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Pork exports are up 14%; beef exports are down

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

DENVER, Colo. – According to data released by the USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation, February U.S. pork exports increased 14 percent from a year ago to 250,930 metric tons, while value jumped 15 percent to \$685.1 million.

U.S. beef exports, however, dipped one percent from last February, while beef export value increased by 10 percent; but through the first two months of 2024, exports increased 10 percent in both volume (502,354 metric tons), and value (\$1.37 billion).

“Coming off a record value year, it’s great to see broad-based momentum for pork exports continue globally into 2024,” said Dan Halstrom, U.S. Meat Export Federation president and CEO. “While Mexico is certainly at the forefront, we are seeing excellent growth in markets like Colombia, Chile, El Salvador and the Caribbean, and demand has rebounded impressively in Korea and Australia.”

Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm World, “Doing business with your neighbor has always been important, and Mexico is our neighbor.”

“Given the increase in meat protein moving to Mexico, it would appear their economic situation is improving, which will be of great benefit to our agricultural sector,” he added. “It will be important for Mexico demand to remain strong if the U.S. is going to export much beef and pork relative to 2023.”

Halstrom said, “Tight beef supplies are definitely a challenge for exporters, and that situation isn’t going to change anytime soon,” he added. “But on a positive note, we are seeing more opportunities for underutilized beef cuts, including the round, shoulder clod and variety meat, in the global marketplace.”

He added, “Demand is strong throughout the Western Hemisphere and the foodservice and hospitality sectors are finally gaining some momentum in key Asian markets such as Korea, where the post-COVID-19 recovery has been slower than anticipated.”

Griffith said the primary reason beef exports were down one percent in Feb-

ruary was simply the quantity of beef supplied to the market that was then coupled with higher beef prices.

“As we produce less beef and the price increases, we will not export as much,” he said. “However, the increase in export value demonstrates demand for U.S. beef is still strong. Thus, it tells me the decline in beef exports has more to do with availability than the price increase.”

Betty Resnick, American Farm Bureau Federation economist, agreed with Halstrom, telling Farm World tight domestic supplies are impacting U.S. beef exports.

“The U.S. cattle herd is the smallest it has been in 73 years, and beef in cold storage has fallen nearly 12 percent, year-over-year,” she said. “Beef is a premium product, and volume demanded by the global market falls as the price of U.S. beef increases.”

“However, due to the price increase and the unmatched quality of U.S. beef keeping export volumes steady, we are still seeing increases in the value of beef exported,” she added. “Total beef supplies are expected to continue to shrink as high interest rates and aging ranchers make it difficult to build the herd back up, so it’s unlikely export volume will pick up significantly anytime soon.”

She said, however, “U.S. pork is plentiful and is currently price-competitive for the global market, which is being reflected by the increases in pork exports.”

“Pork supplies are up in large part due to increases in production efficiency, with seven straight record-high quarters of pigs per litter,” she said. “The 21-percent, year-over-year increase in exports to Mexico, the largest export destination for U.S. pork, is also reflective of the strong Mexican peso, which increases Mexico’s buying power for all U.S. products.”

The report also said while February beef export volume to Korea was lower than a year ago, down 7 percent to 18,074 metric tons, export value climbed 12 percent to \$172.3 million. February beef exports to the Caribbean were the largest on record at 2,955 metric tons, up 25 percent from a year ago, while value was fourth highest at \$24.5 million, up 24 percent.

After a slow January, beef exports to Taiwan improved significantly in February, climbing 15 percent from a year

(See Pork Export on page 2)



Above: The blooming of spring flowers in the woods is a sure sign of spring in the Midwest. Photo by Leonadia Walchle.

Becks field study says end of April great time to plant beans

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ind. — As the 2024 planting season gets off to a relatively slow and wet start, agronomists with Beck’s Seed Company have identified optimal early soybean planting dates based on the results of 20 years of field study. The data is highlighted by the finding that early-planted soybeans can experience a flowering window of 11 to 15 days longer than mid and late-planted soybeans. In Indiana, the ideal planting window for soybeans is April 16 through April 30, Beck’s announced.

“The earlier we can plant soybeans, the better off I think we are,” said Travis Coleman, an agronomist for Beck’s based in southern Indiana. “Number one, soybeans are super-inefficient at converting sunlight into energy, which ultimately turns into yield. So the longer growing period we can have, the better we are at converting sunlight into energy. If you can get your soybeans planted in April, that gives you the three longest months of sunlight during the growing season.”

Planting into proper soil conditions is equally as important as selecting the optimal planting dates for soybeans to take advantage of the long growing season, Coleman added. “You want to make sure conditions are right. Last year we had optimal conditions in early April that allowed us to plant beans pretty timely and pretty quickly. I would like to see soybeans planted in the month of April, but if ground conditions mean waiting until the first week of May I don’t see a whole lot of yield being lost, as our 2023 study shows,” he said.

Supporting Coleman’s observation, Beck’s 2023 Indiana Soybean Planting Date Study showed that soybeans planted on May 6 of last year achieved the highest yield totals out of four total planting dates, with 74.7 bushels per acre harvested. In comparison, soybeans planted April 4 achieved a yield of 60.3 bpa, and April 19-planted soybeans produced 64.5 bpa. Soybeans planted May 19 yielded 68.7 bpa, while those planted on June 1 recorded a yield average of 63.6 bpa.

Overall, however, Beck’s two decades-long study revealed that soybeans planted April 16-30 achieved the greatest success, with 105.3 percent mean growth, or 5.3 percent above the historical yield goal. Those planted May 1-15 recorded the second-highest mean growth rate with 104.5 percent, while soybeans planted April 1-15 achieved 103.6 percent of the yield goal.

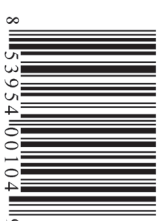
The least successful beans were planted March 16-31 (97.9 percent) and June 16-30 (75.7 percent).

“Really, that second full week of April is when I shoot for to get going with planting,” Coleman said.

As of April 15, zero percent of Indiana’s soybeans had been planted, compared to the five-year average of one percent, according to USDA’s Crop Progress and Condition report for the state.

“There are pockets of farmers who have gotten a little bit of planting in, but most are just wrapping up fieldwork and tillage,” Coleman said on April 12. “It doesn’t look like we’re going to get much done over the next 7 to 10 days, based on the forecast. That kind of puts us into the fourth

(See Becks on page 2)



Painted Mail Pouch barns going, going, but not gone . . .
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- Tomahawk throwing added to Ladies’ Sports Page 8
- US, Canada remain in widespread drought Page 14
- Honeybee Swarming and Tadpole Moon Page 4B

RV camping can bring in extra revenue for some farmers

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

FAYETTEVILLE, Ohio — From ranches to wineries, from breweries to alpaca farms — thousands of RV campers across the nation have turned to a unique membership program that gives them access to some unique camping spots.

Farmers are always looking for additional revenue streams and thousands have turned to hosting RVs on their farm as a form of agritourism. And with 11 million RV owners out there, farmers stand to make plenty of additional income.

The program is called Harvest Hosts, and it helps RV campers by providing them a safe, tranquil setting in which camp for the night.

"We do not allow tent camping of any kind in the memberships, including rooftop tents," said Joel Holland, co-owner of Harvest Hosts. "Our hosts have signed on to our program with the expectation they'll only receive stay requests from travelers in fully self-contained RVs."

Only farmers who have some type of product to sell on their farm will financially benefit from this program. The campers often purchase goods from the landowners in exchange for a free place to stay and park their RV. Most host farms have U-Pick operations, vineyards with wine tasting, farm-to-table retreats, small farm stores or other offerings to campers that benefit the hosts financially. Through Harvest Hosts, there are roughly 5,800 registered host farms participating and some have reported earning up to \$30,000 from the program according to Holland.

The RV owners can choose from three yearly plans. The basic, or Harvest Host Classic plan, is \$84.15 per year and includes access to 5,179 farms, wineries, breweries and dis-

tilleries, and local attractions.

The Harvest Host Classic plus Boondockers plan is \$143.65 per year and includes access to not only 5,179 farms but includes unlimited stays with an additional 3,106 hosts who offer up to five nights stay and convenient electric hookups.

The Harvest Hosts All Access plan is \$152.15, and is just like the Harvest Host Classic plus Boondockers plan. However, this plan also allows access to 416 golf courses, country clubs and golf resorts.

Inspired by a similar RV/farm concept from France, Harvest Hosts was founded in 2010 by Don and Kim Greene. Mary Ashley and Joel Holland, purchased the business from the Greens in 2018. They are avid RVers based out of Vail, Colo.

"They built an amazing company and community, and we are determined to continue the tradition of connecting our wonderful members with wonderful hosts," Joel said. "Our hosts are very generous to allow members to park on their properties. In exchange, RV guests support these hosts by purchasing some wine, shopping in their gift shop or buying some of their produce. This way everybody wins."

"We feel that RVing provides a sense of ultimate freedom, which most people seek and not enough find. As cheesy as it sounds, we think we can help a lot of people live happier lives if we can get them off of the couch and onto the open road. After hundreds of nights spent RVing through all 48 lower states, our biggest gripe was the lack of unique RV overnight experiences. Then we joined Harvest Hosts and it changed our RV lives."

One such RV hotspot is Tanglewood Farm in Fayetteville, Ohio. Christians Rudolf, 84, owns the al-

(RV Camping continued on page 9)

Pork Export

FROM PAGE 1

ago (and 58 percent from January) to 5,091 metric tons.

"The U.S. is Taiwan's dominant supplier of chilled beef, and the U.S. Meat Export Federation continues to familiarize importers, distributors and consumers with alternative cuts that offer a high-quality dining experience at affordable prices," the report said.

With global pork supplies expected to contract slightly in 2024, Resnick said the USDA is projecting U.S. pork export volumes to increase 7.6 percent over 2023.

"The USDA also significantly increased its forecast for 2024 pork exports in April, as compared to January, another reflection of strong exports through the beginning of this year," she said.

To view the full report, visit: www.usmef.org

Becks

FROM PAGE 1

week of April or week one of May. We can hope to sneak some beans into the ground during that last week of April, if conditions are right. We still have time to achieve those yield goals in either late April or early May."

If that fails, decent soybean yields are still achievable as late as after Memorial Day, the agronomist said. "Going back to 2019 we were awfully wet, and in April and May not a lot got planted in my area until after Memorial Day, and we still had some pretty good yields here. So I am not afraid to plant corn or soybeans late; I think it just takes a little more management later in the season. You have to be ready to manage more disease and more insect pressure, along with the chance for more drought, later in the year."



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Contacts

TONY GREGORY, *Publisher*, ext. 321
E-mail: tgregory@midcountrymedia.com

MELISSA PEGGS, *Advertising Director*, ext. 222
Cent./South. Indiana, Kentucky/W. Central Ohio
E-mail: mpeggs@farmworldonline.com

CONNIE SWAIM, *Managing Editor*, ext. 131
E-mail: connie@farmworldonline.com

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

DEBBIE PEIFFER, 269-358-4221
Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northwest Ohio
E-mail: dpeiffer@farmworldonline.com

BILLIE SEKELY, C 330-519-7055
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KELLY TRUE, *Classified Advertising*, ext. 123
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MICHELE WHITE, *Auction Advertising*, ext. 122
E-mail: mwhite@farmworldonline.com

TONI HODSON, *Consultant*, ext. 280
E-mail: thodson@farmworldonline.com

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P.O. Box 90 — 27 N. Jefferson St.

Knightstown, IN 46148-0090

TOLL-FREE NUMBER 1-800-876-5133

INSIDE AREA 765-345-5133

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2015 FRT M2 CEW CAB CUM ISB 280HP ALLISON 2500RDS AUTOMATIC TRANS AIR RIDE SUSP P/S A/C 250WB 24' FLATBED LIFT-GATE 11X22.5 118,976 MILES \$ 69,500



(2) 2015 INTERNATIONAL PROSTAR CUM ISX15 400HP ENG BRAKE 10SPD AIR RIDE SUSP P/S A/C POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS HEATED/POWER MIRRORS 175WB 8 NEW CAPS REAR 11X22.5 ALUM FRT 408,922 & 429,835 MILES. \$ 34,500 EA



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2018 FREIGHTLINER M2 106 CUM L9 350HP ALLISON 3000HS TRANS AIR RIDE SUSP P/S A/C 5:29 RATIO 186WB 11X22.5 ALUM BUDDS FRONT STEEL REAR 325,222 MILES \$ 59,500



2018 FREIGHTLINER 122SD DETROIT DD15 505HP EATON-FULLER FO-18E313A 13SPD ULTRASFIT TRANS 46,000 AIR RIDE SUSP 14,700 FRONT AXLE P/S A/C ENGINE BRAKE POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS DAUL STACKS 4:10 RATIO 195WB 11X24.5 VIRGIN RUBBER 420,012 MILES \$ 79,500

Bayer lobbying lawmakers to provide legal shield against Roundup lawsuits

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Stung by paying billions of dollars for settlements and trials, chemical giant Bayer has been lobbying lawmakers in three states to pass bills providing it a legal shield from lawsuits that claim its popular weedkiller Roundup causes cancer.

Nearly identical bills introduced in Iowa, Missouri and Idaho this year - with wording supplied by Bayer - would protect pesticide companies from claims they failed to warn that their product causes cancer, if their labels otherwise complied with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations.

But legal experts warn the legislation could have broader consequences - extending to any product liability claim or, in Iowa's case, providing immunity from lawsuits of any kind. Critics say it could spread nationwide.

"It's just not good government to give a company immunity for things that they're not telling their consumers," said Matt Clement, a Jefferson City, Mo., attorney who represents people suing Bayer. "If they're successful in getting this passed in Missouri, I think they'll be trying to do this all over the country."

Bayer described the legislation as one strategy to address the "headwinds" it faces. About 167,000 legal claims against Bayer assert Roundup causes a cancer called non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which Bayer disputes. The company has won some cases, settled many others but also has suffered several losses in which juries awarded huge initial judgments. It has paid about \$10 billion while thousands of claims linger in court.

Though some studies associate Roundup's key ingredient with cancer, the EPA has regularly concluded it is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans when used as directed.

The costs of "defending a safe, approved product" are unsustainable, said Jess Christiansen, head of communications for Bayer's crop science division.

The legislation was introduced in targeted states pivotal to Bayer's Roundup operations and is at a different stage in each. It passed the Iowa Senate, is awaiting debate in the Missouri House and was defeated in Idaho, where this year's legislative session ended.

Farmers overwhelmingly rely on Roundup, which was introduced 50

years ago as a more efficient way to control weeds and reduce tilling and soil erosion. For crops like corn, soybeans and cotton, it's designed to work with genetically modified seeds that resist Roundup's deadly effect.

Missouri state Rep. Dane Diehl (R-125th district), a farmer who worked with Bayer to sponsor the legislation, cited concerns that costly lawsuits could force Bayer to pull Roundup from the U.S. market, leaving farmers to depend on alternative chemicals from China.

"This product, ultimately, is a tool that we need," he said.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, said in an email the legislation maintains the integrity of the regulatory process and, without it, "Iowa risks losing hundreds of jobs" in Muscatine, an eastern Iowa city where Roundup is mostly produced.

The Associated Press is seeking public records on Bayer's communications with governor's offices in Iowa, Missouri and Idaho.

Roundup's key ingredient, glyphosate, is derived from phosphate mined in Idaho. And St. Louis is the headquarters of its North America crop science division, acquired in its 2018 purchase of Monsanto. Because of that, many of the lawsuits are filed in Missouri.

At issue in the lawsuits and legislation is how Bayer - and any other pesticide company - communicates with consumers about the safety of its products.

Companies are required to register products with the EPA, which evaluates - and then reevaluates every 15 years - a pesticide and its label. The EPA reiterated in 2020 that glyphosate used as directed posed no health risks to humans. But a federal appeals court panel in 2022 ruled that decision "was not supported by substantial evidence" and ordered the EPA to review further.

The debate over glyphosate escalated when a 2015 report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organization, said it's "probably carcinogenic to humans" based on "limited" evidence of cancer in people and "sufficient" evidence in study animals.

Based on that international report, California sought to add a cancer warning label to products containing glyphosate. But a federal appeals court ruled against California last November, concluding such a warning wasn't factual.

Christiansen emphasized that many regulatory agencies worldwide agree with the EPA and insisted Bayer has to stick to EPA labeling to en-

sure it isn't providing false or misleading information. She added that the company is transparent in the information it does provide.

Critics of the legislation aren't convinced, citing examples such as opioids and asbestos that had been deemed safe for use as directed - until they weren't.

There also are concerns that the legislation could stifle any product liability claim since most rely on the argument that a company failed to warn, said Andrew Mertens, executive director of the Iowa Association for Justice, an organization for trial lawyers.

Jonathan Cardi, a product liability and torts expert at Wake Forest University School of Law, also said a strict reading of the Iowa legislation extends beyond liability claims, and "the way it's drafted makes it interpretable to mean nobody could bring any suit."

In lobbying lawmakers and in speaking with the AP, Bayer representatives disputed that the legislation would cut off other legal actions. Several legal experts said the legislation is unlikely to affect the 18,000 lawsuits already pending in Missouri's capital of Jefferson City, and wouldn't prevent claims in states that don't adopt similar legislation.



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- Allis Chalmers 2600 Disk 18' Center-Fold 8" Blade Spacing 22.5" Blade Diameter 4 New tires on main frame. \$6,000
- JD 435 (4'x6') round bale, twine tie hyd bale kicker \$6,500



Essays From God's Country, the newest book by Lee Pitts, features some of the columnist's most inspirational writing. Order online at www.leepittsbooks.com or send \$12.95 plus \$3 postage per book to: Lee Pitts, 2878 Rodman Dr., Los Osos, CA 93402.

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MARKETS

Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, April 19, 2024

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week traditional slaughter lambs 1.00 higher, others 10.00-50.00 lower. Slaughter ewes uneven, mostly steady to 5.00 higher. Feeder lambs not well tested. At San Angelo, TX 10,964 head sold in a two day sale. Equity Cooperative Auction sold 350 replacement ewes in New Mexico. In direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs not tested. 5,136 lamb carcasses traded with no trend due to confidentiality.

