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Most Illinois pork producers are not ready for Prop 12 requirements

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

EUREKA, Ill. — Most Illinois and Midwest pig farmers are unprepared for the imposition of Proposition 12 animal housing restrictions on their operations, according to the president of the Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA).

“We’re sure not (ready),” said Chad Leman, a third-generation pig farmer from Woodford County and IPPA president, “for a variety of reasons. First of all, changing our sow housing to meet Prop 12 requirements is not an overnight process. It takes months and months of planning as to what the best way to remodel these barns would be to accommodate extra space for sows. It also could mean reducing a barn’s sow capacity by a minimum of 25 percent.”

Construction costs and availability are other factors contributing to producers’ reluctance to reconfigure their existing barns or build new structures in order to meet Prop 12 requirements. A bigger factor, however, may be the uncertainty behind potential demand for pork in the Golden State as consumers there begin paying higher prices for pork products due to greater production costs associated with Prop 12.

“Right now most pork producers are just trying to navigate all the red ink we’ve been experiencing over the course of the last 12 to 15 months, and come out the other side of that. Adding to the uncertainty is that none of the packers are willing to offer (producers) any incentives to go to Prop 12-compliant housing because they don’t know what the demand for pork is going to be in California,” Leman said. “Nobody knows whether Californians are going to be willing to pay a higher price. They’re going to get their Prop 12 pork, but they’re going to have to pay a higher price.”

Leman said he questions the logic behind the entire Prop 12 premise, given that the law only applies to whole-muscle cuts and not ground pork. “This is very confusing to most people, because the pork obviously comes from the same pig,” he said. “If someone wants to buy a tenderloin or a pork chop, they must be willing to pay around 25 percent more for that cut. Will they buy that cut or choose something that’s maybe going to go a bit further? Packers aren’t too excited about paying a premium for Prop



Above: Chad Leman, a third generation pork producer from Eureka, Illinois and president of the Illinois Pork Producers Assoc., is pictured. (IPPA photo)

12 pork when they’re not sure the WalMarts and the Costcos are going to be able to sell it in California.”

California consumers account for around 15 percent of all domestic pork sales, according to the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC). Leman agreed that with basically four major packers serving Illinois producers, that figure can also be used to represent the state of Illinois’ percentage of pork sales to California. With around 28 percent of U.S. pork products exported (in 2022, according to NPPC), around 72 percent of the nation’s pork remains in the states.

Illinois sells around \$2 billion in pork every year, meaning around \$1,440,000,000 is sold domestically.

Using these figures and percentages, Illinois sells approximately \$216 million in pork products to Californians per year. The NPPC estimates that the cost for producers to invest in Prop 12-adherent barn reconfigurations and pass on to consumers would be \$3,500 per sow, meaning a producer-owner would need to spend approximately \$14 million to configure a 4,000 sow farm in order to be compliant.

“None of my pork can be consumed in California. We have no Prop-12 compliant housing,” said Leman, who wor-

(See Prop 12 on page 2)



Above: Post-harvest activities before the ground gets too frozen is determining which fields need tilled. Photo by Leondia Walchle

Insignum AgTech expands testing after ruling on gene technology

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ind. – A recent ruling by the USDA will allow an Indiana-based company to expand testing of its gene designed to enable diseased corn plants to change color, the company’s founder and CEO said.

The Nov. 14 ruling will also allow Insignum AgTech to begin breeding the gene into elite varieties, Kyle Mohler said.

The plants use naturally occurring pigment to signal when specific plant stresses begin, according to a release. A plant turns purple to indicate a fungal infection has started but is not yet apparent, Mohler said in the release.

“This ruling means that we can begin testing our gene in the field without restrictive permits required,” Mohler told Farm World. “We were confident the USDA would quickly determine that our plants are safe and remove the restrictions on growing our plants in the field. Our new genes are made up of DNA already found in the plant, so we’re not introducing anything foreign or risky that would require a special safety review. The pigments used to signal to farmers can be found in natural varieties of corn. I bet you’ve seen indigenous corn varieties that have many colors on the same cob, the same that we use in our corn.”

The technology works by combining two innate plant functions, Mohler previously explained to Farm World. “As soon as a spore gets into a leaf, the plant activates its defense system. We use that genetic response to turn on the plant’s pigment production system. All plants have the ability to make purple/red/blue pigments, but normally that system is turned off. So, we’re creating a new gene from pieces

of DNA that are already present in the plant, without foreign DNA. Our gene is a new tool for growers made from natural products.”

Mohler founded Insignum AgTech in 2019.

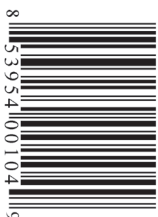
The USDA’s ruling means the company can perform testing with less isolation from other corn, constant monitoring and piles of paperwork, Mohler told Farm World. The company intends to license the gene to the seed companies, and the ruling eliminates those barriers for more of them to begin testing. It’s a significant step toward farmers seeing the gene in their seed lineup, he noted.

The gene has been tested at Mohler Family Farms for three years, he said. Last year, they tested in collaboration

(See Insignum on page 4)



Above: Kyle Mohler (right), founder and CEO of Insignum AgTech, talks to farmers about the company’s corn plants during a summer 2023 field day. (Insignum AgTech photo/Chalais Randle photography)



Kentucky ranks 9th in US in wild hog numbers
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- Pigeon racing coming to 4-H group.Page 3B

California’s Prop 12 went into effect on Jan. 1; many not happy

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. — California’s controversial Proposition 12, which regulates animal housing sizing for sows, went into full effect with the New Year. Here’s a look at what it means for producers in the Farm World readership area:

All pork sold in California (where 15 percent of America’s domestic pork supply is purchased, according to the National Pork Producers Council) must originate from farms that comply with larger animal housing requirements.

The law means that all sows must be able to turn around, lie down, stand up and extend their limbs within their housing.

Pork producers and distributors are now required to hold certificates of compliance to the new standards. Prior to 2024, retailers were allowed to sell non-compliant pork products already in the food chain.

The law applies not only to producers and distributors located in the state of California, but to any distributors and producers wishing to sell pork in California.

Processors and companies including Tyson Foods, Hormel Foods, Perdue, Clemens Food Group, DuBreton Farms, Albertsons, Chipotle and Niman Ranch have already announced compliance with Prop-12 requirements.

Housing standards set by Prop 12 also apply to veal and eggs sold in California.

A similar state law, Question 3, was approved and took partial effect in Massachusetts in August 2023.

USDA estimates that pork prices will increase more than 7 percent due to California Prop 12 requirements, resulting in an annual economic loss of \$320 million.

However, pork industry stakeholders are pushing back against Prop 12 requirements in their states. Concerns include upgrade costs, interstate commerce issues and food cost increases. According to the NPPC, the law will “create significant challenges for how producers operate and increasingly allows others to dictate how to raise pigs without any voice in the standards being imposed upon them.”

Federally-elected lawmakers have joined the fight as well. Some, like U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), are looking to pass laws that would “reverse” Prop 12. Reuters news service reported that Grassley and fellow Iowa Republican Joni Ernst plan to reintroduce the Ending Agriculture Suppression Act, which

would curb states’ ability to regulate agricultural products sold within its borders.

“California’s Proposition 12 is going to hurt the economy of Iowa, which is number one in pork production. Because we farm differently than the (people) of California think we ought to run our animal agriculture, we can’t sell our product there. We have to solve this problem by passing legislation. Our bill makes sure Iowa pork can be sold everywhere in the nation, including in California, and consumers can afford bacon for breakfast,” stated Grassley in June 2023.

However, the law proposed by Grassley and Ernst was opposed by more than 200 Congressional lawmakers last year who found the bill could “harm America’s small farmers, threaten numerous state laws, and infringe on the fundamental rights of states to establish laws and regulations within their own borders,” Politico reported.

Another bill that would prohibit states from regulating agricultural practices in other states was recently introduced by U.S. Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.). Hawley’s Protecting Interstate Commerce for Livestock Producers Act preempts states and local governments from regulating the raising, production, and importation of livestock or livestock-derived goods from another state or local government. The bill also allows states to regulate the importation of livestock in the event of animal disease, and protects farmers from states implementing laws that are preempted by the bill.

Prop 12

From Page 1

ries that, in theory, many states could be left with an oversupply of pork while California could become underserved due to the number of non-compliant farms.

The IPPA leader said that for now, many producers are taking a wait-and-see stance on the issue until the demand for Prop-12 pork in California can be more accurately gauged. He also said that a resolution to the issue could be included within the 2023 Farm Bill, with the drafting of such having been delayed into the new year.

“It’s wait and see for a couple of reasons; to see whether Californians are going to pay up for their pork, and number two, can we get a fix for Prop 12 yet within the farm bill? That’s my focus and the team’s focus at Illinois Pork-- to see if we can get a fix in the farm bill, because that’s our best platform,” Leman said.


In May 2023, a majority Supreme Court opinion upheld California’s Prop 12, finding that states have the right to say what products can be sold within their boundaries. “Companies that choose to sell products in various States must normally comply with the laws of those various

states,” Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote. “While the Constitution addresses many weighty issues, the type of pork chops California merchants may sell is not on that list.”

(Additional reporting from University of Illinois Farm Policy News, AgricultureDive.com)

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2022 JD 9RT 520 470 hrs, E18, 5 SCVs, 30 in, 124093 **\$549,000(L)**



2022 JD 8R 370 474 hrs, IVT, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, 480/80R50, 124085 . . **\$479,000(L)**



2018 JD 9520RT 1,532 hrs, E18, 5 SCV, 760mm/30in, 123843 . . . **\$419,000(AT)**



2018 JD 9470R 842 hrs, Pwrshft, 710/70R4 2,4SCV's, 4WD, Duals, 121981 **\$399,000(M)**



2022 JD 6155R 260 hrs, IVT, 5 SCVs, 480/80R46, 124111, **\$215,000(L)**



2009 JD 8295R 3,067 hrs, Pwrshft, 4 SCVs, 480/80R50, C157040 **\$179,000(AT)**



2021 JD 9RX 490 1,080 hrs, 490 HP, 600mm/20", PTO, C165166 . **\$549,900 (F)**



2020 JD 8RX 410 2,383 hrs, 6 SCVs, 450mm/18"F24"B, 123963 **\$469,000(AT)**



2020 JD 8RT 370 700 hrs, 370HP, IVT, 450mm/18", PTO, 125655 . . **\$419,000(M)**



2015 JD 9520R 2,446 hrs, 520 HP, 620 /70R46, 4WD, e18, 122547 **\$355,000(MO)**



2014 JD 8370R 4,474 hrs, 480/80R50, 370HP, MFWD, IVT, 125684 **\$209,000(AT)**



2010 CHALLENGER MT955C 2,214 hrs, 710/70R42, 4WD, Pwrshft **\$169,500(M)**



2021 JD 9570RT 830 hrs, 570HP, e18, AutoTracActivation, 125757 **\$515,000(AT)**



2022 JD 8R 340 287 hrs, IVT/ILS, 5 SCVs, 1 000PTO, 480/80R50, 124089 **\$455,000(L)**



2022 JD 8RT 370 933 hrs, 370 HP, IVT, 25" TRACKS, 5 SCVs, C165165 **\$419,000(AT)**



2013 JD 9410R 4,172 hrs, 480/80R50, 4WD, Pwrshft, C165954 . . **\$245,000(MO)**



2011 JD 8310R 3,786 hrs, Pwrshft, ILS, 4 SCVs, 480/80R50, 123772 **\$199,000(AT)**



2008 JD 8230 3,720hrs, 480/80R46, 23 0HP, MFWD, Pwrshft 125181 **\$169,000 (M)**



2022 JD 8R 370 149 hrs, 95R50, MFWD/ PTO/ILS/ 50K IVT, 123768 **\$499,000(AT)**



2022 JD 8R 340 388 hrs, 340 HP, 480/ 80R50, MFWD, IVT, 125165 . **\$439,000(M)**



2021 JD 8R 310 397hrs, 480/80R50, 5SCV's, ILS/IVT, 125107 . . . **\$399,000(M)**



2018 JD F4365 2,011 hrs., Engine 9.0L Tier 4, C159627 **\$239,000(M)**



2022 JD 6R 155 284 hrs., MFWD, 3SCVs Prt Pwrshft, Loader, 125169 **\$199,000(L)**



2009 CHALLENGER MT955C 2,628 hrs, 800 /70R38, Pwrshft, 125273 **\$159,500(M)**



2003 Linkbelt L130
CAH, PS, Cummins Dsl.,
ACS, Quick Coupler, 20.5x25
Tires, Runs & Works Good...
\$24,500



1990 CAT 613C
EROPS, 13 Yd, Dsl.,
PS, Very Good...
\$29,500



Hydro-Ax 470
10,545 Hrs., Cummins Dsl.,
Hydro Saw Head, Grapple,
Runs & Works Good...
\$24,500



2009 Challenger MT 645C
CAH, CVT, 3 Pt., PTO, 4
Rem., Dual PTO w/Duals...
\$59,500



2014 Vermeer FT100,
Forestry Pkg, EROPS w/AC
Hi-Flow 2 Spd Hyd Couper, Rear
Winch, 100HP Perkins Dsl, VG W/C
& Tracks, Low Hrs., Work Ready...
\$39,500



2014 MF 2625, OROPS,
Loader w/Grapple
Bale Spear, 3 Pt., PTO,
VG Tires, Low Hrs, Local
Retirement Tractor, Nice...
\$27,500



2014 Komatsu
D65WX-17
EROPS w/AC, Komatsu 8.9
Lire 220HP, 6 Way Blade,
Rear Winch, Good UC, Nice...
\$64,500



2010 B&B
20' Tilt 14K, GVW,
16' Tilt 4' Stationary...
\$5,450



Kubota 8580
Dsl., MFWD, 85HP,
3 Pt., PTO, 2300 Hrs...
\$17,500



2009 JD 1990
Air Seeder
35' 15" Spacing, Ext Wear
Seed Boot, Lrg Seed White
Meter, Roller Seed Star CCS...
\$57,500



2011 McFarlane
RD4035 RB
35' Reel Disc, Good Blades &
Choppers, Rolling Baskets...
\$18,500



Ditch Witch FX3
500 Gal., Vac,
Excavator, Kubota Dsl...
\$17,500



AC 7580
CAH, Power Director, 3 Pt.,
PTO, 20.8x38 Tires w/Duals,
All Original...
\$24,500



2011 Meyer 8865
Vertical Beaters,
New Gear Boxes, Triple
Augers, Work Ready...
\$17,500



John Deere 3000
Globes
SF1...
\$2,750



2016 JD 1795,
24/20 High Speed, Elec Drive,
Active Pneumatic Down
Force, No Till, Complete
Rebuild, Nice...
\$209,500



1997 John Deere 9600
CAH, Hydro, 4x4, 30.5x32,
Chopper...
\$27,500



Brent 640 Wagon
425 Tires, Lights,
Brakes, Nice...
\$11,500



2019 CAT 299D3
CAH, 2 Spd., Hi Flow Hyd.,
Quick Cplr, Good Tracks,
2500 Hrs...
\$54,500



2018 JD 712FC
12-30, Stalkmaster,
Intermeshing Knife Rolls,
Through Shop,
Field Ready...
\$99,500



2006 Case IH AFX 8010
CAH, CVT, Lateral Tilt Rock
Trap, Chopper, Spreader,
520 Tires w/Duals, Pro 600
Display, Very Nice...
\$39,500



1990 Chevy Kodiak
7500
194,156 Mi., Cat Eng., 5 Spd.
Manual, Hyd. Brakes, PTO,
Auto Crane, New Clutch...
\$14,500



2003 Ford F550
V10, Auto.,
34' Versalift Boom,
New Hoses...
\$9,750



John Deere 2440
Dsl., Loader, 3 Pt., PTO,
Nice...
\$16,500



2017 Load Trail
44' Gooseneck, 102" Wide,
Ramps, Little Use, Dual
Tandem Axle...
\$13,500



2005 Bobcat Tool Cat
5600
CAH, Hydro., 4WD, Aux.
Hydraulics...
\$18,500



2014 JD 6170R
CAH, IVT, Loader Control w/
MidMount Hyds, 3 Pt., Dual PTO,
3 Rem., 480-46 Tires w/Duals,
Orig. 1 Owner, Very Nice...
\$114,500



2019 JD 1580
Dsl., 4x4, 72" Deck,
905 Hrs....
\$21,500



2019 JD 9420R
CAH, PS, 3 Pt., 4 Rem.,
Quick Hitch, 7,428 Hrs.,
Field Ready...
\$174,500



New/Unused 2023
Industrial FF13 Mini
Excavator
Cab, Briggs & Stratton, Rubber
Tracks, Mech. Thumb...
\$8,750



2023 GMC Dually Bed
New Take Off...
\$4,950



Glencoe SF4300
30' Chopping Reel,
Good Condition...
\$8,450



Brent 744
750 Bu., Frt. & Rear Brakes,
Roll Tarps,
Extend-A-Tongue...
\$16,000



Tye 15' No-Till Drill
w/Grass Seed
Local Farm Retirement,
Good Condition...
\$4,450



1996 Agco Allis 9815
CAH, Detroit 40 Series, PS, 3
Pt., PTO, w/Duals...
\$34,500



2014 JD 9410R
CAH, PS, 3 Pt., w/Quick
Hitch, PTO, 4 Rem.,
620 Tires w/duals, Very Nice,
Work Ready...
\$189,500



2012 MZ Imer
MZ2000HD
668 Hrs., Kohler Dsl.,
4 Spd., Good Tires
& Brakes...
\$8,750



1985 Versatile 836
7,820 Hrs., CAH, L10 Cum-
mins, PS, 3 Pt., PTO, 4 Rem.,
18.4x38, Duals, Nice...
\$27,500



JD 1600 Series II
WAM Mower
Dsl., 4x4, 2300 Hrs., Will be
Serviced & Ready to Mow...
\$19,500



CAT P6000 LP
Triple Mast, 48" Forks,
Hard Tires...
\$4,450



2008 CIH Tigermate II
50' New Shovels, Shank
Protectors, 5 Bar Remlinger,
Spiketooth Harrow, Tight
Shanks, Nice...
\$29,500



Sellick S80 Perkins
Dsl., 4x4, 60" Forks, 10'
List, Foam Filled Tires...
\$16,500



2009 Hitachi Zaxis
450, CAH, Long Stick,
48" Bucket w/Thumb...
\$39,500



2008 Caterpillar 246C
Cab, 4,115 hrs., pilot
controls, aux. hyd., rear wts.,
ready to work...
\$19,500



Case W18 Loader
Cab, Heat, GP Bkt.,
JIB, Runs & Drives...
\$7,450



1997 CAT 65D, CAH
PS, PTO, 4 Remotes,
5700 Hrs...
\$34,500



2009 Komatsu WA470-6
CAH, 5YD W/BOCE, PS,
26.5x25 Tires, Runs & Works
Great, Snow Machine...
\$34,500



2012 Unverferth 1115
1100 Bu Corner Auger,
Tarp, Scale, Walking Tandem,
1000 PTO...
\$42,500



2015 P.J. 3025
30' Lo Pro Gooseneck, 25+5
Monster Ramps, Like New,
Used 4 Times, Road Ready...
\$14,500



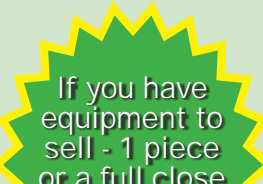
2010 JD 9870STS
Premium Cab, 4x4, Contour, Master,
Multi-Speed, Feeder House, Adj.,
Tailboard, Speed, Bin Ext., Nice 2
Owner Gd, Clean Combine Ready to
go to Field...
\$39,500



2017 JD 8320R
CAH, 4555 Hrs., ILS, PS,
3 Pt., PTO, 300HP, Frt. & Rear
Duals, Nice...
\$197,500



2015 Case IH 3162
40' Updated Drive Syst, Good
Belts, Flex Draper, Gd Sickle,
Header Cart Does not Go
With Head, Field Tracker,
Hyd. Tilt Cyl...
\$39,500



2019 John Deere 712FC
12-30, Hyd. Deck Plates,
Intermeshing Knife Rolls,
NDY Stalk Stompers,
Field Ready...
\$99,500



1984 Steiger KM 325
CAH, 855 Cummins, 20 Spd.,
4 Remotes, 24.5x32 Tires,
4871 Hrs., All Orig., Sharp...
\$39,500



2001 Kenworth T300
Box Van
CAT, Dsl., 6 Spd., 24" Box w/
Lift Gate, Runs & Drives...
\$5,450



2001 Kenworth T300
Box Van
CAT, Dsl., 6 Spd., 24" Box w/
Lift Gate, Runs & Drives...
\$5,450

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MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 12/18/2023 - Final AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 12/11/2023	Last Year
Total Receipts:	973	923	739
Feeder Cattle:	763(78.4%)	759(82.2%)	590(79.8%)
Slaughter Cattle:	205(21.1%)	157(17.0%)	143(19.4%)
Replacement Cattle:	5(0.5%)	7(0.8%)	6(0.8%)

Special Note: Baby Calf: 50.00 per head.

Compared to last Monday feeder steers sold 5.00 to 10.00 higher with very good demand for weaned packages; few 300-400 lb weaned packages sharply higher. Feeder heifers sold 3.00 to 8.00 higher with good demand for weaned packages. Slaughter cows sold 3.00 to 6.00 higher with good demand. Slaughter bulls sold steady with good demand. Supply included: 78% Feeder Cattle (25% Steers, 52% Heifers, 23% Bulls); 21% Slaughter Cattle (1% Steers, 3% Heifers, 81% Cows, 15% Bulls); 1% Replacement Cattle (100% Bred Cows). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 48%.

Groups of 20 head or more:

Heifers

72 hd 715 lbs 195.50 Blk-Chanx Value-Added.

FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
5	335-340	339	282.00-300.00	296.44	Value Added
4	350-355	354	256.00-286.00	278.58	
9	361-388	377	297.00-302.00	300.31	Value Added
7	405-445	425	260.00-287.00	278.69	Value Added
1	485	485	249.00	249.00	
17	453-495	460	262.00-280.00	276.33	Value Added
2	520-540	530	243.00-246.00	244.47	
5	500-545	515	251.00-266.00	260.88	Value Added
5	560-570	564	240.00-249.00	245.36	
7	605-625	610	212.00-219.00	213.58	
20	600-645	615	223.00-238.00	226.89	Value Added
7	659-665	660	210.00-214.00	210.58	
7	662-665	663	221.00-235.00	230.14	Value Added
1	715	715	190.00	190.00	
11	700-731	708	198.00-205.00	203.03	Value Added
12	758-760	758	190.00-199.00	197.50	
13	758-793	774	204.00-209.00	206.67	Value Added
2	802	802	191.00	191.00	
2	860-880	870	188.00-199.00	193.44	
1	865	865	185.00	185.00	Fleshy

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	350	350	230.00	230.00	
1	475	475	238.00	238.00	
3	675-695	683	188.00-195.00	192.30	
7	780	780	179.00	179.00	
1	855	855	173.00	173.00	
6	948	948	171.00	171.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	352-375	360	250.00-261.00	257.18	
2	582	582	221.00	221.00	
1	710	710	191.00	191.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	335	335	205.00-210.00	207.50	
2	347	347	230.00	230.00	Value Added
7	350-375	366	197.00-212.50	206.24	
13	360-395	376	215.00-232.00	224.14	Value Added
11	440-447	444	197.50-210.00	206.27	
11	405-440	421	212.00-224.00	217.30	Value Added
17	455-492	479	189.00-210.00	201.76	
4	458-490	466	213.00-219.00	217.42	Value Added
4	500-530	509	191.00-201.00	195.80	
41	500-543	518	204.00-214.00	210.44	Value Added
2	585-590	588	189.00-200.00	194.48	
12	555-578	569	201.00-206.00	203.15	Value Added
15	600-620	609	171.00-188.00	177.30	
	6 605	605	199.00-203.00	200.33	Value Added
4	650-690	669	166.00-190.00	176.33	
3	663	663	199.00	199.00	Value Added
2	705-725	715	150.00-170.00	159.86	
72	715	715	195.50	195.50	Value Added
3	760-780	770	150.00-179.00	166.46	
4	815-833	829	140.00-177.00	167.90	
2	975-995	985	125.00-129.00	127.02	
8	994	994	146.00	146.00	Guaranteed Open
1	1010	1010	99.00	99.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	130	130	142.50	142.50	
1	170	170	150.00	150.00	
8	200-240	231	145.00-160.00	152.48	
1	260	260	172.50	172.50	
11	302-315	305	140.00-177.50	170.74	
3	370-395	383	162.50-182.50	171.88	
6	400-440	419	160.00-181.00	168.27	
8	450-495	480	160.00-184.00	173.21	
7	500-545	531	155.00-187.00	166.14	
4	550-595	568	160.00-177.00	167.64	
3	622-645	630	132.00-151.00	144.51	
8	652-695	674	139.00-160.00	152.90	
3	705-710	708	136.00-137.00	136.67	
1	915	915	110.00	110.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	250	250	150.00	150.00	
2	575	575	167.00-190.00	178.50	
1	645	645	179.00	179.00	
3	765	765	156.00	156.00	
5	801-847	819	169.00-175.00	171.48	
2	967	967	163.00	163.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	260-285	273	125.00-152.50	139.38	
3	300-330	313	140.00-152.50	144.12	
1	465	465	155.00	155.00	
2	522	522	130.00	130.00	
1	595	595	130.00	130.00	
1	665	665	112.50	112.50	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	280-290	285	242.50-247.50	245.04	
2	335-340	338	260.00-261.00	260.50	
1	445	445	249.00	249.00	
6	410-435	429	254.00-265.00	261.09	Value Added
3	465-495	485	230.00-245.00	238.16	
2	455-465	460	259.00-271.00	264.93	Value Added
16	505-546	533	225.00-237.00	231.88	
1	515	515	241.00	241.00	Value Added
7	555-590	575	220.00-236.00	227.03	
5	552-560	555	241.00-249.00	244.60	Value Added
4	600-640	616	181.00-204.00	192.05	
16	600-645	623	205.00-214.00	208.16	Value Added
8	660-675	666	180.00-204.00	197.88	
8	665-695	679	205.00-214.00	208.41	Value Added
8	722-745	728	160.00-192.00	173.62	
3	770	770	150.00-181.00	170.67	
1	840	840	150.00	150.00	
5	852-870	861	172.00-185.00	177.37	
3	955-980	963	150.00-163.00	155.40	
1	1055	1055	103.00	103.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	242	242	220.00	220.00	
1	285	285	220.00	220.00	
1	335	335	209.00	209.00	
3	375-395	387	189.00-230.00	212.17	
3	425-440	435	187.50-201.00	191.90	
3	465-495	478	181.00-221.00	206.87	
5	510-545	525	187.00-218.00	207.90	
4	570-581	578	201.00-215.00	204.45	
1	680	680	172.00	172.00	
1	750	750	140.00	140.00	
1	855	855	137.00	137.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	505	505	247.00	247.00	
3	560-570	567	219.00	219.00	
1	985	985	121.00	121.00	

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	260	260	160.00	160.00	
1	340	340	145.00	145.00	
4	455-490	468	150.00-173.00	162.11	
1	505	505	165.00	165.00	
3	628	628	135.00	135.00	
1	655	655	151.00	151.00	

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1110-1130	1120	155.00-160.00	157.48	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
5	1071-1450	1179	110.00-140.00	131.37	Average

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
19	1180-1635	1412	87.00-95.00	92.10	Average
29	1080-1840	1461	95.00-110.00	99.69	High
4	1225-1675	1349	82.00-85.00	83.84	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
36	925-1520	1183	85.00-95.00	91.33	Average
18	1055-1740	1276	95.00-108.00	100.14	High
3	950-1330	1093	76.00-84.00	81.07	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
16	820-1230	1014	83.00-88.00	85.18	Average
17	865-1285	1046	88.00-101.00	93.16	High
7	790-1100	924	78.00-83.00	79.96	Low
6	805-1305	1030	64.00-78.00	72.54	Very Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
12	1225-2050	1552	109.00-124.00	113.58	Average
13	1475-2140	1810	124.00-137.00	129.24	High
4	1110-1905	1511	90.00-97.00	94.18	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	3	1180-1455	1305	1225.00-1325.00	1277.23

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

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www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn • https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2128

Missouri Direct Hay Report Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 1/5/2024

Although very slightly improved drought conditions continue to be concerning across the state. Lack of any winter weather has been a relief for feeding and getting around the farm, but some farmers are now facing concerns about water for livestock as some ponds have dried up. Several other face a fear of freezing solid due to low levels if any extended cold does settle in over the state. As the new year kicks off one positive is most fertilizer ingredients are currently 20-40 percent lower than year ago levels. The supply of hay is light to moderate, demand is 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](https://feedstufffinder.org)

Check website for pictures, videos and equipment locations!!!



1972 Allis-Chalmers 200, 3pt, 2 hyd. remotes, 540 PTO, diesel.....
\$7,950



White 6122, 12-30", 540pto pump, no-till, row cleaners, ½ row shut offs, vert. fold.....
\$13,500



1987 Case IH 1020 20', elec. header control, man. fore/aft.....
\$3,750



Killbros 385, KB 13-ton gear, truck tires, steel sills.....
\$2,750



2019 Sundowner 3 horse, 18', dressing & tack areas, little use, stored inside.....
\$25,000



Farm Fans C2140A dryer, 3ph, LP, 8,401hrs.....
\$20,000



1957 Allis-Chalmers WD45, spin-out wheels, gas.....
\$2,950



Pequa TT2000, 2 basket tedder, 10', hyd. tilt, 540 PTO.....
\$3,000



White 6180, 12 row 30", liq. fert. no-till, 1000 PTO pump, 2pt hitch.....
\$8,950



DMI 3200 NH3 applicator, 13 knife, Raven 440 controller, gauge wheels.....
\$4,800



2001 Friesen 220 seed tender, dual compartment, Honda, poly flight.....
\$6,500



JD 7200, 12-30", no-till, liquid fert., insect., 2 point hitch.....
\$7,950



Killbros 1160, tarp, scales, small 1000pto, hyd. gate cameras.....
\$19,500



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JD 1075 gear with 8'x14'6" steel bed, Midwest hoist, 12.5-16 tires.....
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2024 may mirror 2023

Several of the factors that impacted trade in 2023 will again be primary topics to start 2024.



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

One of the of the most highly debated topics in the market right now is how much crop loss we may see in Brazil from recent weather conditions. Some firms believe minimal loss has taken place so far, including the USDA and Brazil's own CONAB. Others are much lower with some at 155 million mt.

One thing we need to remember that even if Brazilian soybean production falls to the low end of trade guesses it would still be the second largest on record and more than enough to satisfy demand. Last year, Brazil grew a 158 mmt soybean crop and we are still seeing record exports of that inventory as the harvest of this year's crop gets underway. We also cannot overlook the fact that Argentine soybean production this year will be nearly twice what it was last year.

We are starting to see more debate over next year's potential acres in the United States. Several analysts are

(Setzer continued on page 8)

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Setzer

FROM PAGE 7

stating they believe U.S. farmers will seed more soybean acres this year, given the price spread between new crop contracts. While this is a factor, the simple fact U.S. farmers planted a large 94.9 million acres of corn, and a lower 83.6 million soybean acres last year may cause some acres to shift to soybeans. Farmers across the United States favor corn production over soybeans, though, and this may reduce the numbers of acres they shift to soybeans. Farmers also tend to hold crop rotations as well.

Another factor that may prevent a decline in corn plantings is a correction to input costs to more appealing levels, mainly nitrogen-based fertilizers.

The USDA's Economic Research Division has released its cost of production estimates for corn and soybeans for the 2024 growing season. This group is putting the 2024 cost of production on corn at \$869.52, down from the 2023 number of \$897.28. On soybeans, the 2024 cost of production is estimated at \$614.81 compared to \$623.63 last year. These are still well above the 2021 costs of \$735.19 on corn and \$531.77 on soybeans. Energy costs are projected to remain elevated this year, but these will be offset by lower seed and fertilizer expenses. Fertilizer this year is projected to be the lowest cost in the past three years.

While production expenses are forecast to be lower in 2024, commodity values are expected to remain pressured as well. The USDA is currently predicting an average corn cash value of \$4.85 for 2024, compared to \$6.54 last year. The average soybean cash price is estimated at \$12.90, down \$1.30 from last year.

One of the greatest impacts on cash flow in 2023 that will again be a factor in 2024 is elevated interest rates. The Federal Reserve made several interest rate hikes going into 2023 but opted to hold rates steady as the year ended. These higher rates impacted agriculture from elevated costs of production to higher carrying charges to lower borrowing levels. The Fed is now indicating they may start to cut rates in 2024 if the U.S. economy continues to slow. This would be a great benefit for agriculture, but economists are

still predicting elevated interest costs to last well beyond 2024.

Interest rates have also impacted commodity demand. Buyers are not as willing to load up on raw products given the higher costs associated with elevated inventory. Consumer demand has also slowed from high costs. These changes are not just taking place in the domestic market but the global market as well. Some import buyers have struggled with not only elevated borrowing costs, but a lack of credit given a tightening global economy.

Before long all interest in the United States will shift to the upcoming spring planting season. As it does, more interest will again fall on U.S. weather patterns. The last growing season in the U.S. was less than ideal, with several regions of the country experiencing drought. Even so, U.S. yields were on the high side of historical averages and better than expected. This is especially the case on corn, where production was record sized.

A concern over this situation is that much of the U.S. remains in drought conditions. Roughly 45 percent of both corn and soybean production regions are still reporting abnormally dry soils. While this is well below the peak totals from last summer, there are concerns drought will again be a factor in 2024. While this is possible, it may be difficult to get trade to react given recent crop sizes with less-than-ideal conditions.

One thing we can expect in 2024 is a continuation of the high volatility that was seen in 2023.

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The good and bad of family dynamics

Matthew 13:57 “And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.’”



VERSES FROM MAMA
By Sandra Sheridan

Family dynamics are funny! They ebb and flow depending on which members are together, but often fall in place early in the family’s development. This interesting structure is never more obvious than at family gatherings.

Many of us have just enjoyed family reunions. As I watched the interactions among all our family members during the holiday events, I noticed how different, yet how similar, things were to the past. At times like these, with close kin, nobody seems to know or care about all the education and degrees a person has accomplished.

You may be called Dr. at work, but in your home group, you’re just Little Brother Jimmy. Even when the baby has added a few gray hairs, she is still remembered as the kid sister.

It can be reassuring to fall back into the comfort of old family patterns where you can just be yourself, but sometimes it can be a real problem. Jesus spoke about the devastating effects of not moving out of the old days for his earthly family and hometown.

After traveling many miles and performing many miracles Jesus arrived back at His childhood home. As was His custom, He began teaching in the synagogue. All the homies sat with dropped jaws as they tried to process His eloquence and insight.

“Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son?”

All the people sat amazed, but instead of reverencing Jesus as they should have, they took offense at Him. Latent jealousies likely rose to the surface creating a roadblock to belief. Jesus pointed out the commonality of this problem. “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.”

These types of unfortunate interactions have been happening for centuries, but none more devastating than for the town of Nazareth. The hometown people had the privilege of watching the Son of God grow up in a human body, but because of their lack of faith they missed out on all the benefits that could have been theirs.

Our generation hasn’t had the privilege of playing games with Jesus as a child, but many of us have grown up hearing about Him since our youth. We must be careful not to let our familiarity cause us to lose our sense of awe over His identity and the blessings that flow from Him and His life.

Family dynamics can be a strange thing, but make sure they don’t keep

you from seeing the truth. Unlike the Nazarenes, worship Jesus every day. Oh, and at your next family gathering, remember to congratulate Little Brother Jimmy for all his accomplishments. He likely has much to offer, and you can be a beneficiary.

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Above: Jonathan Shell was officially sworn in Jan. 1 as Kentucky's 36th commissioner of agriculture. He told Farm World, "As Kentucky's new commissioner of agriculture, I understand agriculture is vital and impacts every Kentuckian. I could not be more excited as I begin my task of fighting to ensure a bright future for Kentucky agriculture." (Photo courtesy of Kentucky Department of Agriculture)

Shell sworn in as Kentucky's 36th commissioner of agriculture

By Doug Schmitz
Iowa Correspondent

LANCASTER, Ky. – Jonathan Shell, a fifth-generation farmer from Garrard County, has been officially sworn in as Kentucky's 36th commissioner of agriculture, succeeding Ryan Quarles.

"Food. Faith. Family. These are what our farmers dedicate themselves to every day," Shell said shortly after taking his oath of office in a Jan. 1 ceremony at the Garrard County Courthouse in Lancaster. A public swearing-in was held Jan. 2 at the State Capitol in Frankfort.

"I'm humbled and ready to serve this state as ag commissioner, fighting for our farm families, and upholding the values that make Kentucky strong," he added.

Among those in attendance to mark the beginning of Shell's term was U.S. Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.), chair of the U.S. House's Oversight Committee, and former Kentucky commissioner of agriculture.

"I'm proud of all my friend Jonathan has accomplished," Comer said. "It is an honor to be here today as he takes the oath of office. As a former commissioner of agriculture, I know he has his work cut out for him. No one is more up to the challenge of fighting for Kentucky agriculture than Jonathan Shell."

As Kentucky's new commissioner of agriculture, Shell told Farm World, "I understand agriculture is vital and impacts every Kentuckian. I could not be more excited as I begin my task of fighting to ensure a bright fu-

(Shell Sworn continued on page 15)

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Be proactive as possible in managing moisture all year

Back when no-till farming was fairly new, one familiar catch phrase was "Farm Ugly." Managing pastures in a more regenerative fashion sometimes appears a bit ugly, too.

Right or wrong, I finally finished clipping the last few paddocks at the end of November. It wasn't because they really needed to be clipped, but more because they were aesthetically more pleasing afterward. It also puts most of them in the same starting phase for next less places for coyotes to hide.

I didn't really procrastinate the task. With the dry conditions and slowed fall growth, I certainly didn't want to remove or deter any grazable forage, so I waited until after the last grazing of those paddocks to clean it up by clipping them. Other pastures that were stockpiled didn't need to be trimmed but a couple were done anyway because the wife insisted.

It has been a dry fall. I've had 4.95 inches of total rain since August 15 to the time I'm writing this article. That is about one third of the normal average. As one of my late uncles would say, "It will balance out eventually." Unfortunately, it doesn't always balance out in a timely manner.

The soil, as I've noted while hand digging a few post holes, is not particularly dry or at least not as dry as it was earlier this fall. That could be somewhat dependent on the site conditions where I was digging. Digging alongside a fairly deep revine in October, the soil was very dry and almost not workable for any hand tools. As deep as the ditch bottom was, the drainage dried out the site excessively. If you went out into the pasture with good cover - yes, it was dry, but there was still some moisture even as dry as it was. That was due to good cover - we've noted that several times.

I think that we need to be as proactive as possible about managing moisture year around. I probably start sounding like a broken record - but you can't under emphasize maintaining cover (year around), building organic matter, improving infiltration, and maintaining good quality forages (grasses, legumes and forbs). We need to be prepared and proactive with such fecundity. There are no cheap alternatives.

Most producers will begin feeding hay this month if they haven't already started. Hay supplies are low in many areas so getting the most out of what you have available becomes very important.

First of all, and something nobody ever likes to hear is that cows that are poor producers didn't get bred back in a timely manner or didn't get bred back at all should grow some wheels. When winter feed is of a premium, slackers need to go.

You want to be as efficient as possible feeding hay. It might be easier to put out enough hay for several days or even a week, but doing so usually increases waste. Having a little competition between cows when feeding hay is actually a good thing. They are

GRAZING BITES

BY VICTOR SHELTON,
RETIRED NRCS AGRONOMIST/
GRAZING SPECIALIST

much more likely to clean it up and waste less when they think the other cows are after the same bite.

Unless you have certain nutritional needs for a partic-

ular bunch of livestock, it is generally better to feed poorer quality hay first. That poorer quality hay can also be supplemented as needed and hopefully you have tested some of the hay in advance in order to know its limitations. It's much easier to move from poor quality to good quality than the reverse, especially when the supply is limited. Nobody wants to eat broccoli after having ice cream.

Hay fed in rings or feeding wagons slows down picking and sorting of the hay by the livestock and increases efficiency.

Hay fed on pasture while the soil is dry, in dry lots that have enough structure, or in winter feeding buildings all help to keep hay out of the mud with less waste.

Probably one of the most efficient ways to feed hay is sadly one of the least used today - small square bales. Small bales were allocated to the livestock on a daily and as needed basis and usually inside the barn in the manger. There was very little waste feeding hay this way. Labor is the most limiting factor for small bales today.

I admit that I'm not a fan of win-

(Grazing Bites continued on page 16)



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Shell Sworn


FROM PAGE 11

ture for Kentucky agriculture.”
Shell and his wife, Brooke, have four children: Jaxson, Lydia, Reagan and Gracelyn. He and his family attend Pilot Knob Missionary Baptist Church in Berea, Ky., where he is the Sunday School director.
“Farming is a way of life for many in Kentucky, including myself,” he told Farm World. “I’m a fifth-generation farmer. My dad, Gary, and I own and operate Shell Farms and Greenhouses in Garrard County, Ky. In my opinion, there is no better place to raise a family than on the farm.”
Shell and his father grow flowers, corn and pumpkins, and raise cattle.
In 2010, Shell earned his Bachelor of Science in agribusiness at Eastern Kentucky University. In 2012, Shell was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives, becoming the youngest member of the General Assembly.
Before the 2016 election, he was tapped by Republican leadership to spearhead candidate recruitment. According to his colleagues, through Shell’s successful efforts, Kentucky elected its first Republican House majority in nearly 100 years.

The following year, Shell’s colleagues elected him Kentucky’s first-ever Republican House majority floor leader. He developed and executed legislative strategies leading to enactment of a Right to Work law, pro-life legislation, support for farmers, and a crackdown on opioid traffickers. He’s been called “one of the most important Republicans in Kentucky.”
Shell is the owner of State Solutions, LLC, which provides strategic and public policy advising for various statewide organizations. He made speeches and appearances across Kentucky on behalf of Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, and President Donald Trump.
“As commissioner, I am eager to defend those values that we hold dear,” he also told Farm World. “I want to ensure the Kentucky Department of Agriculture continues to be a resource our state’s farmers and agribusinesses can count on as they feed neighbors, and the entire world.”
“At the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, we will work to provide endless support and opportunities to those we serve,” he added. “We have already built an incredible foundation, and I’m excited to continue making Kentucky a better place to live and work for generations to come.”

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Grazing Bites

FROM PAGE 14

ter. However, winter does allow us to change our daily pace just a little bit with hopefully a little less work outside and a little bit more time inside with family or a good book. Before we know it, the gray, brown and white days of winter will start turning multiple shades of green again.

A good time to start sourcing clover seed for frost-seeding is in the near future!

May your roots grow deep, and your soil be rich – Happy New Year!

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season. Keep on grazing.

Reminders & Opportunities
Purdue Beef Basics – <https://extension.purdue.edu/events/county/morgan/2024/02/purdue-beef-basics-in-the-eastern-cornbelt.html>

Indiana Forage Council Tour, Annual Meeting and Seminar – Feb. 5, 2024 - Tour of Freshly Dairy <https://www.freshly-dairy.com/> mid-afternoon fol-

lowed by the annual meeting, meal and seminar at a nearby community. Details will be posted at the Indiana Forage Council website (www.indianaforage.org) when known.

