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Farmers making progress despite inclement weather

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

BOGGSTOWN, Ind. – When Boggstown farmer Chris Eck first started his spring planting in April, the weather and the soils in Shelby County were cool and wet – and after several inches of rain the first week in April, most of the surface flooding disappeared.

“The fields in the river bottoms took the worst of the water,” he told Farm World. “The forecast doesn’t look to be warming up much, with some rain still predicted.” He raises a variety of crops from corn and soybeans to wheat, seed corn and snap beans with his family, and is one of 24 volunteer directors at the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

As of April 28, he said, “Weather in Boggstown, Ind., has been up and down. Cold then hot, wet then dry. We had showers at the end of last week that put us out of the field, with quantities from four tenths to 2 inches. A few neighbors were back in the field on Sunday (April 27). We will continue corn and soybean planting on Monday. All of our anhydrous and burndown is finished.

“We’ve planted enough corn and soybeans to find and fix any problems with the planters,” he added. “The wheat looks very good, and (I’m) caught up on nitrogen and herbicide. We have been putting off seed corn planting until we have a rain window that will allow us to get our delays in without mud. Looks like more rain on Tuesday afternoon.”

According to the USDA Crop and Weather Report for April 20-26, “Showery weather from the Plains to the Appalachians led to modest

fieldwork delays, but generally benefited rangeland, pastures and crops. Across drought-affected areas of the Plains, rain was especially timely for winter wheat and recently planted summer crops.

“Precipitation was virtually nonexistent in the Rockies, Northwest and Florida, while parts of the southern Plains, Midwest, and South had more than twice the normal weekly rainfall,” the report added.

By April 27, the USDA said, producers had planted 24 percent of the nation’s corn crop. Texas led the way with 74 percent planted. Five percent of the nation’s corn acreage had emerged by April 27. Eighteen percent of the nation’s soybean acreage was planted by April 27. Progress was furthest along in Louisiana, with 70 percent planted.

As of April 28, Cory Bratland, Agmarket.net hedge strategist, said, “Good rains across much of the Corn Belt over the weekend has the corn market starting off the week a bit defensive. Planting pace is well ahead of the five-year average and once we dry out later this week, we should see the planting pace pick up.”

In Indiana, the USDA said for the week ending April 27, corn planted was at 10 percent, with no emergence; soybeans planted were also at 10 percent. Winter wheat was jointing at 50 percent and headed at 4 percent.

In Illinois, corn planted reached 16 percent, with corn emerged reaching 2 percent; soybeans planted reached 22 percent, emerged at 4 percent; winter wheat headed was at 16 percent; and winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, to 8 percent excellent.

In Michigan, corn planted was at 6 percent; soybeans planted were at 8 percent; and winter wheat jointing was at 25 percent; oats planted were at 19 percent, emerged at 4 percent; and sugar beets planted were at 70 percent, emerged at 5 percent.

In Ohio, corn planted was at 8 percent; soybeans planted were at 10 percent; oats planted was at 51 percent, emerged at 12 percent; and winter wheat jointing was at 55 percent.

In Kentucky, seeding of tobacco transplants was at 77 percent, while the condition of plants remained mostly good, the USDA said. Win-

(See Planting on page 2)



Above: Farmers are making do with any window they have to get into the fields before the rains. No-till spraying before bean planting is underway in Northeast Indiana. Photo by Leondia Walchle

Increases in wheat production lead to Illinois check-off program

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — As of April 17, Illinois wheat producers have a voluntary state check-off program. Wheat growers voted 207 to 69 to implement the program, a first for the state of Illinois, with a 1.5 cent per bushel at-market assessment rate, effective January 1, 2026.

John Howell, president of the Illinois Wheat Growers Association (IWGA), said a number of factors combined to make the timing right to bring a checkoff referendum to the state’s growers.

“If you look at wheat acres here in the state of Illinois, 20 years ago we were at one million acres. Through the late-to-mid 2000s and 2010s wheat incurred various challenges, whether it was disease hitting the crops or weather events that degraded the quality of the wheat crop, so there was a major exodus of wheat production in the state of Illinois, with acreage cut nearly in half,” said Howell, who farms alongside his father, Christopher, in the southwestern Illinois counties of Monroe and Randolph.

“There were roughly a half-million wheat acres in Illinois around 10 years ago. Since then there has been tremendous genetic research and advancements, there’s been huge advancements in crop protection and management practices, along with a lot of avenues for improvements in markets, price points, economics and the ability to double-crop soybeans with changes to federal crop insurance rules,” continued Howell, who has served on the ILWA board of directors since 2020, with one year as vice-president and two as president.

“I think from a timing standpoint the outlook on raising wheat and double-crop soybeans together as a viable rotation has never been brighter. We’ve seen enormous gains as far as productivity is concerned, and with a support system that sort of levels the playing field with corn and soybeans, the checkoff program was something we thought was imperative.”

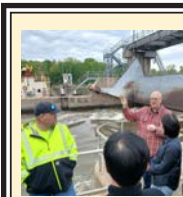
ILWA formed a committee around two years ago to explore the feasibility of establishing a wheat checkoff program. Working hand in hand with wheat industry leaders, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and other state ag commodity groups including Illinois Corn and Illinois Soy, the committee began building momentum towards a checkoff referendum.

“Prior to the checkoff program, the ILWA was the best way for like-minded individuals to share information on wheat production and also learn better management practices to help drive forward the initiatives of the wheat industry in Illinois. This is what the ILWA has tried to do over its history, and I think you’ll see some really nice partnerships formed with the millers in this state, and the universities that research wheat production,” Howell said.

In the coming weeks, the Illinois Wheat Checkoff Committee, in conjunction with the IDOA, will be implementing procedures for the fall 2025 election of members to the Illinois Wheat Development Board.

“This has taken a lot of work from individuals who wanted to see wheat prosper in the state of Illinois at levels it hasn’t reached before,” said Howell. “To get that accomplished we

(See Wheat checkoff page 2)



South Korean grain buyers tour Illinois locks and dams
..... Page 1B

In this Farm World:

FFA donation auction raises over \$9,000 for charity.....
Page 14B





Above: An Indiana farmer plants corn at LaCrosse in LaPorte County. (courtesy of Jennifer Stewart, Purdue University Agricultural Communications)

Planting

FROM PAGE 1

ter wheat headed was at 27 percent, with the average height at 19 inches, and the condition of wheat improved slightly after stress from heavy rain in early April.

In Tennessee, corn planted was at 41 percent, emerged at 15 percent; soybeans planted were at 25 percent; winter wheat jointing was at 89 percent, heading at 49 percent; cotton planted was at 6 percent; and apples were blooming at 72 percent.

In Iowa, corn planted reached 34

percent, emerged at 2 percent; 25 percent of the expected soybean crop has been planted; oats seeding was at 81 percent complete; and 41 percent of the expected oat acreage has emerged.

Justin Glisan, State of Iowa climatologist, told Farm World, “Much of the Midwest is covered with a slight lean toward drier conditions, with near-normal to slightly wetter from western Iowa into the western Corn Belt. The CPC’s (Climate Prediction Center) three-to-four-week outlooks show a warmer pattern persisting, with no clear precipitation signal.”

Wheat checkoff

FROM PAGE 1

had to get petition signatures from 500 wheat producers in the state to bring it to a vote. It passed by a large margin, so now the committee will get to work on identifying the nine individuals who will serve on that checkoff board. Those nine individuals will then build the framework of what the checkoff program will look like. We want to be focused on research, we want to be focused on improvements and production, end-use markets and driving the viability of wheat further forward.”

Not much initial checkoff money will likely be spent on political lobbying efforts, according to the ILWA president. “We want to stay skinny as far as overhead. We want this to

be a grassroots thing that goes back to the actual growers who are investing in it,” Howell said.

The new Illinois wheat checkoff program is voluntary, meaning that producers will have an option to opt out of paying into the program. Producers will have 60 days to request their assessment back and be issued a refund by the IDOA. Winter wheat growers harvested 700,000 acres across Illinois in 2024, a 10 percent decrease from 2023, with an average yield of 86 bushels per acre.

“Agriculture is our state’s number-one industry, and we are proud to be the number-eleven producer of wheat in the nation, producing 60.2 million bushels in 2024,” said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II, in a news release. “The wheat check-off will foster continued growth, positioning Illinois as a global leader in wheat production.”



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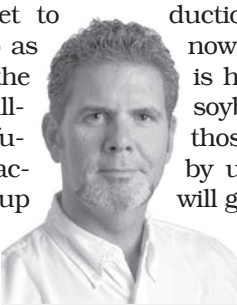
Analysts increase projected South American soybean demand forecasts

The market is starting to see our traditional market fundamentals again having more of an impact on price discovery. One of these that is growing in interest is U.S. weather with some trouble areas starting to pop up ahead of the spring planting season. Widespread flooding has been seen in the Ohio Valley with the Ohio River rising to its highest level since 1997. Flooding has also been reported in Illinois and Indiana. While these have not greatly impacted plantings, they do reduce the chances of early fieldwork which tend to be associated with higher yields, especially on corn.

South American analysts are already starting to up their projected soybean demand forecasts because of the U.S. trade tariffs. This is especially the case for Brazil where a record crop was just

harvested. Argentina is now set to start the harvest of a large crop as well. Add to this Brazil is in the works with China to allow distiller grain trade in the very near future. The combination of these factors has caused the Safras group to predict high soybean trade with China in late 2025, further cutting into U.S. market share. China already imports a minimal volume of U.S. soybeans, and any further decrease may be small.

Chinese officials continue to take steps to become more self-reliant on commodity demand. The Chinese Ag Minister announced that 97 GMO corn and 2 GMO soybean seed varieties have received preliminary approval for pro-



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

duction in the country. They must now be biosafety certified, which is highly likely. China's corn and soybean yields remain well below those of the rest of the world, and by using new technology alone it will greatly reduce import needs.

China now plans to develop what it is calling "high standard" farmland. Chinese officials believe that through the use of technology and improved farming practices the country will be able to increase yields enough to further reduce import needs. It is believed that by 2035 all of China's production agriculture will benefit from these improvements.

China released its March soybean import data with a surprisingly low number. For the month China imported just 3.5 million metric tons of soybeans, a 36.8 percent decline from March 2024. This was also the lowest monthly import volume since 2008. A slow start to the Brazil soybean harvest and export program is the cause of these low arrivals. For the first three months of 2025, China has imported 17.1 mmt of soybeans, an 8 percent decline from the same period in 2024.

Livestock futures have started to show an elevated amount of trade volatility. This is in part from the tariffs the U.S. has placed on Asian importers who tend to be primary beef and pork export destinations. The main one of these is China who is a primary importer of both, but recent tariff increases have all but halted trade between the two countries. China has also had a sizable rebound in domestic pork production, easing the need for imports from all sources.

Domestic consumer demand is also a concern for the red meat market as we are already seeing personal consumption slow, albeit still elevated from nor-

mal.

One of the greatest concerns in the outside markets right now is the value of crude oil. Crude oil has been under considerable pressure recently and led to the idling of some U.S. drills. This is from futures dropping to a point where production is unprofitable. Crude oil exports have provided the U.S. with considerable income, enough to help reduce the total U.S. trade deficit.

OPEC has now stated they see a reduction in global energy demand, including crude oil. While low priced crude will benefit U.S. consumers, the lack of export demand may cause more harm to the U.S. economy than good.

Cattle and hogs have started to show more reaction to U.S. trade relations. The U.S. domestic supply of red meat is at its lowest level in several years, with pork at its lowest volume in nearly three decades. This will allow the loss of U.S. exports on beef and pork to be absorbed in the short term, but if export demand remains slow, the market will be quick to react.

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Meat from Sale of Champions animals will be donated to Illinois food banks

URBANA, Ill. – The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, is donating meat from the 2024 Illinois State Fair Sale of Champions to Feeding Illinois food banks for the first time under a new formalized agreement.

