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## School children 'visiting' farms thanks to Virtual Farm Trips

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio – Thanks to advances in technology students can visit farms without ever leaving their classrooms.

Shift-ology Communication, based in Springfield, has developed the Virtual Farm Trips (VFT) program as a result of partnerships with like-minded clients seeking authentic and less costly ways to connect their audiences

to real working farms in an environment where arranging in-person visits is increasingly difficult. The staff at Shift-ology realized that planning farm excursions can be overwhelming to start and manage.

"As opposed to scripted, pre-recorded and highly edited virtual field trips found elsewhere, we focus on interactive, live experiences that directly connect audiences with real farmers in their boots, fields, equipment and barns on their actual farms," says Shift-ology Director of Virtual Experiences Dan Toland. "No two Virtual Farm Trips are ever the same. With emphasis on two-way communication and extensive opportunity to ask questions, the audience controls the direction of these unscripted trips. This approach provides ultimate transparency and is as real as it can get without actually stepping foot on the farm."

Some unique live trips already executed this spring through VFTs include auctioneering with a teenage auctioneer in California, cattle ranching in California, Ohio pig farming, Ohio soybean planting and veterinary care on an Indiana dairy farm.

"There are so many logistics and tiny little details that go into planning, organizing, promoting and producing a completely live event, and doing so from rural locations can present its own unique set of challenges," Toland said.

To date, there have been 500 such virtual farm visits that have reached just over 1.5 million students.

"Our partners (farms, individuals) supply the funding, farms and talent, and we take on the technical and logistical burdens," Toland said. "We make sure each trip is set up properly, is well-promoted and communicated, and that the VFT operates smoothly, is visually appealing and highly engaging. This allows our partners to focus on what they do best, and that is tell their agriculture story."

Launched in 2015 with a single Ohio pig farm, the program has blossomed into a platform, helping dozens of organizations nationwide connect tens of thousands of students at a time directly with farmers and agriculture experts for live video tours from their barns, fields, equipment and other real-world environments.

"Everybody has a story to be told, and this is one of the most creative and effective ways to do it," said



**Above:** Bean planting in the Midwest is always a waiting game. Ground temperature needs to be just right, along with dry weather. A few Indiana farmers were able to get in the fields prior to the last rain showers. Photo by Leondia Walchle

## Michigan seeks relief for storm damaged maple syrup industry

By Stan Maddux  
Indiana Correspondent

GAYLORD, Mich. – Federal dollars are being sought in Michigan to help recover from the loss of more than 100,000 sugar maple trees in the state during a major ice storm in late March.

David Noonan, president of the Michigan Maple Syrup Association, said the state was in the process of a record-breaking year but ended up losing one third of its production for the season to the storm.

"That's a substantial amount of syrup," he said.

He estimated the number of sugar maple trees in the state lost from the weight of thick ice, causing them to snap, at more than 100,000.

Michigan is the fifth leading state in maple syrup production at nearly 200,000 gallons in 2023, according to USDA.

About a dozen counties impacted by the storm across the northern Lower Peninsula are eligible for financial assistance from Washington, D.C., after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared them a disaster area.

The damage stretched from Charlevoix close to Lake Michigan to Alpena near Lake Huron.

Dale Forrester, a major producer who lost about one-third of his sugar maple trees and all his sap lines near Gaylord, said the storm "just made a shipwreck mess of the woods."

All the vacuum lines carrying sap from 10,000 trees to his sugar house were forced to the ground by fallen tops of trees and branches.

Forrester said his insurance will cover about \$25,000 of the damage but not the roughly \$150,000 it will cost to replace the sap lines.

Forrester said enough branches on another one-third of his trees were

damaged to the point where they might not survive.

"It's sad," he said.

Forrester said he plans to continue his lifelong practice of making maple syrup, a tradition handed down from his father and grandfather who tapped trees while dairy farming in upstate New York.

However, Forrester said he'll have to go into his woods first and remove what's left of the snapped trees along with all his lines to reestablish his operation.

Forrester said he'll also have to find another woods where the storm produced just rain 30 to 40 miles to the south if he wants to keep up with his previous levels of production.

He estimated the value of his annual syrup production before the storm at \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Other storm damaged syrup makers are facing a similar daunting task.

"It's going to be a lot of clean up in the next year or so," Noonan said.

Noonan, whose maple syrup making operation near Traverse City just missed the ice portion of the storm, said he hopes for good results in a meeting soon to discuss assistance with federal lawmakers from the state and Tim Boring, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Noonan said he didn't know how much funding could be possible, but would like to see at least \$500,000 awarded for helping producers in their recovery.

"We're going to try to get some kind of relief of some kind," he said.

Noonan said a quick full recovery is not possible, though, since it takes anywhere from 20 to 40 years for maple trees, once planted, to become

( See Maple syrup page 2)



**Above:** Ben Klick, a fifth-generation Ohio farmer, hosted classrooms on a VFT entitled "Feed the Cows." The virtual trip allowed viewers to see what it's like inside a combine. (photo submitted)

( See Virtual on page 2)

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Ohio youth benefit from Junior Swine Day.....Page 14B





# Virtual

FROM PAGE 1

Brooke Williams, director of communications for American Dairy Association Indiana. “The little things experienced during a live tour make learning more fun, and make such a big impression.”

Krista McCoon, AgVenture coordinator for San Joaquin County, Calif., said, “Show me a farmer that will allow us to have 14,000 students on his

farm. It’s not going to happen, but we can do that with a virtual trip. This is the closest way of getting the kids to the farm without taking them there. And that’s the bottom line.”

VFTs cover everything from conventional agriculture, such as beef, dairy, grain, pork and poultry, to specialty farms and unique topics including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, bees, nuts, Christmas trees, renewable-energy farms and yaks.

Recently, Shift-ology highlighted 18-year-old auctioneer Grayson

Haydenmeyer, of California. Haydenmeyer told the audience about the life cycle of cattle, breeds, and how cattle get to and go through an auction yard. She even exhibited her auctioneering skills for her audiences.

Virtualfarmtrips.com serves as a vast and informative on-demand library feature more than 400 past trips that can be viewed at any time.

“The program started with a single pilot trip for Ohio Pork Council in 2015 during which we connected a few classrooms with a pig farmer in real-time,” Toland said. “Right now, a single Virtual Farm Trip reaches over 2,000 students on average. However, we’ve reached as many as 40,000 students at one time.”

“This has allowed students in inner cities, suburban areas and rural districts, to experience first-hand the reality of modern farms and food pro-



**Above:** Viewers of the a Virtual Farm Trip recently heard 18-year-old auctioneer Grayson Haydenmeyer, of California. auction cattle. (photo submitted)

duction even when arranging in-person visits is increasingly difficult,” said Melanie Wilt, founder and CEO of Shift-ology Communication.

To learn more, go to [www.shift-ology.com](http://www.shift-ology.com).

# Maple

FROM PAGE 1

large enough to tap.

In the meantime, he said storm-damaged producers will have to find other trees to make up for lost production or purchase syrup from makers possibly outside of Michigan to keep up with demand from customers.

“Those states, hopefully, will have excess syrup for sale so that we can cover our sales,” he said.

Noonan, who has over 1,200 taps, said one reason he made more syrup than ever before this year was having a good number of days above freezing and nights below freezing during late winter and early spring.

Such fluctuations in temperature activate what’s typically described as nature’s sap pump inside the trees.



**Above:** Twenty-eight miles of vacuum tubing are buried under tree debris. Photo Credit: Christi Petersen, Maplemoon Sugar Bush and Winery



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**TONY GREGORY**, *Publisher*, ext. 321  
E-mail: [tgregory@midcountrymedia.com](mailto:tgregory@midcountrymedia.com)

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

**CONNIE SWAIM**, *Managing Editor*, ext. 131  
E-mail: [connie@farmworldonline.com](mailto:connie@farmworldonline.com)

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# Pork, beef exports help support bottom lines for Iowa corn producers

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

MENLO, Iowa – Exporting beef and pork can help a corn producer’s bottom line, especially in Iowa, according to a study by the U.S. Meat Exports Federation (USMEF).

The group said key findings from the study, which utilized 2024 statistics provided by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, and calculations by The Juday Group, showed Iowa beef and pork exports accounted for 92.79 million bushels of Iowa corn usage in 2024.

As a corn and beef cattle farmer, Ralph Lents knows how much one commodity impacts another.

“If the U.S. has a low-yielding corn crop, my cattle feed prices go up,” said the Iowa Corn Promotion Board presi-

dent, and Menlo, Iowa, farmer. “If beef exports go down, the price of my corn goes down, too. In Iowa, one in two farmers raise livestock and those livestock consume a lot of corn.”

That’s why the Iowa Corn Promotion Board invests in the USMEF, he said.

“The purpose of USMEF is to create new opportunities and further develop existing international markets for U.S. corn-fed red meat,” he said. “USMEF represents red meat producers, packers, processors, traders, farm organizations, grains producers and supply and service organizations. When united, USMEF amplifies the voices of these organizations, increasing red meat exports around the world.

“In partnership with USMEF, Iowa corn farmers host international trade teams, allowing customers from around the world to learn more about

corn and livestock produced in Iowa,” he added.

He said, “Additionally, Iowa corn farmers have traveled internationally to share the farming and conservation practices they use to ensure they are raising a high-quality product for consumers. For every dollar the Iowa Corn Promotion Board invested into USMEF’s export programs, a median net return of \$3.87 and \$7.42 for the beef and pork industries is generated.”

The Iowa Corn Promotion Board told Farm World that USMEF’s key focus areas for the board’s investments in 2025 are Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Mexico.

In Japan, while export value fell 5 percent to \$1.4 billion in 2023, it is the second highest value destination for U.S. pork, trailing only Mexico. The board said it is working to expand chilled U.S. pork presence on retail shelves, targeting regional retailers to displace competitor product.

In South Korea, in 2023, consumption of red meat is growing, which presents an opportunity to build a stronger demand for U.S. product. In China, the board said it is working to improve buyer knowledge on the safety, quality and availability of U.S. beef.

In Taiwan, the country’s appetite for beef has increased as consumers de-

sire healthier and more “wholesome” choices. The board said it is working to offer beef as a protein option to all buyers and consumers demonstrating value and versatility of U.S. beef.

In Mexico, U.S. beef variety meat, which is the leading volume destination, increased 16 percent year-over-year in 2023. The board said it is focusing on developing new beef cuts, new uses and clients, while implementing programs in an expanded range of market sectors.

The USMEF said it “carries out market development programs in nearly 100 countries and high-quality feed inputs are a vital selling point for U.S. red meat in these markets. This year, Iowa Corn Checkoff funding is providing crucial support for promotional efforts for U.S. beef and pork in Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America.”

Lents said, “If it weren’t for our state’s livestock production, Iowa corn farmers would face lower demand for corn. Similarly, without being the top producers of corn, we would likely not be a leader in red meat production. Our partnership with USMEF is extremely valuable, and we look forward to continuing to support Iowa’s livestock farmers.”



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# Dry conditions may help planting season, but not growing season

Recent precipitation events have improved U.S. soil moisture, but much more is needed to fully replenish reserves. The U.S. corn area is now 44 percent in drought, well above last year's 24 percent. The U.S. soybean production area drought is now 36 percent of acres, above last year's 20 percent. Winter wheat drought now stands at 38 percent of area. A year ago, just 16 percent of wheat production was affected by drought. These dry soil conditions may favor the U.S. planting pace, but forecasts for a drier than normal growing season are gaining attention.

While most of the weather focus in the market right now is on the United States and South America, we are seeing another trouble spot in the global market. Mexico is reporting widespread drought in its wheat production area and thoughts are it has cut the crop by 40 percent. This will leave Mexico with a wheat crop of 1.6 million metric tons and a need for 6.5 mmt of imports, an 8 percent increase from last year's imports. The United States has benefited from this with exports to Mexico at 2.8 mmt for the year with 10 weeks left for sales. Last year Mexico imported a total of 2.4 mmt of U.S. wheat.

Drought has also impacted Russian grain production and exports this year. The Russian firm SovEcon is now projecting Russian exports for the 2024/25 marketing year of 49.9 mmt, a 1.1 mmt decrease from its prior outlook. Wheat exports are forecast to decline the most, dropping to 40.7 mmt. This is down 1.5 mmt from SovEcon's last update. The group did increase its 2025/26 wheat export forecast by



MARKET ANALYSIS  
By Karl Setzer

200,000 mt but is still seeing a lower total volume of 39.1 mmt.

Ag Rural has joined a list of private estimates that have lowered their Brazilian soybean production forecast as harvest progresses. According to Ag Rural, the Brazilian soybean harvest is nearly complete and they are now forecasting a crop of 165.9 mmt, down from its prior 168.2 mmt. The USDA is currently using a Brazil soybean crop of 169 mmt in global balance sheets. Early flooding and a dry finish to Brazil's growing season are behind the lower production outlooks.

The USDA attaché in Brazil has released its Brazil soybean production estimates for the 2025/26 marketing year. The attaché sees next year's Brazilian soybean crop climbing to 173 mmt from this year's 169.5 mmt crop. Brazil is now forecast to export 108.3 mmt of soybeans this year and 112 mmt for the 2025/26 marketing year.

Markets are starting to pay more attention to the value of the U.S. dollar. The U.S. dollar has become more volatile, which is having more of an impact on markets than in recent history, including commodities. A strong dollar tends to limit U.S. exports as it makes our products more expensive in the global market. Global selling also picks up when the dollar is strong as that is the currency global trade takes place in. While a strong dollar can be negative, it does increase the U.S.' buying power and favors imports. A

strong dollar may also offset some of the increase in costs from tariffs.

