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BECK'S

Flavonoid corn lines could combat corn earworm larva

By Hayley Lalchand
Ohio Correspondent

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – Purple cauliflower, purple cabbage and Indian corn (also known as flint corn) get their color from compounds called anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are part of a group of compounds called flavonoids, which are now being studied to combat certain agricultural pests.

Surinder Chopra, a professor of maize genetics at Penn State University, said he first became interested in flavonoids as a postdoctoral researcher at Iowa State University. At the time, he and his advisers used pigmented lines of sorghum and maize to follow the genetics of the plants. Later, a colleague introduced him to the beneficial effects of flavonoids against fungi and bacteria.

When Chopra moved to Penn State as a faculty member, his interest in flavonoids continued and he began identifying plant lines of corn and sorghum that produce different types of flavonoids. Through breeding and genetically purifying those lines, he was able to create pure lines that contain one or two of the specific flavonoid compounds he identified.

“These (flavonoid) compounds in some of the pure lines will be present in the kernel or the seed or the grain, and in other pure lines, the compounds will be produced in other parts of the plant like the leaves and vegetative plant parts,” Chopra said. “It’s the vegetative plant parts that gave us the next direction to where we were able to purify those compounds and use them against fungi, bacteria, and insects in very specific lab-based experiments.”

Chopra and colleagues recently published research that demonstrated

corn earworm larval feeding on flavonoid-rich maize tissues causes high mortality and reduces body weight of the insect, indicating slower growth of the insect. The same results were found when insects were fed a sorghum flavonoids supplemented diet. The study was spearheaded by Debamalya Chatterjee, a former postdoctoral scholar in the Chopra lab who is currently an assistant professor at Skidmore College.

The flavonoids appear to cause symptoms typical of leaky gut syndrome, a condition that has been observed in mammals. Leaky gut syndrome is a condition where the junctions between cells in the small intestine lining become weak or damaged. When these cells are damaged, undigested food, bacteria, and toxins leak into the bloodstream, triggering inflammation throughout the body.

Interestingly, it’s unclear why flavonoids are causing these symptoms in insects, leading to their decreased growth and death. Chopra said it’s known that flavonoids are potential antioxidants, or substances that can prevent or delay some types of cell damage. However, that doesn’t fully explain the effect observed in Chopra’s studies.

“We are still working on hypotheses and trying to figure out the actual mechanism behind why flavonoids cause leaky gut syndrome in the insect gut,” he said. “We don’t know exactly.”

Beyond understanding the mechanism of how flavonoids impact insect mortality, Chopra and his research group are moving forward to find the best breeding lines and make hybrids that are high yielding and have high flavonoid content. The group is interested in understanding how crops respond to the presence or absence of high flavonoids and if flavonoids cause yield loss.

“Flavonoids are basically carbon derivatives, so they’re taking the carbon source from sugars,” Chopra said. “Instead of giving you high yield in kernels, you may be getting a low yield at the expense of (a corn line) that is a little bit more tolerant to insects without the heavy use of pesticides.”

Additionally, Chopra said that there are hundreds of flavonoids to explore. Many plants produce flavonoids, so it’s possible that other types of flavonoids present in crops could also yield beneficial effects.

(See Flavonoid n page 2)



Above: Farmers across Indiana and surrounding states worked late into the night this past week to make the most of the dry spells between heavy rainfall. Photo by Connie Swaim.

Researcher shares concerns about trauma on people who farm

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – An Iowa State University researcher who studies trauma in farmers and its impact on decision making shared some of his findings during a recent webinar.

“The meat and potatoes of what I do is trying to understand why farmers make the decisions that they do and how we can use programs, policies, education, outreach to help encourage and support farmers to grow our food, fiber and fuel more sustainably,” said Chris Morris, a postdoctoral research associate in the university’s Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. “A big part of my dissertation was looking at trauma. This is something that hadn’t really been looked at a whole lot in terms of how trauma might affect farmer decision making.”

Morris interviewed 16 farmers across Iowa who had previously indicated they had experienced such things as extreme flooding or drought, a decline in their quality of life and had negative outcomes from the transition from a more diverse to a more specialized system of agriculture.

Five behavioral health experts who had worked with farmers were also interviewed.

He discussed his findings during a May 5 Penn State University webinar on collective trauma in agriculture.

Morris asked one of the behavioral health experts what they thought trauma in agriculture looks like. “In the agricultural context, stress is the norm,” the expert explained. “Farmers are always stressed by the weath-

er, by markets, by what’s happening in Washington. All of that stuff is normal stress. Trauma is something that threatens, for them, the existence of their farm. Trauma is interest rates being raised 20 percent or more, and they have huge debts.

“Trauma is a spring that is so wet that their calves are literally drowning in the mud. Trauma is the flood that threatens the existence of their farm or the drought that goes on so long that they can’t see the other side.”

The expert said stress is normal, but trauma is when you look at a situation and you realize you don’t know how to get out of it.

A northwest Iowa farmer Morris interviewed had fallen off a grain bin and was seriously injured.

“For me, what this had done is my emotions boil to the surface, just like a stroke victim,” the farmer said. “My grandfather had a severe stroke and for him, (after) that stroke, he’d just lose it. His tears would just flow. And he, prior to that stroke, was a very stoic individual. And I find that after this fall, that some of the darnedest things would just get me all choked up. And I thought that maybe as years went on by that would subside and it doesn’t. At least it hasn’t yet. So yeah, the trauma can induce some emotional response.”

Morris asked the farmers how any potential trauma might affect their decisions. One from northwest Iowa was a kid during the 1980s farm crisis, though he had heard about its impact from his dad.

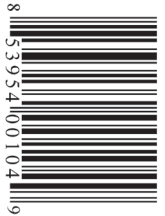
“But like that 80s mentality is there to have, like, you can’t waste

(See Trauma page 2)

In this Farm World:

Several programs help Ohio students learn more about agriculture Page 1B

Two Indiana women dairy farmers will deliver Indy 500 milk Page 10



Trauma

FROM PAGE 1

money on cover crop seed, when that money can pay debt or capitalize new assets, whatever that might be,” the farmer said. “And so I kind of had that experience of the ‘80s farm crisis impacting me also.”

A southeast Iowa farmer told Morris the impact of trauma isn’t always a negative in regard to decision making.

“We’ve implemented more of these (conservation) practices because we’ve seen examples of two inches (of rain) in 20 minutes, four inches in two hours, where unless you pretty much have sod, you’re going to lose dirt off a farm like this,” the farmer said. “Some of these farms around here have been really run down. If I have a son or daughter that wants to farm this farm and the dirt’s all in the Gulf of Mexico and then we got gullies that are four foot deep, it ain’t going to be much of a farm to farm.”

The behavioral health experts recommended increasing resources that buffer against trauma, such as trauma-informed therapy services in rural areas and communities of support for farmers to process trauma.

They also recommended that professionals who work with farmers be trained about trauma and in ways to help reduce the stigma of behavioral health issues.

Farmers told Morris they feel locked into a treadmill of production systems, and that more infrastructure is needed to support diversity in farming. They expressed a desire for reduced oligopolistic power among ag corporations. (An oligopoly is when a few companies exert significant control over a given market.)

The farmers suggested a retooling of subsidy structures, Morris added.

“The thing about farmers is that they represent a unique population that’s been exposed to these potentially traumatic events that are particular to the agricultural industry,” he said. “These are things like natural disasters like floods, droughts, tornadoes, derechos, the 1980s farm crisis, declining rural communities, chronic stress, on-farm injuries, deaths and farmer suicides.”

Morris said there are coping mechanisms people can use to help with some of the symptoms of trauma.

“On an individual level, things like self care, working to solve problems that relate directly to the trauma can be very healing, seeking social support from others, seeing a behavioral health therapist.”

Flavonoid

FROM PAGE 1

“Having an alternate source of insect tolerance in crops would be one way to reduce the usage of pesticides and improve sustainability and the health of environment,” he said. “We can work to develop alternate crops where there is a sort of biochemical tolerance coming from the plant itself to protect itself from insects or harmful fungi or bacteria.”

This research is being carried out by current student researchers in Chopra lab – Charlie Colvin, Tyler Lesko, Bryan Panek, Quinn Loudy, Gurkirat Singh, and Faith Mihalick in collaboration with entomologists Michelle Peiffer, Gary Felton and Jared Ali at Penn State University.

The USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture financially supported the research.

Apple Farm Service adds Great Plains Ag equipment at its Ohio location

WASHINGTON COURTHOUSE, Ohio — Apple Farm Service announced the addition of Great Plains Ag equipment to its Washington Court House, Ohio, location. This addition will allow Apple Farm Service to carry equipment, parts, and handle service warranty at all five locations.

“We have a positive relationship with Great Plains Ag, and are excited to support our area farmers further at our Washington Court House store,” said Kent Holmes, marketing manager at Apple Farm Service. “The addition of Great Plains at all five locations will benefit our customers with more available parts, quicker turn around, and less drive time for some.”

Great Plains is an American-based and built company headquartered in Selina, Kan.

“Apple Farm Service also wants to share our appreciation for Anderson Equipment, who unfortunately had to close their doors earlier this spring,”

stated Bill Apple, president and CEO of Apple Farm Service. “We respect Doug Anderson, and his commitments to the community and his customers. Our goal is to continue providing the service and positive experiences that his customers expected at our dealership.”

To achieve that experience, Apple Farm Service understands a commitment must be made. Along with their plans to add additional personnel, Apple Farm Service will begin to stock a larger selection of Great Plains Ag parts at their Washington Court House location. While the company begins this process, customers will have access to order any Great Plains part or pull from the large inventory of four other Great Plains locations. Parts can be transferred to any store for no cost.

For more information, contact the Washington Court House location at 740-335-8821, or visit AppleFarmService.com.



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Ohio seniors can receive \$50 in free fruits, veggies

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio residents who are 65 and older living in one of 80 Ohio counties that partic-

ipate in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) might be eligible to access \$50 in fresh locally grown fruits, vegetables, fresh-cut herbs and unprocessed honey in 2025.

The program is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Aging and the objectives are three-fold: First, provide resources in the form of locally-grown fruits, vegetables, honey and fresh cut herbs from farmers markets and roadside stands for low-income older adults. Next, increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding or aiding in the expansion of these markets and roadside stands. Finally, develop or aid in the development of new and additional farmers markets and roadside stands.

“The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is a fantastic way for older Ohioans to get fresh product from their communities while also helping Ohio farmers find new customers,” said ODA Director Ur- sel McElroy. “By providing additional methods for older Ohioans to get healthy food into their diets and make smart lifestyle choices, we are continuing our mission to make Ohio the best place to age in the nation.”

Residents in this age category must have a household income that falls within 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For example, for 2025 the 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level is \$0 to \$28,953

for a one-person household, \$0 to \$39,128 for a two-person household and \$0 to \$49,303 for a three-per- son household. At the top of this spectrum, those earning less than \$79,828 with a six-person house- hold would qualify.

Applications were made available starting April 16. Approved appli- cants will receive benefits starting May 15, either digitally via a smart- phone app or through physical membership cards. Recipient appli- cations close Sept. 30 and the last day to redeem benefits is Nov. 30.

Residents living in Athens, Hock- ing, Meigs, Morgan, Monroe, Noble, Perry and Washington counties will need to acces the program differ- ently. They must sign up through Buckeye Hills Regional Council at <https://portal.homegrownbenefits.com/apply/ohio>. For this program year, Ohioans in those counties will receive the traditional SFMNP cou- pons instead of having access to the app.

ODA switched from printed cou- pons statewide to a new app-based model last year. In the new model, participants can use their benefits in any dollar increment, creating more flexibility and giving older Ohioans more power while also reducing ad- ministrative costs.

Interested farmers or markets wanting more information about the program can contact the Ohio Farmers Market Network at senior@ohiofarmersmarketsnetwork.org. The 2025 SFMNP application can be found at <https://portal.homegrownbenefits.com/apply/ohio>.

There are SFMNPs set up in In- diana, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan and Illinois as well. Each SFMNP varies somewhat.

In Indiana, seniors aged 60 and older who have a household income of below 130 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines are eli- gible, which is about \$15,301 for seniors living along, according to Feeding America.

In Indiana, seniors must live in one of the following counties: Allen, Brown, Crawford, Dearborn, DeKalb, Dubois, Elkhart, Gibson, Hendricks, Huntington, Johnson, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Ohio, Orange, Owen, Perry, Porter, Posey, Spencer, St. Joseph, Steuben, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick or Whitley.

For a list of all farmers markets participating in the program, con- tact one of the following state agen- cies:

Ohio Department of Agriculture, 614-719-9227; Indiana Department of Health, 1-800-522-0874; Illinois Department of Human Services, 217- 782-2166; Tennessee Department of Family Health & Wellness, 615- 741-7218; Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Aging & Adult, 312-353-6664; Iowa Depart- ment of Agriculture and Landscape Stewardship, 515-242-6239; Ken- tucky Department of Agriculture, 502-782-9241.

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Uncertain trade relations impacting market volatility

To say market volatility has increased recently would be an understatement. Much of this has been caused by uncertain trade relations with the U.S.’ top global partners, mainly China, the European Union and Japan. The ensuing reaction in the equity markets generated safe-haven buying, which is when traders tend to favor ownership of physical backed products, such as commodities.

Recent safe-haven buying has been most noticeable in precious metals. This has caused gold to spike to all-time highs as managed money flooded the contract. With gold reaching uncharted territory, we are seeing buyers surface in other markets, including the ag sector. While this has supported commodity futures, it has elevated market volatility at the same time.

One of the greatest unknowns in the market right now is how tariffs may impact future global trade patterns. While tariffs will disrupt trade relations, there are still only a few sources for significant commodity imports from, with the U.S. being a leading one. This is especially the case for corn as the South American soybean export program is making its seasonal build in volume which does slow U.S. loadings.