“At a time of historic need, this donation brings hope to our neighbors facing hunger across Illinois,” said Kelly Daly, president and CEO of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, a member of the Feeding Illinois network, who received the donation on April 29. “We are grateful to work alongside the College of ACES and the Illinois Department of Agriculture to turn the hard work of young agricultural leaders into a vital source of nourishment for our neighbors and communities.”

Under the new agreement, 80 percent of the meat from Sale of Champions animals and the Illinois State Fair Processed Meats Competition will be donated to Feeding Illinois, while the College of ACES retains 20 percent to support education, research, and public outreach efforts through the Meat Sciences Laboratory, which advances workforce training while providing meat products to the public.

Freezing the meat allows it to be processed and distributed when both the Meat Science Laboratory and local food banks have the capacity, ensuring nothing goes to waste and support reaches those who need it most.

“This effort reflects the very best of our land-grant mission – connecting the hard work of Illinois youth with service to our broader community,” said Anna Dilger, meat science professor in the Department of Animal Sciences. “We are proud to support Illinois agriculture, enhance student learning, and help fight food insecurity across the state.”

Dilger also engages winning exhibitors by inviting them to tour the Meat Sciences Laboratory, observe the processing of their animals, and see how their work supports food security across Illinois. Exhibitors can choose to have their animals’ hides processed by a local tanner as a lasting keepsake. To further celebrate their achievements and connection to the agricultural community, they are invited to attend the college’s annual Celebrate Food and Ag Day event.

Among the 2024 winning exhibitors was Olivia Shike, a student at Black Hawk College - East Campus and daughter of animal sciences professor Dan Shike and Farm Journal’s PORK editor Jennifer Shike. Olivia’s Chester White pig was chosen as the grand champion barrow and the Land of Lincoln champion.

“For all the time, effort, and love I put into raising my animals, it is incredibly meaningful to know that the meat will help feed families across Illinois,” Olivia Shike said. “It’s an honor to have my work recognized and to be part of something that gives back in such an important way.”

What’s more, Sale of Champion exhibitors are members of Illinois 4-H – the youth development program of University of Illinois Extension, housed within the College of ACES. Through Illinois 4-H, young people gain hands-on experience in leadership and service that prepares them to make a lasting impact in their communities.

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Despite funding uncertainty research continues for SAF production

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

URBANA, Ill. — Production of domestic sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) has increased fivefold in recent years, driven largely by production incentives enacted by the Biden administration. Biden’s directive called for the U.S. to produce 3 billion annual gallons of SAF by 2030, enough to account for 10 percent of U.S. aviation fuel consumption. Though early moves by the Trump administration have fueled uncertainty about the future of SAF incentive funding, research is continuing at the University of Illinois (U of I) to identify potential sustainable sources for SAF production.

One such potential SAF source, according to D.K. Lee, professor in the

U of I Department of Crop Sciences, is switchgrass. “All the data that helps us estimate switchgrass suitability for SAF comes from small plot research or older forage-type switchgrass cultivars. We wanted to test high-yielding switchgrass cultivars on a larger scale to provide a more accurate picture of the benefits these new cultivars provide,” said Lee, senior author of two recent U of I research studies on switchgrass.

Lee and the U of I research team set out to determine the most profitable cultivars of switchgrass as an energy crop. They planted three newer energy-type cultivars — Independence, Liberty, and Carthage — alongside two forage cultivars — Shawnee and Sunburst — on low-productivity marginal land in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. After five years

of growth, economic analyses were conducted to calculate expenses and profits in each location.

“With these energy-type cultivars, farmers can put marginal lands to use and see returns after two years,” said postdoctoral researcher Muhammad Umer Arshad. “Our results can help guide decision-makers to optimize input strategies for biomass production and meet renewable energy demands.”

Field-scale research has proven that switchgrass can thrive as an energy crop on land considered marginal for growing traditional cash crops, according to postdoctoral fellow Nictor Naomi, who led a companion study in field-scale plots in Illinois.

“One of the many benefits of growing purpose-grown energy crops on marginal lands is ecosystem services associated with the perennial nature of energy crops. They can also potentially generate higher profits than conventional row crops on less productive land,” Namoi said. “Demonstrating ecosystem services of switchgrass, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and nutrient loss, will promote purpose-grown energy crops on marginal land.”

U.S. facilities produced 38.7 million gallons of SAF in 2024, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, compared to 14 million gallons in 2023 and 7.9 million gallons in 2022. However, SAF production capacity in the U.S. will spike to nearly 800 million gallons in 2025, according to an estimate generated jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the University of Illinois.

A major driver behind the production surge is a Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) program that established tax credits of between \$1.25 and \$1.75 per gallon to purchasers of SAF. The credits were key to spurring demand for SAF, which costs about \$2 more per gallon than conventional jet fuel to produce.

In Illinois, the general assembly

approved legislation to create a \$1.50 per gallon SAF tax credit for airlines purchasing jet fuel. In Hennepin, Ill., Marquis Sustainable Energy is currently building out its docking and storage facilities in order to construct a 120 million gallon per-year sustainable fuels plant in lockstep with the federal incentives.

Uncertainty surrounding future federal SAF incentive funding has arisen since Trump took office. On January 28, the Department of Energy delayed delivery of \$782 million in loan proceeds to Montana Renewables, the first half of a \$1.44 billion loan deal the department under Biden closed on January 10. Montana Renewables plans to use the loan to increase its annual SAF production capacity from 60 million to 300 million gallons, reported Travel Weekly by Northstar.

The Trump administration has also reportedly removed some federal web pages related to SAF initiatives, including sites detailing the \$244.5 million in grant funding the FAA allocated last year to SAF projects.

Illinois is a top producer of feedstock necessary for SAF development, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The state also possesses the workforce, infrastructure and supportive business policies to expand SAF production, enhance SAF supply chains and increase SAF accessibility. “The shift to SAF will no doubt play an important role in Illinois’ long-term climate goals, all while promoting innovation and creating jobs for our state,” said Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, who laid out his vision for the state’s SAF industry in March 2024.

The first U of I switchgrass study, “Comparative Economic Analysis Between Bioenergy and Forage Types of Switchgrass for Sustainable Biofuel Feedstock Production: A Data Envelopment Analysis and Cost-Benefit Analysis Approach,” is published in GCB Bioenergy [DOI: 10.1111/gcbb.70020].

The second study, “Field-Scale Evaluation of Ecosystem Service Benefits of Bioenergy Switchgrass,” is published in the Journal of Environmental Quality [DOI: 10.1002/jeq2.70025].

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Seedstock Sale is still the hallmark of the Ohio Beef Expo

By Mike Tanchevski
Ohio Correspondent

MARYSVILLE, Ohio – The 2025 Ohio Beef Expo, hosted by the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association (OCA), was March 13-16 at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio. The Expo featured eight live lot seedstock sales on March 14 and 15. Each sale included registered females and bulls.

A “live lot cattle sale” means cattle are sold alive, not as meat or carcasses.

Buyers had several options for viewing cattle before they entered the sale ring. Some breeds had shows where the cattle competed before being sold, while others paraded their cattle before the sale day. Online bidding was also available.

The eight breeds at this year’s sale were Aberdeen Angus, Angus, Hereford, Maine-Anjou, Miniature Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn and Simmental.

While the number of breeds and consignors changes year-to-year, the Seedstock Sale always attracts attention. “Frankly, it’s been a hallmark of the Ohio Beef Expo,” said Elizabeth Harsh, Ohio Beef Council and Ohio Cattlemen’s Association executive director. Despite live cattle lot availability not being as high as in past years, this year’s 300.5 live lots generated \$1,626,000 in sales for an average of \$5,322.

Live lot averages were up for all eight breeds from 2024. The .5 live lot reflected a half-interest purchase in a Maine-Anjou bull.

The fact that live lot numbers did not reach an all-time high for this year didn’t surprise Harsh. “Because the cattle market has been so strong that people could make those sales off the farm, and they didn’t have to

hold their numbers until Beef Expo,” she said. “That’s what happens when you have extremely strong prices – sale numbers at the Beef Expo might be a bit smaller, but it’s still strong.”

The Seedstock Sale’s success didn’t come without challenges. While planning the first Beef Expo in 1988, Harsh explained that the various breed associations had their spring consignment sales spread over different weekends. Many of these annual events had banquets associated with them, and convincing these groups to give up long-established traditions was challenging.

“Getting them to believe in this concept and come together all on the same weekend was a leap of faith for some of them,” Harsh said. “But you can see with the sales results this year that it’s been worthwhile. We sold cattle to 24 states this year, which talks about the tremendous quality in those sales and the interest from buyers, throughout Ohio, but well beyond Ohio.”

Simmental and Maine-Anjou offered the most live lots for the third consecutive year. Maine-Anjou led the way in the live average price. The \$7,699 average was a 34 percent increase from 2024.

“It’s been that way for some time,” Harsh said. “It was probably the Maine-Anjou’s largest sale in several years, not every year, but in the last several. But in the last few years, it’s been the Simmental that’s had the most numbers.”

Black Angus had a strong sale this year, 32 live lots averaged \$6,334. “One of the best sales they’ve had in several years,” Harsh said. “So, they were very pleased with that.”

Harsh explained the give and take that goes on with the breed associations on setting the sale dates and

times. “The various breeds prefer certain times and certain days; we can’t do everything on the Saturday of the Beef Expo,” she said. “We needed to get to where we had strong sales on Friday afternoon, Friday evening, and all day Saturday – we’ve now accomplished that.”

The Ohio Cattlemen’s Association is the sponsor of the Ohio Beef Expo and coordinates the entire event. They work with a Breeds Committee made up of representatives of each breed to plan the sale based on their rules. “What has made it so successful is that each breed still has the autonomy to run its sale by its own breed association’s sales standards,” Harsh said. “Each national organization might have different rules on what they have to do, so we don’t mandate a lot of things.”

Once the schedule is set in cooperation with the breed associations, there are very few changes. “We don’t want to have a lot of upheaval in the schedule because you get buyers that depend on knowing, for example, that the Simmental always sells on Saturday at about this time, and they plan their trip around knowing that, so we want some continuity as well,” Harsh said.

Sometimes changes occur, and it

works out for the best. “The Short-horns, this was their first year to sell on Friday evening, and they had a tremendously successful sale, and they said they want to stay there again in 2026,” Harsh said.

Although there were eight breeds this year, the OCA makes room on the schedule for additional breeds. “We welcome other breeds,” Harsh said. “Limousin has been part of our event in the past. They were not able to have a sale this year, but we would welcome them back if they have enough numbers to continue in 2026.”

Market conditions and the consignor’s ability to host a production influence the number of breeds and lots brought to the Expo. “Many times, consignors don’t have their own production sales, so they depend on being part of these sales to market their quality seed stock, show heifers, breeding females and bulls,” Harsh said.

Harsh was particularly impressed with the number of people gathered around the sales ring. “I was very pleased to see just how packed the sale ring was for virtually every sale,” she said. “We had tremendous crowds.”

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MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 4/28/2025 - Final
AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 4/21/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	1,375	782	1,005
Feeder Cattle:	1,153(83.9%)	681(87.1%)	796(79.2%)
Slaughter Cattle:	210(15.3%)	94(12.0%)	189(18.8%)
Replacement Cattle:	12(0.9%)	7(0.9%)	20(2.0%)

Compared to last Monday feeder steers sold 2.00 to 5.00 higher; some weaned 500-600 lbs and yearling steer packages 10.00 higher with very good demand. Feeder heifers sold 3.00 to 10.00 higher with very good demand. Very good demand for yearling heifers. Attractive quality offering with good buyer participation. Slaughter cows sold 1.00 to 2.00 lower under heavy supply. Slaughter bulls 5.00 higher with very good demand. Supply included: 84% Feeder Cattle (39% Steers, 43% Heifers, 18% Bulls); 15% Slaughter Cattle (88% Cows, 11% Bulls, 1% Dairy Cows); 1% Replacement Cattle (53% Stock Cows, 41% Bred Cows, 6% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 48%.

