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Most farmers will plant more corn, fewer soybeans; except in Ohio

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a year when nationwide corn acreage is estimated to be up and soybean acreage down, Ohio is an outlier in the region. Buckeye state farmers are expected to plant 50,000 more acres of soybeans and 150,000 fewer acres of corn than in 2024, according to the USDA.

Other states in the region – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan and Tennessee – should see increases in corn and a drop in soybean acreage, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) said. The agency released its Prospective Plantings report March 31.

The decision-making process on crop selection may be influenced by several factors, such as cropping practices, and environmental, geographic and economic issues unique to each operation, Ben Torrance, Ohio state statistician for NASS, told Farm World.

As an example, he mentioned input costs comparisons. "Seed and fertilizer are expensive components of corn production plus drying costs at harvest. Herbicide costs tend to be higher in soybean production."

Transportation costs, the outlook on futures markets and "lingering (economic and environmental) pains from drought experienced in the 2024 crop year," are also factors, Torrance noted.

Farmers also consider current crop rotation practices and long-range weather forecast implications, he said. Difficult-to-manage environmental factors are also considered.

"Timing and prevalence of tar spot in corn has impact on yield potential and standability through harvest,"

Torrance pointed out. "This is a relatively new issue being experienced by Ohio corn growers. In Ohio, vomitoxin contamination is a growing concern linked to weather conditions during pollination and harvest. Contamination drastically affects marketability of the crop."

Nationwide, NASS has estimated corn acreage at 95.3 million, up from 91 million last year. If realized, this would be the largest planted acreage amount since 2013 and the third highest since 1944.

Farmers are expected to plant 83.5 million acres of soybeans, down from 87 million in 2024. Decreases of 300,000 acres or more are anticipated in six states, including Illinois and Iowa, NASS said. If realized, the planted acres in Ohio and New York would be the largest on record, NASS said.

All wheat acreage was estimated to be 45.4 million, down from 46 million. If realized, this would be the second lowest wheat planted area since records began in 1919, the agency said. Winter wheat was estimated at 33.3 million acres, down from last year's 33.4 million.

The nationwide corn numbers released by NASS were slightly above the average pre-report trade guess, and slightly less for soybeans, said Rhett Montgomery, DTN lead analyst.

"Corn continues to really be choppy," he said. "Looking back through recent history it really hit its peak there in the years immediately after 2010 and it's pretty much turned sideways with any given year's price action dictating kind of how it varies from that. Really, it's a pivot right around just above 91 or so million acres."

The corn acreage estimate, however, was "within expectations, given especially how resilient corn prices have been through the late fall and early part of 2025, as compared to soybeans, which seems to be the vast switch is probably soybean acres going straight over to corn acres," Montgomery said.

The wheat acreage estimate – a drop of 680,000 – was a surprise, he said. "(Analysts) were expecting (on a Dow Jones survey) a slight increase in year over year wheat acreage of about 300,000 acres or so. If there was a bullish surprise or a surprise in general in this report, it probably came on the wheat acres side."

(See Plantings on page 2)



Above: After recent storms in Wet Central Indiana, this double rainbow appeared. Photo by Abby Prather Mullis.

Ag groups are worried about proposed port fees increase

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Perhaps lost in the shuffle of President Donald Trump's sweeping international tariffs is a proposal from the administration to increase port fees on most of the maritime fleet, specifically on Chinese vessels operating in U.S. waters.

The proposal would assess heavy fees on each port entrance against Chinese shipping operators, Chinese-built ships, and non-Chinese operators that currently own or have ordered Chinese-built ships for their fleets.

Further, the administration is proposing rules requiring exporters to utilize U.S.-flagged-and-operated vessels on an escalating schedule over the next seven years, according to the Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA), which issued a statement warning that under the proposed fee increase from the Trump Administration, corn farmers could expect to add 43 -65 cents per bushel in transportation cost to foreign markets reached by ship if the port fees are adopted.

"The size of the U.S. shipbuilding industry is supremely small. Of the roughly 21,000 bulk vessels operating around the world today, only seven are U.S. flagged and only five are U.S. built. To meet the Trump Administration's goals for American production, the U.S. would need to build, operate and flag more than 900 Handymax vessels, and 400 Panamax vessels (or some combination of the two) within three years. For context, during peak ship production in the U.S. back in the 1970s, we only produced 15-20 ships per year," the March 27 ICGA statement reads, in part.

The issue gained momentum on March 12, 2024, when a group of petitioners filed a Section 301 petition to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) regarding China's perceived efforts to dominate the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sector. In April 2024, under the Biden administration, the USTR initiated an investigation into the matter, concluding that "China's targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors for dominance is unreasonable and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce and thus is actionable."

The Trump administration took up the issue in February 2025, when the USTR released to the public its proposed actions resulting from the investigation. These actions included the assessment of fees of up to \$1.5 million on every ship arriving at U.S. ports if the ships are Chinese built, operated or flagged.

"Imposing port fees on most of the maritime fleet that exports from and imports to the U.S. will increase costs for U.S. farmers — both in terms of inputs like fertilizer, seed, etc., and getting crops to market," said Mike Koehne, an Indiana farmer and Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) chairman who testified during a USTR public hearing on March 24, 2025 in Washington. "At the same time, our competitors in Brazil and Argentina will not be subject to the same regulations. While well-intended, this proposal would ensure U.S. soybeans will bear higher costs and be less competitive in the global marketplace."

The American Soybean Association (ASA) estimated the costs of a \$1 million fee on soybean exports. For ves-

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Friendly insects helping farmers use fewer chemicals
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In this Farm World:

High winds and tornadoes cause damage in readership areaPage 9B



Plantings

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Todd D. Davis, Indiana Farm Bureau chief economist, said analysts surveyed prior to the report’s release believed the corn area would increase from last year as declining corn stocks from 2024 have improved corn profitability relative to previous years. In contrast, he said in a statement, soybean stocks have increased in the U.S. as well as in our South American competitors.

“The market was preparing for increases in corn acreage in 2025,” Davis said. “Using USDA’s corn supply and demand estimate from the February 2025 Agricultural Outlook Conference, a planted corn area of 95.3 million acres could potentially increase corn ending stocks if yields are above the record yield of 179.3 bushels per acre. In contrast, if farmers plant 83.5 million soybean acres, the 2025 soybean stocks could decrease, barring a trade disruption that would reduce exports.”

Managers can use this information to update and modify marketing and business plans to reflect market conditions, Davis noted. “Since the corn and soybean seed is still in the bag, market fundamentals could change

significantly from USDA’s February projections. Mother Nature has the final say on the 2025 planted area.”

NASS also released the latest grain stocks numbers March 31. Corn stocks as of March 1, 2025, were 8.2 billion bushels, down 2 percent from a year ago. Soybean stocks totaled 1.9 billion bushels, up 4 percent. All wheat stocks were 1.24 billion bushels, up 14 percent.

Planting intentions by state:

Corn: Illinois, 11.1 million acres, up 3 percent from 2024; Indiana, 5.4 million, up 4 percent; Iowa, 13.5 million, up 5 percent; Kentucky, 1.6 million, up 17 percent; Michigan, 2.3 million, up 2 percent; Ohio, 3.25 million, down 4 percent; and Tennessee, 900,000, up 29 percent.

Soybeans: Illinois, 10.5 million, down 3 percent; Indiana, 5.7 million, down 2 percent; Iowa, 9.6 million, down 4 percent; Kentucky, 1.9 million, down 10 percent; Michigan, 2.15 million, down 2 percent; Ohio, 5.1 million, up 1 percent; and Tennessee, 1.75 million, down 4 percent.

Winter wheat: Illinois, 780,000, up 1 percent; Indiana, 320,000, up 3 percent; Kentucky, 500,000, down 11 percent; Michigan, 540,000, up 35 percent; Ohio, 570,000, up 10 percent; and Tennessee, 340,000, down 11 percent.

Ports

FROM PAGE 1

sels loaded with 70,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans, total transportation costs from the Pacific Northwest to China would increase from \$11.90 per bushel to \$12.29 per bushel. From the Mississippi Gulf to Japan, total transportation costs would increase from \$12.22 per bushel to \$12.61 per bushel, according to ASA projections.

“The proposed actions by USTR will clearly diminish the ability of U.S. farmers to compete in the international marketplace,” stated Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the STC, in an email. “Transportation can facilitate farmer profitability or be an obstacle to it. It all depends upon how cost-effective and reliable that transportation system is. The proposed actions by USTR would add significant costs to the soybeans and soy products U.S. farmers export to the global marketplace. One more obstacle to farmer profitability will have been erected.”

Illinois farmers export roughly 30 percent of their corn to foreign markets around the globe, along with millions of gallons of ethanol according to the ICGA. “Access and profitability in foreign markets is vital for the success of not just Illinois, but all of American agriculture. Per the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2024 the U.S. exported more than \$13.9 billion of corn to markets around the globe with Mexico, Japan, Colombia, South Korea, and Canada being the top five (destinations) for U.S. corn,” Illinois Corn stated.

The March 24 USTR public hearing in which Koehne and various stakeholders offered comments on USTR’s proposed action resulting from their “Section 301 Investigation of China’s Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors for Dominance” can be accessed at: <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/enforcement/section-301-investigations/section-301-china-targeting-maritime-logistics-and-shipbuilding-sectors-dominance>.



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Latest US corn acreage number is larger than expected

The USDA released two major reports to finish March. These were the quarterly stocks data and the planting intentions report. There were a few surprises in this data, primarily the larger than expected U.S. corn acreage figure.

For corn, the USDA is forecasting plantings of 95.3 million this year, a 4.73 million increase from last year. Corn acreage is forecast to increase in 40 of the 48 main corn production states. A big reason for this gain in corn is a 12 percent reduction to projected U.S. cotton acres. Soybean acres are fore-



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

cast at 83.5 million, -4 percent from a year ago. Soybean acres are expected to fall in 23 of the 29 main production states. U.S. wheat plantings are forecast at 45.4 million, a 2 percent reduction from a year ago. This will be the second lowest U.S. wheat acreage since record keeping started in 1919. Compared to trade estimates, this year's plantings will be larger than expected while soybeans and wheat are below average trade guesses.

One number from the planting intentions that stood out was total U.S. production area. Total U.S. acres for

all crops this year are forecast at 309,940 million. This is down slightly from last year's 311,208 million acres. These are both well below the 319,500 million acres of production from 2023. Urban sprawl is a major reason for this, but so is a trend of focusing production on higher quality land.

Quarterly stocks data as of March 1st was mixed. The U.S. corn stocks stood at 8.15 billion bu, -2 percent from a year ago. On-farm corn stocks were down 11 percent from last year and off-farm stocks were up 12 percent. Corn disappearance in the 1st quarter was up 100 million bu from last year. U.S. soybean stocks on March 1st totaled 1.91 bbu, a 4 percent increase from March 2024. On-farm soybean stocks were down 6 percent on the year while off-farm were up 13 percent. First quarter soybean disappearance was up 3 percent from last year. Wheat stocks came in at 1.24 bbu, a 14 percent increase on the year. On-farm wheat inventory was up 13 percent and off-farm stocks were up 14 percent. A total of 336 mbu of wheat was consumed in the 1st quarter, a 1 percent increase from a year ago.

Even with the advancing Brazilian soybean harvest and build in the country's export program, soybean basis continues to firm. Soybean trade between Brazil and China has seen values firm 60 cents since the end of China's Lunar New Year celebration. Brazil's soybean shipments have been slowed this year, leaving China with more coverage needs than usual. China currently has 80 percent of April's soybean needs covered, but just 50 percent of May and 32 percent of June's needs. While much of this demand will be covered by Brazil, there is room for some quick ship business if delays to that country's exports continue.

The year-round use of E-15 has long been pushed for by the industry, but now not all states are wishing to see the elevated blend rate right now. Ohio and South Dakota have asked to have the year-round use of E-15 delayed for another year, joining several others. States had until Feb. 26 to request an extension. The only states that will implement year around E-15 use are Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Over the past several weeks we have seen a reduction in Chinese import demand, mainly on feed grains. The USDA has trimmed China's corn import projection for seven consecutive months. We are also seeing

reductions to wheat and sorghum imports since last fall. China is now forecast to import 28.5 mmt of fed grain this year, 23 mmt less than what was projected last August. This drops China to the 3rd largest feed grain importer, behind the European Union at 31.5 mmt and Mexico at 30.9 mmt. A declining livestock herd, more efficient livestock production, and record domestic crops are behind the drop in China's import demand.

Consumer confidence is on a rapid decline in the United States as fears of a recession following U.S. trade disputes are growing. Consumer confidence has declined for four consecutive months and is now at the lowest level in 12 years, falling below the COVID pandemic period. A concern in the economy now is that we may shift into a period of stagnation or even deflation as consumer sentiment drops. Commodity demand tends to fade in times of low consumer confidence, especially for high priced products, including several cuts of U.S. beef.

The March hog and pig inventory report showed a slightly smaller hog herd than what was expected. As of March 1, the U.S. had 74.5 million hogs in inventory, 100 percent of last year. This was 1 percent less than expected. Breeding hogs were 99 percent of a year ago at 5.98 million head. Market hogs came in at 68.5 million, 100 percent of a year ago. These were both 1 percent less than expected. The lower hog numbers were in part from smaller litter sizes. While minimal, this decline in hogs is worth monitoring given the U.S. pork supply is the lowest since 1997.

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Linworth School Community Garden immerses students in agriculture

By William Flood
Ohio correspondent

WORTHINGTON, Ohio — In a Columbus, Ohio suburb, a school-run community garden serves as a hub for students learning about sustainable agriculture. From native plant cultivation to regenerative farming, the Linworth School Community Garden offers hands-on experience in growing crops to meet local food needs, while supplying plants and produce to area residents.

The community garden is part of Worthington's renowned Linworth Experiential Program. This alternative high school, housed in a historic building, was founded in 1973 to offer immersive, hands-on learning experiences for students. The garden took root in 2014 as part of a farm-to-table class, with help from a Growing to Green grant from Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. That program's goal is to have a community garden within walking distance of everyone in Columbus. From the beginning, the garden has provided fresh food for the Worthington Resource Pantry, helping support local families in need.

Over the next decade, several faculty members stewarded various types of gardens. In 2022, Monica Shaner, an educator and gardening enthusiast with ties to the Worthington Partnership Green Team, took the reins. By the time she'd arrived, the garden was virtually abandoned. She revitalized the project, shifting the focus to regenerative agriculture and permaculture practices. Her vision is to teach students how to grow food sustainably in a small tract, while also encouraging them to take responsibility for the garden's growth and success.