All sheep sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless specified.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 2-3
 San Angelo: Woolled and shorn 130-150 lbs 188.00-190.00.
 New Holland, PA: Woolled and shorn 120-150 lbs 200.00-295.00.
 Ft. Collins, CO: Woolled and shorn 120-165 lbs 207.50-260.00.
 South Dakota: Woolled and shorn 120-150 lbs 222.50-238.00; 155-165 lbs 205.00-211.00.
 Kalona, IA: Woolled and shorn 130-160 lbs 255.00-260.00.
 Billings, MT: Woolled and shorn 120-135 lbs no test.
 Missouri: Woolled and shorn 125-160 lbs no test.
 Arkansas: Woolled and shorn 135-175 lbs no test.
 Equity Coop: No sales.
Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-2:
 San Angelo: Hair 40-60 lbs 260.00-299.00, few 300.00-302.00; 60-70 lbs 260.00-294.00; 70-80 lbs 250.00-282.00, few 288.00-290.00; 80-90 lbs 240.00-268.00, few 282.50; 90-100 lbs 230.00-268.00; 100-110 lbs 230.00-259.00. Woolled and shorn 58 lbs 305.00; 62 lbs 328.00; 72 lbs 278.00; 84 lbs 288.00; 90 lbs 262.00.
 New Holland: Woolled and shorn 40-50 lbs 250.00-290.00, few 315.00-335.00; 50-60 lbs 295.00-325.00, few 360.00-365.00; 60-70 lbs 310.00-337.00, few 350.00-360.00; 70-80 lbs 320.00-335.00; 80-90 lbs 325.00-350.00; 90-100 lbs 320.00-345.00, few 355.00-365.00; 100-110 lbs 330.00-355.00. Hair 40-50 lbs 270.00-295.00; 50-60 lbs 290.00-315.00, few 330.00; 60-70 lbs 300.00-330.00; 70-80 lbs 305.00-330.00; 80-90 lbs 310.00-340.00; 90-100 lbs 320.00-330.00; 100-115 lbs 275.00-285.00.
 Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 60-70 lbs 292.50-307.50; 70-80 lbs 290.00-300.00; 80-90 lbs 295.00-312.50; 90-100 lbs 290.00-295.00; 100-110 lbs 240.00-297.50. Hair 57 lbs 275.00; 60-70 lbs 270.00; 84 lbs 297.00.
 Kalona: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 250.00-275.00, few 305.00-310.00; 60-70 lbs 255.00-270.00, few 280.00; 70-80 lbs 262.50-272.50; 80-90 lbs 260.00-275.00; 90-100 lbs 265.00-285.00; 100-110 lbs 260.00-275.00. Hair 50-60 lbs 255.00-260.00; 60-70 lbs 250.00-270.00; 70-80 lbs 250.00-270.00; 80-90 lbs 260.00-270.00; 90-100 lbs 262.50-264.00.
 South Dakota: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 280.00-305.00; 60-70 lbs 265.00-285.00; 70-80 lbs 255.00-270.00; 80-90 lbs 250.00-275.00; 90-100 lbs 245.00-280.00; 60-70 lbs 235.00-247.50; 83 lbs 275.00.
 Billings: No test.
 Missouri: Hair 50-60 lbs 225.00-247.50; 60-70 lbs 222.50-245.00; 70-80 lbs 225.00-235.00; 88 lbs 205.00; 90-100 lbs 175.00-205.00.

Arkansas: Hair 50-60 lbs 220.00-247.50; 60-70 lbs 240.00-242.50, few 280.00; 70-80 lbs 240.00-250.00; 87 lbs 237.50.
Slaughter Ewes:
 San Angelo: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 90.00-108.00, hair 86.00-110.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 108.00-120.00, hair 108.00-138.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) hair 90.00-112.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) hair 80.00-96.00; Cull 1 no test.
 New Holland: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 95.00-125.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 80.00-105.00, few 125.00-140.00; Cull 1 no test.
 Ft. Collins: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 90.00-117.50; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 74.00-117.50; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.
 South Dakota: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 85.00-105.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 75.00-105.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 65.00-85.00; Cull 1 45.00-60.00.
 Kalona: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 85.00-115.00, hair 80.00-97.50; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 89.00-92.50, hair 87.50-102.50; Utility 1-2 (thin) 70.00-85.00, hair 75.00.
 Billings: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.
 Missouri: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 90.00-92.50, hair 90.00-115.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 75.00, hair 72.50-85.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) 50.00-55.00, hair 62.50.
 Arkansas: Good 2-3 (fleshy) 92.50-100.00, hair 90.00-115.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) hair 77.50.
Direct Trading: no sales.
Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1-2:
 San Angelo: Hair 30-40 lbs 294.00-310.00; 40-50 lbs 296.00-302.00; 50-60 lbs 280.00-298.00.
 Ft. Collins: 37 lbs 290.00; 40-50 lbs 297.50-322.50; 50-60 lbs 280.00-287.50.
 South Dakota: 21 lbs 300.00; 40-50 lbs 300.00-315.00, hair 33 lbs 270.00.
 Kalona: 30-40 lbs 280.00-315.00; 40-50 lbs 280.00-325.00, hair 35 lbs 235.00.
 Billings: No test.
 Missouri: Hair 20-30 lbs 205.00-245.00; 30-40 lbs 205.00-250.00; 40-50 lbs 212.50-250.00; 50 lbs 205.00.
 Arkansas: Hair 22 lbs 305.00; 30-40 lbs 237.50-260.00; 40-50 lbs 237.50-240.00.
Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2:
 San Angelo: Hair ewe lambs 72 lbs 280.00/cwt; yearling hair 75-130 lbs 154.00-182.00/cwt; young hair 80-165 lbs 112.00-168.00/cwt.
 Ft. Collins: No test.
 South Dakota: No test.
 Billings: No test.
 Kalona: No test.
 Missouri: Young hair 75-110 lbs 147.50-170.00/cwt; ewes with lambs 175.00/family; hair ewes with lambs 162.50-200.00/family.
 Arkansas: Hair lambs 75-85 lbs 145.00/head; yearling hair 90.00-110.00/head.
Equity Coop:
 NM: 350: Open solid mouth hair ewes 205.00/head.
 Sheep and lambs slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 36,000 compared with 36,000 last week and 39,000 last year.
Source: USDA AMS LPG Market News, San Angelo, Texas
 Rebecca Sauder, 325-450-4265
 www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 4/15/2024 - Final AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 4/8/2024	Last Year
Total Receipts:	788	1,365	1,370
Feeder Cattle:	1584(74.1%)	1,141(83.6%)	1,114(81.3%)
Slaughter Cattle:	179(22.7%)	220(16.1%)	240(17.5%)
Replacement Cattle:	25(3.2%)	4(0.3%)	16(1.2%)

Special Note: Baby Calf 490.00 per head.
 Compared to last Monday feeder steers and heifers under 600 lbs sold steady to 5.00 lower with good demand for weaned packages: fleshy short-weaned and bawling calves facing discounts. Yearlings lightly tested. Slaughter cows sold steady with good demand. Slaughter bulls sold 3.00 higher with very good demand. Supply included: 74% Feeder Cattle (34% Steers, 38% Heifers, 27% Bulls, 0% Dairy Heifers); 23% Slaughter Cattle (3% Steers, 1% Heifers, 85% Cows, 10% Bulls, 1% Dairy Heifers); 3% Replacement Cattle (42% Stock Cows, 33% Bred Cows, 25% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 36%.

Groups of 20 head or more:
 Steers
 32 hd 559 lbs 322.00 Blk Value-Added
 40 hd 655 lbs 248.00 Mixed

FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
7	422-440	428	302.50-315.00	307.71 Value Added
2	480	480	295.00	295.00
6	455-460	458	307.00-319.00	313.64 Value Added
1	545	545	278.00	278.00
20	502-541	521	290.00-323.00	307.27 Value Added
1	555	555	270.00	270.00
40	559-573	562	284.00-322.00	317.33 Value Added
3	600-602	601	266.00-270.00	268.67
30	600-635	611	273.00-287.00	280.68 Value Added
41	655-665	655	248.00-250.00	248.05
9	650-667	661	290.00	290.00 Value Added
2	710-715	713	236.00-239.00	237.51
4	702-710	706	256.00-260.00	257.99 Value Added
3	886	886	235.00	235.00 Value Added
1	950	950	202.50	202.50
1	1020	1020	190.00	190.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	205	205	267.00	267.00
1	385	385	291.00	291.00
2	465-490	478	250.00-270.00	259.74
2	642	642	231.00	231.00
1	765	765	230.00	230.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	310	310	292.50	292.50
1	550	550	262.50	262.50
1	780	780	226.00	226.00
1	885	885	188.00	188.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	275	275	289.00	289.00
2	310-335	323	285.00-297.50	291.01
2	330	330	299.00	299.00 Value Added
14	352-395	372	270.00-285.00	278.48
1	400	400	242.50	242.50
20	400-430	416	256.00-280.00	268.79 Value Added
12	465-494	484	241.00-256.00	249.15
23	450-495	461	256.00-279.00	262.97 Value Added
20	500-548	524	243.00-249.00	245.93
12	525-542	533	250.00-257.00	252.34 Value Added
7	572-590	582	242.00-249.00	244.97
11	550-562	561	252.00-256.00	255.64 Value Added
6	605-630	623	231.00-235.00	233.01
4	645	645	255.00	255.00 Value Added
4	650-665	655	225.00-230.00	226.76
10	683-688	686	245.00-246.00	245.40 Value Added
6	800	800	202.00-215.00	208.50 Guaranteed

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
Open	2	915	915	185.00
Open	1	1015	1015	154.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	200-237	221	250.00-260.00	255.96
1	280	280	243.00	243.00
1	395	395	261.00	261.00
4	455-490	477	220.00-240.00	234.36
4	520-545	527	236.00-241.00	238.22
2	570-590	580	220.00-237.00	228.35
5	600-645	622	200.00-224.00	211.43
3	658	658	220.00	220.00
3	820-845	832	153.00-170.00	163.03

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	395	395	260.00	260.00
4	475-487	481	240.00-242.00	241.01
4	505	505	234.00	234.00
2	585	585	230.00-236.00	233.00
3	617-640	625	223.00	223.00
2	710	710	213.00	213.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	255	255	212.50	212.50
1	535	535	214.00	214.00

DAIRY HEIFERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	640	640	180.00	180.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	230	230	287.50	287.50
1	265	265	310.00	310.00 Value Added
2	332	332	280.00	280.00

8	352-387	374	280.00-305.00	287.58
6	400-440	420	280.00-292.50	285.13
11	400-427	413	295.00-315.00	302.59 Value Added
7	450-480	471	280.00-290.00	283.30
5	455-492	470	295.00-299.00	296.68 Value Added
6	500-545	523	255.00-271.00	268.11
17	500-545	514	273.00-290.00	281.35 Value Added
2	550-570	560	259.00-266.00	262.44
13	550-586	571	272.00-281.00	275.54 Value Added
5	600-625	607	240.00-249.00	244.02
4	600-645	620	250.00-260.00	255.61 Value Added
11	650-686	673	230.00-241.00	233.61
2	650-665	658	251.00-254.00	252.52 Value Added
2	725-730	728	206.00-226.00	216.03
4	755-770	766	213.00-220.00	214.72
1	835	835	194.00	194.00
1	805	805	209.00	209.00 Fancy
3	870	870	184.00-186.00	184.67
3	920-935	927	181.00-192.00	186.03

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	252-255	253	260.00-282.50	274.94
2	305-330	318	245.00-250.00	247.60
7	360-395	379	247.50-270.00	258.75
2	470	470	250.00-274.00	262.00
2	522	522	254.00	254.00
1	575	575	245.00	245.00
4	605-633	626	221.00-228.00	226.31
2	670	670	221.00	221.00
1	880	880	174.00	174.00

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

Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection

Friday, April 19, 2024

Fri., Apr. 19, 2024	Week Ago	Year Ago	Prev Week		Last Year		2024		2023		YTD
			WTD	WTD	WTD	WTD	YTD	YTD			
% Change											
Calves 1,000	1,000	1,036	5,000	5,000	5,188	73,119	96,741	-24.4%			
Cattle 113,000	109,000	108,586	600,000	591,000	613,584	9,523,288	10,017,325	-4.9%			
Hogs 480,000	484,000	463,781	2,420,000	2,396,000	2,367,932	39,973,537	39,682,899	0.7%			
Sheep 4,000	4,000	3,903	36,000	36,000	38,924	589,024	585,555	0.6%			

Sat., Apr. 20, 2024	Week Ago	Year Ago	Prev Week		Last Year		2024		2023		YTD
			WTD	WTD	WTD	WTD	YTD	YTD			
Calves 0	0	122	5,000	5,000	5,310	73,119	96,863	-24.5%			
Cattle 20,000	12,000	11,786	620,000	603,000	625,370	9,543,288	10,029,111	-4.8%			
Hogs 67,000	89,000	84,680	2,487,000	2,485,000	2,452,612	40,404,537	39,767,579	0.7%			
Sheep 0	0	51	36,000	36,000	38,975	589,024	585,606	0.6%			

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Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Friday, April 12, 2024 - Final

Exchange	Commodity	FUTURE SETTLEMENTS						
		Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 4/5/2024						
CBOT	Corn	433.50 (May 24)	443.00 (Jul 24)	451.25 (Sep 24)	466.25 (Dec 24)	479.00 (Mar 25)	486.75 (May 25)	491.25 (Jul 25)
CBOT	Soybeans	1150.50 (May 24)	1165.75 (Jul 24)	1166.75 (Aug 24)	1155.75 (Sep 24)	1161.00 (Nov 24)	1173.25 (Jan 25)	1172.50 (Mar 25)
CBOT	Wheat	550.25 (May 24)	566.75 (Jul 24)	584.00 (Sep 24)	608.75 (Dec 24)	629.50 (Mar 25)	641.25 (May 25)	643.25 (Jul 25)
CBOT	White Oats	358.75 (May 24)	349.00 (Jul 24)	350.25 (Sep 24)	351.00 (Dec 24)	357.75 (Mar 25)	363.75 (May 25)	368.50 (Jul 25)
KCBT	Wheat	581.50 (May 24)	583.00 (Jul 24)	594.00 (Sep 24)	612.25 (Dec 24)	628.00 (Mar 25)	635.25 (May 25)	630.50 (Jul 25)
MGE	Wheat	647.00 (May 24)	652.50 (Jul 24)	662.00 (Sep 24)	678.00 (Dec 24)	692.50 (Mar 25)	701.25 (May 25)	703.75 (Jul 25)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyriple	20.00K	UNCH	4.5350	UP 0.0675	4.5350

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	125.00K to 130.00K	UNCH-UP 5.00	5.5850-5.6350	UP 0.0675-UP 0.1175	5.6100
Ohio River - Lower KY	130.00K	UP 5.00	5.6350	UP 0.1175	5.6350
Ohio River - Lower KY	40.00Z	UNCH	5.0625	UP 0.0625	5.0625
Purchase	95.00K	UNCH	5.2850	UP 0.0675	5.2850
Purchase	40.00Z	UNCH	5.0625	UP 0.0625	5.0625

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	0.00K	UNCH	4.3350	UP 0.0675	4.3350
	Purchase	-5.00N	UNCH	4.3800	UP 0.0675	4.3800
	Purchase	-25.00U	UNCH	4.2625	UP 0.0625	4.2625
	Green River	5.00K	UNCH	4.3850	UP 0.0675	4.3850
	Green River	0.00N	UNCH	4.4300	UP 0.0675	4.4300
	Green River	-20.00Z	UNCH	4.4625	UP 0.0625	4.4625
	Pennyriple	-20.00K to 0.00K	UNCH	4.1350-4.3350	UP 0.0675	4.2350
	Pennyriple	-25.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	4.1800-4.3300	UP 0.0675	4.2550
	Pennyriple	-40.00Z to -20.00Z	UNCH	4.2625-4.4625	UP 0.0625	4.3625
	Louisville	-9.00K	UNCH	4.2450	UP 0.0675	4.2450
	Louisville	-5.00N	UNCH	4.3800	UP 0.0675	4.3800
	Louisville	-44.00Z to -38.00Z	UNCH	4.2225-4.2825	UP 0.0625	4.2525
	Bluegrass	-25.00K	UNCH	4.0850	UP 0.0675	4.0850
	Bluegrass	-15.00N	UNCH	4.2800	UP 0.0675	4.2800
	Bluegrass	-65.00Z	UNCH	4.0125	UP 0.0625	4.0125

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	2.00K to 4.00K	UP 2.00-UP 1.00	4.3550-4.3750	UP 0.0875-UP 0.0775	4.3650
Ohio River - Upper KY	-5.00N to -2.00N	UP 1.00-UP 2.00	4.3800-4.4100	UP 0.0775-UP 0.0875	4.3950
Ohio River - Upper KY	-40.00Z	UNCH	4.2625	UP 0.0625	4.2625
Ohio River - Lower KY	10.00K to 12.00K	UP 2.00	4.4350-4.4550	UP 0.0875	4.4425
Ohio River - Lower KY	0.00N to 5.00N	UNCH	4.4300-4.4800	UP 0.0675	4.4625
Ohio River - Lower KY	-40.00Z to -25.00Z	UNCH	4.2625-4.4125	UP 0.0625	4.3458
Purchase	3.00K to 12.00K	UP 1.00-UNCH	4.3650-4.4550	UP 0.0775-UP 0.0675	4.4017
Purchase	-2.00N to 0.00N	UP 2.00-UNCH	4.4100-4.4300	UP 0.0875-UP 0.0675	4.4200
Purchase	-25.00U to -30.00Z	DN 3.00-UNCH	4.2625-4.3625	UP 0.0325-UP 0.0625	4.3250

US #2 SORGHUM (BULK)

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-23.00Z	UNCH	4.4325	UP 0.0625	4.4325

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	0.00K	UNCH	11.5050	UP 0.1625	11.5050
	Purchase	0.00K	UNCH	11.5050	UP 0.1625	11.5050
	Purchase	-25.00X	UNCH	11.3600	UP 0.1175	11.3600
	Green River	-25.00K	UNCH	11.2550	UP 0.1625	11.2550
	Green River	-25.00K	UNCH	11.2550	UP 0.1625	11.2550
	Green River	-50.00X	UNCH	11.1100	UP 0.1175	11.1100
	Pennyriple	-45.00K to -40.00K	UNCH	11.0550-11.1050	UP 0.1625	11.0800
	Pennyriple	-45.00K to -40.00K	UNCH	11.0550-11.1050	UP 0.1625	11.0800
	Pennyriple	-55.00X to -50.00X	UNCH	11.0600-11.1100	UP 0.1175	11.0850
	Louisville	-59.00K	UNCH	10.9150	UP 0.1625	10.9150
	Louisville	-91.00X	UNCH	10.7000	UP 0.1175	10.7000
	Bluegrass	-65.00K	UNCH	10.8550	UP 0.1625	10.8550
	Bluegrass	-85.00X	UNCH	10.7600	UP 0.1175	10.7600

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-7.00K to -3.00K	DN 1.00-UP 2.00	11.4350-11.4750	UP 0.1525-UP 0.1825	11.4550
Ohio River - Upper KY	-6.00N to -5.00N	UNCH	11.5975-11.6075	UP 0.1675	11.6025
Ohio River - Upper KY	-40.00X	UNCH	11.2100	UP 0.1175	11.2100
Ohio River - Lower KY	4.00K to 12.00K	UP 4.00-DN 4.00	11.5450-11.6250	UP 0.2025-UP 0.1225	11.5700
Ohio River - Lower KY	0.00N to 10.00N	UNCH-DN 3.00	11.6575-11.7575	UP 0.1675-UP 0.1375	11.6950
Ohio River - Lower KY	-31.00X to -18.00X	UNCH	11.3000-11.4300	UP 0.1175	11.3467
Purchase	-5.00K to 0.00K	UP 3.00-UNCH	11.4550-11.5050	UP 0.1925-UP 0.1625	11.4783
Purchase	2.00K to -5.00N	UNCH-UP 2.00	11.5250-11.6075	UP 0.1625-UP 0.1875	11.5663
Purchase	-35.00X to -20.00X	UNCH	11.2600-11.4100	UP 0.1175	11.3550

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyriple	0.00K	UNCH	5.5025	UP 0.1350	5.5025
	Pennyriple	-5.00N	UNCH	5.6175	UP 0.1375	5.6175
	Pennyriple	-5.00N	UNCH	5.6175	UP 0.1375	5.6175

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	-25.00N	UNCH	5.4175	UP 0.1375	5.4175
	Green River	-85.00N	UNCH	4.8175	UP 0.1375	4.8175
	Pennyriple	-65.00K to -30.00K	UNCH	4.8525-5.2025	UP 0.1350	5.0275
	Pennyriple	-60.00N to -30.00N	UNCH	5.0675-5.3675	UP 0.1375	5.2175
	Louisville	-62.00N to -8.00N	UNCH	5.0475-5.5875	UP 0.1375	5.3175
	Bluegrass	-65.00N	UNCH	5.0175	UP 0.1375	5.0175

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00N to -21.00N	UNCH	5.3675-5.4575	UP 0.1375	5.4125
Ohio River - Lower KY	-13.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	5.5375-5.5675	UP 0.1375	5.5525
Purchase	-28.00K	UNCH	5.2225	UP 0.1350	5.2225
Purchase	-13.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	5.5375-5.5675	UP 0.1375	5.5600

Explanatory Notes: Price & Basis Values quoted are for Current Delivery, unless otherwise noted.