This strong U.S. dollar's impact on global commodity trade has been most noted in Brazil. Brazil's soybean harvest was slow to start and production was uncertain, causing many farmers to limit selling to a minimum. Soybean harvest is now in its later stages and storage is filling at the same time the U.S. dollar had shown strength. As a result, Brazil farmers and exporter selling has picked up. In turn, China is now reporting a build in domestic soybean reserves, weighing on global soybean basis.

The U.S. dollar has now corrected as buyers flock to the gold market, helping bring U.S. commodities back in line with the global market.

The United States has seen less soybean competition than normal from Argentina in the export market this year. Soybean harvest is winding down in Argentina, but farmers have been limited sellers. Farmers in Argentina have only marketed 18 percent of this year's soybean crop, the lowest volume in 10 years. Unfavorable exchange rates and hopes there will be another tax incentive for soybean sales such as Argentina offered last year are the main factors for the low selling interest. The only slower year for soybean selling in Argentina was in 2014 at 15.7 percent sold.

China was an active buyer of U.S. beef for several months, but this has ground to a halt. All U.S. red meat import registrations with China expired

but this had little impact on trade. The U.S. pushed China on these registrations, leading to an approval for pork and poultry facilities for the next five years. Beef facilities were omitted, however.

Chinese importers are now hesitant to book U.S. beef, especially with trade tensions between the two heating up. Chinese importers do not want to purchase U.S. beef to find it does not meet import guidelines and is rejected at port facilities. This follows a statement from the Chinese government that while tariffs may not impact consumer prices as much as initially feared, they will alter future trade patterns. China is now working to expand beef trade with Brazil.

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*(Above photo at the farm courtesy Dieter Krieg, FarmShine Editor)*

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Bipartisanship said to be missing in current farm bill negotiations

By Michele F. Mihaljevich  
Indiana Correspondent

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – When Republicans and Democrats were constructing the 2018 farm bill, there was an underlying bipartisanship not necessarily found today, according to a former chief economist for the U.S. Senate ag committee.

Matt Erickson worked for then-Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) from 2015 to 2021. At the time, Roberts was chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Currently, Erickson serves as ag economic and policy adviser for Farm Credit Services of America, Frontier Farm Credit and Ag Country Farm Credit Services.

Part of Erickson’s job as chief economist was to keep good relations with his counterparts in the offices of committee Democrats.

“We had a great working relationship,” he recalled. “The ag committee has always been known for bipartisan work. Bipartisanship’s not easy, and I think we’re seeing that in today’s world, and I hope we get back to it.

“I was always taught here, in my upbringing and policy, if you go into a negotiating room, you’re talking back and forth, there’s conversations that are heated. People are passionate about policy. But once you leave that negotiating room, remember people are people, and you know, asking them, ‘hey, let’s go have a beer.’ I hope we get back to those bipartisanship roots that we’ve been accustomed to.”

Erickson spoke about his career and his role as chief economist during the April 16 Purdue Commercial AgCast from the university’s Center For Commercial Agriculture.

The 2018 farm bill expired in 2023, but some provisions have been extended as lawmakers haven’t been able to reach agreement on new legislation.

“Long story short here, when we think about the work for the (Senate ag) committee and you work for farmers and ranchers, and what they need is they need that predictability and they need that certainty to get a farm bill done. And so that was our task and were able to get the job done (for the 2018 farm bill),” he said.

As part of the process of crafting the 2018 farm bill, staff for members of the committee talked with various groups and organizations to discuss their priorities for the bill.

Senate ag committee members also want to hear from their constituents, he said.

“We want to hear from the farmers themselves,” Erickson pointed out. “Farmers may not necessarily have the time to fly into (Washington) D.C. every day. Obviously, they’ve got work on the farm to do. So, that’s when you would call up maybe a farm bureau or a corn growers or a soybean association. The list goes on and on.

“If you think about the policy process of (the American Farm Bureau Federation), if I’m a chairman or if I’m a member in both either the House or the Senate, I want to talk to, I want to get the perspectives of a farmer. And I know if I go to a place like American Farm Bureau, I’m hearing it from the grassroots because their policy is set at the grassroots. The grassroots process at American Farm Bureau, you can’t beat it.”

(Farm Bill continued on page 6)



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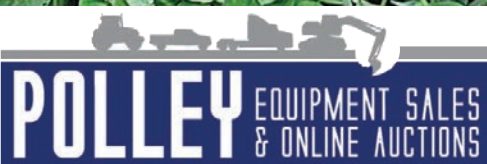
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# Beck's to build facility in southern Minnesota

ATLANTA, Ind. – Beck's, the largest family-owned retail seed company in the United States, is strengthening its commitment to farmers in the northern Corn Belt with the construction of a new 96,000-square-foot facility in Olivia, Minn. While the existing location will remain a home for the northern research and breeding program, this new facility will enhance Beck's ability to provide farmers with industry-leading seed products, agronomic support, and Practical Farm Research (PFR)® insights.

Strategically located off U.S. Highway 71, the new facility will feature sales support, a farm shop, a warehouse, cold storage, a dock, and an expanded PFR site. The PFR site, spanning over 100 acres, will dedicate more than 40 replicated studies to region-specific research, including critical areas such as Iron Deficiency Chlorosis (IDC) and soybean planting date by maturity.

“At Beck's, we remain committed to helping farmers succeed by providing high-yielding products, localized agronomic support, and research-driven insights,” said Scott Beck, president of Beck's. “This new facility in Olivia enhances our ability to deliver on that promise, giving farmers in the northern Corn Belt access to even more valuable information and resources.”

The expanded PFR site will serve as

a hub for Beck's renowned research program, offering farmers practical, data-backed insights into products and management practices tailored to the region.

“This investment underscores our dedication to the farmers in Minnesota and the broader region,” said Heather Morris, northern regional business manager for Beck's. “By expanding our operations in Olivia, we are enhancing our capacity to serve our customers with improved logistics, greater product availability, and strengthened agronomic support, all aimed at maximizing their on-farm success.”

Construction of the new facility is underway, with substantial completion set for the spring of 2026. Farmers in the region can anticipate enhanced service, expanded research, and an even greater level of support from Beck's team.

“Beck's has been a great community partner here for many years, and we couldn't be happier that they have chosen Renville County for the location of their new facility,” said Greg Snow, commissioner of Renville County. “Their new building is going to be a real showpiece. We are so thankful to have them here.”

For more information about Beck's products and services, visit [www.beckshybrids.com](http://www.beckshybrids.com).

## Farm Bill

FROM PAGE 5

Erickson served as an economist with American Farm Bureau from 2010-2015.

While working with the Senate ag committee, Erickson briefed and updated Roberts and other Republican members.

“When you think about some of those members, I think it really comes down to which state each member is in,” he explained. “For instance, a lot of the

folks that worked for the Republican side when I was up on the hill, (there was) a lot of row crop focus, a lot of traditional ag focus. A lot of it was serving the producers that were in their state. You look at a lot of members maybe on the other side of the aisle where their specific priority is nutrition.

“And so that's why this partnership between the rural and urban partnership here is really important for it to stick together.”

Erickson has bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue. His family's farm is north of West Lafayette.



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2013 CIH STIEGER 400HD, PS, GUIDANCE, 3800 HRS  
2012 CIH MAGNUM 235, PS, MFD, 1300 HRS  
2020 CIH PUMA 150, PS, MFD, LDR, 1700 HRS  
2007 PUMA 180, PS, MFD, 4000 HRS  
2012 JD 9510R, BB, PS, 3100 HRS  
1998 JD 9200, 3PT, PTO, 9700 HRS  
2014 JD 8295R, IVT, ILS, 3900 HRS  
2003 JD 8420, PS, MFD, 4600 HRS  
2009 JD 7830, PQ, MFD, 3200 HRS  
2003 JD 7420, PS, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3700 HRS  
2019 JD 6110M, PQ, MFD, 1300 HRS  
2020 JD 5100M, CAH, MFD, 1100 HRS  
1983 JD 4450, QR, 2WD, LDR, 5800 HRS  
2013 CHALLENGER MT655D, CVT, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3600 HRS

### HEADS

2019 JD 745FD HYDRAFLX DRAPER  
2010 JD 625F HYDRAFLX GRAIN HEAD  
2021 MAC DON FD140 40FT DRAPER, CNH ADAPTER  
2015 MAC DON FD75S 35FT DRAPER, CNH ADAPTER  
2012 CASE IH 3020 20FT GRAIN HEAD  
2013 JD 608C, KR, HD, HH, RS, REEL  
1997 JD 693, RR, HD, SINGLE POINT

### CONSTRUCTION

2024 BOBCAT E35R2, CAH, 2SPD, 45 HRS  
2024 BOBCAT S66, CAH, 2 SPD, 35 HRS  
2023 CAT 259D3, CAH, 2 SPD, HIGH-FLOW, 700 HRS  
2023 CASE CX57C EXCAVATOR, CAH, 2 SPD, THUMB, 600 HRS

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LANDOLL 7431 26FT VT  
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UNVERFERTH 1225 22FT DOUBLE ROLLING BASKET  
KRAUSE 4428D SOLID ROLLER PACKER  
BRILLION X108 27FT SOLID PACKER  
SUNFLOWER 4233 21 SH DISC CHISEL  
2006 JD 714 11 SH DISC CHISEL  
CASE IH RMX 690 7 SH DISC RIPPER  
NH 565 SQUARE BALER  
2023 FC15E 15FT ROTARY MOWER  
BUSH HOG 12715 15FT ROTARY MOWER  
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BRENT 472 TARP, SCALES  
UNVERFERTH 325 GRAVITY WAGON  
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KILLBROS 385 GRAVITY WAGON  
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50x100x23	18x16 door
50x120x23	18x16 door
50x200x23	18x16 door
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# Woebkenbergs give harness racing an honest, clean start

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

LEBANON, Ohio – When Becky Woebkenberg gets behind the wheel of their white Ford F-150, her husband Mike gets in the back seat, turns completely around, and looks out the rear window.

This is nothing against Becky’s driving record. It’s just how things are done when you’re the driver of a harness racing pace car and your husband is the official starter. While Becky steers the truck around the racetrack, Mike looks the opposite way, works the accelerator and operates the long, wing-like gates that stretch out from each side of the vehicle. Eight to 10 horses are at this gate, ready to compete in a mile run.

“My job as a starter is to make sure we have the right number of horses out on the track, heading in the right direction and all have the correct saddle pads on,” Mike said. “Then, I have to get them to gate without incident. Getting horses to the gate is like herding cats.”

As the drivers finish warming up their horses (just a minute before post time), Becky puts the truck into drive and heads to the center of the backstretch. Mike shouts “OK gentlemen, bring ‘em in,” letting the drivers know



**Above:** Mike and Becky Woebkenberg were both raised on farms in Warren County and Preble County respectively. Their love for horses has led them to highly successful businesses of sulky building and repair, as well as starting races. (Doug Graves photo)

it’s time for them to guide their horses slowly toward the moving gate.

While all are in line, Mike takes over using an accelerator from his perch to pull away from the field. As he does so,

the gates contract and Becky steers the vehicle to the outside of the track.

“I judge the speed by the sound of the horses’ feet,” he said. “When you train a horse, you learn how fast you’re

going by the sound of the feet and I’ve retained that. Once at the gate, we have to have the starting gate going fast enough not to jam them, but not too fast that they can’t catch me. And no two races are the same. Each race is different because of the quality of the horses.”

By the time the starting gates fold in and the race officially begins, the field is moving along at 35 miles per hour. The truck is then driven to the outside of the track, where it continues to flank the field from 20 feet away throughout the race. As Becky steers the truck on the perimeter of the oval, Mike is looking to make sure there are no miscues or fouls during that two-minute race.

Mike and Becky’s roots and love for horses began on the farm. Mike is a third-generation horseman and farmer. He grew up on a farm in Lebanon in the 1950s, just two miles from the Miami Valley Gaming racetrack. Becky grew up on a farm in Preble County in Ohio.

Mike has been in the harness racing industry his entire life. He started showing Pleasure Drawing Ponies at the Great Cincinnati Horse Show at age 6 along with racing harness ponies in the early 1960s. Being a third-generation horse racing family enabled Mike to be the youngest standardbred driver in the country by 1967.

By the time he was 16 he began showing horses for customers, and with the money he saved he was able to pay for his tuition at Ohio State University. After college, Mike began racing horses and showing them in the afternoons for customers. His first drive occurred at Lebanon Raceway in Lebanon.

One day a customer couldn’t pay him and offered his two racing carts as payment. Mike fixed the two carts and sold them. Having a minor in economics he quickly realized the market for horse carts, and Superior Sulky was born. His sulkies have been sold to people all over the world, including leading horse trainers, showmen and even movie stars. Sulkies made by Mike are used by harness drivers across the country.