Getting students hands-on is particularly important to Shaner because she recognizes how suburban kids often lack connection to the food cycle. "City kids don't understand the hard work behind food production," she said. "Their experiences in the garden help them understand what goes into agriculture." Shaner's class focuses on how small-scale agriculture can work viably in non-rural settings. "We're rooted in thinking about sustainability in an urban environment," she said, adding, "How does the city become more sustainable and help support its own needs?"

Students learn how to implement farming techniques in small spaces where traditional methods may not work. "We practice several different kinds of agriculture and a lot of soil science," Shaner said. "We do row soil blocking, traditional cropping, regenerative agriculture, Hugelkultur, and look at how each affects yields." Shaner added, "We even get into prep issues, like food safety, washing, and packaging," noting that "students learn you don't just pick something and hand it to someone...but we address how that's done on a small scale."

Hugelkultur is a sloped and raised planting bed filled with topsoil, wood, and organic materials.

Along the way, students have needed to problem-solve, such as when their hose watering system wasn't effective. They built an overhead system but faced powdery mildew, so they switched to a drip irrigation system. Each challenge helped them understand the costs of running a viable operation. The financial realities have been addressed in a variety of ways. Students have raised funds by selling native plants at the Worthington Farmers Market. They've also learned the importance of community connections, and collaborating with alumni, volunteers, and local partners. After Shaner arrived, a grant from the Harding-Buller Foundation helped build



Above: Students use a variety of methods to plant, including Hugelkultur, soil blocking, and traditional row-cropping. (Photo: Linworth School Community Garden)

a greenhouse. Additionally, a grant from Franklin County Soil and Water underwrites a program training both students and the public about native edible foods in Ohio.

The garden has yielded impressive results. Students have grown 4,000 native plants from seed, selling thousands through outlets like the Worthington Farmers Market. It also includes creative projects like "Plant Your Pumpkin," where recycled pumpkins are turned into pollinator pockets, giving local families a head start on their spring gardens. Winter projects teach winter sowing, while ongoing efforts like vermicomposting engage students in sustainable practices, including composting school lunch scraps. The garden participates in the area's Pollinator Pathway and the Linworth Taxonomy project teaches students about local ecosystems and biodiversity using tools like iNaturalist. Shaner likens the garden to an "ecolab," essentially a living laboratory that is valuable across the Worthington area and beyond. "Any teacher could take lessons from that garden," Shaner said.

Community involvement is an integral

(Garden continued on page 5)

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Garden

FROM PAGE 4

part of extending experiences beyond the classroom. Students are currently working toward a goal of supplying 500 pounds of food to the Worthington Resource Pantry, tracking their progress through yield calculations. The students' self-named "phyte club" plants, grows, and harvests fresh produce to donate. That service aspect teaches students the importance of giving back and further demonstrates the real-world impact of local, urban/suburban food systems. Through their work with the food pantry, students learn that farming is more than a livelihood — it's about meeting the needs of those around them.

The garden has come a long way from its modest beginnings. The growing space has been expanded and new crops — including native bushes, berries, and vegetables — have been in-

troduced. Recent upgrades include a garden labyrinth, vertical gardens, solar-powered systems, deer fencing, and rain barrels. Over a third of the school is now involved in the garden, with some Linworth students now attending meetings of the Worthington Green Team. "Some students have eyed agriculture as a vocation," Shaner mentioned. "One is interested in viticulture, so we've put five grapevines in the garden for him to tend." Another is interested in farm-to-table food service.

As the Linworth Community Garden continues to grow and its community partnerships deepen, the future looks promising. It not only serves as a hands-on learning space and local provider of plants and produce but also helps fight food insecurity in its backyard. This school-sponsored garden remains a powerful example of how agriculture can thrive in suburban areas, positively impacting both students and area residents.



Above: North of Columbus, Ohio, the Linworth School Community Garden, teaches the practicalities of urban/suburban agriculture. (Photo: Linworth School Community Garden)



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Lab-grade, food-grade film wins soybean innovation competition

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – A self-adhesive, lab-grade and food-grade film called SoyShield earned the \$20,000 grand prize in the 31st annual Student Soybean Innovation Competition during the awards ceremony on March 26 at the Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette. This year’s event added a new soy-based food innovation track, which was won by a high-protein snack called Soy Straws.

The Student Soybean Innovation Competition is a partnership between the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Purdue University. ISA awarded more than \$35,000 to four teams that created new products in the industry track. In the soy-based food track, five teams earned a total of \$11,000. To win these competitions, Purdue University students must develop innovative applications for soybeans. More than 100 students completed the competition through the two tracks comprised of 31 teams.

“The goal of the competition is to highlight the versatility of soybeans while addressing a need in agriculture or the general public,” said ISA Board Chair Denise Scarborough, a farmer from LaCrosse, Ind. “ISA looks forward to working with Purdue students each year and seeing what unique products they create. The products made by these students can expand opportunities and markets for all Indiana soybean growers. We are excited about SoyShield and Soy Straws.”

Nineteen teams of 62 students with 21 faculty advisers competed in this year’s industrial soy products track.

SoyShield is a 100 percent biodegradable, highly elastic, self-adhesive lab-grade and food-grade film designed to be used in commercial laboratory settings for sealing chemical containers, while also being suitable for home use as an alternative to plastic wrap. SoyShield was created by Purdue University students Claire

Eckhardt, Nicholas Emge and Leah Hartzell. Both Eckhardt and Emge are sophomores majoring in environmental and natural resources engineering. Eckhardt is from Albuquerque, N.M., and Emge is from O’Fallon, Mo. Hartzell is a sophomore from Miami, Fla., majoring in agricultural engineering.

Originally intended for a laboratory market, SoyShield is an environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum-based films. The SoyShield team said there is a growing need for biodegradable solutions for one-use-only materials as many university-based laboratories are adopting new environmental standards. Due to its soybean ingredients, SoyShield has the added benefit of being able to replace plastic wrap in kitchens for preserving food. Because SoyShield is permeable, there may be additional uses for this product.

“In the home consumer market, there is a great need for elastic films to seal food,” Eckhardt said. “Additionally, the permeable and compostable nature of SoyShield makes it much less of a choking hazard for children in the home compared to non-permeable plastic counterparts currently on the market.”

The soy-based food innovation track was a new addition to the competition this year. The competition required students to develop novel high-protein snack items using soy. In total, 12 teams, all of whom are College of Agriculture students who worked with Purdue Food Science Department to create products made with the food grade facilities on campus, competed for top prize.

Soy Straws, a lightweight, shelf-stable snack that resembles an egg roll cookie from Spain called a barquillos, earned the \$5,000 top prize in the first-ever Student Soy Food Competition. The creators of Soy Straws said they offer the ability to deliver a



Above: Taking the \$20,000 top prize in the Student Soybean Innovation Competition were the creators of SoyShield, a self-adhesive, lab-grade and food-grade film. The winning team includes, from left, Leah Hartzell, of Miami, Fla., and Claire Eckhardt, of Albuquerque, N.M. A third team member, Nicholas Emge, O’Fallon, Mo., could not attend the ceremony because he is studying abroad.

variety of flavors and a simple manufacturing process. The product’s marketing plan said Soy Straws are a crispy, high protein snack with 15 grams of protein and 0 trans fats. The winning team called themselves The Edemamas and featured Purdue students Anna Hicks, Rong Yang and Sara Thomason.

“Getting crispy products can be a little bit tricky, especially a protein snack,” Hicks said. “It can be a little bit tricky to get the textures you want. There is a lot of trial and error with different formulations to get the texture you want. We were really excited when we were brainstorming because those crispy round snacks aren’t currently on the market.”

Dr. Rodolfo Pinal People’s Choice Award

In addition to the other prizes, the more than 400 attendees of the Student Soybean Innovation Competition Awards Ceremony could each vote for their favorite product for the \$500 People’s Choice award. This prize was officially renamed in honor Dr. Rodolfo Pinal, associate professor of Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics who died in December 2024. Pinal was a frequent faculty adviser for students in this competition, many of whom were prize winners, including the past two winning teams.

This year’s award went to SoyCare,

(Lab-grade continued on page 8)



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Trump’s ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs go into effect

The so-called “Liberation Day” came and went the week of March 31, a name given by President Donald Trump to implementing reciprocal tariffs that apply to all trading nations and added to recent tariffs on aluminum, steel, cars, plus all goods from China.

Lucas Fuess, Rabobank senior dairy analyst, speaking in the April 7 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, said Trump announced a 10 percent base-line tariff on all imports to the U.S. and would be in addition to previous tariffs. Custom, higher tariffs were announced for the worst offenders, according to Fuess, which include about 60 countries, and designed to offset tariffs those countries levy on U.S. imports. They are in addition to actions already taken on countries like China, Canada and Mexico, he said, but we do not know how those countries will respond.

China has put retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products, including dairy, he said, and for China and Mexico, the tariffs have largely been delayed on goods that

are compliant under the U.S. Mexico, Canada (USMCA) Free Trade Agreement.

As of April 4, Mexico had not announced any retaliatory action but Fuess says the markets are watching this closely. Retaliatory action from countries like Southeast Asia, where we send a significant amount of dairy exports, could have a big impact on the U.S. dairy industry. Exports are critical, he concluded, as 2024 saw the second highest dairy export level ever on a value basis.

The National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council responded, stating; “Tariffs can be a useful tool for negotiating fairer terms of trade. To that end, we are glad to see the administration focusing on long-time barriers to trade that the European Union and India have imposed on our exports. The administration has rightly noted both countries’ penchants for restricting sales of American products,” said Gregg Doud, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation. “In fact, 20 percent reciprocal tariffs are a bargain for the EU considering the highly restrictive tariff and nontariff barriers the EU imposes on our dairy exporters. If Europe retaliates against the United States, we encourage the administration to respond strongly by raising tariffs on European cheeses and butter. We also appreciate the president’s recognition of the sizable barriers facing U.S. dairy exports into the Canadian market.”

“Through productive negotiations, this administration can help achieve a level playing field for U.S. dairy producers by tackling the numerous tariff and nontariff trade barriers that bog down our exports,” says the NMPF and USDEC.

Meanwhile, the March Federal order Class III milk price was announced this week at \$18.62 per hundred-weight, down \$1.56 from February, \$2.28 above March 2024, and matches the December 2024 price. The three-month average stands at \$19.71, up from \$15.86 a year ago, and compares to \$18.44 in 2023.

Wednesday’s futures settlements portend an April price at \$17.13; May, \$17.26; June, \$17.18; and July at \$17.78, with a peak at \$18.57 in October.

CME Cheddar block cheese climbed to \$1.6650 per pound Wednesday but fell back to \$1.63 Thursday morning, following a Friday close at \$1.6350. The barrels hit \$1.6975 Wednesday, but closed Thursday at \$1.66, after closing Friday at \$1.6350. Traders are absorbing the latest tariff news and were anticipating Friday afternoon’s February Dairy Products report.

Midwest cheesemakers say buying activity remains quiet, according to Dairy Market News, while some say ordering the past two weeks underwent a bullish change, particularly compared to the first two months of the year.

The All Milk Price averaged \$23.60 per cwt. with a 4.43 percent butterfat test, down 50 cents from January which had a 4.46 test, and compares to \$20.60 in Feb. 2024, with a 4.30 percent test.



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

 <p>International 4386 CAH, 20 Spd. Trans., Drawbar, 3 Remotes, 18.4x38 Tires... \$19,500</p>	 <p>2015 Versatile 500 3846 Hrs., CAH, Cummins Dsl., PS, Drawbar, 5 Remotes, 710 42 Duals, Nice, 1 Owner... \$142,500</p>	 <p>2003 Bush Hog 2615 Legend 15', 1000PTO, Stump Jumpers, Pleated Tires, Low Use, Nice... \$6,450</p>	 <p>2015 CAT 287D 2382 Hrs., EROPS W A/C, HI FLOW, 2 Spd., Back Up Camera, 78" Bkt, Serviced & Work Ready... \$42,500</p>	 <p>2015 Snorkel TB60 Kubota Dsl., 4X4, Good Tires, Work Ready... \$24,500</p>	 <p>2003 JD 9220 8400 Hrs., CAH, PS Trans., Drawbar, 4 Rem., 1 Owner... \$64,500</p>
 <p>1993 Caterpillar IT18F EROPS w/Heat, Dsl., PS, Trans Missing 2nd Gear, All Other Work Perfectly, Hyd Q Clpl, All Orig. Runs Exc., No Bkt, As Is... \$10,500</p>	 <p>2003 CAT Challenger MT55 7532 Hrs., CAH, C15 450HP, PS Trans., Drawbar, 5 Rem., PTO, 30" Tracks, Really Nice... \$119,500</p>	 <p>2018 Volvo Single Axle, 12.8 Volvo, Auto, Air Ride, Good Condition... \$9,450</p>	 <p>DMI TigerMate 26.5 Ft. Field Cult., 5 Bar Spike, Drag Walking Tandems, 1 Weld on Wing Frame, Otherwise Field Ready... \$6,950</p>	 <p>Ford 139 Soil Saver Chisel 15 Shank, Used Very Little, From a Collector, Like New... \$17,500</p>	 <p>2012 H&S 5226 2600 Gal, 1000PTO, Poly Skid Plate in Bed, Through Dealer Shop, Work Ready... \$14,500</p>
 <p>1997 JD 726 25' Finisher, 5 Bar Spiked Tooth Harrow, Rear Hitch w/Hyd. Connection, 1 Owner Retirement... \$14,500</p>	 <p>John Deere 1518 Half Bat, 1000PTO, Air Plane, Tires Good Cond., Fair Pain... \$4,950</p>	 <p>2011 JD 1770NT CCS 3 Pt, Pro Series XP Row Units, Elec Row Shut Offs, New Style Vac, no till, dbl disk openers, 2000 ac on complete rebuild, Just Serviced, Field Rdy... \$69,500</p>	 <p>2016 Hyundai HX300L Erops w/AC, 32" Pads, Long Stick, Hyd. Thumb, Aux. Hyds., Runs Good... \$44,500</p>	 <p>2006 JD 1990CCS 40", 15" Spacing, 1000 Ac on New Openers, Last Year, 350 Monitor, Good Seed Boots, Spare Parts, Nice... \$29,500</p>	 <p>2008 John Deere 2210 416" Rolling Basket, Good Sweeps, Tight Shanks, Field Ready... \$24,500</p>
 <p>1996 JD 8870 CAH, Std Trans, Drawbar, 4 Rem., 710/38 w/Duals, New Main Tires, All Orig. Farmer Retirement, Nice Orig... \$47,500</p>	 <p>John Deere ProGator 2020 Gas, Manual, Hyd Dump, Very Low Hrs., Work Ready... \$9,450</p>	 <p>2011 Landoll 7450-39 39" Rolling Baskets, Good Blades & Bearings, Field Ready... \$26,500</p>	 <p>2013 New Holland BR7090 1000PTO, Good Belts, Monitor, 11,000 Total Bales, 1 Owner, Sharp... \$17,500</p>	 <p>2011 Woods BW 1800 1000 PTO, Walking Tandem, Stump Jammers, Good Blades & Gear Boxes... \$9,450</p>	 <p>2012 New Holland BR7090 5x6 Bales, 1000PTO, Monitor, Fair Belts but Would Work... \$7,450</p>
 <p>NH ST250 50' Field Cultivator, 5 Bar Spike Drag, Tight Shanks, Good Hovels, Field Ready... \$19,500</p>	 <p>1980 Versatile 565 4068 Hrs., CAH, 12 Spd. Std, 3 Pt PTO, 18.4x38 Duals, Low Orig Hrs., Small Farm Tractor... \$8,450</p>	 <p>1971 JD 4620 Dsl., WF Fenders, 3 Pt., 2 Rem., 1000 PTO, 5430 Orig Hrs... \$17,500</p>	 <p>2017 Yale Veracitor 80VX EROPS, Kubota Dsl., 2 Stage Mast, 48" Forks, No SS, Work Ready... \$13,500</p>	 <p>White 6100 12-30 Front Fold, PTO, Pump, No-till Coulters, Good Cheap Planter... \$5,450</p>	 <p>New Holland 7740 SLE CAH, MFWD, Ldr, 3 Pt PTO, 4 Rem., Joystick, 18.434 Tires... \$19,500</p>