CBOT/KCBT/MGETrade month symbols: F January; G February; H March; J April; K May; M June; N July; Q August; U September; V October; X November; Z December. FOB: Freight On Board. CIF: Cost, Insurance, and Freight. T: Truck, R: Rail, B: Barge, T/R: Truck/Rail, R/B: Rail/Barge, T/R/B: Truck/Rail/Barge, O/V: Ocean Vessel

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Missouri Direct Hay Report

Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 4/19/2024

Hay season is underway in the state, granted we aren't talking dry hay yet but, there has been several producers out baling and wrapping. Planting progress is well underway and currently well ahead of the five-year average pace. Drought conditions persist and although the lack of moisture is allowing farmers to get work done moisture is needed near 70 percent of the state is currently showing on the drought monitor. That compares to only 14 percent a year ago at this time. There have been several reports of producers out buying some hay now to store till next feeding season as they do not wish to start the year with empty hay piles now knowing how last year went. The supply of hay is light to moderate, and prices are mostly steady.. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory> or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at <https://feedstufffinder.org>

HAY (Conventional)

Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-350.00
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	10.00-15.00
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	200.00-275.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	150.00-200.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	5.00-10.00
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	125.00-150.00
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	150.00-225.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	100.00-175.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	5.00-11.00
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)	
Large Round	50.00-75.00

STRAW (Conventional)

Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	4.00-7.00

Source: USDA AMS Livestock,

Poultry & Grain Market News

MO Dept of Ag Market News

High oleic soybeans can provide fat, protein to dairy cows

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

MONTVALE, N.J. – Over the last couple years, there has been an “explosion of interest” from dairy nutritionists over how to utilize high oleic soybeans on the farm, a professor of nutritional physiology at Penn State University said recently.

The soybeans are a good source of fat and protein for dairy cows, Dr. Kevin J. Harvatine said.

“High oleic soybeans are a great opportunity for many dairies,” he explained. “Home-grown fatty acids. Reduced risk of rumen-available unsaturated fatty acids allows us to use more of that in our diet. Rumen escape oleic acid may increase digest-

ibility of other fatty acids. Moderate to high feeding rate, depending on your approach. Some people want to maximize the amount of fat they’re getting from them and they’re going up to 15-plus percent. Other people are using it as an RUP (rumen undegraded protein) source and getting the fat along with it.”

High oleic soybeans are those with oil that contains at least 70 percent oleic acid, according to the Missouri Soybean Association. Typically, soybean oil has 22-28 percent oleic acid. The oil contains less saturated fat than other commonly used oils, the association said.

Harvatine discussed the use of high oleic soybeans April 2 during the Real Science Lecture Series spon-

sored by Balchem.

“I really see this as these high oleic soybeans provide opportunities,” he said. “We don’t have a requirement for high oleic soybeans in our diet, right? This is an ingredient that brings nutrients with it but we have other competing ingredients and the reason we’re going to use it on a farm is going to be different from farm to farm. It’s going to be very much a different optimal situation based on that individual situation.”

Those opportunities include lower risk of milk fat depression and that they may be a more economical source of dietary fat, depending on prices, Harvatine said. The beans are also another option for crop rotation, he added.

Before opting to grow high oleic soybeans, farmers should think about their available acreage, Harvatine noted. When considering the potential financial benefits, producers should consider the other local sources of high oleic beans, the competition from crushers and the distance to those crushers, he said.

Farmers also need to know how they can be sure the soybeans they purchase are high oleic.

“Most of this has been done by basically having source verified and

segregated,” Harvatine said. “If you’re buying the seed and growing it yourself, you know what you have, you just have to keep it in a separate bin. If you’re buying it from a neighbor or a mill, they’re going to have to be doing the extra work of segregating that. That’s a lot of additional work and logistics to keep these things segregated within the supply chain.”

The beans may also be tested, but that’s a slow and expensive process, Harvatine stated.

There are currently two sources of seed/genetics commercially available – Plenish (GMO) by Pioneer, and Soyleic (non-GMO), marketed by the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.

In the short term, farmers should think about the dynamics in the high oleic soybean and oil markets, which may present opportunities for dairy nutritionists to get a hold of the beans at no premium or at a good value, he said. They are also an alternative when the other fat markets spike or are not available.

Longer term, Harvatine said producers should consider changing crop rotations and strategies to make home-grown fat. Farmers also have better control of costs and risks.

Harvatine said he hopes farmers will think of all the feeding possibilities of high oleic soybeans.

“When I think of using these as ingredients, what I’m getting a little bit worried about is I hear a lot of people looking at these soybeans as just a fat ingredient. They are bringing in fat and we need to value that fat, but they’re also bringing in quite a bit of protein and quite a bit of RUP. So, we also need to consider that when we’re least-cost formulating and thinking about the economics of this.

“We need to think about fat and protein. Fat and protein are our main drivers of cash flow for dairies. Over the last year, fat has been outpacing protein, but looking long term, I think we need to think about both of those being our important drivers.”

PSR and SGD enter into an agreement

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ohio, — Professional Seed Research (PSR) from Sugar Grove, Ill., and Seed Genetics Direct LLC (SGD) from Jeffersonville, Ohio recently entered into an exclusive agreement allowing SGD to promote, sublicense and market PSR hybrids jointly developed by SGD and PSR.

Using a proprietary method, PSR can develop new inbred lines in just one year, saving several years of inbred selfing. This system ensures a high level of homozygosity to evaluate the inbred lines performance while retaining flexibility for further refinement as it progresses towards market. The rapid selection process saves time, manpower, and cost versus normal breeding programs, enabling yield testing four years earlier than through traditional programs, a company spokesperson said.

SGD has approximately 25 research testing locations throughout Indiana and Ohio allowing hybrid selection for our unique disease pressure. Initially SGD will have access to 100 unique and proprietary hybrids but hopes to expand to a minimum of 1000 new hybrids yearly. Testing at 25 locations will allow SGD to sort and advance the top conventional genetics

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 <p>2009 Challenger MT 645C CAH, CVT, 3 Pt., PTO, 4 Rem., Dual PTO w/Duals... \$49,500</p>	 <p>2005 JD 1770 16-30, Bulk Fill, E Sets, Loaded & Field Ready \$47,500</p>	 <p>2009 JD 1990 Air Seeder 35' 15" Spacing, Ext Wear Seed Boot, Lrg Seed White Meter, Roller Seed Star CCS... \$42,500</p>	 <p>2016 JD 1795, 24/20 High Speed, Elec Drive, Active Pneumatic Down Force, No Till, Complete Rebuild, Nice... \$174,500</p>	 <p>2022 JD 1775 CCS, 24-30, Mini Hoppers, Insecticide, Row Command, ME5, Combo Tillage, 1 Owner, Excellent \$197,500</p>	 <p>2017 Gehl 125 Grinder Mixer Like New, Only Done 3 Loads Of Corn 540 PTO... \$19,500</p>
 <p>1979 Ford A62 688 Hrs., EROPS, 2 Spd., 1.5 Yd Bkt, Work Ready \$9,450</p>	 <p>John Deere 2440 Dsl., Loader, 3 Pt., PTO, Nice... \$12,500</p>	 <p>JOHN DEERE Z970R 1855 Hrs, Kawasaki, Gas, Hydro, 72" Deck, Tweel Rear Tires, Good Cond. \$3,750</p>	 <p>Glencoe SF4300 30' Chopping Reel, Good Condition... \$6,450</p>	 <p>2014 JD 9410R, CAH, PS, PTO, 3 Pt., w/Quick Hitch, 4 Rem., Pwr Beyond, 78 Gal. Pump, 480/50 Michelin Radials, Sharp... \$209,500</p>	 <p>Case 1150 Crawler Loader, Dsl., PS, Rear Ripper, Very Low Orig. Hrs... \$17,500</p>
 <p>2012 JD 8335 7443 Hrs., CAH, IVT, ILS, 3 Pt. PTO, 4 Rem., 480/50 Rears, Local Tractor, Very Nice... \$129,500</p>	 <p>1988 Kenworth T800 L10 Cummins, 9 Spd., 18' Bo Roll Tarp, Spring Susp., 11R22.5, Local Retirement, Nice \$29,500</p>	 <p>2008 Caterpillar 246C Cab, 4,115 hrs., pilot controls, aux. hyd., rear wts., ready to work... \$19,500</p>	 <p>1991 Case IH 9270 CAH, N14 Cummins, Std. Trans, Drawbar, 4 Rem., VG 24.5x32 Tires w/Duals... \$39,500</p>	 <p>John Deere 544E w/JRB Coupler, 7761 Hrs., EROPS, PS Trans, 2.5 Yd Bkt, 17.5x25 Tires, Work Ready \$29,500</p>	 <p>2019 Kubota MT-171 Premium, Dsl., PS, MFWD, 3 Pt PTO, 4 Rem., Duals, 1900 Hrs., Nice... \$67,500</p>
 <p>2017 JD 8320R CAH, 4555 Hrs., ILS, PS, 3 Pt., PTO, 300HP, Frt. & Rear Duals, Nice... \$197,500</p>	 <p>2010 Komatsu PC138US LC, EROPS, pilot controls, push blade 36" bucket... \$34,500</p>	 <p>Case IH 9250 CAH, PS, Drawbar, 4 Remotes \$34,500</p>	 <p>AC 7580 CAH, Power Director, 3 Pt., PTO, 20.8x38 Tires w/ Duals, All Original... \$24,500</p>	 <p>2009 JD 1770 12R 30" Spacing, 2 Pt. Pull, Frt Fold, Elec Meter PP, Prec Meter, Elec PP Speedtube Drive System, Martin Spike Closing Whls, Prec Planting, \$54,500</p>	 <p>2017 Gehl R220 Cab w/AC, Gehl Controls, Air Seat, Aux Hyds., Q Tach, New Tires, Work Ready \$24,500</p>
 <p>2015 Case IH Steiger 580, CAH, PS, 4 Remotes, AG Drawbar... \$69,500</p>	 <p>Cat 910, ROPS, Dsl., PS Q-Cplr, Foam Filled Tires... \$6,450</p>	 <p>Sudenga 2 Box Seed Tender Briggs Motor w/Hyd. Pump, Brush Auger \$3,750</p>	 <p>1989 JD 544E, EROPS, PS Trans., 2 Yard Bucket... \$24,500</p>	 <p>2014 Kubota M108, CAH, Dsl., Terrain King Side Boom Mower, Very Nice... \$44,500</p>	 <p>Reynolds 8 Yr. Scraper... \$4,750</p>



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Tomahawk throwing added to Ladies' Sports Day in Ohio

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

HAMILTON, Ohio—It's a fun day for women to come out and sample a little bit of everything; Vice President Steve Haverkos said of the Butler County Sportsmen Club's Ladies' Day on the Range. Participants got to experience shooting archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun, and, new this year, tomahawk throwing.

Becky Root came because her boys are members of the Butler County Sharpshooters 4-H Club. She had previously done some shooting, she said.

Lisa Wright came with some of her co-workers from Mercy Hospital. She had never shot before.

"I am interested in shooting, and it sounds like a really fun day," she said.

Barb Haverkos, who runs the 4-H club, helps to organize the day. This was the sixth year for the popular event. Sixty women came that first year and every year since.

"We started by allowing 60 ladies to come, and we have had just about 60 every year since then," Haverkos said. "This year we moved from four groups to five. We added tomahawk throws because we have a new tomahawk range.

"So the ladies come and it doesn't cost them anything," Haverkos ex-

plained. "We get grant money from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources and the Butler County Sportsmen Club helps as well. Participants get a T-shirt, all of their ammo, safety glasses, and hearing protection that they can take home; they get a continental breakfast and lunch. It goes from 8:30 in the morning to about 3 in the afternoon.

The event happens once a year in the spring, and the registration fills up quickly. The instructors are all certified either through 4-H or the National Rifle Assoc. They are mostly women, but the men help out.

"We must be doing something right because everybody wants to come back," Haverkos said. "Everybody really likes it; they have a good time. We encourage them to come and bring their friends. Some of them are shooters, and every year we have people who have never fired a gun and they come and shoot with us."

The day is mostly geared to beginners, Haverkos said. Participants who shoot a lot help those around them who are new to the sport. They are put in groups to rotate through the disciplines. Friends are welcome to stay together in groups, whether experienced or newbies. One lady came by herself and didn't know anyone. She was quickly adopted into a group.

"We try to make sure we have female instructors at every range so the females are teaching the females, but we have a lot of men helping out there as well," Haverkos said. "We've got three to four instructors at every range.

The event has helped to grow the club's ladies' pistol and shotgun leagues, said Steve Haverkos. Four of the club's officers are now women.

"Our shotgun league started from this event and the ladies' pistol league was about dormant and this increased the participation," he said. "Instead of their husbands coming all the time, now they could come, too. And now the 'hawks are the newest thing. We built that range about four weeks ago. It is just one more thing that people can experience and enjoy being outside."

The club also hosts and supplies all of the equipment for the 4-H club, which meets there regularly, and hosts weekend events for the Boy Scouts, Junior ROTC groups, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls. They can camp at the facility on Friday and have two days of activities.

The Butler County Sportsmen Club started in the 1930s as a social club, according to long-time member Mike Wilson. Sometime in the early 1950s they added a rifle range and the club grew from there. They have 800 paid members plus lifetime members and members of the military. The 4-H shooting sports club has been headquartered there for 31 years, just one year after 4-H shooting sports began in Ohio.



Above: Tomahawk throwing was new and popular this year. The club just built the range. Everyone cheered when the 'hawk landed on the target with a "thwunk."



Above: The Butler County Sportsmen Club gets grant money from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources and the Butler County Sportsmen Club helps as well. Participants get a T-shirt, all of their ammo, safety glasses, and hearing protection that they can take home. They also get a continental breakfast and lunch.



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RV Camping

FROM PAGE 2

paca farm. For four years she's welcomed RV campers on her land through Harvest Hosts.

"Sometimes they bring children and grandchildren. I let them ride the tractor, I let them feed the alpacas, so they always have a good time," Rudolf said.

Sixty miles up the road in New Carlisle, Ohio, Ed Evans operates Evans Family Ranch. He's been in the cattle business for 20 years, tends to 1,500 acres and has a herd of 170 on the farm. Like Rudolf, Evans found himself enjoying the perks of hosting RV campers.

"One of our first guests came in and bought steaks for the evening for their dinner and before they left they bought \$600 worth of meat," Evans said. "So, it was very helpful, much of a blessing, and that seems to repeat itself over and over again."

Evans offered a kids' area, a bar and store. Visitors were able to purchase produce on the site and purchased breads that were baked fresh on the farm.

Ohio has more than 300 farms listed with Harvest Hosts.

"It's really nice. I've met a lot of

nice people and they always purchase stuff from me, so that's a good thing too," said Rudolf, as she talked about her barn full of alpaca fiber and fleece. "The people we met have been incredible. We've met people from California to New York and we really enjoy having them here."

Farmers are not bogged down by fees or contracts and they don't pay anything to be a host.

A host RV farm in Casey, Ill., offers a 1930s barn-turned-restaurant that serves home-cooked meals. At a honey and poultry farm in New Jackson, Ohio, one can take a nature tour, stroll through a large garden or wildlife area and visit a gift shop. An RV retreat in New Pekin, Ind., offers alpaca cuddles and Amish buggies, along with a petting zoo, hiking trails, picnic area and farmers market. (The addresses of these farms and others are available only to members of Harvest Hosts).

"A big part of our program is that members, when they visit a business they usually purchase the produce, or buy the wine, or do a farm tour or some other sort of thing, and our members will spend \$50 million dollars this year directly with the small businesses in our program," Holland said.

For more information about Harvest Hosts, go to www.harvesthosts.com.