Even so, importers are still buying soybeans from the U.S. in the spot market, especially those exempt from U.S. tariffs. Some importers also feel the risk in commodity markets is greater than the cost of tariffs.

Traders have trimmed their long livestock positions as more uncertainty builds on future red meat demand. Lower energy costs will help maintain domestic demand if the economy starts to soften, but more concern is being shown for future exports. This is especially true into the Chinese market as retailers in the country are now pushing for Australian beef over that from the United States. China is also showing elevated demand for Brazilian pork imports. The potential loss of this



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

trade is more negative for livestock right now than lower livestock numbers is supportive.

There has been a shift in the global vegetable oil market that has pressured the soy complex.

Until recently soy oil has held a \$100 per metric tons discount to palm oil in the global market. This has now reversed and palm oil is holding a \$100 ton advantage over soy oil. This

spread has caused a sizable drop in the U.S. crush margin with returns losing 30 cents per bushel crushed in just 10 days.

Brazil announced it would be raising its biodiesel blend rate to 15 percent though, adding 1 percent to projected soy oil usage. While not a lot, this will open the door for future U.S. export business on soy oil, giving that contract support.

While soy oil export demand remains high and shows signs of building, we are seeing doubt over domestic usage. Two more biodiesel plants in Iowa were idled recently due to uncertainty over the future of the 45Z tax credit policy. Data shows this brings the total number of off-line plants in Iowa to five. This


accounts for one-third of the state’s biodiesel capacity.

China released its first quarter pork production data, and as expected, numbers were up from last year. A total of 16.02 million metric tons of pork was produced in China from January through March, a 1.2 percent increase from the same period in 2024. Hog slaughter was up from a year ago at 194.8 million head, but same as in the United States, heavier weights added to product output. Hog values have also increased in China, but ongoing concerns over the country’s economy and light consumer demand have capped the country’s hog market.

The Brazilian crush group Abiove has released its updated soybean export numbers. Abiove is now forecasting 2025 Brazilian soybean exports of 108.5 million metric ton, up from their prior forecast for 106.1 mmt. Prospects for elevated trade with China caused the bump in forecasted demand. This higher export forecast will impact the country’s ending stocks, with Abiove cutting projected carryout by 40 percent. This puts Brazil’s ending stocks at 5.4 mmt compared to its prior 9.1 mmt projection.

The International Grains Council also updated its global grain forecast. The IGC now puts the world corn crop at 1.274 billion metric tons, up a large 5 mmt from its prior estimate. Larger production forecasts for both South and North America added to this increase. The world wheat crop was trimmed 1 mmt, putting it at 806 mmt.

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Above: There are 285 students at Richland County High School in Illinois who are participating in FFA. The school was the first FFA chartered school in Illinois. (photo submitted)

As 3 Illinois FFA chapters near the 100-year milestone, three more are created

By **DOUG GRAVES**
Ohio Correspondent

OLNEY, Ill. – FFA at the state level in Illinois was established on June 12, 1929. Within that year, three FFA chapters were chartered: Chicago High School for Agriculture Sciences FFA, Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA in Paxton, and Olney FFA Chapter in Olney.

The Olney FFA Chapter, which now meets at Richland County High School (RCHS), claims rights to being

the oldest FFA chapter in the state. The members of the RCHS FFA have their printed charter hanging on the wall of their ag classroom, with a start date of Oct. 14, 1929, proving it's the "grandfather" of FFA chapters in Illinois.

"We even had a Corn Club here at the high school long before FFA got under way," says Mark Steber, the RCHS FFA adviser who was also last year's Golden Owl award winner.

(FFA continued on page 6)



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FFA

FROM PAGE 5

Richland County High School has a student population of 4,500. There are 285 students in the school’s FFA chapter.

“Not much has changed here at RCHS. We’re situated in a rural setting of 16,000 in this county,” Steber said.

Getting the community involved is perhaps why this chapter has enjoyed a string of 96 consecutive years with no interruptions.

“We do several activities through-

out the year to attract the lower-level students to FFA,” said sophomore and chapter reporter Emma Hefferman. “We offer a petting zoo each spring whereby FFA members bring their animals from their farm to the students.”

That day includes a mix of 500 elementary school students, 12 farm animals and a heaping amount of excitement. Two buses run at a time and transition between Richland County Elementary School and St. Joseph Catholic School.

“Each spring we perform a Day of Service targeting grades 2-5,” Hefferman said. “The younger kids get to visit our greenhouse, plant a seed and learn about the growing process and how to take care of that plant down the road.

“Our chapter also helps with the white squirrel count each year. We take pride in keeping these squirrels safe and hope to see the population increase. We perform a variety of community services.”

The chapter holds an alumni meeting each month. The current members give updates to the alumni, letting them know about their current activities.

“RCHS has the largest alumni (165) of FFA in Illinois,” Steber said. “One alum is my father, who was an FFA member at this school in 1955. He’s still alive and kickin.”

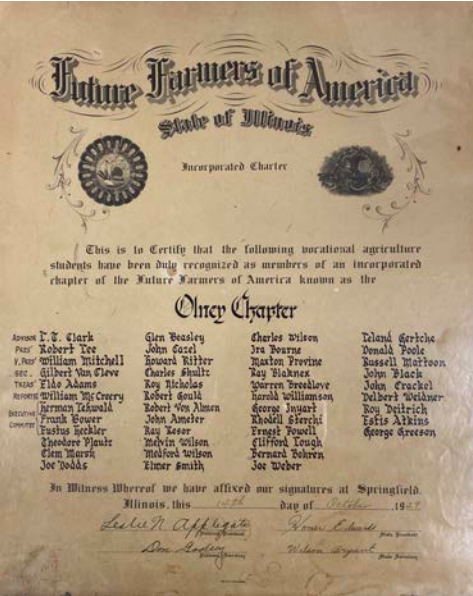
And the chapter’s new goal is to get a junior high FFA chapter established.

And while those in Olney are approaching their 100th anniversary, three new FFA chapters have emerged in the state in the past year.

Two new junior high FFA chapters were installed last fall. Bureau Valley Middle School in Manlius and Cambridge Middle School in Cambridge are first-year startups.



Above: Much of RCHS’ fundraising activities comes from its large, pristine greenhouse. (photo submitted)



Above: This Charter is proudly displayed at Richland County High School (formerly called Olney Chapter). (photo submitted)

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For Auction Advertising Information

Slated to open its doors to FFA this fall is Winnebago High School in Winnebago, Ill.

Gwen Heimerdinger will be Winnebago’s FFA ag teacher and adviser. No better first-year teacher than Heimerdinger, who was raised on a large black Angus farm and tended to hundreds of acres of crops.

“People of this community approached the school board and said they wanted FFA for their kids,” Heimerdinger said. “This new chapter is community-led and community-supported.”

There are 2,875 people living in Winnebago. There are 425 students at Winnebago High School and 75 those have made plans to join the new FFA chapter in the fall.

“Winnebago is an agricultural community,” Heimerdinger said. “Agriculture is the backbone of this community and I’m tickled pink that there’s already 75 enrolled to participate in our new chapter.”

In the fall, Heimerdinger will teach three Introductory to Agriculture classes, one Ag Leadership class and one Ag Science class.

“There are some kids entering FFA who are not from the farm, yet they’re willing to take a risk at studying agriculture,” she said. “Perhaps they heard about it from someone down the line because there’s lots of ag programs (at other schools) in this area.”

 <p>Farmall M 12 volt, M&W live PTO, good running tractor \$2,500</p>	 <p>Kubota LX2610 HSDC 150 hrs., hydro trans. cab w/wheat & AC loader w/ Universal SSOA, 60" bucket, exc.!! \$31,900</p>	 <p>Kubota LX2610 SUHSD-hydro trans., 4WD, turf tires \$22,500</p>	 <p>John Deere 2025R, loader, 60" mower deck, pallet forks, front blade, quick hitch, 647 hrs., excellent cond. \$27,500</p>
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 <p>Kubota B2301 HSD w/Loader & 60" mower deck, 100 hrs., very good \$19,500</p>	 <p>2022 Kubota M7060 HDC12, cab w/wheat & AC 2 rear remote valves, 12F-12R hydraulic shuttle, cast rear wheel centers, 930 hrs., very nice \$55,900</p>	 <p>JD M, 1 owner w/plow, cultivator, blade - all original \$3,500</p>	 <p>John Deere 1025R w/loader, backhoe, 60" mid mount mower deck, 3 pt. hitch, ballast box. exc. cond., looks like new!!! \$23,900</p>
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Poultry feed additives could reduce Campylobacter

By Hayley Lalchand
Ohio Correspondent

KONGENS LYNGBY, Denmark – Researchers are investigating feed additives to reduce Campylobacter in free-range broilers.

Campylobacter is a type of bacteria that commonly colonizes the intestinal tracts of chickens. The bacteria are highly prevalent in poultry worldwide, and it can be transmitted to humans through contaminated meat that hasn't been thoroughly cooked. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 1.5 million people in the U.S. get ill from Campylobacter each year. Worldwide, the bacterial infection is one of four key global causes of diarrheal disease, according to the World Health Organization.

In 2022, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration released its latest action plan with the goal of reducing Campylobacter in chicken. The action plan brings together the government, universities, and industry partners to create initiatives for a better public health, said Brian Lassen, senior researcher at the National Food Institute, part of the Technical University of Denmark. Through collaboration, research groups can identify sources of the bacteria and identify possible interventions.

Lassen and his colleagues recently published research demonstrating the effectiveness of different feed additives to prevent Campylobacter in free-range chickens. The motivation for focusing on free-range and organic chickens is because those flocks have different biosecurity options than those on conventional farms, Nao Takeuchi-Storm, researcher at the National Food Institute, said. The animals are exposed to the outdoors, have a longer life than conventionally raised chickens, and organic farmers are restricted in what

they can give to their animals as a biosecurity measure against Campylobacter.

An extensive literature review identified several feed and water additives that the team was interested in exploring in a production environment. The study focused on the effectiveness of 2 percent Biochar Charcoal Feed Granules for Poultry, 0.125 percent Original XPC (a postbiotic containing fermented yeast cells), 15 percent oat hulls, and organic acids added (0.2 percent Selko®pH E (v/v)) to water. One hundred and forty newly hatched Ranger Gold broilers were randomly placed into five cages within a flock of 6,000 broilers with access to outdoor areas after day 36 of the experiment. Each of the five groups of broilers received a different feed or water additive, with the fifth group receiving standard feed pellets and water.

Three successive flocks were studied in this manner, with half of the broilers slaughtered on day 36 of the experiment and the other half on day 59 to study the concentration of Campylobacter at different time points. Samples were also collected from feed, water, and dust in the environment to determine the exact moment the flock became colonized by Campylobacter, Cristina Calvo-Fernández, a doctoral student, explained.

"Another reason for choosing to study (the animals) at day 36 was that we hypothesized that maybe some of these interventions potentially could be useful in conventional farming, with 36 days being the approximate age of conventional broilers (at slaughter), and the day before the farmer would give the chicken access to the outdoors," Lassen added.

The results of the study demonstrated that it is possible to reduce Campylobacter in the flocks studied at day 59 during normal production conditions by adding the biochar feed supplement throughout the rotation. Additionally, the researchers observed that the organic acids added to drinking water reduced the bacteria at day 36, but the effect diminished in the group slaughtered at day 59.

"There's quite a bit of variation in the experiment's flocks," Takeuchi-Storm said. "The significant result (of biochar's effectiveness) was only seen in two out of the three rotations. It's not always showing results – each flock is very different. We don't know if variations are due to the season or how the flock was managed, but each flock is very different in how they get colonized by the bacteria."

For example, Lassen noted that there has been an ongoing debate about free-range broilers picking up Campylobacter from the outdoors. However, the team observed Campylobacter present in indoor dust samples and that the birds were infected before they went outside. Challenges with proper cleaning and disinfection to eliminate Campylobacter from the house environment is a well-known problem. Additionally, the bacteria strains differed between indoor and outdoor environments.

Next, the team is interested in investigating the microbiome data collected from the broilers in the study to begin to understand at a molecular level how Campylobacter is reduced by different additives. The group will also continue to investigate biochar as a potential feed additive and explore which form of biochar is the most effective and how the administration (pelleted or not) affects the result. Overall, the goal of the research is to reduce the prevalence of foodborne pathogens and improve public health, Calvo-Fernández said.

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MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 5/5/2025 - Final AUCTION			
	This Week	Last Reported 4/28/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	1,006	1,375	1,174
Feeder Cattle:	920(91.5%)	1,153(83.9%)	1,054(89.8%)
Slaughter Cattle:	77(7.7%)	210(15.3%)	81(6.9%)
Replacement Cattle:	9(0.9%)	12(0.9%)	39(3.3%)

Compared to last Monday feeder steers 300-400 lbs and 500-600 lbs sold 3.00 to 6.00 higher with very good demand for weaned packages; others steady. Feeder heifers under 500 lbs sold steady to 5.00 higher with very good demand for featherweights; over 500 lbs sold steady with good demand. Very good demand for yearlings in a limited comparison. Slaughter cows sold 2.00 to 3.00 higher and slaughter bulls sold steady with good demand. Supply included: 91% Feeder Cattle (24% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 59% Heifers, 16% Bulls); 8% Slaughter Cattle (3% Heifers, 84% Cows, 10% Bulls, 3% Dairy Cows); 1% Replacement Cattle (40% Stock Cows, 30% Bred Cows, 30% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 51%.