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference – Feb. 2-3, 2024 - Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana, Ind. – Call (260)463-3166 Ext.3 for more information.

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference – March 27th, 2024 – Shiloh Community Building, Odon, Ind. – For more information call (812)254-4780 Ext 3 or <https://sigc2024.eventbrite.com>

Grazing cover crops is a topic included at this year's Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) Annual Meeting – Feb. 13-14, 2024 - <https://www.midwestcovercrops.org/meetings/>

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At the end of the day you can still find things to smile about

There are some days when all you can do is smile because if you don't smile, you'll scream. We've all had those kinds of days, when we have been overwhelmed with everything under the sun other than what we expected. I don't know about your farm but generally, if one thing goes wrong, I can depend on more to follow suit. At the end of the day, my wife, Sue asks, why are you smiling?

I'm 65 so the article title can be "56 years from the tractor seat." I started driving, at age 9, a John Deere B because it had a hand clutch, and I couldn't reach a foot clutch. In those days things broke just like they do today. I am thankful that despite our age, if we had a problem, we were expected to fix it. Talk about some bad days. But we learned to stick with it, no matter how difficult. And most days when we fixed a problem, we had a smile and a sense of satisfaction of a

job well done. But let's talk about the bad days and why most of us can still smile at the end of the day. A couple years ago, I purchased a round baler whose model has an excellent reputation, but my initial experience caused me loss of hair I can ill afford. I even had a technician go over it and fix and adjust everything on it. Of course, it baled perfectly until he left, and for the next 18 months, only then. I wound up sending it to a dealer with the instructions, "do whatever you have to, I don't want it back until it's right." A big bill later we brought it home. Next came the education of learning how to run a new-to-me machine. Have you noticed that every piece of equipment has its own personality? Once I connected with this baler's personality, I wouldn't trade it for much of anything. But for almost two years I dreaded going to the field with it. Many days of smiling in-

55 YEARS AND
COUNTING FROM THE
TRACTOR SEAT
BY BILL WHITMAN

stead of screaming at it. But that's agriculture today, isn't it? We get up with the challenge of making some kind of progress to report at the end of the day. As we get older, the amount of physical work we get done is less than expected but that's when we use our experience of the past to find a better and more efficient way of working. I've got a friend a couple hills over who feeds cattle... I don't think he even knows how many, but over the past few years I've watched as he's started using distillers' grains and a bale unroller and even had the air conditioning fixed in his tractors. This fall

he found a protein cake dispenser he could drop cake from his UTV. I'm always amazed at how he and his bride get the job done every year. What we as farmers and ranchers know and few others even think about is that in addition to our extremely taxing profession, we also have the issues of the family. I would argue that our lifestyle is the healthiest for families to live and grow in but isn't immune to trouble. We have divorces, accidents, family fallouts, and untimely deaths just like the rest of the world. The difference is, we can't take personal days, sick days, etc. like the rest of the world. We must somehow work through them and adjust. So, when you see a farmer smiling, don't assume it's been a good day, just admire that their approach to life is with the right attitude. IndianaAg@bluemarble.net

UK colleges collaborating to assist youth with behavior, mental health

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (Martin-Gatton CAFE) and the College of Social Work (CoSW) are spearheading a novel initiative aimed at enhancing social, emotional and behavioral support for children and teenagers. The project is part of UK Engage, led by Nancy Cox, vice president for land-grant engagement and Martin-Gatton CAFE dean, and Executive-in-Residence Mary Shelman. UK Engage identifies strategies and priorities for enhancing land-grant engagement across the campus and in Kentucky communities. Concerning data about young people's mental health in the United States highlights the initiative's urgency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 2011-2021, 42 percent of adolescents experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness while 29 percent experienced poor mental health in the past 30 days. In response, Martin-Gatton CAFE's Cooperative Extension Service (CES) partnered with the CoSW to introduce the 4-H Camp Behavioral Health Fellow Program in 2022. This innovative







program focuses on recruiting and training qualified behavioral health professionals and strengthening the ability to effectively address youth health needs. Designed to integrate behavioral health support into the 4-H summer camp experience, the program addresses a crucial gap in campers' social, emotional and behavioral health. Ryley Butler Modaff, the first fellow, said the program is helping youth and families in need. "I've worked with and helped young people who had mental health issues so they could continue with their camping experience," said Butler Modaff, CoSW graduate student and inaugural 4-H Behavioral Health Fellow. "I think the program can really help youth positively view behavioral health." Leveraging her academic foundation in social work, Butler Modaff has been instrumental in informing and executing strategies to support young people in addressing health challenges, ensuring they had a fulfilling camping experience. The two colleges are the perfect duo for assisting youth with behavior and mental health.

"We understand that all young people come into 4-H membership with different lived experiences," said Rachel Guidugli, CES assistant extension director for 4-H youth development. "Through this partnership with the College of Social Work, we are building capacity to support child development in a neutral space like 4-H Summer Camp. This way, we create a ripple effect into our communities as we prepare a workforce that's ready to lead." During her camp tenure, Butler Modaff engaged in various activities with the campers. Her responsibilities included handling severe homesickness, managing aggression and resolving conflicts among campers. This approach aided the 4-Hers directly and provided camp staff with insights into effectively managing behavioral health issues. "Integrating behavioral health into 4-H summer camps is vital in addressing the mental, social and behavioral healthcare needs of young people and their families across Kentucky," said Meagan Lederman, CoSW assistant director of strategic operations in experiential learning partnerships. "Ryley's contributions have been instrumental in shaping this initiative, and we are

excited to see its growth and impact." Butler Modaff said the fellowship provided her with invaluable practical experience, enhancing her educational journey. The fellowship program was not only important to the 4-Hers but to herself as well. So much so, Butler Modaff is staying on with the program to help it grow. With Butler Modaff's help, the fellowship program is looking to recruit more CoSW students, offering hands-on learning and professional development opportunities. It aims to place a fellow at each of UK's four 4-H camping facilities during the summer, ensuring consistent, comprehensive health support. 4-H currently serves over 13,000 individuals from all 120 counties in Kentucky. "We want all 4-H camp participants to feel like they belong. We have created a supportive environment where caring adults are engaged in the participants' individualized pursuits of success," said Joey Barnard, CES principal 4-H camping specialist. "We care about young people's physical, emotional and mental health. We aim to create a camp environment that supports youth in that moment and beyond."

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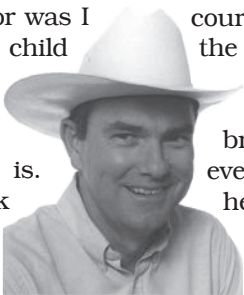
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Reflecting on life as a middle child

I wasn’t a momma’s boy, nor was I a daddy’s boy. I was a middle child with a brother two years older and a sister four years younger. Let me give you some idea how invisible a middle child is. When I was 12, it was 6 o’clock and we were sitting at the dinner table (my father NEVER ate with us) and I wasn’t going to mention it but when I was told it was my turn to wash the dishes again (as the middle child it’s always your turn) I blew a gasket. “Does anyone know what today is?” “It’s Thursday you dummy,” said my arrogant brother. “It’s Dec. 27,” said my mother. “Oh my gosh,” she finally remembered and exclaimed, “It’s your birthday!” That it was. Only instead of getting to have my favorite meal served, (which was hamburgers) I had to gag down my brother’s favorite meal which was corned beef and cabbage. On MY birthday! Not only was there no birthday cake, I didn’t get my mother’s wonderful traditional birthday coffee cake for breakfast either. I was going to try to see how long it would take them before remembering my birthday. If ever. I’m sure it would have broken the Guinness record. Such is the life of a middle child. Of



It’s THE PITTS By Lee Pitts

course, my mother always denied the charge that she always liked my brother best but then I’d go to the hard evidence. In my brother’s baby book every little event is recorded: the first time he had solid stools, the date he first walked and talked, when he first used a potty chair... well, you get the picture. Which, by the way, his baby book was also crammed full of – pictures that is. There’s a complete inoculation record, all his grades in school and his yearly Little League batting average. Then I’d turn to my own baby book and show her where she only wrote half my name before she got bored. And that was it. The sum total of everything in the book. And I’m not exaggerating! So, I was condemned to a life of wearing hand-me-downs, washing dishes and sleeping on the porch. Again, I’m not exaggerating. My brother got a room with a bathroom all his own, my sister got the biggest room in the house and since there were no more bedrooms, I ended up sleeping on one end of the enclosed back porch with a slanted floor. On the other end of my “room” was my mom’s sewing machine and all the accoutrements she needed to make a living sewing for folks to feed our family. Then there was the issue of the truck. When I was a kid, all pickups came with one bench seat that would hold three people. There were no club cabs. So, let’s see, there was the driver (early on my dad), my mother and my brother because he was the exalted Prince. That left me to rattle around in the bed without any kind of seatbelt, box to sit on, or padding. If there was a head-on, I was the one getting thrown out of the truck. Then my sister came along and it was my mom (the driver) my brother and of course, my sister who was spoiled rotten because my mom always wanted a daughter. I had to buy my own truck to finally ride in the cab. I tried running away to find a family that would want me but I never got further than my grandparent’s house. I had to do something to distinguish myself but my brother was the better athlete and a genius too, and my sister, well, she was the spoiled baby. The only way I could get any attention was as the jokester of the family, which was easy because my kinfolk were very somber and morose. And that is how I became a humorist for a living. In the end I proved to be the hardest working, most sensitive, least spoiled, the richest and the only one who had built several businesses. And I’m the only one with a sense of humor. You’d be surprised that a lot of our funniest comedians were middle children. Research also shows that we make great husbands. My theory is it’s because we seldom got the chance to express our own opinion as children too.

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Biologist in Kentucky working to eradicate feral hog populations

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

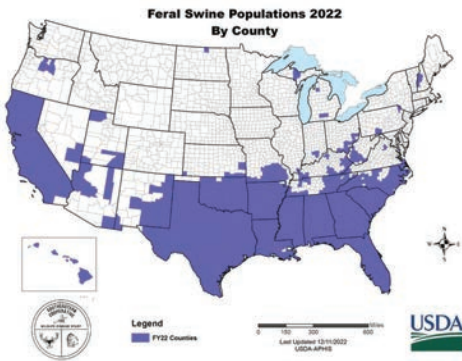
LEXINGTON, Ky. — According to one biologist who studies them, feral hogs are “one of the most destructive invasive species on the planet.”

As omnivores, wild hogs (often called razorbacks or boars) eat pretty much everything. They wreak havoc on farmers’ fields and prey on vulnerable livestock, causing billions of dollars in agricultural damage each year. They’re also a nuisance to native species, displacing them with aggression and competition as they spread disease and parasites.

Wild hogs have a vigorous reproductive potential. In favorable conditions, sows can breed as young as five to 10 months old, and are capable of producing litters of 3-8 piglets twice a year.

Think of the wild hogs and you might think of states like Arkansas, Mississippi and even Texas. Since they were introduced to the U.S. by humans in the 1500s, either as pig pen escapees or as sport for hunters, wild hogs have been reported in at least 35 states, including Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

“The Department of Fish and Wildlife is actively working to eliminate wild hogs from the state and we are making progress,” says Terri Brunjes, a biologist studying wild hogs for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.



Above: A distribution map of feral swine in the United States showing 2022 populations. The invasive and highly destructive species has been reported in at least 35 states, and its population is rapidly growing. (map courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Tyler Gender, Wildlife Technician at the USDA Wildlife Service, is often bombarded with questions from people asking what the difference is between a wild, or feral hog and one that’s found on a farm.

“Feral swine is any swine that has lived any part of its life free roaming,” Gender said. “A feral hog normally has a straight tail and an elongated snout. Domestic pigs are more slender and have a curly tail. They oftentimes have notched ears for identification.

“Feral swine often look very similar to domestic hogs, but are generally thinner with thicker hides of coarse bristly hair and longer tusks. Because



Above: The wild boar is a dangerous and costly invasive species, and according to one recent analysis, Kentucky ranks ninth in the U.S. with a feral hog problem. (photo submitted)

of their extensive crossbreeding, feral swine vary in color and coat pattern, including combinations of white, black, brown and red. Feral piglets are often striped or spotted, but lose this coloration as they mature. Some look like pure Russian or Eurasian wild boars, while others look more like domestic pigs.”

“This invasive species can reach three feet in height and five feet in length,” he said. “Male boars are larger than females. Feral swine are muscular and strong, and can run up to 30 miles per hour. Like deer and domestic pigs, feral swine have cloven hooves.

Another distinctive characteristic in the feral hog is its teeth. Teeth on a wild hog have long lower canine that appear as tusks, protruding from the lower mandible, and these tusks grow throughout a wild boar’s lifetime.”

The common pig, Gender says, have smaller canine teeth.

The Bluegrass State is reportedly among the top 15 states where wild hogs are a big problem. That wild hog population is estimated to be between 1,000 and 10,000, as reported by the National Feral Swine Damage Manage-

(See feral swine on page 2B)

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Feral Swine

FROM PAGE 1B

ment Program. Wild hog populations can now be found in the eastern and southwestern parts of Kentucky.

“I believe (Kentucky’s) hogs are on the lower level of this number, closer to 1,000 to 2,000,” Brunjes said. “A population of about 600 wild hogs was removed from Henry County in 2019 after several years of work. Several additional populations have been eradicated over the years including a population in Scott County, a population in Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties and a population in Hickman, Graves and Carlisle counties.

“The Department of Fish and Wildlife is actively working to eliminate wild hogs from the state and we are making progress. Wild hogs are one of the most destructive invasive species on the planet.”

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture reports, damage to natural resources can be quite widespread.

“They consume large amounts of vegetation, destroy plants with their rooting, soil compaction, and wallowing behaviors; and in some areas, may eat or uproot protected, sensitive, unique, or rare plants. Often, the damaged land then becomes vulnerable to erosion and non-native, invasive plants,” the USDA report states.

Feral swine hurt crop yields by rummaging through farmers’ fields. If given the opportunity, they will also prey upon lambs, full-grown sheep, baby goats and calves.

“The thing you definitely should not do is shoot at them,” says Brunjes, who says hunting fails as a tool for wild pig population control because it scatters the group and makes members harder to track down.

Kentucky Crop Health Conference set for Feb. 8 in Bowling Green

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The Kentucky Crop Health Conference (KCHC) is scheduled for Feb. 8 at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. The all-day event focuses on integrated pest management for grain crops and features experts from across the nation. The KCHC is open to a broad audience, including growers, agricultural agents, crop consultants and industry representatives.

UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment representatives include Carl Bradley talking about red crown rot in soybeans, Kiersten Wise discusses new corn disease concerns, Raul Villanueva explores emergent pests in recent corn and soybean seasons and Travis Legleiter talks about early planted soybean and weed control.

Other speakers include Thomas Butts from the University of Arkansas discussing drone herbicide applications. Nicholas Seiter from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign addresses insect management in corn, and Iowa State University’s Gregory Tylka presents on soybean cyst nematode.

“The KCHC is a great opportunity for Kentucky crop consultants and farmers to hear from nationally recognized pest specialists,” said Travis Legleiter, UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences associate professor of weed science. “The KCHC is unique, providing expertise from outside of Kentucky, as well as the quality information that people expect from UK pest specialists.”

Certified Crop Advisors and Kentucky and Tennessee pesticide applicators attending the event can earn continuing education units.

For additional information contact Jason Travis at jason.travis@uky.edu or visit <https://bit.ly/48eyjT>.

The animals also reproduce too quickly for that strategy to work. Wild pigs have a rapid gestation period of only 114 days. These animals are also highly intelligent.

“Wild pigs are the smartest animals in the woods,” Brunjes says. “Shooting into a group of pigs may remove one or two, but it educates the rest. Wild pigs that experience hunting pressure become nocturnal, leave the area and avoid traps and all human activity.”

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources prefers trapping as an eradication strategy, and it’s developed an effective method for removing entire sounders. These sounders are pig families made up of females and their young. Sexually mature males will either go their own way or rove in “bachelor” groups.

The department uses remote operated corral traps and cell cameras with live feed. These remote operated traps allows officials to determine how many pigs are in the sounder. Pigs walk into the trap, which is baited with corn. The door to the trap is closed remotely, when the whole sounder has entered. The trappers don’t have to be onsite to close the door.

“Indeed, they’re a smart, smart animal,” says Dr. Charles Elliot, a professor of Biological Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. “The intelligence of the animal, and the abilities of what



Left: Not exactly the friendliest creature out there, wild hogs, or boars, are not likely to attack humans unless they feel cornered. (photo submitted)

they can do with their tusks, their rooting behavior. If we don’t control them and control the population, they can cause some major damage.”

The Ohio Farm Bureau, in its annual meeting, adopted resolutions supporting bans on feral swine importation, release, maintenance, and recreational hunting, aiming to prevent their establishment in Ohio.

While optimistic about containment, experts in Ohio continue to advocate for cooperation in eradicating these invasive species, emphasizing the importance of reporting sightings for swift action to prevent their proliferation.

There are no known wild pig populations in Indiana.

“There hasn’t been a confirmed sighting of a wild pig in the state for more than two years,” says Lee Humberg, the Indiana state director for Wildlife Services at USDA.

“As with most invasive species, they were introduced into the U.S. by humans,” Humberg said. “They grew at an alarming rate in the 1980s and 1990s, as many people wanted to establish populations of wild pigs for hunting.”

Feral hogs are even worse in Michigan, as they’ve been spotted in 26 percent of Michigan’s 83 counties.

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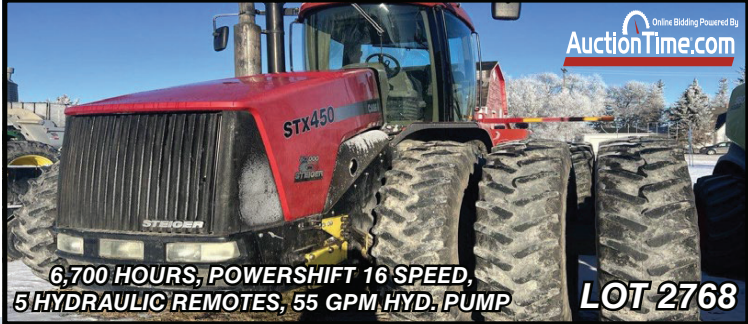
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4-H youth in Jasper County, Ind., will get to try pigeon racing

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

RENSSELAER, Ind. — Mike Parrish has started a 4-H Racing Pigeon Club in Jasper County. He said he wants 4-H youth to experience the same excitement and joy he receives when his racing pigeons find their way back

home after a long flight. He'll begin the process of recruiting more potential members during a meeting on January 13 in the Community Building at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. "There's been quite a few people interested," he said. Parrish said he and others involved

in the sport will answer questions from the audience and have racing pigeons at the event scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eventually, his goal is to include racing pigeon programs in the 4-H offerings in surrounding counties such as Lake, Porter and La Porte if what he started in Jasper becomes popular enough. Parrish of Wheatfield said he's been racing pigeons for about 12 years and has won cash prizes in some of the competitions. He grew up on a farm in nearby Francesville. Currently, he's an environmentalist for the Jasper County Health Department.



Above: Mike Parrish has started a pigeon racing program for 4-H youth in Jasper County.

According to historians, pigeon racing as a sport began in Belgium, where the first long distance competition of more than 100 miles was held in 1818. The sport gained prominence about a half century later in the U.S., Great Britain and France. Parrish, a founder of the 15-member Northern Indiana Racing Pigeon Club, said the homing birds rely a lot on instinct to find their way back home even if they're several hundreds of miles away. According to researchers, homing pigeons seem to use odors from the different areas they travel to create sort of a road map in their minds for finding their way back. Researchers also believe pigeons appear to have the ability to detect Earth's magnetic field to use as sort of a compass and have a keen sense of landmarks and geographical features to help as a guide on return trips.

Parrish said he tries to keep about 40 young pigeons a year and begins training them about a week after birth. Initially, Parrish said he lets them go in and out of an aviary fastened to a cage and loft about the size of a large shed where they're housed to get familiar with their immediate surroundings. Over time, he keeps placing them at greater distances from the aviary to enhance their ability to find their way back. "Once you get really out past 10, 15, 20 miles, they know their way home," he said. He said the NIRPC hosted nine races last year ranging from 50 to 300 miles away from where the competitive birds are permanently kept. Electronic bands containing software that keeps track of things like time are clipped on the leg of each of the racing pigeons. Once the birds arrive home, Parrish said winners are determined by the average time it took for them to travel a certain distance while heading home because not all of the birds live an equal number of miles from the starting point. "If you get a little bit of a tailwind

those birds may be flying 1,500 yards a minute," he said. Parrish said the 4-H youth will be required to take part in at least one race and show the birds during the fair. Parrish said each youth will be provided with a half dozen or so pigeons to take care of and train for racing at home. Parrish said his birds don't always return, though, from either getting lost or becoming prey to a hawk. He said the 4-H races will probably be no more than 75 miles to keep the youth from getting discouraged and having to stick around for several hours waiting for them to return. "We'll keep it small, keep it interesting," he said. Jasper County 4-H educator Peyton Newman said three children have signed up for the program since open enrollment began in October. She expects more youth to join the program in the coming weeks and months. "I'm super excited about it," she said. So far, Newman said she hasn't found any other 4-H program in Indiana that offers pigeon racing. "I think we're pretty unique in the state for having this now," she said.



Above: Computer software is used to keep track of the time it takes for racing pigeons to fly certain distances in competitions.