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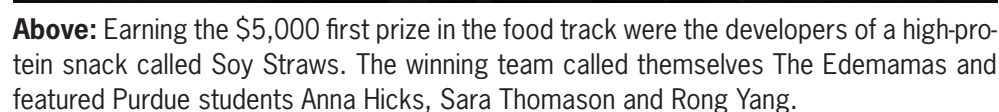
(Mielke continued on page 14)



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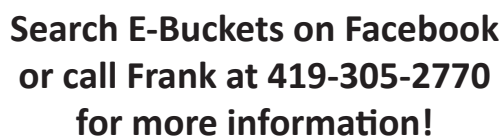
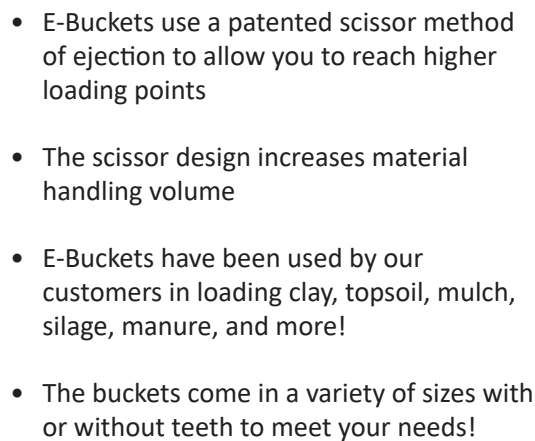
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FROM PAGE 6

The contest introduces Purdue students to the multi-faceted uses and vast potential of soybeans while drawing on students' creativity to develop

Go online to bit.ly/soycompetition for more details on ISA's investment in soybean innovation. To watch the awards ceremony, go online to Purdue's YouTube page at bit.ly/SSI-Clivestream.



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Record amount raised during national Give FFA Day in February

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – The record amount raised during the most recent Give FFA Day demonstrates the generosity and dedication of the National FFA Organization’s supporters, according to an official with the organization.

This year’s amount of more than \$1.6 million was donated Feb. 20 during National FFA Week. The figure topped last year’s \$1.4 million. Since the program began 10 years ago, nearly \$5.4 million has been donated.

“Every gift, no matter the size, helps shape the future of agriculture and leadership,” Molly Ball, president of the National FFA Foundation, told Farm World. “Your generosity fuels the growth of students who will go on to be industry leaders, educators and changemakers. Your support makes a real difference, and we are grateful for your belief in the power of FFA.”

The total raised this year “was both humbling and inspiring,” she said. “It’s a testament to the incredible impact FFA has had on so many people and the collective commitment to ensuring that today’s students have the same – if not better – opportunities for leadership, career development and agricultural education.”

Give FFA Day was created 10 years ago as a way to make a difference in the lives of FFA members across the country, growing the next generation of lead-

ers who will feed, clothe and change the world, the organization said.

Donors may choose to give to the National FFA or a state FFA association, Ball noted. This option allows them to support the area of FFA that means the most to them, she added.

“Many individuals made direct contributions, but we also saw a variety of creative efforts to raise money,” Ball explained. “Some alumni groups, state associations and local chapters organized fundraising challenges, matching gift campaigns, and peer-to-peer fundraising efforts. Social media played a big role in rallying support, with individuals sharing their FFA stories and encouraging friends and family to contribute.”

FFA said the money raised this year will go toward supporting special programs and events, providing more than 150 FFA blue jackets to students, supplementing travel costs for conferences and conventions, and paying for teacher support and resources throughout the year.

“Funds raised on Give FFA Day benefit both the national and state levels, depending on how donors designate their contributions,” Ball said. “At the national level, funds help support leadership conferences, national-level scholarships, and initiatives like the National FFA Convention & Expo. At the state

level, money often goes toward member scholarships, grants for agricultural education programs, and leadership development events.”

In addition, the funds might be used in such ways as offering grants for local chapters to support community service projects and supporting teacher development programs to strengthen agricultural education, she said.

FFA is a non-profit organization, and while some funding comes from membership dues and sponsorships, those sources alone don’t fully cover the costs of providing high-quality leadership and career development opportunities to

students nationwide, Ball pointed out.

“Give FFA Day and other fundraising initiatives help bridge that gap by allowing individuals, businesses and alumni to invest directly in FFA’s mission,” she said. “The funds raised ensure that students – regardless of their financial situation – have access to the resources, experiences and support they need to succeed.

“Whether someone donates \$10 or \$10,000, every contribution adds up to something incredible. It’s not just about the money raised. It’s about the opportunities created for students who will carry the legacy of FFA into the future.”

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Above: Molly Ball (center), president of the National FFA Foundation, helps display a donation from RFD-TV made during Give FFA Day in February. (courtesy of the National FFA Organization)

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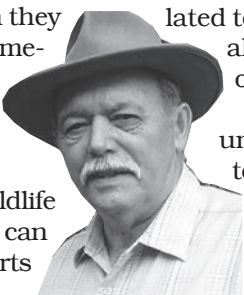
TIP program an easy way to alert authorities to poaching

Hoosiers are reminded when they see, hear or learn about someone illegally stealing wildlife there's an easy way to alert authorities by using the Turn in a Poacher (TIP) program.

Indiana's DNR manages wildlife for everyone, and every person can help TIP support the DNR efforts by reporting potential violations at 1-800-TIP-IDNR (800-847-4367) or tip.IN.gov. Doing so will help conserve wildlife for future generations.

If a "TIP" leads to an arrest, the individual reporting it may receive as much as a \$500 reward, or remain anonymous if they choose. In 2024, TIP received nearly 1,025 tips and paid thousands of dollars in rewards for tips leading to the arrest of a suspect.

To support Indiana's TIP program, Indiana Conservation Officers have added a new poaching awareness display trailer to help highlight how poaching affects Indiana's natural resources while advertising the TIP program. The trailer features evidence re-



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

lated to actual Indiana wildlife cases, allowing visitors to learn details of the cases.

The trailer was purchased under the direction of the International Wildlife Crimetoppers and in a partnership effort between the DNR Division of Law Enforcement and the Indiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The trailer's wrap was provided by the TIP program.

TIP is a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with Indiana's DNR to protect fish and wildlife resources by increasing public support and involvement in bringing violators to justice.

Three great accessible birding locations for the spring migration

1. Indiana Dunes State Park – Bird Observation Platform – Situated above Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve and Lake Michigan, this is a wonderful place to spot diverse wildlife and view the beautiful lake. The ramp has a

minimum 60 inches width for passing space and handrails. The slope is no more than 5 percent. Accessible parking and arrival/drop-off area are available. Accessible bathrooms are available at or near the Pavilion, which is on the beach.

2. Fort Harrison State Park – Harrison Trace Trail – The trail runs with a flat grade from the Walnut trailhead to Delaware Lake. This is an asphalt-surface trail with widths of no less than 60 inches. After passing Delaware Lake, the trail follows the rolling upland above Fall Creek. Expect some hills and grades greater than 5 percent. Much of the trail is tree-covered, and wildflowers grow next to it during spring and summer. Accessible parking is available at the Walnut trailhead, Shafter picnic area, Cherry Tree Lake, and Delaware Lake. Accessible restrooms are available at all the parking locations except for the Walnut trailhead.

3. Falls of the Ohio State Park – Outdoor Deck and River Viewing Room – Perched above the 390-million-year-old fossil beds, the deck and river viewing room looks out over the fossil beds, Ohio River, McAlpine Dam, railroad bridge, Louisville skyline, and amazing sunsets. The deck has a flat and sturdy surface with paved routes to the parking lot at the back of the Interpretive Center and to its drop-off area in front. The deck has railings along its edge and benches. Accessible bathrooms are available inside the center during open hours.

Unsung heroes of Indiana state parks

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was among the first of the New Deal programs Franklin D. Roosevelt established upon assuming the presidency in March 1933. A number of In-

diana State Parks were built, improved, or expanded by the CCC, which was and remains one of the most popular programs of the New Deal.

The CCC was designed as a work program for young men from age 18 to 25. The young men signed up for a renewable six-month term in which they would work on projects mostly related to land management and park construction. They received room and board and a \$30 per month stipend, \$25 of which was sent home to their families.

But it wasn't all conservation work for the CCC. The men not only learned valuable trade skills, but also received classroom educations. Classes were on a variety of topics including mechanical drawing, typing, foreign languages and art. Extracurricular activities included boxing, debating, singing in a quartet, and even playing on baseball teams.

Indiana had 56 CCC companies. Many Indiana state parks hosted CCC companies. You will find many of our properties where these companies worked maintain fine examples of the CCC's hard work and craftsmanship.

The CCC worked at Brown County, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, McCormick's Creek, O'Bannon Woods, Ouabache, Pokagon, Shakamak, Spring Mill, Turkey Run, and Versailles state parks and at Salamonie Lake.

'till next time,
Jack
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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Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 3/31/2025 - Final AUCTION			
	This Week	Last Reported 3/24/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	1,240	1,217	810
Feeder Cattle:	1,082(87.3%)	1,090(89.6%)	708(87.4%)
Slaughter Cattle:	150(12.1%)	121(9.9%)	102(12.6%)
Replacement Cattle:	8(0.6%)	6(0.5%)	0(0.0%)

Special Note: Baby Calves: 700.00-950.00 per head.

Compared to last Monday feeder steers and heifers under 500 lbs softer undertone on average quality fleshy offerings: 500-700 lbs weaned packages sold firm with very good demand. Yearling steers and heifers sold firm with very good demand in a limited comparison. Slaughter cows and slaughter bulls sold steady with good demand. Supply included: 87% Feeder Cattle (36% Steers, 52% Heifers, 12% Bulls); 12% Slaughter Cattle (3% Heifers, 84% Cows, 12% Bulls, 1% Dairy Cows); 1% Replacement Cattle (60% Stock Cows, 10% Bred Cows, 20% Bred Heifers, 10% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 51%.

Groups of 20 head or more:

Steers: 26 hd 694 lbs 320.00 Blk Value-Added
67 hd 805 lbs 284.90 Blk-Mixed Value-Added

Heifers: 29 hd 530 lbs 327.00 Blk Value-Added
72 hd 755 lbs 275.30 Blk Value-Added
33 hd 758 lbs 260.50 Mixed Value-Added
45 hd 882 lbs 242.00 Blk Value-Added


FEEDER CATTLE					
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	235	235	420.00	420.00	
1	280	280	350.00	350.00	
5	300-315	310	370.00-392.50	378.65	
8	307	307	470.00	470.00 Fancy	
2	350-355	353	352.00-357.50	354.77	
5	380-385	384	425.00-450.00	445.05 Fancy	
1	420	420	357.50	357.50	
6	400-420	409	382.50-445.00	403.54 Value Added	
5	485-497	491	361.00-377.00	369.35	
10	488	488	400.00	400.00 Fancy	
18	452-482	473	385.00-412.50	401.05 Value Added	
1	515	515	330.00	330.00	
21	500-535	519	347.50-395.00	376.14 Value Added	
2	550-555	553	350.00-372.50	361.30	
29	551-597	576	360.00-384.00	373.51 Value Added	
2	635-645	640	296.00-320.00	307.91	
43	600-645	611	322.50-372.00	350.91 Value Added	
1	660	660	289.00	289.00	
70	655-694	683	310.00-348.00	325.62 Value Added	
12	720-742	726	291.00-318.00	303.07 Value Added	
4	750-780	769	258.00-272.00	261.66	
5	750-768	764	282.00-285.00	282.59 Value Added	
4	810-837	829	265.00-269.00	267.51	
67	805	805	284.90	284.90 Value Added	
6	860-890	865	269.00	269.00	
1	900	900	255.00	255.00	
2	1017	1017	229.00	229.00	
STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	370	370	312.50	312.50	
3	470-475	473	320.00-347.00	338.06	
5	500-536	527	301.00-325.00	317.77	
3	585	585	300.00	300.00	
2	660-695	678	250.00-260.00	255.13	
STEERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	375	375	280.00	280.00	
1	945	945	245.00	245.00	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	215	215	335.00	335.00	
1	250	250	302.50	302.50	
8	310-340	314	327.50-339.00	329.06	
7	350-372	361	320.00-330.00	325.84	
13	362-396	376	332.00-375.00	351.46 Value Added	
5	410-435	423	302.50-321.00	316.81	
50	400-445	424	327.50-380.00	360.32 Value Added	
5	465-490	478	305.00-317.50	312.98	
34	450-495	473	325.00-367.50	348.54 Value Added	
3	525-530	528	300.00-307.00	302.32	
75	500-547	525	312.50-337.50	325.47 Value Added	
8	550-560	554	282.50-310.00	298.41	
39	559-592	579	314.00-327.00	322.16 Value Added	
2	647	647	262.50	262.50	
27	600-647	631	290.00-325.00	303.38 Fancy	
5	630-645	641	272.00-287.50	275.65 Value Added	
4	670-685	681	250.00-277.50	257.16	
7	660	660	307.00	307.00 Fancy	
6	652-667	657	280.00-282.50	280.85 Value Added	
5	725-730	728	245.00-250.00	246.99	
24	700-737	716	261.00-277.00	271.29 Value Added	
2	782	782	242.00	242.00	
110	755-786	757	255.00-275.30	269.92 Value Added	
4	820-835	830	230.00-238.00	234.01 Value Added	
45	882	882	242.00	242.00 Value Added	
2	1020	1020	220.00	220.00	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	255-270	263	282.50-290.00	286.36	
4	327-345	332	285.00-307.50	297.97	