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SUNFLOWER 1233 DISK, Stk#2049, 18', 9" sp, rockflex, 20" & 21" rear blades, no welds, buster bar \$14,500



MEYERS 4516 SILAGE WAGON, Stk#7212, only 20 loads total, on JD 740 running gear \$14,500



'21 RHINO FA513 FINISH MOWER, Stk#7255, 60", 540 PTO, 3 blade, never used. \$2,950



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CIH 2800 NITROGEN APPLICATOR, Stk#3560, 11 knife for 12R-30", adj axle, rear fill, lights, good tires. . . . \$23,950



CIH 1250 PLANTER, Stk#8121, 24R-30", lg 1000 PTO, 6" closing wheels, row cleaners, markers, open center. \$39,500



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WHITE 8200 PLANTER, Stk#7737, 8R-36", 540 PTO, w/ 7R splitter, row cleaners, SM4000 monitor. . . \$19,500



AG SPRAY 28% APPLICATOR, Stk#8232, 16R-30", 1500 gal tank, ground driven pump, coulters w/knives \$26,500



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BRENT 544 GRAVITY WAGON, Stk#1787, roll tarp, lights, rear hitch, brakes, ext tongue, 2 available \$17,500



IH 756 TRACTOR, Stk#3897, 5253 hr, rear weights, 2 owner, good TA, 540/1000 PTO, 2 hyd. \$8,950



'14 JD 1025R TRACTOR, Stk#2204, 540 PTO, 3pt, w/ front loader & mower deck. \$11,500



IH 706 TRACTOR, Stk#1997, 3400 hr, German dsl, 2pt, 540/1000 PTO, good TA, dual hyd. \$8,950

Skid-steer pulled off a \$26,500 bid at Wagner

By William Flood
Ohio correspondent

FARMLAND, Ind. - Wagner Auctioneering and Real Estate held its spring farm and large equipment auction. The event ran April 1-6, with 190 lots of construction machinery, tractors, agricultural equipment, and passenger vehicles. It was held both live and simulcast on HiBid, with zero buyer's premium offered for onsite bidders.

Four lots of construction equipment were auctioned, including a New Holland L318 skid-steer that received the event's top bid of \$26,500. The good-running 2-speed foot pedal machine had just 495 engine hours. It was outfitted with a quick-attach bucket, an 83-inch material bucket, manual couplers, and standard-flow auxiliary hydraulics.

The other three pieces of heavy equipment were: a Case W14C articulated loader, in good running and operating condition that sold for \$10,000; a running-condition Case 1838 skid steer, with 2,183 hours, auxiliary hydraulics, but a cracked bucket, that reached \$7,800; and, an Ants ME10 mini excavator, with a brand new 13.5hp Briggs engine, rubber tracks, and a small backfilling blade that hit \$4,750.

Two dozen passenger vehicles attracted good attention. Scoring the auction's second-highest sum of \$14,000 was a 2017 Buick Envision. The loaded crossover SUV, with just 77,000 miles, had options like leather seats, backup camera, and sunroof.

Bidding went to \$10,000 for a drivable 1952 Chevrolet coupe with a 454 big block Chevy engine and automatic transmission. It featured a relatively rust-free original body and a redone interior. Later, a 2009 GMC Sierra 1500 4WD pickup truck with 171,803 miles rolled off for \$8,000. The solid-condition 4-door crew cab had a 6.2-liter V8 engine and Denali trim package with leather and woodgrain accents. The exterior showed signs of hail damage.

Seven off-road/utility vehicles were also in the lineup. Among them, getting \$5,800, was a two-person 4WD Polaris RZR 800 with just 3,341 miles and 263.3 engine hours. A John Deere 2WD Gator, with a gas engine and dump bed, hit \$3,600. It had 996.1 engine hours, showed only minor wear, and was accessorized with a rear hitch, plastic bed liner, and rubber floor mat. Coming close, at \$3,500 was a 2015 Kubota RTV 500, with just 729 hours.

Eight trailers were available, including a 2008 Doolittle 27-foot gooseneck flatbed trailer that went for \$8,750. The 102-inch-wide trailer offered 20,000-pound GVW, 12,000-pound Badland winch, torque tube frame, good floor, chains, and boomer, along with new tires, brakes, and battery. Another gooseneck, a clean tandem axle by an unknown manufacturer, sold for \$6,000. The repainted unit was 24 feet long with a 64-inch dovetail, had good flooring, and triple 57x24-inch ramps. Bidding hit \$3,500 for a Titan tri-axle steel horse trailer. It was in solid condition with some visible rust. It had a good floor, rubber floor mats, 4-foot tack, 24-foot stock area, and fair-to-good tires.

Farm bidders had six tractors to grab their attention. The top bid in the category, at \$7,000, won a working-condition 1974 Allis Chalmers 175 with an Allis loader. It had approximately 2,980 engine hours, was well maintained, and had been repainted approximately 12 years ago. It was outfitted with a 3-point



Above: Over a dozen lots of 20-foot metal gates were offered. A few were unadorned, while others bore decorative designs of cows, horses, or other figures.



Above: Around a dozen pieces of John Deere agricultural equipment were offered. One lot held a good-condition Model 500 grain cart that sold for just \$1,000.

hitch, PTO, and 18.4-28 rear tires.

A \$4,000 bid picked up a clean vintage 1962 Ford 961 tractor. The gas engine, wide-front model was outfitted with a 540 PTO, 3-point hitch, full rear wheel weights, lights, and a Kingkutter trailer hitch. It also bore new gauges and a new seat. Coming in at \$3,600 was a good-running open-station Massey Ferguson 165 diesel.

Other agricultural machinery included a John Deere 515 grain drill on a Unverferth Culticart, won for \$3,400. The 15-foot unit with 7.5-inch row spacings had always been stored inside and was in excellent condition. A John Deere 500 grain cart with 540 PTO, hydraulic folding auger, and hex-type tires was picked up for \$2,100. It was in overall good condition with some surface rust. The hammer struck at a modest \$1,000 for an older New Holland 475 Haybine, with an 8.5-foot cutting width, 540 PTO, hydraulic cylinder, and good cutting bar and reel. Some rubber detaching from the rollers was noted.

Numerous pieces of farm gear were also available. Among them was a Farm Fans 5-hp bin fan and shroud. It was grabbed for \$525. A bulk feed bin, in imperfect but solid/usable condition, with two rings, auger, and electric motor was grabbed for just \$175.

Farm and ranch offerings continued with pieces like an AP double-sided stainless steel hog feeder and Kane plastic creep, in like-new condition, snagged for just \$150. Several cattle waterers were offered, including a four-hole unit, sans its heater, that sold for \$75. Several two-hole units, also lacking their heaters, went for \$40-\$50. And, 13 lots of 20-foot decorative metal gates, some with various decorative designs, others unornamented, sold from \$225 to \$325.



Above: In contrast to the many late-model passenger vehicles was this 1952 Chevrolet coupe (\$10,000). It was ready to roll or perfect for further restoration.



Above: A tri-axle steel Titan horse trailer, one of two livestock trailers available, was picked up for \$3,500.

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Hoosier turkey farmer going solar with help from USDA

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

DUBOIS, Ind. - An Indiana turkey farmer will be gobbling up savings on his utility bill from a solar energy system paid for with help from USDA.

Stephen Sander said he wouldn't have considered going solar if not for the incentive program, which paid half of his cost. He also received a 30 percent tax credit from USDA on his out-of-pocket expenses.

"It was a very lucrative offer I thought," he said.

Sander, owner of Tip Top Turkey Farm in Dubois County, received some of the \$1.2 million awarded recently for five renewable energy projects across the state.

The funding is through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), aimed at lowering energy costs, generating new income and creating jobs for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

"We are demonstrating Indiana's commitment to building energy efficient communities in rural areas," said Dr. Terry Goodin, the Indiana state director for USDA Rural Development.

Sander, who has raised turkeys for more than 30 years, estimated he could save close to \$10,000 in his annual utility costs by using energy from the sun to power fans, lights and other electrical needs of his operation. He expects to recover his investment from the savings in four to five years.

Without the financial incentives, Sander said, "I never would have thought about doing it. I didn't think it would be worth the effort."

Sander raises about 20,000 turkeys in his three buildings every quarter for Perdue Farms. The birds then make the 45-minute trip to processing plants at Washington in the southwest part of the state.

Installation of his 120 solar panels is nearly completed.

If the system produces more than what he needs, Sander will be paid for the surplus energy that will enter the grid for use by utility customers. He will have to buy some electricity if his demand for power exceeds what's produced by the solar panels.

A poultry farm owned by Karl Bontrager in LaGrange was the only other agricultural operation in Indiana sharing in the funding.

According to USDA, Bontrager is projected to save just over \$4,000 a year on the electrical costs of his poultry operation in the northeast part of the state from a solar system equipped with a battery back-up for use during any power outages.

The energy he produces is enough to power three average sized homes, according to USDA.

Nationwide, close to 700 renewable energy projects are receiving \$145 million in assistance through REAP grants and loans from the latest quarterly allocation of funds.

According to USDA, applications for funding under the REAP program this year continue to be accepted through Sept. 30 on future renewable energy projects.

"By investing in clean energy, we are not only protecting our environment but also creating new economic opportunities for our state. It's a win, win situation for everyone," Goodin said.

According to USDA, the funding is made possible, in part, by President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting climate change.

From 2018-22, slightly more than \$2 billion has been allocated nationwide under REAP with about one-third of those dollars going to North Carolina, according to USDA. In comparison, Kentucky during those years received over \$55 million while slightly more than \$17 million went to Illinois.

Just over \$12 million was awarded to Indiana; Michigan received more than \$8 million while about \$6 million went to Ohio. About \$5.7 million was directed to Tennessee.

Currently, each applicant can receive up to \$500,000 for energy efficiency projects and a maximum \$1 million for renewable energy systems, according to USDA.

The federal government will pay up to 50 percent of the cost for each project.

Ex Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura says he will sell cannabis edibles

(AP) MINNEAPOLIS - Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura has announced he is entering the cannabis market as a seller, as the state still figures out retail sales of the drug on the heels of legalizing marijuana for adults last year.

Ventura is launching his own brand of cannabis edibles in partnership with Retro Bakery, based in suburban Minneapolis and producing hemp-derived THC edibles under the Jesse Ventura Farms brand, Minnesota Public Radio reported.

"Ventura Farms is my foray into the world of cannabis," Ventura said in a recent video with rock music playing in the background.

He added, "I'm a huge supporter of the cannabis industry. Cannabis saved my family's life. And now it's time for me to return to the cannabis world. And you can join me - Jesse Ventura and Ventura Farms - any time you want. We're in the game."

Ventura has said the drug helped his wife get her seizures under control, MPR reported. Retro Bakery said the Ventura-branded edibles were available for pre-order starting April 1, according to MPR.

A former professional wrestler and actor, Ventura shocked the public when he won the race for Minnesota governor as an independent candidate in 1998. He served as governor from 1999 to 2003.

Ventura was one of the first governors in the U.S. to openly support marijuana legalization.


Last year, Minnesota became the 23rd state to legalize recreational

marijuana for adults.

This month, the state's top cannabis regulator said Minnesota probably won't meet its goal of launching full-scale retail marijuana sales in the first quarter of 2025 because of the time it will take to draft regulations and issue licenses.

Using, possessing and growing marijuana for personal use, within limits, became legal last August. But sales are still a legal gray area.

Currently, only a few tribally owned on-reservation shops are legally allowed to sell recreational marijuana in Minnesota because tribal sovereignty exempts them from state regulation.



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First quarter farm equipment sales are down from last year

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

MILWAUKEE, Wis. - Sales in every category of farm equipment reported by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) were down in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period a year ago.

Self-propelled combines fell 20.4 in the first three months of the year, and farm tractor sales dropped 13.3 percent. Two-wheel-drive tractors under 40 HP were down 17 percent, while those 40-100 HP decreased 8 percent, and those 100 HP or more dipped 4.2 percent.

Four-wheel-drive tractors were

down 7.9 percent.

The only positive number in the April 12 report came in March sales of two-wheel-drive tractors 100 HP or more, which rose 3.2 percent over March 2023.

"Seeing the continued growth in 100-plus horsepower tractor sales is a welcome sight as 2024 progresses, despite the softness in other tractor sizes," Curt Blades, AEM senior vice president, said in a release. "As we start the planting season, we remain optimistic for the future of the ag equipment market."

Dealers are seeing AEM's numbers borne out in fewer sales, Kim Rominger, president and CEO of the North American Equipment Dealers Association, told Farm World.

"Dealers are expecting a different year than last and anticipating sales overall being down," he said. "Many are adjusting their sales forecasts in anticipation of lower sales this year."

Year-to-date sales of farm tractors and combines are below last year's pace, AEM said. In 2023, sales of self-propelled combines, four-wheel-drive and larger two-wheel-drive tractors were up over 2022, the organization said. Sales of smaller two-wheel-drive tractors were down, according to AEM.

Many factors are contributing to the slower sales, Rominger noted.

"All input costs from seed, fertilizer, fuel and interest rates are up," he explained. "Also, last year the majority of the sales delayed due to the COVID period being finalized and inventory is now, for the most part, back to near normal. There is less uneasiness that equipment will not be available if needed at a later date. Inventory levels on dealer lots of both new and used

equipment are growing."

Rominger said he doesn't know if farmers are opting to purchase used equipment instead of new, or if they're just not purchasing equipment at all.

"Much of the large equipment was ordered last year to be delivered this year such as large, four-wheel-drive tractors and combines," he noted. "I am not certain what farmers are thinking now but farmers are usually conservative and pay close attention to the economy. With interest rates and inflation rising, they may be trying to weather the storm, so to speak, and hang on to what they have."

Sales of smaller farm tractors and equipment are dependent so much on the economy and housing starts, Rominger pointed out.

"Part-time farms or acreage owners are affected by many of the same costs as farmers relative to fuel and interest rates. When things are tight, they hang on to the equipment they have."

"With fewer housing starts, landscapers and builders do not purchase new equipment unless absolutely necessary. Equipment prices are also affected by inflation and are up as well."

Rominger said he's not aware of any problems dealers are having accessing parts or new equipment.

"The port in Baltimore handled a lot of farm equipment coming in from overseas. It is too early to tell if the channel being closed will impact on equipment or parts at this time. Dealer inventory levels have been growing so I would expect the effect would be minimal unless the closure is for an extended period of time."

Other East Coast ports could be used to bring equipment into the country, he added.

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US, Canada remain in widespread drought

Current drought maps have 72 percent of the U.S. Midwest in drought. This is the highest drought volume in 21 years for that region. Not only is the U.S. Midwest experiencing drought conditions, but so is Canada. Canadian officials claim 70 percent of the country is suffering from abnormally dry soils. The highest concentration is in Alberta and British Columbia, where drought



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

has been reported for the past four years. This is most concerning for Alberta as 46 percent of water use in that region is for irrigation purposes.

The International Grains Council has revised its updated global production forecasts. The world corn crop is forecast to total 1.223 bmt, up slightly from last year as larger crops in South America and China boost production. World wheat production is expected to increase 10 million metric tons this year to total 799 mmt. The world soybean crop is forecast at 413 mmt, up from last year's 390 mmt.

The IGC is predicting a total world grain crop for 2024/25 at a record 2.33 billion metric tons. This is just above the world grain crop from 2023/24 of 2.3 bmt. World grain consumption is nearly equal to production, to leave the world with a grain carryout of 601 mmt for 24/25, up from 599 mmt at the end of last year.

Input prices in the United States have softened from recent years, and now we are seeing the same in other commodity production regions of the world as well. The most noted of these right now is in Australia, where fertilizers and crop production product costs are down 20 percent from last year. This has more than offset a 6 percent decline in Australian wheat values and will likely encourage more wheat plantings. Given forecasts for a shift to a La Nina weather pattern, we could easily see a much larger Australian wheat crop in 2024/25 than

this year.

A trend is building in the U.S. feeder cattle market that is being closely monitored. Feeder cattle weights have been declining in recent months and are now averaging 50 pounds lighter than a year ago. This is mainly from cheaper feed grains and how this is allowing feeders to be brought in from pasture sooner than in recent years. This elevated feeder has

brought the market back to test last year's highs. A benefit for the grain market is this will increase the volume of feed that will be required to bring animals to market weight.

A major hog feeder in China has filed for bankruptcy. New Hope, China's 3rd largest hog producer, has announced it is filing for bankruptcy reorganization. New Hope reported hog sales of 556,000 head per month in 2021 and revenue of \$489 million yuan. Since then, New Hope has seen hog futures and pork demand slip lower. The combination of low hog values and losses from African swine fever have weighed heavily on all hog feeders in China. New Hope in the second hog feeder to file bankruptcy in recent weeks.

The question now is how this filing may impact China's feed grain demand, as it will likely lead to further contraction in the industry.

Country movement of farm stored inventory has picked up in the past few weeks. The "store or sell" decision on open bushels from last fall led to these higher sales, as did a seasonal trend to core bins ahead of spring weather changes. The need to generate cash flow for spring inputs also tends to increase country movement

at this time. Even with this elevated movement, basis values across the interior market are holding steady as buyers want to build stocks ahead of spring planting. There are also buyers who feel that without a rebound in cash commodity values we may see limited selling for the remainder of the marketing year.

At the same time, we are already hearing that some buyers have their needs covered through the remainder of the marketing year and have no incentive to firm bids.

China has made a shift in its oilseed imports in recent months from raw stocks to products instead. Import data from China shows the country imported 7.9 mmt of soybeans in January and 5.12 mmt in February. Total soybean imports to start 2024 are down 8.8 percent from last year. China imported 30,000 tons of soy oil in January, which was down 67.3 percent from 2023. February soy oil imports into China totaled 10,000 tons and were up a sizable 189 percent from last February. Year to date

soy oil imports are up 49 percent.

By importing oil rather than whole soybeans, it saves a large amount of unload time in China and product can make it into the supply line much faster.

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ALERT! If you get a TEXT message from anyone about your equipment, it's most likely a fraud. BEWARE OF JIM BROWN, NATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRY, 531-242-5967, JOSHUA BROWN & MICHAEL BRYANT, 912-771-5495, 434-226-4602 (NC)!!!

They will send you a check that appears to be good, but overpays to the amount of what it costs to pick up equipment, and later wants a wire sent to them through Walmart because they now will pay the pick up company. Their check comes back bad after a few days, and the Walmart wire cannot be reversed. They have been reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). ALERT!

If you are contacted by a company called National Marketing or Ultimate Market Place from Omaha, Nebraska and others, please be careful. Farm World has been alerted about representatives of Boese Media Marketing, Heartland Media Group LLC, National Marketing & Ultimate Market Place, Sgt. Christopher (TX), Ryan (IA) anyone requesting transaction with PAYPAL account and others claiming that they will work for a brokerage or leasing company that matches buyers and sellers together and offers financing to buyers. For \$99-\$400 dollars they claim they have already brokered a buyer for the equipment, and want a credit card over the phone to begin the process. As time goes on, nothing happens, phone calls are not returned, and the equipment is not sold. We have heard from over 400 people, and have filed a complaint with both the Secretary of State and the Attorney General in Nebraska. If you have any experience with this company, please contact Consumer Protection Mediation Center 800-727-6432. Also we would like to hear from you. Please call 1-800-876-5133 x 302 and ask for Gary.

