONLINE BIDDING IS AVAILABLE!

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Ohio oak trees are having a ‘mast’ year with plenty of acorns

Hayley Shasteen
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio — If you live in Ohio and have oak trees on your property, you may have noticed an unusual number of acorns underfoot.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife reported that an average of 40 percent of white oaks and 54 percent of red oaks bore fruit, known as acorns, this year. By way of comparison, in 2022, 39 percent of white oaks and only 37 percent of red oaks produced fruit. Generally, acorn production is highly variable among individual trees, species, and across the landscape, so while some parts of Ohio may see many acorns, other parts may see very few.

Years where trees produce a higher-than-average number of nuts, such as oak trees this year in Ohio, are known as mast years. A single oak tree can produce thousands of acorns during a mast year.

Research ecologist Katie Greenberg from the USDA Forest Service said that it's actually “a bit of a mystery” why mast years occur. She said that many researchers have conducted studies to understand what makes a mast year and whether it's possible to predict when a mast year will occur, but it's been “pretty impossible”. However, she noted that some studies have found connections between mast years and other variables. For example, years with heavy rain or

freezes in spring when oak trees are flowering or young acorns are forming could impact the effectiveness of pollination or acorn development, impacting how many trees bear fruit. Even then, the connection between weather and acorn production isn't strong enough to say for sure.

“One thing that's a little bit of a myth is that oaks always have ‘boom or bust’ years,” Greenberg said. “There are some really good years and there are also some mast failure years where there are basically no acorns. But there are many, many years when there's a medium amount of acorns.”

Greenberg pointed out that there are many species of oak tree, including white oak, red oak, scarlet oak, and chestnut oak, that follow the beat of their own drum when it comes to acorn production. Different oak tree species produce acorns at different rates; some years one or two species might produce a lot of acorns, but it's rare for most species to produce a lot of acorns in the same year.

Mast years are an exciting time for the forest ecosystem. Greenberg called acorns a keystone forest resource because so many animals eat acorns including game species and rodents. Studies have shown that acorn abundance is linked to body condition, winter survival, and reproductive success in acorn-eating animals. Next year, hunters might notice more deer and squirrels since they are more likely to survive the winter and reproduce in the spring.

Acorn production also has a lasting impact on forests' long-term ecosystem.

“If there's a high deer population, partly driven because of acorns, their browsing on woody vegetation can actually affect the structure of the forest,” she said. “They might eat specific types of tree seedlings which can impact the forest composition and how successful the survival of young trees will be. This ultimately impacts animals' habitats.”

Additionally, acorns can help grow a thriving rodent population, becoming

ing food for predators like foxes, bobcats, coyotes, and raptors. Farmers with lots of oaks on their property in Ohio might notice the abundance of wildlife roaming around in the woods, including game species and crop predators. Game species are less likely to feed near agricultural areas and eat crops because they have a wealth of food available to them in the forest. During poor acorn production years, deer and other wildlife must seek alternative food sources.

Looking to do more than just crunch acorns under your feet? You can roast acorns and eat them, although it's advisable to find a good, credible recipe first. Acorns are high in tannins, which make them very bitter. Roasted acorns can also be turned into acorn flour, if you like to bake. You might also be interested in harvesting a few acorns to plant oak trees of your own. Or, just enjoy the variety of wildlife feeding on acorns and wonder about what the forest will look like next year.



The Midwest's Leading Weekly Ag Publication!

RUTLAND FARMS ONLINE ONLY EQUIP. AUCTION

No-Reserve Retirement Auction

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 • 1:00 P.M.