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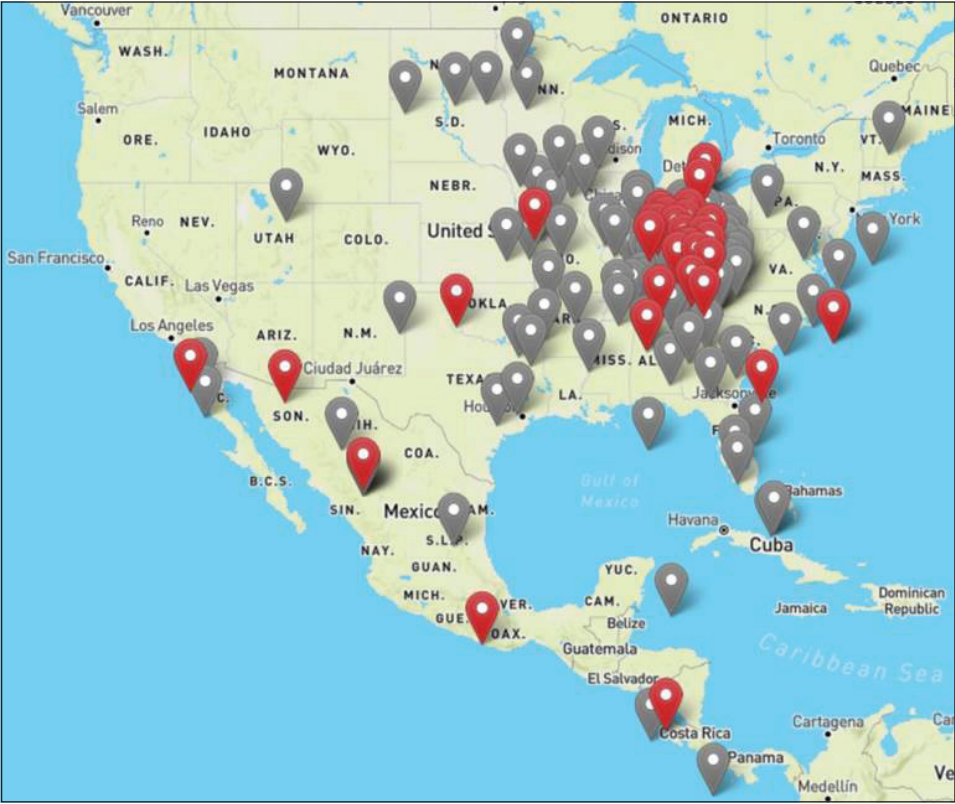
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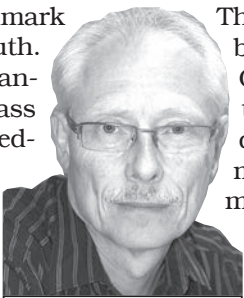
Cheese is to blame for the fall of Class III milk prices

The final Class III benchmark milk price of 2023 headed south. The Agriculture Department announced the Federal order Class III price at \$ 16.04 per hundred-weight, down \$1.11 from November, \$4.46 below December 2022, and the lowest Class III since July. That put the 2023 Class III average at \$17.02, down from \$21.96 in 2022 and compares to \$17.08 in 2021.

Blame cheese prices for the Class III fall, says Rabo Bank's Lucas Fuess. Speaking in the Jan. 8 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, Fuess said cheese prices fell below \$1.40 per pound Christmas Week and remain well below long term averages. He attributed that to an adequate supply and muted demand.

First quarter will be the low point as demand recovers, he said, and the lower milk supply will help as well. Milk output is down in the U.S. and globally, down significantly in October in Europe, and Fuess expects that to remain the case in the first half of 2024. New Zealand output may be higher on a solids basis, he said, but not extraordinarily. "We wait for global demand to return," he concluded. "There is hope that 2024 will turn out to be a better year than 2023."

Dairy Market News reports that cheese demand is somewhat steady in the Midwest. Retail Cheddar ordering remains at seasonal levels. There are extra loads but inventories are not "disconcerting." Milk availability reached seasonal highs into Christmas Week and early New Year's Week. Spot prices were still as low as \$8-under Class.



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

This time last year was near the beginning of a long \$10-under Class stretch that lasted into the summer months. Contacts do have some concerns, but most expect milk prices to move nearer to Class III "as the holidays grow more distant in the rearview mirror," says DMN.

Cash butter climbed to \$2.6850 per pound Tuesday, highest since Nov. 15, 2023, but it closed Friday at \$2.5750, down 9 cents on the week and 19.25 cents above a year ago. There were 11 sales logged on the week.

Cream availability is still near holiday quantities for churning in the Midwest and Class II and Class III demand for cream remains sluggish. Butter makers are getting offers at multiples around 1.00 to 1.10. Plants are running at or near capacity and plan to hold that pace for a while. Some ran into some maintenance backups Christmas Week which put even more pressure on cream handlers in the region. Butter demand is quiet but meeting seasonal expectations. Contract bulk butter prices for 2024 remain in similar territory to 2023 values, says DMN.

Grade A nonfat dry milk closed Friday at \$1.1725 per pound, up a quarter-cent on the week but 12.50 cents below a year ago, with 19 sales on the week.

Dry whey finished 2.75 cents higher on the week Friday, closing at 41.25 cents per pound, highest since Nov. 15, 2023, 2.25 cents above a year ago, with only 2 sales on the week.



(Mielke continued on page 6B)

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Mielke

FROM PAGE 4B

The week ending December 23 had 55,800 dairy cows go to slaughter, down 900 from the previous week and 1,200 or 2.1% below a year ago. Year to date, 3,033,300 head had been sent to slaughter, up 39,100 or 1.3% from a year ago.

Falling corn and hay prices and another small gain in the All Milk Price moved the milk feed price ratio higher for the fifth month in a row. The USDA's latest Ag Prices report put the October ratio at 2.12, up from 2.03 in October and 1.92 in November 2022, the highest since January 2022.

The index is based on the current milk price in relationship to feed prices for a ration consisting of 51% corn, 8% soybeans and 41% alfalfa hay. One pound of milk would purchase 2.12 pounds of dairy feed of that blend.

The All Milk Price average increased for the fourth month in a row, hitting \$21.70 per hundredweight, up 10 cents from October, but \$3.70 below November 2022.

Looking at the cow side of the ledger; the November cull price for beef and dairy combined slipped to an average \$104 per cwt., down \$4 from October, \$25.60 above November 2022, and \$32.40 above the 2011 base average.

Milk production margins were the highest of 2023 by 51 cents over October, according to dairy economist Bill Brooks, of Stoneheart Consulting in Dearborn, Missouri. He adds that "Income over feed costs in November were above the \$8 per cwt. level needed for steady to higher milk production for the third time since January. Input prices were lower, but all three commodities were in the top five for November all time. Feed costs were the fifth highest ever for the month of November," says Brooks.

"Milk income over feed costs for 2023, using Dec. 29 CME settling futures prices for Class III milk, corn, and soybeans plus the Stoneheart forecast for alfalfa hay, are expected to be \$8.07 per cwt., up 11 cents per cwt. versus last month's estimate. 2023 income over feed would be below the level needed to maintain or grow milk production, and down \$3.84 per cwt. from 2022's level."

Milk income over feed costs for 2024 are expected to be \$12.03 per cwt., a gain of \$3.96 versus the 2023 estimate. Income over feed in 2024 is 17 cents per cwt. higher than last month and would be above the level needed to maintain or grow milk production," according to Brooks.

Meanwhile, "Dairy margins were flat over the last half of December with little

feature in either the milk or feed markets that have languished near recent lows," according to the latest Margin Watch (MW) from Chicago-based Commodity and Ingredient Hedging LLC.

The MW pointed out that "Milk production has been declining in the EU as rising costs, increased environmental regulations and lower milk prices have led many producers to cease operations. October milk output declined 1.7% year-over-year in the EU and UK, and combined output across the 5 main global dairy exporters declined 1.2% which represented the third consecutive month of lower year-over-year declines and the largest drop since May 2022," the MW stated and concluded with details of the latest Cold Storage report.

"Fonterra's contract 2 benchmark WMP and SMP prices were both up 2.2% from the previous Pulse auction," reports StoneX. "This is the 6th week of continuously higher WMP price while SMP remains in the \$2,500-\$2,600 range that it has been in since mid-November. We would argue that the higher prices, particularly for WMP, are supportive for dairy prices around the world from a trend perspective, but the range bound (and relatively cheap) SMP won't spark much strength in U.S./EU prices."

"North Asia purchases, which includes China, were weaker than both year-ago levels and last event. Southeast Asian demand fell from last year, but was stronger than last Event. Total volume available on the auction was down nearly 6,000 MT from last year's level, but volume actually sold was down 7,000 MT. Typically smaller

purchasing regions like Europe, Africa and the Middle East picked up some of the volume not purchased by Asian regions," StoneX stated.

The USDA will reconvene the national public hearing to consider proposals seeking to amend uniform milk pricing formulas in all 11 Federal milk marketing orders on Jan. 16. If the hearing is not completed by Jan. 19, it will reconvene Jan. 29, and held each weekday. If not completed by Feb. 2, the hearing will reconvene at a later date, says the USDA. The process began Aug. 23, 2023, and is being held in Carmel, Indiana.

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Real estate roundup for December 2023

Illinois

Hancock & McDonough Counties - On Dec. 12, Sullivan Auctioneers held a virtual online auction of 737.45 surveyed acres offered as eight tracts, available for the 2024 crop year. Tract 1, in Tennessee Township with access to SR-61, contained 94.60 acres with 82.77 acres tillable. Soil types included Clarksdale, Keomah, Rushville, Rozetta and Timewell, with a Productivity Index of 120.8. The remaining acreage was in timber and suitable for hunting. It sold for \$893,000 or \$9,400/acre. Tract 2 in Tennessee Township, with access to CR-1100N, held 92.77 acres with a Productivity Index of 131.3. Soil types included Ipava, Clarksdale, Rozetta, Assumption, Osco and Keomah. It sold for \$1,029,000 or \$10,500/acre. Tract 3, in Hancock Township, was 94.31 acres, with 74.50 acres in NHEL cropland. Sold types included Clarksdale, Virden, Ipava, Rozetta and Keomah, with a Productivity Index of 128.8. The remaining acreage was in timber. It sold for \$949,400 or \$10,100/acre. Tract 4, in Fountain Green Town-

ship, with access to N. CR-3000 and E. CR-2060, contained 90.49 acres, with 81.92 acres of cropland (80.64 acres NHEL). The Productivity Index was 125.4, with

Clarksdale, Ipava, Fishhook, Rozetta and Osco soils. It sold for \$958,500 or \$10,650/acre. Tract 5, also located in Fountain Green Township with access to E. CR-2060, held 25.29 acres, with 24 tillable. Soil types included Clarksdale, Fishhook and Rozetta, with a Productivity Index of 117.8. The selling price was \$255,000 or \$10,200/acre. Tract 6 contained 157.58 acres in La Harpe Township, with access to N. CR-2500. 145.47 acres were NHEL in row crop production. Soil types included Atterberry, Rozetta, Muscatune, Fishhook, Stronghurst and Keller with a Productivity Index of 123.4. The parcel sold for \$1,524,700 or \$9,650/acre. Tract 7 contained 123.90 acres in Fountain Green Township with access to CR 3020E and E. CR-2350. 95.32 acres were cropland with a Productivity Index of 118.3. Soil types were Rozetta, Keomah, Sable, Stronghurst, Atterbury and Fayette. The remaining acreage was wooded. It sold

for \$874,200 or \$7,050/acre. Tract 8, also in Fountain Green Township, had 53.05 acres with access via CR-3020E. 37.59 acres were cropland with a Productivity Index of 114.7, with Rozetta and Stronghurst soils. Non-cropland was in timber. It sold for \$410,750 or \$7,750/acre.

Jasper County - SellaFarm held an estate sale for the heirs of Charles Fritschle on Dec. 7. Offered were 118.4 +/- acres in 2 contiguous tracts. Tract 1 contained 41.25 +/- deeded acres, with 40.52 near-level tillable acres. Tract 2 contained 77.15 +/- deeded acres, with 75.62 +/- near-level tillable acres. The parcels had quick access to the highway and local grain terminals. Tract 1 sold for \$569,250, computing to \$13,800/acre; Tract 2 sold for \$1,018,380, or \$13,200/acre'

Indiana

Milton - On Dec. 11, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company offered 185 +/- acres in 3 tracts. Tract 1 contained 40.9 +/- acres with frontage on Lindsey and Holtsclaw roads. 38 acres were cropland with Xenia and Fincastle soils and improved drainage outlets. Tract 2 was 85.5 +/- acres with frontage on

Lindsey and Holtsclaw roads. Eighty-five acres were top cropland with Xenia and Fincastle soils and improved drainage. Tract 3 was 56.3 +/- acres, all managed woodland. 43.2 acres were classified forest, with excellent timber potential in an area known for high-quality hardwood. The parcel had access via an owned 50-foot lane from Lindsey Road and offered potential building sites. Tracts 1 and 2 sold combined for \$1,575,000, equating to \$12,458/acre. Tract 3 sold for \$755,000, or \$13,409/acre.

Sandborn - Schmid Auction presented 139.02 +/- acres on Dec. 5. The property consisted of 8.5 +/- acres currently farmed, 17 +/- acres of ponds, and 113.52 +/- acres of pasture. The parcel sold for \$559,555 or \$4,025/acre.

Kentucky

Madisonville - On Dec. 7, Kurtz Auction and Realty offered absolute, a 1.09-acre lot zoned general commercial. The parcel was located adjacent to Interstate 69 and had a 50-foot deeded extension to Waterfall Court. Electric, gas, water, and sewer were in place. Permitted uses included office, commercial service, civic, religious, and mini-storage. Additional uses were permitted via a conditional use permit. The property sold for \$19,500.



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bq60db

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bx89uo

KUHN KRAUSE 8000-30 VT tool with flat reel & treader wheels, very nice! \$56,500



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bx89un

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bw97xv

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bx89tj

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bx72us

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bt35ll

2014 JOHN DEERE 5065E 1,600 hrs, 65 HP, MFWD, 12/12 with Power Reverser, 540/540E PTO, R4 tires \$36,900



bq52qr

1971 JOHN DEERE 4320 Only 5,045 hrs, straight sheet metal all of the way around this unit \$29,500

Stephensport - Butler Auctioneers held an online auction of a house and .738 +/- acres on Dec. 5. The residence was a 1,448 square-foot 2-bedroom/1-bath frame dwelling with a storage shed sitting on a .459-acre lot. It was served by a well, with city water available. Two additional lots were conveyed. Lot 2 was .161 +/- acres; Lot 3 was .118 +/- acres with a 60'x24' shed. The properties sold combined for \$41,140.

Michigan

Rock Creek Township - Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management offered on Dec. 7 a single tract with 16.52 acres. The parcel consisted of excellent cropland with Williamstown silt loam, Fincastle silt loam, and Miami clay soils, with a WPI of 149.7 for corn. The property had potential for a rural home site, with water and sewer nearby. It sold for \$220,000.

Ohio

Cambridge - On Dec. 8, Kaufman Realty and Auctions sold a commercial building on 1.07 acres by order of the Guernsey County Commissioners. The brick building, constructed in 1943, contained 5,900 square feet, with numerous offices and work areas. It was suitable for medical, office, education, or similar use. It was close to government and healthcare offices, and approximately four miles from the intersection of I-77 and I-70. It sold for \$85,000.

Rootstown - To settle an estate, on Dec. 12, Kiko Auctions offered a 27.7-acre parcel via online auction. The mostly wooded acreage had an existing well and a road for access. Mineral rights transferred subject to a previous royalty reservation. The final bid was \$90,500.

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10-24

Have fun in the new year making your own kombucha

This month we celebrate National Kombucha Day. Not only is this the first time I have heard there is a special day for Kombucha, but the first time I heard about Kombucha. As new as Kombucha is to my vocabulary, it is actually an old beverage, dating back over 2,000 years. Kombucha, a fermented, slightly fizzy drink has become increasingly popular over the past ten years, maybe because it is reputed to be a healthy beverage with many benefits. Kombucha is a lightly carbonated drink.

It typically has a slightly vinegary taste but can be flavored with fruit or herbs. When you are selecting flavors for your Kombucha, look at seasonal availability for fruits, herbs, and spices. Don't be afraid to experiment with different flavors to add variety to your Kombucha.

There are four different ways to do



Cook
Simply

BY SUSAN MYKRANTZ

this. Fresh fruits can provide a natural sweetness and a burst of bright flavor. Simply chop, mash, or blend the fruit before adding it to your Kombucha for a delicious infusion. Dried fruits offer a convenient and intense flavor source that's perfect for Kombucha. Fruit juices or purees can provide a quick, effortless flavor enhancement to your Kombucha. Make sure they are free from preservatives and artificial sweeteners, which could disrupt the fermentation process. Herbs and spices can result in a truly unique and intricate flavor experience. Natural flavor extracts and syrups can give a more intense flavor infusion. Opt for high-quality, pure extracts without added sugars or preservatives for the best results.

There are several ways to add flavor to the Kombucha, such as adding the ingredients directly to the Kombu-

cha during the second fermentation. This method is simple and provides a strong flavor infusion. Infusion adds flavor by steeping your ingredients in hot water before adding the liquid to your Kombucha. This method works well for dried fruits, herbs, and spices that require heat to release their flavors. Decoction involves boiling flavoring ingredients in water to extract their flavors. Always strain the liquid and let it cool before adding it to the Kombucha.

The basic ingredients are tea, sugar, bacteria, yeast, and scoby (Symbiotic colony of bacteria and yeast), made from a starter. Because it is a fermented product, Kombucha's benefits are similar to those of other fermented products, including probiotics which can have a lot of benefits. Kombucha also comes with some risks, because if it is not prepared properly, it can grow mold or harmful bacteria, which can cause illness or allergic reactions. If you aren't used to Kombucha, you might want to start out with maybe a sip or two. And health professionals recommend only about 4 ounces a day, once you are used to it. This week in Cook Simply, I am including a recipe for making your own beverage. You can order the starter online or get some from a friend. Until next time, simply cook.

For best results with your Kombucha:

The brew needs to be stored in a well-ventilated area, out of direct sunlight. The ideal temperature for brewing Kombucha is 70 to 80 degrees.

Do not wash your hands, bowls, or utensils with soapy water before touching the scoby. Soap will kill the scoby. For best results, use vinegar to clean your bowls, utensils, or hands.

Never refrigerate extra scobies. They can be stored in a glass jar with enough kombuch tea to cover them. Feed them every couple of months and they will continue to grow until you need them.

Kombucha

In a gallon glass jar with a cloth cover and large rubber band, combine:

- 1 Kombucha starter with starter liquid
- 1 cup cane sugar
- 4-6 tea bags or 2 tablespoons of loose tea
- 4 cups of water, plus enough cold

water to fill a gallon jar

Muslin tea bag

A drinking straw for testing your Kombucha mix

In a large pan, bring four cups of cold water to a boil remove from heat and add tea bags to the water. Steep for 5-7 minutes. Remove the teabags and pour the tea mixture into the gallon jar. Add 1 cup sugar and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Fill the jar with cold water, leaving enough space for the culture and starter liquid, about 1 ½ to 2 inches of head space. Make sure the tea has cooled before adding the starter culture and liquid. If the tea is too hot, it will kill the culture. Once the tea has cooled, pour the starter mixture into the jar. Carefully place the culture (scoby) into the cooled tea, with the smooth side upwards. Cover the jar with a cloth and secure it with the rubber band. Leave the brew untouched for about 7 days. At this point, the main scoby should have produced a thin layer of film on top of the brew.

You can remove the film or allow it to continue to grow thicker for a few more cycles before removing it. You can use the scoby to start another batch of Kombucha or pass it on to a friend so they can brew their own. After 7 days, insert a straw beneath the scoby to sample the Kombucha. If it tastes sweet, let the Kombucha continue to brew until it tastes the way you want it to taste. If it tastes too sour, shorten the brewing time on the next batch. When it is finished, a good Kombucha should have a slightly sweet/tart flavor. You can also check your Kombucha by testing the pH. Pour a little bit of the Kombucha into a glass and dip the test strip into the liquid for 5-7 seconds. Compare the strip to the color chart provided in the kit. The pH should be between 2 and 3. At this point, you can bottle your Kombucha. With clean hands lift the scoby out of the jar. Place it in a clean bowl with two cups of starter liquid. This is the culture for your next batch of Kombucha. If you like, you can flavor your Kombucha by adding a piece of fruit or a teaspoon of fruit juice in a bottle, filling it with Kombucha, and set it on the counter for 3 or 4 days. This allows the Kombucha to go through a carbonation process. When the taste suits you, place the bottles in your refrigerator.

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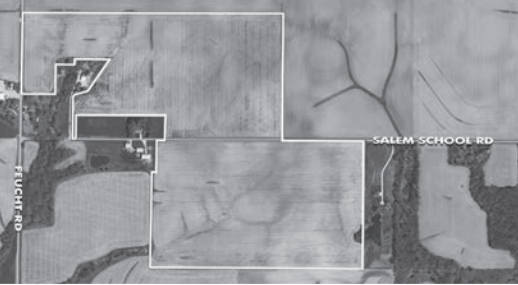
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PROPERTY LOCATION: 3 miles northwest of Craigville, IN 1/4 mile south of US 224 along 500 E in Lancaster Twp, Wells Co

SOIL TYPES: Pewamo silty clay loam, Bount Del-Rey silt loam

WAPI: 140.6 bu corn, 43.8 bu soybeans

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


34.5+/- Tillable • 2.25+/- Non-Tillable

36.75+/- total acres

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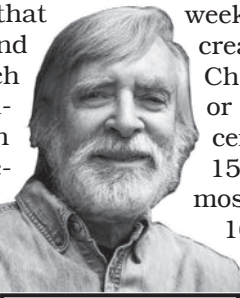
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This time of year, Arcturus is the brightest star in the sky

It is an oddity of nature that as the dark hours lose ground and the daylight advances each day, winter makes its strongest assault. We are caught in the tension between two forces; the mercury drops, half convincing us it will never be warm again, but the slow victory of the light tells us the plain truth. This may be midwinter, but its power is already broken. – Cathy Johnson, The Nocturnal Naturalist



Poor Will's ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

Ephemeris for the Second Week of Deep Winter

In the Sky

On Jan. 11, sunrise time – which remains at its latest time of the year between Dec. 31 and Jan. 10 – finally started to occur earlier. It will continue to recede until June 8, when it reaches its earliest time, just after 5 a.m. Sunrise remains at that time until June 22, when the slide toward winter begins once again.