2	465-480	473	287.50-300.00	293.65	
2	572	572	256.00	256.00	
2	642	642	230.00	230.00	
1	670	670	235.00	235.00	
3	700-735	722	201.00-212.00	205.91	
2	790-795	793	207.00-235.00	220.96	
2	815-825	820	215.00-217.50	216.26	
HEIFERS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	500	500	200.00	200.00 Value Added	
1	645	645	200.00	200.00	
BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	200	200	360.00	360.00	
2	205	205	390.00	390.00 Fancy	
1	250	250	340.00	340.00	
1	295	295	400.00	400.00 Fancy	
1	335	335	372.50	372.50	
10	355-390	378	355.00-387.50	365.90	
2	380-390	385	400.00-427.50	413.57 Fancy	
4	407-445	425	360.00-375.00	363.88	
1	405	405	385.00	385.00 Value Added	
9	460-495	467	360.00-373.00	366.75	
24	459-487	473	380.00-396.00	385.42 Value Added	
3	505-530	515	340.00-350.00	346.57	
13	550-595	574	312.50-350.00	334.16	
4	616	616	285.00	285.00	
1	635	635	290.00	290.00 Value Added	
1	655	655	275.00	275.00	
15	653-698	673	290.00-305.00	298.29 Value Added	
2	712	712	279.00	279.00 Value Added	
4	750-795	779	255.00-265.00	262.09	
1	855	855	219.00	219.00	
BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	220-230	225	310.00-330.00	319.78	
1	345	345	330.00	330.00	
6	431	431	345.00	345.00	
2	550-585	568	270.00-277.50	273.87	
1	785	785	210.00	210.00	
2	932	932	181.00	181.00	
BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	885	885	180.00	180.00	
BULLS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	485	485	230.00	230.00	

SLAUGHTER CATTLE					
STEERS - Select 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	1260-1610	1381	147.00-157.00	152.26	Average
COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
14	1210-1560	1390	138.00-144.00	141.72	Average
27	1205-1800	1504	144.00-157.00	148.42	High
5	1210-1650	1438	135.00-138.00	136.86	Low
COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
16	1020-1505	1234	138.00-144.00	141.34	Average
10	1145-1600	1296	145.00-159.00	151.35	High
13	985-1485	1187	127.00-137.00	132.23	Low
COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
9	860-1130	1012	119.00-131.00	126.00	Average
13	880-1100	1017	131.00-147.00	135.30	High
2	980-1245	1113	115.00-116.00	115.44	Low
DAIRY COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1310	1310	134.00	134.00	High
BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
9	1235-2180	1727	154.00-173.00	163.98	Average
3	1775-1890	1823	180.00-183.00	181.37	High
3	1205-1605	1393	145.00-147.00	145.66	Low

REPLACEMENT CATTLE						
STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	4	825-1115	963	150.00-180.00	160.90
STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	2	905-1065	985	129.00-144.00	137.11
BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2	1	1035	1035	2450.00	2450.00
BRED HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	T2	2	790-830	810	1825.00	1825.00
BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2-4	1	1450	1450	2375.00	2375.00	

MARKETS



Monroe Livestock Auction Market Report

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**please note that our market report is an overall average price-they are not always the highest and lowest prices*

Small Animals	4/1/2025		Sheep		Cows	
Chickens	\$8-\$22		Ewes	\$0.75-\$1.10	Cull Cows	\$.85-\$1.65
Bantys	\$8-\$10		40-60# Lambs	\$2.60-\$3.00	Bulls	\$1.55-\$1.70
Ducks	\$11-\$17		61-80# Lambs	\$1.75-\$2.95		37
Pigeons	\$4.50-\$8		81-100# Lambs	\$1.20-\$2.85	Fat Cattle	
Eggs	\$2.50-\$4.50			355	Holstein/cross	\$1.72-\$1.79
Rooster	\$4-\$17				Colored	2
Turkey	\$45		Goats			
Peacock	\$110		Billys	\$75-\$350	Pigs	
Rabbits	\$6-\$27		Nannies	\$45-\$275	Fat Hogs	\$.50-\$.75
	797		Kids	\$15-\$45	Sows	\$.40-\$.59
				85	Boars	\$.11-\$20
Veal Calves			Feeder Cattle Dairy and Beef			76
Holstein	\$725-\$1080		200-500#	\$.70-\$4.10	Feeder Pigs	
Beef Cross	\$925-\$1350		501-800#	\$.80-\$2.00	20-45#	\$40-\$62.50
	365			77	46-65#	\$57.50-\$82.50
						51

Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, April 3, 2025 - Final

		FUTURE SETTLEMENTS									
		Closing Settlement Prices (¢/Bu) as of 4/3/2025									
Exchange	Commodity										
CBOT	Corn	458.50 (May 25)	466.00 (Jul 25)	439.25 (Sep 25)	447.50 (Dec 25)	461.50 (Mar 26)	469.50 (May 26)	474.25 (Jul 26)			
CBOT	Soybeans	1012.25 (May 25)	1026.75 (Jul 25)	1025.25 (Aug 25)	1012.00 (Sep 25)	1017.25 (Nov 25)	1030.00 (Jan 26)	1035.00 (Mar 26)			
CBOT	Wheat 5	37.00 (May 25)	550.75 (Jul 25)	566.00 (Sep 25)	589.50 (Dec 25)	609.25 (Mar 26)	621.00 (May 26)	622.25 (Jul 26)			
CBOT	White Oats	352.00 (May 25)	356.50 (Jul 25)	353.25 (Sep 25)	347.00 (Dec 25)	350.50 (Mar 26)	356.50 (May 26)	332.75 (Jul 26)			
KCBT	Wheat	570.00 (May 25)	581.75 (Jul 25)	595.25 (Sep 25)	617.00 (Dec 25)	635.50 (Mar 26)					
MGE	Wheat	591.25 (May 25)	607.00 (Jul 25)	620.75 (Sep 25)	639.75 (Dec 25)	656.75 (Mar 26)	665.75 (May 26)	675.50 (Jul 26)			

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Pennyrile	20.00K to 100.00K	UNCH	4.7850-5.5850	UP 0.0075	5.1850	
Pennyrile	40.00Z	UNCH	4.8750	DN 0.0125	4.8750	

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Ohio River - Lower KY	100.00K	UNCH	5.5850	UP 0.0075	5.5850	
Ohio River - Lower KY	35.00Z	UNCH	4.8250	DN 0.0125	4.8250	
Purchase	85.00K	UNCH	5.4350	UP 0.0075	5.4350	
Purchase	50.00Z	UNCH	4.9750	DN 0.0125	4.9750	

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Purchase	20.00K	UP 5.00	4.7850	UP 0.0575	4.7850	
Purchase	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.2250	DN 0.0125	4.2250	
Green River	10.00K	UNCH	4.6850	UP 0.0075	4.6850	
Green River	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.2250	DN 0.0125	4.2250	
Pennyrile	-10.00K to 18.00K	UP 5.00-UNCH	4.4850-4.7650	UP 0.0575-UP 0.0075	4.5817	
Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -10.00Z	UNCH	4.1750-4.3750	DN 0.0125	4.2433	
Louisville	10.00K	UP 19.00-UNCH	4.6850	UP 0.1975-UP 0.0075	4.6850	
Bluegrass	7.00K	UNCH	4.6550	UP 0.0075	4.6550	
Bluegrass	-40.00Z	UNCH	4.0750	DN 0.0125	4.0750	

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Ohio River - Upper KY	7.00K to 9.00K	UNCH	4.6550-4.6750	UP 0.0075	4.6650	
Ohio River - Upper KY	-42.00Z to -30.00Z	UNCH	4.0550-4.1750	DN 0.0125	4.1150	
Ohio River - Lower KY	13.00K to 20.00K	UNCH	4.7150-4.7850	UP 0.0075	4.7417	
Ohio River - Lower KY	-30.00Z to -20.00Z	UNCH	4.1750-4.2750	DN 0.0125	4.2185	
Purchase	12.00K to 15.00K	UP 2.00-UNCH	4.7050-4.7350	UP 0.0275-UP 0.0075	4.7183	
Purchase	-25.00Z to -15.00U	UNCH	4.2250-4.2425	DN 0.0125-DN 0.0150	4.2338	

US #2 SORGHUM (BULK)

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Ohio River - Lower KY	0.00Z	UNCH	4.4750	DN 0.0125	4.4750	

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Purchase	5.00K	UNCH	10.1725	DN 0.1725	10.1725	
Purchase	-30.00X	UNCH	9.8725	DN 0.2000	9.8725	
Green River	-15.00K	UNCH	9.9725	DN 0.1725	9.9725	
Green River	-50.00X	UNCH	9.6725	DN 0.2000	9.6725	
Pennyrile	-45.00K to 8.00K	UNCH-UP 43.00	9.6725-10.2025	DN 0.1725-UP 0.2575	9.7911	
Pennyrile	-65.00X to -32.00X	UNCH-DN 2.00	9.5225-9.8525	DN 0.2000-DN 0.2200	9.6108	
Bluegrass	-95.00X	UNCH	9.2225	DN 0.2000	9.2225	

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Ohio River - Upper KY	-1.00K to 2.00K	UNCH-UP 3.00	10.1125-10.1425	DN 0.1725-DN 0.1425	10.1275	
Ohio River - Upper KY	-58.00X to -33.00X	DN 8.00-UNCH	9.5925-9.8425	DN 0.2800-DN 0.2000	9.7175	
Ohio River - Lower KY	5.00K to 25.00K	DN 2.00-UNCH	10.1725-10.3725	DN 0.1925-DN 0.1725	10.2425	
Ohio River - Lower KY	-45.00X to -10.00X	DN 7.00-UNCH	9.7225-10.0725	DN 0.2700-DN 0.2000	9.8925	
Purchase	5.00K to 10.00K	DN 2.00-UNCH	10.1725-10.2225	DN 0.1925-DN 0.1725	10.1892	
Purchase	-30.00X	UNCH	9.8725	DN 0.2000	9.8725	

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Pennyrile	-5.00K	UNCH	5.3200	DN 0.0225	5.3200	
Pennyrile	-5.00N	UNCH	5.4575	DN 0.0200	5.4575	

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	5.2575	DN 0.0200	5.2575	
Green River	-90.00N	UNCH	4.6075	DN 0.0200	4.6075	
Pennyrile	-85.00K to -55.00K	UNCH	4.5200-4.8200	DN 0.0225	4.6033	
Pennyrile	-75.00N to -13.00N	UNCH-UP 22.00	4.7575-5.3775	DN 0.0200-UP 0.2000	4.9318	
Louisville	-26.00K	UNCH	5.1100	DN 0.0225	5.1100	
Louisville	-35.00N	UP 43.00-UNCH	5.1575	UP 0.4100-DN 0.0200	5.1575	
Bluegrass	-65.00N	UNCH	4.8575	DN 0.0200	4.8575	

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average	
Ohio River - Upper KY	-10.00K	UNCH	5.2700	DN 0.0225	5.2700	
Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00N	UNCH	5.2075	DN 0.0200	5.2075	
Ohio River - Lower KY	-24.00N to -8.00N	UNCH	5.2675-5.4275	DN 0.0200	5.3535	
Purchase	-65.00K to -23.00K	UNCH-UP 42.00	4.7200-5.1400	DN 0.0225-UP 0.3975	4.9300	
Purchase	-20.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	5.3075-5.4075	DN 0.0200	5.3575	

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, OV: Ocean Vessel

USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News
KY Dept of Ag Market News-Kevin Bowling, Market Reporter
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http://www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmm
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ | https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2892

Missouri Direct Hay Report Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 4/3/2025

Severe weather and heavy rains over several days prevented any field work from taking place this week. Priorities shifted as many were dealing with flooding along with wind and even some tornado damage. Hay prices continue to hold mostly steady even as feeding days are quickly winding down and turn out is beginning in some areas. Hay demand is light and the supply of hay is moderate. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at https://feedstufffinder.org

HAY (Conventional)

Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-300.00
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	8.00-12.00
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	200.00-250.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	150.00-200.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	6.00-10.00
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	125.00-150.00
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	125.00-200.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	80.00-125.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	3.50-8.00
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)	
Large Round	25.00-50.00

STRAW (Conventional)

Corn Stalk - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Round	10.00-25.00
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	4.00-7.00

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov

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Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection

Report for Thursday, April 3, 2025 - Final

Daily Slaughter									
				Prev Week	Last Year	2025	2024		YTD
<u>Thu., Apr. 3, 2025</u>	<u>Week Ago</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
Calves 1,000	1,000	489	4,000	4,000	3,192	39,918	62,347	-36.0%	
Cattle 121,000	119,000	121,955	472,000	485,000	474,460	7,752,769	8,180,703	-5.2%	
Hogs 488,000	489,000	484,336	1,926,000	1,939,000	1,820,548	33,370,481	34,480,862	-3.2%	
Sheep 8,000	8,000	7,437	35,000	35,000	31,635	495,119	510,762	-3.1%	
Previous Daily Slaughter									
				Prev Week	Last Year	2024	2023		YTD
<u>Wed., Apr. 2, 2025</u>	<u>Week Ago</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>WTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
Calves 1,000	1,000	1,026	3,000	3,000	2,703	38,918	61,858	-37.1%	
Cattle 124,000	123,000	123,101	351,000	366,000	352,505	7,631,769	8,058,748	-5.3%	
Hogs 485,000	487,000	488,083	1,438,000	1,450,000	1,336,212	32,882,481	33,996,526	-3.3%	
Sheep 8,000	8,000	6,191	27,000	27,000	24,198	487,119	503,325	-3.2%	
Previous Day Breakdown									
<u>Wed., Apr. 2, 2025</u>									
Cattle		Steers/Heifers ...102,000			Cows/Bulls ...22,000				
USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News									
Washington, DC (202) 720-1990 https://ams.usda.gov/lpgmm									
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3208									

Mielke

FROM PAGE 7

“Milk production margins moved lower for the second time in the past three months but remained at historically high levels and 75 cents per cwt. below January,” says dairy economist Bill Brooks, of Stoneheart Consulting in Dearborn, Mo. “Income over feed costs in February were above the \$8 per cwt. level needed for steady to higher milk production for the 16th month in a row,” says Brooks. “Input prices were mostly higher with two of the three input commodities inside of the top ten for February all-time. Feed costs were the ninth highest ever for the month of February and increased 25 cents from January.”