Group of 20 head or more:

Steers

56 hd 665 lbs 343.25 Blk Few Bwf Value-Added

30 hd 679 lbs 338.00 Blk Value-Added

26 hd 870 lbs 288.00 Blk Fancy

Heifers

25 hd 437 lbs 381.50 Blk Fancy

84 hd 622 lbs 340.00 Blk Fancy

FEEDER CATTLE				
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	225	225	422.50	
1	215	215	460.00	Fancy
1	300	300	417.50	
1	310	310	430.00	Fancy
5	360-390	373	410.00-423.00	416.04
21	407-441	426	395.00-407.00	400.21
12	416-445	425	420.00-431.00	426.44 Value Added
5	455-460	457	405.00-415.00	413.01 Value Added
17	500-547	531	365.00-380.00	374.25
35	500-530	508	390.00-413.00	402.17 Value Added
3	570-585	575	355.00-360.00	357.52
19	555-565	556	367.50-373.00	371.94 Value Added
7	617	617	310.00	
18	600-645	624	321.00-355.00	343.72 Value Added
1	685	685	320.00	
100	650-679	669	330.00-348.00	341.11 Value Added
2	730	730	285.00-289.00	287.00
17	705-740	722	290.00-316.00	302.97 Value Added
3	760	760	283.00	
19	750-796	783	287.50-296.00	291.03 Value Added
9	813-835	815	280.00-285.00	284.43
26	870	870	288.00	Fancy
19	939-945	939	240.00-260.00	258.36
1	985	985	250.00	
3	1032-1035	1033	220.00-241.00	227.01
3	1050-1065	1060	230.00	
2	1135	1135	226.00	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	375-390	379	380.00-390.00	382.57
1	415	415	377.50	
5	455-490	465	335.00-380.00	367.02
5	505-525	513	320.00-360.00	345.37
16	550-590	573	261.00-370.00	350.21
2	600-605	603	305.00-316.00	310.48
9	681	681	307.00	
1	835	835	260.00	
2	887	887	250.00	
2	925	925	221.00	
1	1005	1005	187.00	

STEERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	475	475	370.00	
1	580	580	347.50	
5	643	643	319.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	170	170	425.00	425.00
1	230	230	435.00	435.00
7	265-288	281	390.00-420.00	398.00
6	300-332	319	372.50-385.00	378.67
5	315-340	329	400.00-417.00	407.66 Value Added
7	360-395	379	370.00-387.50	379.41
14	350-390	372	392.00-410.00	403.89 Value Added
11	427-443	440	362.00-370.00	365.97
31	437-445	439	381.50-395.00	384.15 Fancy
19	400-446	417	375.00-403.00	385.66 Value Added
16	455-492	473	340.00-363.00	356.19
30	450-485	465	365.00-385.00	374.52 Value Added
9	520-545	537	316.00-325.00	318.85
48	500-547	518	327.00-365.00	343.74 Value Added
16	565-590	571	295.00-319.00	309.59
14	551-568	561	322.50-366.00	344.39 Value Added
8	600-645	625	273.00-301.00	292.99
84	622	622	340.00	Fancy
19	600-635	611	309.00-330.00	323.98 Value Added
8	660-670	663	281.00-302.50	295.16
9	650-673	670	306.00-322.50	308.67 Value Added
21	707-728	721	262.50-273.00	269.52
8	750-767	765	252.00-254.00	253.75
2	810-835	823	205.00-208.00	206.52
9	817	817	257.00	Value Added
2	865	865	223.00	
1	965	965	191.00	
1	1035	1035	193.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	205	205	367.50	367.50

1	255	255	315.00	315.00
15	452-490	471	309.00-353.00	330.75
3	500-540	517	232.50-301.00	278.57
6	550-570	559	287.00-300.00	297.85
2	630-645	638	252.50-260.00	256.21
2	665-695	680	256.00-260.00	258.04
1	715	715	230.00	
4	760-795	778	227.00-235.00	230.91
1	955	955	187.50	

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	577	577	300.00	300.00
2	645	645	304.00	304.00
3	850-855	852	198.00-205.00	202.66
2	980	980	182.00	182.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	250-270	260	397.50-417.50	407.12
2	285-290	288	420.00-435.00	427.43 Fancy
3	300-315	308	399.00-410.00	403.93
3	341	341	422.50	422.50 Fancy
10	352-385	371	395.00-417.50	411.05
2	365-385	375	423.00-425.00	424.03 Fancy
8	400-445	408	389.00-410.00	404.46
5	410-438	429	417.50-425.00	421.11 Fancy
18	450-493	471	380.00-400.00	392.28
14	500-545	526	365.00-385.00	375.53
15	555-585	563	340.00-370.00	355.50
9	600-645	618	300.00-320.00	307.35
6	607-627	614	307.50-320.00	315.74 Value Added
4	650-695	671	293.00-305.00	298.85
7	655-682	670	287.50-302.00	294.90 Value Added
7	700-745	716	247.00-284.00	267.40
9	733	733	299.00	299.00 Fancy
6	760-795	773	247.00-261.00	252.48
4	800-845	811	221.00-258.00	248.37
1	940	940	189.00	189.00
1	1045	1045	174.00	174.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	265	265	372.50	372.50
1	330	330	350.00	
2	350-395	373	362.50-380.00	371.78
12	400-445	420	312.50-373.00	346.36
6	450-470	464	365.00-373.00	369.85
9	500-545	520	270.00-359.00	337.68
3	565-580	573	310.00	310.00
3	605-615	608	287.50-294.00	291.81
1	690	690	270.00	
6	750-795	769	220.00-245.00	232.80
2	860-875	868	175.00-177.00	175.99

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	465	465	370.00	370.00
1	560	560	361.00	361.00
1	645	645	311.00	311.00
1	915	915	177.00	177.00
1	1090	1090	174.00	174.00

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

STEERS - Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
16	1060-1710	1325	143.00-149.00	146.70
26	1195-1785	1514	150.00-162.00	154.27
2	1245-1325	1285	139.00-142.00	140.45

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
12	1045-1560	1271	141.00-149.00	145.32
35	1080-1505	1265	150.00-165.00	156.49
12	1010-1480	1230	129.00-141.00	137.13

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
25	785-1255	981	119.00-138.00	128.44
29	750-1290	1037	138.00-155.00	146.62
3	765-1035	898	97.50-114.00	108.14

DAIRY COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	1250	1250	135.00	135.00

BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
7	1060-1725	1283	159.00-185.00	172.10
9	1460-2040	1658	185.00-211.00	199.68
4	960-1475	1219	140.00-148.00	142.32

REPLACEMENT CATTLE

STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt
2-8	O	9	805-1340	1062

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)				
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt
2-8	T2	3	1100-1515	1303
2-8	T3	1	1390	1390

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)				
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt
2-8	T3	2	840-1280	1060

BRED COWS - Small and Medium 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)				
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt
2-8	T2	1	690	690

COW-CALF PAIRS - Small and Medium 2-3 w/ <150 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)				
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt
2-8	O	1	960	960

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
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Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, May 1, 2025 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS									
Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 4/24/2025									
Exchange	Commodity								
CBOT	Corn	464.25 (May 25)	472.25 (Jul 25)	437.25 (Sep 25)	447.25 (Dec 25)	461.75 (Mar 26)	471.00 (May 26)	476.75 (Jul 26)	

Izaak Walton League concerned about funding for conservation in farm bill

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

GAITHERSBURG, MD — Members of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) are concerned about portions of the proposed new farm bill. IWLA defines itself as a “a defender of this country’s soil, air, woods, water, and wildlife.”

“We care especially about Title II, which is the conservation title,” said Kate Hansen, IWLA’s Agriculture Program Director. “In that title you find programs that are incentivizing farmers, land owners, ranchers, to do beneficial practices. Our priority is to keep that title strong and ensure that those programs are well funded.”

Those Title II programs are entirely voluntary and are proven to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, improve wildlife habitat and more, Hansen said. Participants receive technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices.

Title II includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), designed to assist farmers in improving environmental quality, particularly water quality and soil conservation and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) which provides annual payments for operating and maintaining existing conservation efforts. The Conservation Reserve Program, (CRP) encourages farmers and landowners to convert highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover.

Those programs, especially CSP and EQIP, are underfunded and oversubscribed, according to data

from the USDA. Between 2010 and 2020, just 31 percent of farmers who applied to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and only 42 percent of farmers who applied to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) were awarded contracts.

The ratio of farmers who are going through an often extensive application process is a lot higher than those who are actually admitted into the program, Hansen said. It is not that the farmers are ineligible, there is simply not enough money in the pot.

“We would like to see a strong investment in those programs because we know there is demand across the country,” Hansen said. “About two-thirds of the people that wanted to apply, did the work of applying but were not funded. Farmers are raising their hand to do practices that would not only improve their land but will also improve drinking water of communities downstream of them, and improve wildlife habitat.”

In 2023, the latest year for which numbers are available, while Ohio did well with 71 percent of farmers approved for CSP funding, Indiana had only 45 percent, and Kentucky only 44 percent approved. Minnesota was even worse with just 12 percent of CSP applicants approved.

For EQIP funding the numbers are even worse. Ohio had only 30 percent of applicants approved. Indiana had 36 percent and Kentucky only 25 percent. In Mississippi, that number was just 8 percent.

The League is also pressing for innovation like their proposed State and Tribal Soil Health Grant pro-

gram, which they hope can be included in the farm bill. This grant program would make funding available for states and tribes to invest in soil health projects specific to their area.

“This would be a new program,” Hansen said. “In the last Congress, it was included in the active drafts of the Farm Bill and we hope it continues to be active this year. This would be a program that helps states and tribes invest in soil health projects.”

The resources would come from the federal government but states and tribes would also have some skin in the game, Hansen said. They would decide on local projects for soil health. Agriculture is different across the country and soil health strategies are going to look different, depending on the location.

“This would be a grant program,” Hansen said. “Eligible functions would include technical and financial assistance, on-farm research, education, outreach, and monitoring. We are trying to get a Farm Bill through because we know we need one and from our perspective, the State and Tribal Soil Health program would be an excellent policy piece in the new farm bill.”

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Antique Farm Equipment	170	Generators	230	Poultry	300
Antique Tractors	410	Goats	270	Rabbits	320
Augers	390	Grain Bins & Drying Equip.	480	Ratites	400
Buildings	50	Grinder-Mixers	550	Real Estate For Sale	160
Building Materials	200	Harvest Equipment	310	Real Estate Wanted	150
Bush Hogs	101	Hay & Straw	340	Recreational Vehicles	70
Cars	60	Hay Equipment	530	Seed Handling Equip.	370
Cattle	210	Help Wanted	30	Services	180
Combines & Pickers-Headers	490	Horses	290	Sheep	260
Custom Work	120	Industrial Equipment	100	Skid Steer Loaders	420
Dairy Equipment	330	Irrigation	430	Swine	250
Dogs-Cats	280	Lawn & Garden	460	Tillage (Plows, Discs, Etc.)	510
Farm Equipment Wanted	440	Livestock Equipment	220	Tractors	450
Farm Tires	470	Lumber	190	Trailers	90
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Fert./Chemical Appl. Equip.	380	Misc. Farm Equipment	560	Wagons	500
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48'x80'x14'

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Beware of text & phone solicitors. Don't be a victim.

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

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

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

A scammer will often try to pressure you into making a quick decision and to pay up front.

These are warning signs that should not be ignored!

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DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD OVER THE PHONE.

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Bill would help beginning farmers gain better access to land, funding

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Reps. Niki Budzinski (D-Ill.), Zach Nunn (R-Iowa), Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) recently introduced a bill that seeks to offer beginning and future farmers better access to land, funding, and essential resources.

The lawmakers said the New Producer Economic Security Act is aimed at launching a pilot program through the USDA to support those who have been farming for 10 years or less, and would establish a pilot program within the USDA’s Farm Service Agency.