Group of 20 head or more:

Steers
55 hd 946 lbs 267.75 Blk-Few Bwf
Heifers
20 hd 332 lbs 427.00 Blk Value-Added
83 hd 623 lbs 329.70 Blk Few Bwf Value-Added
85 hd 650 lbs 328.85 Blk/Bwf Fancy
75 hd 719 lbs 298.00 Blk/Bwf Fancy

FEEDER CATTLE					
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	205	205	435.00	435.00	
5	265-295	276	437.00-455.00	443.84	
4	330-340	333	427.50-435.00	431.84	
2	305	305	457.50	457.50 Fancy	
11	360-395	381	427.50-440.00	431.64	
10	400-448	427	399.00-401.00	400.01	
8	430-440	438	420.00-433.00	424.50 Value Added	
10	465-498	486	387.50-403.00	395.02	
7	461-491	474	403.00-417.50	411.06 Value Added	
8	500-523	513	352.50-381.00	373.20	
14	500-538	524	381.00-412.50	394.26 Value Added	
13	572-597	590	351.00-370.00	361.13	
17	556-581	571	372.00-387.50	378.58 Value Added	
15	605-615	607	350.00-359.00	356.60 Value Added	
4	695	695	320.00	320.00 Value Added	
3	710-740	725	277.00-287.00	283.67	
7	715-735	728	293.00-314.00	303.31 Value Added	
4	755-785	774	279.00-287.00	281.21	
1	830	830	283.00	283.00	
55	946	946	267.75	267.75	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	332	332	350.00	350.00	
3	440-445	443	357.50-370.00	365.86	
1	570	570	335.00	335.00	
1	635	635	313.00	313.00	
1	790	790	271.00	271.00	

STEERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	705	705	281.00	281.00	
2	865	865	237.00	237.00	

STEERS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	375	375	230.00	230.00	

DAIRY STEERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	627	627	192.50	192.50	
1	1035	1035	145.00	145.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	235-245	240	425.00-427.50	426.22 Fancy	
1	295	295	407.50	407.50	
1	270	270	430.00	430.00 Fancy	
1	340	340	385.00	385.00	
23	332-346	334	410.00-427.00	424.70 Value Added	
3	365-390	382	384.00-393.00	386.87	
10	351-385	370	394.00-412.50	402.45 Value Added	
7	405-435	421	369.00-379.00	371.93	
30	400-435	424	380.00-402.50	393.16 Value Added	
7	450-480	468	347.50-360.00	355.35	
31	455-495	475	362.00-387.50	371.69 Value Added	
1	520	520	315.00	315.00	
32	500-545	527	322.50-362.50	343.45 Value Added	
7	550-595	580	291.00-315.00	301.55	
29	550-597	564	317.50-347.00	333.19 Value Added	
7	637-646	641	279.00-307.50	295.19	
88	600-623	622	315.00-329.70	329.33 Value Added	
20	685-687	687	275.00-281.00	280.70	
85	650	650	328.85	328.85 Fancy	
10	665-691	677	291.00-307.00	298.69 Value Added	
3	717-720	718	254.00-263.00	257.01	
75	719	719	298.00	298.00 Fancy	
4	715-720	716	277.50-281.00	280.12 Value Added	
3	811	811	263.00	263.00	
2	872	872	250.00	250.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	220	220	325.00	325.00	
1	310	310	310.00	310.00	
7	365-390	374	333.00-362.00	349.50	
5	465-490	478	297.50-331.00	315.26	
3	648	648	254.00	254.00	
1	670	670	265.00	265.00	
2	755	755	210.00-227.50	218.75	
1	895	895	185.00	185.00	

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	

1	435	435	340.00	340.00
1	535	535	307.00	307.00
2	550-560	555	281.00	281.00
HEIFERS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)				
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	380	380	247.50	247.50
3	460	460	241.00	241.00
4	675-690	686	202.50-209.00	207.40

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	290	290	417.50	417.50	
4	335-345	340	405.00-410.00	406.25	
1	335	335	425.00	425.00 Fancy	
3	350-375	358	390.00-400.00	396.42	
7	365-390	378	422.50-432.50	427.83 Fancy	
16	400-449	428	397.50-425.00	416.28	
12	450-486	470	367.00-417.50	384.95	
16	510-545	538	329.00-377.50	361.14	
8	500-535	517	380.00-397.50	386.41 Value Added	
8	550-581	572	332.00-347.50	341.31	
9	555-585	569	351.00-367.50	359.01 Value Added	
7	600-630	609	285.00-304.00	296.30	
5	631-640	633	321.00-331.00	328.98 Value Added	
4	657-690	672	302.00-312.00	308.67	
3	650-652	651	320.00-322.00	320.67 Value Added	
1	720	720	263.00	263.00	
6	705-730	719	286.00-300.00	289.81 Value Added	
5	768-770	769	275.00-281.00	277.40	
1	815	815	223.00	223.00	
1	855	855	217.00	217.00	
1	955	955	182.00	182.00	

BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	285	285	332.50	332.50	
3	470-482	478	355.00-362.50	357.46	
2	520-525	523	272.50-305.00	288.83	
1	550	550	302.00	302.00	
2	675-690	683	275.00-295.00	285.11	
1	730	730	253.00	253.00	
1	890	890	182.00	182.00	
2	1015-1020	1018	160.00-162.00	161.00	

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	850	850	207.00	207.00	

BULLS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	505-510	508	200.00-225.00	212.56	
1	625	625	210.00	210.00	

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

HEIFERS - Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1010-1105	1058	189.00-215.00	201.42	Average

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
6	1165-1520	1309	148.00-153.00	149.58	Average
13	1225-1610	1437	153.00-170.00	160.06	High
5	1175-1750	1350	137.00-144.00	141.08	Low

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
7	1010-1355	1152	147.00-152.50	150.30	Average
17	1090-1615	1323	153.00-170.00	162.09	High

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
5	800-1385	1009	118.00-130.00	124.72	Average
5	930-1125	1006	140.00-166.00	150.28	High
1	860	860	106.00	106.00	Low

DAIRY COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1365	1365	162.00	162.00	High
1	1355	1355	92.50	92.50	Low

BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1250-2045	1648	165.00-166.00	165.62	Average
4	1105-2205	1585	182.00-196.00	189.40	High
1	1355	1355	148.00	148.00	Low

REPLACEMENT CATTLE

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Two NE Indiana women dairy farmers will deliver milk to Indy 500 winner, team members

By Leondia Walchle
Indiana Correspondent

The 109th running of the Indianapolis 500 is May 25. Milk has been given to the winner of each 500-mile since 1936, when driver Louis Meyer asked for buttermilk after his third-time 500 victory.

The American Dairy Association of Indiana (ADAI)'s Rookie + Veteran Farmer Program has sponsored the post-race drink of milk since 2005 with designated "Milk Persons" conveying the "Winners Drink Milk" tradition. A milk selection committee accepts nominations of other dairy farmers from any of the state's 700 Indiana dairy farms. An Indiana "Rookie" is selected each year. That person spends the first year in training and delivers bottles of milk to the winning team owner and chief mechanic. The following year, the Rookie becomes the official Milk Person and is given the honor of handing a bottle of ice-cold milk (fat-free, 2 percent or whole) to the winning driver of the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

For the second time since the program was established, two women dairy farmers will present milk in the Indy 500 Victory Circle. Coincidentally, the two dairy farms are only 12 miles apart – representing Steuben and Noble counties. Both dairies are comprised of a majority of Holsteins, along with Red and White Holsteins and Jerseys. Their milk is processed through Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). The dairy farmers represent their colleagues' hard and dedicated work to bring this nutritious drink to so many.

The 2025 Rookie Milk Person is Ashley (Thieme) Stockwell, originally from Adams County, Ind., raised on

a five-generation grain farm. Ashley, with her husband, Kyle, and their four children Konner (10), twins Kyra and Karter (8), and Kooper (7), run Stockwell Farms in Hudson, Ind., which is a third-generation dairy farm.

Ashley handles the farm finances, works off the farm, and stays busy with running the four kids around to all their activities. Stockwell Farms milks on average 750 cows three times a day using a double-eight parallel parlor. "Dairy farming is 24/7, but I'm thankful that we're able to produce the nutritious dairy products that we are able to make and raise my family on a dairy farm as well," Stockwell said.

"There is so much emotion and history with the Indy 500 and dairy," she said. "I am excited to be a part of it and just looking forward to embrace the moments. I wish the best to all 33 drivers."

This year's Milk Person is Abbie (Hicks) Herr, of Herr Dairy Farm, Kendallville, Ind. Abbie works together with her husband, Steve, and their two daughters, Alexis (12) and Sadie

(Two NE continued on page 12)



Above: The entire Herr family plays an important role on the dairy farm – Alexis, Steve, Abbie, Sadie.



Above: Abbie Herr oversees the Herr cattle on a daily basis – her hobby and way of life.



Above: Abbie Herr, Indy 500 Milk Person.



Above: The Herr Farm is calving about 35 a month, one of Abbie Herr's main responsibilities.

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Growing Tomorrow Grant supports those looking to get into ag industry



Above: Mike and Patti Boyert, owners of the now-thriving Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm in Medina County, struggled to get their business going. They want to pay it forward and help others trying to get started in agriculture.

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) Growing Tomorrow Grant supports individuals just starting their agriculture career, whether they are ag professionals, entrepreneurs or someone just looking to get into the agriculture industry. This year the grant committee will award up to \$100,000. Applications were accepted beginning May 1. The deadline to apply is July 31.

The grant was established by farm bureau members Mike and Patti Boyert, owners of the now-thriving Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm in Medina County. But when they started out in the early 1980s, it wasn't easy.

"We struggled just to get started," Patti Boyert said. "We had the idea, we had the business plan and we knew what we wanted to do, but we didn't have the capital to do it. We had to piece it together."

Now years later they are ready to help the next generation. The Boyerts came to the Farm Bureau Foundation with the idea of helping to support up-and-coming new businesses and getting more young people into agricultural careers.

"We want to pay it forward, get young people started in agriculture that may not be able to, with just a little bit of a start," Patti Boyert said. "If they have the commitment, the dedication and are willing to work for it, I'd like to see more young people stay in agriculture and be able to produce a living from agriculture."

Mike Boyert said, "The grant helps sustain Ohio rural communities. It gives you an opportunity to promote different educational opportunities (and) a more public understanding of what agriculture is all about. It teaches new and different methodologies centered around our environmental stewardship, and it creates an opportunity for employment

in Ohio farm communities."

The Growing Tomorrow Grant is a fantastic opportunity, said Kelly Burns, executive director of the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation. The grant is looking at applicants with a strong business plan. It will provide grants to new or early-stage agricultural businesses. Grants will focus on supporting, among other activities:

- The creation of long-term sustainable employment opportunities within Ohio farming communities;
- Educational opportunities to enable better public understanding of agriculture, help farmers learn from each other, and teach new and different agricultural methodologies;
- Businesses that use or demonstrate the viability of agricultural techniques that center on environmental stewardship;
- Farmers actively working to support and sustain the communities in which they live.

"We're looking for folks who are in that first five years of the operation of their business," Burns said. "A big objective of this grant is that we want to support our industry. Studies show that it is hard to find a skilled workforce in agriculture. Many people, their generation is further away from the farm. We want to focus on how we can support folks who want to get into this industry."

Last year the grant gave out \$50,000 to new and different businesses, Burns said. The recipients were the Winchester Farm Exchange, located in Canal Winchester, started by owners Trish Preston and Chelsie Casagrande-Smith. It is a community gathering space, which includes a local farm-to-table grocery store, and serves the community by offering over 50 bakers, makers, and meat and produce vendors a space to sell their goods.

The other recipient was the Chambers Family Fab, which specializes in designing pens for goats, sheep, hogs and chickens, all in-house at its Stark County fabrication shop. Ron and Diana Chambers pride themselves on working with youth, educating them on best practices for livestock and for an on-farm customization process, and working with customers to design products to ensure they create exactly what fits the farm and the end-users' needs.

This year the grant will award up to \$100,000 to the business or businesses that the review committee determines are eligible and stand out. The grant receives support from individuals and organizations like Nationwide and Farm Credit Mid-America.

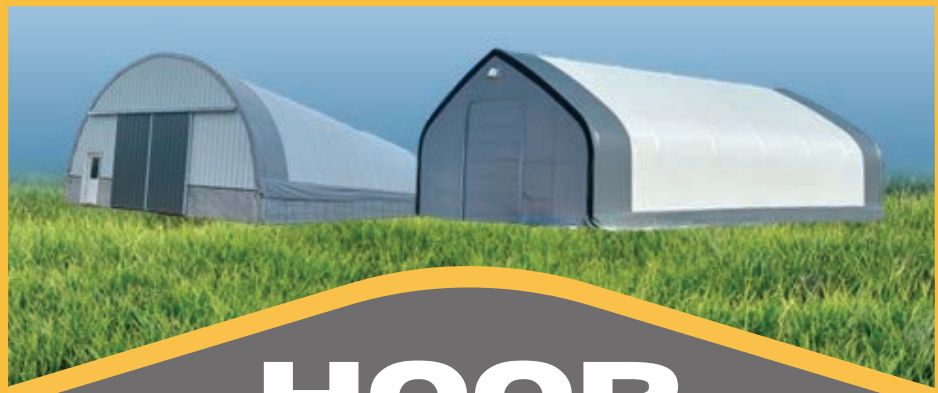
How the grant is awarded depends on the number of applications the foundation receives as well as the quality of applications, Burns said. They're looking for strong business plans that focus on sustainability.

"We've got a few months to get applications in," Burns said. "From that point we have a review committee who will review all applications and determine who their top applicants are. The top applicants will be invited to come and present their business plan to the committee."

The committee will then choose the recipient or recipients. Those recipients will be announced at the OFBF annual meeting Dec. 12-13. The recipients will get to meet Mike and Patti Boyert.

"The Growing Tomorrow Grant, the 'tomorrow' is not just tomorrow," Patti Boyert said. "It's for generations to come, and we're hoping if we get this generation and we give a couple of people a jump-start that when they're in a position, down the road that they're going to pay it forward and keep this grant going and benefit young farmers for years and years to come."

For questions regarding the Growing Tomorrow Grant and to apply, visit ofb.org/GrowingTomorrowGrant.