1979 N. State Rd., Flora, Illinois
Shed Kept Equipment • A-1 Condition

Tractors 2007 John Deere 9230 4wd tractor 5,073 hrs. 5 remotes, Power-Beyond, steering valve, Starfire 3000 globe & Brown Box, big 1000 pto, quick hitch; 2000 John Deere 8410 MFWD tractor 6,366 hrs. duals, rear inside wheel wts. Brown Box, ATU 200 Steering Wheel, w/Starfire 3000 globe, 4 remotes, power behind, quick hitch, big 1000 pto; 1992 John Deere 4960 Tractor Power Shift MFWD, 4,867 tractor hrs. 737 hrs. on rebuilt engine/rebuilt engine at 4,130 hrs. rebuilt cylinder head, new bushing, front half of transmission redone, added LED lights, excellent original paint, Brown Box, ATU 200 Steering Wheel, w/Starfire 3000 globe, 12front wts. rear inside wheel weights, big 1000 pto, duals; 1996 John Deere 8770 tractor 4wd 5,712 hrs. bareback, 3 remotes, Brown Box, ATU 200 Steering Wheel, w/Starfire 3000 globe, 3 remotes, duals quad range **Combine & Attachments** 2010 John Deere 9770 STS Bullet Rotor Combine 3,236 machine hrs. 2,314 separator hrs. 4wd, HD Extended-wear Package, duals Maurer Hopper Extensions; 2010 John Deere 608C Corn Head, 8 Row, 30 inch, Single Point Hookup, Header Height Control, 800 acres of corn a year, stalk stompers; EZ Trail 672 Head Cart, 20 feet; 2014 John Deere 635FD Draper Head, Hydra Flex, Single Point Hookup, 800 acres of soybeans a year, spare sickle; Unverferth HT36 Foot Head Cart **Semis & Dump Trailers** 2012 Kenworth T600B Day Cab Semi Truck, Eaton Fuller 10 Speed, PACCAR MX-445, Wet Kit, Aluminum Rims, 477,889 Miles, 182" Wheelbase, Good Tread, Power Mirrors and Power Windows, 12k front, 40k rear; 2004 Freightliner Classic 120 Day Cab Semi Truck, Cat C-12 430hp, 210" wheelbase, Eaton Fuller 10 Speed Transmission, 3.73 gear ratio, Wet Kit, Tac Shows 148,000 miles, (Has approx. 800,000) Repainted Frame and Truck in 2021, Overhauled in 2020, Dunlop Excellent Tread, Dynacargo Rear Tires(Newer), 12k front, 40k rear; 2000 International 8100 Grain Truck 6x4, Eaton Fuller 10 speed transmission, 358,620 miles, Cummins 15M-280 diesel, 18ft bed, 64" sides w/roll tarp, 52k GVWR, Twin screw, Air Ride, Cargo Doors, Metal Floors; 2002 Trailstar 34 foot Frameless Dump Trailer, Roll Tarp, Aluminum Outside Rims, Air Ride, OTAM 285/75 R 24.5 Tires, Good Tires, NO LINER; 2001 Ram 39 foot Frameless Dump Trailer, Roll Tarp, Aluminum Rims, Air Ride, Roll Tarp **Planters** 2010 Kinze 3600 16 Row 30 Inch Row Planter, No-Till Coulters, Newer Disc Blades, Markers, KPM III Monitor, Shredded and Serviced Every Year; 2017 Kinze 3600 16/31 ASD Planter, Bulk Fill, 2 Hoppers, Ground Driven, Kinze Digistar Scale Link SL220, Newer Disc Blades, No-Till Coulters **Tillage Equipment, Grain Cart, Augers** John Deere 630 Disk, 30 ft, rear hitch with hyd hookups; McFarlane Reel Disk, Tandem Axle, 3 bar Harrow, Approx. 800 Acres a year; Great Plains 3000 Turbo-Till, 30 foot, Series II, Rear Hitch and hyd hookups, single rolling spike, and single rolling basket; Unverferth 1225 35' Double Rolling Baskets; John Deere 980 Danish-Tine 32 Ft Field Cultivator, Hard Surfaced Shovels, 3 bar harrow, Single Rolling Basket, Front Gauge Wheels; John Deere 980 C-Shank 32 Ft Field Cultivator, 9" Sweeps, 5 bar harrow, with rear hitch and hyd; EZ Trail 3400 Gravity Wagon, Brumleve Roll Tarp, 1074 Gear, with seed auger; EZ Trail 3400 Gravity Wagon, Brumleve Roll Tarp, 1074 Gear, with seed auger; Willmar 765 Diesel Sprayer, 60 foot, 600 Gallon, Poly Tank, 3260 hours, Raven 440 Monitor, 4wd, Air Ride; 2021 Unverferth 1019 X-Treme Grain Cart, 20 inch auger, Big 1000 PTO, Adjustable Spout, Rear Camera, Roll Tarp, Mitas SFT900-60R32 Tires, 4 Hydraulics Like New, Excellent Condition; AGI Hutchinson HX 10-73 Swing Away Auger, Model H/M HX10-73/83GA; Hutchinson 8-73 Swing Away Auger, Has been patched; works; AGI Hutchinson 8-61 Straight Auger, 540 PTO, Hyd. Raise, HD, Steel, model- Wheatheart WHR8-61

Equipment Inspection: Saturday, December 30th • 9:00 A.M.-Noon
Friday, January 5th • 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.