“If we are going to revitalize and strengthen American agriculture going forward, we need to take steps now to ensure young farmers can succeed,” Budzinski said. “I’m proud to lead bipartisan legislation that will allow young and beginning farmers access land, markets, and capital – the biggest challenges for new farmers.”

Nunn said, “In Iowa, agriculture is the

backbone of our state, and our farmers are the backbone of agriculture. That’s why I’m fighting to ensure young and beginning farmers have the tools they need to access the credit necessary to purchase farmland. Young Americans who are willing to do the essential work to feed and fuel our world should be commended and supported however we can help.”

Michelle Hughes, National Young Farmers Coalition co-executive director, said, “The New Producer Economic Security Act comes at a time when farmers need us the most. The bill comprehensively addresses the greatest barriers young and beginning farmers face, while elevating local leadership, securing our domestic food system, and delivering material benefits for new producers.”

Lawmakers said this program, if included in the farm bill and funded through the appropriations process, “would be a meaningful opportunity to support young and beginning producers across the country with tangible outcomes for land access, retention, and

transition.”

Kristiana Coutu, Iowa State University’s (ISU) Beginning Farmer Center director and counsel for the ISU Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, told Farm World, “Support for beginning farmers to purchase land would be an eligible project under the program, including financial assistance for down payments and closing costs, and also assistance to obtain surveys and assess potential land purchases.

“Support to acquire farm transition planning is included, which is a key component of providing opportunities for new farmers,” she added.

Jason Grimm, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development executive director and owner of Grimm Family Farm in Williamsburg, Iowa, said, “New farmers or returning generations of the family farm support rural school districts, shop in local stores and attend community events. As a young farmer myself, my wife and I have chosen to set roots in our local community and send our three children to the local school dis-

trict in Williamsburg.

“But we need more support to ensure that we can gain long-term access to land to grow our farm business into a long-standing venture,” he added. “The proposed pilot program over 10 years would provide the necessary foundation for the USDA’s complimentary programs to create vibrant rural communities across Iowa, and the country.”

Amanda Koehler, National Young Farmers Coalition land policy associate director, said with the average U.S. farmer approaching 60 years old and nearly 40 percent of U.S. farmland close to changing ownership over the next two decades, “the next farm bill is our best chance at creating meaningful and lasting policy solutions to this daunting trend that keeps farmland out of reach for so many.

“Congress must act now to ensure that investment in secure and equitable land tenure for the next generation is progressed through the next farm bill,” she said.

New push to put whole milk back in school meals

(AP) – More than a dozen years after higher-fat milk was stripped from school meals to slow obesity in American kids and boost their health, momentum is growing to put it back.

Federal lawmakers have revived bills that would allow whole and 2 percent milk to be served again in schools, in addition to the skim and low-fat milk mandated since 2012. A U.S. Senate committee hosted a hearing in March on a bill that has bipartisan support.

“Kids need wholesome, nourishing food to grow strong and stay healthy, and whole milk is packed with the nutrients they need,” said Sen. John Fetterman, a Pennsylvania Democrat who is co-sponsoring the legislation.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has called the federal dietary guidelines requiring low-fat milk “antiquated” and last month encouraged “full fat/whole milk” to be used in Head Start programs for the nation’s youngest children.

The Obama-era move to require skim and low-fat milk in schools was aimed at cutting kids’ consumption of saturated fat and calories, which can increase the risk of heart disease and obesity.

But some nutrition experts, lawmakers and the dairy industry argue that whole milk has been unfairly vilified, and that some studies suggest kids who drink whole milk are less likely to have

obesity. Critics also contend that many children don’t like the taste of lower-fat milk and don’t drink it, leading them to miss valuable nutrients.

How are school meal guidelines set?

The USDA sets nutrition guidelines for the national school lunch and breakfast programs, which serve nearly 30 million students each school day.

The nutrition standards are required to meet the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which are reviewed and revised every five years. Since 1985, those guidelines have recommended that Americans older than age 2 consume low-fat or fat-free dairy.

The 2025-2030 dietary guidelines are set for revision this year under a joint effort by USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). A panel of scientific experts who reviewed evidence regarding milk fat content recommended that the U.S. policy remain the same.

One reason was that research has shown changes in the federal nutrition program after the 2010 law have slowed the rise in obesity among U.S. kids – even teenagers, said Deanna Hoelscher, a nutrition expert and researcher at the University of Texas Health Science Center who served on the dietary guidelines committee.

“We didn’t find enough definitive evi-

dence to change a policy that’s been in place that has shown good outcomes to date,” Hoelscher said.

Although there was limited evidence that consuming higher-fat dairy rather than lower-fat dairy could benefit very young children, there wasn’t enough evidence to make a conclusion for older kids and teens, she said. There were “substantial concerns” with the consistency, quantity and risk of bias in the existing research, the report concluded.

What’s behind the push for whole milk in schools?

Some nutrition experts point to recent research suggesting that kids who drink whole milk could be less likely to be overweight or develop obesity than children who drink lower-fat milk. One 2020 review of 28 studies suggested that the risk was 40 percent less for kids who drank whole milk rather than reduced-fat milk, although the study authors noted that the research couldn’t say whether milk consumption was the reason.

One top nutrition expert, Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian, of Tufts University, noted that the dietary guidelines panel found “no evidence that whole fat dairy is worse than low-fat dairy,” but they retained the recommendations, citing the need for more research.

“Saturated fat in dairy has not been linked to any adverse health outcomes,”

Mozaffarian said.

The pending bills in Congress stipulate that milk fat would not be considered as part of the saturated fat limits required in school meals. That’s because the saturated fatty acids in dairy have a different composition than beef fat, Mozaffarian said, adding that dairy has other beneficial compounds that could offset theoretical harms.

In addition, Mozaffarian noted current USDA guidelines ban whole milk but allow skim and low-fat chocolate and other flavored milk sweetened with added sugars. Last year, the USDA agreed to limit added sugars in school foods for the first time.

Dairy industry advocates say participation in school meals programs and consumption of milk have declined since whole milk was removed.

What’s next?

The USDA and HHS must issue new dietary guidelines this year. Kennedy and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins have said they are conducting “a line-by-line review” of the scientific report issued under the previous administration, but whether that means a new acceptance of whole milk remains unclear.

Versions of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act were pending in both chambers of Congress.

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'78 JD 4640, 6,830 hrs., 80% 20.8-38 Firestones, 3 rem, quad range, 3 pt., 14 front weights, super nice Indiana tractor! \$43,900



'75 JD 4430, cab, a/c, QR, 2 rem, 18.4-38's, Dunham-Lehr quick attach loader w/ 67" bucket, local tractor since new, runs good \$21,900



'13 CIH Magnum 290, 3060 hrs., PS, 3 pt., 5 rem, 480/80R50's, 1000 PTO, auto track ready. \$129,500



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'89 CIH 7140, local 2 owner since new, 18.4-42's (90%), 3 rem, QH, complete repaint, Nice!! \$74,900



'01 CIH MX240, 4,843 hrs., PS, 3 rem, mfw, 480/80R46 duals, 1000 PTO, very nice, excellent original paint, \$8k in recent updates \$74,900



'97 CIH 8940, 5,686 hrs., PS, QH, 3 rem, full weights, 18.4-46 duals, very nice Indiana tractor! \$98,500



'17 CIH 250 Magnum, 2,666 hrs., 18.4-46's, axle duals, guidance, 540/1000 PTO, Nice!! \$139,500



'16 CIH Farmall 110A, 1,336 hrs., 2 rem, 540/1000 PTO, 18.7-38s, 14.9-28s, fwd/rev shuttle, only used for mowing, NEW CIH L104 loader, euro coupler, 80" bucket . . . \$74,900

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'18 CIH Farmall 120C, 1,475 hrs, 2 rem, 3pt, 540 pto, mechanical shuttle, very nice! \$64,900



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'17 Mahindra eMax 25, 534 hrs, 25 hp, HST, 60" belly mower, very nice! \$14,900



'67 Farmall 756, gas, 2 rem, very nice!, new seat, new exhaust manifold, shifter repaired local one owner tractor. . . \$15,900



'99 Sterling SC8000, 31,496 miles, 5.9L Cummins, 6spd trans, spring susp, one owner truck, Nice!! \$11,900



'88 CIH 7120, 2wd, 2 reverse trans, 3 rem, 12 front weights, QH, 18.4-42" Firestones, 10 bolt axle duals, 9,292 hrs, retired farmer owned \$39,900



'15 McFarlane RD4035RB, reel disc, 35' width, single rolling basket, 3 bar spike drag \$24,900



2014 Mahindra Max 24, 105 hrs, hydro, loader, 540 pto, like new condition! . . . \$14,900



'99 Int'l. 8100, 850,590 miles, (10) new tires, alum. wheels, DOT checked, newer 20" stakeless steel grain bed, Shur-lok tarp, no rust, extra clean truck!!! \$59,500



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'18 CORMIDI C1500, 900 hrs, Kubota diesel, one owner, nice! \$21,900



'20 Case 580SN, 4x4, ext. hoe, 4 N 1 bucket, air ride seat, ride control, New tires! \$79,900



'14 Kinze 3000 6/11 splitter planter, full no-till, row cleaners, KPM monitor, bean meters, like new condition!! . . \$46,900



'97 JD 980, 35' width, danish tine, hyd fold, 5 bar spike drag. \$11,500



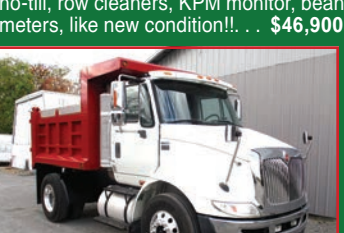
'94 Case 1840, 2653 hrs, bucket & forks, new tires, aux hyd. \$17,900



'96 Ford L8000, 89,684 miles, Cummins 8.3L, Allison auto, 10' steel dump, snow plow, Township owned, Nice!!... \$28,900



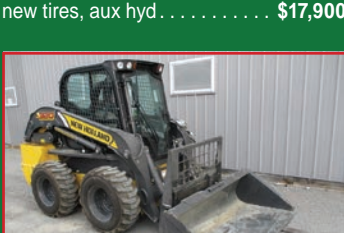
Choice of (2) 2015 Int'l. Prostars, N13, 450 hp, 10 spd., 3.70 ratio, air ride, Nice! \$34,900 each



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'23 Timp trailer, 40'x96'x66", electric tarp, power traps, air ride, alum outside whls, NEW trailer, never used \$61,900

South Korean grain buyers gain insight during locks tour in Illinois

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. – Eleven South Korean grain buyers waited patiently at the Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River on a blustery, cool late-April morning, hoping to see a barge pass through the nearly century old structure. The 600-foot lock, one of 27 located on the Mississippi River waterway system between St. Paul and New Orleans, underwent crucial repairs



Above: Peoria Lock and Dam lockmaster Matt Traver explains the workings of the Peoria dam's rare wicket-style gating to a group of 11 Korean grain buyers during a visit on April 30.

in 2020 but still lacks the necessary capacity to accommodate fully loaded barges.

Though the foreign buyers' patience wasn't rewarded with a barge lock-through, the Korean contingent learned plenty about how Peoria's rare, antiquated wicket-style dam operates and the need for continued infrastructure improvements on the waterway, which is essential to the movement of Midwest agricultural products to world markets.

"Most of our towboats are longer than 600 feet; we call that a double-lock hitch," Peoria Lock and Dam lockmaster Matt Traver told the contingent of Korean grain buyers who represented four major food buyers for Korean and other Asian Pacific markets. "A lot of our grain barges are 15 barges long, or about 1,140 feet. We will bring (them in) and tie them off to the wall, then actually uncouple six barges and the towboat and back them out of the lock chamber. Then we'll shut the gates and drop them down."

"Because those first six barges aren't attached to a towboat, we have to pull them out with a winch. We will then re-open the gates and repeat the process, then tie everything back together before they can head on downstream. This process can take two to three hours."