A scammer will often try to pressure you into making a quick decision and to pay up front.
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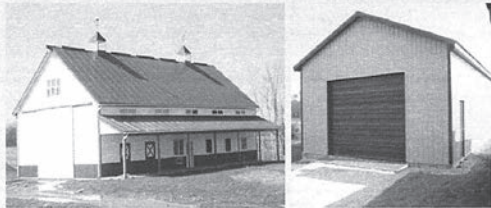
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1989 Kenworth T600, 3406 CAT, sleeper cab, \$5400. 419-427-4215 Alvada, OH.

1997 4900 Int., 466 motor w/ auto. 7 yard box, non-CDL, call for details & price. 517-262-1759 Horton, MI.

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Soy checkoff, Glass Barn to host art competition prior to Indiana State Fair

INDIANAPOLIS - To support the Indiana State Fair's 2024 theme of "The Art and Nature of Fun," the Indiana Soybean Alliance has launched an art competition in partnership with the Brooks Lamb Foundation for the Arts in Lebanon, Ind. This competition will offer Hoosier artists more than \$1,000 in prize money, which will be awarded on Aug. 1 during a ceremony at the Glass Barn the evening before the fair opens.

The competition is open to anyone 18 years and older who are residents of Indiana. Each entrant may submit one or two works, which must be original in concept and execution, using soybeans in their piece. This could include, but is not limited to, soybeans, soybean crayons, soy wax, soy fabric. Both three-dimensional and flat pieces will be accepted. The art objects may include oil, acrylic, mixed media, fiber and sculpture. Artists are encouraged to get creative with their use of soybeans in their piece.

"Since 2013, the Glass Barn has been a great tool for Indiana's soybean farmers to tell our story to millions of visitors to the state fair," said ISA Chair Kevin Cox, a farmer from Brazil, Ind. "The state fair takes great care in coming up with its annual themes, and we are happy to support this year's theme about 'The Art and Nature of Fun' with our own soy-based, art competition. I can't wait to see the creative and exciting things people will make."

Artists interested in entering the competition must pay a non-refundable \$60 entry fee for each submitted work. All entry fees will be donated to the Brooks Lamb Foundation for the Arts, which

supports art education for students. By submitting an entry, contestants understand that their artwork and the artist's photo and bio by be used in marketing materials by Indiana's soybean check-off program and the Brooks Lamb Foundation.

All entries must be submitted electronically by June 1 at bit.ly/Indianasoybeanart

Founded by Ed Lamb to honor his daughter, the Brooks Lamb Foundation celebrates students who are exploring their talents in visual and performing arts. The foundation was created to support students with financial need or compelling hardship to provide assistance in their creative exploration.

The judges will award prizes in three categories:

Best of Show - \$600 - The winning object will be displayed at the Glass Barn during the Indiana State Fair (Aug. 2-18).

Merit Award - \$200 - The winning object will show the best use of soybeans, a soy product or a soy medium.

Merit Award - \$200 - The winning object will show the best representation of Indiana agriculture.

An additional \$150 People's Choice Award will be available to the winners of each category plus five-10 more works selected by the judges. These works will be on display at the Glass Barn during the state fair, and fairgoers will vote for the winning art object. All art competition finalists will receive four Indiana State Fair tickets and a State Fair Family Fun Pack.

Anyone with questions about the art competition should contact ISA Consumer Outreach Manager Ben Linder at blinder@indianasoybean.com.

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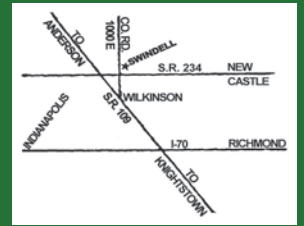
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JD 1850 30" air seeder w/JD 1900 cart, on consignment..... \$22,500



2005 Kinze 3600, 16/31, precision corn finger pickup, Kinze brush soybean units, new no till coulters, just installed in our shop, Kinze monitor & fold box, very nice IL planter..... \$53,500



2010 Kinze 3660 ASD, 12/23 bulk fill, mechanical meters, hyd drive, markers, just arrived .. \$79,900



2007 Kinze 3600, 16/31, Yetter no tills, finger pickup, nice planter..... \$52,500



White 6222, 12-30" wing fold, row cleaners, 1000rpm, PTO pump, corn & bean discs..... \$9,950



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2000 JD 6410, 4498 hrs., local tractor, JD 640 SL loader, one family owned since new..... \$56,000



1978 JD 4240, 8823 hrs., new rear rims & 34" rubber, quad range, factory open station, just in..... \$29,500



2020 JD 4052R, 44 hrs., 440R Ldr. \$47,500



1976 JD 4230, 7755 hrs., quad range, 2 hyd., 540/1000 PTO, used on our farm..... \$32,500



White 2-70, 4074 hrs., fresh engine OH, new paint, like new Koyker 510 loader, local tractor..... \$19,500



Just In.... JD 2210, 22.5' field cultivator, 3 bar tine harrow, nice one!..... \$24,500



Vermeer BPX900, less than 300 bales use, 1000 PTO, very little paint worn off, same as new..... \$23,900



2023 ARTS-WAY 664 TOP-SPREAD, skid steer mnt bale processor, up to a 5x6 round or 4x4x6 sq. bale.... \$19,900



2022 VERMEER TE1710, 17' width, new hyd. fold, hyd. tilt..... CALL



Case IH 8610 Bale Grinder, 540PTO, Very Nice. \$7,450



2007 MACDON 974, 36" flex draper, JD adapter, Just out of the field & ready to go!..... \$29,500



2023 OGDEN METALWORKS RCR8, 8- 60" rake wheels, center wheels..... \$11,900



2022 ENOROSI BATRAKE 10 wheel, center wheel kit, 60" rake wheels..... \$8,695



2023 FARMCO CF 710DRB, 7x10 whay saver racks, new 11L-15 tires, hinged rear gate for easy loading. \$4,295



2023 FARMCO CF 720DRB, 7x20 comes whay saver racks, new 11L-15 tires, fold down rear gate for easy loading..... \$6,995



Just In! Wheeler 30' Hopper, Roll Tarp, Excellent..... \$22,500



2023 UNVERFERTH 1245, 35' double rolling basket, 3/8" baskets, leveler bar, wing lift asst.... \$37,500



Kuhn Knight 1230 tandem spreader, 1 Owner, Slop Gate & Upper Beater, Very Nice... \$18,500



NEW 2023 DANUSER SM40, fully loaded, tilt & extra wt kit, 40" drop hammer design..... \$9,750



Brand New 2024 Vermeer R2300 rake, pull type, hydraulic, just arrived..... CALL



2024 AGI VRX grain vac, 1000 rpm, 6,000 bu an hour, coming in soon!..... Call



2024 STROBEL GP10, 10 pull type box scraper, hyd. lift & tilt, 2.75 cu yd cap., 10' width. \$12,500



2013 JD S680, 2760 hrs., just thru JD dealers shop this fall, Maurer bix ext, very nice combine..... \$132,500



2003 UNVERFERTH 7200, 750 bu. Grain Cart, Scales, New Auger, Clean Cart..... \$22,500



2023 KILLBROS 1055, 550 bu., 2 whl surge brakes, 60" dr, work light..... Call



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Westfield Farmco Strobel Vermeer Westendorf Remlinger Killbros E-Z Trail Rhino Koyker Ogdan Summers

Post Office:
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This Section!

Painted Mail Pouch barns going, going, but not gone

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

BELMONT, Ohio – Halfway between Cincinnati and Columbus on Interstate 71 stands a wooden barn just 200 feet from the expressway with the message, “Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco, Treat yourself to the Best,” painted in black, white and yellow. Cold, harsh winters have taken a toll on the barn’s paint job, but it’s still legible.

Barns such as these are cherished and admired by many who see them as a reminder of yesterday’s advertising methods and a tobacco brand that stood out among the rest at the time. Motorists here are witnessing an iconic American image from days gone by.

The Highway Beautification Act of 1965 declared these barns and others like them an eyesore and prohibited any more advertising billboards within 660 feet of any interstate highway, effectively ending the practice of emblazing barns with the Mail Pouch slogan.

However, some of the barns survived and now a few are even protected as historical landmarks.

At one time there had been around 20,000 barns carrying the Mail Pouch insignia. Today less than 2,000 remain. The last Mail Pouch barn that had the paint retouched was completed in Barkcamp State Park in Belmont, Ohio, on Oct. 2, 2000. The barn artist was Ohio native Harley Warrick, who has painted or retouched more Mail Pouch barns than anyone else.



Above: The wood may be deteriorating and the paint may be fading, but this Mail Pouch barn near Newark, Ohio, still stands.

The Mail Pouch barn advertising campaign was launched by the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Co., of Wheeling, W.V., in 1891. Mail Pouch Tobacco was the company’s most popular brand of tobacco at the time. The company originally opened as a dry goods store in 1879. The brothers, Aaron and Samuel, switched solely to tobacco products after an 1884 flood destroyed their business.

At the beginning, these now-iconic

signs were concentrated in the northeast in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. The painted barns started appearing in other states, like Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and as far west as California. In its height during the early 1960s, thousands of Mail Pouch barns were spread across 22 states.

The Bloch brothers hired four crews

of two men each to travel around the country to paint barns, with paint and scaffolding in hand. The painters were always welcomed by the barn owners because the farm received a small yearly fee for the use of their barn used for advertising.

Initially, barn owners were paid \$1-\$2 per year for the advertisement. In 1913 dollars, that equates to \$20-\$40 today. More importantly, the barn received a fresh coat by a team of painters. The Mail Pouch message was painted on one or two sides, depending on road visibility. At times, depending on the visibility from the roads, barn roofs were emblazoned with the Mail Pouch slogan.

After just five years there were only two crews. In the end there was just one man painting these barns: Harley Warrick.

Warrick was born and raised in Londonderry, Ohio, where his family had a dairy farm. When he returned from service in World War II in 1946, he began painting his family’s dairy barn with a team of Mail Pouch sign painters. Warrick decided that painting barns would be better than milking his family’s Jersey cows each day so when the painters asked him to join, then he jumped at that chance on the spot and began earning about \$32 a week.

Having just returned from the Army, Warrick had no other clothes, so he painted barns for the first week in his

(Painted Mail continued on page 2B)

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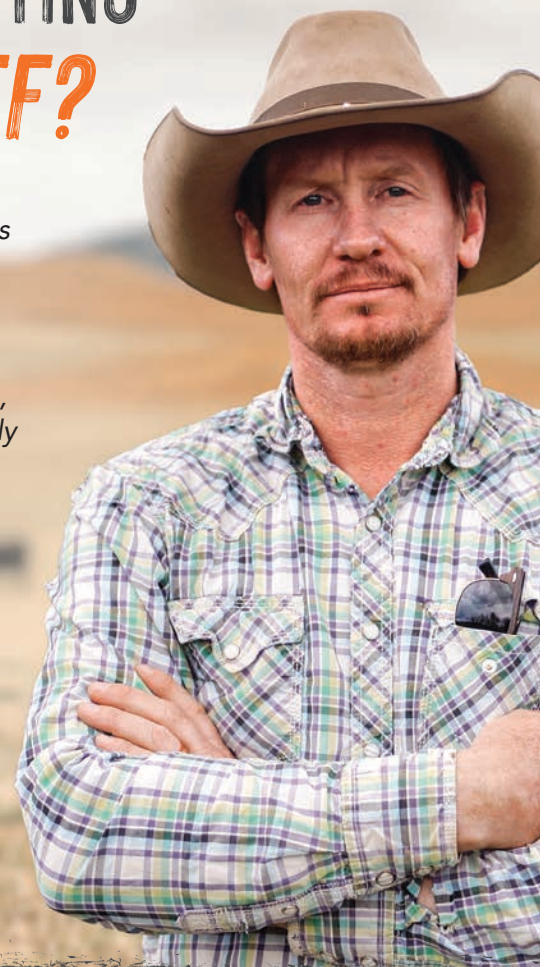
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Painted Mail

FROM PAGE 1B

uniform. It turned out to be the only job he ever had. Warrick trained under a seasoned Mail Pouch barn painter, Maurice Zimmerman, who also painted ads for competitor Red Man tobacco, Simoniz car wax and Minneapolis Milling Co.

Over his 55-year career, Warrick painted or retouched more than 20,000 Mail Pouch signs. He and a partner traveled together, sometimes sleeping in the back of a pickup truck or cheap motel.

His partner painted the black background while Harley lettered the advertisement. They were capable of painting two barns a day, taking about six hours per barn. Warrick painted 4,000 of those alone.

Warrick made a name for himself. His work has been exhibited by the Smithsonian Institution. Additional fame came when he appeared on Good Morning America and On the Road with Charles Kuralt. Harley was commissioned by TV newsman Ted Koppel to paint a barn on his Cross Manor historic estate in St. Inigoes, Md. In 1971, Warrick painted a Mail Pouch sign on a building for the movie, "Fool's Parade."

Though nearly all other sign painters went out of business, Warrick continued to work for the Swisher International Group, owner of Mail Pouch Tobacco, painting barns along lesser roads and highways until his retirement in 1991.

Art Seaman, 81, who lives in rural Shelby, Ohio, became friends with Warrick. Through this relationship and admiration, Seaman became an avid collector of Mail Pouch memorabilia.

"I attended an event at Malabar Farm State Park in Lucas, Ohio, in



Above: Harley Warrick, of Londonderry, Ohio, painted or retouched more than 20,000 barns with the Mail Pouch slogan in his 55-year career. (photo submitted)

1988," Seaman said. "At this annual gathering, I saw Harley Warrick paint three large Mail Pouch Tobacco signs. The signs were auctioned as a fundraiser in support of Malabar Farms. I gained an appreciation for his work and began collecting Mail Pouch mementos that he had painted."

Seaman said Warrick was a pipe-smoking painter, known by most as a salty character. When Seaman asked him about his work, Warrick replied, "I don't paint barns, I paint signs on barns."

Warrick used no template or tools, painting the sides of barns entirely by eye. His tradition, he once said, was to start with the letter 'E' in 'CHEW' then adding the 'H' and 'W', adding that those represented his initials.

A Seaman-Warrick friendship flourished through the years. After Warrick's death in 2000, a club was formed to preserve his legendary accomplishments.



Above: Art Seaman, 81, who still resides in rural Shelby, Ohio, became best friends with Harley Warrick, who painted this miniature barn mailbox for Seaman. (photo submitted)



Above: This undated photo postcard shows the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Co. in Wheeling, W.V. The building, although under different ownership, still produces tobacco. (photo submitted)

"The club became known as Mail Pouch Barnstormers," Seaman said. "Members are spread over 15 states and Canada, and meet annually for a picnic in Harley's home community in Belmont, Ohio."



Above: Harley Warrick's headstone in Belmont, Ohio, is a reminder of this man's dedication to adorning barns across America with the Mail Pouch slogan. (photo submitted)



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Friday, May 3rd @ 9 AM EST

RING 1 @ 9 AM EST: Tractors - Farm Equipment - Construction Equipment - Semis - Heavy Duty Trucks - Heavy Duty Trailers - 3 Pt. Attachments - Skid Steer Attachments

RING 2 @ 9:15 AM EST: Livestock Equipment - Fuel/Bulk Tanks - Old Iron

DAY 2

Saturday, May 4th @ 9AM EST

RING 1 @ 9 AM EST: Vehicles - Trailers - Pickup Trucks - Classic Trucks - Boats - RVs - Motorcycles

RING 2 @ 9:15 AM EST: Lawn & Garden - ATVs - UTVs - Mowers

Just a small sample of over 1,000+ items to be sold over our 2-Day Auction!

DAY 1

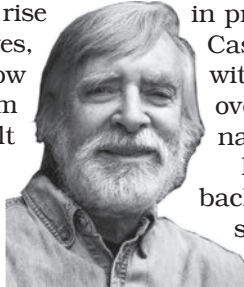


DAY 2



Honeybee Swarming and Tadpole Moon in May

Out of its little hill faithfully rise the potatoes dark green leaves, out of its hill rises the yellow maize-stalk, the lilacs bloom in the dooryards. - Walt Whitman



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

In the Sky

By the end of April, the Sun has reached a declination of almost 15 degrees - that's approximately 80 percent of the way to solstice. Venus and Jupiter share the constellation Aries as the two largest and brightest Morning Stars (Venus the biggest and brightest of all).

The Moons of May:

- May 1: The Tadpole Moon enters its final quarter.
- May 7: The Honeybee Swarming Moon is new.
- May 15: The moon enters its second quarter.
- May 23: The moon is full.
- May 30: The moon enters its final quarter.

Weather Trends

Late Spring arrives this week, the warm weather creating unmistakable markers in the progress of the year. Among those landmarks: The 26th and the 30th record freezing temperatures less than 5 percent of the time, the first time that has happened since late September.

After the 22nd, chances of snow drop below 5 percent below the 40th Parallel. Chances of a cold day in the 30s or 40s fall to only 10 percent on the 22nd, then plummet another 8 percent on the 26th.

Beginning on April 27, highs in the 90s become possible, and the chances of a high in the 80s pass the 20 percent mark. The chances of a high above 70 degrees are now 50/50 or better for the first time this year.

The Natural Calendar

Peonies are budding, garlic mustard, celandine and buckeyes flower. All the dandelions go to seed. Bees, flies and mosquitoes become peskier. Worms breed in the wet earth, and the first young grass snakes hatch and explore the undergrowth. Redbuds complement the last of the crab apples as the land gets ready for May: wild phlox, wild geranium, wild ginger, celandine, spring cress, sedum, golden Alexander, thyme-leafed speedwell, garlic mustard, and common fleabane are budding and blooming. Ducklings and goslings are born along the lakes and rivers; warblers move north. The Milky Way fills the western horizon as Orion sets just behind the sun. Now the middle of the night's sky is

in prime spring planting positions, Castor and Pollux to the west, Leo with its bright Regulus directly overhead, and Arcturus dominating the east.

Black tadpoles swim in the backwaters. Bass move to the shallows. Great brown May bugs begin their evening flights. In the woods, nodding trilliums are blossoming. Ruby-throated hummingbirds arrive at local feeders. There are buds on the black raspberries, mock orange, and mulberries. Star of Bethlehem and wood hyacinths have come up in the lawn. Nettles are waist high along the fencerows.

Countdown to Summer

- One week until clover blooms
- Two weeks to the great warbler migration through the Lower Midwest
- Three weeks to strawberry pie
- Four weeks until the first orange daylilies blossom
- Five weeks until roses flower
- Six weeks until the first mulberries are sweet for picking and cottonwood cotton drifts in the wind.
- Seven weeks until wild black raspberries ripen
- Eight weeks until fledgling robins peep in the bushes
- Nine weeks until cicadas chant in the hot and humid days
- 10 weeks until thistles turn to down

In the Field and Garden

The high leaf canopy casts the first shade on the flower and vegetable garden. It's time to be planting in the sunniest part of your property. Orthodox Easter takes place on April 28 this year. Orthodox Easter animals should be milk fed. They can be a little bit bigger than the Roman Easter lambs (40-60 pounds) and should be nice and fat.