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TRACTORS

- 2021 JD 6110M tractor, MFWD • 2019 CIH Magnum 250 tractor, MFWD • 2013 JD 9360R 4WD tractor • 2011 JD 9330 4WD tractor • JD 6170M tractor, MFWD • 1989 JD 4955 tractor, MFWD • White 2-135 tractor • 1998 CAT Challenger 45 tractor • IH 4568 4x4 tractor • JD 2950 4x4 tractor, cab, w/ JD 260 loader • 2007 New Holland TC40A tractor w/ Woods 1009 loader • 1968 JD 4020 tractor • New Holland Boomer 37 tractor, MFWD • Farmall B tractor narrow front • MF 255 cab tractor • White 2-85 tractor • Allis Chalmers D-17 tractor • Allis Chalmers G tractor
- SKID STEERS • DOZERS • EXCAVATORS • TELEHANDLERS • ATTACHMENTS**
- 2021 CAT D5 LGP dozer • Komatsu D39PX dozer • CAT forklift • 2005 Gehl CT17-23T telehandler • Traverslift 644 telehandler • JCB 505-19 telehandler • CAT TH62 telehandler • (3) new mini excavators • New mini ride on skidsteers • CAT HM315C mulching head • 2021 Viring 84" snow blower • JD DB 96 6 way blade • Precision Manufacturing tree shear w/ pivoting head • Felco 8' brush grapple bucket • 1998 Snorkelift TB42 lift

TILLAGE

- 2018 Salford Independent 1200 vertical till • CIH 870 9 shank disc ripper • 2013 Sunflower 4511 9 shank disc ripper • 24' Great Plains Turbo Max w/ Valmar 1655 air seeder • Sunflower 6433 soil finisher, w/ rolling basket • 34' R/T 3000 round bar crumbler • Phillips 4305A rotary harrow • 26' Wil-Rich field cultivator w/ drag • JD 400 30' rotary hoe • Unverferth 1225 53' double rolling basket • CIH 3900 32' disc • Remlinger 8 row strip till bar • 30' Salford 2100 vertical till • 31' Unverferth 1225 double rolling basket • Brillion 15' cultimulcher • Phoenix H14 42' rolling harrow • CIH 110 33' crumbler • JD 980 30' field cultivator • Glencoe 11 shank soil saver disc chisel • FMC 3pt tiller • White 222 31' field cultivator • White 271 24' disc • IH 370 16' wing disc w/ harrow • offset disc
- PLANTING • SEED TENDERS • TOMATO TRANSPLANTER**
- 2014 JD 1755 6 row 30" planter • 2012 JD 1770NT 24 row planter • Checchli & Magli Tomato Transplanter • (2) Unverferth 3750 seed runner • JD 1590 15' no-till drill • JD 8300 drill • Brillion SS12 seeder • Kinze 2300 16/31 split row planter w/ controller & monitor • 2007 Hinker 40' air seeder • Brillion 10' grass seeder • Great Plains solid stand 15 drill • IH 510 grain drill w/ seeder
- COMBINES • HEADS • HEAD CARTS**
- 2013 JD S680 combine, 4WD • JD 9750 STS combine • 2008 Geringhoff North Star NS8000 cornhead • JD 925F hydroflex gaintable • Unverferth HT-25 headcart • Killbros headcart • 1998 JD 9610 combine • JD 930F gaintable w/ Unverferth headcart • 2014 MacDon 40' flex