(Woebkenbergs continued on page 13)

<p>International 4386 CAH, 20 Spd. Trans., Drawbar, 3 Remotes, 18.4x38 Tires... \$14,500</p>	<p>Allis Chalmers 7060 CAH, PS Trans, 3pt, PTO, 2 Remotes, Very Nice, Orig... \$8,750</p>	<p>2003 Bush Hog 2615 Legend 15', 1000PTO, Stump Jumpers, Pleated Tires, Low Use, Nice... \$6,450</p>	<p>2022 JD 324G CAH, Pilot Controls, Aux Hyd Quick Tach, 72" Bkt, 1300 Hrs... w/Warranty Till Sept... \$39,500</p>	<p>2015 Snorkel TB60 Kubota Dsl., 4X4, Good Tires, Work Ready ... \$17,500</p>	<p>Tyler Patriot XL JD Dsl., Hydro Jyd Fold Boom, 1200 Gal Tank, Foamer, 3900 Hrs... \$9,450</p>
<p>2023 Case IH 55C CAH, 4x4, Ldr, Hydro, 3pt., PTO, 67 Hrs... \$44,500</p>	<p>Kamatsu PC150 EROPS, Long Stick, 24" Pads, 42" Bkt, 5800 Hrs., Nice... \$34,500</p>	<p>2011 John Deere 75D EROP, Dsl., Hyd., Thumb, Steel Tracks, Backfill Blade, 3K Hrs... \$42,500</p>	<p>White 5100 6-30 Planter PTO, Pump, Good Openers, Nice Paint... \$2,750</p>	<p>New Holland 1499 Swather EROPS w/AC, Hydro 12' Cut, 3K Hrs., Nice, Original... \$12,500</p>	<p>2011 Case I 200 50' Field Cultivator, 5 Bar, Spike Drag, No Welds... \$24,500</p>
<p>Massey Ferguson 8260 CAH, PS Trans, 3 Pt, Dual PTO, Westendorf 570 Ldr w/Bkt &amp; Spear... \$37,500</p>	<p>Friesen 220 Seed Tender Tandem Axle, Honda Engine, Field Ready... \$4,750</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>John Deere 8760 EROPS w/AC, Dsl., 24 Spd., 4 Remotes, Drawbar, 20.8 Tires, All Matched, 5500 Hrs... \$22,500</p>	<p>2008 John Deere 2210 41'6" Rolling Basket, Good Sweeps, Tight Shanks, Field Ready... \$17,500</p>
<p>Friesen 4 Box Seed Tender Honda Engine, Talc Adapter, Good Condition... \$6,750</p>	<p>2008 New Holland L175 Dsl, Foot Controls, Aux Hyds, 10.00-16.5, 1685 Hrs... \$14,500</p>	<p>2011 Landoll 7450-39 39" Rolling Baskets, Good Blades &amp; Bearings, Field Ready... \$26,500</p>	<p>2013 New Holland BR7090 1000PTO, Good Belts, Monitor, 11,000 Total Bales, 1 Owner, Sharp... \$14,500</p>	<p>2011 Woods BW 1800 1000 PTO, Walking Tandem, Stump Jammers, Good Blades &amp; Gear Boxes... \$9,450</p>	<p>2012 New Holland BR7090 5x6 Bales, 1000PTO, Monitor, Fair Belts but Would Work... \$6,750</p>
<p>NH ST250 50' Field Cultivator, 5 Bar Spike Drag, Tight Shanks, Good Hovels, Field Ready... \$12,500</p>	<p>John Deere 1530 No Till Drill w/JD 1570 Caddy, No Till Coulters, 15" Spacing Markers, Good Cond., Field Ready... \$13,500</p>	<p>1971 JD 4620 Dsl., WF Fenders, 3 Pt., 2 Rem., 1000 PTO, 5430 Orig Hrs... \$13,500</p>	<p>2017 Yale Veracitor 80VX EROPS, Kubota Dsl., 2 Stage Mast, 48" Forks, No SS, Work Ready... \$8,450</p>	<p>New Idea 4865 540PTO, VG Belts, Monitor, Always Shredded, Sharp... \$5,750</p>	<p>2008 Gehl 6640 EROPS, Dsl, 2 Spd., Aux Hyds., 12.00x16.5 Tires, 3300 Hrs... \$13,500</p>



**Above:** In between races, Mike Woebkenberg is often in the barn area of the track shoeing a horse or two. (Doug Graves photo)



**Above:** When all horses are at the gate, the starting car (or truck) pulls away, giving each horse and driver a fair start. (Doug Graves photo)

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# MARKETS

## Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 4/21/2025 - Final			
AUCTION			
	This Week	Last Reported	Last Year
4/14/2025			
Total Receipts:	782	1,989	1,191
Feeder Cattle:	681(87.1%)	1,769(88.9%)	997(83.7%)
Slaughter Cattle:	94(12.0%)	208(10.5%)	179(15.0%)
Replacement Cattle:	7(0.9%)	12(0.6%)	15(1.3%)

Compared to last Monday feeder steers sold 5.00 to 10.00 higher with some weaned 400-600 lb packages sharply with very good demand. Feeder heifers sold 2.00 to 5.00 higher with some weaned 400-600 lbs packages 5.00 to 10.00 higher with very good demand. Yearling steers and heifers 5.00 to 10.00 higher in a lite test. Active feeder market with good buyer participation and some farmer participation in the market today. Slaughter cows sold 2.00 to 4.00 higher with good demand. Slaughter bulls sold 5.00 higher with very good demand. Supply included: 87% Feeder Cattle (35% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 47% Heifers, 18% Bulls); 12% Slaughter Cattle (3% Steers, 75% Cows, 22% Bulls); 1% Replacement Cattle (50% Stock Cows, 25% Bred Cows, 25% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 34%.

Group of 20 head or more:

- Steers
- 21 head 771 lbs 299.00 Charx-Few Blk Value-Added
- Heifers
- 50 head 565 lbs 337.00 Blk-Few Mixed Value-Added

### FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	340	340	395.00-400.00	397.50
3	367-375	370	379.00-405.00	387.79
1	365	365	430.00	430.00 Value Added
6	407-448	434	396.00-400.00	398.75
2	405-410	408	414.00-421.00	417.52 Value Added
8	455-485	469	367.50-388.00	382.86
30	455-492	484	395.00-416.00	410.62 Value Added
2	515-530	523	367.00-377.50	372.17
40	515-546	529	380.00-399.00	388.62 Value Added
7	555-590	569	341.00-377.50	357.52 Value Added
2	630	630	319.00	319.00
49	600-640	622	321.00-369.00	352.12 Value Added
1	680	680	299.00	299.00
28	655-685	674	321.00-334.00	330.99 Value Added
2	710-735	723	289.00-309.00	299.17
4	740	740	318.00	318.00 Value Added
1	760	760	270.00	270.00
21	771	771	299.00	299.00 Value Added
4	827	827	274.00	274.00
1	865	865	260.00	260.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	367	367	352.50	352.50
5	515-533	527	315.00-327.00	322.28
1	840	840	214.00	214.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	335	335	357.50	357.50
2	565	565	330.00	330.00 Value Added
2	885	885	258.00	258.00

#### DAIRY STEERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	550	550	215.00	215.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	270-295	287	330.00-367.00	342.47
2	270-285	278	370.00-410.00	389.46 Value Added
3	315-340	330	400.00-405.00	402.01 Value Added
7	355-391	375	397.00-403.00	400.42 Value Added
2	437	437	345.00	345.00
25	400-446	430	352.50-397.50	379.72 Value Added
6	450-495	486	330.00-350.00	343.75
41	460-495	483	351.00-375.00	363.49 Value Added
2	515	515	318.00	318.00
1	515	515	305.00	305.00 Fleшы
22	500-528	513	327.50-342.50	336.19 Value Added
3	555-575	562	301.00-307.00	304.95 Fleшы
103	555-597	573	320.00-337.50	332.90 Value Added
3	605-645	620	255.00-280.00	267.26
18	610-639	633	294.00-319.00	312.29 Value Added
2	665-675	670	272.00-275.00	273.51
13	652-685	655	284.00-291.00	284.94 Value Added
20	710-731	729	263.00-265.00	263.19
2	760-795	778	230.00-264.00	246.62
1	815	815	225.00	225.00
4	815	815	255.00	255.00 Value Added
1	910	910	233.00	233.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	305-315	310	290.00-330.00	309.68
1	430	430	305.00	305.00
2	455	455	292.50	292.50
3	520-535	525	261.00-271.00	264.40
3	550-587	575	260.00-280.00	273.62
1	670	670	220.00	220.00
1	735	735	240.00	240.00
1	820	820	195.00	195.00
1	870	870	192.50	192.50

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	510-540	530	290.00-305.00	300.19
1	570	570	300.00	300.00 Value Added

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	235	235	230.00	230.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	270-287	281	345.00-417.50	383.89
2	337	337	390.00	390.00
2	340	340	419.00	419.00 Fancy
3	366	366	416.00	416.00 Fancy
8	382-387	385	422.50-435.00	429.86 Value Added
3	400-432	421	362.00-395.00	384.56
6	405-436	426	402.50-411.00	407.68 Value Added
3	450-495	475	357.50-370.00	363.18
6	472-476	475	379.00-387.00	382.15 Value Added
14	500-530	508	340.00-385.00	362.71 Value Added
7	565-595	583	327.00-343.00	332.38
7	550-565	553	349.00-379.00	368.28 Value Added
4	620-645	629	287.50-299.00	292.67
6	600-611	607	325.00-345.00	341.71 Value Added
3	657-685	666	282.00-286.00	284.63
3	705-740	718	257.50-289.00	273.57
3	765-780	775	263.00-271.00	268.37
1	880	880	191.00	191.00
2	1080	1080	191.00-201.00	196.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	335	335	385.00	385.00
1	365	365	370.00	370.00
1	400	400	350.00	350.00
2	455-495	475	292.00-340.00	314.99
1	515	515	301.00	301.00
1	570	570	280.00	280.00
3	630-645	635	210.00-250.00	223.54
2	700-735	718	209.00-247.00	227.54
7	860	860	180.00	180.00
4	905-916	913	166.00-172.00	170.51
1	955	955	170.00	170.00
1	1040	1040	166.00	166.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	245	245	290.00	290.00
1	395	395	300.00	300.00
1	575	575	207.50	207.50

### SLAUGHTER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1125-1295	1210	176.00-191.00	182.97	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
5	1275-1565	1411	144.00-151.00	148.76	Average
17	1120-1875	1448	151.00-163.00	155.05	High

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
6	1000-1320	1139	142.00-151.00	147.03	Average
19	1130-1545	1320	151.00-173.00	158.53	High
4	1345-1525	1425	136.00-141.00	137.83	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	785-1395	1143	125.00-135.00	130.64	Average
3	925-1255	1140	141.00-151.00	147.19	High

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	1150-1635	1393	158.00-170.00	163.60	Average
12	1445-2055	1701	177.00-203.00	192.95	High
1	1275	1275	147.00	147.00	Low

### REPLACEMENT CATTLE

#### 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	3	945-1070	1015	201.00-213.00	207.54

#### 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	1	1010	1010	158.00	158.00

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T3	2	1205-1220	1213	2050.00-2650.00	2351.86

#### COW-CALF PAIRS - Small and Medium 2-3 w/ <150 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	1	885	885	1575.00	1575.00
2-8	T2	1	1085	1085	1525.00	1525.00

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

Explanatory Notes:

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

Age - Numerical representation of age in years.

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News  
KY Dept of Ag Market News Matt VonGruenigen  
Frankfort, KY | (502) 782-4138 |  
www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn  
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/  
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2127

## Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, April 24, 2025 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS											
Closing Settlement Prices (c/bu) as of 4/24/2025											
Exchange	Commodity										
CBOT	Corn	477.25 (May 25)	484.00 (Jul 25)	446.50 (Sep 25)	456.50 (Dec 25)	471.00 (Mar 26)	480.00 (May 26)	485.25 (Jul 26)			
CBOT	Soybeans	1053.00 (May 25)	1062.00 (Jul 25)	1054.25 (Aug 25)	1032.00 (Sep 25)	1035.50 (Nov 25)	1047.50 (Jan 26)	1051.00 (Mar 26)			
CBOT	Wheat	529.25 (May 25)	544.50 (Jul 25)	559.00 (Sep 25)	581.50 (Dec 25)	601.25 (Mar 26)	612.25 (May 26)	617.00 (Jul 26)			
CBOT	White Oats	358.50 (May 25)	350.75 (Jul 25)	347.75 (Sep 25)	344.75 (Dec 25)	348.25 (Mar 26)	354.25 (May 26)	330.50 (Jul 26)			
KCBT	Wheat	537.75 (May 25)	550.75 (Jul 25)	565.75 (Sep 25)	589.25 (Dec 25)	609.25 (Mar 26)	619.50 (May 26)	622.00 (Jul 26)			
MGE	Wheat	592.50 (May 25)	607.75 (Jul 25)	623.00 (Sep 25)	642.00 (Dec 25)	659.50 (Mar 26)	668.00 (May 26)	673.50 (Jul 26)			

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (c/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	20.00K to 100.00K	UNCH	4.9725-5.7725	UP 0.0525	5.3725
Pennyrile	40.00Z	UNCH	4.9650	UP 0.0200	4.9650
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basic (c/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	100.00K	UNCH	5.7725	UP 0.0525	5.7725
Ohio River - Lower KY	30.00Z	UNCH	4.8650	UP 0.0200	4.8650
Purchase	85.00K	UNCH	5.6225	UP 0.0525	5.6



# MARKETS

# Weekly National Sheep Summary

## For Week Ending Friday, April 18, 2025

**Weekly Trends:** Compared to last week slaughter lambs mostly 15.00-50.00 lower. Slaughter ewes mostly steady to 5.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. At San Angelo, TX 4,360 head sold in a one day sale. No sales in Equity Cooperative Auction. 2,800 lamb carcasses sold with no comparison due to confidentiality. All sheep sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 2-3

San Angelo: Woolled and shorn 105-130 lbs 172.00-182.00.

New Holland: Woolled and shorn 120-135 lbs 205.00-255.00; 140-155 lbs 175.00-210.00.

Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 110-125 lbs 245.00-260.00; 156 lbs 212.50.

South Dakota: Woolled and shorn 115-145 lbs 182.00-210.00; 150-165 lbs 155.00-174.00.

Kalona: Woolled and shorn 100-110 lbs 255.00-285.00; 117 lbs 212.50.

Billings: Woolled and shorn 120-130 lbs no test.

Missouri: Woolled and shorn 110-115 lbs no test.

Arkansas: Woolled and shorn no test.

Equity Coop: No sales.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-2:

San Angelo: Hair 40-60 lbs 268.00-292.00; 60-70 lbs 268.00-288.00; 70-80 lbs 260.00-284.00, few 288.00-290.00; 80-90 lbs 240.00-282.00, few 283.00-292.00; 90-105 lbs 220.00- 272.00, few 284.00. Woolled and shorn 55 lbs 270.00; 67 lbs 274.00; 95 lbs 260.00.