The decoupling and recoupling process can take twice as long when winter ice is prevalent in the river. On a normal day at the Peoria Lock and Dam, at least six hours are spent dai-



Above: US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District chief of operations Thomas Heinold (gesturing) is seen speaking with a group of Korean grain buyers visiting the Peoria Lock and Dam on April 30. Photos by Tim Alexander.

ly decoupling and recoupling barges due to the antiquated size of the lock passage. The cost of labor for barge workers and lock and dam employees during these downtimes is eventually passed on to the end users of the products being shipped.

"If you think about another couple of hours at every lock between St. Paul, Minn., and (the Gulf of Mexico), that's days of time, and this is costing these

barge companies something probably in the order of \$20,000 per day," said Thomas Heinold, chief of operations for the Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, who supervised the Peoria visit. "We're talking about fuel, maintenance, food, salaries for the towboat operators and deckhands... time is money."

(South Korean continued on page 2B)

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South Korean

FROM PAGE 1B

The constant decoupling-recoupling process also puts undue stress on all moving parts of the circa-1938 structure, which is one of only three wicket-type dams still operating in the United States. “If we had a 1,200-foot lock chamber, it would be in-and-out,” Traver said.

Heinold noted that though the Peoria Lock and Dam will eventually receive an upgrade to a 1,200-ft lock chamber, construction will likely not occur until sometime in the 2030s at earliest.

During 2024, 21,417.3 metric tons of cargo were locked through the Peoria Lock and Dam, according to its lockmaster. These products included soybeans, corn, distillers dried grains and ethanol. Petroleum and chemicals are often sent upstream to the Joliet-Chicago area.

“We have ADM, a huge ethanol plant, right upriver, so we get a lot of corn going in there and then DDGs and cattle feed headed south from there,” Traver said. “We also have across the river from here a railyard and elevators so they will load the barges there, configure them, and then head either up or down river.”

There are always at least two workers on site at the Peoria Lock and Dam 24-7. The secure government area cannot be visited by the public without clearance by the U.S. Army Corps

Right: Guy H. Allen, an ag economist who served as guide and driver for a group of 11 Korean food buyers, shares a laugh with Haena Choi, a food and grains purchaser for global shipping company Pan Ocean, at the Peoria Lock and Dam.

of Engineers Rock Island, Illinois District. One of the jobs of the dam attendants is to ensure that the miter gates, which received an upgrade in 2024, continue to function as they should.

“We had a (separate) major overhaul in 2020 and they actually put bulkheads across the lock chamber, dewatered the lock chamber and did a bunch of preventive maintenance including new gate hinges and a lot of resurfacing,” Traver said.

The Korean grain buyers were in the Midwest to help inform their long-range purchasing decisions for their companies, according to Guy H. Allen, senior agricultural economist at Kansas State University, who served as tour guide and driver for the contingent. “They are here to buy for Korea primarily, but in the commodity market everything trades,” said Allen, who grew up in nearby Delavan, Ill.

Undeterred by not seeing a lock-through, Allen guided the visitors back into the extended passenger van to head to their next stop: the Melvin Price Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

“I’m confident we’ll see a lock-through there,” Allen said. “I usually have pretty good luck.”



Halderman announces creation of North Central Indiana Team

The Halderman Company has announced the North Central Indiana Team for enhanced client service.

The Halderman Companies is proud to announce a new collaboration among its experienced area representatives, who will now operate as a unified team to better serve landowners in North Central Indiana. While each representative remains committed to their local clients, this new approach enhances their ability to provide seamless farm management and farmland sales services through shared resources and a combined 82 years of expertise. The team, consisting of Larry Jordan, AJ Jordan, Emma Barr and Brandon Stroble, will be committed to serving farm families in the areas of Miami, Howard, Grant, Cass, Fulton, Pulaski, Carroll, Wabash, Tipton and

Madison counties.

“The Halderman Companies announce the creation of the North Central Indiana Team. This team brings a dynamic mix of experienced veterans and energetic, enthusiastic youth to the marketplace. They will offer farm management, real estate sales and appraisals via a team structure that will enhance the client experience, improve efficiency and be more effective for the marketplace. We look forward to developing new relationships and opportunities throughout north central Indiana.”

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Next full moon is May 12

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

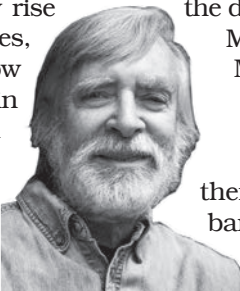
the dates listed below are:
May 10: 25 percent
May 15: 15 percent

The Planets of May
Venus lies in Pisces this month; rising after midnight as the huge Morning Star in the east, accompanied by Saturn, before dawn. Jupiter is in Taurus, the Evening Star is visible in the far west at sun-down. Mars is the red planet of these evenings, following Jupiter in Cancer.

The Moon of May
May 12: Full Moon
May 20: Last Quarter
May 27: New Moon

Weather Trends
This week, the chances of clear to partly cloudy skies jump from the 55 percent of the last three days all the way to 90 percent.
That makes May 14 one of the two sunniest days in the month. With all the blue sky, chances of 80s are 15 percent, of 70s 40 percent, and of 60s 25 percent, leaving only 15 percent for cooler 50s and 5 percent for 40s.
And from today forward, the chances of a day above 70 degrees are better than 50/50 for the first time since the year began.
Thunderstorms often occur with the increasing likelihood of heat. Despite the fact that the skies are rarely totally overcast, showers pass through on this date one year in three.

Frostwatch
Between May 1 and June 1, only a few mornings of light frost occur in Ohio. Chances of freezing temperatures after



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

Natural Calendar
When apple blossoms fall, then the first sweet rocket, flea-bane, sweet Cicely, daisy, fire pink, common plantain, white clover, chamomile, black medic, star of Bethlehem, lily-of-the-valley, sweet William, meadow goat's beard, May apple, and wood sorrel almost

always open. The woods are filled with garlic mustard, green and white among the still bare trees. It's the best time of all for blue forget-me-not, golden ragwort, water cress, wild geranium, miterwort, swamp buttercup, late toad trillium, late trillium grandiflorum, late winter cress, white spring cress and the wild purple phlox.

Mock orange and strawberries come into full bloom when the last crabapple petals are gone. A few early poppies and peonies unravel then. Early iris and lupines are budding. Astilbe and clematis have formed flower heads. Summer hostas are eight to 10 inches tall. Ferns, daylilies, comfrey, summer phlox have reached almost 2 feet. In the parks, the paths are thick with violets.

Mayflies are out along the water. Bullfrogs call. Minnows and chubs are flushed red for their mating season. Flea time begins for pets, a sign that insect activity is nearing the economic threshold on the farm. Spitbugs grow in the shelter of swamp

parsnips, announcing that the first cut of hay will soon be underway. The first small groups of monarch butterflies that left Texas in February cross the Ohio River. Flies become pesky in the

(Poor Will continued on page 11B)

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\$250,000 or \$9,622/acre

26+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

APRIL 22, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

• Warren County, Indiana

• Tillable | WAPI 126.3

Owner: Taylor, et al.

SOLD

SOLD PRIOR TO AUCTION

89+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

MAY 13, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

• Warren County, Indiana

• Tillable farmland

Owner: Christman, et al.

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Adjacent to Greystone Equestrian

64+/- ACRES • 1 TRACT

MAY 20, 2025 • 10 AM - 3 PM EST

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• Potential Homesites

Owner: Najmon, et al.

Adjacent to Purdue University

Airport & Aerospace Research Park

Potential for Development

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Bidding Closes JUNE 24th 10 AM EST

• Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Owner: Godlewski, et al.

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Commercial buildings

and timber

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110+/- ACRES •

COMING SOON

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• Sealed Bid & Roundtable Auction

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AUGUST 4TH

56 percent of farm advisors in survey expect cover crop acres to grow

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

An April 15 webinar focused on results of the eighth National Cover Crop Survey, conducted by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). A total of 650 respondents from 47 states participated in the most recent survey, which was the first to include farm advisors. The survey provides plenty of insight on advisors' attitudes on cover crops, how they acquire their scientific information and how producers might take advantage of incentive and assistance programs for cover crop production.

Among the highlights: The survey showed that 56.9 percent of farm advisors polled expect to see cover crop acreage continue to increase. In addition, the advisors expect farmers to continue increasing their use of cover crop mixes (46.7 percent) and combining other soil health practices with cover crops (52.9 percent).

"Our advisors ranged from soil and water district and local NRCS personnel, to nonprofits, seed dealers and folks at ag retail," said Ryan Heiniger, executive director of CTIC. These advisors included 56 from Illinois, 30 from Indiana and 41 from Ohio. "We had a tremendous response rate, with some 77 percent identified as certified crop advisors."

Heiniger added, "We also observed that seeing is believing, which is borne

out by the fact that approximately 70 percent of the respondents who farm themselves use cover crops on their own operations, and those cover crop users are more inclined to advise their clients on the practice."

Other survey highlights included:

The advisors who used cover crops on their own farms were five times more likely to recommend cover crops to farmers not yet using them, compared to advisors who did not farm with cover crops themselves.

Advisors using cover crops on their own farms tended to have a much higher percentage of clients using cover crops — 22.3 percent of the advisors who use cover crops themselves reported 25-50 percent of their clients are using covers, compared to 9.1 percent at the same level of adoption among clients of advisors who did not personally use cover crops.

The farm advisors surveyed used a wide range of information sources to learn about cover crops. Advisors who reported that they learned about cover crops on the job rather than through formal academic or training channels preferred training sessions (63.9 percent) and webinars (57.4 percent) for learning new cover crop insights, but also liked learning from farmers one-on-one (58.3 percent) and by visiting field trials (30.6 percent).

Looking ahead, the advisors expected a moderate amount of interest in newer cover crop topics like planting green (29.2 percent), grazing cover crops (32.2 percent), and others.

"Cover crops have served as a valuable tool for producers in achieving specific environmental and economic goals," said Andy LaVigne, president and CEO of ASTA. "Whether you are addressing concerns affecting your operation or seeking the environmental or economic impacts associated with the use of cover crops, the seed industry remains committed to ensuring that farmers and landowners have access to high quality, professionally produced seed to achieve your goals on your operation."

Rob Myers, an Illinois farmer, cover crop "guru" and regional director of extension programs for North Central Region SARE, discussed survey results pertaining to barriers to cover crop usage. "These perceptions are driving farmers' decision-making," he said. "The two big ones are the economic return (73 percent). There are questions from those who have not yet used them about whether they are going to pay off, and that is understandable."

The potential for yield reduction of the following-year cash crop was also a concern of 54 percent of respondents asked to name barriers to cover crop adaptation. Increased production risk was named by 31 percent. Time and labor involved was also cited by 73 percent of respondents.

"We can look at our past cover crop surveys of farmers to see quite a bit of economic data that actually does show that cover crops pay off, especially after the first two or three years," said Myers. "This is a perception that holds some

farmers back. The time and labor issue has been addressed by some farmers who use cover crops. They are hiring their ag retailer to put on their cover crop or aerial applicator. We are starting to see cover crops applied by drones, and farmers are providing the service of seeding cover crops for their neighbors."

Heiniger said that he is hopeful that many of the farmers who were initially reluctant to try cover crops but have now been planting them for years will step into leadership advisory roles for the next generation of conservation-minded farmers. "40 percent of the farmers who responded to our last survey had 10 years on the job with expertise in delivering cover crops on their farms. I still believe they represent a huge untapped level of intellectual property to help us to expand and other farmers be successful in their adoption of cover crops," he said.

"Data collected shows us that interest remains strong and further emphasizes the valuable role cover crops can play in farm systems," said LaVigne. "The benefits afforded to producers through conservation practices, including the use of cover crops, depend on the right seed tailored to the specific goals and conditions of each unique farming operation."