TRACTORS

- 2014 NH 880CF 40' draper head • 2011 NH 99C 12x30 chopping cornhead • Clark 14 row corn head w/ JD units
- GRAIN CARTS • WAGONS • AUGERS • GRAIN CLEANER**
- 2010 Brent 1080 graincart • Brent 880 grain cart • Demco 850 graincart • Brent 672 grain cart • Hinson 812 graincart • AGI Westfield MKX 10"x73' swing away auger • KSI conveyor 8"x62' • NECO rotary grain cleaner w/ 2 screens • Killbros 350 gravity wagon • Killbros 350 gravity wagon • (2) J&M 250 gravity wagons • 12"x34' Federal load out auger • JD 400 graincart
- SPRAYERS • FERTILIZER & LIME APPLICATION**
- 2014 CIH 3340 Patriot sprayer • JD 4830 sprayer • 2006 Terra-Gator 1603 dry spreader truck • Top Air TA300 3pt sprayer • 2005 Hardi Commander Plus 750 pull type sprayer • 1975 Ford 8000 lime spreader truck • Demco 150 gallon atv pull type sprayer • Yetter pull behind liquid nurse wagon • BBI lime spreader
- HAY & FORAGE EQUIPMENT**
- 2015 CIH DC133 center pivot discbine • Krone 4 basket hay tedder • CIH 8575 silage special big square baler • New Holland BR780 round baler • Anderson round bale clamp • CIH DCX 131 center pivot discbine • Befco rotary hay rake • New Holland 340 big square baler • New Holland 273 small square baler • Kuhn GA 4220 TH rotary rake • Miller Pro 1150 rotary rake • IH 35 hay rake • NH 2700 small square baler • JD 1219 haybine • JD 3900 forage chopper • Gehl CB 750 chopper w/ 2 row corn head • NH 1499 windrower • JD 835MoCo discbine • NH pull type chopper w/ 3 row head • NH pull type chopper w/ 2 row head • Meyer silage wagon • JD silage wagon
- LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT**
- Arts Way 6530 grinder mixer • Miller Pro 350 TMR mixer • Knight 2350 TMR mixer • (3) SI cattle feeder wagons • New Holland 195 manure spreader • New Holland 165 manure spreader • Kuhn Knight 8032 tandem manure spreader • Kuhn Knight 8132 tandem manure spreader • H&S tandem manure spreader
- TRUCKS • TRAILERS**
- 2023 EMI drop deck semi trailer • 2021 Dodge Ram Big Horn 2500 pickup • 2021 Chevy 2500HD LT-Z71 pickup • 2000 Volvo day cab semi • 1998 IH 4700 tandem axle grain truck • 1995 Peterbilt 377 semi • 2008 Wilson hopper bottom trailer • Wilco Challenger RC50 37' RGN tri axle trailer • 2004 ITI SRS-50' walking floor trailer • Ravens aluminum fertilizer semi trailer • 2013 Diamond C Fleet Neck gooseneck implement trailer • 2003 Chevy Silerado 3500 dually • 1994 Chevy 2500 service truck • 2004 Ford F250 pickup • 2005 Ford F250 pickup • 2003 Chevy 3500 dump truck • 2004 Beatrice Wedge car hauler trailer • 2000 GMC grain truck • 16' bumper hitch livestock trailer • 1998 Trailmobile van trailer • 2003 Pro Trak gooseneck implement trailer • 2003 Corn Pro 20'+5' gooseneck implement trailer • gooseneck dump trailer •

2006 Buick Lucerne 4 door sedan • 2000 Ford F350 pickup • 2004 Mack semi, daycab • 2001 Sterling single axle straight truck w/ flatbed • 1998 Mack dry fertilizer tender truck • 1997 Freightliner straight truck w/ flatbed