New Holland: Woolled and shorn 40-50 lbs 235.00-255.00; 50-60 lbs 270.00-305.00; few 315.00; 60-70 lbs 265.00-290.00; 70- 80 lbs 255.00-270.00; 80-90 lbs 250.00-270.00; 90-100 lbs 270.00-290.00, few 300.00; 100-110 lbs 260.00- 290.00, few 305.00. Hair 44 lbs 250.00; 50-60 lbs 257.00-275.00; 70-80 lbs 255.00; 80-90 lbs 255.00- 260.00; 90-100 lbs 240.00-265.00; 100-110 lbs 235.00- 310.00.

Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 70-80 lbs 290.00-300.00; 103 lbs 290.00. Hair 50-60 lbs 262.50-277.50, few 290.00; 60-70 lbs 257.50-262.50; 84 lbs 275.00; 97 lbs 237.50.

South Dakota: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 245.00-255.00; 60-70 lbs 215.00-270.00; 70-80 lbs 225.00-250.00; 80-90 lbs 240.00-255.00; 90-100 lbs 237.50-245.00, few 265.00. Hair 53 lbs 255.00; 60-70 lbs 215.00-240.00.

Kalona: Woolled and shorn 40-50 lbs 270.00-320.00; 50-60 lbs 250.50-310.00, few 310.00-315.00; 60-70 lbs 240.00- 290.00, few 290.00-300.00; 70-80 lbs 245.00-275.00, few 280.00-310.00; 80-90 lbs 250.00-290.00, few 295.00- 305.00; 90-100 lbs 258.00-272.50. hair 40-50 lbs 255.00- 260.00; 50-60 lbs 240.00-260.00, few 280.00-295.00; 60-70 lbs 235.00-257.50; 70-80 lbs 242.50-252.50; 85 lbs 260.00; 95 lbs 245.00.

Billings: No test.

Missouri: Hair 50-60 lbs 250.00-280.00; 60-70 lbs 252.50-290.00; 70-80 lbs 240.00-270.00; 90-100 lbs 220.00-240.00. Woolled and shorn 59 lbs 245.00; 60-70 lbs

Arkansas:	262.50-275.00; 75 lbs 225.00.
Slaughter Ewes:	No test.
San Angelo:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) hair 90.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 98.00-117.00, hair 103.00-124.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 120.00, hair 116.00-140.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 108.00-118.00, hair 94.00-116.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) 95.00-105.00, hair 104.00; Cull 1 no test.
New Holland:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 100.00-155.00, hair 120.00-155.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 100.00-140.00; Cull 1 no test.
Ft. Collins:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 87.00-130.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 74.00-130.00.
South Dakota:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 75.00-90.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 80.00-115.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) hair 115.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 75.00-90.00, hair 115.00; Cull 1 no test.
Kalona:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 75.00-120.00, hair 102.00-130.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 75.00-95.00, hair 92.50; Utility 1-2 (thin) 80.00-85.00, hair 70.00.
Billings:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.
Missouri:	Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) hair 107.50-125.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) hair 97.50-115.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) no test.
Arkansas:	Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test.
Feeder Lambs:	Medium and Large 1-2:
San Angelo:	Hair 30 lbs 315.00; 40-50 lbs 282.00-308.00; 51 lbs 292.00.
Ft. Collins:	40-50 lbs 262.50-282.50.
South Dakota:	36 lbs 275.00; 40-50 lbs 230.00-280.00; 65 lbs 240.00. hair 28 lbs 240.00; 40-50 lbs 215.00-240.00.
Kalona:	No test.
Billings:	No test.
Missouri:	29 lbs 350.00; 30-40 lbs 232.50-275.00; 48 lbs 250.00; 50 lbs 320.00. Hair 20-30 lbs 255.00-285.00; 30-40 lbs 240.00-282.50; 40-50 lbs 242.50-277.50.
Arkansas:	No test.
Replacement Ewes:	Medium and Large 1-2:
San Angelo:	Young 90-100 lbs 121.00/cwt; young hair 90-115 lbs 142.00-155.00/cwt; hair ewes and lambs 132.00/head.
Ft. Collins:	No test.
South Dakota:	No test.
Kalona:	No test.
Billings:	No test.
Missouri:	Young 168 lbs 125.00/cwt; yearling hair 75-90 lbs 162.50-205.00/cwt; young hair 70-130 lbs 145.00-180.00/ cwt; middle age hair 70-120 lbs 125.00-137.50/cwt; hair ewes with lambs 220.00-360.00/family.
Arkansas:	No test.
Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 34,000 compared to 41,000 last week and 34,000 last year.	
Source: USDA LPGMN, San Angelo, TX Rebecca Sauder 325-450-4265 <a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/lopmn">www.ams.usda.gov/lopmn</a>	

## AG FUTURES

**April 25, 2025**

Corn	Delivery Month	Last	Change	Wheat	Delivery Month	Last	Change
	May 25	\$ 479-6	+ 2-4		May 25	\$ 531-0	+ 1-6
	July 25	\$ 486-4	+ 2-4		July 25	\$ 547-0	+ 2-4
	Sep 25	\$ 445-6	- 0-6		Sept 25	\$ 561-0	+ 2-0
	Dec 25	\$ 455-4	- 1-0		Dec 25	\$ 583-4	+ 2-0
	Mar 26	\$ 469-6	- 1-2		Mar 26	\$ 602-2	+ 1-0
Soybeans	May 25	\$ 1049-0	- 4-0	Oats	May 25	\$ 366'6	+ 8'2
	July 25	\$ 1058-4	- 3-4		July 25	\$ 355'6	+ 5'0
	Aug 25	\$ 1052-2	- 2-0		Sept 25	\$ 350'0	+ 2'2
	Sept 25	\$ 1031-6	- 0-2		Dec 25	\$ 354'6	+10'0
	Nov 25	\$ 1035-0	- 0-4				
Soybean Meal	May 25	\$ 288-2	- 0.5	Live Cattle	Apr 25	\$ 213.900	+ 0.400
	July 25	\$ 296-5	- 0.2		June 25	\$ 207.900	- 0.100
	Aug 25	\$ 298-5	- 0.2		Aug 25	\$ 203.800	- 0.300
	Sept 25	\$ 299-9	- 0.1		Oct 25	\$ 201.600	- 0.475
	Oct 25	\$ 300-3	- 0.1		Dec 25	\$ 201.400	- 0.700
Soybean Oil	May 25	\$ 49.49	- 0.16	Lean Hogs	May 25	\$ 92.200	+ 0.250
	July 25	\$ 50.00	- 0.07		June 25	\$ 100.025	+ 0.400
	Aug 25	\$ 49.93	- 0.03		July 25	\$ 100.300	+ 0.250
	Sept 25	\$ 49.78	+ 0.01		Aug 25	\$ 98.425	+ 0.125
	Oct 25	\$ 49.51	+ 0.04		Oct 25	\$ 82.750	+ 0.450

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# 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*

<b>Small Animals</b>	<b>4/22/2025</b>	<b>Sheep</b>		<b>Cows</b>	
Chickens	\$8-\$20	Ewes	\$0.70-\$1.10	Cull Cows	\$.85-\$1.49
Bantys	\$7-\$10	40-60# Lambs	\$2.60-\$2.80	Bulls	\$1.55-\$1.60
Ducks	\$19-\$21	61-80# Lambs	\$1.75-\$2.90		<b>29</b>
Pigeons	\$4.75	81-100# Lambs	\$1.20-\$2.20	<b>Fat Cattle</b>	
Eggs	\$2.25-\$6.50		<b>142</b>	Holstein/cross	1.80-2.04
Rooster	\$6-\$26	<b>Goats</b>		Colored	
Turkey		Billys	\$75-\$430		<b>12</b>
Peacock	\$125	Nannies	\$45-\$240	<b>Pigs</b>	
Rabbits	\$7-\$15	Kids	\$15-\$165	Fat Hogs	\$.50-\$ .70
	<b>709</b>		<b>105</b>	Sows	\$.40-\$ .57
<b>Veal Calves</b>		<b>Feeder Cattle Dairy and Beef</b>		Boars	\$0.07
Holstein	\$725-\$940	200-500#	\$.70-\$4.10		<b>103</b>
Beef Cross	\$925-\$1310	501-800#	\$.80-\$2.60	<b>Feeder Pigs</b>	
	<b>397</b>		<b>80</b>	20-45#	\$40-\$80
				46-65#	\$45-\$55
					<b>35</b>



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## Missouri Direct Hay Report

## Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 4/25/2025

Heavy rains over the last week stopped all field work once again. Flooding occurred along many smaller creeks and rivers across the state and standing water became common in many low-lying fields. All but a few counties in the NW and NE parts of the state have been removed from the drought monitor now. With most areas having ample moisture the above average temperatures this week should really get pastures and hay fields growing. As of earlier this week 69 percent of the state's pastures were rated in good to excellent condition, 23 percent fair and 4 percent poor. Hay prices are steady to weak, supply and demand are light to 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>

Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	150.00-175.00
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
<b>STRAW (Conventional)</b>	
Corn Stalk - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Round	10.00-25.00
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	4.00-7.00

### HAY (Conventional)

Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-300.00
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	10.00-14.00
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	175.00-225.00

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain  
Market News  
<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov>  
<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2929>

## Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection

Report for Thursday, April 24, 2025 - Final

Daily Slaughter								
Thu., Apr. 24, 2025	Week Ago	Year Ago	Prev Week WTD	Last Year WTD	2025 WTD	2024 YTD	YTD YTD	
% Change								
Calves 1,000	1,000	479	4,000	2,885	46,849	73,535		-36.3%
Cattle 116,000	120,000	127,117	466,000	497,000	9,472,355	10,026,877		-5.5%
Hogs 475,000	475,000	486,208	1,788,000	1,937,000	1,936,232	40,586,059	41,966,858	-3.3%
Sheep 7,000	8,000	7,562	30,000	31,726	613,005	619,151		-1.0%
Previous Daily Slaughter								
Wed. Apr. 24, 2025	Week Ago	Year Ago	Prev Week WTD	Last Year WTD	2025 WTD	2024 YTD	YTD YTD	
% Change								
Calves 1,000	1,000	817	3,000	2,406	45,849	73,056		-37.2%
Cattle 122,000	123,000	125,284	350,000	363,747	9,356,355	9,899,760		-5.5%
Hogs 472,000 R	488,000	480,656	1,313,000	1,462,000	1,450,024	40,111,059	41,480,650	-3.3%
Sheep 6,000	5,000	7,428	23,000	24,164	606,005	611,589		-0.9%
Previous Day Breakdown								

**Previous Day Breakdown**  
**Wed., Apr. 23, 2025**  
 Cattle Steers/Heifers ...101,000 Cows/Bulls ...21,000  
 USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News  
 Washington, DC | (202) 720-1990 | <https://ams.usda.gov/lpgmn>  
<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/> | <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3208>



# US Reps reintroduce legislation to help farmers integrate advanced tech

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Reps. Bob Latta (R-Ohio) and Robin Kelly (D-Ill.) recently reintroduced the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act, a bill they said is designed to help farmers integrate advanced technology into their operations to enhance productivity and efficiency.

Latta originally introduced the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act in 2018 to establish a task force at the Federal Trade Commission to increase broadband connectivity, which was included in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Kelly's office told Farm World that Kelly and Latta's Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act in 2023 directed that same task force established under the 2018 law to increase satellite connectivity. On April 26, 2023, Latta and Kelly previously introduced the bill in the 118th Congress, where it passed the U.S. House by a vote of 409-11.

Kelly's office added that in this Congress, the new Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act is slightly different because authorization for the task force expired Jan 1, 2025.

As a result, Latta and Kelly reintroduced this year because Kelly amended it to direct the Federal Trade Commission to exclude references to this task force.

"Illinois' Second District grew from 2,000 to over 4,500 farms strong, and a vast majority of them are family owned," Kelly said. "They are the backbone of our food supply, with many of them directly providing nutritious foods to our communities. I'm proud to work with Rep. Latta again to introduce the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act to help our farmers maximize yield and profitability. Farmers should have access to agriculture innovation and ingenuity."

Latta said, "Farmers in Ohio's 5th District know that in order to continue producing high-yield crops, they need access to 21st century technology. That's why I'm reintroducing my Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act, which will increase productivity and enhance the farming operations of those in Ohio and across America. The U.S. House overwhelmingly approved my bill last Congress, and I'm hopeful that it will receive the same swift, bipartisan support this Congress."

Moreover, lawmakers said the bill will expand access to rural broadband so more farmers can use technology that is safer, more efficient, and sustainable. Precision agriculture is the use of cutting-edge innovation like self-driving machinery, drones, and satellite imagery to more efficiently and effectively farm.

"I've talked with farmers throughout Ohio's 5th Congressional District

that are utilizing advanced technologies to improve farm productivity and sustainability, and it's making a big difference," Latta said. "However, it's clear that the agricultural community is at a disadvantage, compared to other sectors because they are in rural areas that often have limited access to high-speed internet."

"It's critical that we close the 'Digital Divide' to ensure that the agricultural community can fully utilize this cutting-edge technology," he added. "I'm glad to see this legislation included in the farm bill compromise that was ironed out between the House and Senate."

Allison Rivera, National Cattlemen's Beef Association executive director of government affairs, told Farm World, "The Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act would require the Federal Communications Commission to review their current rules and see if any changes can be made to support precision agriculture."

But, she added, "As more cattle producers employ technology and use data to support their herds, it's important for the federal government to keep improving access to digital communications and rural connectivity."

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# FFA and 4-H set pace for 2025 Illinois ag legislative day

By TIM ALEXANDER  
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The state capitol building and grounds were awash in a sea of blue and green when hundreds of FFA and 4-H student members and advisers met in Springfield on April 9 for the 2025 Illinois Agricultural Legislative Day.