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Above: The 2024 recipients of the Growing Tomorrow Grant, on the left, Trish Preston and Chelsie Casagrande-Smith, owners of the Winchester Farm Exchange; center, Mike and Patti Boyert; on the right, Ron and Diana Chambers, owners of Chambers Family Fab.





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Two NE

FROM PAGE 10

(10), who are now the fifth generation, on their dairy farm. Abbie grew up on a smaller-scale dairy farm in South Whitley, Ind. Steve's family continues to be a large part of their operation.

Herr Dairy Farm milks on average 400 cows, using eight robotic milking systems. The farm is calving about 35 a month, which is Abbie's main responsibility. Herr commented, "I love the babies the most and enjoy watching the family lineage from having raised their moms. The girls alternate naming the calves (and sometimes fight over it). They help with chores every day by my side."

Herr is a genuine ambassador for the ADAI. She loves the dairy life and takes pleasure in educating the public. Herr provides hands-on tours at the farm, along with virtual tours via Facebook and posts on Instagram.

"I always like to say that milk is in my blood," she said. "I love being a dairy farmer. It's something I've always been passionate about. It's my hobby, but it's also my way of life."

Her two home-schooled daughters have the same sentiment and think it is very cool what their mom has accomplished. They are both looking forward to attending their first Indy 500, especially watching mom present the milk.

"I have been honored the past several years representing Indiana dairy farmers, telling our farm story, and teaching others where food comes from," Herr said. "I believe dairy farming and racing have a lot in common – hard work, dedication, and determination – it takes a crew."

Her parting words were, "Grab that gallon of milk and toast with the winning driver on race day!"



Above: Original Herr Dairy Farm sign



Above: "Dairy farming and racing have a lot in common – hard work, dedication, and determination – it takes a crew," Abbie Herr said.



Above: Abbie Herr explains the 1 of 8 robotic milking systems for the 400 milk cows.

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Above: A new livestock auction house geared mostly for large producers expects to handle a large amount of animals based on need.

Livestock auction house opens near Indiana-Ohio border

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

FOUNTAIN CITY, Ind. – A new auction house in Indiana for livestock, hay and straw is off and running. The first bidding at Midway Auction Barn in Fountain City was May 14.

Omer Kauffman, a co-owner and one of the auctioneers, said the facility, containing about 16,000 square feet of space at 10927 N. U.S. 27, is more for larger producers in the area to connect with buyers.

“This gives them an additional outlet,” he said.

Kauffman, who’s experienced as an auctioneer of livestock, farmland and estates, said it was about a \$2 million investment to build the mostly pole type structure with enough parking for about 200 vehicles, including trucks pulling trailers.

The surface of the parking lot is mostly gravel on about 5 acres while the rest is grass.

There are 86 stalls for animals to be viewed by prospective buyers prior to bidding. He estimated one stall can hold as many as “20-30 goats and sheep.”

Kauffman said the main show ring has enough seating for about 400 people while the other show ring can accommodate an audience of roughly half that size.

“It’s big and roomy and lots of space,” he said.

Other features of the facility include a good-sized lobby and a cafeteria where catered food is available for purchase.

“There will be good meals here,” he said.

Kauffman said auctions are every Wednesday beginning at 11 a.m. for

hay, straw and firewood. The bidding for livestock begins at noon for swine then cattle, sheep, goats and equine.

Small animals like chickens and rabbits start will be offered beginning at 5 p.m.

Kauffman said he expects most of the livestock will go to slaughterhouses in bulk purchases but feels most people in the audience will be looking for just a few chickens to place in their backyards.

“There will be a lot of homeowners here just looking for a few goats or sheep,” he said.

Kauffman said he expects the number of animals coming to the auction house to increase from a few hundred at the beginning to more than a “couple of thousand” as word spreads over time.

“Obviously, it’s going to grow,” he said.

Kauffman based his projections on the area near the Ohio state line not having another auction house that size within a one-hour drive.

He said the need was such that an ownership group of mostly farmers and business owners formed to construct and operate the facility. Kauffman said the auction house was designed to move large amounts of animals in and out quickly for the convenience of sellers and buyers.

“Some of the stock will only be here an hour or two,” he said.

It took longer than expected, perhaps, for the auction house to be constructed.

The plans were partially held up in a legal challenge by some neighbors complaining about the impact it would have, but their appeal was denied in court.

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South Korean grain buyers tour Illinois farm and biofuels plant

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. — A recent article in Farm World highlighted a visit by a Korean delegation of grain buyers to the Peoria Lock and Dam, where the group learned first-hand about how America's inland waterway navigation system can reliably move millions of tons of products via barge for export. The dozen international buyers, who represented food companies and government entities, also visited a major biofuels production plant located on the Illinois River, along with the farm of soybean producer and U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) global advisory committee chair, Mark Read, of Putnam County.

In addition, the Korean contingent were feted with a nice meal at a restaurant after hearing a presentation from Read and Eileen Pabst, international markets director for the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA), in the downtown Peoria office of Corn Belt Ports. They were hosted by Robert Sinkler, executive director of Corn Belt Ports, and Anshu Singh, who is director of sustainability and conservation for Corn Belt Ports.

"We're excited that our international presence is growing with Corn Belt Ports. We're trying to get the word out, internationally, about the value of central and north-central Illinois to the global supply chain, and how important the Corn Belt Ports are to supporting some of the U.S.' economic objectives," said Sinkler. "We are looking to open up more global market opportunities to benefit the ports of Illinois."

Also present at the Corn Belt Ports meeting were Guy Allen, an agricultural professor at Kansas State University and organizer of the trip; Mark Wilson, Illinois corn farmer and board member of the U.S. Grains Council; Brent Hoerr, executive director of Missouri Corn; Rodney Knittel, associate director of transportation and infrastructure for the Illinois Farm Bureau; Dan Silverthorn, chair, Heart of Illinois Regional Ports District; Martha Vaughan, a research leader for the USDA-Agriculture Research Service

in Peoria and Hye-Seon Kim, a biologist for USDA-ARS in Peoria.

"These buyers were young professionals who are generally making long-and-short goal decisions in the commodity futures market in Korea," said Singh, who spoke to Farm World shortly after the group's multi-day tour of the Midwest had concluded. "We spoke to the group about how Corn Belt Ports advocates to bring more infrastructure to our region so that we can provide safe and reliable transportation for agricultural commodities to the global market. Korea is an importing country in terms of soy, and is the number two importer of U.S. food-grade soybeans. They are number ten for U.S. whole soybean exports and number six for soybean oil exports, so they are an important importer of U.S. soybeans."

Overall, the trip was designed to give the Korean buyers a complete primer on how Illinois soybeans and other crops are planted, grown, maintained, harvested and transported to buyers and end users in global markets. They were also interested in seed genetics, according to Singh. "The purpose of the tour was to give them confidence in our products and our infrastructure," she said.

The buyers were also interested in how Midwest producers ensure the quality of the grains and oilseeds they sell to the export market remains intact during shipping. "It can take months for our grain to travel from here to Korea, so the quality must remain intact," explained Singh, adding that the group had several questions about seed genetics for the USDA-ARS scientists. "They were very interested in visiting the (Peoria USDA Ag) lab, but time was not sufficient," she added.

Read, who in addition to his work with USSEC is also District 5 Director for the ISA and a member of its Market Development Committee, raises corn and soybeans in both Putnam and Bureau County. Immediately after touring Marquis Energy, the group, led by Allen, arrived at his farm for a tour and a lesson on sustainable Midwestern agriculture.

"These were all young soybean buyers on their first trip from South Korea, a very interesting group that is still learning. Some were buying for their own country, but one was actually stationed in Russia," said Read. "They saw a soybean field with beans starting to come up, and we explained the process of running a sustainable family farm,

and why we are sustainable. We talked about cover crops, which for us is cereal rye after the corn harvest knowing (the land) will go into soybeans the next year. We talked about how we put fertilizers on in strips under the ground, so that it is not spread-broadcast. We then plant right into that strip the next year."

Read also delved into new planter innovations with the group, including row shut-offs that spare excess nutrient usage. He discussed how precise and efficient nutrient and other input applications are accomplished via GPS, and how convenient it is for Illinois and Midwest farmers to bring their crops to market via the river and rail systems. He also touched on current carbon sequestration efforts by private industry and the government.

"Europe wants their (grain and oilseed) sources to be sustainable, and that's our advantage in the United States-- our sustainable product. I've been to a lot of countries, and it's kind of surprising how countries like Nigeria are also getting on the bandwagon. Hopefully, Europe and other markets will pay a little more for our soy meal and that sort of thing. Climate is definitely changing, whether we admit it or not," Read said.



A group of young Korean grain buyers, representing international food companies and the government, are pictured visiting the crowded office of Corn Belt Ports in Peoria, Illinois in late April. The group heard a presentation on how soybeans from the Midwest reliably reach global markets, and the crucial role the inland waterway infrastructure system plays in moving ag commodities overseas. (Corn Belt Ports photo)

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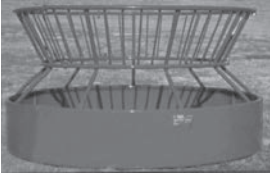
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A Farmer Owned Crop Insurance Agency

www.fishersag.com

Crop Insurance Agents Available in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana


Ed Fisher 517.206.6895
Mike Schmidt 517.206.3907
Terry Finegan 517.256.6774
Chris Leking 517.605.1047

Home Office: 2301 E. US 223, Adrian, MI 49221 (517) 920-4087

Fishers Ag Insurance LLC is an equal opportunity provider (10-13tfx)

the CLASSIFIEDS

You never know what you'll find inside.



FarmWorld

800-876-5133

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ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

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

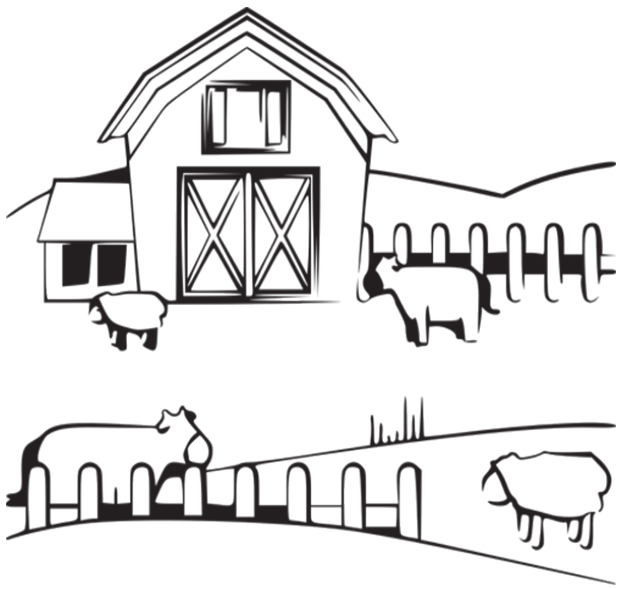
ALERT! If you get a TEXT message from anyone about your equipment, it's most likely a fraud. BEWARE OF JIM BROWN, NATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRY, 531-242-5967, JOSHUA BROWN & MICHAEL BRYANT, 912-771-5495, 434-226-4602 (NC)!!!

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!

REMEMBER: If a deal is too good to be true, pass. Do not be influenced by a sense of urgency.
DO NOT GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD OVER THE PHONE.



Do you have anything farm related to sell?

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ext. 123

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50 BUILDINGS





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(50-tJune 20)

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30'x40'x12'

- 1-16'x11' slide door
- 1-3/0 walk-in door
- Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

Call for Pricing!

40'x64'x14'

- 1-20'x14' split slide door
- 1-3/0 walk-in door
- Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

Call for Pricing!

48'x80'x14'

- 1-20'x12' 6" split slide door
- 1-24'x14' split slide door
- 1-3/0 walk-in door
- Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

Call for Pricing!

60'x120'x16'

- 2-30' x 16' split slider doors
- 1-36" walk door
- Engineered Truss 4' on ctr.

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1= 20' x 14' Split Sliding Doors

1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

40' x 80' x 14'

1= 20' x 14' Split Sliding Doors

1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

60' x 88' x 16'

1= 24' x 16' Split Sliding Doors

1=36" Walk Door

1=3'x3' Window

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(50-tAug.1)



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70 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

PLEASE NOTE: 15 Word Minimum

On All Classified Word Ads

80 TRUCKS

1982 Ford L9000, tandem axle dump truck, 300 Cummins, recent rods & mains, recent clutch, exc. rubber, nice old dump truck, \$10,000 obo. 219-863-6179 Reynolds, IN.

1985 Mack tri-axle dump truck, RD600, 15' steel bed, air lift axle, DOT inspected, clean older truck, never hauled salt, ready to work, \$18,500 obo. 937-459-2545 Greenville, OH.

2015 Int. Pro Star, day cab, wet kit, 500K miles, auto., needs motor, has a blown up ISX-15 Cummins, clean truck, \$12,900. 989-213-7165 Freeland, MI.

2015 Mac Day cab semi, 445HP, M-drive, air ride, new injectors, new rubber, call for details. \$24,900 obo 765-993-4250 Liberty, IN.

New take off truck beds, tailgates & bumpers. 317-512-2129 Franklin, IN.

New takeoffs, Chevy, Ford and Dodge, pickup beds, tailgates and step bumpers. 317-422-5815 Franklin, IN.

Reman 6.7 & 5.9 common rail, Cummins motor, warranty 6 mos./10K, from \$3200. 270-427-4588 Tompkinsville, KY.

LT Sales Inc.