TECHNOLOGY

- JD 4640 screen • (5) JD 4600 screens • (2) JD 4240 screen • (3) JD 2600 screens • (2) JD Starfire 6000 globes • JD Starfire 3000 globe • JD brown box • CIH Pro 700 screen • CIH Vector Pro globe • (2) CIH 372 receivers • (2) CIH 392 receivers • Raven Viper 4+ screen • (2) Trimble Navigation III controllers
- MISC FARM EQUIPMENT • PONTOON**
- DJI Phantom Pro 3 drone • Highline XL-78 rock picker • JD CX20 rotary mower • 2011 JD 825i gator w/ cab • (49) 6"x30' aluminum irrigation pipes • Thunder Creek truck fuel/DEF tank • 100+ gallon fuel trailer • Eel River rock bucket • Sitrex 180 3pt finish mower • Kodiak 6' grader blade • 22' Sweetwater Executive Cruiser pontoon boat w/ trailer • Brand new aluminum 300 gallon fuel tank w/ Fill Rite 100 volt pump • IH 2250 loader • 500 gallon skid fuel tank • Polaris Ranger 700 Twin electronic fuel injection
- DIEHM ESTATE**
- JD 8285R tractor, MFWD • JD 6170R tractor, MFWD • JD R450 self propelled mower w/ 12' JD 994 discbine head • Salford BBI Endurance litter spreader • Miller 30' 3pt tine weeder • JD 2700 5 shank disc ripper • 29' Sunflower 1434 rock flex disc • 36' unverferth 1225 double rolling basket • Brillion 9 shank disc chisel w/ ridge leveler • 3pt root/stick rake • 1996 IH 4900 dump truck DT 466 • Eager Beaver 20 XPT tag trailer • Sull Air 150 portable air compressor • 2010 Krone 5.52 4 basket tedder
- MARLEY FARMS RETIREMENT**
- 26' Krause Landsman 5630 field cultivator • 27' Unverferth Rolling Harrow 225 double rolling basket • White 8300 12 row 30" planter • JD 400 15' 3pt rotary hoe • J&M 875 grain cart • JD 712 disc chisel • J&M 350 gravity wagon • 13 shank DMI NH3 applicator • JD 9500 combine • JD 693 cornhead • JD 925 gaintable • Unverferth HT30 headcart
- KALE MARKETING INVENTORY REDUCTION**
- 2013 Terra Gator 8300 • 1997 Terra Gator 1803 • 2001 Stahly Floater Sterling w/ 2014 AG Force FL3024 stainless box • 2019 Chevy 2500HD pickup w/ Knapehide service bed • 2012 Dodge 5500 crew cab pickup • 2006 Chevy C5500 serice truck • 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 • 2011 Dodge Ram 2500 • (2) 2010 Dodge Ram 2500 • (4) Rogator 23.1R30 tires & rims • (4) Goodyear 380/90R46 tires & rims • (4) Firestone 18.4R38 tires & rims

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Ohio Farm Bureau sets policy

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Farmland preservation, artificial intelligence (AI), solar power, and feral hogs were just a few of the topics that 359 delegates hashed out at the Ohio Farm Bureau's (OFB) 105th annual meeting.

"There was a lot of conversation about farmland preservation, how can we continue to grow as a state but also make sure we are growing smartly and trying to preserve and protect our farmland," said Jack Irvin, OFB's vice president of public policy.

That took on a broad range of topics under the umbrella of farmland preservation, such as tax policies, incentives for solar projects, and brownfield devel-

opment.

Currently in Ohio, the state has money to buy developmental rights, but then another entity needs to come up with matching funds. Many delegates would like to see the state handle the entire cost instead of relying on a second entity for matching funds, said Tim Hesselbrock, Butler County Farm Bureau policy chair, a delegate, who took part in the discussions.

"Many municipalities or local governments such as townships don't have the money, or most aren't interested in farmland preservation in the way we think it should be," Hesselbrock said. "Economic development brings them more money and they need operating money."

Concerning AI, farm bureau, particularly at the federal level, does not have a clear policy, Irvin said. Members were concerned about data privacy, security and ownership, and necessary regulatory parameters for the development and use of AI.

"While it has been around awhile it is rapidly evolving and we have an opportunity to be more proactive as an organization and have some policy that speaks to data privacy and security in ownership and components," Irvin said. "Our delegates thought it was necessary to have that conversation and submit those policy suggestions on to the American Farm Bureau."

Hesselbrock noted that there was talk of spreading H2Ohio across the state rather than just in northern Ohio.

"The thing is if it is equitable," Hesselbrock said. "Farm Service Agency (FSA) has had those programs for decades. The problem is that most of the time people couldn't afford to let the land set because they were not paid as much as they could get for renting the ground. If they can get the price up to make it equitable, so the landowners can afford to have a set aside (setting land aside for conservation) instead of leaving it in crop production."

Solar energy was again a hot topic. There is a lot of interest in balancing property rights versus protecting farmland and respecting the agricultural heritage, Irvin said.

"Our delegates moved forward with supporting some new policy surrounding the community solar projects and making sure local governments have a few more tools and resources (concerning) the sitings and the ordinances that they would use for those projects," Irvin said.

"There is a lot of interest in making sure that we are prioritizing looking on non-agricultural land for these types of projects; not saying you can't have them on agricultural land, but concerning some of the available incentives, making sure that land other than agricultural land can be prioritized," Irvin explained.