“Illinois Ag Legislative Day is probably my favorite day at the capitol,” said Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Director Jerry Costello II, who served as a state legislator for 116th district from 2011 through 2019. He also served as chair of the House Ag and Conservation Committee for over five years and co-chair for two years before being named state ag director in 2020.

“Having 650 blue jackets and 4-H members in the capitol, lobbying and being ambassadors for agriculture, I think there is no more impactful day at the capitol for agriculture. It is 99 percent because of those kids being there, talking to the legislators about the future of agriculture in the state, that we were able to put \$550,000 in the budget so that any student taking an ag class in the state of Illinois has their FFA dues paid by the state of Illinois.”

Costello was referring to legislation passed in 2022 that provided the funding to qualify Illinois as an FFA “affiliated” state. “At the end of the day, I would say the future of agriculture in this state looks bright because of the incredible youth we have in ag,” he said. “With the average age of the American farmer increasing, it is so vital to keep youth involved

and interested in farming and agriculture.”

As per usual, the scene inside the capital’s massive rotunda area was one of controlled chaos, with hundreds of ag youth group members mixing with state elected legislators, ag commodity group leaders, farm bureau representatives and special interest groups related to farming and the environment.

“There is always something going on at the state capital, but this day is monumental because of the sea of blue,” State FFA Vice-President Brody Will said. “You’ll see that blue corduroy jacket in every hallway, every corridor and room you go into, and you will see an FFA member advocating for the organization.”

In addition to serving as a showcase and rallying opportunity for Illinois ag youth organizations, Legislative Day also provides a variety of agricultural interest groups to call attention to bills of interest that are before the Illinois General Assembly. This year was slightly different for Costello, with an unusual focus on the state legislature’s need to do what they can to ensure all promised federal funding for farmers and farm programs is delivered by the federal government.

“I would say probably the most pressing issue we have are federal funds, and what happens with the federal funds we’ve been promised by the federal government. A lot of them are on hold with the Trump administration. An example would be I-Cover, which is a cover crop program for three states: Illinois, Indiana and

**(FFA and 4-H continued on page 14)**



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# USGC, NCGA discuss global markets with producers in Michigan and Iowa

In April the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) held trade policy academies in Ames, Iowa, and Birmingham, Mich., for producers to learn about the latest developments affecting global markets for their goods.

“International trade is vital to the health of the U.S. agricultural industry, and by offering these trade policy academies free of charge to USGC and NCGA members, we hope to help producers better understand how global market dynamics affect grain prices domestically,” said Ellen S. Zimmerman, USGC director of industry relations.

In Ames, Zimmerman was accompanied by USGC Director of Trade Policy Andrew Brandt, USGC Manager of Global Programs Shuda Jarboe and NCGA Director of Trade, Transportation and Animal Agriculture Michael Granché.

Brandt and Granché covered the history of international trade policy and how it has affected U.S. grain trade and current perspectives on market development during the morning session and attendees toured Iowa State University’s Kent Feed Mill Center during lunch.

In the afternoon, Zimmerman and Granché discussed how the Council and NCGA work with international

partners to advance U.S. agricultural exports. Zimmerman also moderated a panel discussion on how trade affects farmers that featured USGC At-Large Director Curt Methner, USGC Trade Policy Advisory Team (A-Team) Member Mark Mueller and Iowa Corn Vice President of Market Development and USGC Ethanol A-Team Member Ryan Sauer.

USGC Manager of Industry Relations Rebecca Starrett joined Zimmerman, Brandt and Granché in Birmingham, where the academy kicked off with a tour of Detroit Port for participants to see how their products are handled through the export process.

In addition to the educational presentations offered in Ames, the Birmingham crowd also received an update from Michigan Corn Growers Association Communications Director Angel Jenio on how state agricultural organizations interact with overseas buyers and end-users to grow demand for U.S. products.

The Council is committed to constant and consistent engagement with its members as part of its mission to develop markets, enable trade and improve lives. If you are interested in attending a future trade policy academy, make sure to follow the Council’s social media pages for announcements on upcoming events.



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Above: Starter Mike Woebkenberg has a view most facing fans don't get to experience, but he often takes racing fans along with him in the starter's vehicle. They sit next to him and get an unbelievable and up-close experience of sight and sound. (Doug Graves photo)

Woebkenbergs

FROM PAGE 7

Mike was able to learn the mechanics of how a horse travels and the importance of a balanced cart, or sulky. His shop for constructing precision sulkies is in downtown Farmersville, Ohio.

One day a friend had him paint some mobile starting gates for him. As payment, the friend gave him a starting gate unit and suggested he try starting races at a few county fairs. Great idea, Mike thought.

"I needed a driver to help me and Becky volunteers. It exploded from there," Mike said.

He now builds and refurbishes sulkies, and makes starting gates attached to trucks.

This duo is the starter of harness races at Miami Valley Gaming in Lebanon, Hollywood Dayton Raceway in Dayton, and 46 of the 66 county fairs in Ohio and that have pari-mutuel racing.

"It's the most exciting 30 seconds in sports that nobody gets to see," Mike said, referring to his unique view from his back seat perch.

Woebkenberg said he and his wife start roughly 5,000 races a year and they've been doing it for 33 years.

The Woebkenbergs are busy year-round. In addition to the many racing circuits in the Midwest, they also service every county fair in Indiana.

"Ohio has the largest fair racing program in the world for standardbred racing," Mike said. "And there are more horses bred in Ohio than in Kentucky."

In addition to being a former driver, he performs blacksmith duties between races.

"Tracks don't want to hire a farrier at the track, one who might shoe maybe just one horse and get paid \$175 for an entire evening of races," he said. "Most farriers don't want to sit around all evening, so since I've got the experience, I just lend a hand when they need it."

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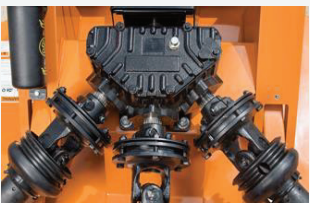
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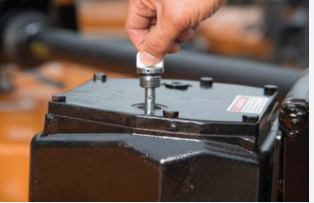
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# FFA and 4-H

FROM PAGE 11

Iowa. \$25 million, \$7 million of which is for the state of Illinois, is on hold right now,” Costello said.

“You can look at RFSI, the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant; \$6.4 million was supposed to be used for the middle of the food supply chain after harvest but before retail sales. Those monies are frozen. LFPA, the Local Food Purchase Assistance program, had \$43.5 million for the state of Illinois. Of the initial \$28.8 million, we’re being told we’ll be able to spend \$3 million for reimbursements, but we haven’t seen any of that money yet.

“So, there is a lot of federal money that was counted on by farmers, and some of it has either been terminated or frozen, affecting a number of different programs,” he added.

The IDOA has sent a letter of appeal to the USDA over the termination or suspension of the funds promised to the state’s farmers, according to Costello.

“From a legal standpoint we don’t believe the USDA should be terminating these funds. We have a contractual agreement for those funds, and we’re lobbying and appealing to get those monies.”

For Ag Legislative Day, lawmakers at the capitol were provided a basket filled with agricultural products and a specialty box lunch. This package

served to remind lawmakers about the multiple ways in which agriculture affects their lives, the lives of their constituents, and the impact their choices make on the world of agriculture.

Members of the Illinois Democratic Caucus were among the lawmakers who welcomed the students, farmers and special interest groups to the capitol on Ag Legislative Day. “Our farmers are the backbone of our communities,” said State Sen. Doris Turner (D-Springfield). “Ag Day is an opportunity to build partnerships with those who feed us, build our economy, and supply locally sourced products throughout our communities. Prioritizing farmers, encouraging students to learn about agriculture and uplifting the industry that puts food on our tables is vital.”

State Rep. Neil Anderson (R-Aledo), said, “It is amazing how mature and well-spoken FFA kids are. Love seeing them, love the baskets they provide us. Every product in the basket is home grown in the state of Illinois, and a lot of it comes from my district in west-central Illinois. In the 47th district we have a long history of great kids coming out of the FFA program. I’m really proud to be able to represent those kids.”

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**1996 Case** IH Steiger 9350, Cummins L10, 150 hrs. on re-man, 12 speed power shift w/skip shift, 3 pt. hitch with quick hitch included, 4 remotes, K&M air ride seat, 620/70R-42 inner Firestone Radials at 90%, bolt on duals 520/85R-42, 6076 hours. 765-620-5970 Summitville, IN.

**1997 White** 6195, front assist, axle duals, 18.4x42, front weights & power shift, gd. rubber, 2175 hrs. 419-969-0022 Ottawa, OH.

**1998 JD** 8400, 5100 hrs., super nice, \$100,000 firm. Mike Glunt. 317-294-6442 Sheridan, IN.

**2002 Agco** 225, 6004 hrs., axle duals, 18.4x46, front assist, front weights, motor overhauled 100 hrs. ago, power shift, exc. cond. 419-969-0022 Ottawa, OH.

**2005 JD** 5250 tractor, 2300 hrs., (2) sets of remotes, (4) front weights, \$9750. Call or text 503-460-3040 Bardstown, KY.

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# Arkansas and Indiana governors ask USDA to let them ban soda and candy from SNAP

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) – Republican governors in Arkansas and Indiana moved April 15 to ban soft drinks and candy from the program that helps low-income people pay for groceries, becoming the first states to ask the Trump administration to let them remove such items from the program long known as food stamps.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said her state's request is aimed at improving the health of nearly 350,000 residents who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

"Taxpayers are subsidizing poor health," Sanders said at a Little Rock news conference with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins. "We're paying for it on the front end and the back end."

In Indianapolis, Gov. Mike Braun was joined by U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Mehmet Oz, who leads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to announce sweeping changes to "put the focus back on nutrition, not candy and soft drinks."

The two states are among several taking steps to strip the purchase of certain foods that may contribute to poor health through the federal program that spent \$100 billion to serve nearly 42 million Americans in 2024. The restriction has been a key goal for Rollins and Kennedy and his "Make America Healthy Again" agenda.

"They changed our food system in this country so that it is poison to us," Kennedy said April 15. "We can't be a strong nation if we are not a strong people."

The Arkansas plan, which would take effect in July 2026, would exclude soda, including no- and low-calorie soda; fruit

and vegetable drinks with less than 50 percent natural juice; "unhealthy drinks"; candy, including confections made with flour, like Kit Kat bars; and artificially sweetened candy. It also would allow participants to use benefits to buy hot rotisserie chicken, which is excluded from the program now.

The Indiana change would exclude candy and soft drinks from the list of foods eligible to be paid for with SNAP benefits. Braun also issued executive orders changing work requirements for SNAP participants; reinstating income and asset verification rules; and launching a review of "improper payments and other administrative errors" to ensure that SNAP meets federal goals.

Antihunger groups oppose SNAP food restrictions, saying that research shows that program participants are no more likely than other low-income Americans to buy sugary drinks or snack foods. And they say that limiting food choices undermines the autonomy and dignity of people who receive a benefit of about \$187 per month – or about \$6.20 per day.

"They just seem to be targeting a specific population without having data that says that they are the issue or that this is going to improve," said Gina Plata-Nino, a deputy director at the Food Research and Action Center, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Trade groups representing beverage and candy makers criticized the effort, saying that they narrowly target SNAP participants.

Representatives for American Beverage accused state and federal officials of "choosing to be the food police rather than take truly meaningful steps to lift people off SNAP with good-paying jobs."

Chris Gindlesperger, a spokesman for the National Confectioners Association, called the approach "misguided."

"SNAP participants and non-SNAP participants alike understand that chocolate and candy are treats, not meal replacements," Gindlesperger said.

The SNAP program is run by the USDA and administered through individual states. It is authorized by the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, which says that SNAP benefits can be used for "any food or food product intended for human consumption," except alcohol, tobacco and hot foods. In general, benefits are available to households with gross income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$33,500 a year for three people.

Excluding any foods would require Congress to change the law or for states to get waivers that would let them restrict purchases, said Katie Bergh, a senior policy analyst for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research group.

Over the past two decades, lawmakers in several states and from both political parties have proposed halting SNAP payments for soda, chips, ice cream and "luxury meats" like steak, as well as bottled water and decorated birthday cakes. Since 2004, there have been six previous requests for waivers, including four that were not approved, one that was withdrawn and one request that was incomplete.

In rejecting the waivers, the USDA said there was no clear standard to define certain foods as unhealthy and that restrictions would be difficult to implement, complicated, costly and might not change participants' food purchases or improve health.



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CAT marks 100th anniversary with historic tractor walk

By TIM ALEXANDER  
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. – Caterpillar, Inc., known today as the world’s largest manufacturer of earthmoving equipment, celebrated its 100th anniversary with a company-wide celebration centered at the Caterpillar Visitors Center in downtown Peoria. The celebration, which kicked off with a giant screen live feed of CAT officials ringing the opening bell on the floor of the New York Stock Ex-



Above: The Caterpillar D5 is one of many rare vintage CAT and C.L. Best (a precursor to CAT) machines on display as part of the company’s 100th Anniversary Antique Tractor Walk. One of the rarest antique tractors, this vintage Caterpillar D5 from 1939 is one of just 46 made.