Haying is often underway below the Ohio River. Some orchard grass and rye may be ready to harvest in southern Ohio. Transition your livestock slowly from last year's old hay to this year's fresh hay.

Fight armyworms and corn borers. Attack carpenter bees around the barn.

Almanack Classics

One True Love (A Romantic Sheep Story)

By Leah McAllister
Oldhome Farm - Arkansas

My husband of 30 years and I attended high school together. He arrived during our sophomore year. I had never dated anyone, even though I was asked out lots of times. But I was very picky, and had an ideal in my head that none of the boys I knew could measure up to. Not long after meeting Greg, I realized I had met my one true love. It took him until our senior year to ask me out, but once he did, there was never anyone else for either of us. A little over a year after our first date, we were married.

Thirteen years ago, we got into the sheep business on a small scale. Our good friends and neighbors were the original owners of our first flock of mixed breeds comprised of Romney, Marino and Suffolk.

In that first flock we had a Romney ewe named Hilza, who was the lead sheep. She had a very stately air about her, and she refused to breed with any of our rams. Greg wanted to get rid of her, saying she was just a "dud" and a drain on the grain. But I loved Hilza and told him she was just like I used to be: she had yet met her ideal mate.

Eight years later, we were building our Suffolk flock and culling our other breeds. I still refused to sell my Hilza. Then one day a friend of ours asked if we could keep her Jacob ram for a while. We agreed, and Jeffery the ram came to live with our boys for a while.

One evening, as we were putting the girls into the barn lot for the night, Hilza refused to come. She stood by the gate to the boy's paddock and pawed at the fence. She would look at us, bleated, and pawed at the fence.

I told Greg "I think Hilza wants in there."

Laughing, Greg opened the gate for her, and she charged in and ran right up to Jeffery. They became constant companions, and she mourned his leaving when he went back to his home. That spring Hilza gave birth to her first lambs, one an exact duplicate of Jeffery.

Some of us girls just know what they want, and refuse to settle for anything less.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S SCKRAMBLER

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| RIPEW | WIPER |
| SWPRIE | SWIPER |
| RRTSPEI | STRIPER |
| IEPPR | PIPER |
| IEPRR | RIPER |
| REPISN | SNIPER |
| YERPT | TYPER |
| PERIAD | DIAPER |
| RPRGEI | GRIPER |

THIS WEEK'S RHYMING SCKRAMBLER

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RRFAI
YERRF
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RALI
RHEGHI

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

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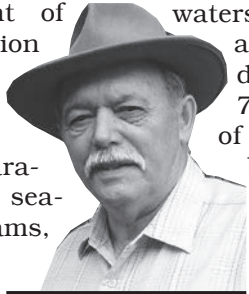
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Due to the extremely volatile lumber market right now we are unable to print starting prices for the above listed barn sizes. Please call for a quote.

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Fish & wildlife plans stream trout opener

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife plans to stock nearly 63,000 rainbow and brown trout across the state this spring in preparation for inland trout fishing season, which, for inland streams, opens April 27.



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

Thirty-five bodies of water across 21 counties are anticipated to receive fish before and after opening day. Most of the lake stockings of rainbow trout were done last month, starting the week of March 11. Anglers don't have to wait to fish for the stocked trout, as trout fishing on inland lakes is open year-round.

For streams, more than 23,000 rainbow trout are expected to be stocked in the days leading up to opening day. Several sites will get additional rainbow trout stockings until Memorial Day weekend. In addition to the rainbow trout stockings, 10 bodies of water will receive brown trout stockings in May.

To find a stocked stream near you, see this year's trout stocking plan at: on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

Trout will bite on a variety of artificial baits such as spinners and flies, but natural baits such as worms and bee moths tend to be the most popular.

The bag limit for trout in inland

waters other than Lake Michigan and its tributaries is five per day with a minimum size of 7 inches. No more than one of an angler's catch may be a brown trout. There is no size limit for trout on inland lakes except for harvested brown trout caught below the Brookville Lake tailwater or from Oliver, Olin or Martin lakes, which must be 18 inches or larger.

To fish for trout, anglers age 18 and older must have an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp. To purchase yours, visit on.IN.gov/INHuntFish.

Jumping the opener

Many years ago, my good friend and retired Indiana Conservation Officer Sgt. Dean Shadley asked if I would like to accompany him on a stakeout on the Brookville Lake tail waters. We would be posing as fly fishing anglers fishing "early" before legal fishing for the stocked trout.

We were there to observe, defer and if needed, detain and ticket fishermen fishing the tail waters for trout before the opening day. There had been several complaints of anglers taking stringers of the recently stocked rainbow and brown trout.

Working the upper reaches of the tail waters in chest waders, we began to cast streamers for the trout. Very realistically for our cover, we would occasionally catch a trout which we would immediately unhook and release. Dean explained it was not illegal to catch trout prior to the opening of the season, but it was illegal to keep them.

While we were fishing, we noticed a guy come down the riverbank and

set up to fish. He was using pieces of nightcrawlers on a small hook fished under a bobber.

The fisherman had only been there a few minutes when he caught a nice rainbow trout. As he unhooked it and was getting ready to put it on a stringer, he looked up and saw us watching him intently.

Looking around, the intending trout poacher released the fish. Shortly, he caught another one only to see we were again watching his every move.

Giving up, he released the fish and packed up his gear and left.

I will say this... the guy was determined as he returned again... not once more but twice. In both instances the scenario was repeated as every time he caught a trout, we were watching him and he would release it.

Overall, it was a great afternoon on the water, catching and releasing the newly stocked trout while dissuading the intending trout poacher to keep it legal as well! Mission accomplished!

Search underway for two missing kayakers

Indiana Conservation Officers have resumed the search for two missing kayakers who went missing April 16 on the White River in Indianapolis.

Around 8:30 p.m., Marcus Robinson, 30, and Solomon Shirley, 22, both of Indianapolis, were kayaking when they traveled over the remnants of a low-head dam near the 2000 block of North White River Parkway Drive West. A witness observed both men being ejected into the water.

Search efforts are underway using shore- and water-based operations along with aerial searches with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and a helicopter.

Agencies assisting in the search include the Indianapolis Fire Department, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Pike Township Fire Department, and Indiana State Police.

Website provides accessibility info on DNR destinations

Want to enjoy Indiana's outdoors but are concerned about what areas might present barriers?

A new one-stop feature of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website highlights work meant in reducing challenges to allow guests to experience all Indiana's DNR properties offer.

Just go to on.IN.gov/dnr-accessibility and select the activity you would like and which properties interest you or your family and friends.

Once there, you'll find maps, photos, and details about some of the destinations featuring accommodations for hunting and fishing, trail chairs, wheelchair accessible trails, paved trails, beach mats, and the like.

While the list is expansive, it is not a comprehensive list of accessible activities. If there is a property appealing to your interests, we recommend calling the property office for more information.

"This is one of the many things we are doing to welcome all to DNR properties so they can enjoy the many benefits of Indiana's great outdoors," said DNR director Dan Bortner.

Readers can contact the author by writing to this publication or e-mail Jack at jackspaulding1971@outlook.com

Spaulding's books, "The Best Of Spaulding Outdoors" and "The Coon Hunter And The Kid," are available from Amazon.com as a paperback or Kindle download.

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Butter exports, domestic usage down in February

The USDA's February Dairy Supply and Utilization report provided a look behind the markets.

Speaking in the April 22 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, HighGround Dairy economist Betty Berning said butter jumped out from it. "We knew butter exports were down in February," she said, "And we heard reports of robust demand stateside as part of the narrative as to why butter prices were pushing \$3 per pound," but when looking at this report, we learned that domestic usage and exports were down.

Butter usage totaled 161.2 million pounds, down 6.3 percent, as domestic usage fell 4.9 percent. No surprise that exports were down 35.2 percent. HGD adds that February inventories were healthy as well indicating that neither high demand nor lack of supply were behind the elevated price.

Cheese consumption totaled 1.15 billion pounds, down 1.5 percent from February 2023, with domestic consumption down 3.5 percent. American style was down 7.3 percent.

Cheese exports totaled 95.5 million pounds, up 27.2 percent, led by the other-cheese variety, up 27.6 percent, and a new all-time high, according to HGD. "Low prices on the CME spot market, which have been heavily discounted to Europe since November 2023, likely helped spur additional sales."

Nonfat dry milk utilization, at 182.3 million pounds, was up 2.4 percent but only because February 2023 was the weakest for the month since 2019, according to HGD. Berning said domestic consumption was down almost 3 percent, so exports carried the day, despite reports of struggling international demand. She adds that it remains to be seen if those exports remain strong.

Dry whey utilization, at 66.8 million pounds, was down 3.2 percent. Exports were down 5.6 percent. HGD says dry whey exports have been down since March 2023, with the exception of January 2024. Domestic demand wasn't great either, said Berning.

USDA announced the May Federal order Class I base milk price at \$18.46 per hundredweight, down 72 cents from April and \$1.11 below May 2023. It equates to \$1.59 per gallon, down from \$1.68 a year ago. The five-month I average is at \$18.58, down from \$20.12 a year ago and \$22.81 in 2022.

The USDA's latest Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook reported, "Consumer Price Indexes for selected dairy products were year-over-year lower in March, while the indexes for overall prices and food prices show that the inflationary pressures are lingering. Of note, the Consumer Price Index for all dairy products has been year-over-year lower since September of last year."

The latest Margin Watch from Chicago-based Commodity and Ingredient Hedging LLC reports, "Dairy margins were mixed over the first half of April, strengthening slightly in nearby periods following a price recovery in cheese and the Class 3 Milk market while deferred periods held steady."

"The feed market was relatively flat with USDA releasing the April WASDE report which did not cut corn ending stocks as much as expected despite



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

increased projected usage. The cheese market caught a bid with block and barrel prices rallying to the highest level in six weeks at \$1.61 per pound, and lower prices in first quarter may have renewed export interest," the MW stated.

U.S. cheese remains the least expensive in the world, according to the MW. "Mexico has been a bright spot for U.S. export demand. February dairy product exports totaled 501.1 million pounds, up 5.5 percent from 2023 after adjusting for leap day and the first time that February shipments have exceeded 500 million pounds, with cheese exports of 95.6 million pounds, up 27.3 percent from last year including 36.6 million pounds to Mexico.

"Domestic demand has been more lackluster, as January demand was down 2.8 percent from 2023 while demand in February slumped by more than 4 percent after adjusting for leap year. U.S. demand for American-style cheese has been particularly weak, down nearly 6 percent in January and February compared to the first two months of 2023. Butter demand by contrast has been robust, with the market hitting an all-time high for April at \$2.97 per pound despite ample stocks and rising production from increased milkfat content, as buyers fear tighter supplies later in the year," the MW stated.

The 40-pound Cheddar blocks closed the third Friday of April at \$1.68 per pound, up 14.50 cents on the week,

fourth consecutive week of gain and the highest CME price since Nov. 7, 2023, but 7 cents below a year ago, as traders anticipated Monday's March Milk Production report.

The 500-pound Cheddar barrels finished Friday at \$1.66, 8.75 cents higher, 10.75 cents above a year ago, and 2 cents below the blocks. CME sales amounted to 23 loads of each on the week.

Dairy Market News reports the spring flush is here as milk levels near their peak in parts of the Western U.S. and trend seasonally higher in the East and Midwest. "As cheese market tones show further signals of life, the same is being said among contacts regarding demand," says DMN "Customers are trying to get ahead of increasing market price points." Cheese supplies are available in the Midwest but are not at levels of concern. Spot milk availability shifted lower and Mid-Week prices ranged \$3- to \$1-under Class III. A year ago, they were \$11- to \$4-under Class, according to DMN.

Manufacturers note strong cheese production in the West as plenty of milk is seasonally available. Cheese stocks are also readily available. Demand is steady to moderate and international buying is steady to stronger, particularly from southern neighbor purchasers. Sources indicate immediate to short term sales continue to be more prevalent than sales for deliveries past second quarter. Some processors report that production is outpacing demand, warns DMN.

CheeseExpo was held this week in Milwaukee and StoneX stated that


the takeaway from Expo is that something around \$1.60 per pound cheese is a good market clearing price today. Demand for fresh cheese is reportedly improved however, "sustainability of demand is the key to holding prices up. Further price strength for spot cheese will begin to usher in a change in the 2024 trend of modest pops in price that don't last."

CME butter climbed to \$2.94 per pound Tuesday but backed off to close Friday at \$2.92, unchanged on the week but 52 cents above a year ago, on eight sales.

Midwest butter makers report summer/fall inventories are in fair shape. Churning has been robust with plentiful cream. For the second consecutive week, spot cream multiples were below 1. Butter demand is steady.


Updating the avian or bovine influenza outbreak, StoneX economists Nate Donnay and Dustin Winston stated this week, "The detection of avian influenza in the U.S. dairy herd has helped to firm market sentiment, but hasn't had a big impact on prices. As of April 16, the USDA confirmed infections on 26 farms, but we think the true number is closer to 100.

"Now that the mystery disease has been identified, and there isn't any treatment for it, some farmers are choosing to handle it quietly. That means the confirmed number of cases from the USDA probably won't be a good indicator for how widespread the problem is and the impact will show up in prices first, and then eventually in the milk production data."



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Jepsen and Sonnenbert honored for being Ohio Master Farmers

By Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Ohio Master Farmer program honors individuals for standing out in farm management, innovation, conservation and leadership.

This year, Ohio Farmer bestowed this prestigious recognition on a pair of farmers who have proven ways to farm more effectively, environmentally, efficiently and economically. Those winners are Jim Jepsen, of Amanda, and Kent Sonnenberg, of Holgate. The two men were nominated by their peers and chosen by a committee of agriculture industry leaders.

"They don't have any more land, what we have is what we will ever have," said Jepsen, who raises beef cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on 1,300 acres in southern Fairfield County. "We don't want to see it wash away and we don't want to see it blown away. We just take care of it the best that we can."

Jepsen's land is mostly highly erodible land that needs lots of constant work. He went to the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) years ago to learn more about no-till and cover crop practices.

"No-till didn't work for me the first year and it took about three years to really see the benefit of soil structure with earthworms and organic matter starting to build," he said. "It takes time and patience."

Jepsen utilized grass waterways to prevent erosion. He uses cover crops to keep soil in place and has wheat in his crop rotation for straw production and manure application in the summer. He installed three



Above: Kent Sonnenberg said keeping phosphorus in the field is a core to his farm's management as it edges the Western Lake Erie watershed. "You need to keep your nutrients and organic matter in the ground. If you keep the organic matter increasing, you'll have a healthy system going on," he said. (photo submitted)

grade stabilization structures (using timber drops and a rock chute), six water and sediment control basins, heavy-use pads for livestock feeding, 11 systematic tile systems, two livestock pipelines and two watering facilities.

"Jim has a passion for no-till and erosion prevention," said Nikki Drake, who is from the Fairfield SWCD and nominated Jepsen as an Ohio Master Farmer. "He has 38 engineering plans for various (conser-

vation) practices. Twenty-two are for rented or shared farms."

Jepsen was raised through the ranks of 4-H and FFA, and credits his vocational ag teachers for nurturing his interest in farming. He eventually earned a degree in animal sciences from Ohio State University. There he was on the school's meat and livestock judging teams.

His passion turned to farming, and he and his wife purchased land near his parents' farm. There wasn't enough acreage (or livestock) to work full time, so Jepsen drove an oil truck by day and farmed at night and weekends for three years. With help from his family, friends and neighbors, he quit his off-farm job and began farming full time in 1991.

"There comes a time when you have to quit talking about it and just do it," Jepsen said.

He joined the Fairfield County Cattlemen's Association as a member to learn, eventually becoming a board member and then president in the late 1990s. He served the Ohio Cattlemen's Association for 15 years and in 2001 was selected as the Young Cattleman of the Year by the association.

To this day his acreage is spread out over a 10-mile radius with cattle pastures, feedlot, grain bins and rental ground.

Fourth-generation dairy farmer Kent Sonnenberg operates Sun Mountain Dairy in Holgate, Ohio. There he tends to 1,700 acres of corn, soybean and wheat while milking 3,100 cows (plus replacement heifers and calves). His family farm was established in 1865.

Sonnenberg said keeping phosphorus in the field is a core to the farm's management as it edges the Western Lake Erie watershed. Sonnenberg said keeping soil covered is imperative.

"There's a few things I consider for soil health and for yields for profit. You need to keep your nutrients and organic matter in the ground. If you keep the organic matter increasing, you'll have a healthy system going on."

Sonnenberg was involved in FFA and 4-H and remained on the family farm after high school. "I farmed with my father for 30 years, and he retired from milking at the age of 90," Sonnenberg said.

As time passed the dairy grew, so



Above: Jim Jepsen (pictured) and Kent Sonnenberg were honored at a luncheon last month at the Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference in Ada, Ohio. (photo submitted)

much that they now have 30 full-time employees. With the help of the Henry County SWCD, they designed and constructed two manure ponds and a filter area for leachate.

Through the years, acreage was added and the dairy expanded, most considerable after his son, Ted, returned home in 2010. The farm grew, as did the number of animals on the premise. All the while, Sonnenberg strived to improve the soil, protect the water and best manage nutrients, including manure.

Of the 1,700 acres, 1,600 acres are in corn, 75 acres are in soybeans and 25 acres are in wheat.

"We needed more corn silage. We had to find some way of growing corn back-to-back in a monoculture," he said. "You have to break that up. So, it is either cover crops or you have to work the ground and put manure on. That's an oxymoron. You just don't do that because you're destroying something and running it down the river. Nobody wants that. We want to keep the phosphorus in the ground and utilize it, as well as the nitrogen itself."

Sonnenberg tried different cover crop mixes, but plants mainly cereal rye with 100 percent coverage of the land.

"You had to grow a crop year-round, but I terminate rye at 12 to 18 inches to keep it from competing with the crop," he said. "Harvest the sunlight and treat the ground with respect."

To help control soil erosion and soil and nutrient runoff, he has installed 40 subsurface water control structures, allowing him to close or raise up as needed. The farm also has extensive filter strips on all fields adjacent to drainage ditches.

Sonnenberg has been a longtime supporter of Ohio State University Extension and the SWCD. He has served on the Henry County SWCD board for many years and is currently chairman.

"Kent has always been a strong supporter of the community and conservation practices," said Alan Sundermeier, Extension educator in Wood County and one who nominated Sonnenberg. "He's always been able to stop what he's doing and put a priority on the person who is asking for help. A Master Farmer has to be willing to help other people."