Modoc, IN

(765) 434-1867

TRUCKS

2020 International LT 348,193 miles, Engine - Cummins X15, Automatic Eaton, Endurant - 12 Speed 450 Horsepower \$39,900

2019 International LT 488,924 miles, Engine - Cummins X15, Automatic Eaton Endurant - 12 Sped 450 Horsepower \$34,900

2016 Volvo D13 Engine Automatic AT2612D Volvo Automa 12 Speed, 425 Horsepower, 473,025 miles \$36,900

2015 Freightliner Cascadia DD13 Detroit Engine - 10 Speed, 389,973 miles \$31,900

2019 International LT 488,924 miles, Engine - Cummins X15, Automatic Eaton Endurant - 12 Sped 450 Horsepower \$34,900

2016 Volvo D13 Engine Automatic AT2612D Volvo Automa 12 Speed, 425 Horsepower, 473,025 miles \$36,900

2015 Freightliner Cascadia DD13 Detroit Engine - 10 Speed, 389,973 miles \$31,900

2015 Freightliner Cascadia Detroit DD15 Autoshift 520,075 miles \$34,900

TRAILERS

2014 Timpette Commodity Hopper 4066 \$32,900

2017 Timpette Ag Hopper 4066 \$36,900

2005 Timpette Ag Hopper 4066 Air Ride \$19,500

2017 Timpette Ag Hopper 4066 \$36,900

All trucks and trailers are in excellent condition.

(80-32)

90 TRAILERS

2006 Tempe 34x72x96 hopper bottom, air ride, great cond. Call for details \$27,500 765-993-4250 Liberty, IN.

2015 Wilson 40x96x66 hopper bottom, ag hoppers, air ride, new elect. tarp, very nice, call for details, \$32,500 765-993-4250 Liberty, IN.

2021 20' Circle D flatbed goose-neck, like new, \$10,000. 308-728-7294 Madison, IN.

Cox 25' gooseneck skid loader trailer, gd. cond., stored inside, red. 937-539-0950 DeGraff, OH.

2023 CORN PRO 16' Livestock Trailer For Rent \$150/Day

Located West Central Ohio

419-852-5836

(90-12th)

DR Trailer SALES

Milan, MI (734) 439-1441

Michiana Location (269) 464-2127

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PJ 16' HIGH SIDE DUMP TRAILER 14K GVWR \$11,499



VALLEY 20' STOCK TRAILER 20X6'8" X6'6"H SPRING DEAL \$13,199.00

SPRING DEALS GOING ON NOW!



PJ 25' 15.9K MONSTER \$10,799
BIG TEX 25' 23.9 MEGA \$14,899
PJ 32' 25K MONSTER \$15,699
BIG TEX 40' 23.9K MEGA \$16,499



PJ 20' DECKOVER 14K \$6,899

*Prices subject to change-See dealer for details (90-54)

100 INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

2021 JCB 427 Agri wheel loader. Cab, heat, AC, hyd. quick attach, 6158 hours, flat free tires, \$45,000. 765-238-9883 Hagers-town, IN.

JLG boom lift, 60' high, 8' basket w/electric, no DEF 2012, nice machine, \$28,000. 419-203-1221 Ohio City, OH.

101 BUSH HOGS

Bush Hog model 286, 6', stored in machinery shed, only used twice since 2010, asking \$1100 cash. 937-584-4497 Sabina, OH.

Classified Deadline: Fri. @ 11:00 AM EST

150 REAL ESTATE WANTED

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E-mail: ktrue@farmworldonline.com

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(150-12)

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19.3+/- acres w/17+/- tillable, located in Ripley Co., IN. Just 3 minutes from Hwy. 50. 42x58 barn ready for animals or equipment. City water, electric & fiber internet available. Ready to continue farming or build mini farm. \$225,000 Call Olivia at Woolum Real Estate 812-756-8738.

22 tillable acres available for 2025 planting season. Ideal for continued row crops or building homesite/mini farm. Located in Ripley County, Indiana just off of Hwy. 129 S. \$298,000. Call Olivia at Woolum Real Estate. 812-756-8738.

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www.farmworldonline.com

Dismantle & repair stave silos. 812-596-2757 Hope, IN.

Equipment transportation service. Tractors, construction equipment, industrial equipment, forestry equipment. Oversize permitted. Call or text for a quote. 937-459-2451 Arcanum, OH.

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190 LUMBER

1000' Walnut lumber, 1" thick, kiln dried, call for price. 812-427-2326 Bennington, IN.

Used barn lumber and metal. 812-360-8218 Bloomington, IN.

210 CATTLE

(12) Angus and Sim Angus bulls, (2) Charolais composite, 18 months to 3 yrs. old, forage developed for longevity, 35 yrs. AI in the herd. 812-797-1421 Orleans, IN.

(12) outstanding Red Angus bulls, calving ease, great disposition, thick phenotype, ready to work. 937-539-0950, 937-539-3951.

(2) purebred Brown Swiss yearling bulls; pygmy goats; lambs; semi miniature male donkey. 859-298-5609 Cynthiana, KY.

(4) cow calf pairs, Angus cross, Hereford cross cows, other calves avail. 937-459-2545 Greenville, OH.

2 yr. old reg. Angus bull, registration #20819365, \$4500. Joe 270-287-2740 Leitchfield, KY.

250 lb. Black Angus Holstein cross, groups of 100-150. 260-530-7005 Berne, IN.

Black Angus bulls, 2 year old, 3 year old, 7 year old, easy calving, great disposition, easy keeping, \$4000. 812-212-9782 Batesville, IN.

Bull-Chi Angus 14 months, AI from Higgs 2nd Helping, \$3500, Great Northern Farms 502-262-5952 502-594-8252 Charles-town, IN.

Jersey Holstein bull calves & Angus calves, approx. 8 mos. old, \$3/lb. 219-677-7803 Cedar Lake, IN.

Maine Anjou yearling bulls, gentle, easy calving. 812-584-7958 Cedar Grove, IN.

Reg. Angus bulls. Powerful & growthy yearling Angus bulls. Sired by popular AI sires. Semen tested & ready to work. Coverdale Angus. 317-363-4943 Frank-ton, IN.

Registered Angus bulls 18 months, out of AI Sires and GAF bloodlines. 812-486-2570 Mont-gomery, IN.

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(210-43)



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490 COMBINES & PICKERS-HEADS

2013 **Case** IH 6130, 4WD, 1956/1306 hrs., Pro 700, duals, extended wear pkg., new belts/chains, meticulous care, like new cond. 734-320-1953 Monroe, MI.

Gleaner 2005 R65, rear wheel assist, low hrs., exc. cond., \$54,000; AgCo 3000 8R CH and Gleaner 825 GH double cut, with head carts. 812-209-8084 Sunman, IN.

JD 9600 combine, 4312 eng. hrs., 3951 sep. hrs., gd. solid machine, new bearings on cylinder, dual tires, bin ext., cold AC, asking \$21,900. 920 GH, \$3750. 765-202-3111 Delphi, IN.

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500 WAGONS

BEST PRICES in Tri State on new **J&M, Killbros and Mayrath wagons, grain carts and augers. Also Maurer & J&M combine bin extensions. Delivery avail. anywhere. Call for best deal. 877-846-5381 days, 419-303-6881 eves. Delphos, OH.**

PLEASE NOTE: 15 Word Minimum On All Classified Word Ads

510 TILLAGE (PLOWS, DISCS, ETC.)

2020 **Yetter** 3530 30' rotary hoe, flat fold, light kit, gd. spoons, gauge wheels, housed, \$12,900. 989-213-7165 Freeland, MI.

2022 **JD** 2680H 25' high speed disc, hyd. leveler, 80% blades, narrow transport, update kit installed, field ready, \$64,900. 989-213-7165 Freeland, MI.

21' **Dunham** Lehr hyd. fold culti-mulcher, exc. cond., \$8500. 419-953-7513 New Bremen, OH.

Case IH 3900 disc, 32' w/7.5" spacing, \$7500. 219-819-3279 Rensselaer, IN.

JD 28' 630 disc, replaced all bearings, hoses & disc axles, rear hitch & hydraulics; Unverferth 30' double rolling basket w/leveling bar, \$9000 ea. or \$17,000 pair. 574-721-4181 Logansport, IN.

Unverferth 22' double rolling harrow, w/leveling bar & tall tires, like new; JD 15' disc, #215, 9" spacing, dual wheels, gd. blades, very nice. 765-863-0604 Bunker Hill, IN.

520 PLANTERS-DRILLS

2002 **JD** 1770 conservation planter, 12x30, vacuum, liq. fert., no-till coulters, Keeton seed firmers, spike and solid closing wheels, JD 250 monitor, Corn and bean plates, new iron last year, gd. cond., \$26,500. 269-779-5204 Delton, MI.

2011 **JD** 1990 CCS, 30' air seed-er, markers, ISO ready, 7.5"/15" spacing, half width disconnect, kept inside, sharp, \$69,900. 989-213-7165 Freeland, MI.

2014 **JD** 1770 NT corn planter, 16R-30", 1.6 bushel boxes, Star Fire 6000 receiver, 20/20 Gen 3 monitor, markers, Sure Point in furrow fert. w/300 gal. tank; Johnson Blue ground drive pump w/2x2 JD coulters, 600 gal. tank, Precision planting E-set meters w/ row shut offs, Delta Force & furrow force, Martin air adjust row cleaners, low acres, gd. cond., \$125,5000 obo. 814-322-8090 Westover, PA.

JD 1750 8R planter, liq. fert., monitor, many new parts, field ready, \$15,000. 740-406-8789 Washington Court House, OH.

JD 7000 6R, 30", dry fert., with monitor, gd. cond., always shedded. 765-468-7643 or 765-383-0047 Ridgeville, IN.

JD 7000 conservation 6R, 30' liquid 2"x2" fert. and in furrow, precision vacuum, meters, newer style population monitor. 513-839-1353 Oxford, OH.

530 HAY EQUIPMENT

2016 **NH** 5070 hay liner, small sq. baler, hyd. tension, lift and swing, exc. cond. 937-302-8643 New Vienna, OH.

2021 **NH** 210 discbine, swivel hitch, only 920 acres, \$26,500. 937-459-2545 Greenville, OH.

567 **JD** round baler, works gd., \$10,000. 812-427-2326 Bennington, IN.

6 **basket** hay tedder, exc. cond., \$6000. 270-699-1499 Raywick, KY.

8 **wheel** V-rake, center kicker wheel, like new. 812-486-5760 Montgomery, IN.

EHE spinner hay tedder, brand new, All American made, all parts interchangeable. Delivery avail. in Indiana. For info. & brochure call Kings Repair 765-597-2015 Marshall, IN.

HAY EQUIPMENT: NH 56, 256 & 258 rakes, IH rake, JD dolly wheel rake, Avco 509 9' haybine, \$4500. 419-495-2635 Van Wert, OH.

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Ohio acreage with a home and mini storage sells for \$184,000

Illinois

Mattoon – On April 12, Farmers National Company concluded an auction of 237.98 +/- acres, offered in three tracts. Soils were primarily Drummer silty clay loam and Raub and Dana silt loams. The property was lease-free for 2025. Tract 1, on the west side of CR 1000 E, held 80 fully tiled acres, with 78.17 cropland and 1.83 non-crop. Recent data showed 39.4 acres in corn (170 bushels) and 37.3 in soybeans (55 bushels). Tract 2, on the east side of CR 1000 E, had 79 fully tiled acres with two grain bins, with 78.87 acres of cropland and 0.13 non-crop. Tract 3, also on the east side of CR 1000 E, included 78.98 partially tiled acres, with 71.86 in cropland and 7.12 non-crop. Recent data for Tracts 2 and 3 showed 74.6 acres in corn (170 bushels) and 70.4 in soybeans (55 bushels). Tract 1 sold for \$1,240,000 (\$15,500/acre); Tract 2 for \$1,208,700 (\$15,300/acre); and Tract 3 for \$1,089,924 (\$13,800/acre).

Xenia – Schmid Auction conducted an online-only sale of 120 +/- acres in three tracts on April 30. All mineral, oil and gas rights conveyed without warranty. Farming rights were granted after the 2025 fall harvest, but the new owner would receive \$150 per tillable FSA acre on or before November 2025. Local water and electricity were available at each parcel. Tract 1 included 40 +/- acres, with 38.72 +/- tillable FSA and 32 currently in row crop. The fenced parcel had baled waterways and a small pond. Tract 2 totaled 41.3 +/- acres,

REAL ESTATE AUCTION ROUNDUP

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

with 29 +/- tillable FSA and 6.97 +/- wooded that connect to larger timber tracts, offering excellent hunting potential. This fenced parcel also included

a 1.8-acre pond, a smaller pond, a 60-by-50-foot pole building, and a 36-by-63-foot open-end cattle barn. Tract 3 had 38.7 +/- fenced acres, with 37.86 +/- acres tillable FSA. Tract 1 sold for \$201,000 (\$5,025/acre); Tract 2 for \$228,183 (\$5,525/acre); and Tract 3 for \$179,955 (\$4,650/acre).

Indiana

Auburn – On April 30, Schradler Real Estate and Auction offered a two-bedroom home on 19.76 +/- acres, split into two tracts. Tract 1, with frontage on CR 68, included the 1,690-square-foot single-story 2-bedroom/1-bath home. It had a 2-car attached garage, 10-by-20-foot breezeway, whole-house generator, 200-amp electric, gas heat, central air, and private well/septic. The parcel also had a 30-by-56-foot older barn with a lean-to and another 32-by-46-foot older barn. Tract 2, also on CR 68, offered 9.8 +/- acres in brush and woods, ideal for recreation or a potential home site. The tracts sold combined for \$530,000.

Greensboro Township – Burgess Auctions held a live/simulcast auction on April 12 for 10 scenic acres containing several outbuildings. Known locally as the Lanny “Keith” Ferrell estate, the property included a creek, wooded areas, a fire-damaged tear-down house, a 4,480

square-foot pole barn built in 2014, and several hunting cabins. It was set up for horses and offered strong potential for rebuilding or development (pending floodplain rules). It sold for \$160,000.

Kentucky

Chestertown – On April 16, Kurtz Auction & Realty offered 223.257 acres of hunting and cropland in two tracts. Tract 1 included 133.180 surveyed acres with 33.79 tillable FSA acres, tiled bottom ground, 739.09 feet of Highway 69 frontage, and 2,514 feet along the Green River with scenic bluffs. Tract 2 had 90.077 surveyed acres, with 4.94 tillable FSA, and 662.18 feet of frontage, including an access road on Highway 69. The tracts sold together for \$893,028, or \$4,000/acre.