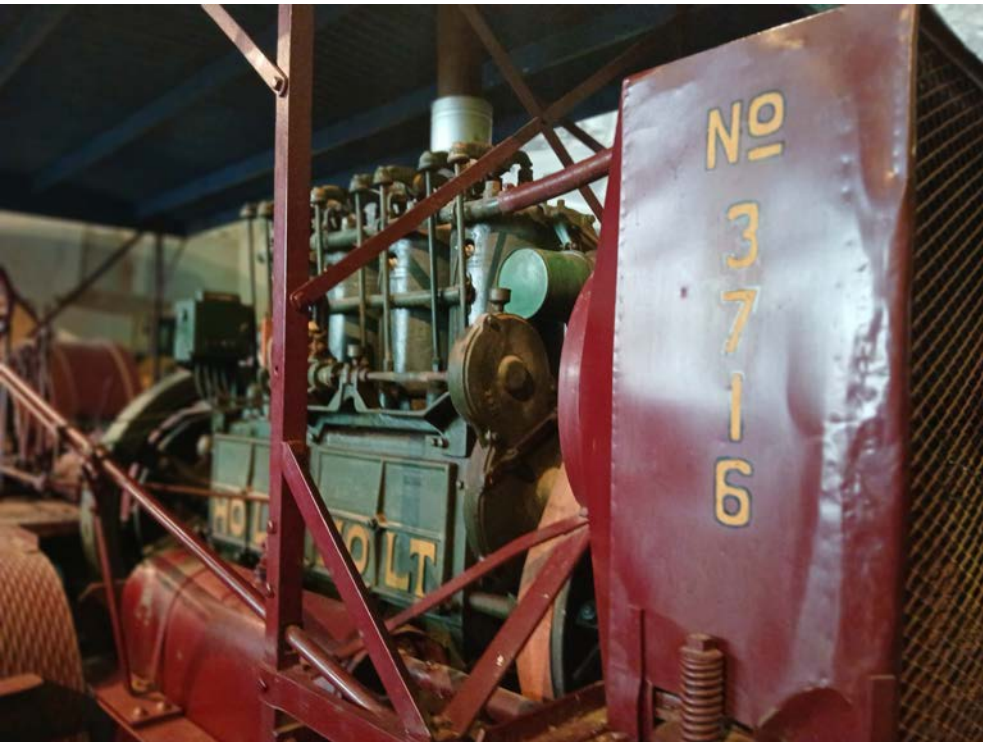
change, included an Antique Tractor Walk that offered a close-up view of some of the company’s most rare vintage machines, including Caterpillar 60 and 20 model tractors.

“You have to wonder if our original founders, C.L. Holt and Benjamin Best, could’ve dreamt of this day,” said CAT public relations lead Henry Vicary, who emceed the celebration of the company’s centennial on April 15, 2025. “They were driven by innovation and awarded over 100 patents that helped design the future of machine technology.”

After machinery maker C.L. Best merged with the Holt Machinery Co. to form CAT in 1925, Best’s “60 Track-layer” became the Peoria company’s first and best-known track-type tractor, as well as the largest of its era. “The Best 60 is one of the tractors on display in our Antique Tractor Walk. To have these machines here as part of this celebration is very, very special,” Vicary said.

To this day, the tractors produced by CAT contain aspects of Best-CAT 60 engineering. This engineering helped build the Hoover Dam and the Panama Canal, noted CAT’s director of mechanical construction and digital technology, Todd Farmer.

“In 1931 Caterpillar machines clung to a cliff over 700 feet above the Colorado River and they built the Hoover Dam. We don’t just build equipment; we transform what is possible in our world,” Farmer said. “When we see a seemingly impossible



Above: Benjamin Holt produced the first Holt 75 Track-Type Tractor in 1914 in Stockton, California. Weighing in at 23,500 pounds, they were the first gas-powered CAT tractor capable of hauling tens of thousands of pounds over long distances, and were considered a replacement for horses when it came to moving large loads.

problem, we just lean in. Those who built the Hoover Dam and today’s (CAT) team share the same characteristic. They find solutions where others find possibilities.”

For many decades CAT made machinery used not only by road, bridge and dam builders, but farmers. One historic photo on display in the visitors center told the story of Lanny

and Antone Gisler, whose Best Model 60 served 40,000 hours of work from 1930 to 1959.

Also, among the rare machinery represented (with either full size or scale-model salesman’s models) on the Antique Tractor Walk was CAT’s Model 20, introduced in 1927. The

(Caterpillar continued on page 2B)

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# Caterpillar

FROM PAGE 1B

Model 20 was the first product designed and built by Caterpillar that was not a carryover from Holt or Best. First produced in San Leandro, Calif., production of the Model 20 was moved to the new CAT facility in East Peoria a year later.

Another early CAT tractor used extensively for agricultural production, the D2, is also among those on display. First produced in 1938, the D2 was the smallest diesel-powered track-type tractor available on the market. CAT began producing this model (among others) in response to the “New Deal” programs that were



**Above:** The Best “60 Tracklayer” tractor was the first to be manufactured under the CAT name in 1925. The Antique Tractor Walk tells the story of Lanny and Antone Gisler, whose Best Model 60 served 40,000 hours of farm work from 1930 to 1959.

initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to stimulate America’s economy during the Great Depression, according to company archives.

“The D2 has already proven to us that it is the most economical farm tractor ever made,” reads a 1938 testimonial from Herbert and Arthur Jesswein, Michigan farmers who had the honor of putting the first D2 tractor into production east of the Mississippi River. “With this track-type tractor, we have no fears of meeting adverse conditions, and with its diesel engine under the hood we know our operating costs are going to be lower than would be possible with a spark-ignition tractor.”

Other historic machinery represented in the Antique Tractor Walk, which is self-guided and reliant on phone QR-readers, includes the CAT 10, CAT D5, Holt 2-Ton, Holt 5-Ton and Holt 75.

With 2024 sales and revenues of \$64.8 billion, Caterpillar Inc. is considered the world’s leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, off-highway diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. Peoria served as world headquarters for CAT from 1930 to 2017. The company is currently headquartered in Irving, Texas.

The CAT 100 Antique Tractor Walk, which encompasses areas both inside and outside the museum, is included in the price of admission to the CAT Visitors Center. For more information on days and hours of operation, visit [www.caterpillar.com/en/company/visitors-center.html](http://www.caterpillar.com/en/company/visitors-center.html).

To learn more about the tractors featured in the Antique Tractor Walk, visit [www.caterpillar.com/en/company/visitors-center/qr-codes.html](http://www.caterpillar.com/en/company/visitors-center/qr-codes.html).



**Above:** A CAT Visitors Center guest is pictured checking out a vintage CAT 20 tractor. The Model 20 was the first product designed and built by CAT that was not a carryover from Holt or Best. It was introduced in 1927 in San Leandro, Calif., then began production in East Peoria a year later. (All photos by T. Alexander)

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# Researchers use AI to understand animal emotions

By Hayley Lalchand  
Ohio correspondent

COPENHAGEN, Denmark – Any one who has spent enough time around animals knows that they display their emotions in various ways. Horses pinning their ears back is a warning and dogs wiggling their bodies as a sign of excitement. Animals also express emotion through vocalization or the sounds that they make.

Researchers have been studying animal vocalizations for decades, attempting to decode the various sounds to understand what animals are communicating to each other and to other species. While it's not possible to truly determine animal emotions like happiness or sadness,

it is possible to understand if vocalizations are positive or negative and how intense the emotional valence is, said Élodie Floriane Mandel-Briefer, associate professor in the department of biology at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. For example, animals can be calm or excited at the positive end of the scale and bored or stressed at the negative end.

“The way we assess (vocalizations) is to place the animals in contexts that are very clearly positive or negative, and then we record them,” she continued. “We also often measure heart rates to understand the intensity of the emotion or look at their behavior to validate if indeed the context seems to be positive or negative for them.”

In studies investigating pig vocalizations, negative contexts the animals are exposed to include castration, isolation and missed nursing. Positive contexts include huddling, social reunion and nursing. Other studies just observe and record sounds from animals as they occur naturally in their day-to-day life.

In the lab, Mandel-Briefer said that the team analyzes the sounds and extracts several parameters from the calls like duration, frequency and amplitudes, exploring how they change over time. Studying these parameters alongside understanding the context in which the animal made the sound helps researchers understand the meaning.

“We can even go one step further, which is to ask the animals if we are correct (about the meaning of the sound),” she said. “We use big speakers and hide the speakers somewhere and play the recorded sound to the animal. Then we can see if they react the way we would expect them to based on the assumed meaning of the sounds.”

Now, Mandel-Briefer and her team have turned their attention to using AI to decode animal sounds. In a recently published study, the team developed a machine learning model that was successfully able to distinguish between positive and negative emotions in seven different species, including cows, pigs and horses. The model, trained on thousands of vocalizations from animals, can accurately distinguish between positive and negative emotion 89 percent of the time. Interestingly, key predictors of positive or negative emotion among the species studied were con-

sistent, indicating that emotional expression could be an evolutionarily conserved system.

“We’re hoping that (AI models) can be used as a tool for farmers to know about the welfare of the animals because nowadays there are not systems, at least that I know of, that track the emotions of animals on farms,” Mandel-Briefer said.

She added that many people today believe that it is more important for animals’ welfare if they are experiencing positive mental health. While physical health is still important and should be maintained, experiencing positive emotions also supports animal welfare. Mandel-Briefer said the use of AI models to detect and track positive emotions on farms could be useful for farmers and allow them to adjust the environment to create more positive moods. Additionally, other researchers have been investigating the use of AI to detect and decode animal facial expressions.

Even without AI, humans can learn to understand the emotions of animals, Mandel-Briefer said. Without any training, people can determine if animal vocalizations are positive or negative and their intensity, with an accuracy greater than random chance.

“Anecdotally, when I explain to students in my class what to pay attention to in the sounds, they really get much better (at identifying the meaning of animal sounds),” she said. “Farmers already know their animals pretty well, but if they pay attention to the sounds, they can get to understand the animals even better without any monitoring systems.”



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# Spring brings more activity around bird feeders

Last week, following our last hard frost and freeze warning, the Dark-eyed Juncos finally went North. They were here at least a good two or maybe three weeks longer than in previous years. They are a cute little bird, but I sure don't like the bitter cold weather coming with the arrival of the "snow birds!"

Action around the bird feeders has really been fast and furious. Protein demand for our feathered friends is at an all-time high with nest building and egg development. Many birds' main source of protein may come from insects which haven't really developed high population levels as of yet. I've been going through up to 2 gallons of sunflower seed and two suet cakes a day,

A couple weeks ago, I saw my first fully colored Gold Finch. Through the winter months, the finches would show up in their drab winter coats, but now, the males are beginning to put on their vibrant golden show.

A couple days ago, I spied a beautiful Eastern Towhee scrounging for tidbits in the leaf litter near the sunflower feeder. As I watched the towhee, I witnessed something for the first time... a robin actively and intently feeding on sunflower crumbs on the concrete slab directly under the feeder.

The hummingbirds should be showing up soon. I've heard reports of the first arriving just to the south of us.

## Stream trout season opened April 26

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife planned to stock nearly 35,000 rain-

bow and brown trout across Indiana this spring in preparation for this year's inland trout fishing season, which opened April 26 for inland streams. Nineteen streams across 13 counties were expected to receive fish before and after opening day.

Most of the lake stockings of rainbow trout were done starting the week of March 24. Anglers don't have to wait to fish for trout as trout fishing on inland lakes is open year-round.

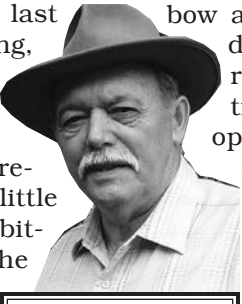
For streams, about 21,000 rainbow trout were expected to be stocked in the days leading up to opening day. Several sites will get additional rainbow trout stockings until Memorial Day weekend. In addition to the rainbow trout stockings, 10 bodies of water will receive brown trout stockings in May.

To find a stocked stream near you, see the 2025 trout stocking plan at on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

Trout will bite on a variety of artificial baits such as spinners and flies, but natural baits such as worms and bee moths tend to be the most popular. Even small balls of processed cheese have proven effective.

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

(Spaulding continued on page 6B)



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By Jack Spaulding

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# Spaulding

FROM PAGE 5B

must be 18 inches or larger to be kept. To fish for trout, anglers age 18 and older need an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp. To purchase yours for this year, visit GoOutdoorsIN.com.

**Frankfort man dies in ORV accident**  
Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a fatal off-road vehicle (ORV) accident that occurred the night of April 20 in Clinton County. Around 8 p.m., Clinton County Central Dispatch received a 911 call of an ORV crash with injury in the 5400 block of West Manson Colfax Road. Clinton County deputies and other first responders found one of the occupants near the location, finding Roger Burton Jr., 42, of Frankfort, unresponsive. Their lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful, and Burton was pronounced dead at the scene. One juvenile who was in the ORV at the time of the accident was transported to St. Elizabeth hospital in Lafayette with minor injuries. The investigation is ongoing. Neither of the occupants was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, and only the operator was wearing a seatbelt. Indiana Conservation Officers remind the public that ORV operators and passengers should always wear a helmet, protective riding gear, and use all ORV safety restraints. For information on ORV laws and safe

operating procedures, please visit offroad-ed.com/in/handbook/ and on.IN.gov/offroading.

**Fairmount man dies at Goose Lake**  
Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a possible drowning which occurred April 13 at Goose Lake in Whitley County. Around 2:45 p.m., the Whitley County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call about a possible drowning near the Goose Lake public access site. Upon arrival, officers discovered 60-year-old Daniel Watson and 49-year-old Nicholas George, both of Fairmount, had been fishing from a watercraft when Watson fell overboard, causing the watercraft to capsize. George got Watson to shore where a nearby good samaritan called for help. Despite lifesaving efforts, Watson was pronounced dead on scene. Life jackets were found in the cap-sized watercraft but were not in use at the time of the accident. Conservation officers would like to remind the public to always wear a life jacket when participating in water-related activities. '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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# Study shows sulfur and salicylic acid may increase bean yields

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – New research at The Ohio State University showed the benefits of applying sulfur-containing fertilizers (or sulfur fertilization) and small doses of salicylic acid to soil increases soybean yields – especially in challenging growing conditions.