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US farms increasingly reliant on contract workers

(AP) — Six years ago, Illinois farmer John Ackerman didn't hire any contract workers at all. Now he typically hires about 22 every year through a local coordinator that helps farmers hire crews of agriculturally skilled, often Latino workers. Those teams hand-weed the soybeans Ackerman grows alongside the pumpkin and corn crops he uses for his primarily fall-focused agrotourism outfit.

He still hires about the same number of locals, around 25 part-time workers in the fall, many of them teenagers or young adults, to run sales and pick pumpkins. He enjoys mentoring young people, but says it has felt harder lately to justify hiring inexperienced workers when contract workers do the same hard, physical jobs faster and better.

"I worry about the day that comes where it's a better choice to have contract laborers come and help me" year-round, he said.

A higher proportion of U.S. farms are now using contract workers, according to the most recent U.S. agricultural census data, out last month with a five-year update from the previous 2017 data. Because of the terms of their employment, those laborers have specific challenges voicing concerns about their working conditions, and are more likely to be on the front lines of climate change, facing increasing heat and extreme weather. Climate change affects all farm workers, but advocates and researchers say this is a reason to focus particularly on these workers.

The USDA defines contract labor as including contractors, crew leaders, cooperatives, or any other organization hired to furnish a crew to do a job for one or more agricultural operations. The USDA data showed an uptick in the number of farms using migrant labor, both within farms that already hired contract work-

ers and overall.

Contract workers hired by an agency may work hundreds of miles from where they live, and may move from place to place, making it harder to keep farmers accountable for labor abuses, explained Alexis Guild, vice president of strategy and programs at the nonprofit Farmworker Justice. Some contracting agencies also employ undocumented workers, who may remain silent for fear of being deported. And though some steps are being taken at the federal level to protect migrant workers with H-2A visas for seasonal farm jobs, those regulations have vocal opponents.

Since the immigration status of many H-2A workers is tied to a single job, they may feel they have less agency to voice concerns about their workplaces, added Rebecca Young, director of programs at Farmworker Justice. She said these workers can be isolated from their communities due to language barriers and their living arrangements, often on the same farms where they work. Resources like healthcare and counseling can be out of reach.

"I worry about some of our most vulnerable populations who have contract jobs that don't have very good protections in place being more exposed to worse conditions," said Jennifer Vanos, an associate professor at Arizona State University who studies climate and health with a focus on extreme heat. She emphasized that it's "a scary situation because people die and that's just not okay."

Some states have patchwork heat regulations in place for farm workers, but there are no federal rules about heat exposure in the U.S. And making a formal complaint can be fraught, though it's a legal right, said Abigail Kerfoot, senior staff attorney at Centro de los Derechos

del Migrante, a nonprofit organization assisting farm workers. "Most workers, particularly migrant workers on temporary visas, find it, unfortunately, a difficult decision to make," she said.

That's something Luis Jimenez, a New York dairy worker, hopes to change. He's one of the leaders of Alianza Agricola, a grassroots organization advocating for immigrant farmworkers. Jimenez said dairies typically can't hire H-2A workers because the work isn't seasonal, but many farmers want to change that. That worries him. He's tried reaching H-2A workers on nearby farms, but said their supervisors won't let them talk to him. "A lot of farmers, they use the excuse, 'I don't have no workers' because they want an expanded H-2A," he said, because "they want to have power."

A former H-2A worker in North Carolina who spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation confirmed Jimenez's sentiment. He described working for hours in sweet potato fields without overtime pay and without rest or access to shade in extreme heat. Now he has a work permit through a program for workers in labor disputes. But for many, "there's no other option," he said, speaking in Spanish. "People with an H-2A visa have to come to work, they have to comply with their work and they have to do their work."

Some farmers say they see little interest from domestic workers in the jobs they post. Jed Clark, a Kentucky grain farmer, said in the 20 years he's hired H-2A workers, for about 10 positions on the farm each year, only about 10 locals total have ever shown up to inquire about an open job.

"The number of people that want to farm for a living actively is going down. And with the farms growing larger and larger, we're going to have to have help to operate," he said. He added that some

row crop tasks can be sheltered from the elements, like operating farm equipment with air-conditioned cabs.

Reforming the H-2A program is a high priority for many farmers, but while they wait for that to happen, many are having to decide whether to switch to less labor-intensive crops or try to mechanize their operations, said Stephanie McBath, director of public policy for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. But for many types of crops, that isn't possible: USDA research shows that demand for H-2A workers boomed from 2010-2019 in sectors like fruit and vegetable production, which require hand labor that isn't easily mechanized.

"I think fundamentally (farmers) just want to have somebody show up and do a day's work and be able to pay them a fair wage," McBath said. But with strong increases in the cost of labor over the past several years, "it's really just a bottom-line business decision for them."

Bruce Cline, a grain and tobacco farmer in Crofton, Ky., has been hiring H-2A workers for over 30 years and said he's watched all his neighbors follow him since then. For industries like construction and agriculture, "it's tough to operate without migrant labor," he said. And Scott Kuegel, who farms about an hour away near Owensboro, said local labor became scarce in his community because, as he puts it, farm work is "hot, it's dirty, or it's cold, and wet, and nasty."

As climate change makes conditions nastier, advocates hope workers will feel empowered to make their voices heard. But many contract workers "can't advocate for rights, because if they do it, the next year or next season, the farmer just (won't) bring the same people," Jimenez said.



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Versatile tractor harvests a \$232,000 bid at Wendt

By William Flood
Ohio correspondent

BELLEVUE, Ohio - On April 16, the Wendt Group held the retirement auction for the Didion Brothers farm. The sale featured 60 lots of well-maintained, inside-stored agricultural equipment, including tractors, cultivators, grain carts, planters, and plows. The auction was offered live and online via BidSpotter, with a preview on April 13.

Four tractors generated many of the auction's highest bids. Topping the list was a 2014 Versatile 450DT with 1,149 hours, which hit the auction high of \$232,000. The bareback tractor featured 36-inch-wide tracks, six hydraulic remotes, power shift, and a Case FM 750 monitor.

Running up another six-figure bid, at \$158,000, was a 2012 Versatile 305 with 1,137 hours. It was outfitted with a 3-point hitch, 1000 PTO, four hydraulic remotes, Case FM 750 monitor, 480/80 R 46 rear duals, and 380/85 R34 front duals. Bidding went to \$122,000 for a 2010 Versatile 375 4x4, bareback with 1,880 hours. It had four hydraulic remotes, front and rear duals, and a full set of rear weights.

Six pieces of harvesting equipment were offered. Among them, a 2013 John Deere S670 combine came in with the auction's second-place bid of \$182,000.



Above: This 2014 Versatile 450DT tractor with 36-inch-wide tracks took the auction's highest bid at \$232,000.

The 4x4 unit had 1,678 engine hours and 1,081 separator hours. It featured a contour feeder house, 24-foot-high-capacity unload auger, PowerCast tailboard, 520/85 R 42 front duals, and 28L-26 rear tires.

Harvesting attachments included a 2014 John Deere 635 FD draper head with steel dividers, which scored \$42,000. A 2010 John Deere 608C corn head, with 8 x 30-inch spacing, stubble lights, and hydraulic cone ear savers pulled \$33,000.

Sixteen lots of seeding and tillage equipment included a low-use 2016 Case 875 Ecolo-Tiger 7-shank disc chisel plow, that sold for \$55,000. It had the original ripper points, 24-inch spacing, disc leveler, rolling basket, and VF 445/65 R 22.5 tires. Another disc chisel plow, a Sunflower 11-shank Model 4212-14, went for \$14,500. It had 15-inch spacing, hydraulic disc, adjustable walking tandems, Danish tine, rear leveler, and 11L-15 tires.

Bidding reached \$33,500 on a low-acreage 32-foot Kuhn Krause cultipacker, with 9.5L-15SL tires. A 2014 28-foot Kongskilde 8200 Danish tine Remlinger rolling basket, with 2 hydraulic remotes plumbed to the rear hitch, landed \$25,000.

There were eight lots of grain-handling machinery. Among them, a Killbros 1820 grain cart, with like-new 900/60-32 tires went for \$19,000. Then came two 38-foot Merrit hopper-bottom grain trailers, one a 2014 and the other a 2015. Both had electric roll tarps, elec-

tric grain doors, side sight windows, Ag hoppers, spring ride, and aluminum outer rims with steel inner. The 2014 picked up \$30,000 and the 2015 came close at \$29,000.

Additional pieces of agricultural equipment included an AG Gator 1004 sprayer that bid to \$3,250. It featured 80-foot booms, 20-inch nozzle spacing, a 1000-gallon stainless steel tank, Cummins V-8 engine, and 16.9 R 38 tires. A 20-foot Bush Hog 2720 batwing mower, with large 1000 PTO, aircraft tires and stump jumpers, hit \$10,250.

There were also assorted attachments like a Landoll VT Plus Model 7431-29, single rolling basket, with 20-inch blades, and rear hitch with hydraulics, that sold for an impressive \$43,000. A bid of \$17,000 picked up a 20-foot John Deere 1560 drill with 7.5-inch spacing, markers, 2-point hitch, and Unverferth fill auger.

Non-agricultural items included a sole semi-truck that rolled off for \$7,000. The 1978 Ford, with 913,184 miles, was outfitted with a 400 Cummins engine, Roadranger 13-speed transmission, and featured a 204-inch wheelbase, wet line, spring ride, air slide 5th wheel, and 11 R 22.5 tires.

Five trailers were also available. Among them, selling for \$7,000, was a 1990 East Manufacturing 33-foot aluminum dump trailer. It offered an electric roll tarp, spring ride, grain chute, poly liner, LED lights, aluminum rims, and 11 R 22.5 tires. A 1970 Butler 4600-gallon insulated tanker trailer, with spring ride, and 11 R 22.5 tires rang up \$3,700. A Movall lowboy trailer with a winch, 8-foot neck, 24-foot deck, 8-foot ramp with tail, and fold-out extensions, sold for \$2,750.

For information on the Wendt Group's upcoming auctions, visit: www.thewendtgroup.com



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Above: Researchers at Virginia Tech are collecting chaff and harvest residues from the back of combines to learn where weed seeds go once they enter a combine at harvest time. (Photo credit: Claudio Rubione, GROW)

Getting rid of resistant weeds is what GROW is all about

who are struggling to manage weeds, and they have farmers who are running out of herbicides that work to kill weeds," said Emily Unglesbee, GROW's director of outreach and extension. "The goal of GROW is to pool all of these researchers' knowledge."

Unglesbee said previously the scientists were doing research projects separately in their own states. They formed GROW because they realized they could conduct more powerful research with data from across the country. Once they had the research, they needed a way to get it to farmers, so they developed a website and social media platforms.

"The website and social media platforms are a way for this research to be translated into language, fact sheets, videos, and webpages that are easy for farmers and the farm advising community to understand and use whenever they need it," Unglesbee said.

The goal of IWM is to complement herbicide use, not to replace it, Unglesbee said. Herbicides are a critical part of weed control for most commercial row-crop farmers. However, chemical use faces many threats including regulatory scrutiny, consumer and environmental concerns, and the growing biological reality of weeds becoming resistant to herbicides.

"The goal of this research is to find these other tactics, study them well, get information on how they actually work on the ground in farmer's fields, and that way, when farmers are ready to start varying their weed control programs, to start complementing them with new non-chemical options for weed control, the research is all there, ready to go, on our website, on our social media platforms, ready to educate and ready for them to find it and learn from it.

GROW is a resource on any new innovative weed management happening in the industry, Unglesbee said. The scientists are focusing current research projects on cover crops, harvest weed seed control — that involves destroying the seeds at harvest so they cannot grow again the following year or concentrating them in one area — and precision weed management, which involves precisely applying herbicide only to the target weeds, not broadcasting it on the entire field.

Gathering this research from across the country makes the knowledge gained that much broader. For example, at OSU Dr. Alyssa Essman, assistant professor and weed science extension specialist, is collecting data with funding received through the

GROW network from the United Soybean Board. This is part of a multi-state collaborative effort focused on speeding the development of precision weed management technology.

"We are collecting data that will support various weed management tools," Essman said. "This involves taking pictures and videos of cover crops, cash crops, and weeds. We then collect the biomass associated with the imaged areas and provide this data to the project leadership team."

This is part of a larger effort to create an open-source database of reference images, called the National Agricultural Image Repository with the goal of developing software that will support tools like precision herbicide applications, she said.

Meanwhile, at Penn State University, Dr. Bill Curran, emeritus professor of weed science has been working on several GROW projects, including updating the herbicide-resistant (HR) weed management information. Dr. Curran and Claudio Rubione, GROW's IWM outreach and extension associate, are working on two HR education modules, both of which will soon be available on GROW's website.

The first project presents information on the Basics of Herbicide Resistance addresses questions that everyone has about HR, such as what is it; how does it happen; can it be reversed; how can you identify it, are all weeds and herbicides vulnerable, and more.

"The second module addresses management focusing on IWM," Curran said. "Topics include target-site versus non-target-site resistance; how to use herbicides including tank-mixing and rotating mode of actions; what non-chemical strategies are available; what new technologies are on the horizon; and developing an IWM strategy."

GROW is an open access, public resource, Unglesbee said.

"Everything on our website is free for people to reprint with attribution, to use in their own educational programs to print in their magazines, use in their own presentations," she said.

The best way for farmers or crop advisors to learn about GROW's resources and webinars, some of which offer continuing education credits, is by subscribing to GROW's website. They will receive a newsletter which will tell of any upcoming events and any news stories of interest. To subscribe, go to www.growiwm.org. At the bottom of any webpage there is a box to subscribe.

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By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio—GROW (Getting Rid Of Weeds) is a network of weed scientists from land grant universities such as the Ohio State University (OSU), nationwide or scientists from the USDA. They are all dealing with the growing epidemic of herbicide resistance.

Increasingly, growers, crop consultants, and other agricultural professionals are turning to integrated weed management (IWM), the practice of using multiple weed control tactics, to manage herbicide-resistant weeds on their farms. Combating weeds with a combination of cultural, mechanical, and chemical strategies can create better weed control programs.

"These scientists all have farmers

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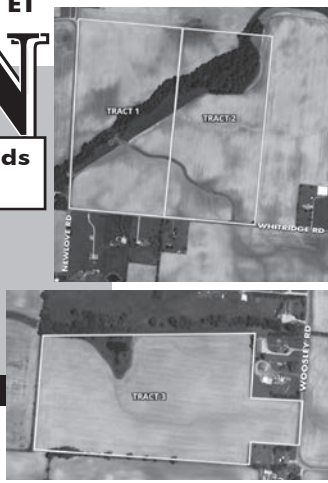
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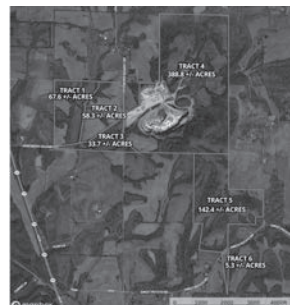
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Above: An Iowa farmer sprays his tilled field. (photo courtesy of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation)

Heavy rain stalls 2024 spring planting season for Midwest

By Doug Schmitz
Iowa Correspondent

COATESVILLE, Ind. - For Mark Legan, a Coatesville corn and soybean producer, spring planting has yet to get underway for him and his neighboring farmers in the west central part of the state.

"There was some field work done in March and early April, but six to seven-plus inches of rain over the last two weeks put a stop to that," he told Farm World. "We and some neighbors have been able to resume spraying cover crops the middle of this week (April 14-20), and the ground has started to shape up again."

"Without any additional rain this week, I would say planters could be rolling by this weekend (April 20-21); however, several nights coming up of lows in the 30s makes it hard to get too excited," added Legan, who serves on the Indiana Soybean Alliance board of directors, and is also a pork producer.

Like Legan, Stan Born, a Lovington, Ill., soybean grower and an American Soybean Association director, hasn't been able to start his spring planting due to the persistent rain.

"Like myself, neighbors are watching the forecast for rain events coming this week and forecast night-time lows in upper 30s, and just waiting it out," he told Farm World. "We have plenty of moisture in the upper soil profile at least. I expect early next week will be go-time for planters here."

According to Indiana State Statistician Nathaniel Warenski at the state's USDA field office, another week of abnormally high precipitation saturated fields and prevented planting.

"Corn planted, at 1 percent, was behind the five-year average," he said. "Winter wheat jointing progressed slightly ahead of the five-year average. The crop was rated 74 percent good to excellent."

(Heavy Rain continued on page 14B)

Obituary: Guy Dean Jackson

Guy Dean Jackson, 86, a lifetime resident of Warren, Ind., died on Thursday, April 11 at Heritage Pointe Communities in Warren.

Guy was born on April 2, 1938, to Donald and Edna Louise (Barnes) Jackson in Huntington County, Indiana. He graduated from Warren High School in 1956, and married R. Carlene (Theobald) Jackson on March 4, 1962. She preceded him in death in 2009. Guy established Guy Jackson Duroc Inc. currently operating as JJ Genetics. He was also a member of the Woodlawn Cemetery Board, Huntington County Fair Board as a past president, National Duroc Association, Indiana Duroc Association, Huntington County Swine Boosters, a Lifetime Member of the Indiana State Fair Hall of Fame and received a legacy award at the christening of the new Swine Barn. He sold hogs nationally and worldwide. Guy could always be found at the hog shows, supporting his grandchildren's events and activities and tooling around the farm on his gator with his dog, Spice close behind.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Edna Jackson, wife, R. Carlene Jackson, son, Kent Dean Jackson, granddaughter, Jama Lynn Johnson, and brother, Wayne Lee Jackson.



Survivors include his daughters, Kelly (DeWayne) Jones of Warren, IN, and Karen (Mike) Johnson of Warren, IN, grandchildren, Suzzette (Graham) Corbin of Ingall, IN, Sarah Jones of Warren, IN, Samuel Jones of Warren, IN, Jackson (Kalin) Johnson of Warren, IN, 4 great grandchildren, Emma, Griffin, Caysen & Gentry, brother, Wendell (Marcia) Jackson of Warren, IN, and sister-in-law, Mary Ann Jackson of Warren, IN.

Burial was at Wodlawn Cemetery in Warren, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: NSR Foundation in Memory of Guy Jackson, 2639 Yeager Rd., West Lafayette, IN 47906 or Wells County Swine Boosters, 1240 4H Park Rd., Bluffton, IN 46714

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Above: Dwayne and Jenna started farming based on the love Dwayne had from his grandfather's farm.