Hesselbrock said many were in favor of blocking all solar development on prime farmland.

The February 2023 train derailment in East Palestine brought up talk about the importance of local emergency management agencies engaging with the agricultural community to prepare for emergencies.

Hesselbrock talked about a grain entrapment situation where a local fire department had the necessary equipment and knowledge to rescue the victim. However, the emergency management team came and took charge. They did not know how to successfully operate the rescue equipment.

"You need to let the local people who know what they're doing, whether they're the top dog there or not, be in charge," Hesselbrock said.

Also up for discussion was the subject of foreign governments and foreign entities buying land and driving up prices, Hesselbrock said. That makes it harder for young people trying to get a start in farming.

"That is a problem we're having across the country," Hesselbrock said.

While feral hogs are not yet a big problem in most of Ohio, farm bureau members want to eradicate them before they get a stronger hold.

"They're very invasive, aggressive, and destructive, both to the environment and crops," Irvin said. "They're also a threat to livestock and a huge biosecurity risk. Delegates are interested in making sure that we get rid of that population and don't see it expand in Ohio."

Hesselbrock added that they are not native animals, they are just somebody's hogs that got away. "You can't have a short season, it shouldn't be a season," he said. "They are a nuisance."

Such rigorous discussion of policy at the annual meeting and beyond is at the core of a grassroots organization, Irvin said.

"As the members have set our policy, it is now our job to advocate at the Statehouse and in Washington, D.C., on behalf of them and all of Ohio agriculture," Irvin said.

WINTER EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT TRACTORS - COMBINES - EQUIPMENT - MOWERS

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INSPECTION: Tues Dec 26 12-2 PM **FARM TRACTORS:** '83 IH 3688, hrs: 5983, CHA, sharp; '78 JD 4840, hrs: 5291, PS, CHA, weights; '73 JD 4430, CHA, QR, weights; '01 Case-IH C70 MFWD loader; '67 IH 656 utility, hrs: 4080, diesel; '62 JD 3010; '47 Farmall H with IH #30 loader (all original) **COMPACT TRACTORS:** 2020 JD 1025R 4x4 with loader (like new); 2020 Kubota with backhoe (like new); '02 JD 4210 MFWD with JD 420 loader, hrs: 806; 87 MF 1010, hrs: 1155 **COMBINES & HEADS:** '10 JD 9670 STS 4x4 combine, hrs: 1972/3153, Contour Master, farmed-owned, excellent; MF 510 combine, hrs: 2605, one-owner, barn kept, diesel; '12 MacDon 35' draper head with EZ-Trail 1084 AWS cart (both excellent); J&M HT8 20' head cart; JD 635F grain head with EZ-Trail 680 cart **FARM EQUIPMENT:** NH 355 grinder mixer; BBI 18' poultry litter spreader, one-owner; JD CX-15 15' rotary mower; BH 2846QT loader with attachments; JD 7000 6R30 planter; IH 5100 21-hole Soybean Special drill, grass seed; Winpower 210 12' rotary hoe; shop-built trailer with New Leader L-2010 lime bed; rotary mowers; blades; manure pumps; TeeJet Matrix 430 GPS; Harvest H1072 72' x 10' auger; CAT V130 all-terrain forklift, 13K; Toro TRX20 trencher with trailer **SPRAYERS:** '93 Big A sprayer, hrs: 5085, miles: 67K, engine: Cummins 8.3L, 65', 1600 gal; '90 Spra-Coupe, 50', 210 gal **HAY & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT:** Case-IH RBX552 round bale, 5x5, twine; '09 Claas Rollant 260 round baler, 4x5, net wrap; Case-IH 8610 bale processor; Farmhand 6650 tub grinder; Kuhn GMD700-Gil 9' 3-pt disc mower; NH 256 rake; NH 252 tandem rake hitch; J&M/IH hay wagons; Tarter livestock chute with 20' alley **TRUCKS:** '98 Freightliner FL112, Cummins M11, day cab, 24.5", wet kit; '08 Dodge 2500 4x4 with 8' flatbed, Cummins; '97 Ford XLT with Omaha flatbed, miles: 66K, 2WD; '94 F150 4x4, gas; '91 Ford F700 with 22' flatbed, Ford diesel **TRAILERS:** '02 Wilson DWH-400B 41' hopper bottom; '99 Trail King hyd dove drop deck; '05 Belshe DT-235 25' pintle; Duvall GN flatbed (new); '74 Dorsey 47' flatbed; '15 Duvall 12' utility; '08 Sure-Trac GN 25' flatbed; '96 Gold Star GN 30' flatbed; utility trailers **UTV:** '16 Polaris Ranger 900XP, hrs: 952 **LATE MODEL ZERO TURN MOWERS:** 20+ Big Dog, Bobcat, Bush Hog, Dixie, Grasshopper, Great Dane, Hustler, & Simplicity