In addition to the new phase of sunrise on the 11th, the Mistletoe Moon became the Camel Cricket Moon on that day. Rising in the night and setting in the middle of the day, this moon passes overhead in the morning.

A few hours before sunrise, the sky appears the way it will be on the warm evenings of middle May. Arcturus is the brightest star overhead, followed by the Corona Borealis. To the east are August's Vega and Cygnus. The only remnants of winter are Castor and Pollux setting in the northwest.

In January, Venus in Ophiuchus is still the bright Morning Star, rising in the dark before sunup. Mars in Sagittarius, following Venus may be hidden by the Sun. Jupiter in Aries is overhead early in the night, moving west toward dawn. Find Saturn in Aquarius, low in the southwest after sundown. January's Quadrantid meteors continue to fall through Jan. 12.

Natural Calendar

Under the white veneer of Deep Winter, the natural history year quickens. Nighttime excursions of skunks, the occasional appearance of flies, an increase in opossum activity, the prophetic calls of overwintering robins, the occasional passage of bluebirds, the great gatherings of Canadian geese for pairing, and the disappearance of autumn seeds all offer counterpoint to the subdued winter silence and the days of snow. And the arbitrary counterpoint of personal observations complements the seesaw moods of separate Januarys and the different characters of the various years.

In milder winters, snowdrops are often showing by this date. Back in the first half January 1992, a friend of mine called with just such news.

"They're not only up," Janet said, "they're almost budding, you know how they do, the white petals just kind of peeking out!" She had three hyacinths coming up too, each an inch tall, underneath.

How often does it happen that bulbs are emerging at this time of year in the Ohio Valley? It happened at least in 2020, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2004, 2000, 1990 and in 1989 (the temperature even approaching 60 during this week that year), and (based on December averages) in 1975, 1967, 1960, 1953, 1950, 1949 and so on during the more gentle Januarys back into history.

Weather History for the Week Ahead
Weather history for the second

week of January shows rapidly increasing odds for colder weather. Chances of highs only in the 20s or teens increase to near 50 percent on the 8th, 9th, 14th, and 15th. Below-zero readings occur most often on the 9th, 11th and 16th (20 percent of the years in my record). With a general increase in the cold, skies have fewer clouds this week of the year, and the 12th, 13th, 15th and 16th bringing a 60 percent chance of sun. The cloudiest day of the week is usually the 14th, with only a 35 percent chance of clearing. Precipitation occurs two years out of three between the 12th and the 14th, with the 14th bringing snow to central Ohio more often than any other day of the entire year.

Countdown to Spring

- One week until the tufted titmouse begins its mating calls and pines start to pollinate
- Two weeks until the traditional January Thaw and the beginning of Late Winter
- Three weeks until cardinals start to sing before dawn
- Four weeks until doves join the cardinals, and maple sap flows
- Five weeks until the first red-winged blackbirds arrive in the wetlands
- Six weeks to the first snowdrop bloom and the official start of early spring
- Seven weeks to crocus season and major pussy willow emerging season
- Eight weeks to the beginning of the morning robin chorus before sunrise
- Nine weeks to daffodil time
- 10 weeks to the major wildflower bloom

In the Field and Garden

Increase energy feeds to animals (and to pets and family) in unusually severe weather. Consider forage testing if you suspect that quality is declining. Many people believe that feeding energy foods in the evening produces the best results.

Purchase grass seed for frost-seeding the lawn; get clover ready for frost-seeding the pasture; be ready to put in spring oats and barley, too. Consider a special hog pasture mix for your pigs. Plan to seed after the snow has melted but when the nights are

(Poor Will continued on page 12B)

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AUCTION

The Personal Property for Paul (Andy) Saurer located at 800 S and US 31 Elizabethtown, IN will be for sale:
SATURDAY JANUARY 20TH AT 11:00 A.M.
www.auctionsandrealstate.com

55 +/- antique tractors some for restoration, scrap, and parts. Approx. a dozen vehicles, cars, trucks, Mercedes, BMW, assorted others. Assorted restaurant equipment for scrap and parts. Large personal property auction. Larger Ad to come. Watch our website for photos and detailed listing.

MIKE MENSENDIEK, AUCTIONEER AU08900147
Brad Weber AU10400157
Terms: Cash, check, debit or credit with 3% fee. All items sold as is.

Tuesday, January 23rd at 10:30am

LOCATION: 2688 S 350 W, Columbia City, IN 46725.
INSPECTION DATE: Saturday, January 20th • 9:00am to 3:00pm
Please be on Time - Sale will not take long! Very few small items.

• JD 7810 MFWD • C-IH MX 200 MFWD • JD 4240 • JD 9550 • 30' JD 930

• 1998 JD 7810 MFWD tractor, PS, Michelin 480/80R42 tires & hub duals, 380/85R30 fronts, 3 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, front & rear weights w/JD Universal 300 Auto Trac & JD 3000 receiver, 5352 hrs • 2002 C-IH MX Magnum 200 MFWD tractor, Michelin 480/80R46 tires & hub duals, 380/85R34 fronts, 3 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, 4582 hrs • 1979 JD 4240 diesel tractor, 18.4-38 tires, 2 remotes, 3pt & coupler, pto, front & rear weights, 5183 hrs • 2002 JD 9550 combine, RWD, 480/80R-38 straddle duals, 16.9-26 rears, Contour Master, Maurer ext, double chaff spreader Yield monitor, 2459 eng hrs, 1567 sep hrs • 30' 2002 JD 930 flex head, Contour Master, hyd fore-aft w/Extreme air system, AWS 210C blower (sells complete)

• 2000 IH 9100 SEMI • 28' HOPPER TRAILER • 2014 15' JD 1590 • 25' C-IH 3950 • 28' UNVERFERTH

• INLINE RIPPER • HARDEE SPRAYER • OTHER TILLAGE • EX-TRAIL 3400 • MISC FARM RELATED

• 2000 IH 9100 semi, day cab, single axle, Eaton auto, Detroit Series 60, 11R-22 tires, 329,146 miles • 28' 2011 Harvest Maxx hopper grain trailer, tandem, air ride, roll tarp (low miles) • 2014 15' JD 1590 no-till drill, 2pt hitch, 3 sensor monitor (very low acres) • 25' C-IH 3950 disc, hyd fold, 19" front blades, 20.5" rear blades, rear hitch • 28' Unverferth 225 rolling harrow, double basket, level bar, hyd fold

• Landoll 1510 inline ripper, 5 shank, spring loaded, 3pt, gauge wheels • Hardee Navigator 1000 sprayer, 1000 gal poly tank, 13.6-38 tires, adj axle, 60' hyd fold & raise boom, foam marker, inductor, rinse tank, pto pump, controller • 15' Miller off set disc • 24' Grover harrow, hyd fold • 2014 EZ Trail 3400 seed wagon w/EZ Trail 1074 gear & 15' brush seed auger, telescopic spout, roll tarp (like new) • AG Systems nurse trailer, 1000 gal poly tank w/Honda GX 160 motor & pump (like new) • NH 750 light bar w/receiver • HD single axle trailer • Portable fuel tank 150 gal w/pump • Set of 18.4-38 t-rail duals • 15'x12' A-Frame w/chain hoist • AirCo Model 2.5A stick welder w/aux Helium arc alum welder & tank • Miller direct current arc welder w/cart • OTC 17.5 ton shop press • Torch set w/tanks • Bumper jack • Welding table • Roto Tiller • Chipper w/gas motor • Transfer pump & motor • Reddy Kerosene heater • Pressure washer • Portable air compressor w/gas motor • (2) Floor jacks • Misc log chains • JD head mover • Quick hitch • Chop saw • Chain saw • Weed eater • Battery charger • Hand pumps • Sand blaster

OWNERS: Moore Farms – Steve, 260-229-2606 and Larry, 260-229-0693
SALES MANAGER: Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Steve & Larry have retired from farming. This is an excellent line of equipment with low hours. Don't miss your chance for quality equipment. Loading available Sale Day.

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319 ACRES +/-

HENRY COUNTY, IN

AUCTION LOCATION: THE GATHERING - 902 E MAIN ST, LEWISVILLE, IN

#2609 PEGGS FARM AUCTION

FEBRUARY

08

6:30 PM

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH

LOTS BEGIN CLOSING:
@ 5PM EST BOTH DAYS

• Bidding Opens:
Saturday, January 6th

• Pick Up Location:
105 S. 500 E., Lagrange, IN 46761

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FARMLAND AUCTION

SOUTHERN GREENE COUNTY OHIO

149 Acres Selling in 1 Tract

Wednesday ♦ January 17 ♦ 1:00 PM

Farm Location: 3316 US 68 S., Xenia, OH

Auction Location: Cedar Land Event Center, Cedarville, OH

Call or visit us on the web for
a complete Bidder Package

Outstanding 149 acre farm in southern Greene County, Ohio (Caesarscreek Township) with 133+ tillable acres of prime farmland & 10 wooded acres to the rear. Ragsdale & Fincastle soils and good tiling outlets. Great location 6 miles south of Xenia & 4 miles north of I-71 near Wilmington with easy access to Columbus, Cincinnati & Dayton.

Public Viewing: Mon, January 8, 4 - 5:30 pm



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Auction

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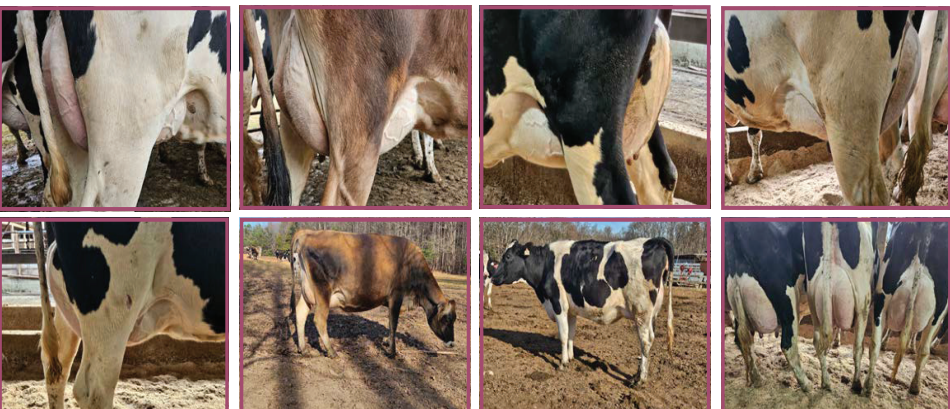
487 HEAD OF HOLSTEIN & JERSEY SELL

350 HEAD OF MILKING & DRY HOLSTEINS (R.H.A. 24643 • 4.4 BF • AVG. 86.4)

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AUCTION

Tuesday, January 23rd, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION:
3 miles southeast of Markle, IN
Wells County, Rockcreek Township

TRACTS 1 & 2: located on both
sides of 200 N between 200 W
and 300 W.

TRACT 3: located at the intersection
of 300 N and 500 W.

207.3+/- total acres

Tract 1: 19.83+/- Acres
Tract 2: 110+/- Acres
Tract 3: 77.47+/- Acres

Contact Rick today! Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181



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AUCTION

HIGHLAND COUNTY

GRAIN FARM

SELLING IN 3 TRACTS

BUY ANY INDIVIDUAL TRACT,
COMBINATION OR WHOLE PROPERTY

164 ACRES TILLABLE

182 ACRES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 • 6:00 P.M.

AUCTION LOCATION: At the offices of Wilson National LLC, 8845 SR 124, 3 miles east of Hillsboro, OH

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)

GENTLY ROLLING TERRAIN

GOOD SOILS

LOTS OF ROAD FRONTAGE



TRACT #1 53.1 ACRES 47 ACRES TILLABLE	TRACT #2 56.2 ACRES 52 ACRES TILLABLE	TRACT #3 73.5 ACRES 61 ACRES TILLABLE
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FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Thurs., February 1, 2024





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DON'T MISS THIS AUCTION!

Auction Held at
Polk Auction Company
New Paris, IN



Poor Will

FROM PAGE 10B

still cold and the soil will freeze and crack, allowing the seeds to plant themselves.

Almanack Literature
The Lone Tree
By Rick Donahoe
Yellow Springs, Ohio

I always tip my hat when I pass a lone tree in the middle of a cultivated field. A silent tribute not just to the tree, but to the farmer, to the generations of farmers that have allowed this tree to be.

If you’ve ever farmed, you know the problems a single lone tree can cause. Not only hard on crop yields, a tree in your field is hard on fieldwork. Just try sometime to plow a straight furrow with a tree in the way. And be ready when a plowshare catches on a root, and when roots and fallen branches get tangled up in your disk and harrow and other machinery.

Many times, I’ve wondered why one farmer, year after year, will put up with a tree that is costing him money long after his neighbors have cut their last trees down.

Sentimental reasons? Was the tree planted by grandparents, great-grandparents? Does it mark the spot where the old homestead once stood? Where old Shep is buried? A reminder of our once proud forests, is it a living thing too beautiful to destroy?

I keep telling myself that one of these days I’ll stop by the farmhouse and ask. Farm economics being what they are, however, there’s a better than 50-50 chance that the farmer has an off-the-farm job and no one is home.

In the meantime, to the few magnificent trees that continue to stand tall among the corn and soybeans, and to the magnificent farmers and generations of farmers who have allowed these trees to be, once again I tip my hat.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK’S SCKRAMBLER

NARW	WARN
RBON	BORN
NORH	HORN
OEURNB	BOURNE
RONW	WORN
RUMON	MOURN
NHTRO	THORN
NORT	TORN
WSRNO	SWORN
COSNR	SCORN

THIS WEEK’S RHYMING SCKRAMBLER

LOHE
LOCA
AOLF
LEOD
MLEO
LOLP
EROL
OETSL
LTROL
LLRO

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Located at Decatur County Fairgrounds
1645 W. Park Rd.
GREENSBURG, IN
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

WANTED:

Farm & Construction Equipment

CONTACT: Brian Owens
812-528-7021

Steve Fortner - 812-614-7200

Chad Carder - 812-662-1098

Frank Narwold - 812-614-5300;

Brayton Owens - 812-662-4099

Owens Auction Service, Inc.

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.

Poor Will’s Almanack for 2024 Is Still Available

You can still order your autographed copy of the Almanack from www.poorwillsalmanack.com. Or you can order from Amazon.

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FarmWorld

The Midwest’s Leading Weekly Ag Publication!

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 three rings having live simulcast bidding. The online bidding will take place at www.harmeyerauction.com. 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 10th thru February 21st, 2024
Monday thru Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 12-4:00 p.m.

No consignments accepted after February 21st

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
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Monday January 22nd
from 10:00am - 3pm

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Wednesday January 31 2024, 11AM

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WHALEN WHALEN Auctioneers: John & Jason Whalen, Mike Murry 419.875.6317

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MT. ERIE RURITAN 2024 CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

9:00 A.M. January 15, 2024 - 200 North Long St., Mt. Erie, IL
Directions: 12 miles east of Cisne, on County Highway 2 (10 Miles west of the West Salem Crossroads)

TRACTORS

2001 AgraCat 2940 Super, 25 HP, 4x4, Cat 1 3 pt Utility Tractor | IH Farmall "C" w/ Wood Belly Mower | JD 4010 Diesel Sync Range | 1947 AC "C", Completely Restored, Painted Cancer Pink | JD M - NON RUNNING | JD 650 Utility w/Model 67 Loader "NON RUNNING" | Minneapolis Moline 445, Gas, Wide Front | 1982 Ford 1700 Tractor 2wd, 2 cyl Diesel, 25 hp

EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT & SKID LOADER ATTACHMENTS

2015 JD 310 SK Backhoe, 4x4, Cab Heat & AC, Ext Hoe, Loaded w/options, 2176 hrs, Serial #1T0310SKKEE274865 | 2015 Terex TC 29 Mini Excavator, Open Station, 1303 hrs, Serial# TC00291250 | 8' Pull Type Box Blade | Double Drum Sheeps Foot Roller Filled w/Diesel Fuel for Ballest | 2) New 72" Grapples | Skid Steer Q/A Forks 42" & 60" | New 7' Snow Blade | 2) New Skid Steer Rippers | New Hyd Chipper | New Skid Steer Harley Rake | New QH12 Mini Excavator | 2016 Kubota SV95-S2 Standard Flow Hyd, Hyd Q/A, 14 Pin Adapter, Full Cab Heat & AC, 2250 | Wolverine 72" Brush Cutter | "New" Agrotek Articulating Brush Cutter for Skid Loader | 2006 Gehl CTL 70 Skid Loader, 81hp, Isuzu Eng., 9600# Operating Wt, Low Flow Hyd, 2 spd, ISO Control, 2305 hrs. | JCT 72" Skid Loader Hyd Tilt Snow Plow | JCT 72" Skid Loader Brush Grapple | JCT 72" Skid Loader Brush Cutter/ Bush Hog | 14" Hiway Snow Plow w/Q/A to fit Cat Backhoe

TRUCKS & TRAILERS

1999 Ford F350 Service Truck, Crew Cab, 7.3 PS Diesel, 4x4, Auto Trans, 151,000 miles | 1973 Fruehauf Steel Dump Trailer 24' | 300 Gallon Fuel Trailer | 1979 Chevy 3/4 ton 4x4 Scottsdale, 350 eng, 400 auto trans. | 1964 Jeep Kaiser Forward Control Truck w/ winch in bed, "Not running at time of listing" Nice Barn Find w/title | 2009 Toyota Tacoma TRD Crew Cab 4x4 4.0 Eng, Auto Trans, 196,000 Miles | 1999 Chevy Silverado 2500 Reg Cab 4x4, 6.0 Gas Eng, G/N Ball, 200,000 miles | Champion 2 Horse Trailer | 1995 Nissan D21 Flatbed 2.4 L 4Cyl Eng, 5 spd, 4x4, "Non Running" 182,000 | 30' Flatbed G/N Trailer, Tandem Axle, Dual Wheels, Dovetail & Ramps | 2002 Chevy 2500 HD Service Truck, 4x4 6.0 Gas Eng, Dual Batteries, 230 Gal. Fuel Tank w/18 gpm Pump, 3/4" Hose Reel, 145,800 miles

LAWN & GARDEN/ATV/MISC

2023 Can Am Outlander Max Xt 850 cc V-Twin, Power Steering, Winch, 37.6, 2.6 hrs. Like New | Tar River Drill/ Seeder 6' S/S Box, 3pt Cat 1, "Use Once" | Befco 3pt Cat 1, PTO Spreader | JD 6' Rotary Hoe 3pt Cat 1 | JD 2 Bottom Pull Type Trip Plow Steel Wheels | Befco 6' Finish Mower 3pt Cat 1 | Jet Ski w/Trailer "NO TITLE" | 5) 10x10 Dog Pens | 4) 5x10 Dog Pens | 5) Dog Houses | JD 445 Garden Tractor "NON RUNNING" | Hay Rides/Party Wagon on JD Running Gears "Custom Made" | JD 2 Row 3 Pt Food Plot/Sweet Corn Planter | 2015 Polaris Ranger 900 XP Canvas Doors, Radio & Winch | Demco 150 Gal ATV Sprayer, 21' Booms, Honda Eng. | 10' Worksaver Cat 1- 3pt Gin Pole | Misc ATV Parts | "New" King Kutter Reversible Cat 1- 3pt Slip Scraper | Strawberry/ Vegetable Planter 3 pt

FIELD & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

Case IH 5800/4300 Field Cult., 30' w/5 Bar Harrow | Hutchison 10"x62' w/Swing Away | Killbros 1195 Auger Wagon "New Augers Fall 2023" w/Tarp & Scales, Hyd Adjust Spout | Krause 2143, 42' Disk w/Rear Hitch | JD 7200 Planter 16 Row 30" Vacuumeter, Liquid Fert, 250 Monitor & Control Box, w/Cord & Bean Plates | IH 770 Offset Disk 14' | 2) JD 235 Disks 7 1/2" Spacing 25' | JD 960 Danish Time Field Cult 30' Rolling Baskets, Rear Hitch | Hesston 856 Round Baler 540 PTO | Remlinger 30' Double Rolling Basket Harrow | JD 2350/2450 6 Bottom On Land Hitch Plow | New 3 Pt Double Bale Spear | Unverferth 2750 Seed Tender Bumper Hitch | New 3 pt Bale Unroller |

STRAW

30 New Wrapped Straw Bales, 5'x5.5', Stored Inside

We will have 2 sale rings most of the day. Both rings will start at 9 a.m. We expect to receive many more items by sale day.

Sale Manager: Steve Bass. Rates: \$500.00 and up 5%, Max of \$250.00 Min. of \$50.00. Under \$500 -20%. To Consign Call Steve Bass 618-838-8398. To load or unload call 618-838-8398 or Mt. Erie Ruritan 618-854-2212.

Concessions by Mt. Erie Ruritan. Profits will be used for Community Service.

Attention Buyers & Sellers: Loader Tractor will be available on the day of the sale and 3 days after sale. Anything after that must have special arrangement. You have 30 days to remove your property from grounds.

Terms and Conditions: Mt. Erie Ruritan or any of our volunteers makes no expressed warranty nor any guarantee to any merchandise sold through our auction. Everything is sold on an "as is, where is basis." It is the bidder/buyer's responsibility to determine the condition, age, or operation of any merchandise. The bidder/buyer is not entitled to receive any adjustment or refund of any kind regarding the condition of any purchase. Printed info is believed to be correct but should be verified by the buyer. Not responsible for accidents or theft.