Mayfield — On April 12, Harris Real Estate & Auction presented a three-bedroom brick home and 77.31 tillable acres, divided into six tracts. Tract 1 featured the 3-bedroom/2.5-bath home with new central heat/AC, a 2-car detached garage, and 1.34 acres. Tract 2 included 1.03 acres with a barn. Tracts 3 through 6 consisted of 22.51, 27.88, 4.08, and 20.47 acres, respectively. Tract 1 sold for \$155,000; Tracts 2–6 brought a combined \$770,000.

Michigan

Claypool - Hahn Auctioneers offered 28.82 acres as one tract on April 21. Known locally as the former Smalley family farm, the tract held 27.73 tillable acres, mainly in Crocier and Wawasee loam soils, with access along S 775 W. It sold for \$360,000, equating to \$12,982/acre.

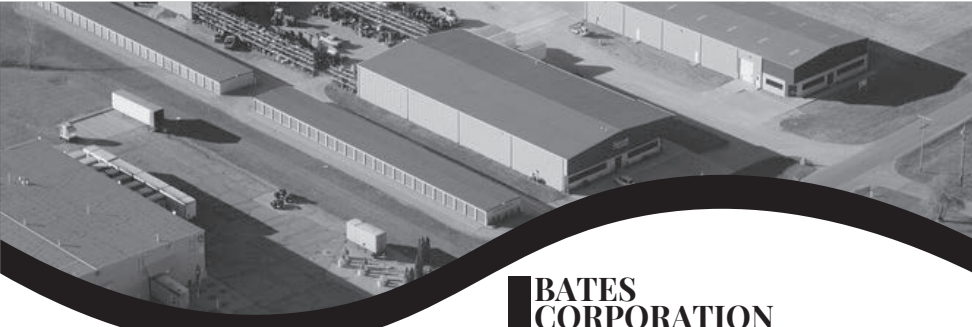
White Pigeon – On April 10, Bright Star Real Estate Services auctioned a home and barn on three acres, ideal for keeping horses. The 3-bedroom/1.5-bath house featured a Dutchwest XL wood stove and Hearth Focus pellet stove and was recently renovated, including a new roof in 2024. The barn included six horse stalls, new doors, and a GenTran six-circuit generator with garage hookup, and its foundation sealed and painted in 2024. The property held fruit trees and berry bushes. Bidding opened at \$275,000; the property sold for \$510,000.

Ohio

Jewett – On April 15, Kaufman Realty & Auctions held an online auction for 5.6 acres with a home and business opportunity. The property featured three income-producing storage buildings totaling 28 units of varying sizes. The 2-bedroom, 1,024-square-foot house needed renovation. Adjacent was a 25-by-37-foot detached garage and a 24-by-54-foot pole barn. The mostly open acreage had good pasture potential. It sold for \$184,000.

Orrville – On April 15, Kiko held an absolute live/simulcast auction for 30 acres of productive tillable cropland. The corner parcel, with over 2,300 feet of frontage on Burton City and Tannersville Roads, had level topography and easy access. Soils were mainly Luray silty clay loam and Carlisle muck. The property was in a 100-year floodplain. Mineral rights conveyed with the transfer. The parcel sold for \$364,730, or \$12,158/acre.

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ChickQuest, NextGrowGen, other tools used to teach ag at school

by Doug Graves
Ohio Correspondent

CLEVELAND, Ohio — From watching chickens grow to growing soybeans in pots; teachers use many innovative programs to bring agriculture into the classroom in Ohio.

For many years, Ohio 4-H has used the ChickQuest program to help youth understand the cycle of life. ChickQuest challenges youth to use science, technology, engineering and



Above: Ohio third-graders observe chicks as they hatch thanks to the ChickQuest program. Lorain County 4-H STEM Educator Sally Hennessy leads students in this study. (photo submitted)

math skills to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic chicken egg through hands-on activities and educational lessons.

Erica Hitzhusen, an eighth-grade teacher at Worthingway Middle School in Worthington, Ohio, taught her students all about growing soybeans with Soybeans 101, a GrowNextGen e-learning course.

These two programs are just a few that are being used in Ohio.

Sally Hennessy, a 4-H STEM educator in Lorain County in Ohio, has expanded the ChickQuest programming in local third grade classrooms. In addition to educating youth on the growth and development of chickens, she helps teachers incorporate activities on artificial intelligence (AI) technology into the lesson plans to help youth understand how it can be used to help the ag industry become more efficient.

“My goal for connecting AI to ChickQuest is to familiarize the classroom teachers and students with AI-based laser weeding machines that are being used in fields,” said Hennessy.

The machines Hennessy is referring to are ones used by many farmers that use artificial intelligence to scan fields and detect weeds, potentially reducing the need for chemical herbicides to treat those weeds.

“In third grade most kids are familiar with facial recognition on smart phones,” she said. “The machine learning that phones use for that is easily equated with teaching a farm machine



Above: Worthingway Middle School students in Ohio measure the weight of an egg. The students also engaged in the study of soybeans, growing them inside the classroom. (photo submitted)

to recognize pictures of different weeds in a field. It’s trained to zap only the weeds, and not the food plants.”

Hennessy ties these lessons on AI technology into existing ChickQuest curriculum by highlighting the ways in which this technology is used to help grow a chemical-free soybean that could be used to make feed for chickens. The technology ultimately creates more options for farmers.

“Many Ohioans don’t realize that loads of Ohio-grown soybeans are used to produce chicken feed, and AI technology can be used to assist farmers in growing these crops more efficiently,” Hennessy said. “The feed is then eaten by chickens that produce eggs that contribute to Ohio’s egg industry,

(Teaching ag continued on page 2B)

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Microsoft, FFA announce expansion of FarmBeats for Students

REDMOND, Wash. – Microsoft Corp. and the National FFA Organization have announced the national expansion of FarmBeats for Students, a cutting-edge educational program integrating smart sensors, data science and artificial intelligence (AI) to teach precision agriculture in classrooms. FFA teachers and students will now receive a classroom set of FarmBeats for Students kits free of charge. The kits include ready-to-use sensor systems along with curriculum for teachers.

More and more farmers are adopting advanced technology, including automating systems such as tractors and harvesters and using drones and data analysis to intervene early against pests and disease, to maximize crop yield, optimize resource usage, and adjust to changing weather patterns.

Using the FarmBeats for Students kits and free curriculum, students build environmental sensor systems and use AI to monitor soil moisture and detect nutrient deficiencies – allowing them to understand what is happening with their plants and make data-driven decisions in real time. Students can adapt the kit to challenges unique to their region – such as drought, frost and pests – providing them with practical experience in tackling real-world issues in their hometowns.

“Microsoft is committed to ensuring students and teachers have the tools they need to succeed in today’s tech-driven world, and that includes giving students hands-on experience with precision farming, data science and AI,” said Mary Snapp, Microsoft vice president, Strategic Initiatives. “By teaming

up with FFA to bring FarmBeats for Students to students across the country, we hope to inspire the next generation of agriculture leaders and equip them with the skills to tackle any and all challenges as they guide us into the future.”

Christine White, chief program officer with the National FFA Organization, said, “Our partnership with Microsoft exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing industry needs while fostering personal and professional growth among students. Programs like this equip students with technical knowledge, confidence and adaptability to thrive in diverse and evolving industries. Investing in these young minds today sets the stage for a more sustainable, innovative and resilient agricultural future.”

In addition, teachers, students, or parents interested in FarmBeats for Students can purchase a kit for \$35 at this link and receive free training at aka.ms/FBFS-MSLearn

Any educator interested in implementing the FarmBeats for Students program can now access a new, free comprehensive course on the Microsoft Educator Learn Center, providing training on precision agriculture, data science and AI, allowing teachers to earn professional development hours and badges.

FarmBeats for Students was co-developed by Microsoft, FFA and agriculture educators. The program aligns with the AI for K-12 initiative guidelines; Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources career standards; Computer Science Teachers Association standards; and Common Core math standards.

For more information about FarmBeats for Students, visit aka.ms/FBFS.

Teaching Ag

FROM PAGE 1B

helping us become the third-largest producer of grocery store eggs in the country.

“It’s a big deal that kids learn that the agriculture industry in Ohio is awesome, and new technologies are helping to give farmers and egg producers more options than ever before.”

ChickQuest is an example of one ag-teaching tool. And there are others, too.

The Ohio Soybean Council sponsors a program called GrowNextGen and provides STEM resources for Ohio teachers to engage and educate their students through the science of agriculture.



Above: Students at Worthingway Middle School in Ohio make notes on the progress of their indoor-grown soybeans. School teacher Erica Hitzhusen used a Soybeans 101 course through GrowNextGen to instruct her students. (photo submitted)

Erica Hitzhusen’s students did not have access to a field or even a greenhouse, so they planted soybeans in one-gallon pots under artificial lights.

“A lot of my students had no experience with growing anything,” Hitzhusen said. “My students asked many basic questions about soybeans, like how long before they grow, what are the beans used for, why are they so important. It was exciting to see their engagement, wonder, curiosity and enthusiasm. GrowNextGen offers endless resources.”

Ohio classrooms teach about agriculture through various other programs and initiatives. Organizations like the National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) and Farm-to-School teach students about the importance of agriculture in the state. Ohio Farm Bureau offers Agriculture in the Classroom to increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education.

AITC is a national program supported by state-level initiatives to improve agricultural literacy among students and teachers.

AITC provides educators with resources, including the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix to align agricultural content with Common Core Standards. Ohio’s AITC program offers a network of experts and resources to help teachers integrate agriculture into their classrooms.

The Farm-to-School programs aim to connect students with fresh, local food and educate them about where their food comes from. These programs may include nutrition education in classrooms, farmer visits, and sampling of local produce.

Ohio has a Farm-to-School program that focuses on enriching connections between communities, fresh food and local food producers.



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Michigan wheat farmer defends state title for yields at 174 bushels

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

WAYLAND, Mich. — A Michigan farmer has defended his title as overall winner for the most bushels of wheat produced per acre in the state.

Nick Suwyn, 42, said he doesn't have a secret recipe in what he applies to the soil before and after his seeds are planted in the fall.

In Michigan, the growing season is through the winter and spring with harvesting, typically, in July.

Suwyn credited his success to close-

ly monitoring his crops from beginning until end so, if necessary, an application of nitrogen fertilizer can be applied to help the wheat quickly overcome any stress it might be under due to factors like weather.

"I don't think there's any silver bullets out there. It's just working with what the Lord gives you and do the best that you can," he said.

Suwyn was the overall winner in the 2024 Michigan Wheat Contest with 174 bushels per acre of his irrigated soft red winter wheat. That was an increase of nearly three bushels per acre from when he was the state's overall winner for wheat yields the previous year.

Suwyn also finished first with 156.6 bushels per acre of his dryland soft red winter wheat harvested last year while his uncle, Dick Suwyn, placed second in the same category.

Michigan State University wheat specialist Dennis Pennington said Suwyn and other growers placing high in the contest had exceptional years despite very dry weather in many parts

of the state during the grain-fill period last summer.

The results were announced on April 29 by the Michigan Wheat Program, which is funded by nearly 8,000 wheat growers in 50 of Michigan's 83 counties. The program's mission is to promote the state's wheat industry and enhance it through research.

The organization also helps support the needs of growers by working with input suppliers, seed producers, end users and consumers.

Suwyn is no stranger to finishing at or near the top in wheat yield contests. His past successes include a second-place finish nationally last year for yields and quality of his irrigated soft red winter wheat. Suwyn also took first place in the 2024 Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network contest for his wheat yields.

He said other people from his longtime family farm about 20 miles south of Grand Rapids also played a major role in his achievements.

"You put a pretty good team around you and that makes all of the difference in the world," he said.

Suwyn said he raises 500 to 600 acres of wheat along with corn and soybeans on about 3,000 acres.

It seems like Suwyn won't rest until he takes first place at the national level for wheat yields after a string of previous top five finishes.

He said it might be a difficult task, especially against growers from other major wheat producing states like Washington and Idaho.

"It's a hard climate to compete with but we do what we can," he said.

Suwyn also goes up against stiff competition from another Michigan farmer, Jeffrey Krohn, who was just four bushels per acre short of becoming the overall winner in the state con-



Above: Nick Suwyn was the overall winner in Michigan's wheat yield contest.

test for his dryland soft white winter wheat.

Krohn, owner of Krohn Acres farm in the thumb section of the state, placed first in that category, topping second place finisher, Randy Eschenburg, of Lapeer County, by 24 bushels per acre.

His past successes include first place finishes in the national wheat yield contest last year and in 2021 in the dryland soft white winter wheat division.

Suwyn has also highly performed, but not quite as well as he has in wheat, in past contests for yields of corn and soybeans. He said he simply tries to follow what he believes is the calling of all farmers to do their very best to get the most out of the seeds they plant.

"Manage what you got in all different soil types, climates and weather. It's just paying attention to what the crop needs," he said.

The deadline for entering the 2025 state wheat yield contest is May 15, according to the Michigan Wheat Program.

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New report reveals most farms have off-farm income

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

WASHINGTON D.C. – About three out of every four U.S. farm households relied on off-farm incomes in 2023 as a buffer against market volatility and sustaining their rural livelihoods. That’s according to the latest “Market Intel” report by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Two Indiana farmers were not surprised but feel the percentage is probably similar in all U.S. households.

“It takes two incomes now to get by,” said Mark Parkman, who raises corn, soybeans, hay and cattle in the Westville area.

Matt Schafer, of LaCrosse, said he feels the statistic could be a little misleading, though, because some farms are not large enough for a full-time living and spouses choose to work sometimes out of preference.

“It’s not necessarily that they have to,” he said.