For more information on the CTIC/SARE/ASTA National Cover Crop Survey Report 2024-2025, visit https://www.ctic.org/data/Cover_Crops_Research_and_Demonstration_Cover_Crop_Survey

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National register looking for biggest trees in the country

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Do you have a really big tree on your farm? In your neighborhood? If so, the University of Tennessee wants to know about it as it might be a National Champion Tree. Currently, the biggest tree in the country is General Sherman, a giant Sequoia on the West Coast. It's over 27 feet in diameter.

The National Champion Tree Program (NCTP) recently announced the new Register of Champion Trees, the first since 2021. In 2023 the program moved from the American Forests to the University of Tennessee (UT) School of Natural Resources. UT has spent the past year working

with state-level Champion Tree Programs to update records and verify newly crowned champions. The new Register can be found online nation-alchampiontree.org.

The program was started in the 1940s when American Forests was a nonprofit. In 2021 they realized it no longer aligned with their larger organizational goals, said Jaq Payne, NCTP director at UT. They took a couple of years searching for a new home for the program before selecting UT.

Payne had been running the Tennessee Champion Tree Program for a while. Most states have champion programs, but some are not well funded and not very active. The trees are so cool and interesting that Payne thought the program had more potential.

"I thought we could be doing more

with public education engagement," he said. "We put together a marketing plan and started a social media campaign. That immediately doubled the amount of nominations that we were receiving. Once we expanded our reach, and did the social media campaign, we saw over 100 nominations from really broad areas where people previously had not heard of the program."

The trees are sorted by species in the 2024 register. It also lists which ones are publicly accessible. It is a list of the largest documented trees of each species in the continental United States. Puerto Rico recently joined the program. They will be included in the next register. A register is done every two years. There will be some changes in 2026, Payne said.

"We have expanded the list of eligible species to over 1,200 now," Payne said. "We are including for the first time what I am calling culturally important non-native species just because these might be the biggest species, especially in an urban environment, that somebody gets to encounter."

There is some controversy because the program is honoring some invasive species, Payne said. However, it is a rule that a tree must be a state champion before becoming a national champion. So, states will have control over what gets honored in their state.

The goal is to document all the

largest trees of a species and some of those champions are very small, Payne said. They are only impressive if you know how big those trees usually get. The two smallest are co-champion Southern Bayberries in Virginia.

"In the photos, the arborist's hand is wrapped around the trunk so it is not very big in diameter," Payne said. "They don't look remarkable unless you know what a Southern Bayberry usually looks like."

"All of the champion trees, large or small, get one point for each foot of height, one point for each inch of circumference, and a quarter-point for each foot of crown spread," he said. "So those little ones both have 24 points and General Sherman has 1,325 points – quite a range."

Each state has its own Champion Tree register. By comparison, in Indiana, the largest tree on the register is a Silver Maple in Lawrence County. It is 103 feet tall, has a trunk circumference of 361 inches, and an average canopy spread of 106 feet. Its total score is 490.5, said Jacob Roos, community & urban forestry director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

"We maintain our own list that is separate from the National Champion list but we use all the same measuring standards that the National Champion list does," Roos said. "We

(National continued on page 13B)




Above: Brian Kelley, of the Gathering Growth Foundation, stands by a Magnolia acuminata, the National Champion Cucumber Magnolia that grows in Ohio. Please credit Brian Kelley



Above: The Champion Joshua tree, Yucca Brevifolia. Joshua trees are scattered throughout the mid-elevations of the Mojave Desert.

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Time to prepare calves for weaning this fall

With most calves in the Midwest born in late winter and spring, May and June are ideal times to start the process of preparing your calves for weaning this fall.

If your bull calves were not castrated at birth, do it now. There are numerous advantages to castrating bull calves before 3 months of age compared to at or near weaning. Castration at any age is stressful, and the older the bull gets, the more stress on him. The meat is more tender from calves castrated early and has more marbling. Dr. Dan Thomson of “Doc Talk” said, “The longer the testicles are attached to the calf, the more the calf becomes attached to his testicles.”

The ads that tout “leave them bulls until weaning and capture the free testosterone effect” are only giving you half the story. A bull calf at weaning will weigh about 5# more than his steer mate that was castrated early, BUT the bull calf castrated at weaning loses weight for nearly two weeks after the surgery, while the calf castrated early keeps on gaining.

Want to capture that lost 5# and 16 more pounds? Use a suckling calf implant on all steers when they are castrated at 60-120 days of age. These growth implants that cost less than \$2 will add 21# on average to your weaning weights. With 500# feeder steers projected to sell for \$333/cwt. this fall, adding 21# of weaning weight will net you \$44 (the price includes the price slide of \$30/cwt of five weight steers). What a tremendous return on investment! Can you imagine going to the bank, handing the teller \$2, and 90 days later getting \$44?

On heifers, there is no benefit to implanting a heifer that you know is a keeper. If she is a “maybe” or she is destined for the feedlot, implant her as long as she is over 45 days of age.

There are many implant choices, so be sure to check with your herd health veterinarian to get a low-dose, suckling calf implant.

Now is an ideal time to get the first round of vaccinations into your young calves. This is another area where there are too many choices. You want to use a modified live vaccine that helps prevent Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) that your herd health veterinarian recommends. If your doctor has questions on this subject, please have them contact me.

Blackleg is a common disease in many parts of the Midwest, and the vaccines for this disease are very effective. Now is the time to vaccinate. There are also vaccines to help protect against pinkeye.

Who hates flies? If your cows could talk, they would be shouting, “I do. I do.” Fly control is a multi-faceted process. If you started feeding a fly control product in your mineral starting about April 15 in Central Indiana, good job. If not, I would still start it

BEEF HERD HEALTH

BY W. MARK HILTON, DVM

now. The insecticide in the mineral passes through the cow’s digestive system and ends up in the manure. Horn flies lay eggs in the manure, and the larvae die before they hatch. Call your feed supplier for recommendations.

Insecticide ear tags are helpful in providing a few months of fly control. You should tag all cows and calves – and don’t forget the bulls – for best results. It is ideal to rotate between pyrethroid, organophosphate and avermectin tags each year. Wait until an adult cow has about 200 horn flies on her – that number would fit on the palm of your hand – before tagging. Placing them too early will greatly shorten their effectiveness.

Be sure to cut them out in the fall and dispose of them so your dog cannot get into them.

I also recommend a pour-on for a quick knockdown of the flies. Do not use one of the pour-on dewormers as overuse of these can lead to parasite resistance. Use a pyrethroid product.

Speaking of dewormers, the current recommendation is to only de-

worm cows and bulls 4 years of age and under and/or those in Body Condition Score (BCS) 4 or lower on a 9-point scale. Cows develop some immunity to internal parasites as they mature, and those worms in your 6-year-old cow in BCS 5.5 that calves first cycle every year must not be too harmful. The “old” recommendation was “worms are bad; kill them all.” The problem is that nothing is 100 percent effective, and we have developed worms resistant to anthelmintics. Strategic deworming is the “new” way of thinking, and it makes a lot

of sense. Hold off on deworming your calves until weaning. They will have very few worms in their system at 60-120 days. By weaning time, they will have picked up a significant number of worms, and they will have developed almost no immunity to them. Treating all calves at weaning is recommended. I have mentioned many different products in this article. Please contact your herd health veterinarian for recommendations. They know what products are the best fit for your area.

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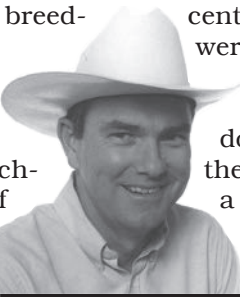
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Questions, answers about breeding mules

Questions, answers about breeding mules

Some acquaintances accidentally attended the big Mule Days celebration in Bishop, Calif., and after watching these marvelous beasts of burden in races, obstacle courses and packing competitions, they came home with the idea that they were going to chuck their good paying jobs and start breeding mules. I guess no one told them mules are sterile.

After they got back from Bishop, they told me all the wonderful ways that a mule is the most magnifi-



It's THE PITTS
By Lee Pitts

cent animal on earth and they were under the impression that there's a shortage of them. I pleaded with them not to do anything rash but they sold their beautiful home and bought a 20-acre ranchette near "Death Valley," which should have been their first clue that this would not be the best investment they ever made. Somehow, I became their unpaid consultant on their new venture and my phone rang off the hook with questions.

Their first question was, "If the mule is sterile how do we actually go about having baby mules?"

"To get a mule you must cross a male donkey with a female horse," I explained. "The male donkey is often also referred to in historical documents as a wild ass jack." This should have been their second clue that this would not end well.

"So if we understand you correctly, we can't get another mule by breeding two mules?" they asked somewhat belatedly.

"That is correct."

About two months later they asked, "We did what you suggested and bought a male donkey and a female horse but how do you physically get a three-foot donkey to breed a six-foot-tall horse?"

"First of all, I never suggested you buy either a donkey or a horse. But now that you are already in over your heads, I see two ways you might get your donkey to breed your mare. You could either build a three-foot-tall mounting platform or you could find a steep hill, face the mare in a downhill direction and place the donkey on top the hill from whence he could mount his attack, so to speak."

Two months later I received my last call. "We've decided that breeding mules is just too hard so we're moving to Texas. Would you take our donkey and our mule off our hands for free if we delivered them to you this Saturday?" they begged.

I felt sorry for them so in a weak moment I agreed to take the ass family off their hands. "But I'll be at a bull sale this weekend so just leave them in my old horse trailer at the ranch."

Sunday morning, I went to see the latest members of my menagerie. The donkey was shaking like a Chihuahua trying to pass a peach pit and hiding in the manger of the trailer, but the only evidence of the mule was the kicked-out tailgate.

I sold the Methodist Church on the idea that they needed a real live donkey in the nativity scene at their Christmas pageant and they agreed to take the donkey off my hands. I'm told that dealing with that donkey really tested the Methodist's faith and vocabulary.

I never did see or hear about the missing mule. I figure he'd departed for Amish country 2,000 miles away where he'd be more appreciated, or he escaped into the big state park where he's done great work in reducing the mountain lion, bear and rattlesnake populations. But he still could be in the vicinity and might cause a wreck on the highway. Because at this point the legal ownership of the mule is not crystal clear, I figured the relatives of anyone killed in a car wreck would go after the deepest pockets, which would be me after my ex-friends lost everything trying to get mules to breed.

So I tightened the biosecurity at the ranch by putting in a more substantial entry gate with a padlock the size of a dinner plate so the mule could not reenter the ranch, and to discourage my former friends from adding to what they now perceived as a sanctuary for long-ears, and so the Methodists couldn't offload a donkey they were now praying to God to be rid of.

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Walk pastures to check for new growth, weeds

I'm glad that May has finally arrived. For me, it's been a wet and somewhat stormy spring so far. If you haven't done it already, it's a really good idea

to walk your pastures before grazing them for the first time. You can use your ATV if you prefer, but I'd rather see you walking and observing closely rather than taking quick glances and a joyride. It wouldn't hurt to take some pictures to compare current conditions to other time periods.

First, assess how much new growth is present in each paddock or field. The amount can be deceiving unless you actually step into it. Ideally, take a yardstick with you and measure the average height of the new forage. For most cool-season forages, I like to see at least eight-to-10 inches of growth prior to grazing. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but it's important to rebuild green vegetative "solar panel" and ensure energy is returning to the roots, as much of the initial spring growth has already used it.

You'll typically notice some differences in growth from field to field. This is perfectly normal, and we've recently discussed some of these differences. Fields that were grazed harder last fall, especially before dormancy, are often a bit delayed in their spring growth. This is expected because grazing reduced energy storage for spring green-up. However, this can be useful if you're interseeding or frost-seeding clovers because there's less competition.

Fields that are grazed later in the fall or early winter typically experience more growth in the spring, unless they were grazed very short, especially during the winter. When grazed heavily, the plants rely on their energy reserves to regrow, but they also need to use those reserves to grow new roots along with new leaves. Prolonged close grazing can damage the roots, leading to root die-back. As a result, these fields need time to recover and regenerate both their roots and leaves.