Jessup family reenters farming after skipping a generation

Recently I met with Dayne and Jenna Jessup. This young man and his family have re-entered farming after skipping a generation. I couldn't help but wonder how many young folks

55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT
BY BILL WHITMAN

consistent income for his family. Dayne finds himself involved in a couple of side businesses. Seed sales and Blackstone Ag Solutions, a business spread-

ing all forms of fertilizer, Dayne and his family have become a viable agriculture family. In talking with Dayne and his family, yet another challenge surfaced that farmers across the country are facing, land values. During Dayne's lifetime, area land prices will force him to consider other options. Dayne describes his options as "Plan b and Plan c". It occurred to me that in the very near future this will be a hurdle that forces Dayne and his family, as well as hundreds if not thousands of young farmers countrywide, to recognize that their current environment will evolve and will require relocation.

When I talked with Dayne and his family about the future, I was struck with their belief that in some way or another, agriculture would be their future. I was also intrigued with the acceptance of their circumstances and their embrace the challenges coming, this year and the years beyond. It was easy to see the future in the eyes of Darby and Stetson, Dayne and Jenna's daughter and son. With family determined to carry on instilling family values that are found in rural America today, we left the Jessup Farm believing again in American agriculture's future.

Grandma Donna and Dayne's dad, Garry, describe a very young Dayne as having an operating farm with toy machinery, stored under the dining room table, and maintaining his fields, made up of the home's carpet neat and clean. As I looked around when we pulled into his farmstead and when we left, he brought those same attitudes with him to the real world.

IndianaAg@Bluemarble.net

Dayne would go on to college with the intention of becoming a history teacher, but the tug of farming proved too strong. In 2014 he had the opportunity to rent a neighboring farm and with the help of Alan, a neighbor and mentor, started. Dayne began farming using his mentor's equipment and trading labor and paying custom rates for the use of his equipment.

As happens all too often today, farm labor is generally understaffed and the load put on one person. The Jessup Farm is no exception. The risk of farming rented ground, taking on his family's ground, the need to provide

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Heavy Rain

FROM PAGE 12B

In Illinois, corn planted reached 3 percent, compared to the five-year average of 4 percent. Soybeans planted reached 4 percent, compared to the five-year average of 1 percent. Winter wheat headed reached 5 percent, compared to the five-year average of 3 percent."

In Michigan, Marlo Johnson, USDA's Great Lakes Regional Office director, said above-average temperatures and dry conditions early in the week and very pleasant weather late in the week allowed farmers to make good sugar beet planting progress. Winter wheat continued to green up and was looking good across the state.

In Ohio, State Statistician Ben Torrance said farmers reported that with the excess rain, the only field work that could be done was applying herbicide and fertilizing wheat. Oats were 11 percent planted. Winter wheat was 51 percent jointed, and winter wheat condition was 70 percent good to excellent. Warmer-than-normal conditions continued to push fruit crop development.

In Kentucky, David Knopf, USDA's Kentucky field office director, said corn is currently at 9 percent planted, down slightly from the five-year average of 11 percent at this time. Soybeans are at 8 percent planted. Seeding of tobacco transplants continues normally, with 60 percent seeded.

In Tennessee, the state's USDA field office said the state experienced variable temperatures and heavy rainfall the previous week (April 7-13). Some regions experienced storms with high winds and hail, which yielded some damage to strawberry crops as well as a few barns and greenhouses.

"Continuous rain kept producers mostly out of the fields this week, but corn and soybean planting are already well on their way," the office said. "The precipitation has been very beneficial for pasture growth and winter wheat progress, with pro-

ducers reporting most wheat crops looking healthy and strong."

In Iowa, Mike Naig, Iowa agriculture secretary, said, "Planters have started to roll across the state with the help of a string of warm spring days. However, there may be a temporary pause in planting as the forecast shows the potential for severe thunderstorms early this week, followed by near-freezing, low temperatures toward the weekend."

The USDA's Iowa field office said some corn and soybeans were planted, with 4 percent of the expected corn acreage has been planted. Oats seeding reached 66 percent complete.

When asked whether the record-breaking warm, dry weather conditions in January and February will affect this year's planting and growing seasons, Dennis Todey, USDA Midwest Climate Hub director in Ames, Iowa, told Farm World, there would be no direct impact, except for soil moisture.

"The very warm winter kept soils unfrozen, largely allowing rains and even a good part of the snow to melt, helping soil moisture," he said. "The warmth also allowed for more evaporation from the soil, much more than we would expect during the winter. The warmer conditions have also allowed soils to warm and be ready for planting more readily."

State Climatologist of Iowa Justin Glisan told Farm World, "Where warm and dry conditions were present, drought and abnormally dry conditions expanded. In terms of what this holds for the growing season, portions of the Corn Belt are short on soil moisture, and will need a wetter pattern and timely rainfalls to push the crop along in the drier areas."

Legan said, "I am not sure what effect the warm, dry winter will have on this year's crop. I probably was more concerned before the recent

rains. If we can get the crop planted in the next month, decent stands and timely rain, we could very well have another good crop. Subsoil moisture is important, but to those of us that measure our topsoil in inches instead of feet, we have to have rain in July and August."

Born said the warm and dry March, carried over from the warmer temperatures in January and February, allowed him to get spring nitrogen applied for corn.

"However, the rains came in early April and have us in pretty good shape," he said. "I'm hopeful the delayed planting start will come with warmer temperatures so seeds will germinate and emerge quickly, and get our season started."

For the three-week outlook, Todey said, "After a significant storm system entering the region right now, we will see some severe weather and decent rains over much of the Western Corn Belt. Then colder air will spread throughout the region through the weekend, bringing near-to below-freezing temperatures in the Northwestern Corn Belt.

"The Eastern Corn Belt will also cool, but right now, it seems to avoid the sub-freezing temperatures," he said. "That can change and needs to be monitored. Then early next week and out several weeks, warmer-than-average conditions tend to prevail. I expect crop progress to pick up this week, and really ramp up next week (April 21-26)."

Glisan said, "The climatological outlooks into the first week of May show a strong signal for warmer-than-average temperatures and elevated probabilities for wetter conditions from the Western Corn Belt to the Appalachians."

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Brad Neuhart Auctioneers are proud to have been selected by Melvin Dailey to offer his antique tractor collection and more through an online only public auction. Items can be viewed in person on Thursday 4/25/24 from 10am - 4pm at 12747 Wabash Rd. Milan, MI. Payment and pickup of items is on Tuesday 4/30/24 at 12747 Wabash Rd. Milan, MI from 10am-4pm. See www.bradneuhart.com for pics and info.

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ARMY JEEPS: 1942 Ford GPW w/ 50 Cal. Dummy Gun that fires on propane - Rbit. Trans, Runs Good; 1943 Ford GPW w/ 30 Cal. Dummy Gun - Runs Good

PARTS: (2) Sets of Steel Extensions (Fit McD 10-20); McCormick 10-20 Sheet Metal; Steel Wheels w/ Extensions (Fit McD W-40); Magnetos; Carbs; NOS Gaskets; IH 450D Block; IH M Block; IH 460 Parts; IH Front Bolsters and MORE

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Tractors-Skid Loader-Truck-Trailer: John Deere 3039 R w/ Cab, Loader & Deck 24 Hrs., JD 7520 3pt., PTO, 18.4-34 Tires and Duals, New Holland Work Master 65 2WD w/ Loader, Ford 2000 Offset w/ New Paint, Kubota B20 4WD Tractor-Loader-Backhoe, Case 580C Tractor-Loader-Backhoe, Ford 4040 Tractor-Loader-Backhoe, Farm King 200, IH 1486 CHA, IH 966 Fender Tractor, IH 706 German Diesel WF FH, IH 684 w/ 2250 Loader, IH 674 Gas w/ 2250 Loader, Case IH 574 D w/ Freeman Loader, IH 585 w/ 2250 Loader, Farmall 560 Gas Wide Front, FH, Farmall M, Farmall Cub, IH Cub Vineyard w/ Cult. Extra Narrow-Rare, JD 2510 Gas WF, MF 231, MF 231 w/ Loader, MF 135, Case-O-Matic 800 Diesel, Oliver 1650 Gas WF, White 2-70 Diesel 3148 Hrs., JD 70 Standard LP Original, NH LX 585 Skid Loader, NH L175 Skid Loader, Mustang 442 Skid Steer w/ Bucket- Diesel Been Sitting, 1972 IH 1800 Grain Truck w/ 16' Bed w/ Hoist, Airbrakes, Diesel, Dumping Flatbed, 7.D3 Mack R Tri-Axle Grain Truck 22' Bed w/ Liner, 2001 Ford F550 4X4 6 SPD, Used 16' Flatbed Car Hauler, New 18' Flatbed Car Hauler, 2015 Big Tex 30' 22K Tandem Dual Gooseneck Trailer, JD 6620 Titan II Combine, JD 643 Corn Head, Gleaner 10' K Series Grain Head-Very Nice, Unverferth 25' Head Cart, Ditch Witch trencher, Ditch Witch R65 4WD w/ Hoe, New Mini Compact Track Loader. **Equipment:** Hesston 956 Round Baler, NH 654 Round Baler Field Ready, Tar River 870 3pt Mini Round Baler, NH 570 Baler w/ Thrower, (2) 18' Bale King Kick Wagon, Unverferth 3pt Bale Wrapper, Allied 50' Hay Elevator, Hay Rite Bale Elevator, IH Windrower, Kubota 1022 3pt Disc Mower, NH 451 Sickle Mower, MF 3pt. Sickle Mower, NH 256 Rake Extra Nice, NH 256 Rake, NI Dolly Wheel Hay Rake, Case IH 496 18' Hyd. Wing Disc, IH 490 22' Hyd. Wing Disc w/ New 20" Blades, IH 475 12' Trans. Disc w/ New 20" Blades, Krause 1900 20' Hyd. Wing Disc, JD 630 Wing Disc, KW 12' Trans. Disc, IH 37 Trans. Disc, White 252 12' Trans. Disc, Ford 7' 3pt. Flex Hitch Disc, 6' Disc, Landoll 875-10D 10' Soil Finisher, Brillion 9X Disc Chisel, Glencoe 9X Disc Chisel, Glencoe 7X Disc Chisel, White 445 7X Disc Chisel, MF 12' Danish Tine Field Cultivator, Oliver 2X Cultivator, Ferguson Cult w/ Leveler, JD 722 14' Soil Finisher, Brillion 14' Cultimulcher Crow Foot Fronts, Brillion 14' Cultimulcher, JD 2800 7X ASR On-Land Plow, White 508 5X Plow, Oliver 546 4X Semimount Plow, IH 720 4X16 Toggle Trip Plow, Oliver 3X 3pt. Plow, MF 3X Plow, MF 1X Add on, IH, Ford, Ferguson 2X Plows Field Ready, IH 1X 3pt. Plow, 1X Roll Over Plow, 12' Cultipacker, JD 750 Drill w/ Dolly Wheel, has Grass Seed, JD Markers, Approx. 400 Acres on Blades & Booms, JD 750 Drill w/ Dolly Wheel, JD FBB 13 Disc w/ Grass Seed Grain Drill, IH 5100 Grain Drill w/ Grass Seed, JD 7200 VAC 12X Front Fold w/ Liq. Fertilizer, Kinze 2000 6X No Til Corn Planter w/ Dry Fert. 3pt. 1X JD 7000 Not Til Planter, JD 7300 2X 3pt. Corn Planter Reconditioned As New, Farmall FH 2X Corn Planter, Ford 309 2X Corn Planter-Like New, JD 2X Hill Planter w/ Fert., (2) John Deere 7000 Dry Fertilizer Boxes w/ Extensions, (12) JD Cast Closing Wheel Sets for JD 7000, 3pt 9 Shank Anhydrous Bar, Wilmar HT765 600 Gallon 80' Booms, Wilmar Sprayer Trailer, Hesston 5180 Manure Spreader w/ Top Beater, Nice New Idea 17 Manure Spreader- 1

of a kind, New Idea 3 Beater PTO Spreader, NI 206 Manure Spreader-Extra Nice, Knoedler Feed Wagon, Killbros 375 Gravity Wagon w/ Auger, Killbros 350 Gravity Wagon, Killbro 350 Gravity Wagon w/ Kory 10T Gear, Killbro 350 Gravity Wagon w/ JD 1065 Gear, Unverferth 230 Gravity Wagon, Parker 250 Gravity Wagon, M&W Gravity Wagon, J&M 250 Gravity, 14' Dump Auger, IH 85 Grinder Mixer, IH 2X Narrow Chopper, Feterl Grain Cleaner, IH 1X PTO Corn Binder w/ Aluminum Bundle Elevator, Aluminum Harvest Handler Elevator, IH 1X Corn Picker-Nice Shed Kept, NH 350 Grinder Mixer, Hider Hyd. Dump Wagon, Letz Burr Mill, Artsway PR 20 Roller Mill, Tyler 500 Fertilizer Buggy, Woods 3180 15' Batwing, Woods BW18 Batwing, Bush Hog 2615 L15' Batwing Mower, 8' 3pt. Brush Hog, Woods 7' Pull Type Mower, Bush Hog RZ60 Mower, Very Nice Ferris Hyd. Off set Flail Mower. **Misc:** New 18.4-38 Crop Max Tires, 18.4-38 on 9 Bolt Rims, New 18.4-34 Petlas, Firestone 18.4-34 Duals, 18.4-26 8 Bolt Combine Wheels, New 13.6-28 Tires, New 12.4-28 Tires, New 11L15, New 9.5L15, New 6.50-16, New 7.50-16, New 10.00-16, 9.5-15 6 Bolt Tires/Wheels, 16.5X16.1 Tires, IH 100# Suitcase Weights, Ford 75# & 100# Suitcase Weights, John Deere 100# Weights, Complete Set of JD MT Wheel Weights, Oliver Slab Weights, IH 06 Series 3pt. Hitch, Meyers Bale Wagon Sides, Bush Hog PHD w/ 9' Auger, HD 8' 3pt. Blade, Shaver Post Driver, 3pt Fork Lift, 8' 3pt Snow Blower, IH 656-686 Roll Bar Canopy, JD 2510-4320 Roll Bar Canopy, New Round Bale Feeders, Industrial America 10' Pull Type Box Blade, Torch w/ Cart & Tanks, Start All Portable Gas Powered Jump Pack, Floor Sander, Jack Hammer w/ Cart, Power Cart, Dry Wall Cart, Portable 5' Bar, 2 Wheel Salt Spreaders, 133 Plastic Folding Chairs, 275 Gallon Stainless Mixing Tank, Grove 2632E Manlift- Not Working, 8.5' & 7.5' Hiniker Truck Snow Plow, L- Fuel Tank, 3pt. Boom, 12" Skid Loader Tracks, NH BH124 QA Backhoe, Mustang 442 QA Backhoe, 3pt Slip Scoop, New Truck Tail Lights, New Mud Flaps, 8x8 Dog Kennel, 1X Potato Digger, JD Loader Bale Spear, 5th Wheel Hitch for Pick-Up, New Rite Hite Over Head Door, JD Diesel Hyd. Trans. Ravens Controller, New Various Size Plastic Field Tile Connector Tees Caps, **New:** Wrought Iron Fence, Holland 20M & 30M Wire Fence, Portable Toilet w/ Sink, Cattle Work Chute, 20x30 Steel Carport, 20x20 All Steel Car Port, Carbon Steel Turnover Boxes, 12' Storage container, Used 40' Container, New 40' Container. **Lawn & Garden:** Kubota B7100 w/ Deck, Kubota BX2670 4WD w/ Deck-368 hrs., John Deere 4300 4WD w/ Deck, John Deere 2305 4WD w/ Deck, Yanmar YM146 Diesel Power Shift Lawn Mower, Cub 185 Lowboy w/ Deck, (3) Speedex Lawn Tractors, 2023 Club Car Gas w/ Canopy & Wind Shield, 2017 E-Z Go Electric Golf Cart, 2016 Yamaha Electric Golf Cart, 2 Stroke Gas Golf Cart w/ Dump Bed, JD 4X2 Gator w/ Power Dump, Woods 1250 Zero Turn Mower- Not Running, Encore Leaf Blower, (5) Pallets of Pennsylvania Blue Stone, New Tar River 50", 60", 74" 3pt. Rototillers, Woods GTC 60" Tiller, Land Pride RTR1250 Rototiller, Small Self Propelled Roller, 6x8 Garden Shed, 8x10 Garden Shed, 8x12 Garden Shed, 8x16 Chicken Shed, 4x6 Chicken House, 6x6 Chicken House, 8x16 Run In Shed, 6x8 Run in Shed, 6x8 Play House.

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Thoughts on being named Ohio Holstein Woman of the Year

On a cold snowy day in December, I was visiting with my husband about the Ohio Holstein Woman of the Year contest. I was going through a list of women who I thought were deserving of this award and told Bobby I was going to send their names in to the contest coordinator.



TRUTH IN THE TRENCHES
By Melissa Hart

He responded, "That's none of your business, you need to stay out of that."

Wondering why he had such a stern response, I argued that it WAS my business and why on earth did he think I needed to keep my nose out of it? He didn't say much more, but I honestly wondered if we needed some sort of medication for him.

Fast forward three months and I was sitting at the Ohio Holstein Convention during the awards luncheon. They Woman of the Year award was up and although I knew they had some nominations, I had no idea who this year's winner was. They try to keep it a secret and usually the family of the winner will sneak in the back door during the presentation and surprise her when she gets the award.

About three sentences into the

presentation, it started to sound very familiar. About 30 seconds later I realized that I was the award winner. I looked at my daughter sitting next to me and she flashed a smile.

When I got up to receive the flowers and embroidered blanket, I turned and saw all of our children standing there with big smiles. They had all snuck into the banquet hall and I was completely surprised by all of it. The only one who wasn't there was Bobby, who was at home, sick.

It is an understatement to say I am honored by this award. There are so many women who have been named the Woman of the Year in Ohio who I respect and look up to. Esther Welch, Diana Miley, Kristy Ackley, Dannette Simpson, and the list goes on and on. To be counted among these hard-working women in agriculture is incredibly humbling to say the least. And the fact that our children took time out of their busy lives to be a part of the presentation was the icing on the cake. And that they all kept it a secret for three months is astounding!

As I drove home from the convention, I felt so grateful for the honor, and it dawned on me that maybe my husband doesn't need medication after all. He was behind the entire nomination and didn't want me to ruin it by creating more competition for myself. I'm still in awe that my family would go to the trouble to nominate me and am thankful to the Ohio Holstein Women and the Ohio Holstein Association for the award.

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

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Highlights

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IS 3188E3S	3.1	109%	82.0	85.0	90.0			72.6	124.7
IS 3307E3S	3.3	105%	79.2	83.0	83.8	70.9	74.4	76.9	86.4
IS 3537E3	3.5	103%	77.5	85.9	85.5	73.8		83.8	83.9
AGI 0733AE	3.3	102%	84.1	87.7	82.2	82.2		69.7	82.7
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