Schafer, who raises corn and soybeans, said he has always been able to bring in enough income working full-time as a farmer, allowing the mother of his children to stay home, and then reenter the workforce at her choice when the kids became older.

“It’s always nice to have that second income,” he said.

AFBF Economist Daniel Munch said 77 percent of farm household incomes

two years ago relied on incomes from sources other than producing food, fiber and fuel.

“About 72 percent of off-farm income in recent years has come from earned sources, including wages and salaries and non-farm business income. The remaining 28 percent has come from unearned sources like Social Security, veterans’ benefits, pensions, dividends and interest,” he said.

Munch said smaller farms measured by gross cash farm income, including government payments, tend to be more dependent on off-farm employment.

He said over 60 percent of principal operators on farms with less than \$100,000 in annual gross sales worked at least one day off the farm while the number dropped to 45 percent or less on farms with more than \$500,000 in gross sales.

“On the flip side, larger farms typically require full-time attention and labor from operators, making off-farm work less feasible. Still, across all farm sizes, a notable share of producers rely on income from beyond the farm gate,” Munch said.

According to the report, the statistics are based on USDA’s broad definition of a farm, which includes any operation down to very small scale and lifestyle farms with more than \$1,000 in ag product sales.

Nevertheless, Munch said the amount of income off the farm high-

lights the vital role it plays in keeping farm households financially afloat.

According to the report, median off farm income in 2023 was just slightly below \$80,000 compared to a median farm income of \$900 that same year.

The report also revealed the need for off-farm income was greater among younger and beginning farmers defined as 35 years or younger or those with less than 10 years of farming experience.

Twenty percent of young farmers and 24 percent of beginning farmers reported working exclusively on the farm compared to nearly 40 percent of all farmers.

In many cases, Munch said off-farm jobs help cover things like start-up costs.

“This trend reflects the steep financial climb facing new entrants to agriculture. Without inherited land, equipment or equity, it’s difficult to rely solely on early farm earnings,” Munch said.

In many cases, he said off-farm jobs can also mean the difference between access to health insurance and other benefits.

According to the report, off-farm income varies greatly by farm type, reflecting factors such as labor demands, availability of automation, production schedules and income volatility across commodities.

Dairy farm households were most

reliant on income earned from the farm itself with 81 percent of their household income in 2023 coming directly from farming activities, according to the report.

Next highest was households raising corn at 58 percent of income from strictly farming. The other numbers ranged from 43 percent of households raising specialty crops to 10 percent of households raising cattle receiving their incomes strictly from food production, according to the report.

Parkman, president of LaPorte County Farm Bureau, is also a contractor excavating dirt for housing and other developments. He began doing that in 1988 after purchasing his first backhoe.

It wasn’t until 12 years later that he broke into farming by using 500 acres of land and a few tractors he already owned for his excavating business. He then bought a no-till drill to plant soybeans.

“By harvest, I had a combine. I went about it a completely different way,” he said.

Farming wasn’t totally new to Parkman, who earned money in high school by feeding veal calves at a couple of farms and later hauling grain.

His wife also grew up on a nearby dairy farm.

“Farming in my opinion is quality of life. It’s time well spent,” he said.

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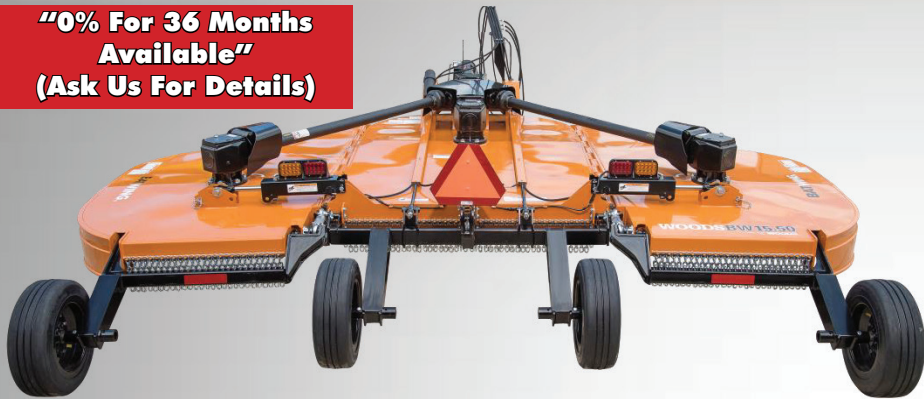


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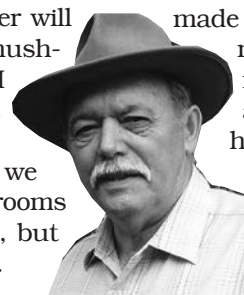
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Occasionally, an outdoor lover will stumble on a motherlode of mushrooms. Years ago, my wife and I did this very thing and brought a huge sack full back to the house. Dumping them out, we had a sink full and more mushrooms than we knew what to do with, but we soon remedied the situation.



SPAULDING OUTDOORS

By Jack Spaulding

made changes to previously announced rainbow trout stocking plans because of a shortage of rainbow trout at the hatchery.

Nineteen streams across 13 counties were stocked with trout before April 26, the opening day of trout season, but some locations didn't receive the planned amount of rainbow trout. Some were supplemented with brown trout. The streams affected

will receive no more rainbow trout this spring; however, nine of them will be stocked with brown trout this month. The brown trout to be stocked range from 8 to 12 inches long. More details are posted at on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

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

To fish for trout, anglers age 18 and older need an Indiana fishing license and an annual trout/salmon stamp. To purchase yours, visit GoOutdoor-IN.com.

Longest new section of Monon South Trail opens

On May 2, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Radius Indiana celebrated the opening of the

(Spaulding continued on page 12B)

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March cheese output is up nearly 10 percent from February

You'll recall March milk production was up 0.9 percent from a year ago. The USDA's latest Dairy Products report shows that more milk was sent to the vat and churns.

HighGround Dairy pointed out the March Ag Prices report showed that the fat test average was 4.33 percent, a record for the month, and when combined with milk output, brought total butterfat pounds to 837.5 million for the month. This is a 3 percent year over year gain or 24.4 million pounds higher. This will keep a lid on butter prices for now, but the weaker markets should fuel greater exports, keeping things from plummeting."

Cheese output totaled 1.226 billion pounds, up 9.8 percent from February, keeping in mind February had one less day due to leap year, but was up 1.4 percent from March 2024. Revisions added 1 million pounds to February's total. Total output for the first three months of 2025 stood at 3.56 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from 2024.

Wisconsin's March production climbed to 304.4 million pounds, up 7.9 percent from February, and 2.8 percent above a year ago. California produced 215.2 million pounds, up 7.3 percent from February, but 0.1 percent below a year ago. Idaho contributed 90.0 million, up 18.3 percent from February, and 1.1 percent above a year ago. New Mexico, with 76.6 million pounds, was up 14.2 percent from February, but 7.6 percent below a year ago.

Mozzarella production totaled 405.8 million pounds, down 0.9 percent from a year ago, with year to date (YTD) output hitting 1.2 billion pounds, up 0.2 percent. American cheese hit 500.2 million pounds, up 13.0 percent from February, and 4.6 percent above a year ago. YTD American hit 1.4 billion pounds, up 2.2 percent.

Italian style cheeses totaled 517.9 million pounds, up 9.2 percent from February, but 0.2 percent below a year ago, with YTD at 1.5 billion pounds,

down 0.2 percent from 2024.

Cheddar production jumped to 347.7 million pounds, up 40 million pounds or 13.0 percent from February, and 17.6 million or 5.4 percent above a year ago. Revisions added 1 million pounds to the February total. YTD Cheddar hit 984.4 million pounds, up 1.7 percent from a year ago.

Butter output jumped to 229.0 million pounds, up 26.3 million pounds or 12.9 percent from February, and 18.2 million or 8.6 percent above a year ago. YTD butter hit 649.9 million pounds, up 3.9 percent from a year ago.

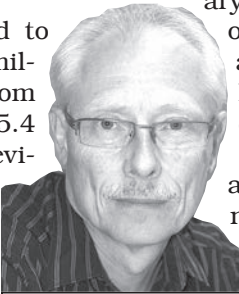
Yogurt production totaled 460.2 million pounds, up 7.2 percent from a year ago, with output for the year so far at 1.3 billion pounds, up 6.3 percent.

Hard ice cream, at 60.4 million pounds, was up 7.9 percent from 2024. YTD production, at 175.5 million pounds, was down 0.5 percent from a year ago.

Dry whey output climbed to 70.0 million pounds, up 9.9 million pounds or 16.5 percent from February, but down 9.9 million or 12.4 percent from a year ago. YTD whey output hit 202.1 million pounds, down 12.0 percent from a year ago. Whey stocks grew to 64.2 million pounds, up 1.5 million or 2.4 percent from February, but down 17.1 million pounds or 21.0 percent from a year ago.

Nonfat dry milk output jumped to 168.0 million pounds, up 21.4 million or 14.6 percent from February, but down 16.8 million pounds or 9.1 percent from a year ago. NFDM YTD came in at 469.3 million pounds, down 0.4 percent from 2024. Stocks grew to 263.1 million pounds, up 12.8 million, or 5.1 percent from February, and up 44.9 million pounds or 20.6 percent from 2024.

Skim milk powder production, at 34 million pounds, was up 3.2 million pounds or 10.5 percent from Febru-



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

ary, but was down 4.6 million or 11.9 percent from a year ago. YTD SMP hit 99.3 million pounds, down 32.3 percent from 2024.

The USDA revised February's nonfat dry milk stocks number down 78 million pounds, according to StoneX broker Dave Kurzawski. Speaking in the May 12 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, he said that's one of the largest revisions ever and it supported the futures market "But it's such a big number that it's a little unsettling and I'm not sure that the markets fully believe that type of number."

He said it may be revised but, other than that, production looked somewhat subdued. Butter output showed a strong number, lactose was up, and cheese was up 1.4 percent, "which is not earth shattering."

Mozzarella output being down likely speaks to low domestic disappearance, certainly in pizza, according to Kurzawski, but the rise in CME cheese prices this week is based on reality. The export market is red hot, he explained, but if exports drop, we could see cheese drop 20 cents easily. If they stay strong and we turn up domestic demand, even a little, it could be 20 cents higher or more. Stocks to use data would dictate \$1.90 cheese, he concluded, "But then you look at world prices which are at \$2 plus and firming, U.S. prices look pretty cheap."

Speaking of the portside of things: March U.S. dairy exports were up 2.8 percent from a year ago and hit the highest level in two years, thanks to strong sales of butter, cheese, dry whey, and nonfat dry milk. HighGround Dairy reported that the shipments were valued at \$842.6 million, fourth-largest figure of all-time.

"U.S. product to Mexico, China and Canada, the top three export markets, all increased year-over-year by double digits," says HGD, however,

"These sales were likely booked in December and January after President Trump took office, but ahead of the tariffs, suggesting the big swings up were front-loading ahead of what was to come."

Cheese exports hit 108.7 million pounds, down 1.5 percent from a year ago, however, "When adjusted on a 30-day basis, this ranks third all-time, behind March 2024 and February 2025," according to HighGround. "U.S. cheese prices have been at a discount to the rest of the world since October, and that, coupled with the impending tariffs when these deals were made, kept totals lofty."

Butter exports came in at 13.5 million pounds, up 170.8 percent, the highest monthly volume on a 30-day adjusted basis since April 2014. Canada's imports were up 172 percent during the month and raised total butter exports through first quarter 94 percent.

HighGround adds, "Since February 2025, U.S. CME spot butter has maintained a roughly \$1.00 per pound discount to European and New Zealand product prompting buyers to take advantage of the price disparity."

Exports of nonfat and skim milk powder totaled 142.4 million pounds, up 1.4 percent from a year ago, though year to date sailings were still down 15.2 percent. The U.S. exported 39.4 million pounds of dry whey, up 8.1 percent from a year ago.

The first Global Dairy Trade event of May saw the weighted average jump 4.6 percent, following a 1.6 percent gain on April 15. Volume slipped to 36.8 million pounds, down from 36.9 million on April 15, and the lowest since May 5, 2020. The average metric ton price climbed to \$4,516 U.S., up from \$4,385.

Cheddar was up 12.0 percent, after slipping 1.8 percent last time, while Mozzarella was down 0.3 percent, following a 5.4 percent boost.

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From fishermen to fearless: The power of being with Jesus

Acts 4:13 “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were un-schooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Sometimes you can tell a lot about someone by observation. Place of origin and even education reveal themselves in interesting ways. Just by watching, listening, and even smelling, the observant person can surmise a lot. In fact, it's even possible to ascertain when someone has a relationship with Jesus.

Recently our company held a real estate auction in a neighboring town. Upon arrival at the hosting facility, I made a judgment call the moment I en-



VERSES FROM MAMA
By Sandra Sheridan

tered the building. A certain odor hung over the building and after a few breaths, I knew. The previous event had something to do with pigs and the aftereffects of the earlier occupants lingered over the building.

When the opportunity arose, I asked the building manager about my theory and she confirmed my thoughts. The weekend before a swine show took place in the attached arena and the stench had permeated the building. Even now, a few days later, the evidence still lingered.

Just as I could easily pinpoint the previous occupants of our auction venue, all of Jesus' followers should also be easy to spot. But instead of the typical stench of the world and its sinfulness, believers should radiate with the beau-

tiful essence of their Lord. It's not about where we are from or our status in life, but about with Whom we have associated that makes the difference.

Jesus' original disciples were mostly ordinary men; quite a few were fishermen by trade. They did not have much schooling or religious training as the Pharisees would have had, but something changed after they spent time with Jesus.

For three years these laborers listened to Jesus' teachings. They traveled with Him, observed His demeanor in numerous difficult circumstances, and developed a love and belief in His identity as the Son of God. They despaired when Jesus was tortured on a Roman cross but gained new courage and power when they encountered Him after the resurrection and received the Holy Spirit.