Milk income over feed costs for 2024 were \$13.45 per cwt., according to Brooks, and “Income over feed was above the level needed to maintain or grow milk production, and up \$5.45 per cwt. from 2023’s level.”

“Milk income over feed costs for 2025, using March 31 CME settling futures prices for milk, corn, and soybeans plus the Stoneheart forecast for alfalfa hay, are expected to be \$13.24 per cwt., a loss of 21 cents per cwt. versus 2024. It would also be above the level needed to maintain or grow milk production, and unchanged from last month’s estimate,” Brooks concludes.

“Dairy margins improved slightly over the last half of March as milk futures held steady while the feed markets continued to sell off,” says the latest Margin Watch (MW) from Chicago-based Commodity and Ingredient Hedging LLC.

The MW detailed the latest Milk Production data, which I reported last week, stating that the report “Showed expanding milk output in February driven largely by an increasing dairy cow herd.” The MW added; “Increasing component levels also added to production. February cream production increased by 12.7 million pounds or 4 percent above last year while milk protein production increased by 3.1

percent during the month and nonfat solids were 2.3 percent higher than February 2024.”

In politics, the International Dairy Foods Association reported “A new dairy incentive program aimed at encouraging healthy behavior among people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is gaining bipartisan support in the U.S. House and Senate.

“The Dairy Nutrition Incentive Program Act of 2025 seeks to address that 90 percent of Americans do not consume enough milk and other nutritious dairy products according to federal dietary guidelines,” the IDFA stated. The legislation would provide SNAP participants with a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of milk, cheese, yogurt and cultured dairy products.

And, in a hearing before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, lawmakers, nutrition experts, and school officials emphasized the need to restore whole and reduced-fat (2 percent) milk to federal school meal programs. The focus of the hearing was the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, a bipartisan bill that would allow schools to offer these milk options to the more than 30 million students who rely on school breakfast and lunch every day.

For more than a decade, federal regulations have restricted schools to offering only fat-free and low-fat milk, despite widespread underconsumption of dairy among children. Between 68 percent and 94 percent of school-age boys and girls are failing to meet the recommended levels of dairy intake.

The U.S. Dairy Export Council, National Milk Producers Federation, and Consortium for Common Food Names praised this week’s reintroduction of the Safeguarding American Food and Export Trade Yields Act. The legislation would direct USDA to partner with the U.S. Trade Representative to prioritize the protection of common names like “parmesan” and “bologna” in international trade negotiations.

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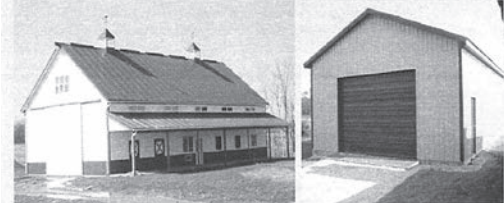
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ALERT!

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SWAP MEET. Franklin County Antique Machinery Club. 11225 County Park Rd., Brookville, IN. April 5, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Info.: fcamc.org or 765-265-2882.

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2008 NH 575 sq. baler w/Kuhn 15 bale accumulator & grabber, one owner, field ready, gd. cond., always stored inside, \$27,500. 765-721-3333 Bainbridge, IN.

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Iowa urban farmers use beneficial insects to reduce farm chemical use

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

AMES, Iowa – Thanks to a cost-share program sponsored by Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, ur-



Above: Tricia Englebrecht, a flower farmer near Waverly, Iowa, is one of the farmers benefiting from the beneficial insect cost-share program sponsored by Practical Farmers of Iowa in Ames, and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation in Washington, D.C. (Photos courtesy of Tricia Englebrecht)

ban farmers can now get cost-share and technical support to help control pests, which helps reduce farm chemical use and improve soil health, according to officials.

“Urban specialty crop farmers face unique challenges, particularly when it comes to adding conservation practices,” said Grace Yi, the Ames-based Practical Farmers of Iowa’s habitat viability manager. “This program supports urban farmers by helping them create habitats for beneficial insects, which can increase natural predation and pollination on their farms.”

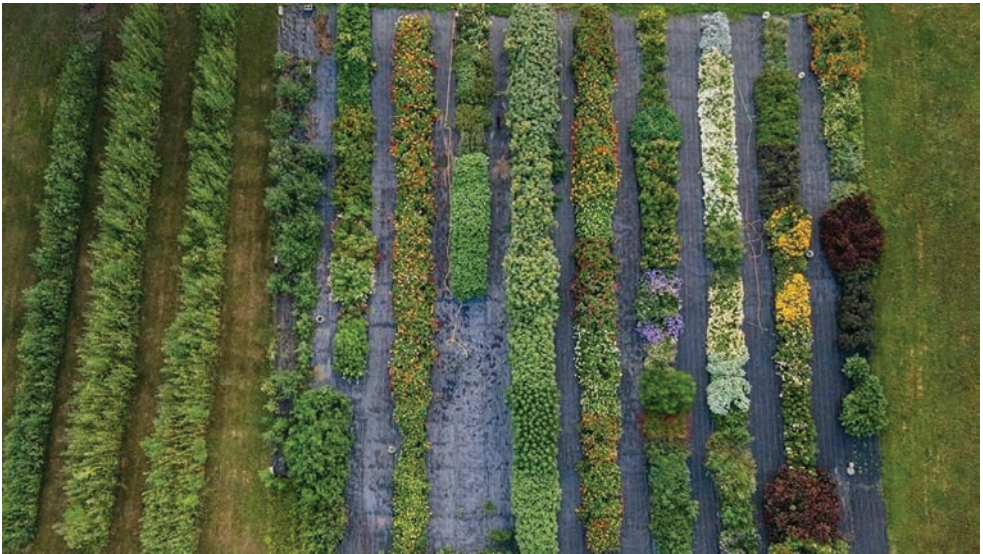
Based in Washington, D.C., the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that “protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats.”

Through this program, Practical Farmers of Iowa funds native plants and the associated costs of establishing native insectary strips or beetle banks, while Xerces Society provides technical support and helps develop a habitat plan.

Officials said beneficial insects, such as ground beetles, lacewings (net-winged insects), parasitoid (parasitic) wasps and more, are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems on farms, which in turn helps farmers provide valuable produce and products to their communities.

Tricia Englebrecht, a flower farmer near Waverly, Iowa, is one of the farmers benefiting from this program.

When asked how she got the idea



Above: Tricia Englebrecht said, “The pollinator strips (pictured) will help create that habitat around my outside garden to hopefully attract more beneficial insects out there.”

to incorporate beneficial insects into her operation, she told Farm World, “I watch a lot of YouTube (videos) about flower farming, and general farming and IPM (integrated pest management) practices come up. I am not an expert, but I figured it was something I needed to incorporate in my farm.

“I started using beneficial insect two years ago, so this would be my third growing season using them,” she said. “Practical Farmers of Iowa offers a cost-share program to urban farmers to help pay for pollinator strips. This will help create more habitat for the beneficial insects, along with increased biodiversity.”

She said, “I get my beneficial insects

from Arbico Organics (in Tucson, Ariz). They are great to work with and so helpful. I didn’t know where to start and they asked the right questions to help me select what I needed. I don’t necessarily need to manage the insects, but you have to keep (this) in mind when you release them.

“If you release them too early and there is no food source, they will leave to find it or die,” she added. “If you release them when you have a large population of pests, they may not be able to knock that population down.”

She said, “I should also say I only use the beneficial insects in my high

(Insects continued on page 2B)

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Insects

FROM PAGE 1B

tunnel (greenhouse) and not in my outside garden. They are still able to get out of the high tunnel, but it helps that it's not completely open. The pollinator strips will help create that habitat around my outside garden to hopefully attract more beneficial insects out there.

"As for pros and cons, the pros of using beneficial insects is knocking down pests," she added. "For example, I use beneficial nematodes to control thrips (slender insects with fringed wings) and green lacewing to control aphids. The cons would be it's not an immediate solution. It does take time for them to get to work, whether that's waiting for them to get to the right stage or hatching."

She said another con is there are always predators to the beneficial insects.

"Last year, I set out the assassin bug eggs, which come in a piece of cardboard, and something came and ate all the eggs off before they could hatch," she said. Assassin bug eggs are typically laid in clusters, resembling small, brown, bottle-shaped structures, often found on leaves, bark or in soil.

Virgil Schmitt, Iowa State University extension field agronomist in southeast Iowa, told Farm World, "Different predators have different food preferences, so just as in chemical selection, you need to select the predator that has efficacy (the ability to produce a desired or intended result) on your insect of concern.

"Ground beetles target caterpillars, grubs and adults of other beetles, fly maggots and pupae (a stage of an insect – as a bee, moth or beetle – having complete metamorphosis that occurs between the larva and the adult, usually enclosed in a cocoon or case), earthworms, and other small soil dwellers," he said.

"Ground beetles are not normally applied to the soil," he added. "The best way to attract them is to provide habitat such as mulch, rocks, or logs where they can hide during the day. This severely limits the ability to attract ground beetle to field crops and retain them in the field."

He said, "Lacewings target aphids, spider mites (especially red mites), thrips, whiteflies, eggs of leafhoppers, moths, and leafminers, small caterpillars, and beetle larvae. They are often used by organic farmers to manage these insects in hay and soybeans. They are applied as eggs or larvae.

"Parasitic wasps target aphids, caterpillars, sawflies, beetles, leafhoppers, true bugs, thrips, psyllids and flies," he added. "They sting their target, leaving eggs behind. When the



Above: Tricia Englebrecht said there are always predators to the beneficial insects: "Last year, I set out the assassin bug eggs (pictured), which come in a piece of cardboard, and something came and ate all the eggs off before they could hatch."

eggs hatch, the larvae consume the target."

Matt O'Neal, Iowa State professor of entomology, told Farm World, "For systems which need pest management but cannot use insecticides for a variety of reasons, these types of (beneficial) insects have been demonstrated to provide protection. This is especially true for greenhouse systems that grow fresh fruit and vegetables.

"Greenhouses lack the naturally occurring populations of predatory insects and parasitoids, so these purchases can add them quickly," he said. "Conservation practices (like those being explored by Englebrecht) can improve their impact. The impact of these beneficial insects in outdoor growing systems can be challenging, as they may leave the farm. Also, farms may not have sufficient resources to keep them alive."

As for their use with crop farmers, he said, "We don't know enough about the ecology of these insects to manage them consistently for protecting corn and soybeans. They can supplement pest management in combination with resistant crops and insecticides."

Schmitt said, "My take is that they can be useful for farmers who have the time, energy, and expertise for the more intensive management required and have an effective Plan B at their fingertips if the predators are not effective in a given situation.

"Some people's Golden Rule is, 'Whoever has the gold makes the rules.' Will the farmer be rewarded for the time, energy, and expertise for the more intensive management required?"

Fire breaks out at Yoder Grain

by Leondia Walchle
Indiana Correspondent

YODER, Indiana – A grain bin fire broke out Thursday, March 27, around 11:30 p.m. at Yoder Grain, which caused a power outage for thousands of homes in Northern Wells/Southern Allen Counties until early Friday morning.

The fire was under control by 5 a.m. and could still be seen smoldering around noon Friday.

According to Yoder Grain owner, Josh Fiechter, "At this point we do not know what happened. The fire is currently under investigation. We are hoping to be back up and running by Monday afternoon." The Grain Mill



Above: Yoder Grain processes food for dairy cattle.

processes food for dairy cattle, which services the Midwest.

The flames off the 90'-tall mill could be seen 12 miles away per witnesses. At the time of this publication, the fire investigation team had not identified the cause of the fire.



Above: A grain bin fire broke out on March 27 at Yoder Grain in Yoder, Ind.

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ODA welcomes 22 farmers to Farmland Preservation Program

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

WEST ALEXANDRIA, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) recently announced more than 2,000 acres have been added to the Farmland Preservation Program in the past 12 months. Twenty-two farmers and farm families joined the program over this period, bringing the 2024 total to 36.

In 2024, there were 323 acres of farmland preserved in Madison County, Ohio, alone. Other counties involved in this preservation process included Knox (104), Seneca (117), Preble (82), Muskingum (85), Ottawa (180), Fulton (77), Portage (116) and Wayne (79).

An agricultural easement in Farmland Preservation is a voluntary agreement between the landowner and ODA, where the landowner agrees to perpetually maintain the land predominantly in agricultural use. In exchange, the landowner is either compensated or may be entitled to a tax deduction.

Since the Office of Farmland Preservation began in Ohio in 1998, 745 farms totaling 109,341 acres in 61 counties have entered into agreements. This enables Ohio to continually be a top producer, aiding not just Ohioans, but all Americans.

Between 1950 and 2000, Ohio lost more than 6.9 million acres of farmland, representing nearly one-third of Ohio's agricultural land. The de-



Above: Shown are the Swick-Brown Family of Marion County in Ohio at their farmland preservation closing.

partment works to provide tools to farmers who want to preserve their land for future generations.

While the purpose of most farmland preservation programs is to protect farmland from development, it doesn't mean the farms must remain frozen in time. Preserving land with agricultural easements can help farmers move forward with agricultural developments that position their farms for success in the generations to come.

For instance, Fred Voge, who farms near West Alexandria, has several farms protected with agricultural easements. Roughly 10 years ago he built a new beef cattle finishing barn, installed new fencing and upgraded some older barns. Voge says these improvements would likely outlast him, but they will help the farm remain a viable and sustainable enterprise for whoever follows him.

"If you're going to make that kind of investment in your farm, it makes sense to make sure it will remain a farm," he said.

Voge's brother and father have preserved land with conservation easements as well. So have several of their neighbors. In all, more than



Above: Fred Voge (holding sign) was one of 22 farmers added to the list of those being part of the Ohio Farmland Preservation Program in 2024. (photo submitted)

4,000 acres in 24 farms have been protected in Preble County through the state's ag easement purchase program since it was initiated. The program is administered in the area by the Three Valley Conservation Trust, which serves as the local sponsor. Voge said that once a few landowners in the area preserve land, others become interested. As he put it, "it snowballed."

While the terms "farmland preservation" and "easement" are related, they are not the same. Farmland preservation is a broader concept encompassing various strategies to protect agriculture land, while an easement is a specific legal tool, often used as a component of farmland preservation that restricts future de-

velopment on the land. And, they're not to be confused with a conservation easement.