“Soybeans are planted on about 86.5 million acres,” said Rafiq Islam, Ohio State soil and bioenergy leader, who led the research. “Yearly increases in soybean yields have been flat and with lower prices. Farmers are looking for ways to get higher yields. Hot weather, drought, flooding and other environmental issues have caused soybean yields to stagnate.”

Using research funds from the Ohio Soybean Council, Islam investigated salicylic acid, which he said helps crops tolerate drought and stress by more efficiently regulating stomatal closure (water loss from leaves), transpiration, and proline biosynthesis (an amino acid which helps proteins to form).

He said one growing concern for soybean cultivation is soil sulfur deficiency, due to reduced atmospheric sulfur deposition and limited sulfur in fertilizers.

“Sulfur is crucial for nitrogen fixation (the process by which atmospheric nitrogen is converted by either a natural or an industrial means to a form of nitrogen such as ammonia), amino acid synthesis, and protein formation – key factors for healthy soybean growth,” he said.

“A promising solution comes from flue gas desulfurized gypsum (a by-product of coal-fired power plants),” he added. “This material offers a cost-effective source of both sulfur and calcium,

improving soil health and soybean productivity, particularly in drought-prone areas like Ohio.”

According to the study, salicylic acid helps crops handle stress by improving water regulation, protein-building amino acids, and reducing water loss, and it can increase soybean yields by 8 percent to 46 percent, while sulfur fertilization alone boosted yields up to 53 percent.

Both treatments improved stress resilience, with sulfur helping nitrogen fixation and protein formation, especially in sulfur-deficient soils. The study also found increases in key amino acids, and examined the impact of sulfur and salicylic acid on soybean fatty acid composition.

Tom Fontana, Ohio Soybean Council director of research and education, told Farm World, “The Ohio Soybean Council looks to invest the farmer funds to the benefit of the state’s soybean farmers in the areas of research, marketing, communication and education.”

He said the Ohio Soybean Council sends out a request for proposals to interested parties prior to each of the four quarterly board meetings.

“In response to the request for proposal, we receive proposals for projects that need to align with our board’s strategic plan,” he said. “These proposals are reviewed by staff and our farmer board members to determine alignment with the Ohio Soybean Council strategies, and whether they will benefit soybean farmers. Funding available for projects is also an important consideration.”

“At each quarterly board meeting, the farmer board makes the decision on which projects to fund with the resources available,” he said. “This is the process that Dr. Islam went through to receive his funding.”

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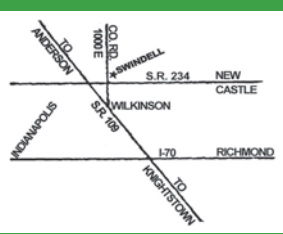
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I've always been an avid reader of obituaries because it always made me feel better because I was younger than most folks in the obits but now that my classmates are dying like flies, I've sworn off reading them. It's just as well because the cataracts in my eyes make everything blurry anyway. I've always been one to respect my elders but now that I am one... not so much.

You'll really know you're old when it finally dawns on you that all those rusty relics you spent "collecting" at estate sales and farm auctions were just so your spouse could sell them at your own dispersal for half of what you paid.



## A graphic featuring the word "with" in grey and "World" in large, bold red letters. To the left of "World" is a small globe showing the Americas. Below the text are three green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of mounds of brown soil.

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Issue 1, 2008 #001

## USDA reports corn and soybean production

By Kenneth L. Brummett

WASHINGTON, D.C. (FarmWorld)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its annual report on the production of corn and soybeans in the United States. The report, titled "Corn and Soybean Production in the United States, 2007," shows that the total production of corn in the United States was 1.2 billion bushels, and the total production of soybeans was 3.1 billion bushels. The report also shows that the average yield of corn was 155 bushels per acre, and the average yield of soybeans was 45 bushels per acre.

The report also shows that the total production of corn and soybeans in the United States was valued at \$1.2 billion. The report also shows that the average price of corn was \$0.45 per bushel, and the average price of soybeans was \$0.45 per bushel.

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## Ag in the Classroom helps kids learn about farming

By Brian Schneider

WASHINGTON, D.C. (FarmWorld)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a new program called "Ag in the Classroom." The program is designed to help children learn about farming and agriculture. The program will provide teachers with a variety of resources, including lesson plans, videos, and field trips. The program will also provide teachers with a variety of materials, including seeds, soil, and tools.

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**Go From FarmWorld**  
to Food Basics  
Agriculture and Farm Economics  
Page 18



# Clinton-Massie FFA trio to receive State Degrees

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

CLARKSVILLE, Ohio – Three FFA juniors. Three achievers. Three State FFA Degrees.

Sophia Purvis, Hunter Shumaker and John Evans, all members of the Clinton-Massie Great Oaks FFA chapter in Ohio, will receive their State FFA Degrees at the Ohio State FFA Convention in May. They earned the honor through their dedication to Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects, which require significant hands-on work and commitment to agricultural education.

“We’re fortunate here at Clinton-Massie that we have a boat load of students as driven as this trio with various projects,” said Clinton-Massie High School agriculture teacher and FFA adviser Alexandra Oeder. “It’s awesome to watch them take a project from the very beginning and see it become a State Degree.”

The five FFA degrees, starting with the first and progressing to the highest, are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, State FFA Degree and American FFA Degree.

Discovery FFA Degree is the first a member can earn and is typically for students in 7th and 8th grade who are enrolled in agricultural science classes. The Greenhand FFA Degree is awarded to members in their first year of high school agriculture credit, who have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, and who demonstrate an understanding of the FFA’s history and purpose.

The Chapter FFA Degree is awarded to members who have received their Greenhand Degree and meet specific



**Above:** John Evans, Hunter Shumaker and Sophia Purvis will be awarded their FFA State Degrees at the upcoming State FFA Convention in Columbus. (Doug Graves photo)

requirements at the chapter level. The State FFA Degree is the highest degree the state association can bestow upon a member, and is awarded after members have received their Chapter degree.

The American FFA Degree is the highest level of active membership within the FFA, awarded at the national level.

Purvis wasn’t raised on a farm. However, her family turned their 5-acre plot into a small farm, so she tends to 15 market animals. Purvis has a dual SAE.

“Market and breeding goats is my main SAE,” she said. “I breed them to show at the fair. We show our market goats at the fair and across Ohio at other shows. The second SAE involves a lemonade stand and I teamed up with my sister to run it. We sell our lemonade at all types of shows across the state.”

Purvis’ college plans are in limbo, but her ambitions are two-fold. The past few years she worked at Sam’s Meats & Deli

in nearby Wilmington. That has inspired her to someday own her own deli, one that will offer pastries and fancy drinks, she said. In addition, the thoughts of becoming an ag teacher have crossed her mind.

“I was in FFA my freshman year but didn’t do much with it. I was too laid back,” Purvis recalls. “My sophomore year I became an officer (vice president) and I participated in all that this chapter had to offer.”

Evans is a sixth-generation farmer. His family’s farm has been around since 1853. He, too, has a dual SAE.

“My first one is a small cow/calf operation in nearby Wilmington, Ohio,” he said. “There I raise cows and heifers. I keep the heifers for breeding. We raise the steers and sell them off as freezer beef. My other SAE is my own artificial insemination business that I started when I was a freshman. I travel to small farms in Oregonia and Port Williams with my service.”

Evans will attend Ohio State University’s Agriculture Technical Institute for two years before heading to the main campus in Columbus.

“For me, FFA wasn’t on the radar until I was in the eighth grade,” Evans said. “When Mrs. Oeder entered the picture, I got really involved with livestock judging and all the other Career Development events. That’s when I really thought I

could get something from FFA.

“Today, I want to concentrate in raising cows and still help out with the grain farm. My grandfather still runs a grain business. My cousin could take care of the grain and I could handle the animal side of things.”

Shumaker undertook Show Cattle Breeding as his SAE. He is attending Laurel Oaks Career Campus in Wilmington, where he is studying to become a welder.

“I’m a hands-on type of person and I don’t like a classroom setting,” he said. “I have to be doing and creating things. “Welding will likely be my main source of income. Showing cattle will still be in the picture, but not my main source of income.

“I grew up showing cattle. It helped me learn about responsibility and I want my kids to learn the same thing.”

Purvis played soccer at Clinton Massie High, Evans played football and Shumaker ran track.

The Ohio State FFA Convention will be in Columbus in May. There, Purvis, Evans and Shumaker will receive their degrees alongside other FFA members from across the state.

Last year, Clinton-Massie alumni Austin Vonderhaar earned the top honor of American FFA Degree at the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo.



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w/ Tarp, Feed Troughs, (10) HD 24' Coral Panels, Round Bale Feeder, HD Beef Head Lock, Walk Behind Rototillers, Bush HDTH5 Finish Mower-Like New, 4' JD Rototiller, Land Pride 48" Rototiller, Rayco Skid Steer 39" Hyd. Drive Tiller, Woods 10' Hyd. 3pt. Blade, Woods 121 Pull Type Brush Hog, JD 709 Brush Hog, Woods 12' Batwing Mower, 25 Gallon Pull Type, Yard Sprayer Electric Motors, Stihl MS 170 Chain Saws in working order, AC 410 Lawn Tractor, Bolens H12XL Mower- Nonrunner, Yardman Lawn Tractor- Runs on deck, Troybilt Mower, Engine Stand, Chrysler 6" Centrifugal Self Priming Pump-Works, Shaver Post Driver, Danuser PHD, 3pt. Post Hole Digger, 16.9-30 Titan Tires like new, 18.4-26 Tires on Press Steel Rims, 28L26 Combine Tires on Rims, 22.5 Aluminum Rims, T-Post, Guard Rail, **NEW:** Skid Steer Tires 10-16.5, 12-16.5, New Skid Steer Tires on Bobcat, NH, CAT, JD Rims, Kivel 3500# Pallet Forks, Side Shift Forks, Mini Skid Steer Forks, Mini Skid Steer Side Shift Forks, Material Buckets 60" to 84", High Capacity Buckets 84" & 96", Mixing Buckets, Kivel Trailer Movers, Kivel Single Prong Bale Spears, JMR 40" Root Grapple, Skid Steer Post Driver, Skid Steer Breaker, Skid Steer Leveler, Skid Steer Roller, Skid Steer Sweeper, Skid Steer Mulcher, Skid Steer Trencher, JMR 48X96 Work Basket w/ Fork Pockets, 30X65X15 Dome Storage Shelter, 30x40x15 Dome Storage Shelter, 20x30x12 Dome Storage Shelter, Light Duty Steel Carports, 10x20 Portable Metal Shed, 13x20 Portable Metal Shed, Self Dumping Hoppers, Fork Extensions, 8' Steel Container, 9' Steel Container, 10' Storage Container, 40' Steel Container w/ End Door and 4 Side Doors, 7' to 10' Steel Tool Boxes, Excavator Thumbs, Excavator Breakers, Excavator Augers, Excavator Rippers, Excavator Grapple, Excavator Rakes, Excavator Hedge Cutters, Seats, Battery Cables, Laser Level, Ratchet Straps, 14' & 20' Bi Parting Wrought Iron Gate, Skid Steer Mounting Plates, Electric Bicycle.

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# Tractor rides, other farm activities could be tourist money makers

Many of you can remember your first tractor ride and even the first time you sat on one, even though you grew up around them.

Think of how someone, child or adult, would feel after their first tractor ride if they've never been near one. That could be just one of the experiences to offer if you enter the tourist market to supplement your farm income.

The USDA calls tourism a \$4.5 billion market for agriculture nationally. Many farms have added short-term rental accommodations such as a camper or small cabin in their wooded area, ideally near a fishing stream. Weekend urban dwellers will come to ride a tractor, watch the harvest operation, and learn about farming. Some just want to "get out of town" for the weekend or longer. They are willing to pay well for the time you spend with them.

Some of the experiences that farm visitors want to try are tractor rides, horseback riding, watching sheep shearing, baling, combine harvesting, beekeeping, fishing and hand milking.

Social media provides an ideal way to advertise your offer. Farmers who have done this describe an added benefit: they make new friends who often return for future stays.

Extension offices can sometimes suggest fees that are being charged in their area.


### Kubota Agri Concept 2,0

At the recent CES 2025 Show, Kubota displayed the latest concept of its autonomous Agri Concept 2.0 tractor. This tractor's powertrain is suitable for human-controlled or autonomous operations.

Based on customer feedback, the

ALL ABOUT TRACTORS

BY PAUL WALLEM



Agri Concept 2.0 has been revised over a 2024 version.

### FFA annual banquet

I attended this event at Streator High School, Streator, Ill. Awards were presented to several dozen FFA high-achieving members of this very active chapter. They have been named Premier Illinois Chapter in recent years and were among the 10 national finalists for the National FFA Model of Excellence Award in 2022.

The chapter has a high percentage of young women. I sat at the table with the parents of a daughter who was receiving one of the awards. The family has no ties to agriculture but feels the FFA membership has greatly enhanced their daughter's education. Her mother said public speaking has been just one of the skills learned. They have two other daughters in middle school who will be joining the chapter.

I was quite surprised at the large number of chapter members and their ambitious projects.

On a personal note, my wife and I graduated from Streator High in 1952, and this was only my second time in the building since then. I was a member of this FFA chapter.

### Middle school FFA chapters

A recent Farm World article by Doug Graves announced the opening of two new middle school FFA chapters in



Above: The top-down view of a Deutz MaxiVision 2 tractor cab

Kentucky. I called the FFA National office and inquired about middle school chapters in my home state of Illinois. I was amazed to find out there are 22 here and many more throughout the country.

### Driver comfort

Tractor cabs continue to progress in their design. One is the Deutz MaxiVision 2. The panoramic windscreen and surrounding windows (and a skylight) set an ever-higher standard in cab design.