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Day Cab Semis 2004 Peterbilt 379 Semi, 10 speed, C-13 Cat, 673,000 miles, Leather Seats, Long Nose hood, quarter fenders, 11R22.5 Tires (1 Season on them) Tires, sliding 5th Wheel, Twin Turbo, Heated Mirrors, Air Ride Cab, Dual 100 gallon fuel tanks, 218 inch wheelbase; 2011 Peterbilt 384 Semi, 10 speed, C-13, 426,230 miles, quarter fenders, sliding 5th wheel, headed mirrors, Air Ride, Twin Turbo, Single Stack, 11R22.5 Tires, 80 and 120 gallon fuel tank, 174" wheelbase; 2011 Peterbilt 384 Semi, 10 speed, C-13, 282,300 miles, quarter fenders, sliding 5th wheel, headed mirrors, Air Ride, Twin Turbo, Single Stack, 11R22.5 Tires, 80 and 120 gallon fuel tank, 174" wheelbase **Tractors** 1996 Case International 7240 Magnum, FWA, 5888 Engine Hours, 18 speed power shift, 4 remotes, Big 1000 PTO, Full Front Weights; 1976 International 1586 Tractor, 2wd, 4216 hours, 540 and small 1000 PTO, 3 remotes, Newer Clutch, 18.4-38 Rear Tires, Straight Pipe, Been an auger/Conveyor tractor **Trucks** Case IH 411 36 Inch Combine Tractor, fits 8000 Series Combine, Low use; 2022 Brandt 1320 XT Grain Cart, Big 1000 PTO, 1 1/2 seasons of use, roll tarp, 5 load cells, DIGI Star 500 Scale Head, 20 inch auger, Rear and Unload Camera, Hyd, Jack, 4 way directional spout, 5 hyd, like new; J&M 1326 Grain Cart, Extended Reach, Roll Tarp, Newer Tracks, VFS70 Undercarriage, 22 inch Auger, New Top Unloading Tube, Big 1000 PTO, comes with original/stock axle and rim **Fuel Truck** 1999 International Tandem Fuel Truck, 530 IH, 9 Speed, Tandem Axle, 396,513 miles, shows 81,305, the odometer was replaced, 2700 gallon, 5 compartments, back 2 locked together, all #2 Diesel, Dual Pump Unload, Two Storage Boxes, Retractable hose, 1 3/4 hose, 10-100 GPM, Used this fall, Vin-1HTSHADRXH625853 **Service Truck** 2011 F-350 Powerstroke Super Duty Service Truck, Dualy, 87,344 miles, Service Bed, 2 Fuel Tanks, 4wd, Rear LED Lights, Leather, 4 Door, With Toolboxes Inside, snowplow mount with 8ft snowplow, VIN-1FD8W3HT5BEC91033 Bought new/one owner **Seed Tender & Disc** Case IH 3503 Seed Tender with Yetter seed vac system, Rear Lights, 23.1-26 Rear Lights, Vanguard 11 HP Engine; Case IH 3950 Disk, 32 foot, Walking Tandems, 7 1/2 inch spacing **Head Carts & Corn Head** 2020 Claas 16-30 16 Row Corn Head, 30 Inch, Hyd. Deck Plates, Excellent Condition Series 926, 345.38 hours; 2010 Ja-Mar MFG 31 foot Head Cart, Tandem Axle; 2014 Ja-Mar MFG 46 Foot Head Cart, Tandem Axle, Spare Tire; 12 Row Down Corn Real **Augers** Mayrath 10-72 Swing Away Auger, 540 PTO; Mayrath 13-82 Swing Away Auger, Hyd, Swing away, 540 PTO

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