No tires accepted unless approved by management.

Mt. Erie Ruritan Farm Consignment Sale

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CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Located at Decatur County Fairgrounds
1645 W. Park Rd.
GREENSBURG, IN
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

WANTED:

Farm & Construction Equipment

CONTACT: Brian Owens
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Frank Narwold - 812-614-5300;

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EXCELLENT FARMLAND • BENTON CO, IN

ONLINE at halderman.com

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

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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Tract 1

Tract 2

Tract 3

11501 E 250 N

3439 E 300 S

TOP QUALITY INDIANA FARMLAND • CARROLL COUNTY

SEALED BID AUCTION

Bids due January 31st by 5:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION
TRACT 1: 5 miles southeast of Delphi, IN on the north side of CR 100 S approx. 1 mile west of CR 350 W

TRACT 2: 3 miles southwest of Flora, IN on the southwest corner of CR 150 S and CR 250 W

TRACT 3: 1.5 miles south of Flora, IN on the east side of SR 75 a 1/4 mile south of CR 150 S

TRACT 4: 6 miles south of Flora, IN at the intersection of CR W 600 S and CR S 100 W

TO OBTAIN A BIDDER'S PACKET, VISIT HALDERMAN.COM OR CONTACT:
AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 | ajj@halderman.com
Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849 | lj@halderman.com

Tract 1: 45.643+/- Acres
44.92+/- Tillable
0.723+/- Other

Tract 2: 95.88+/- Acres
92.44+/- Tillable
3.44+/- Other

Tract 3: 46.523+/- Acres
45.09+/- Tillable
1.433+/- Other

Tract 4: 158.09+/- Acres
155.33+/- Tillable
2.0+/- Non-Tillable
0.76+/- Other
36" Diameter Grain Bin

4 TRACTS

346.136+/- total acres

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 10 AM EST

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(3) BEI Blueberry Harvesters

(3) John Deere 5101EN Tractors

John Deere 5525 Tractor

John Deere 5520 Tractor

Kubota M5-091 Tractor with Rear Tracks

2016 Ford Transit Van

Fresh Pack Packing Line

Frozen Packing Line

Forklifts

Orchard Sprayers

Rototillers

Hitachi 220 Excavator

Several Pickup Trucks

Ford Cube Van

Brush Hogs

1000's of Blueberry Lugs

International Semi Truck

Chevy Kodiak Dump Truck

Low Boy Trailer


Gooseneck Trailers


Welders


Air Compressor

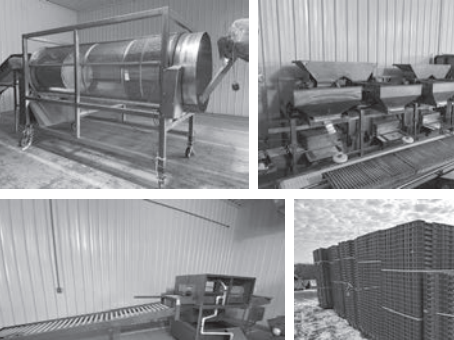
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AUCTION

Thursday, January 25th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION:
Approx. 2875 N Hamilton Road
Frankfort, IN 46041

Washington Twp, Clinton Co
2.5 miles southeast of Mulberry, IN

TRACT 1: 15+/- Acres
TRACT 2: 20+/- Acres
All Tillable Acreage

35+/- total acres

Sam Clark: 317.442.0251 • Jim Clark: 765.659.4841

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Larry Lowe Estate

ONLINE ONLY COLLECTOR TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SULLIVAN, IN

BEGINS CLOSING THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 @ 7:00 PM EST

LOCATION: 5189 W. State Road 154, Sullivan, IN 47882.

DIRECTIONS: From Sullivan, IN & US 41, take St. Rd. 154 West 5 miles.

INSPECTION: Saturday, January 13th from 9:00 A.M. EST to 4:00 P.M. EST

To register and begin bidding NOW, visit bostoncentury.hibid.com

Auctioneers Note: Mr. Lowe went through his tractors mechanically prior to painting. For the most part, they were all running at the time of listing.

★ JOHN DEERE: 1974 JD 4430 w/ C.A.H., "Synchro Range" (6,890-hrs); 1957 JD 720, diesel w/ wide front, 3-pt, PTO, hyd, p.s (SN 7206602); 1950 JD "R", diesel (SN 4801); 1951 JD "G", gas (SN 49410); 1936 JD "B", unstyled (SN14689); 1929 JD "GP" (SN 207500); 1928 JD "D" on steel (SN 61433); JD "MC" crawler (SN14216); JD "H", styled; MINNEAPOLIS- MOLINE: 1949 M-M "UTU" w/ tri-cycle front (SN 0114902062); The "General" mod. GG mfg by Cleveland Tractor Co. w/ single front wheel (SN 1FA6352); IH / FARMALL: 1954 Farmall "Super M-TA" (SN 81005); 1954 Farmall "Super C" (SN 188200); BACKHOE: Case 580 "Super K" 4x4 extend-a-hoe w/ cab & heat (SN JJG0182983); EQUIPMENT & MISC: Vintage M&W Dynamometer; (4) John Deere 110 riders; (25) plows from 1 to 5-bottom incl 2-pt, 3-pt & p.t.; mowing machines; disks; manure spreader; early 1-shank sub-soilers; and a 2-row JD planter; nice asst. of front and rear tractor weights; several quick hitches; and more farm related items.

SELLER: LINDA LOWE

TERMS: NO Buyer's Premium. All items sold "AS-IS". If you are tax exempt, please bring tax exempt form at time of payment.

PAYMENT and PICKUP: Friday, January 19th from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Saturday, January 20th from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Monday, January 22nd from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

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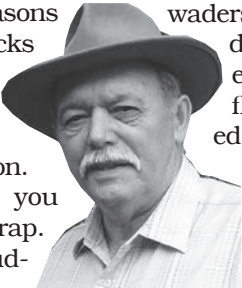
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Time to trap is picking up

As many Indiana hunting seasons slow down, trapping season picks up. Winter is the best time to harvest furbearers because their fur is prime; when it is the thickest and in the best condition.

Furs aren't the only parts you can harvest from animals you trap. Meats of many furbearers, including beaver, muskrat, and raccoon are enjoyed within many hunting communities. You can cook beaver meat in ways



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

waders and wandering through the dark guided by the weak, flickering light from my old, two-cell flashlight, I made my appointed rounds checking the muskrat sets. I didn't like to bunch the traps up. Rather, I spread them out about a half-mile stretch along the Big Flatrock River. If I didn't spread them out, it wouldn't take long to check the trap line, considering I only had four old traps I found in grandpa's barn.

Not even taking into consideration the wear and tear on my hip boots, and the drain on my flashlight's batteries, financially, my trapping career was an absolute bust.

About the time I was ready to call it quits, our neighbor across the road, Anderson Mantooth, asked me how my trapping career was going.

Before I could tell Anders every muskrat in Flatrock River had an advanced degree in trap avoidance skills, he said, "If you catch a possum, keep me in mind. I'll pay you 25 cents for a small one and 50 cents for a big one."

Eureka ... my little eyes had dollar signs for pupils! Old Anders had just made me a rich man. I knew I could catch possums. Possums were everywhere. Rush County was ate-up with possums. Heck, sometimes Mom would hit a couple of them on the county roads just driving to town.

The bargain struck with Mr. Mantooth gave me renewed incentive and confidence. And, sure enough, I found I could outsmart a possum.

All I had to do was get the critters into

(Spaulding continued on page 15B)



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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

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

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

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

Preble County, OH: January 29 • 160⁺ Acres • 3 tracts
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Tillable • Woods • Farmhouse • Pole Barn • Grain Bin • Garage
Contact: H. John Kramer: 937.533.1101 or Craig Springmier: 937.533.7126

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

Carroll County, IN: January 31 (SEALED BID) 346.136⁺ Acres
4 Tracts • Top Quality Indiana Farmland • Tillable • Grain Bin
Contact: AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 or Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

NEW! Peoria County, IL: January 31 (ONLINE) 131.1⁺ Acres
High Quality Farmland • Tillable Contact: John Bechman: 765.404.0396

HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, IL Lic. #417.013288 MI Lic. #6505264076. AUCTIONEER: RUSSELL D. HARMEYER, IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, IL Auct. Lic #441.002337 & OH Auct. Lic. #2001014575

Appraisal | Real Estate | Farm Management | Auction



FARM EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT AUCTION SATURDAY- JANUARY 13, 2024 - 9 AM

HELD AT: COUNTRY SIDE EQUIPMENT SALES, 5064 KENSINGTON RD. NE
CARROLLTON, OH 44615

(330) 627-5100

NO ON-SITE BUYER'S PREMIUM

TRACTORS-SKID

TRUCKS-TRAILERS: Kubota BX2200 4WD w/ Belly Mower, Kubota B7100 4WD, Kubota L2850 4WD w/ Loader, Kubota L3130 4WD, Kubota MX4700 2WD w/ Loader, Canopy, Rear Remotes 400 Hrs., Kioti LK3054 4WD, Ford 6610 2WD, Ford 5030 4WD w/ 7310 Loader, IH 1486 Cab Heat Air, IH 986 Cab Heat Air, IH 504, IH 806 Diesel w/ Fenders, IH 650 Diesel w/ Hand Clutch, McCormick W30 Not Running, Farmall 300 Narrow Front, Farmall H, Farmall H-Not Running, Farmall B-Not Running, Farmall Super A, Ford 5020 w/ Loader 4WD, Ford 2310 Diesel w/ PS, Ford 1720 Tractor Loader Backhoe 2WD 1500 Hrs, Ford 1320 w/ Loader 2WD 1600 Hrs., Ford 850 Not Running, Ford 8N, MF 35 Not Running, MF 135 Gas w/ Power Steering, Oliver 1855 Diesel, White 2-60 4WD w/ 1800 Loader, AC D17, AC 190, John Deere 4020 w/ New Paint, John Deere 2010 w/ Loader & Backhoe, Case 1070 w/ Cab, Ford 5030 4WD w/ Loader, Ford 4040 Tractor-Loader-Backhoe, Case 1816 Skid Loader, Case 1825B Skid Loader w/ Kubota Diesel Engine, Case 1840 Skid Loader w/ 3000 hrs, Case 1845C Skid Loader w/ 3500Hrs. Nice, Like New 323W Ride on Skid Steer, Like New EG380 Ride On Skid Steer, Diggitt SCL 850 Track Ride on Skid Loader, Vermeer M-470 Trencher, John Deere 450G Dozer-newer undercarriage, 1994 Freightliner Tandem Axle Semi, 13 Speed Cummins w/ Wet Line, 1991 Ford F800 Roll Back Truck, IH Load Star 1600 Grain Truck w/ 14' Bed & Hoist, JD 4420 Combine, IH 1440 Combine, JD 443 4X Corn Head, Club Car Gas Golf Cart, 2019 Club Car Electric Golf Cart, Husqvarna YT161 Mower, JD 300X Mower, Husqvarna Push Mower, Murry Push Mower, Bolens Push Mower, Wheel Horse Mower Deck, Swisher 4' ATV Snow Blade, 2015 Big Tex 30' Gooseneck Trailer-Very Little Use, 2017 Big Tex 25DU HD 20' Tandem Dual Dump Trailer w/ Ramps & Swing Doors, 8.5'X22' Enclosed Trailer w/ Rear Ramp Door and Doors on side, Clean- Nice Trail Boss Deck Over 10T Pintle Hitch Trailer 20' + 5' Dove Tail, Air Brakes, 6x12 Utility Trailer w/ Gate, 6.5'X18' Flatbed Trailer 7000# GVW w/ Ramps, EZ Trail 680 Head Cart- Unused. **EQUIPMENT:** New Holland 1441 Discbine, MF DM164 3pt Disc Mower-New, JD 275 Disc Mower, Bush Hog HM2007 Disc Mower, IH 990 7' Haybine, Ford 501 3pt. Sickle Mower, JD 346 Round Baler, JD 467 Silage Special Round Baler, JD 457 Round Baler Mega Wide Pick Up, Good- NH 645 Round Baler NH 846 Round Baler, Gehl 1875 Round Baler, JD 327 Square Baler w/ Thrower, Ford 532 Square Baler w/ Belt Thrower, NH 276 Square Baler w/ Belt Thrower, New Holland 256 Hay Rake, New Holland 256 Dolly Wheel Rake, JD 350 3pt. Hay Rake, MF Side Delivery Rake, Kuhn GF5202 Hay Tedder, Pequa 710 Hay Tedder, NH Automatic Square Bale Stack Wagon, Stolfuz Bale Transport Wagon, 8 Bale Transport Bed, 8x16 Flatbed Hay Wagon- New, Wrap Around Bale Wrapper, New Holland 350 Grinder Mixer, Ficklin 4500 Gravity Wagon w/ Mixer Tires, Emco Gravity Wagon w/ 10T Gear, Killbro 350 Gravity Wagon w/ JD 1065 Running Gear, Killbro 350 Gravity Wagon w/ 1072 10T Running Gear, Parker Gravity Wagon w/ Side Auger, Parker Gravity Wagon on 20" Rubber, J&M Gravity Wagon, J&M 250 Gravity Box, Huskee 225 Gravity Wagon, Wagon Running Gear, Gehl 970 Silage Wagon w/ Tandem Running Gear, NH 790 Chopper w/ Grass Head, Buhler 480 Seed Cleaner Like New, Wilmar 500 Fertilizer Spreader, Brillion 14' Cultimulcher, Brillion 13' Cultimulcher, Brillion 12' End Transport Packer, John Deere 230 22' Wing Disc, Case 14' Transport Disc, Kewanee 1010 Flat Fold Wing Disc, AC 2300 10' Trans. Disc, Dunham 18' Harrogator, Vicon 20' S-Tine Field Cultivator w/ Harrow, MF 20 S-Tine Field Cultivator, White 378 6X Cultivator, 1X 3pt Cultivator, 3pt. 60" Pulverizer, Yetter 4 Shank 3pt. Ripper, Brillion 7 Shank 3pt Chisel Plow, Landoll 9 Shank Disc Chisel, White 435 7 Shank Disc Chisel w/ Harrow, IH 720 7X Toggle Trip Trailer Plow, IH 720 6X Toggle Trip Plow, White

STEERS-DOZER-

508 4X Plow, Ford 101 2X Plow, Truax 1X 3pt. Vegetable Planter, Hardi 500 Gallon Sprayer Approx. 45' Booms, Ford 309 2X Planter, JD 290 2X Planter, JD 7300 3pt. 2X Planter, JD 7000 6X30 No Till Corn Planter, Tye 15' No Til Grain Drill w/ Grass, Hay Buster 107C 10' Grain Drill Very Nice 2444 acres, Tar River 7' 3pt Grain Drill, UFT 15' No Till Grain Drill, Case IH 5300 Soybean Special Grain Drill, Grain Cleaner, Gehl 180 PTO Spreader, Gehl 325 Tandem Axle Spreader, New Idea 3 Beater PTO Spreader, John Deere 33 PTO Manure Spreader, Betterbuilt Liquid Spreader w/ Vacuum Pump. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Skid Steer Mount Manure Forks 50" & 54", Skid Steer 64" Bucket w/ Teeth, Skid Steer Front Mount 10" Post Driver, Woods RM59 Finish Mower, Woods 4' Brush Bull Rotary Mower, Rhino 15' Batwing Brush Hog, Alamo 15' Batwing Brush Hog, Woods 215 Batwing Brush Hog, Woods 2126 10' Pull Type Brush Hog, Rhino 8' 3pt Mower, Rhino 7' Brush Hog, Ford 6' 3pt Brush Hog, Bush Hog 6' 3pt. Rotary Mower, Titan 3pt. 5' Brush Hog, Motrim Side Mount Mower, AGT Brush Cutter for Mini Excavator, Bush Hog 121 9' HD 3pt Blade, IH Heavy Duty 8' 3pt. Blade, IMC 8' Blade on AC Hitch, Farmall Cub Blade, Tar River 6' 3pt. Blade, New Woods TSG50 3pt Stump Grinder, Buckeye Tractor Seed Bedder-Plastic Layer, Land Honor Post/Tree Puller, Kubota Salt Spreader for UTV, Wallenstein 3pt Chipper w/ Feed Rolls, County Line 7' Rototiller, Agric 70" Rototiller, Titan 60" Rototiller, Ideal 48" 3pt Rototiller-New, Maschio SD 4057 Weekend Warrior 57" Rototiller- Excellent, Frontier LR5084 7' Rock Rake, 8' 3pt. Snow Blower w/ Double Augers, Magnum 4000 Hot water Pressure Washer, EG5050 Stand on Cement Buggy, Skid Steer Mount Grader, Aluminum Headache Rack, Boom for IH 2350 Loader, Armstrong 24.5X32 T-Rail Duals, (2) 17.5X25 Loader Tires, JD Roll Bar Canopy, IH 656/686 Roll Bar Canopy, (10) 20' HD Cattle Corral Gates, 3pt. Bale Spear, 9' 3pt Post Hole Digger, TSC Post Hole Digger w/ 9'8.12" Augers, Skid Steer Telescoping Boom Pole, 3pt Hyd. Boom Pole, Log Splitter 3pt/Skid Steer Mount, 6X8 Fence Post, 14' Driveway Gates, (2) 17.5X25 Loader Tires, IH Rear Weights, IH 100# Suitcase Weights, IH Front Weight Bracket, 250 Gallon Cage Tanks, Delta Drill Press, Paint Shaker, Titan Gas Air Compressor, URS 500 Solvent Recycler, Tool Cart, Honda Generator, Gasoline Water Pump, Wayne Upright Fuel Pump, New Self Loading Mini Crawler Dumper, Pop/Snack Vending Machine, Tool Cart, 8X16 Garden Shed, 6x8 Garden Shed, 8x10 Garden Shed, 4x6 Chicken House, 6x8 Run In Shed, 8X16 Run in Shed. **NEW SKID STEER ATTACHMENTS:** Buckets 60"-84", 1 & 2 Prong Bale Spears, 72"Grapples, Rippers, Graders, 72" Hyd. Brush Hogs, Hyd. Trenchers, Brooms Hyd. Adj. Pallet Forks, Pallet Forks, 10-16.5 & 12-16.5 Skid Steer Tires, 10-16.5 & 12-16.5 Skid Steer Tires on New Rims, Trailer Mover, 7' & 10' Fork Extensions, Agrotek Tree Shear, Hydraulic Breaker, 72" Rototillers, Hyd. Post Hole Diggers w/ 12"X18" Augers, 72" Sickle Mower, 84" Snow Push, Power Adj. V- Blade, 66", 72", 78", 84" Rock Bucket. **NEW:** Mahindra 4' 3pt. Brush Hog, Titan 5' 3pt. Brush Hog, Bush Hog BH114 4' Brush Hog, Bush Hog BH115 5' Brush Hog, Titan Iron Craft HD 6' 3 Way Adj. Blade, Titan Iron Craft HD 7' 3 Way Adj. Blade, Titan Iron Craft 5' Box Blade, 10' Fork Extensions, 8' Steel Work Bench, 20x30x12 Dome Storage Shelter, 20X40 Dome Container Shelter, 20x20 Dome Container Shelter, 20' BiParting Gates w/ Deer Motif, 14' BiParting Gates w/ Cow Motif, 7' Work Bench 10 Drawer & 2 Cabinet, 7' Work Bench with 20 Drawers, Ratchets, Binders, Rigging Hardware, Dumping Hopper, Great Bear 4000 Hot Water Pressure Washer, Bastone 110V Portable Toilets w/ Double Closestools, New & Used 40' Containers, Mobile Office 7'x12' w/ Bathroom, 7'x12' Storage Container, 8' Storage Container, 9' Storage Container, 20'x30'X 12.6" Carports, 440' of Privacy Fencing, Rolls of Coated Fencing, Barb Wire, New Gas powered Concrete Floor Saw, Gas Powered Vibratory Compactor.

TERMS: Cash, Check or Credit Card w/ 4% Bank Fee w/ photo ID. Payment is due day of auction unless other arrangements were made BEFORE day of sale. Announcements made sale day take precedence over printed material. Auctioneer and affiliates are not responsible for no shows of advertised equipment, lost or stolen items. Once it is sold, it becomes the buyer's responsibility. Consignments are being taken until Jan 11. To be listed in the Online auction, items need to be on the lot by Jan 6. We will be running 2 rings most of the day. For online bidding or view our catalog to go WWW.COUNTRYSIDECARROLLTON.COM. Listing and photos can be viewed at www.auctionzip.com auctioneer id#12922. Call with any questions, 330-627-5100. **Receiving Hours Mon-Friday 8am-4:30PM. Saturday 8am-Noon.**

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ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



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January 12, 2024

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Since **1957**

Fort Wayne Farm Show achieves 35th anniversary

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – The Fort Wayne Farm Show is a good opportunity for attendees to learn about new agriculture-related technologies, visit dealers and see a variety of farm equipment, the show’s director said.

The show will be held Jan. 16-18 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

“If you are looking to make some purchases for your farm or business, this is the perfect one-stop shop,” noted Dan Slowinski, a show director for Tradexpos, which produces the show. “With over 400 companies all under one roof, you can’t ask for much more. You can compare products side by side before making your final purchasing decisions. If you are looking for the newest technology to upgrade your equipment or software, there are dozens of tech companies and every company is going to show off their newest programs and equipment. I would also recommend they come Wednesday afternoon when the (educational) seminar is on specialized new technology.

“The show is also a great place to walk around, look at equipment, shake hands with dealers, establish or solidify connections with reps, learn a little about what’s new in the ag industry, all while you enjoy a winter day indoors.”