The amount of live roots at any given time is roughly equivalent to the amount of live or dormant leaf matter left above ground (residual). Taller, well-maintained plants typically have deeper root systems, while shorter, closely grazed plants have more shallow roots. Early in the year, especially with plenty of moisture, you may not think about the potential issues with short roots. But when the hotter, drier days of summer arrive,

GRAZING BITES

BY VICTOR SHELTON,
RETIRED NRCS AGRONOMIST/
GRAZING SPECIALIST

the deeper roots will play a critical role in accessing moisture and nutrients lower in the soil profile.

Fields that were stockpiled last fall, grazed post-dormancy, and not grazed too short generally respond very well in the spring and are often among the first fields ready for grazing. These stockpiled fields can take the abuse of wet weather better than fields that were grazed too closely early on and continued grazing under wet conditions. Short, tight grazing in wet conditions often increases compaction, which negatively impacts new growth in the spring. If this happens regularly, these fields may begin to transition to forages that are more tolerant of close grazing and compacted soils, such as bluegrasses and white Dutch clover. In fact, if compacted, you may notice bluegrass going to seed earlier than usual. Take the time to observe and reflect – what has been happening in a particular field?

Fields that were not stockpiled but were not grazed much in the fall and allowed to recover over the winter will likely have the most new spring growth. These fields had ample time to rebuild reserves last fall – perhaps from mid-October on or longer. Even though some areas were drier than usual, the long recovery relieved much of the stress on those forages and allowed them to send energy reserves to the roots. The "solar panel" left throughout fall continued to pump energy into the roots, helping them grow. When you look at these fields this spring, the forage should be dense, rich and growing well. If you dig down, you'll find plenty of live roots extending deep into the soil profile. These fields will not only be productive for early grazing but will also be in better shape to handle the hotter, drier conditions that will come later – as long as we don't overgraze them in the meantime.

I encourage you to take a close look at your pastures. This is a good practice whether you've not started grazing yet this year, already have or never stopped. Think about what you can do to improve forage growth and quality this growing season. Adequate recovery before grazing is typically beneficial for increased productivity.

If you frost-seeded clover into established stands earlier this year, light to moderate grazing can help release the interseeded legumes and reduce competition from dominant grasses. Careful grazing management helps the clover establish, in-

tegrate into the pasture system, and boost nitrogen fixation, which enhances overall pasture productivity and soil health. You want to remove just enough competition to open up the sward and allow more light to reach the young clover seedlings, being careful not to overgraze or remove the newly seeded legumes.

Spring is a critical time for controlling weeds in your pastures. Weeds can quickly take hold when pastures are grazed too short or are stressed from overgrazing. Dense, healthy forage will naturally help suppress weed growth, but you should be proactive in identifying and dealing with problem weeds early. Spot grazing can help manage weed patches, and targeted herbicide application is useful if you have particularly aggressive species. Always be mindful of your overall pasture health and ensure that weed control methods don't harm beneficial plants or soil quality.

Look for common problem weeds like thistles or perennial broadleaf weeds that can outcompete your desired forage. If you catch them early, you can prevent them from seeding and spreading throughout the pasture. However, it's important not to over-graze areas with weeds, as it can make the problem worse. Healthy pasture management, along with smart weed management practices, will reduce weed pressure while promoting strong, productive pastures.

Grass tetany (hypomagnesemia) is

a serious condition that can affect livestock in the early spring, especially when they begin grazing lush, new growth. Rapidly growing grass is often high in potassium and low in magnesium, which can disrupt magnesium absorption and lead to tetany. To prevent grass tetany, it's a good idea to provide a high-magnesium mineral supplement (typically 10-20 percent) until the flush of new forage is past. If you have concerns or need further advice, reach out to your local extension service or veterinarian for more information on effectively managing grass tetany.

It's not about maximizing a single grazing event but optimizing the entire grazing season. Observe, plan and keep on grazing.

Reminders & Opportunities

Pasture Ecology Workshop – June 18, Southern Indiana Purdue Agriculture Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. Registration is \$40. Register online under the events tab www.indianabeef.org or www.indianaforage.org. Pastures are not just a one-dimensional system used to support grazing livestock. Healthy pastures are full of life both above and below the soil surface. In this day-long pasture ecology class, we will look at the entire pasture system and all the life it supports above and below the growing forages. Direct questions to towerj@purdue.edu or 812-678-4427.

Please send comments or questions to grazingbites@gmail.com.

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Thanks for reading
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Poor Will

FROM PAGE 3B

mild afternoons.

Journal

From this space in the year, you can travel to the whole range of early, middle and late spring. For just a few days, all those seasons lie out totally accessible to anyone who will go to see them. You travel to the Canadian border now, you will find the ice has broken up on the lakes. The first cottonwoods are budding there. The first crocus, the first daffodil and tulip foliage is pushing out of the ground.

So far north, it is still the first weeks of earliest spring. Gaining on spring at the rate of approximately one day for every 30 miles south, you will see the grass showing color and by Minneapolis, it's the first of April. A few daffodils are in bloom, and forsythia is out and willows glow. Through Pennsylvania, down to West Virginia, the tree line comes alive with golds and pale greens. Approaching the Border States the intensity of coloration grows with each mile, all the winter branches filling in.

Below the Ohio River, late May's clover time comes into flower, first the white, then pink, then the tall, sweet clovers into South Carolina. The canopy closes in and loses its early brilliance by the time you pass into southern Georgia. In Mobile, Ala., the leaves are full size. Mulleins and thistles and lilies are open, and you know for sure you've seen all of spring, well a little bit of all of it.

Almanack Literature

In Defense of Dodging Work

Tips from an Experienced Procrastinator

By Sara B. Conway

Been practicing nigh onto 68 years. When I was a wee young-un, Mama would say, "When you're through playing with your toys, pick up and put them away neatly."

Soon's I was done, I'd scoop 'em up and toss them into a heap under the bed when she wasn't lookin'.

We were given farm chores to do soon's we got big enough. Mine was to gather eggs from the henhouse and not dally about it. But when I'd get amongst the cacklin' old biddies, the devil would get into me.

I'd learned how to put a chicken to sleep by tuckin' its silly head under a wing, then swingin' it 'round and 'round. Sure did something to 'em, 'cause when I'd set 'em down, they'd stay put for the longest time.

It was fun to see how many I could get settin' in a row at a time. 'Course this ruckus got an egg or two busted, and I'd have to carefully do away with the evidence.

When I'd get the egg basket to the house, Mama would ask what took me

so long, and I'd say something like, "Aw, that dang, fool, old, speckled dominecker hid her nest out in the chicken yard again. Like to of never found it!"

When our corn got 'bout tall as I was, Daddy would send me to the field with my sack of seed beans and a hoe. I was supposed to plant the whole sack of seeds, hoeing in three or four seeds around each stalk of corn, so's they'd have something to grow on.

Mid-morning, that sun would get hot, the corn leaves would itch my skin something fierce, and the rows of corn would seem longer and longer. Besides, there was a pond nearby, water just right for a coolin' swim.

After planting for hours one day, the bean sack seemed 'bout as full as it was when I started, and I decided I'd done planted enough beans to feed several counties, so I'd just up and get rid of the rest.

At the end of a row, I spied me a humongous big flat rock. With the hoe handle I pried it 'bout halfway up and dumped the sack under, scooping some soil over so's not to leave any telltale sign.

I'd have got by with this, too, if about two weeks later Daddy hadn't decided to check out the crop, and happened to stroll by the rock. Laws a'mercy! About a hundred or so of them beans had sprouted out from under that rock and was agrowin' all over it.

Got me a good bottom tannin' then, I'm here to tell you.

Mama hoped when I'd got older some of my orneriness would wear off, but even after I'd married Henry, I'd still have days when I'd goof off.

Especially when I was readin' a novel so sizzlin' I just couldn't put it down. Then suppertime would slip up on me. It would be time for Henry to come in hollerin', "What's cookin'?" and by heck, I wouldn't have the foggiest notion what supper was gonna be.

I eventually learned a good trick to stay out of trouble. I'd take me a big old apron, stuff its pocks full of cleanin' articles, and keep it handy. I'd plug in the vacuum and let it stand at the ready.

Say suddenly I heard Henry at the front door, I'd quick-like don my apron, turn on the vacuum and go to the head of the stairs and call down hurriedly, "Be right down, hon, soon's I finish up here."

Then with the trusty old vacuum hummin' busily, I'd quick-like smooth the bed covers and fluff up the pillows I'd been lollin' on all afternoon. Then I'd hurry down to rattle them pots and pans to fix a slightly late supper.

Dear Henry never caught on, or, I don't think he did, 'cause I often heard him braggin' about the workin' old lady he was hitched up with.

It's my theory everybody should have days when he just forgets the humdrum daily rituals and lets it all hang out. One thing for sure, the things we leave undone won't go away. They will be right there waiting for us when we do come out of it.

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Aug.	8/13	7/30
Sept.	9/10	8/27
Oct.	10/8	9/24
Nov.	11/12	10/29
Dec.	12/10	11/26

FOUND ON THE FARM		
2025	Auction Date	Equipment Due
Jun.	6/12	5/28
Jul.	7/10	6/25
Aug.	8/14	7/30
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Spring rains mean high waters; which can be dangerous for boats

With the warm days of spring and accompanying heavy rains, Indiana rivers and streams undergo a radical change. What was once a slow meandering waterway can quickly be changed into a nightmare of Class 4 and 5 rapids.

Unfortunately, many take the high waters as a chance to take a “wild ride” on the river. That can be a choice leading to a tragic outcome.

Two extreme dangers during times of high water on our Midwest rivers are low-head dams and sweepers.

Any dam on a river constitutes a constant danger as the water below the dam circulates boats or human bodies in a constant circular motion back to the face of the dam. This very situation during a scheduled conservation officers’ river rescue training claimed the life of Sgt. Karl Kelly when his boat engine malfunctioned. The boat was pulled back under the discharge of the dam and capsized. The rotating current below the dam repeatedly pulled Kelly under. Despite wearing a topline personal flotation vest and with assisting officers on the scene, Kelly died from the encounter with the dam’s tail waters.

Low-head dams on a river can kill even the most experienced rough water expert.

Sweepers are more common, but can be just as deadly. A sweeper is when a large tree falls across the river and stays there. Water rushing through the submerged limbs can flip a boat and pin occupants underwater. Drowning is eminent, as the power of the water holds the boats occupants submerged against the limbs.

Indiana Conservation Officers issue a stern warning against challenging flooded rivers with a canoe, kayak or any raft or boat. Stay away!

A good guideline is... “If The Water Is Brown, Turn Around.”

Vernon completes trail construction

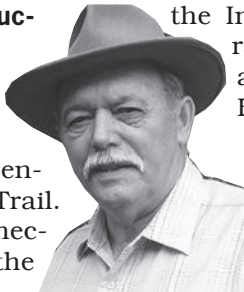
On April 26, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the town of Vernon celebrated the opening of the Muscatatuck Park Trail.

“Trails provide vital connections between people and the places where we live, work, and play,” said Dale Briener, DNR deputy director of community grants and trails. “This new trail in Vernon will help connect people with more outdoor recreation opportunities in their own community, and we’re honored that DNR and Next Level Trails were able to partner on this project.”

The 1.25-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by the town of Vernon with help from a \$1.86 million Next Level Trails (NLT) grant. The award was announced in February 2021 as part of the second grant round of NLT.

The new trail consists of two contiguous but distinct segments in the town of Vernon. A 0.5-mile natural-surface mountain bike and hiking trail will connect the town of Vernon to Vinegar Mill Overlook in Muscatatuck Park. Within Vernon, a 0.75-mile asphalt trail will connect Vernon Gym to Vernon Commons, a historic park. Partners include Jennings County Parks and Recreation Department and Jennings County Community Foundation.