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ed to be substantially improved.

Sign at an antique tractor parade: Old tractors collect the nicest people!

Early Burma Shave sign: A man, A miss, A car, A curve. He kissed the miss and missed the curve.

Paul Wallem was raised on an Illinois dairy farm. He spent 13 years with corporate IH on domestic and foreign assignments before resigning to own and operate 2 IH dealerships. He is the author of THE BREAKUP of IH and SUCCESSES AND INDUSTRY FIRSTS of IH. See all his books on www.PaulWallem.com. Email him at pwallem@aol.com.

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Bells, Blacksmith Tools, horse drawn equipt

7 Bells: Steam engine bell, OS Bell & Co Hillsboro, Oh, Federal Company, #24 Yoke bell, Big bell w/yoke, Gem well pump, Bethel Oh match box, advertisement items including oil bottles & cans, milk bottles (Local names), brass tags, wooden butter churn, 50th anniversary Bethel Oh Adv anvils, paintings of Jim's tools, 21 sleigh bells strap, collector toy tractors/cars/equipt, revolving bolt cabinet/hdwe store piece, orig antique hdwe catalogs, Clermont/Brown/Adams county & more atlases, history of Clermont County w/illustrations, Farm Implement book, scales, coach maker tools, churn, CG&P padlocks, travelers wheels, scales, Dazey glass churn #80, crocks, regulator wall clock, mantle clock, walking stick/canes, Indianapolis wood wall phone, cedar blanket chest, Farm Implement News, Thorress mfg, signed wall pictures, OVAM pictures, handmade quilt, Cranberry glass, Cinti Sellew pewter tea pot, Clermont County Bantam Agric/ Hortie stamps, stamp collection, local paper items, tobacco cutter John Fihzer & Bros, National cash register, bullet pencils, wooden spice chest, 1950's Doepke toys, S rolltop oak desk, oak secretary, wooden pedestal table, china cabinet, beds, quilts, Grant Sesquicentennial Dollar (Bethel, Ohio), war ration books

Outbuildings & Blacksmith Shop: Anvils (30", 25", 22", 11") swage block, cone anvil, anvil hardies, Springboro OH wagon jack, blacksmith forge w/hood/ blower, blacksmith (totes/tools/hammers/tongs), horse drawn items, J D jolt wagon, wheat drills, Stephens fertilizer spreader, garden & corn planters (Oliver, Cole, Farmer's Friend), crate vise, wood framed wheel lathe, large treadle wood lathe, unusual wooden dog treadle mill & more !!

9 AM MAY 10, 2025 SATURDAY AUCTION

TOOLS, TOOLS AND MORE TOOLS!

1862 S. Boggess muzzle loading rifle full stock (believed to be made in Pinhook/Wiggonville Ohio by John Boggess. Ohio Tool Co. Centerwheel Ivory tipped Plow Plane, Stanley #1 Sweetheart Plane. Barnes #3 Wood Lathe, #1, #2, #7 Scroll Saws, Barnes Rip Saw, Barnes Former, Seneca Falls Scroll Saws, Companion wood lathe w/scroll saw attachment, mortising machine

Axe Collection: Embossed Axes & Hatchets (Black Raven, Diamond Edge & others), Goose-wing axes, Broadaxes, Bill poster hammer, Double & Triple-Claw Hammers, Saw makers Hammers, File-Makers Hammers, Over 150 Axes & Hammers. Stanley Tools: #1 plane, #2 planes, #85 scraper plane, #45 in box, other 45s, 71 in box, 98 & 99, #10, #10 1/2, 62 low angle Stanley Bedrocks: 605, 605 1/2, 606, 608. #20, 113, 37 Jenny, 101 1/2, 79, folding rules, Razor edge spokeshave. Cincinnati Tools: Panther Head Saw and other Cinti saws, Scott Mitre Plane, over 200 Cinti Molding planes by different makers (largest collection known to exist) Cinti broadaxes and drawknives. Large Amount of Early Cooper's Tools (Howells, Crozes, Sun Planes, adzes, braces, joiners) Misc: Irwin Cylinder Bit Case & other Irwin sets of bits, buck saws, hand corn sheller, wooden sled, Bourbon whiskey stamps, several old work benches, hand corn shellers, wood taps/dies, shaving horse, Irwin cylinder bitcase, mortise chisels, spokeshaves, sugar devils, Ivory folding rules, Steven fertilizer Tools: Ebony wood planes, rope winders, troughs for rope makers, grain testers, harness vises, hand corn shellers, pit saws, Ferate barn boring machines, tinner's tools, pump log tools-full set, froes, cleavers, Conestoga jack & grease bucket, mitre jacks, Davis ornate iron levels, Helb RR level & others, T-augers 1/2-3", Baiver root cutter, Poltree, hog oilers, Ohio pony corn chopper, Neal tool chest w/full original contents, lady leg calipers, stonemason hammers, carpenter slicks, tool reference books. Hay Trolleys & more !!

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MARION COUNTY, KY

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# Ohio Youth benefit from Junior Swine Day

By Mike Tanchevski  
Ohio Correspondent

MARYSVILLE, Ohio – The Ohio Pork Council (OPC) and OH-Pigs hosted another successful Junior Swine Day at Marysville High School in March. This year’s event featured multiple learning sessions on relevant topics for youths and families who participated. Topics included Showmanship, Quality Assurance, OH-PIGS Program, Biosecurity, Pig Care, Animal Selection and Feed/Nutrition.

“We always try to offer a comprehensive set of topics that will help Ohio youth be successful both in and out of the show ring,” said Kayli Mitchell, OPC education director. “This means knowing the basics of biosecurity and pig care to more in-depth things such as understanding diseases like flu with Dr. Bowman’s Swientist demonstrations that focus on the importance of reducing transmission with proper washing and disinfection techniques.”

A colleague, Dr. Jacqueline Nolt-ing, assisted OSU’s Dr. Andy Bowman with the Swientist programming. Other experts on hand for the event included Dr. Todd Price, who spoke on swine health; Gus Mitchem on animal selection; Brian Hines, of Lindner Feeds, on swine nutrition; OH-PIGS Director Kelly Morgan on showmanship; and Mitchell on Quality Assurance.

“You can see from our schedule that we had some of the leading experts in the show-pig industry hosting sessions this year,” Mitchell said. “We see the value in giving back to the show pig families by offering children the opportunity to advance their knowledge and time to connect with us as the pork industry – and to get more skills to use in the show ring

and, of course, in the barn.” Mitchell focused on education and bridging the gap between show-pig families and the pork industry when creating the Junior Swine Day agenda. She worked with Morgan to provide families a full day of learning.

“I work closely with Kelly,” Mitchell said. “She has so many connections in the show-pig industry and knows key speakers, who not only give good presentations and knowledge to our youth, but are located in Ohio or the surrounding area and continue to serve as resources. The speakers are familiar faces often seen around our OH-Pigs Show Circuit or county fairs.”

Junior Swine Day was open to interested youth ages 5 to 18 or 19, usually when they start aging out of showing pigs. Parents were also welcome. “Almost all of the time, we have parents or guardians join us to take notes and listen in on the sessions,” Mitchell said. “This year, we had about 80 youth and their parents. In total, I think we had around 150 or so – that’s a good number.”

Union County, northwest of Columbus, has hosted the event since its inception in 2022. “We try our hardest to keep it central in Union County because that’s a central location for our show pig families,” Mitchell said. “It’s central to the state, as well.”

The event attracted a large number of new people as well as many families who traveled more than two and a half hours to attend. “Obviously, they see some value in the program we’re putting on,” Mitchell said. “That was exciting for us to have a record number of people joining us outside of the community that we usually touch base with.”

Eric Kennel and his son Corbin traveled nearly 100 miles from Preble County for the event.

“We see the value in taking our



**Above:** From hands-on activities in the classroom about swine diseases and pathogens to outdoor activities like good showmanship and pig-handling techniques, Junior Swine Day 2025 had it all.

children to events like the Junior Swine Day to provide them the opportunity to work with leading industry professionals and to continue to provide opportunities for our children to learn and network in the Ohio pork industry,” Eric said.

Corbin, a youth participant and swine showman, appreciated the offerings. “I enjoy coming to the OH-Pigs Junior Swine Day to learn more about my project and practices that I can implement daily in the barn with my show pigs,” he said. “This year, I

learned nutrition and showmanship skills that I can practice at home to do better in the showing.”

Junior Swine Day is open to anyone from beginner to senior-level pig showmen. OH-Pigs membership is not required.

Opening weekend for the OH-Pigs summer show circuit was April 12 in Fulton County; it ends June 7-8 in Ashland County. The stops in between are Perry, Marion, Highland, Darke, Pickaway and Clark Counties.

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# Iowa proposes new legislation to address bankrupt livestock operations

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig has proposed new legislation to address the recently bankrupt Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc., that left the state with over a million unsold chickens after the company closed its Charles City, Iowa, processing plant last fall.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship said the chickens had to later be destroyed, costing the state \$2.3 million. Naig said the new legislation would allow the state to sell or process livestock it takes into custody, and to prevent similar situations in the future.

Last October, the department was granted an emergency court order to take immediate care, custody and control of approximately 1.3 million broiler chickens, owned by Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc.

Don McDowell, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship director of communications, told Farm World the department's final report on Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc.'s bankruptcy was filed in Iowa District Court for Sioux County.

"Our department bill, which will touch on a wide range of topics and areas of focus, will have a section re-

lated to clearing up questions about the title for livestock within our custody," he said. "However, the bill has not yet been introduced," adding that the department anticipates the bill will be introduced soon, but said it could not provide further comment on the bill at this time.

Headquartered in Fairfax, Minn., Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc., operated a Charles City, Iowa, chicken processing plant and contracted with farmers throughout Iowa to grow broilers. On Sept. 30, Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc., notified the department that, due to their financial position, they were unable to purchase feed for these chickens located at 14 Iowa farms.

Upon notification, the department coordinated with state and federal agencies, as well as industry partners, to seek a possible solution. With no immediately available solution and citing significant potential animal welfare concerns, the department, under its authority in Iowa Code Chapter 717, sought an emergency court order to take over the care, custody and control of the birds located within Iowa.

On Oct. 2, the department's emergency petition was granted, which authorized the department to immediately provide for the feed and care of the birds. According to Iowa Code,

a hearing was then scheduled for Oct. 8 in order for the Iowa District Court to approve a plan for the final disposition of the birds.

On that same day, Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc., also ceased operations at its Charles City processing plant and laid off its workers. With no processor readily available for the birds, the department said it actively pursued numerous other processors and markets, and solicited offers for the purchase of the birds. Due to the structure of the broiler industry, however, the department said large-scale processors had limited ability to increase their processing capacity utilizing the open market.

The department said it was able to secure an initial offer to purchase all 1.3 million birds, and had a tentative agreement in place for all birds to be processed as they reached market weight, pending court approval. The department provided notice to the interested parties of the potential agreement.

On Oct. 7, the day before the scheduled hearing, attorneys for some of the other interested parties notified the department that they would assert their lien rights and security interests in the chickens, including against the buyer's proceeds from the sale of the post-processed meat. Citing costs surrounding potential

litigation due to the lien claims, the buyer backed away from their offer.

In accordance with the Iowa District Court's order, depopulation started Oct. 17 of last year. The department said the depopulation was overseen by licensed veterinarians employed by the department, with depopulation of all Pure Prairie Poultry, Inc., birds located at Iowa farms concluding Oct. 25 of last year.

The department said it will seek reimbursement of the taxpayers' costs from responsible parties, including through possible legal remedies, and had also notified relevant local law enforcement of the situation.

When asked about the newly proposed legislation, Jennifer Williams Zwagermann, director of the Agricultural Law Center and agricultural law professor at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, told Farm World, "Overall, I think it is important that whenever we have financial issues with livestock operations, such as bankruptcy, that we consider a number of factors."

"One is, of course, the welfare of the animals, and ensuring that no matter what, they continue to receive appropriate feeding and care," she said. "Another is the impact on the overall industry, and economic and other aspects that trickle both up and down from the impacted operation."

"The costs to taxpayers is, of course, another area to consider," she added. "I think there are many citizens that do not like the idea of euthanizing birds when the only reason is that the state could not find a buyer that was willing and able to step into this particular situation, given a variety of interests and challenges to ownership."

She said, "I have confidence that there are ways the state and the legislature can work with the livestock industry, and those involved, to negotiate and find agreeable financial resolutions. Overall, these are not common situations, and I hope it remains that way moving forward."

"That being said, it should be possible to ensure that if the state steps in to feed and care for livestock until either a new buyer is found or until they are ready for processing, reimbursement for those basic costs seems like a reasonable expectation. I can envision then that proceeds from the sale beyond that would be directed to other creditors of the operation."

Naig said, "This is an incredibly unfortunate situation and raises serious questions about the USDA's oversight of taxpayer dollars. Congress should exercise its oversight authority to ensure that something like this does not happen again, and that those responsible are held accountable."

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**Silver Lake Vol. Fire Dept.**  
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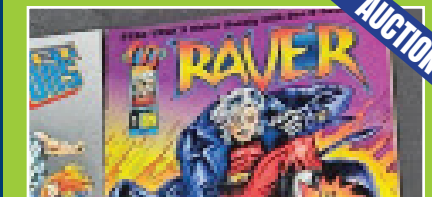
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**Remodeled Home in Mentone**  
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**Newer Ranch Home with Garage**  
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**Antiques & Household Goods**  
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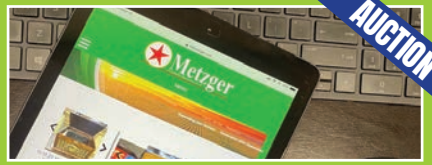
**Ranch Home Sells Absolute**  
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