In 2023, about 28,000 people attended the show, up from nearly 25,000 in 2022, he said.

The show’s exhibit space sold out by the third week of July, Slowinski said. This year’s show will have 401 companies occupying all 1,091 booths, he

added. “It’s impressive, the urgency this show creates,” Slowinski explained. “No one wants to be left out. We have an extensive waiting list that resets every year. This year, we have 43 companies waiting for a booth to open up. A few years back the Coliseum added the Conference Center, and we were able to fill every possible space without a problem. If they decide to expand again, I have no doubt Tradexpos will utilize every foot.”

Slowinski said he doesn’t have to “cold-call” or “sell” the show. He said Tradexpos mails roughly 550 contracts each April to returning and potential exhibitors. Returning vendors have until the beginning of June to homestead their booth locations. By that time, he said 90 percent of the booths are full, and the remaining 10 percent are filled with the other companies that have sent in a contract for the show.

The show is celebrating its 35th anniversary, which is quite a milestone, Slowinski said. “I know several farm shows that have come and gone in that time. It’s a testament to the exhibitors and attendees who keep supporting the Fort Wayne Farm Show year after year. Without them, our advertisers, the Coliseum staff and many others... the show could not continue.”

The first Fort Wayne Farm Show was in 1990. Jack Thill, then owner of Tradexpos, created the show after visiting Fort Wayne in the 1980s. He later said the event’s primary goal was to draw as many people as possible into an agricultural event.

Asked if Thill, who died in 2015, would have been surprised the show has lasted 35 years, Slowinski said



Above: 401 companies will occupy 1,091 booths this year at the Fort Wayne Farm Show. The event runs Jan. 16-18.

he was not fortunate enough to meet him. “But from what I’ve heard, he was very confident in all of his shows, and especially the Fort Wayne Farm Show. The agricultural community of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio (has) always come together and made the Fort Wayne Farm Show our biggest and most successful show. With how popular the Fort Wayne Farm Show has become, I think he’d be more surprised if it were ever to shut down.”

The show is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 16, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 17 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 18. The event is free, but there is a fee to park in Coliseum

lots. This year’s grand prize is a Toro MyRide zero-turn mower sponsored by Plevna Implement Co.

Auctions benefiting the Indiana FFA Scholarship Foundation are Jan. 16 and 17 at 1 p.m. Last year’s auction raised more than \$21,000 for scholarships.

Tradexpos, based in Austin, Minn., also produces a farm show in Topeka, Kan., and the North American Farm & Power Show in Owatonna, Minn. For more information on the Fort Wayne show, visit www.tradexpos.com and click on Fort Wayne Farm Show.



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HANCOCK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



280 ACRES± • 4 TRACTS

The farm is located approximately 5 miles east of Nauvoo, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 5, Rock Creek Township, T6N-R7W, Section 31, Pontoosuc - Dallas City Township, T7N-R7W and Section 13, Sonora Township, T6N-R8W, Hancock County, Illinois.

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It's never too early to start planning an auction.



UPCOMING AUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Schuyler County, IL Land Auction Beatrice & The Late Ted Artis Family Farms	JANUARY 19, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} McLean County, IL Land Auction Marian R. Wiegand Estate Karen Wiegand	JANUARY 29, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT} Texas County, OK Land Auction Salvation Army - Norma Jean Isaac's Farm	FEBRUARY 15, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Stark County, IL Land Auction Up Side Down Acres Trust - Lynn Newton Farm
JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} No-Reserve Farm Retirement Auction Greg & Nancy Forward - Tampico, IL	JANUARY 22, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Marshall County, IL Land Auction Jane Simpson Locally Known as the Lasswell Farm	JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Hancock County, IL Land Auction TM Walker Properties LLC	FEBRUARY 15, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT} Macoupin County, IL Land Auction Illinois Land Trust 539
JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Iroquois County, IL Land Auction Iven L. Lowe Estate	JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Peoria County, IL Land Auction Borland Irrevocable Trust	JANUARY 31, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT} LaSalle County, IL Land Auction Michael & Harriett McDonald Estate	FEBRUARY 19, 2024 AT 9:00 AM^{CT} 2-Day No-Reserve Collector Car Auction - Day 1 Carthage, IL
JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Unreserved Weekly Equipment Auction Green Valley Irrigation - Atkinson, NE	JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} No-Reserve Farm Retirement Auction Endress Farms Inc. - Henry, IL	FEBRUARY 1, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Schuyler County, IL Land Auction T.R. Mills Trust	FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 9:00 AM^{CT} 2-Day No-Reserve Collector Car Auction - Day 2 Multiple Locations
JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT} Shelby County, IL Land Auction Mark & Vicky Shaffer	JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Lee County, IL Land Auction The Robert H. Shultz Jr. Revocable Trust Robert H. Shultz Jr. - Trustee Merriam Shultz Helmsing	FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} No-Reserve Farm Equipment Auction David Ruebush - Hamilton, IL	FEBRUARY 22, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Christian & Shelby County, IL Land Auction Estate of Roberta A. Hamm
JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} No-Reserve Farm Retirement Auction Kevin McKittrick - Shelbyville, IL		FEBRUARY 8, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Lee County, IL Land Auction Douglas Johnson	FEBRUARY 22, 2024 AT 1:00 PM^{CT} Fayette County, IL Land Auction Kurt Schnoebelen
JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} McLean County, IL Land Auction Dorothy H. Lobdell Family Trust Charles H. Lobdell Trust Bank of Pontiac, Trustee	JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Unreserved Weekly Equipment Auction Tim Greenfield - Baileyville, IL	FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Knox County, IL Land Auction Harold Anderson	FEBRUARY 27, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} No-Reserve Farm Retirement Auction Bob & Mary Anne Harris Retirement
	JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT} Unreserved Weekly Equipment Auction Jess Moore - Galatia, IL		

Seminars on conservation, regenerative ag planned for Fort Wayne Farm Show

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – When it comes to conservation practices on their farms, producers are often concerned about how they can make it work on their soils, with their equipment, and with minimal changes in management practices, according to Adam Shanks with Purdue University Extension.

“As technology, seed and equipment continue to adapt and evolve, this once narrow path to adoption seems to be widening, thus enticing more adoption of these practices,” explained Shanks, digital agriculture and natural resources curriculum lead with Extension. “As processors and end-users are looking for ways to lower their carbon footprint, enticing producers to supply them with raw products produced with carbon-capturing practices will accelerate adoption as well, I believe.”

Shanks, and Rhiannon Lake, conservation program specialist with the Allen County, Ind., Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), will discuss new technology in conservation during the Fort Wayne Farm Show, Jan. 16-18, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Their presentation is 2 p.m. Jan. 17.

Shanks said his focus during the seminar will be on new technology available as a tool in the toolbox when it relates to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for scouting and applying chemicals, as well as seeding cover crops. He said he’ll share information on new technology in scouting drones, and proper usage of applicator drones for production agriculture.

“These tools are very usable, and there are legal and proper ways to make the most of the technology while still finding it valuable,” he said.

All producers can get behind soil conservation to some extent, Shanks noted. “We have seen that in the decline in mold-board plowing. Leaving all or at least some residue has been a practice that I believe most all farmers work toward each year. The adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices seems to not be as widely adopted across the state, year over year. That is why I believe we need to have these seminars to continue to educate producers on how they can be successful in holding soil in place, capturing carbon, and utilizing the power of soil to heal itself while making critical nutrients more plant available, eventually throttling the reliance on commercial fertilizers.”

Educational seminars provided by the Northeast Indiana SWCDs and Purdue Extension are scheduled each day of the show. These seminars are a vital part of the event, said Dan Slowinski, a show director for Tradexpos, which produces the show.

“Purdue and Allen County SWCD do a phenomenal job finding both a wide variety of current topics to dis-

(Seminars continued on page 10S)

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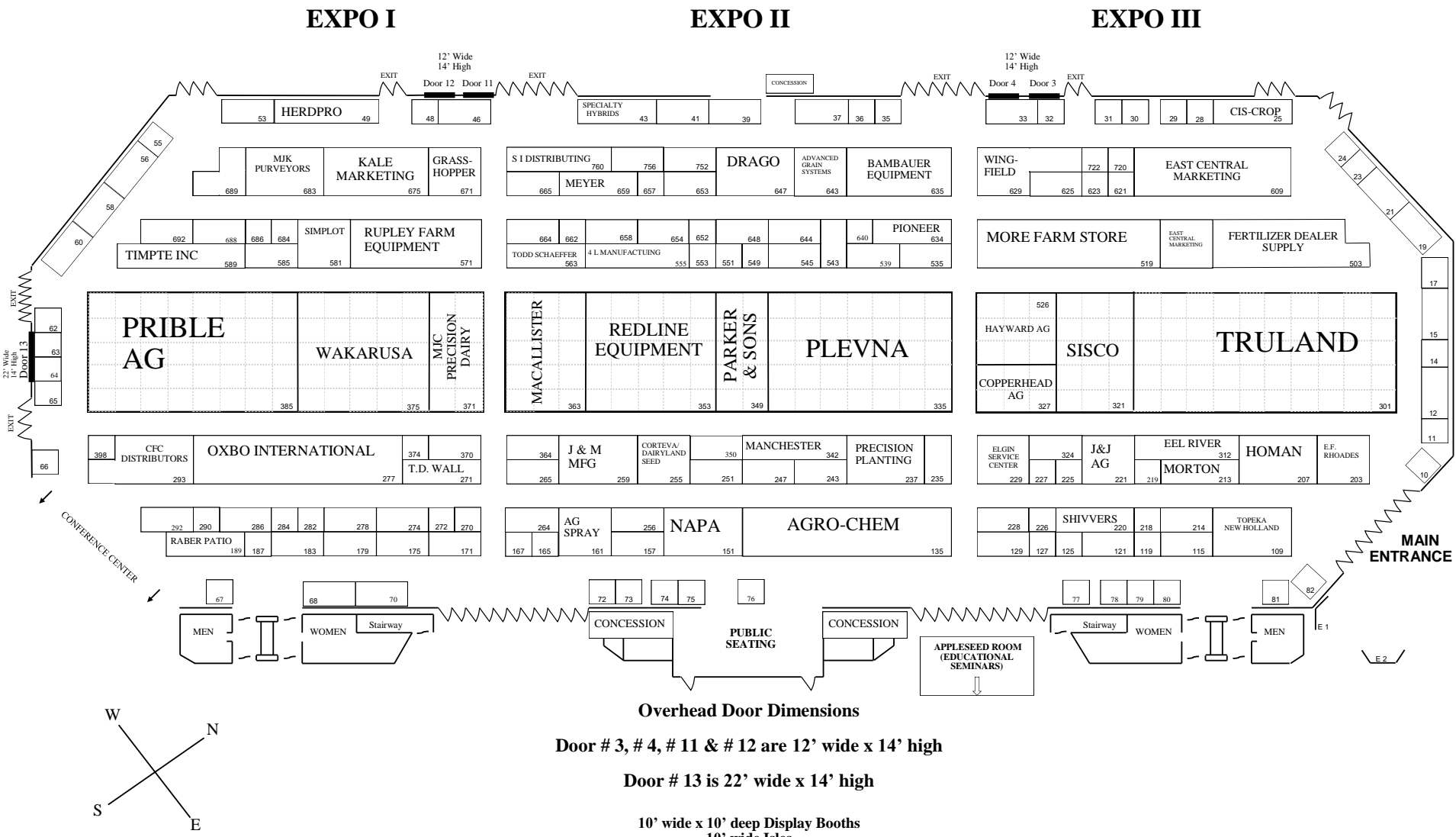
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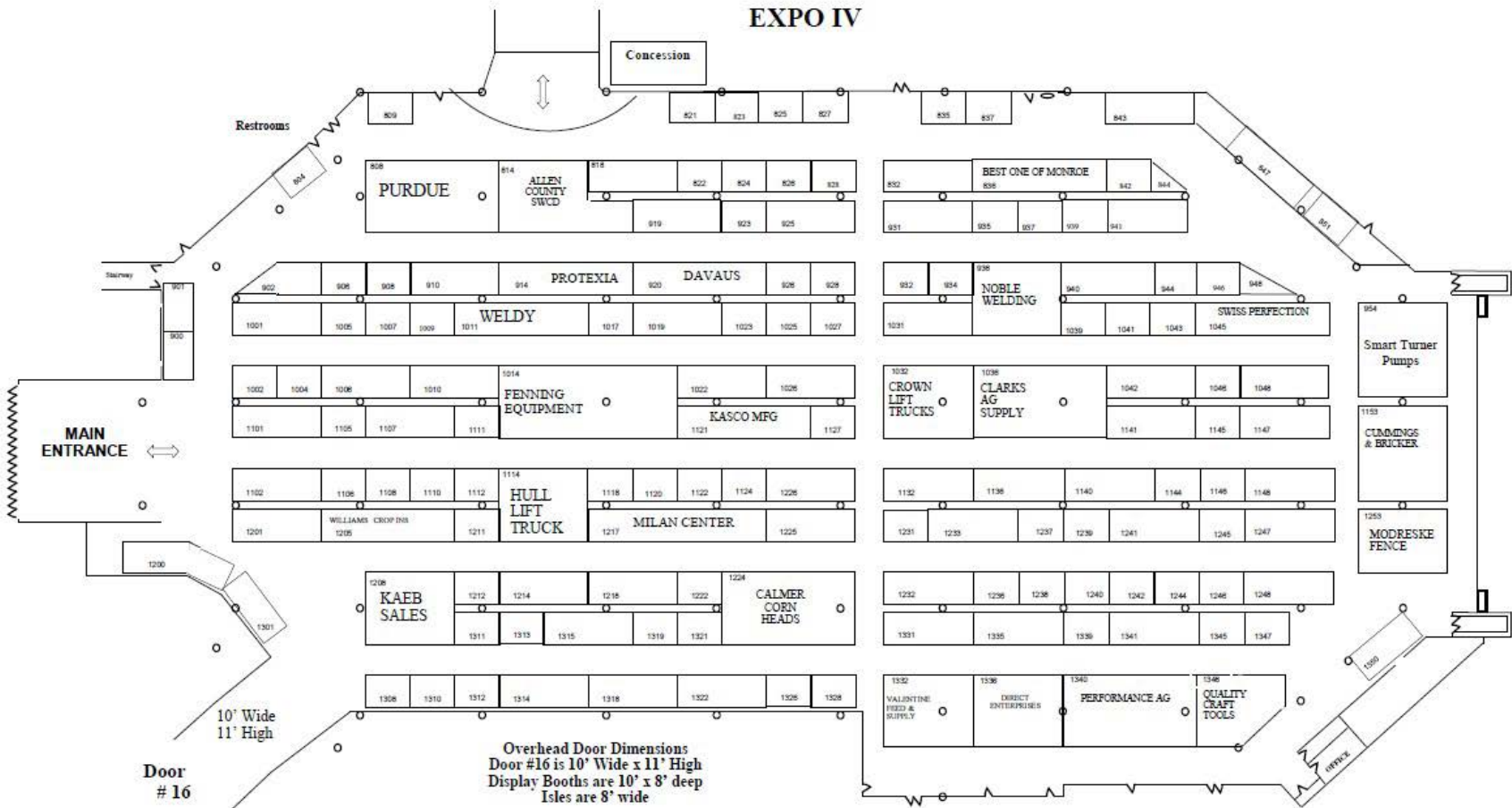
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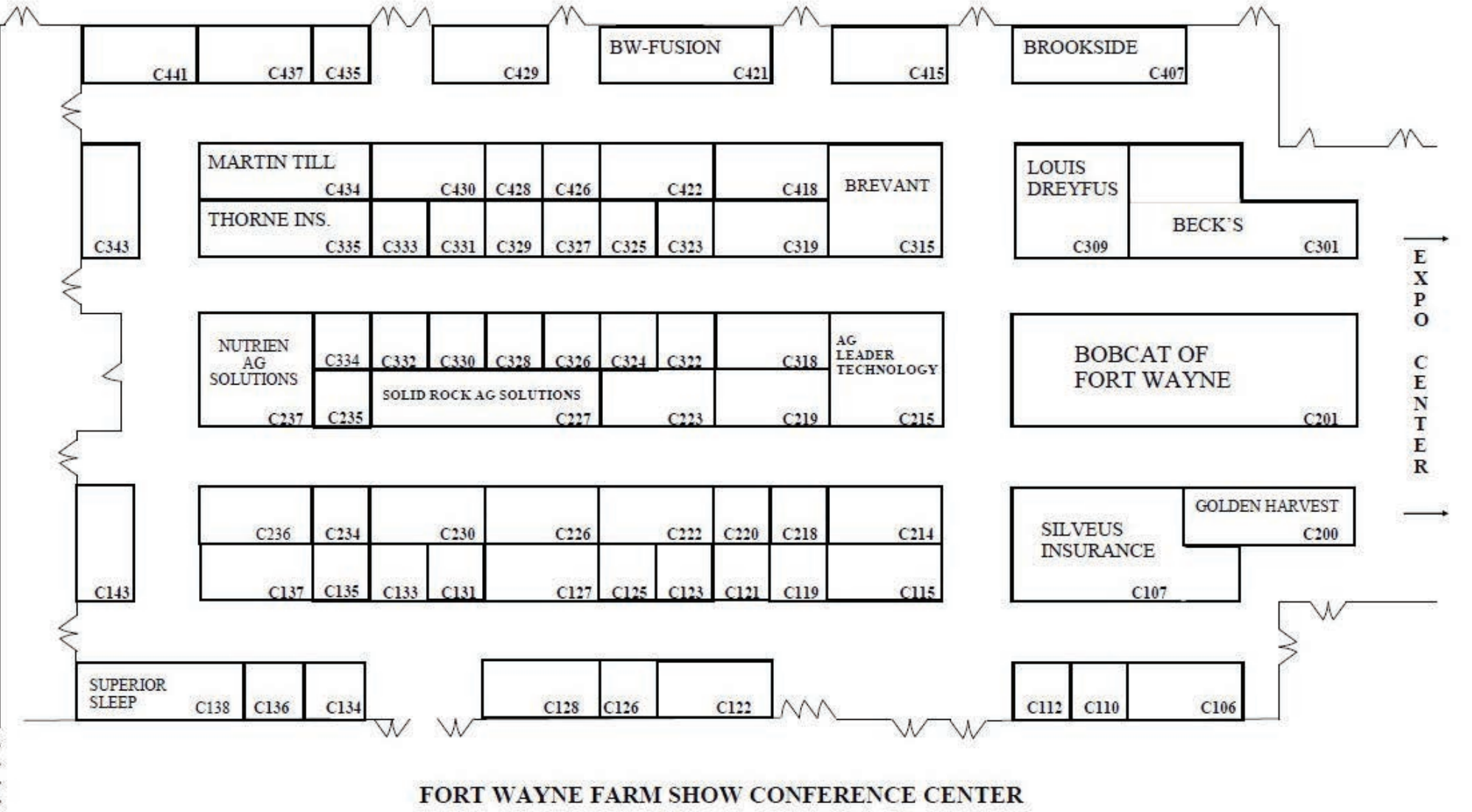
Save time by looking at the list of exhibitors, starting on page 15 in the supplement and then refer to the floor maps.

FORT WAYNE FARM SHOW

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM



Continued on page 6



Indiana-based company provides mobile grain roasting service

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

GOSHEN, Ind. – Goshen-based Miller’s Grain Roasting – founded in 1987 – provides a mobile roasting service to the farm, feed mills or any location, the company’s owner said.

“Grain roasting is the process of taking raw grains and making (them) into a digestible product,” Steven Zimmerman explained. “Grains can be fed with our auger into the roaster from grain bins, hopper bins, semis, hopper bottom trailers and wagons. The grain then goes through a high heat rotating stainless steel oven. It is suspended in air from the rotating drum.

“The purging effect destroys toxins and molds. It makes the grain more highly digestible for the animal and safer to feed. The grain is then moved by our unload auger to wagons or bins.”

Roasting soybeans increases the by-pass protein of the soybean, making it a full fat highly digestible feed source, he noted. Roasting neutralizes the two



Above: Soybeans are being moved with the auger into the roaster and from the roaster to the wagon and then directly into the bin. (photo provided)

toxic enzymes in soybeans. Dairymen see increased butterfat and improved herd health, Zimmerman said.

Roasting corn gelatinizes it and gives it a caramelized flavor that livestock really enjoy, he pointed out. It provides the benefits of an earlier harvest and higher digestibility.

Zimmerman said all cereal grains can be roasted as needed for a variety of uses.

“Over the past few years, we have been having an increase in farmers that are needing non-GMO and organic grain roasted,” he said. “Most recently,



Above: Soybeans are being moved with the auger from the bin into the roaster and through the roaster into the wagon. (photo provided)

there is much interest among farmers about roasting Plenish soybeans. Plenish soybeans (are) a high oleic soybean, making it very attractive to utilize it in livestock grower feed rations.”

The company was started by Alvin Miller, who Zimmerman said was introduced to the roasting business when he met the manufacturer of the machine. There was a stationary roasting unit in the area but no mobile unit that could go directly to the farm. “By having a mobile roaster, the farm-raised grain stays on the farm for feeding,” Zimmerman said. “Alvin

saw the convenience that it would be for the farmer. He purchased his first mobile roasting unit and was trained by them.”

Miller learned of the Fort Wayne Farm Show through the manufacturer of the roasting machine, Zimmerman said.

“They came to the show as a way of advertising to the farming community,” Zimmerman said. “The farm show is a great place to meet many varieties of people in all aspects of the ag world.

“The Fort Wayne Farm Show is valuable to our business as a source of visibility. It keeps us connected to current customers and helps introduce our services to new ones.”

In 2009, Zimmerman – Miller’s son-in-law – purchased the business from him. Zimmerman was raised on a dairy farm and operated Steve’s Hoof Trimming for 27 years, ending in 2006. He said he was excited to get back into the farming community with the purchase.