“The citizens of the town of Vernon have been thrilled with this project and watched progress as it developed, and are ready to formally open it to the rest of Jennings County and the State of Indiana. They are especially grateful to the Jennings County Community Foundation, the Jennings County Park Board, The Jennings County Council, the Local Boy Scout Troop 541, and mostly to



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for making this a reality,” said Mayor Brad Bender.

Body recovered from Lake Michigan

Indiana Conservation Officers were investigating after the body of a missing angler was recovered on April 28 from Lake Michigan.

Shortly after 11:30 a.m., Porter County Central Communications received a 911 call reporting that a man identified as Michael Barnes, 67, of Valparaiso, had gone under the surface of the water approximately 60 yards from shore near Burns Ditch after attempting to retrieve his boat, which had drifted from a beach area as he fished from shore.

Multiple private fishing vessels began searching the area, joined by an

Indiana Dunes National Park Ranger who boarded one of the vessels and relayed information to the United States Coast Guard, Lake County Sheriff’s Department Marine and Aviation Units, and Indiana Conservation Officers.

At 1:40 p.m., using an unmanned remotely operated vehicle equipped with sonar and video, conservation officers located Barnes body, which Portage Fire Department divers recovered from the water.

‘till next time,
Jack

Readers can contact the author by writing to this publication or e-mail Jack at jacksaulding1971@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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graniteware – Old toys & games – Tons unlisted – **MISCELLANEOUS:** About 80 pckt. & sheath knives incl. Case, advertising, miniatures, etc. – Zippo lighters – Sev. RR locks, keys, lanterns, incl. Monon – Doll dishes – Advertising pcs. Incl. thermometers, petroleum items, feed sacks – campaign badges – Indian artifacts – Coins – Brand new battery lawn mowers – Lots fishing items – Restaurant size hand sausage grinder – Brand new SS sinks – Tabletop cream separator, new style – Lots elect. tools & appliances – Lots good household – Lots new mini blinds –

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National

FROM PAGE 5B

only recognize trees that are native to the state of Indiana. Everything else is the same between the two lists.”

Indiana has 101 native trees but the state doesn’t have a Champion Tree for every species. For information on Indiana’s Champion Trees go to on.IN.gov/big-tree.

Both Roos and Payne agree that measuring the trees can be challenging. In an urban area, buildings and fences can interfere. In rural areas, trees might be on a steep bank or otherwise hard to reach area. Payne



Above: Noah Clark measures the circumference of the National Champion Port Orford Cedar growing in Washington.

knew of one Champion Tree that was a four-day hike from civilization.

The Champion Tree program will be taking nominations for new champions on its website through August 2025. The list of eligible tree species for the 2025-2026 register will be released at the end of January and is expected to include more than 1,200 species of trees native and naturalized in the United States, an increase over the 900 species eligible for the 2024 register.

The NCTP’s mission is to protect, preserve, and keep a record of the largest trees in the United States through public education and engagement.



Above: The General Sherman is the biggest tree in the country. It is a giant Sequoia on the West Coast. It’s over 27 feet in diameter.

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RESTORED JD TRACTORS-HIT & MISS ENGINES-FIREARMS

1945 JD H-NF elec. start & lights; 1949 JD M-WF; 1941 JD H-NF elec. start & lights; 1952 Ferguson TO20 w/all new tires (need a little restoration-good tractor); JD Frontier RT1149 3 pt. tiller; Agri Fab 900-26 bu. leaf vacuum; 3 pt. sprayer w/new pump; 3 pt. cultivator; 8 ft. lime spreader; Ford 12’ springtooth drag; 7 ft. back blade; 4 cyl. Kohler DC generator on trailer; Kohler 4 cyl. motor; JD 1 1/2 hp hit & miss engine on a cart; Alamo 1 1/2 hp hit & miss engine on a cart; De Laval 1 1/2 hp hit & miss engine w/Wico type E172 elec. box; old wood dump rake; Ariens-Troy Bilt-etc. rear tine roto tillers; misc. sprayers; 40 ft. alum. ext. ladder; wood chipper New Jet dust collector; Craftsman 3000 PSI power washer.

FIREARMS: Selling at 12:30 (bring your License to purchase or CPL) Remington 1100-12 ga. SA/2 bbls; Remington 700-22-250 BA; Marlin 44-20 ga Pump; Ruger Ranch 223-SA; Ruger M77-30-06 BA; Thompson Encore 50/223 cal. -SS w/2 bbls; Henry NIB Golden Boy 22 LA; Iver Johnson PAS 12 ga. Pump-(NIB); Stevens Marksman 22 SS/LA; Harrington Richardson folding 410 shotgun (rare); Savage 243 BA; Remington 1100 slug bbl.; CVA 45 cal. BP rifle; Benjamin Nitro pellet rifle w/ scope; Nehalchina B36 pellet gun; 2-NIB Marlin cowboy BB guns; Old C&B 12 ga. BP shotgun; (pocket guns) Iver Johnson 32 cal. revolver; American 38 cal. revolver; 2-Iver Johnson hammerless 32 cal.; Hopkins & Allen 32 cal. revolver; Loader tractor on site.

DeLaval COLLECTIBLES-KNIVES-TOYS-OLD COLLECTIBLES

Oak DeLaval parts cabinet (real nice); 31 1/2 X 21 1/2 DeLaval tin advertising sign-rare; DeLaval photos-manuals-etc.; Brass National cash register; stenciled boxes; calf yoke; Granite State wood corn sheller; old SKA #218 Army replica stage revolver w/leather holster (unique); Minia-
ture Britain’s 155mm cannon w/orig. box; over 100 various style pocket knives, several advertising knives; 3 antique outboards; Political lapel pins; old toys; lots of leather holsters & belts; Pride Handi 4 wheel hand-icap scooter; 3 Pt hitch carrier; lots of interesting & unusual collectibles; misc. ammo.

BERNIE & DOTTIE PICKELL: OWNERS
TERMS: CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD W/4%FEE. Settlement before removal
STREET DOGS LUNCH ON GROUNDS

FFA donation auction raises over \$9,000 for local chapter

By William Flood
Ohio Correspondent

SULLIVAN, Ind. – On April 22, Jeff Boston Auction Service hosted the 2025 FFA Alumni donation auction, with all proceeds directly benefiting the Sullivan FFA chapter. The event was supported by area agricultural businesses that donated seed, feed, and a variety of other farm-related items. In total, 27 lots were offered through an online auction platform, HiBid, which waived buyer's fees to encourage participation.

Funds raised would help provide scholarships and support student attendance at key events, including the Indiana FFA Convention, the National FFA Convention, the Washington Leadership Conference, and the Summer Midwest Ag Tour. These opportunities play a vital role in the development and leadership training of local FFA members.

Seed topped the auction's offerings, with 12 lots up for grabs. Nine were seed corn, while the other three featured soybean seed. The highest went for eight bags of Pioneer P1170AM seed corn donated by Craig Williams, which sold for \$1,170 (\$146.25/bag). Close behind was a lot of eight bags of Beck's seed corn of the buyer's choice, provided by Jeremiah Faulk, of Tri-County Ag Solutions, which hit \$1,090 (\$136.25/bag). An interesting lot with four bags of Augusta A4961 DEZ seed corn, plus a buy one/get one free coupon for a future purchase, reached \$90 (22.50/bag).

Soybean seed included a lot of 20 bags of Syngenta seed, supplied by Travis McKinney, brought in \$1,010 (\$50.50 per bag). Bidding reached \$730 (\$60.83 per bag) for 12 bags of Pioneer P35Z76E soybean seed, furnished by Craig Drake. Meanwhile, six bags of Golden Harvest soybean seed, provided by Mitch Ferree, of Bunker Hill Supply, picked up \$270 (\$45 per bag).

Three lots held soil amendments and related products. A group of three bags of Danko 16 percent layer mash contributed by Sullivan, Indiana's Danko Farm Supply, went for \$52.50 (\$17.50 per bag). A lot of two bags of the same product, also provided by Danko Farm Supply, brought \$37.50 (\$18.75 per

bag). The final item in this category, a 5-gallon twin pack of NanoPro, donated by Jeremiah Faulk, got picked up for just \$4.

Another three lots contained livestock feeds. Bids hit \$80 (\$16/bag) for a lot of five 50-pound bags of Fat Steer cattle feed presented by Danko Farm Supply. A pair of 50-pound bags of Umbarger Show Feed for Horses, donated by Martin Mill and Elevator, was grabbed for \$27.50 (\$13.75/bag); and, a single 50-pound bag of Front View Feeds Scratch Grains chicken feed, also made available from Martin Mill and Elevator, left for \$20.

Bidders with pets went after several more items. A single 35-pound bag of Hill's Science Diet dog food for sensitive stomach and skin, contributed by Linton Veterinary Hospital, rose to \$72.50 early in the auction. A package deal, with a \$345 cat neutering certificate and a "goody basket" that included Kong puppy toys, a pet odor candle, air freshener spray, and other items furnished by Drs. Ben and Monica Poehlein, of Sullivan County Animal Hospital, got snapped up for a modest \$42.50.

A small assortment of tools and implements were available, including a gift certificate redeemable for a ThunderStorm 34-by-40-foot semi-trailer tarp, made available by Tuttle Equipment, which reached \$540. Just before, a lot with four 50-foot rolls of 4-inch field tile, contributed by Valley Tile, hit \$190 (\$47.50/roll). The final item in the category, a Corona Comfort Gel hand pruner, offered by Jason Ellermann with Crop Tech Seeds, fetched \$16.

There was also some manufacturers' branded merchandise including a new-in-box, 1/16-scale ERTL Prestige Collection John Deere 4430, provided by Jason Boyles with Sloan Implement, that landed an impressive \$100. Right after, a pair of Sloan Implement John Deere baseball caps were picked up for \$14. To enjoy after one's workday, there was a trio of 12-count boxes of Beck's Microwave Popcorn, furnished by Rex Decker, of Red Cloud Farms, LLC, which raised \$27.50.

The auction raised over \$9,000, ensuring continued opportunities for the Sullivan FFA chapter and its students.



Above: Nine lots of seeds were available from brands like Beck's, Pioneer and Syngenta. They sold for \$22-\$146 per bag.



Above: Four 50-foot rolls of 4-inch field tile sold quickly, generating nearly \$200 in bids.

TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN **FarmWorld**

YEAZEL FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SAT., MAY 17TH, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

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Bidding open now for pre-bidding-all pre-bids will be used during the live portion of the auction.

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1986 Case 2086 Int'l tractor w/approx. 12113.4 hrs. running cond. 1981 Case 1486 Int'l tractor w/approx. 16,947 hrs. running cond. 1977 Case 970 Agri King tractor-hrs. unknown-runs good. 1973 Int'l 574 tractor-hrs. unknown. 1968 JD 3020 tractor with loader & quick hitch attachment-engine rebuilt approx. 4 yrs. ago-50 hrs. 1995 Ford F350 pickup truck w/186,094 miles, 1979 Int'l grain truck approx. 50k miles on 2nd eng. Hillsboro alum. 1987 gooseneck livestock trailer 24'x7', 3-Gravity bed wagons. Int'l 510 grain drill, JD hay elevator, Krause 20' disc, 2-Hay wagons, Bush Hog Squealer rotary mower. Kato 3pt. generator, Anderson bale squeeze, 3Pt. bale spear, 16' Harvest Handler conveyor. Side dress tanks, Wind Row turner, Case & JD weights, Misc. farm, barn & shop items unlisted. Farm gates, Farm primitives: Wooden pulleys & ladders, Milk can, Tractor seat, 18" Well cover from Greenville Foundry, Chain hoists, Good used elect. motors, Screw jacks, Sickle bar rivet tooling, Wooden carpenters' box. Wooden corn grinder, Early wooden cabinets/cupboards & parts bins-some from the old Barber & Conley store. **Start time 10:00 A.M. of smalls with tractors & larger items to follow.**

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