"Ohio allows a landowner to grant a conservation easement, which is a promise to retain land predominantly to its natural, scenic, open or wooded condition and forfeit the right to develop the land for other purposes," says Peggy Kirk-Hall, director of the Ohio State University Agricultural and Resource Law Program. Hall also sits on the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board.

According to Hall, an agricultural easement does not restrict the right to sell or gift land, but it does carry over to the new landowner and that landowner must abide by the terms of the agricultural easement.

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26+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

APRIL 22, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

• Warren County, Indiana

• Tillable farmland

Owner: Taylor, et al.

Soil WAPI 155.2
Quality Tillable

89+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

MAY 13, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

• Warren County, Indiana

• Tillable farmland

Owner: Christman, et al.

Tillable & Wooded
Next to Cool Lake Golf Course
Adjacent to Greystone Equestrian

64+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

MAY 20, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

• Boone County, Indiana

• Potential Homesites

Owner: Najmon, et al.

Adjacent to Purdue University
Airport & Aerospace Research Park
Potential for Development

72+/- ACRES • 5 TRACTS

COMING SOON

• Tippecanoe County, Indiana

• Adjacent to Purdue Airport

Owner: Godlewski, et al.

Dixie Hwy 931 Frontage
Home & Pole barn,
Commercial buildings
and timber

83+/- ACRES • 4 TRACTS

COMING SOON

• St. Joseph County, Indiana

• Four (4) Tracts available

Owner: Geyer, et al.

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For Auction Advertising Information

Michigan Beef Industry Commission looking for state's best burger

LANSING, Mich. – The search is on for Michigan's best burger. The Michigan Beef Industry Commission is calling on Michigan's beef-loving community to nominate a restaurant who has their favorite burger on the menu in the Great Lakes Burger Battle, which runs until April 18, 2025.

"Michigan farmers raise high quality beef that consumers love," said Lindsay Green, director of marketing communications with the commission. "The Great Lakes Burger Battle is an opportunity to highlight restaurants across Michigan that do an outstanding job serving our product to consumers."

Whether it's a classic cheeseburger or a gourmet creation, if there's a 100 percent beef burger you can't stop thinking about, now's your chance to put it in the spotlight. The top 10 nominated restaurants will earn a spot as 2025 Great Lakes Burger Legends, gaining recognition across Michigan and a shot at the ultimate title.

A panel of secret judges will visit the top 10 locations for a blind taste test, where they'll determine the 2025 Burger Battle winner. But the excitement doesn't stop there – throughout May (Beef Month), Michigan influencers will visit and promote the top 10 burger joints, giving foodies across the state even more reason to check them out. The winning burger and top 10 finalists will also be featured on the commission's website.

Through April 18, burger fans can submit their favorite restaurant's burger at <https://www.mibeeff.org/about-us/upcoming-events/great-lakes-burger-battle>. For more details and updates, follow @MiBeef on social media.

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Business Liquidation Auction

Live Auction Wednesday, April 16th • 10:00am CDT

Auction Preview: April 15th 9am-4pm and Auction Day starting at 8am

Auction Pickup: April 16th until 5pm and April 17th 9am-4:30pm

Located at 1625 E Richton Rd., Crete, IL 60417

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TRACTOR - ATTACHMENTS - SNOW PLOWS & BOXES

2019 Case 521G rubber tired wheel loader, 4 speed transmission, enclosed cab, bucket, 660 hrs; Case 321F compact wheel loader, 4wd, hydrostatic transmission, 1 cubic yd bucket, 823 hrs; additional bucket and forks sold separately; New Holland W80C compact wheel loader, diesel, 1 cubic yd bucket, quick coupler, 2 speed transmission, 989 hrs; 1999 Case 621B rubber tired wheel loader, diesel, 4sp transmission, 100" bucket, 8,673 hrs; ASV RT-75 Posi-track compact track loader, 74 hp, Cummins diesel, 74" bucket, back-up camera, air ride, high flow, heat and A/C, 610 hrs; Case SV280B skid steer, full cab, 74 hp, diesel, Bluetooth radio, quick coupler, rear camera, 288 hrs; Wolf Paws tubeless nylon snow tires and lugnuts; Doosan Connect DX 35Z excavator, 3 cylinder diesel, full cab, radio, rear camera, hydraulic thumb and blade, 199 hrs; excavator buckets; Ford 545D industrial tractor, diesel, loader, 2390 hrs; 3pt Landpride Core Aerator model CA2572; 11' Snow Wolf Snow Plow w/ wings, quick attach skid steer mount; 9' hydraulic skid steer mount snow plow; Fisher XLS 8' 8611 MS snow plow; Fisher 8.5' straight blade snow plow; Cat 10' snow push box, skid steer quick attach; 13.5' Artic snow push box, skid steer quick attach; 10' Artic sectional snow push box, skid steer quick attach; 14' Artic snow push box, wheel load attach; 12' Pro-Tech snow push box

TRUCKS - TRAILERS

1999 Kenworth T300 single axle dump truck w/ Bonnell salt spreader, 8.3L Cummins, 6 speed Allison automatic transmission, electric tarps, only 51,000 miles, two-owner truck that is in excellent condition, always been stored inside; 2023 Ford Super Duty XL F550 w/ Taftco Scott Aluminum Dump Body, 7.3L V-8, gas, only 4700 miles, 10 speed automatic, twin tool boxes, never driven in salt or rain and always stored inside; 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500HD dump truck, dual rear wheels, 6.6L Duramax diesel, Galion 11' steel landscape bed, 8'-10' Western Wide Out XL snow plow, 2-wheel drive, automatic transmission, Meyer tailgate salt spreader, pull tarp, stainless wheel covers, strobe light; 2018 Dodge Ram 5500 w/ Stainless Landscape Dump Bed, Cummins 6.7L diesel, Fisher XV2 snow plow 9' 6" w/ wings, 4wd, automatic transmission, Henderson tailgate spreader, custom tool boxes, back-up camera, tarp, 49k miles; 2012 Ford F-450 Super Duty Truck Dump Truck w/ Fisher Plow, 6.7L diesel, pull tarp, landscape bed, 2 wheel drive, 9' plow, salt spreader, 65k miles; 2013 Dodge Rame 3500 Dump Truck w/ 8' Fisher V-plow, 8 cylinder Hemi, gas, automatic transmission, 9' x 7' dump bed, salt spreader, 55k miles; 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD Dump Truck w/ Fisher 9' snow plow, V-8 6.0L gas, automatic transmission, 11' steel landscape bed, strobe light, 4 new tires, 81k miles; 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD, regular cab, long bed, 6.0L gas, 2wd, 146K miles, custom 8' lawnmower ramp attachment; 2022 Diamond C Road Clipper 35' gooseneck trailer, max ramp, 30' deck, 5' beavertail, LED lights, tool box, winch receiver prep package, 2 speed landing gear, like new; 2006 Mac-Lander 20' flat bed landscape trailer, tandem axles, ramp; 2007 Behnkr Equipment Trailer, ramps, tandem axle, 16' deck

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Large amount of landscape rocks and boulders; pavers; drainage pipe; pallets of gypsum; Dewitt Pro 5 barrier; railroad ties; variety of plant inventory; poly totes; large Red Cedar pergola; pea gravel; beach sand; various stone; Spyker Ergo-Pro broadcast spreaders; Earthway broadcast spreaders; sprayers; shovels; garden tools; live animal traps; new gloves; Stihl gas hedge trimmer; Shepard's hooks; full store inventory of fertilizer and insecticides; metal store shelving; planters; round hay feeder; poly tank; feed bunk; cattle panels; Lista 10-drawer cabinet; metal shelving; pallet jack; monster cart;self dumping hoppers; wire baskets; floor jacks; 2001 Bomag plate compactor; fiberglass ladders; Little Wonder professional edger; Honda FRC800 20" rear tine tiller; Toro Power Max 836 25" snow blower; Toro Power Max 1030 29" snow blower; table saw; log chains; chain binders; shop vacs; Honda trash pump; rolling carts; fans; office equipment; and much more..

Owner: Crete Garden Center & Nursery

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SILVER CREEK FARM OPERATIONS LLC

ONLINE AUCTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 | WHITEHALL, MI



- Case MXM190 Tractor
- Oliver 2150 Tractor
- Ford 8000 Tractor
- New Holland BR 7060 Round Baler
- New Holland BC5070 Baler
- Case 8530 Baler
- John Deere 835 MOCO
- Kuhn Hay Rakes
- Pequea 710 Hay Tedder
- Kuhn Hay Tedder
- New Holland 116 Hay Windrower
- Gehl and H&S Kicker Wagons
- Hay Wagons
- International Manure Spreader
- Gravity Wagons
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 | NEWAYGO, MI



- John Deere 8300 Tractor
- John Deere 9500 Combine
- Corn Heads
- Grain Head
- Heil Quad Axle Manure Tanker
- Houle 6000 Manure Tanker
- Houle Manure Pump
- Farm Star Towable Manure Load Stand
- Krause 5200 Grain Drill
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ONLINE AUCTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 | GRAND JUNCTION, MI



- John Deere 9420R Tractor, 1491 Hours
- John Deere 5101 EN Tractor
- John Deere 4720 Sprayer, 2001 Hours
- Haggie DTS10 Sprayer, 332 Hours
- John Deere S660 Combine, 2449 Hours
- Capello 8 row corn head
- MacDon FD75 flex head
- John Deere 1790 planter
- Brent 882 Grain Cart
- Kenworth T-800 Semi Truck
- International RH613 Semi Truck
- Benson 5 Axle Dump
- Hopper Bottom Trailer
- Irrigation Pumps
- Applicator • Trencher
- Tillage
- (3) BEI Blueberry Harvesters
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ONLINE AUCTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 | BANGOR, MI



- Blueberry Harvester
- 2018 Haven 5440 Top Load Compact Harvester, CAT Diesel, 1,283 Hours
- Excavators & Attachments
- 2022 Kubota KX080-4 Excavator, 240 Hours
- 2022 Kubota Excavator Buckets – 30" GP & 60" Ditching Bucket
- 2022 Kubota K4080 Brush Mower Attachment
- Tractors & Forklift
- 2011 Kubota M135XDTC Tractor w/ Loader, MFWD, 1,795 Hours
- (12) Kubota Front Suitcase Weights
- 1997 John Deere 310D Loader Backhoe, 5,755 Hours
- 2011 Toyota 8FGU18 Forklift, LP, 897 Hours
- Powersports & Recreation
- 2018 Keystone Fuzion 417 Toy Hauler Fifth Wheel Trailer
- 2024 Harley Davidson Road Glide, 117 Cu. In., 183 Miles
- 2019 Ski-Doo Renegade Enduro 850 E-Tec Snowmobile, 5,306 Miles
- R&R Trailers 722PS Snowmobile Trailer
- From The Neighbor
- 2020 Gatormade Gooseneck Trailer
- Benson Tri-Axle Aluminum Dump Trailer
- Farm Support & Misc. Equipment
- 2017 Landpride RCM4615 Batwing Mower, 15'
- Winco 35PTOC-3/I PTO Generator
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RING 2 @ 9:15 AM: Semis – Heavy Duty Trucks & Trailers – Experienced Equipment – Livestock Equipment – Fuel/Bulk Tanks

DAY 2

WILL HAVE 2 RINGS
OF LIVE IN-PERSON &
ONLINE BIDDING

Saturday, May 3rd @ 9 AM

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

RING 2 @ 9:15 AM: ATVs – UTVs – Mowers

TAKING
CONSIGNMENTS
UNTIL
SATURDAY,
APRIL 26TH

DAY 1

DAY 2



Farm Foundation announces 2025 award winners

OAK BROOK, Ill. – Farm Foundation has announced the recipients of its prestigious 2025 awards, recognizing outstanding individuals dedicated to addressing critical issues in food and agriculture. The honorees exemplify Farm Foundation’s work of fostering innovation, leadership, and thoughtful public policy dialogue.

The recipients of the 2025 Farm Foundation Awards are:

Innovator of the Year: Robbie Dye, CEO, and Tyler Speer, COO, co-founders of Our Farms.

Emerging Leader Award: Dr. Shandra Stallworth, senior agronomist and global resource, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Regenerative Agriculture, Nestlé Purina North America.

RJ Hildreth Public Policy Award: Dr. Keith H. Coble, vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University.

Book of the Year: Land Rich, Cash Poor by Brian Reisinger, award-winning writer, rural policy expert, speaker and consultant.

“We received a remarkable range of inspiring nominations this year, and these four honorees stood out for their exceptional contributions,” said Tim Brennan, vice president of programs and strategic impact at Farm Foundation. “Their dedication to tackling critical issues in food and agriculture is vital to improving our food system.”

The awards ceremony will be during the July 2025 Farm Foundation Round Table meeting in Spokane, Wash.

2024 recipients of Farm Foundation Awards include Dr. Jayson Lusk, of Oklahoma State University; Dr. Robert Fraley, former executive vice president and chief technology officer at Monsanto Co.; Dr. Yangxuan Liu, of the University of Georgia; and Dr. Stephen Adejoro, of the Livestock Industry Foundation for Africa.

For more information about the recipients and the Farm Foundation Awards, visit: <https://www.farmfoundation.org/programs/farmfoundationawards/>.

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900 Head sell

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Thursday, April 17TH

9:00 AM Milking Equipment Sells

(2) American Rotary 3 Phase Converters

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Muller 1500 Gal. Tank (Does not cool just a holding tank)

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Double 12 Parallel Stalls

27 FT Crowd Gate

(24) Claws, (24) Delaval Pulsators, 3"Low Line and receiver group

(2) 5 HP Air compressors

Commercial Washing Machine

(2) Rinnai Commercial Tankless Hot water heater

Milking Cows will sell at approx. 9:30

Sell 600 Head of milking, Dry Cows & Close Springers

Friday, April 18TH At 9:00 AM

174 Head of Bred and Exposed Heifers

(45) 6 to 12 month old heifers

(40) 3 to 6 month old heifers

(30) Bottle calves

Also selling will be 200 Calf Hutches

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Tract 3	12.79 Acres
Tract 4	14.69 Acres (Great for pond development)
Tract 5	7.13 Acres
Tract 6	6.51 Acres
Tract 7	11.61 Acres
Tract 8	12.59 Acres
Tract 9	23.72 Acres

REAL ESTATE TERMS: The property will be offered in 9 individual tracts, any combination of tracts, or as a whole property. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the final bid price & included in contract price. A 15% deposit is due day of auction, balance due in 30 days. The property is being sold on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, and no warranty or representation, either express or implied, concerning the property is made by the Seller or Auction Company. Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting his or her own independent inspections, investigations, inquiries, and due diligence concerning the property. Make inspections Prior To Date Of Sale.