For more information on the company, visit www.millersgrainroasting.com.

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TRACTORS: CIH 8940 Magnum tractor, MFWD, 4562 hrs; IH 3588 2x2 tractor, 5791 hrs, 1 owner; IH 5088 tractor, 6540 hrs; IH 1086 tractor, 2125 hrs; IH 786 tractor, open station, 4425 hrs; IH 856 tractor, gas, 8484 hrs; 2 Farmall H's; IH 300 utility w/IH loader, 4156 hrs; Farmall A w/Woods belly mower.

PLANTERS: Kinze 3600, 12/24 planter, 400 acres on complete rebuild in Spring '23; Kinze 3200 12x30 planter; UFT 15' NO TILL drill.

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.

TILLAGE: Salford I 2200 24' VT tool, (LIKE NEW); DMI 2500 inline ripper, 5 shank; IH 720 6x18" plow.

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.

TRUCKS & TRAILERS: 2015 Freightliner semi, day cab, auto, 521,831 mi.; IH 4700 single axle semi; 2005 Wilson 41' hopper bottom; 2011 Lime City 26' hopper trailer; 2017 Rice 20' tandem axle utility trailer.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: After a lifetime of farming, Mike has decided to slow down. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase always shedded, well cared for equipment. Please join us on our inspection days or call Mike to set up an appointment to view equipment. Auction personnel and loader will be available on posted load out times.

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Floating farms gaining interest as way to fight food security, climate change

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) – On the top deck of a three-tiered structure moored near downtown Rotterdam, brown and white cows graze on hay dropped from a conveyor belt above their heads and rinds of oranges salvaged from supermarket juice machines in the port city. Canopies overhead protect the cows from sun and collect rainwater they will eventually drink.

Sometimes the Maas-Rijn-IJssel cows – named for three Dutch rivers – walk over to a machine that automatically milks them, or they shuffle out of the way of a robot trundling past to mop up manure that will be turned into organic fertilizer.

“We call our cows upcycle ladies,” said Minke van Wingerden, of the Floating Farm, which sells the milk, cheese and buttermilk produced by the cows in a small shop on dry land next to its harbor berth.

The Floating Farm, which has been operational since 2019 and bills itself as the world’s first such farm, isn’t on entirely new terrain. Efforts to put agriculture on or in the water are as old as the Aztecs, who built artificial islets to grow food long ago in what’s now Mexico.

But it’s an idea that is getting new attention as a way of tackling both

food security and the challenges of climate change. And it doesn’t have to be as sophisticated as the Dutch farm, which came about after Van Wingerden’s husband, Peter, witnessed the food shortages that hit New York after Hurricane Sandy slammed the city in 2012.

In coastal and low-lying areas of India and Bangladesh, a non-government organization is reviving a traditional practice of creating floating rafts that can keep seedlings above monsoon flood waters that can drown crops.

The South Asian Forum for Environment, based in Kolkata, has made some technological improvements for what it calls “climate-resilient float farming.” The bamboo rafts are built larger and heavier to better withstand storms. Plastic covering and shade nets protect fragile plants, and solar-powered pumps collect rainwater to irrigate the seedlings. And the organization has partnered with local research institutes to supply farmers with the best possible climate-resilient seeds, and to pass on knowledge about pest control. Communications director Amrita Chatterjee said that can become more urgent when pests proliferate in times of extreme heat, like this summer, where the tem-

perature reached 113 degrees Fahrenheit in some locations.

Chatterjee said the rafts are “not a very conventional type of farming” and it takes patience to get used to them. But in a few years, they’ve more than doubled, to 500, the number of floating farms operating in different villages. Vegetables like medicinal plants, spinach and chilies are among the items cultivated on the floating platforms, and farmers can also raise crabs to be fattened for market in floating boxes.

“Slowly, everyone is getting interested,” Chatterjee said.

With increasingly erratic monsoons, the rafts have helped with food security, Chatterjee said. They were also helpful when the Indian state of West Bengal was hit with a one-two punch of a cyclone followed by COVID-19 in 2020, she said.

Farmers using the rafts now are feeding themselves and selling a bit of surplus in local markets, Chatterjee said. Her group hopes that the idea can be scaled up to make it much more commercially viable.

Floating farms will clearly be scalable in the coming decades in Southeast Asia, but educating about the technology may be a hurdle to its adoption in some places, said Craig

Jenkins, academy professor of sociology at Ohio State University.

Back in Rotterdam, the owners of the Floating Farm cite a number of reasons for putting farms on water. That includes urbanization putting more people in cities, making it sensible to bring food sources closer to them. They say the extreme weather spurred by climate change – heavy rainfall and flooding of cities and farmland – makes their approach climate-adaptive to feed those cities.

Jake Boswell, an associate professor of landscape architecture at Ohio State, said the success of floating farms likely will vary by region. While much of the world’s population lives in coastal areas, only a subset of those communities also farms in flood- or storm-prone areas, he said. That might make it more cost-effective to invest in floating housing rather than floating farms to adapt to sea level rise, he said.

“The one in Rotterdam I think is an interesting demonstration,” he said. “I would find it hard to see it as a scalable project.”

Scaling up and contributing substantially to the sustainability of urban food systems is a challenge floating farms have in common with vertical farms, said Daniel Petrovics, a doctoral candidate at the University of Amsterdam who has studied the scaling of several climate interventions, including in the energy and agriculture sectors.

“You should consider things like, what is the local diet, what do people eat? Is this feeding into that? What kind of stakeholders benefit from it?” he said. “Is it that it helps alleviate food poverty in a city or is it just some kind of gimmick that’s from, let’s say, a corporation that’s just looking for return on investment?”

The owners of the Dutch floating farm are already moving to expand beyond their cows.

They plan to add a second floating farm in the same harbor for vertical agriculture – growing vegetables indoors, under lights in stacks of growing beds, irrigated with water purified in part with heat from the cows’ manure.

Minke Van Wingerden sees agriculture on water as a viable response to flooding and rising sea levels and a way of bringing food production closer to consumers, meaning a lower carbon footprint.

“When you have floating farms, you are climate adaptive,” Van Wingerden said. “So you can keep on producing fresh, healthy food for the city.”



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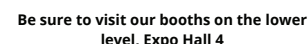
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FROM PAGE 4S

The seminar schedule begins, as it has for years, with a Midwest Ag Market Outlook featuring Jon Cavanaugh

For a list of all the educational seminars, visit www.tradexplos.com and click on Fort Wayne Farm Show.



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Bobcat of Fort Wayne has four locations in northeast Indiana

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Business has been booming for Bobcat of Fort Wayne, with certain types of equipment drawing interest from the company's agricultural customers, according to the dealership's sales operations and marketing manager.

"As always, our faithful ag customers have continued to purchase the Bobcat skid steer loader," Abby Reuille said. "The compact track loaders have seen a rise in popularity among ag customers as well. Since introducing the Bobcat Zero Turn mowers, ag customers will often get their hands on one of them when making a machine purchase as well."

In addition to skid steer and compact track loaders, Bobcat of Fort Wayne sells other core products agricultural customers use every day such as mini excavators and numerous versatile Bobcat attachments, she said. The Bobcat product line has expanded greatly over the last few years to include compact tractors, zero-turn mowers, an articulating tractor, Toolcats, utility vehicles and light compaction equipment, Reuille added.

Bobcat of Fort Wayne was founded in 1964 by Blankenbaker and Maier under the name of B&M Equipment, she noted. "After many years, a location change, and a name change, Mr. Maier retired in 1999, and Wyatt and Sherry Akers bought the business.

"July 2013 brought another change as Buddy and Audra Funk purchased Bobcat of Fort Wayne, allowing Wyatt and Sherry to enjoy their well-deserved retirement. Since the Funks took ownership 10 years ago, Bobcat of Fort Wayne has expanded from a single location to four locations across northeastern Indiana to serve our cus-

tomers most conveniently."

Bobcat of Fort Wayne's original store is on Goshen Road in Fort Wayne. It also has stores in Angola, Bluffton and Grabill. All locations are full line dealers offering sales, service, parts and rental, Reuille said.

"Bobcat is the original tried and true skid steer loader, dating back to its creation by the Keller brothers in 1960," she explained. "Since then, innovation has been the goal and the realization.

"Bobcat of Fort Wayne as a dealership is dedicated to providing exceptional service while maintaining a personal touch – we'll remember your name, your equipment and ask about your vacation last summer," Reuille said. "Our customers are No. 1."

Bobcat of Fort Wayne has been an exhibitor at the Fort Wayne Farm Show since its beginning. "Agriculture customers are a huge part of our business," she said. "Bobcat of Fort Wayne could see the value that the Fort Wayne Farm Show had to offer right from the start. We knew we had to be there, and were proven right year after year. We will always return."

Reuille said the show is important and a great way to kick off the new year for the company's sales team.

"The show allows us to connect with customers who know they will see us there and seek us out at our usual spot," she said. "We also always meet new customers who, naturally, have heard of Bobcat equipment but might not know just how they can benefit from a specific machine or attachment. The farm show provides us with ample leads for weeks to come."

Reuille said Bobcat of Fort Wayne offers special farm show discounts for visitors to its booth. For more information, visit www.bobcatoffortwayne.net.



Above: Bobcat of Fort Wayne's location in Angola, Ind. (photo provided)

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Above: Bobcat of Fort Wayne's location in Grabill, Ind. (photo provided)



Above: Bobcat of Fort Wayne's original location on Goshen Road in Fort Wayne. (photo provided)

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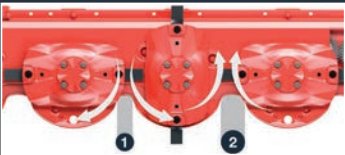
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Co-Alliance offering 30 scholarships

INDIANAPOLIS —Continuing a 16-year tradition of supporting the youth of rural Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, Co-Alliance has opened its Scholarship program to the class of 2024 offering thirty \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to pursue an agricultural degree in college.

“A key part of the Co-Alliance mission is giving back to our communities,” said Kevin Still, CoAlliance Cooperative, CEO. “The Co-Alliance Scholarship program allows us to reward a wide range of outstanding students in our trade territory. For more than a decade we’ve had the privilege of helping many deserving young people continue their education as well as supporting the future of the ag industry.”

Applicants will be decided on several factors such as academic performance, leadership experience, involvement in agriculture in their local community, volunteerism and extra curriculars, and a short statement regarding their future career in the agricultural field.

Applicants must be the child or grandchild of a member of Co-Alliance Cooperative. More information and the online application can be found on the Co-Alliance Cooperative website at <https://www.co-alliance.com/scholarship>. No paper copies of the electronic application will be accepted. The application deadline is March 1, 2024.

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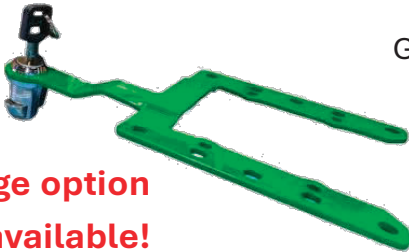
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'98 JD 8300, 2,347 hrs, PS, QH, 1000 PTO, front / rear weights, 18.4R46 duals, new LED lights, always shedded, immaculate! \$144,900



'96 JD 8300, 6,039 hrs, powershift, 3 rem, 18.4-46's, full weights, very sharp! \$97,500



'19 CIH FARMALL 90C, 563 hrs., power shuttle, 3pt, 2 rem, 540/1000 PTO, L630 w/ 84" bucket, deluxe cab \$69,900



'11 CIH Magnum 335, 520/85R46 rears, 480/70R34 fronts, front duals, quick hitch, 4 rem, big 1000 PTO, front fenders, full front wghts, rear weights, leather seats, NO DEF!! 3,983 hrs \$179,900



'13 CIH Magnum 290, 3060 hrs, PS, 3 pt, 5 rem, 480/80R50's, 1000 PTO, auto track ready. \$ 149,500



'09 McCormick MTX135, 1,798 hrs, 4spd PS, 3 rem, 540/1000 PTO, 480/80R42 duals, one owner (we sold new), original paint, Immaculate! \$69,500



'95 CIH 7220, 5,665 hrs., 2WD, QH, 18.4R42 duals, front weights, PS, 4 rem, very clean! \$64,900



'01 CIH MX240, 4,843 hrs, PS, 3 rem, mfwd, 480/80R46 duals, 1000 PTO, very nice, excellent original paint, \$8k in recent updates \$92,500



'88 CIH 7130, 3,826 hrs, 18.4R42's axle duals, 3 rem, powershift, 18 front weights, nice! \$79,900



'17 CIH 250 Magnum, 2,666 hrs, 18.4-46's, axle duals, guidance, 540/1000 PTO, Nice!! \$169,500



19 CIH FARMALL 90C, 563 hrs., power shuttle, 3pt, 2 rem, 540/1000 PTO, L630 w/ 84" bucket, deluxe cab \$69,900



Case 1818 skid steer, gas, new engine, tires and seat, like new! \$14,500



'22 Case 575N, cab, A/C, 4wd, extendahoe, Only 6 hrs! \$93,500



2020 Case SV340, enclosed rops, a/c, heat, 2 spd, 90 hp, track package, only 286 hrs!! \$64,900



'05 Neville, 22' hopper, local trade, No rust! \$21,900



2015 Gehl R190, 68 hp, 70" bucket, good runner \$17,900



'12 Case 580 Super N, 2,254 hrs, 4wd, extendahoe, 82"/30" buckets, sharp! \$69,500



'05 JD CT322, 3209 hrs, 70" bucket, good tracks, HVAC cab, LED lights, AUX hookup. \$31,900



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'13 Int'l 4400, 165K miles, 270 hp, DT-466, 5.29 ratio, Allison RDS auto, NEW 20' KANN grain bed, tarp, Nice!! . . . \$124,900



'18 Int'l LT, ISX 15 Cummins, EF Advantage auto, Nice! \$65,900



'96 CIH 9350, 5,111 hours, Cummins, 520/85R42 tires are 90% matching, 4 rem, original paint, 2 owner, maintenance records available \$84,900



'09 Int'l 8600, C-12, 10 spd, 20' Dakota alum bed, air ride, local trade, like new! \$89,500



'79 INT'L S1724, 39,687 actual miles, IH 392 V-8 gas, 235 hp, 5/2 spd, 16' grain bed \$21,900



'00 Ford F750, only 55K miles!, CAT 3126, Allison auto, ext cab, 10' dump, nice! \$49,500



'14 JD 2032R, 561 hrs, hydro, 32 hp, 540 pto, 1 owner \$17,900



'16 Int'l Prostar, 338K miles, 450 hp, 10 spd, 3.42 ratio, air ride, alum whls \$64,900



'23 Neville 43' heavy equipment trailer, LED lights, aluminum outside wheels, fold down ramps w/ air lift Call!!!



CIH 5400, 15' drill, Case/IH 5000 colter cart, new seed discs, nice drill! \$16,500



JD 750, 7.5" spacing, 15", dolly whl, Progressive markers, nice! \$22,900



J & M 620 grain cart, 24.5-32 tires With new Agri-Cover tarp \$28,900



'85 Ford LNT9000, NTC Cummins, 15 spd, 20' Omaha bed, no rust!, NICE! . . . \$32,900



'20 Freightliner Cascadia 125, 806k miles, 450 hp DD13, DT12 automatic, 2.47 ratio, (10) NEW Firestone 11R22.5's, very clean!, fleet maintenance! \$39,900



'20 Unverferth 3955XL, 8"x21' conveyor, 2410 scale package, work light kit, wireless remote, Honda eng w/ elec start, like new! \$49,900



'10 KINZE 3000, 11/6 row, 15"/30" spacing, split rows, markers, monitor, safety lights \$42,900



JD 7000, 6 row, 30" spacing, markers, monitor, Yetter row cleaners, Copper Head closing wheels. \$11,900



White 6806, 13 row, 15" spacing, planter units, row cleaners, drill fill, markers \$12,900



'99 JD 1750, 30" spacing, vacuum, liquid fert, no till, extra nice! \$26,900

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PLEVNA IMPLEMENT COMPANY Booth 335	QUALITY CRAFT TOOLS Booth 1346
POET Booth 41	RABER PATIO ENCLOSURES & FURNITURE, LLC Booth 189
POLY TECH IND INC. Booth 1101	RADIANT CRAFT Booth 654
POMPS TIRE SERVICE Booth 910	
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REDLINE EQUIPMENT Booth 353	SHIVVERS MFG., INC. Booth 220	STINE SEED COMPANY Booth 79	TRI-STATES GRAIN CONDITIONING, INC Booth 551
REMLINGER MFG 1350	SHOUP MFG. CO. Booth 1001	STOLLER Booth 937	TRULAND EQUIPMENT LLC Booth 301
RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS LLC Booth C329	SHUR-CO Booth 931	STONEX FINANCIAL INC. - FCM DIVISION Booth 1222	ULTRA CLEAR Booth 62
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RENK SEED Booth 1110	SILVEUS INSURANCE GROUP INC. Booth C105	STOR-LOC Booth 1218	USED PRECISION AG Booth 906 VALENT USA LLC Booth 53
RE-ROOFER BY METSTAR Booth 1211	SIMPLOT Booth 581	SUNSTAR HYBRIDS Booth 14	VALENTINE FEED & SUPPLY Booth 1332
RICHMOND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT LLC Booth 30	SISCO - SUPERIOR IMPLEMENT Booth 321	SUPERIOR SLEEP EXPERIENCE Booth C138	VALERO RENEWABLES Booth C220
RMH SELF PROPELLED FEED MIXERS Booth 48	SL PRECISION AG LLC Booth C122	SWISS PERFECTION LLC Booth 1045	VALLEY TRUCK PARTS, INC Booth 1141
ROB-SEE CO. Booth C137	SLOAN EXPRESS Booth C324	SYNGENTA Booth C214	VAN HORN BOLT SERVICE Booth 1311
RUPLEY FARM EQUIPMENT, INC. Booth 571	SMART TURNER PUMPS Booth 954	T.A.S. WELDING & GRAIN SERVICES, LLC Booth C330	VTF SUNRISE, LLC Booth 1247
RYKER TOOLS/SID AND SONS LLC Booth 940	SNIRTSTOPPER Booth 934	THORNE INSURANCE AGENCY Booth C335	VULCAN EQUIPMENT Booth 625
S I DISTRIBUTING, INC. Booth 760	SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, LLC Booth 28	TIMM SERVICES INC Booth C143	WAGLER & ASSOCIATES Booth 1322
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SCHRADER REAL ESTATE & AUCTION CO., INC Booth 115	SPECIALTY HYBRIDS Booth 43	T-L IRRIGATION CO. Booth 1326	WAKARUSA NUTRITIONAL SERVICES LLC / WAKARUSA AG LLC Booth 375
SCI LEASING GROUP Booth 81	SPNC CORP Booth 1006	TODD SCHAFFER EQUIPMENT LLC Booth 563	WALINGA USA INC. Booth 665
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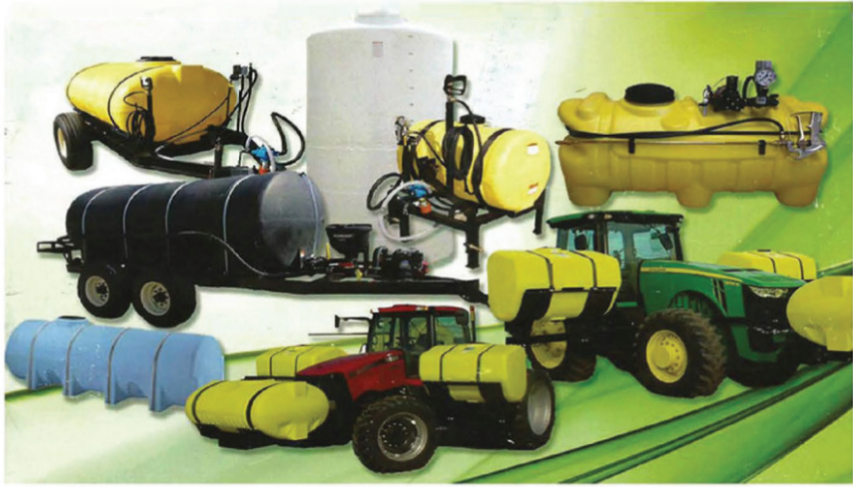


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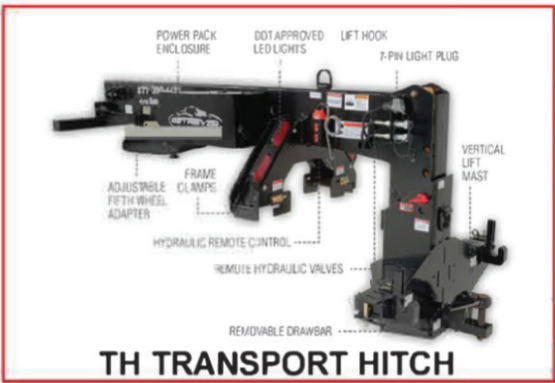
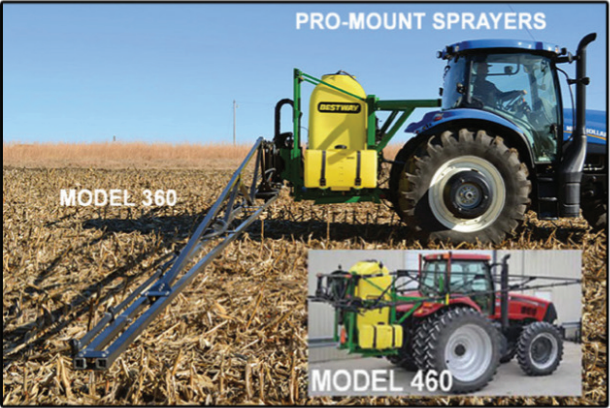
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