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AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT



Above: Rachel Newsom, 15, surveys the storm damage to a barn well over 100 years old on her family's farm in Michigan.

Deaths, extensive damage from tornadoes in Michigan and Indiana

By STAN MADDUX
Indiana Correspondent

Parts of Indiana and Michigan were cleaning up from destruction and tragedy that included the death of an Amish man in a horse-drawn buggy during recent separate storms that produced numerous confirmed EF-1 and EF-2 tornadoes.

Damage from the April 2 storm was still being tallied at press time, but Bourbon, a small community in northern Indiana where farming has a dominant presence, was described by many people the next morning as looking like a "war zone."

There were no reported injuries despite multiple homes crushed by fallen trees and several tractor trailers tipped over by strong winds on nearby U.S. 30. For a while, nobody in the town of about 1,600 people had power. Three days earlier, tornadoes and straight-line winds of up to 90 mph were blamed for similar damage in both states and the death of 84-year-old Lonnie Yoder.

According to Elkhart County Police, Yoder was in a horse-drawn Amish buggy blown over along County Road 20

near Middlebury, a few miles from the Michigan line.

About 30 miles to the south, the same storm flattened two barns used for teaching agriculture at Marian University's Ancilla College near Plymouth, along with a mobile home and at least two other barns in the area.

Brienna Slonaker, an agriculture and natural resources educator for Purdue Extension in Marshall County, said an EF-1 tornado that caused the damage traveled about three miles from neighboring Starke County.

"It went through some farm fields as well. That one was kind of more out in the open and didn't hit as many structures as the Bourbon one did," she said.

In Michigan, a bar well over a century old collapsed from what was confirmed as an EF-1 tornado east of Lansing.

Jody Pollock-Newsom said the barn was on the 40-acre farm her parents bought after marrying in the early 1960s. She said not only was it still a working barn used to store things like hay but one filled with fond memories of her childhood and from watching her now 15-year-old daughter grow up on the farm she and her husband now own.

"It's a complete loss," said Pollock-Newsom, executive director of the Michigan Wheat Program, a not-for-profit organization using check-off dollars to further research on achieving higher wheat yields and quality.

She said her family was watching the men's basketball team from Michigan State University play in the NCAA tournament when the TV broadcast switched to a weather bulletin about severe storms approaching.

The family made sure all their 26 head of sheep and four ponies were inside the barn and their 30 chickens were in the coop.

Pollock-Newsom said even her two barn cats apparently sensed danger and came up to the front door of the house and walked inside.

After the rain started coming down in sheets, she said everyone took cover in the basement, including their Blue Heeler farm dog who nervously hid under a couch. "It was almost like a wall of rain," she said.

After the worst of the storm passed, Pollock-Newsom said everything outside seemed fine until they went upstairs and looked through a window to see "part of the barn is gone. Holy cow."

(Tornadoes continued on page 14B)

LAND AUCTION

AUCTION CAST LIVE WITH ONLINE BIDDING

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AUCTION LOCATION: THE BARTHOLOMEW CO. FAIRGROUNDS, 750 W 200 S, COLUMBUS, IN

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2025 TWO DAY Spring Consignment

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

DAY ONE - Bidding ENDS Saturday April 12, 2025 @ 9:00 AM Eastern

DAY TWO - Bidding ENDS Sunday April 13, 2025 @ 7:00 PM Eastern

Items located @ 12544 Carpenter Rd. Milan, MI & Other Locations

See www.bradneuhart.com for all info



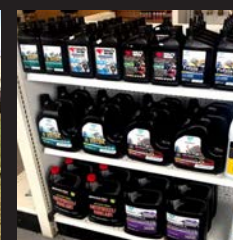
AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Due to the overwhelming success of our previous ONLINE ONLY Consignment Auctions we have decided to make our 2025 Spring Consignment ONLINE ONLY TWO DAYS! Bidding runs from Saturday April 5th until Saturday April 12, 2025 (Day ONE) with items starting to end at 9am eastern and SUNDAY April 13, 2025 (Day Two) with items starting to end at 7pm eastern. Item payment/pickup is SUNDAY April 13th (Day One items ONLY) through Tuesday April 15th from 9am-5pm. You can view items, register and bid at www.bradneuhart.com

We will have an open-house to view items in person at 12544 Carpenter Rd. on Wednesday 4/9 and Thursday 4/10 from 10am-5pm both days. Viewing of items off-site is by appt.



Day TWO includes a complete dispersal of all equipment, parts, repair tools & store fixtures of:

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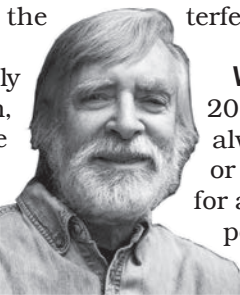


BRAD NEUHART AUCTIONEERS
REAL ESTATE BROKERS
734-439-7939

Terms: Cash or acceptable check. 10% buyer premium w/ \$2500 per item cap.

Time for bird migrations to peak; flowering begins on lilacs, azaleas

The grass of spring covers the prairies,
The bean bursts noiselessly through the mould in the garden,
The delicate spear of the onion pierces upward,
The apple-buds cluster together on the apple-branches.... – Walt Whitman



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

The Sun: April 21 is Cross Quarter Day, the halfway point between equinox and solstice. The Sun enters its Late Spring sign of Taurus on the same date.

The Stars: At midnight in the middle of April, lanky Scorpius lies along the southeastern horizon. In front of Scorpius, almost due south, is the parallelogram formation of Libra. Over along the southwestern tree line, find a smaller parallelogram, Corvus. Overhead, the most prominent star is Arcturus. Vega is the brightest star in the east, Regulus in the west.

The Shooting Stars: The Lyrid Meteors are active after midnight between Cygnus and Hercules during the second and third week of April, peaking April 22. These shooting stars often appear at the rate of 15 to 25 per hour. The waxing crescent moon will not in-

terfere with meteor watching.

Weather Trends: After April 20, high temperatures almost always reach 70 at least once or twice in a week, and chances for a day in the 80s jump from 10 percent on April 16 to 60 percent on the 25th. Cold days with highs below 50 occur only three times in a decade during this week of the year, and the 20th completes major snow time in the region. The 20th is also the date after which the average number of frosts per week drops by 40 percent. Eight years in 10, most April precipitation is complete by the 20th, and a major increase in the average daily amount of sunlight occurs: a rise from early April's 50/50 chance for sun or clouds up to a brighter 70 percent chance for clear to partly cloudy conditions.

The Natural Calendar: Between now and the first of May, most dandelions go to seed in the central states. Throughout the country's midsection, black and gray morel mushrooms come up at this time of the month, the same time that orchard grass is ready to harvest. When ticks and mosquitoes become trouble-

(Poor Will continued on page 13B)

Visit FarmWorld
on the internet at
www.farmworldonline.com

J.D. MCTAGGART ESTATE AUCTION

51 E. 1500 NORTH RD, PAWNEE, IL

ONLINE BIDDING ONLY

ENDS: TUESDAY, APRIL 15 @ 6:00 P.M.

VIEWING: MON., APRIL 14, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

**** WINNING BIDDERS WILL PAY AND PICK THEIR ITEMS UP AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, 51 E. 1500 NORTH RD. PAWNEE, IL. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**
FORKLIFT AVAILABLE TO LOAD LARGER ITEMS. CALL CORY FOR TRUCKING ON LARGER ITEMS.
600+/- LOTS

- 2013 Homestead Enclosed Trailer, 5'x8'
- 2013 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited
- 2023 Spartan Enclosed Trailer, 20', w/E TRACK,
- 1997 Ford F350 Pickup, Single Cab, Square Body, 460 Eng.
- 2020 Harley Davidson FLTRXS, MUST SEE!
- 1976 Voights Grain Box Gooseneck Dump Trailer
- 2011 Barlow Car Hauler, bumper hitch trailer
- 2016 Stoughton Hopper bottom

- 2006 Freightliner Semi
- Toro Titan Max Zero Turn Mower, 85 hrs.
- Gravely ZTHD52 Zero Turn Mower, 176 hrs.
- Large selection of good name brand tools
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- Case IH Air Compressor w/ Honda Eng.
- Farm Toys
- Farm Fuel Tanks
- John Deere Snowmobile

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Richard Cundiff

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TREE CARE, LLC

RETIREMENT AUCTION

LOCATED: 8064 St. Rt. 124, Hillsboro, OH. 1/2 mile east of Hillsboro, Ohio. (Watch for signs.)
LIVE ON SITE
ONLINE BIDDING ON SELECT ITEMS

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: TRUCKS & VEHICLES | FORESTRY EQUIPMENT
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT | TRAILERS | BUILDINGS FULL OF ITEMS
For questions about equipment call Richard Cundiff 937-402-8262

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 10 AM



After 82 years of dedicated service in the tree care industry, Cundiff's Tree Care is retiring and liquidating all equipment at public auction. This is your opportunity to purchase well maintained trucks, trailers, forestry equipment, construction attachments, and tools used daily in a professional operation.

TRUCKS

- 2018 International 4300 Bucket Truck, 57,018 miles, 65ft Versalift Bucket, Diesel, hydraulic tool hookups, side toolboxes, automatic transmission, Recently Certified, recently inspected
- 2007 International 4300 DT466 Chip Truck, 135,081 miles, full size chip box, with man cab, lift gate, diesel,
- 2000 Ford F250 XL Super Duty Truck, 125,560 mi., 9ft SS EBY flat Bed, 4WD, Reese Hitch, Gooseneck Attach, pwr Stoke Diesel V8
- Metavic 1150 Grapple Trailer, hydraulic winch, Honda gas engine, S: 051 - 017
- 1999 International 4900 Dump Truck, DT466E, Automatic Trans., Diesel eng, 135,081 mi., 16ft Steel dump bed, wood sides
- 2004 Ford Ranger Truck, 134,000 mi., Swiss bed cover, bed rack, gas engine,
- 2007 Ford F550XLT Super Duty, 62,321 miles, V8 power stroke diesel engine, manual trans., 14 ft steel flatbed,
- 2000 Ford F-350 XL Super Duty Truck, 153,360 mi., Power Stroke V8 Diesel engine, 11ft steel dump bed w/fold down sides,
- 2005 International 4300 Flat Bed, 14ft steel bed, goose neck attach, 224,915 mi., log standards, exhaust break system, air ride suspension, Diesel,
- 2002 Ford F-550 Truck, 9ft steel flatbed bed, gooseneck attach, 208,326 mi.
- 2007 International 4300, DT 466, 316,427 mi., 14 ft steel dump bed, side lift gate, air breaks, diesel,

TRAILERS

- 16ft Tandem Axle Trailer, wood flat bed, ramps, hydraulic breaks, electric pump,
- 2011 Belshe 14ft Steel Tilt Trailer,
- Belshe 12ft Tilt Trailer, wood floor, single Axle,
- Hawke 16ft Steel Dump Trailer, Honda GX160 gas engine, ramps,
- Detachable 9ft chipbox
- 20 ft Steel Shipping container,
- Unicell 16.5 ft. Cargo Bed, shelving included

CONSTRUCTION

- Giant V452T HD Articulating Loader, Liquid filled Turf Tires, pintle hitch and ball hitch;
- Bobcat S220 Turbo Skid steer, foot pedal controls, Diesel, tires;
- Vermeer S800TX Mini Skid Steer, 1,013 hrs., Diesel;

SKID STEER ATTACHMENTS

- Nursery Jaws;
- 72 in bucket;
- Hitch Skid Steer Attachment;
- 72" Bobcat Bucket, w/teeth;
- Grapple Forks;
- 67" Bucket;
- Hitch attach (mini);
- Bradco 48" Bucket (mini);
- Paladin 41" Bucket Grapple (mini);
- Toro 3ft Tiller (mini);
- 62" Bucket (mini);
- Forks (mini);
- 72" Grapple;
- Forks (Mini);
- Vermeer Swivel Grapple (mini);
- Steel Skid Steer Tracks;
- Forks, skid steer attach;
- 79" Large NAI Bucket;

FORESTRY

- 2022 Vermeer SC70TX Stump Grinder, 156 hrs, CAT Diesel engine, rubber tracks, smart sweep;
- 2015 Vermeer SC352 Stump Grinder, 955 hrs., Vanguard 35hp gas engine;
- 2001 Vermeer SC252 Stump Grinder, Kohler 23.5 hp gas engine, with trailer, 1559 hrs.;
- 2018 Vermeer BC 1800XLn wood chipper, 1,366 hrs, with winch, gas, Tree commander;
- 2018 Vermeer BC1000XI wood chipper, 958 hours, gas engine;

FORESTRY

- 2016 Wood-mizer LT28 Sawmill, 19hp Kohler gas engine, power feed, log turner, like new;
- Anderson M140 Log Grapple Loader on 14ft dump trailer, gas, wood sided;
- Timber Wolfe TW5 Wood Processor, Honda GX340 11 hp engine, hydraulic log lift;
- Timber Wolfe 25ft. conveyor;

MISCELLANEOUS

- Gregson Clark Tree & Lawn Sprayer, steel 350 gal tank, Honda GX 200 Motor;
- Exmark S Ultra Cut 60, zero turn, 60 in cut, propane gas, Kohler command pro 747 efi propane engine, front weights;
- Kioti Mechron 2200 4x4 RTV, hydraulic dump bed, canvas cab enclosure, 217 hrs, diesel;
- Karcher HDS 6000 Pressure Washer, steam, Diesel;
- 300 Gallon Diesel fuel tank with Fill-Rite 20 GPM pump;
- 300 Gallon Diesel tank with Fill-Rite pump;
- 300 gal fuel tank, gravity fed;
- 200 gal Fuel tank, hand pump;
- Meyer Snow Deflector Snow Blade 8.5 ft.;
- Concrete Barriers, various sizes;
- Lots of chain saws, many new; pole saws; large inventory of ropes, pulleys, safety equipment; tools of all kinds; lots of ladders; cutting torch set; boxes of new saw chains & saw bars; professional road signs; climbing & rigging gear; Log Rite log cart; job site tools; support equipment, multiple backpack sprayers, & many other items.

PREVIEW: WED., APRIL 23
FROM 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Everything sells to the highest bidder!
Don't miss this outstanding lineup of equipment ready to go to work.
For pictures, full inventory, and online bidding options, visit: www.wilnat.com



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SPRING EQUIPMENT AUCTION

FARM & CONSTRUCTION EQUIP. - TRUCKS - TRAILERS - UTV'S - MOWERS

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS APRIL 22

ADDRESS: 1743 IN-135 SW, Corydon, IN 47112

LOCATION: JUST 3 MILES S OF CORYDON OR 12 MILES N OF BRANDENBURG KY!

(NEW BECKORT AUCTIONS EQUIPMENT LOT!)

INSPECTION/OPEN HOUSE: Fri. April 18, 12-2 PM & Mon. April 21, 3-5 PM

VIEW CATALOG & PHOTOS ONLINE! PRELIMINARY LISTING-ITEMS STILL BEING ADDED!



SPECIAL INTEREST IH ITEMS: 1986 International S-Series 1654 Dump Truck-
LAST International Truck Built before the Navistar transition, engine: 7.3D,
trans: 5-speed, bed: 10' Ox dump, SHARP with documentation; '73 IH 2400A
Tractor w/Auburn Trencher & Blade-98 ACTUAL HOURS, all original (paint
& tires) **TRACTORS:** JD 6230 Premium 4x4 w/loader, hrs: 4840; '15 Kubota 6060 4x4, hrs:
1742, open station, one-owner; '18 Kubota L3901 HST 4x4 w/loader, hrs: 548; '22 JD 1025R
w/mower, hrs: 17 (ACTUAL); '98 JD 4600 4x4 w/loader, hrs: 1980; '92 JD 2955 tractor w/load-
er, hrs: 6528; '85 JD 750, hrs: 1332; MF 285; Ford 861; (3) Ford 8Ns **FARM/TILLAGE EQUIP:**
'95 Rogator 854 4x4 80' sprayer; White 8222 12-row no-till planter; Great Plains 3020P 30'
drill; Salford 18' vertical tillage; MF 6022R stripper head; CH 2062 30' flex draper head; MF
9750 25' head; Unverferth rolling harrow; Willmar 500 fertilizer spreader; Shaver HD10 post
driver; (2) 3-pt 8' disc; 3-pt tree plow; 3-pt ditcher; JD 148 loader; IH/JD weights; IH dual
wheel hubs; Woods DS120 10'; Micro-Mower 146XL 3-pt boom; Woods 84 3-pt; Woods 15'
batwing; **HAY EQUIP:** '21 Vermeer 605N Select round baler; '15 Kuhn 1034 accumulator; '16
Kuhn KN510 tie grapple; NH 575 square baler; multiple hay tedders; Kuhn/NH disc mowers;
NH 256 rake; (2) Case-IH 8420 round balers; Hesston 5580 baler; rakes **DUMP TRUCKS:** '17
Mack U318 triaxle, miles: 407K, engine: Mack MP8; '95 Ford F700 14' dump; '90 Ford F700
Galion dump **HEAVY TRUCKS/TRAILERS:** '07 Freightliner M210, miles: 221K; 06 Int 4400
service truck; '96 Freightliner fertilizer tender; '85 White Road Boss, engine: CAT 3408E; '97
MK 26' grain trailer **LIGHT TRUCKS:** '20 Ford F-450 Platinum 4x4 dually truck, miles: 117K;
'03 Chevy K3500 4x4 w/Hillsboro alum bed, miles: 45K (low mileage & one-owner); '97 Ford
F350 service **GOOSENECK TRAILERS:** '21 Gator 25' flatbed; '15 PJ 44' car hauler; Featherlite
24' alum livestock; '08 JIN flatbed; '07 Doolittle 26' toy hauler **BUMPER UTILITY TRAILERS:**
'22 Discovery 20' enclosed; '17 Corn Pro 21' tilt; '14 Homesteader 12' enclosed; '13 Kaufman
22' tilt; '14 Corn Pro 12'; '04 Int 18' **EXCAVATORS:** '23 JD 315 exc, hrs: 379, factory warranty;
Hyundai 80CR-9A exc; JD 690 E-LC exc **JD CRAWLERS (ESTATE OWNED):** JD 555A crawler/
loader; JD 550 crawler bulldozer; (2) JD 450C crawler loader w/JD backhoe; JD 450C crawler
bulldozer **UTILITY VEHICLES:** 5-10 units **LATE MODEL ZERO TURN MOWERS:** 15+ Hustlers

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Poor Will

FROM PAGE 12B

some, the morel season is about over. This week usually starts full apple, redbud and dogwood blossom week along the 40th parallel. Grape vines leaf out. Grasshoppers are born in the woods and hedgerows. Locusts, mulberries, ash, tree of heaven, and ginkgoes get their foliage. The first daddy longlegs are hunting. By this time of the year, honeysuckles and spice bushes have developed enough to turn the undergrowth pale green. Flowering begins on lilacs, azaleas, raspberries and ragwort.

Fish, Game, Livestock and Birds: Pheasants lay their eggs, and bird migrations peak with the arrival of whip-poor-wills, red-headed woodpeckers, catbirds, cedar waxwings, yellow-throated vireos, meadow larks, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, cowbirds, kingbirds, and more than a dozen varieties of warblers. Fish are active in the shallows and should be especially hungry at moonrise and moonset, as well as in the afternoon with the moon overhead as the April 21 cold front approaches.

Mid-April is a fine time to clean out the litter in the chicken coop and make it look like spring is really coming. You might put out some lime on the floor to help with odors. This is also a good time to spread diatomaceous earth to help keep mites and lice in check. Change the straw in the nesting boxes, too. Be sure your boar has its vitamins and selenium to keep his performance high.

In the Field and Garden: The juniper webworm emerges, and eastern tent caterpillars may begin to weave webs on flowering fruit trees. Cutworms

and sod webworms work the corn-fields. Don't forget to put in medicinal herbs: plant lavender, marjoram, rosemary, sage and thyme to increase the milk yield of your does and ewes. Marjoram and rosemary will sweeten the taste of your milk and add a measure of health to both the ewe and doe that produces it and the person who drinks it. April is a fine time to plant late summer and autumn grasses and legumes to extend your grazing season. And remember to seed the cab-bages: they promote good digestion in your livestock and in you.

Be alert for a change in odor in the barn that might be related to disease. Disinfect the area as desired, and maybe put a little lime around to keep down the odors; then start going after the flies.

The canopy of leaves closes rapidly now, with maples and box elders coming in. Sometimes the sun gets ahead of the size of your leaves, however, bringing sunburn or overheating to livestock ordinarily "safe" in the shade during the summer.

Marketing Notes: Memorial Day is May 28. Be sure you have your roadside stand set up or have reserved your place at a local farmers market. And if you have lambs or kids, investigate the halal market for the breaking of the Ramadan fast on June 14.

The Almanac Horoscope: Some studies have shown that bad cholesterol levels rise in the winter and then decline as the weather warms. Although the percentage of summer improvement can be relatively low, some people have experienced a drop of up to 50 percent. The change may be associated with better eating habits in spring and summer months (the increase in consumption of fruits and vegetables), changes in hormone levels or enzyme activity, and the addition of more outdoor work or exercise.

Almanac Classics

The Little Red Hen
Watching Tadpoles

Work finished for the day, I allow myself the luxury of resting a while by the backyard pond to watch tadpoles of the American toad.

When I place my hand into the water and swirl it around them, they show no alarm at all, completely intent on their investigation of the pond. Apparently oblivious to enemies, they possess a confidence that nothing can happen to them. They seem so intent on their journeys, so oblivious to danger, reckless in their faith that if they do what they were born to do, everything will be all right.

Their only need seems to be to reconnoiter and to search and to eat their landscape. They never look ambivalent. After a minute rest on a stone or water plant, they set off again in a new direction. They do not seem to need each other. The job of each one is to find a way out of the pond and to follow the course of the day.

In the morning, when the Sun strikes the water, one by one they leave their nighttime retreat in the deeper core of the pond and work their way to the shallow west edge. They bask on the rocks, nuzzle the mysterious line where air and water meet. They root in the watercress and wiggle through the dangling hyacinths.

Then as the Sun moves west, the little toads start to return east toward the pond's darker center. By dusk, they have all migrated away from the quickly cooling shallows to the more stable water a foot or two below the surface. They stay there until the midmorning sunlight brings them back to the shore of small round stones which fascinate them and onto which they will soon climb and discover the grass and life in the open air.



417 +/- AC WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND

OFFERED IN 10 TRACTS · COMBINATION BIDDING · 335+ TILLABLE ACRES

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS APRIL 29

Address: Salem, IN 47167

OPEN HOUSE/INSPECTION: Wednesday April 16, 3-5, Auction Co Rep will be located on site at Tract #1.

OFF-SITE BIDDING CENTER: Will be available for those bidders that require bidding assistance, this will be located at Beckort Auctions LLC offices beginning at Noon on April 29, call (812) 738-9476 for info.

REAL ESTATE: Exclusive offering of 417 +/- acres of Washington County land being offered in 10 tracts ranging from 1 to 151 acres in four separate locations within only a few minutes of each other! The Estate of Maurice Day is proud to present this offering in multiple tracts featuring something available for everyone! Property is sold ABSOLUTE with NO RESERVE!!! **TRACT #1 (115 N Harristown Rd):** Includes 8.25 +/- acres; all improvements; adjoins Tract 2. House features: 1700 +/- total SF living area, unfinished basement, 3BR/1.5BA, hardwood flooring, front covered porch, attached garage. Well-maintained & ready to move into! Outside improvements: 4300 SF barn, 2600 SF machinery storage building, 1600 SF open sided barn, & 3 small grain bins. **TRACT #2 (Corner of N Harristown Rd & E Canton S Boston Rd):** Includes 77.4 +/- acres; 72 +/- tillable acres; adjoins Tracts 1 & 3. **TRACT #3 (Corner of E Canton S Boston Rd & N Howell Rd):** Includes 73.5 +/- acres; 70 +/- tillable acres; includes improvements (open sided machinery building, & grain bin); adjoins Tract 2. **TRACT #4 (188 S Bata Rd):** Includes 9.4 +/- acres; 6 +/- tillable/open acres; adjoins Tracts 5 & 7. **TRACT #5 (S Bata Rd):** Includes 74.4 +/- acres; old farmhouse & all improvements consisting of three barns; 60 +/- tillable acres; adjoins Tracts 4,6,7. **TRACT #6 (S Bata Rd):** Includes 1.0 +/- acres; ideal building lot; adjoins Tract 5. **TRACT #7 (W Bata Rd):** Includes 15.4 +/- acres; 10% open acreage & 90% wooded acreage; includes all land north of railroad tracks; adjoins Tracts 4 & 5. **TRACT #8 (E Day Rd):** Includes 151 +/- acres; 118 +/- tillable acres; two ponds. **TRACT #9 (N Canton Rd S):** Includes 2 +/- acres; 187' +/- frontage on N Canton Rd S; mostly tillable acreage; ideal building lot; adjoins Tract 10. **TRACT #10 (N Canton Rd S):** Includes 2 +/- acres; 186' +/- frontage on N Canton Rd S; mostly tillable acreage; ideal building lot; adjoins Tract 9. **OWNER:** Estate of Maurice L. Day



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TURN-OUT TIME BULL & FEMALE SALE

FRIDAY
APRIL 18
ZANESVILLE, OHIO • 7:00 PM
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14 OPEN HEIFERS,
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Bull Sale



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Springville Feeder Auction
4426 State Rd 54 W., Springville, IN 47462



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PUBLIC AUCTION HENRY COUNTY LAND & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION 10 ACRES WITH EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PLUS ANTIQUE WAGONS, HORSE TRAILERS & COLLECTIBLES SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 – 10:00 AM

2925 S County Road 400 W, New Castle, IN 47362

REAL ESTATE FEATURES: 10 acres in Greensboro Township • Natural creek and wooded areas • 4,480 sq ft pole barn (2014) • Multiple outbuildings • Established equestrian facilities • Residence requires demolition (fire damage)

EXTENSIVE PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION INCLUDES: Antique horse-drawn wagons, buggies & vintage sled • Open air horse trailer & enclosed bumper hitch horse trailer • Semi trailers & gooseneck trailer for storage • Rare antique Willys parts - collector's interest • Fire-damaged firearms (special handling required) • Tools, antiques & collectibles
OPEN HOUSE PREVIEW DATES: Sunday, March 30 (1-3 PM) • Sunday, April 6 (1-3 PM) • Friday, April 11 (3-6 PM)

AUCTION DETAILS: Real estate sells first at 10:00 AM followed immediately by personal property. \$25,000 down payment on real estate, balance due at closing within 30 days. 10% buyer's premium on both real estate and personal property. All items sold "as-is, where-is."
NOTE: Real estate and only selected personal property lots will be webcast. Most personal property sells to the live auction crowd only.

BID LIVE OR ONLINE



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These items located in
Chemung, NY



ONLINE TRUCK & TRAILER AUCTION

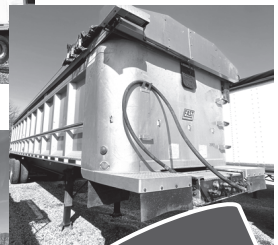
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Kenworth T880 sleeper caps (6), Kenworth T900L sleeper cab, Volvo day cabs (5), International day cab, International refrig. box truck(2), refrig. trailers, dump trailers, belt trailers, fuel tanker trailers



Items located in
NW Ohio & NE IN



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Auctioneer:
Darren Bok & Ryan Ruble

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2023 John Deere 6105E
197 Hrs, Syncro, MFWD, 540/1000, 2 SCVs
126449 **\$75,000** Muncie



2001 John Deere 8110
6621 Hrs, MFWD, PwrShft, Duals, 4 SCVs
128255 **\$69,000** Mooresville



2016 New Holland T8.320
2862 Hrs, MFWD, IVT, Rear PTO: 1000, 6 SCVS
126530 **\$129,000** Muncie



2013 Case IH 600
6097 Hrs, PwrShft, HD Gudgeon, Duals, 4 SCVs
129170 **\$99,000** Atlanta



2013 John Deere 8235R
3131 Hrs, PwrShft, 520/85R42, Duals, 4 SCVs
125997 **\$159,000** Atlanta



2012 Hagie STS12
2629 Hrs, 90' Boom, Stainless, 15" Spacing
126663 **\$139,500** Muncie



2003 John Deere 1770NT
16 Rows w/ Max Emerge Plus, 30" Spacing, Vacuum
129026 **\$35,000** Atlanta



2012 Fast 8318
16 Rows, 1800 Gallon, 17 Knife
126440 **\$39,000** Muncie



2014 John Deere 1990
40', 15" Spacing, Ext. Wear seed boot, SeedStar
126129 **\$65,000** Muncie

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