In response to their relationship with Jesus these men courageously preached the good news of salvation to all they met. When persecuted they boldly held fast to the truth. Even the disgruntled religious leaders, astounded by the men's courage despite their lack of education, concluded that these men had been with Jesus.

What an incredible testimony! Although these ordinary men had little in terms of the world's standards, they were recognized as Jesus' disciples because of their confidence and courage to stand for truth.

That's the way it is with people who spend time with the Lord. Slowly His qualities rub off as He changes us into the image of His Son. Everywhere we go we carry the fragrance of Christ. And when that's the case, people will know.



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AS IS/SALVAGE
Dynapac CC122 Roller – Not Running, Komatsu D39EX – R+D / Hydraulic Leak, Komatsu D61PX – R+D / electrical Issue, Intersoll-Rand/Bobcat ZX75 – R+D / Hydraulic leak at rotator, Kubota KX033-4 – cranks wont start, TYM hoods – backhoe attachments (not complete), JLG 45HA lift – hydraulic Leak, MLE A70TD lift – drive issues, TCI Forklift – cranks – not starting fuel issue, New Holland LM445 – R+D / Electrical issues / weak brakes, Burnt Truck, Hesston 100-90 R+D / AS IS Rough shape, John Deere 1600 – Runs / nothing else works, Bobcat MT55 – R+D / hole in block, Bobcat T590 – Missing parts / not running, Deere 333G – Fire Damaged, Burn Bobcat wheel Skid Loader – model unknown, Case 1845C – R+D / chain issue, Caterpillar 216 - R+D / as is, Deere 328D – Cranks wont start, New Holland L234 – Not Running, (x2) New Holland L218 – Not Running, Case IH 5250, Case IH 4240 – Missing Parts, John Deere 6145 - Not Running, Kubota M125X R+D – Selling AS IS Needs Love, Case IH 3294 – Runs / Fuel issues, John Deere 4840 - R+D / no



reverse, Ford 7600 – R+D / Fuel Leak and other issues, Ford 6640 – R+D / needs ignition switch, John Deere 2355 - R+D / Clutch Cleaking, John Deere 5420 – salvage – not complete, John Deere 4200 – Not Running, John Deere 1050 – R+D / fuel issues, John Deere 1050 – Motor Issues, Kubota B1550 - Runs has drive issue, Massey Ferguson 1240 – Runs / Transmission Issue, Komatsu WA250-6, New Holland LW130, NMC- Wolland 3K



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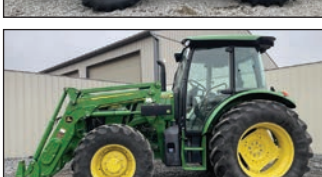
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First round of testing finds no H5N1 in milk from Hoosier Grade A dairies

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – No H5N1 was found in unpasteurized milk from Grade A dairies in Indiana during two rounds of testing for the virus, according to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH).

In March 2024, cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were found in dairy cows in Texas. The source was wild birds, BOAH said in a release. Since then, H5N1 has been confirmed on more than 1,000 dairy farms in 18 states, the agency noted. After H5N1 was found in some unpasteurized milk, USDA announced the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) late last year. The strategy is a five-stage program with a goal to eliminate the disease from the U.S. dairy cattle population, BOAH said.

To date, BOAH said no dairy cattle have tested positive for the virus in Indiana.

In the initial round of NMTS testing (March 12-April 14), milk from all 660 of the state’s Grade A dairies was tested, Denise Derrer Spears, BOAH public information director, told Farm World. During the second round (April 17-May 2), milk from 98 percent of the grade A dairies was tested, BOAH said. The NMTS calls for three rounds of testing.

The state is in the second stage of the strategy, she said. Milk samples are screened by the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Non-negatives samples will be sent to the USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories for confirmation, BOAH said.

“During the stage 2 testing process, if the virus is confirmed on a farm, Indiana moves to stage 3,” Spears explained. “A confirmed finding triggers additional epidemiologic investigation of the identified farm, as well as a Restricted Movement Order to limit movement of lactating dairy cattle off the property for at least 30 days. A

10-km surveillance zone will be established. All Grade A dairies in the surveillance zone will undergo active surveillance – testing every 28 days until the confirmed herd tests negative.

“Commercial poultry premises located within the surveillance zone will also undergo testing every 28 days. We know that other states have experienced H5N1 spill-over from dairies to poultry farms.”

If Indiana gets through the three rounds of testing required in stage 2 of the NMTS with no confirmed cases of H5N1 in milk, the state will move to stage 4 of the strategy.

“(In stage 4), the number of farms tested drops to a risk-based, statistical sample (instead of all eligible farms) for another three months,” Spears pointed out. “If Indiana continues to demonstrate an absence of virus, we can move to stage 5.”

Stage 5 indicates what USDA calls “demonstrating freedom from H5N1 in U.S. dairy cattle.” The agency said it will work with states to begin periodic sampling and testing to illustrate long-term absence of the virus from the national herd.

Spears said dairy farmers should practice high levels of biosecurity, including being aware of all movements on and off their farms of people, equipment and animals.

“USDA’s epidemiologists have found that much of the farm-to-farm spread of the H5N1 virus in dairies has been tied to sharing equipment (tractors, vehicles, manure spreaders, etc.) between farms,” she said. “Human traffic, including employees who work on multiple farms, is another risk factor for carrying virus particles from one site to another.

“No one should have cow contact or enter cow areas unless they need to. And those who do should wear clean or dedicated clothing and footwear. This includes regular farm visitors, such as feed delivery and milk haulers.”

Anyone bringing new lactating cattle onto a farm should isolate and

observe the herd additions before introducing them to the herd to ensure animals are free of clinical signs, Spears said.

Consumers should know the milk they buy at the grocery store is safe, as pasteurization has been proven to kill any H5N1 that may be present, she said.

Nationally, cases of H5N1 in dairy cows have slowed in recent months, according to the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In the 30 days ending May 6, there were 49 cases in three states – Arizona, California and Idaho. The peak period for new cases was October through December, Spears said.

As for HPAI in poultry, Indiana hasn’t had a case of the virus in a commercial flock since March 28. The Indiana Department of Natural

Resources continues to monitor the wild-bird population, she said, adding the agency’s most recent report identified H5N1-positive birds in Noble and Porter counties.

“We are hopeful that the worst is behind us as migration season comes to an end,” she said. “Remember, the virus is still circulating in the environment and wild-bird populations know no boundaries and don’t practice biosecurity. Controlling as many factors as possible goes a long way.”



Since the HPAI outbreak began in poultry in the state in February 2022, more than 8.5 million commercial egg layers, turkeys, ducks and non-commercial birds have been destroyed, according to BOAH.

For biosecurity information and resources, visit <https://securemilk-supply.org>.



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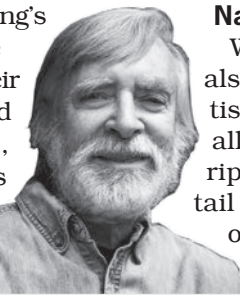
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More opportunities for temperatures in the 70s, chances of frost low

There is a time when spring's new leaves are just opened, the grasses are growing to their first tallness, violets – yellow and blue, cowslips, crowfoots, woodruff, false Solomon's seal are in bloom, the woods are dense against the evening sky, but not yet as dark as in late spring.... – August Derleth



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

Weather Trends

High temperatures are usually above 60 degrees the week ahead, with the chances of 70s or better rising to 70 percent, a 10 percent increase over last week's chances. Cold in the 50s occurs rarely, but if it does appear, it is typically on the 21st and 24th. Chances of frost are low, but tender plants are in some danger after the passage of May's fourth cold front on the 15th and fifth cold front on the 20th. The 18th, 19th and 22nd are the wettest days in the period; the 20th and the 21st are the least likely to bring precipitation.

Natural Calendar

When azaleas lose their petals, daisies and the first clematis and the first cinquefoil open all the way, the first strawberry ripens, and the first swallowtail butterflies visit the late star of Bethlehem and bleeding hearts. The last quince flowers fall, and lilacs decay. The yellow heads of meadow goat's beard appear along the roadsides next to the sweet clover foliage spreading out for June. The pink and violet of sweet rockets replace the purple wild phlox in the woods and pastures. All of the buttercups blossom, and by the end of the week, the first pyrethrums presage the poppies. Horseradish and comfrey are budding. Locust leaves emerge, their first flowers now open as the high canopy slowly closes in. Rich-scented four-petaled flowers of the silver olive are still open. Lizard's tail has at least three leaves now. Golden ragwort, wild phlox, pale violet Jacob's ladder, Jack-in-the-pulpit, columbine and wild geraniums are still in full flower.

Multiflora roses and wild raspberries are budding. Black walnuts and oaks become the major sources of pollen. Cedar waxwings migrate up the rivers as the last buckeye flowers fall. Half the goslings are bigger than galoshes. Adult geese begin their restless summer flights and calls now that the goslings are growing up.

When-Then Phenology for May

When hummingbirds arrive at feeders, thrushes, catbirds and scarlet tanagers arrive, too. When strawberries come into full bloom, then wild cucumber will be sprouting along the rivers. When summer phlox are two-feet tall, catbirds call in the bushes. When apple blossoms fall, then rare, medicinal golden seal blooms in the woods. When mayflies swarm by the water, spitbugs make their spittle shelters in the parsnips, and the first cut of hay is underway. When chives bloom in the garden, then crappie fishing peaks in the shallows. When flower clusters of the sweetgum tree fall, then the first strawberry could be red. When azaleas lose their petals, morel season is about over for the year, and swallowtail butterflies come looking for flowers.

Journal

"This collection is like a diary of my expeditions, which makes me set out

again with renewed joy, or like an optical device which places them once again before my eyes. It is the chain of accessory ideas that makes me love botany. It brings together and recalls to my imagination all the images which most charm it: meadows, waters, woods, solitude and above all the peace and tranquility which one can find in these places – all of this it instantly conjures up before my memory." Jean-Jacques Rousseau, on his herbarium in Reveries of the Solitary. Often, I read through my journals from past years, going back over notes about flowers, butterfly sightings, re-reading descriptions of walks in the woods along rivers or lakes. I find that the diary brings images easily to mind, giving color not only to the reimagined landscape but shape to specific years and then to all the years. Looking back over each day's observations, I see something like an autobiography in the entries I have collected. Like Rousseau, I live again, in this way of nature, my movement both linear and radial, binding together consciousness of years with birdcalls and the length of leaves and the opening of flowers. That narrow focus creates continuity, connection with a vague mood of the people and events of my life, providing feeling and sense of the whole. The myopia does not exclude other acts but instead places them almost inconspicuously inside a sprawling and mottled landscape. Its vision erases differences as much as joins them, blurring but also sorting the happenings and habitats, allowing the past, as well the future, to be a virgin time of longing and possibility.

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Who will step up next to have positive influence on others?

I've been net-working in agriculture across the country for over 30 years. Agriculture is made up of the very best people our country has, great people. It's what is unique about our chosen industry.

Several times, well over 20 times, when in casual conversation and people ask where I'm located, I never cease to be surprised when people would ask me if this is anywhere near Springville. I would then enjoy it while they would recite a time when they attended 4-H horse camps at Charlie and Esther's. From Texas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Kansas and several other states, I would hear how Charlie and Esther impacted their lives... 20, 30, 40 even 50 years ago.

My wife and I knew Charlie and Esther, as did a whole lot of folks in our area. Toward the end of their lives, we would visit them, and I still remember Charlie running out to the truck to see if I wanted to see "Socksy," his prize quarter horse stallion. Esther would take my wife in the building where Esther would share stories of decades of camps and experiences. Folks around here still talk about how good a cook Esther was.

There's another couple who are remembered for hosting numerous 4-H and handicap turkey hunts. One story I heard many years ago and then again recently was when they hosted one of the local ag leaders for breakfast. He declared it a feast and was stunned to learn that everything he had eaten was grown and raised right there on their farm. What Dick and Lois don't know is that their famous breakfasts have had a much greater impact on the area than they will ever know.

I was one of the very fortunate students in Vo-Ag to have Ray Noecker as a teacher. Here's another man whose impact on lives he taught are present every day. At 66 years of age, I still use something Mr. Noecker taught me every day,

55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

BY BILL WHITMAN

and I was one of his worst students. I imagine others have done so much better as they embraced what he was teaching earlier in life. Mr. Noecker involved the farm community in the school's vo-ag program, whether it was the local John Deere dealer who would send us new equipment to be assembled, or a local farmer who needed a new shop and the junior class would build it, start to finish. No wonder I still use skills he taught us.

I'm coming to a point here, trust me. None of these people did this for their own benefit. They gave of themselves so that others could succeed. We need to ask ourselves who are the "difference makers" of the future? We all know men and women who had a powerful influence in our lives. In nearly every case, they give of themselves without expecting anything in return. I fear that in our current culture, the motivation to sacrifice for others is a rarer characteristic than in previous generations. What I have learned from the Charlie and Esther's, Dick and Lois's, and Ray Noecker's is that the satisfaction they have experienced in their lives of giving, much surpasses anything else they can receive.

Please think about what you can do each day that will positively influence others. I promise that you will get a feeling inside that will make it worthwhile. Especially look at the young folks you come in contact with. They have so many negative influences in their lives, (starting with the TV and Gaming) that they are hungry for something genuine. I see it in our local FFA where as many off-farm kids as farm kids participate. They hunger for good things in their lives and FFA is certainly near the top of the list of things we want our kids to excel in. Each one of us will impact someone's life each day. Make it for the better.

IndianaAg@bluemarble.net

MAURICE DAY ESTATE AUCTION

TRACTORS - TRUCKS - TRAILERS - FARM & HAY EQUIP. - ANTIQUES - GUNS

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS MAY 27

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INSPECTION/OPEN HOUSE: Thursday May 22, 3-5 PM

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TRACTORS (9): Case-IH 100C 4x4 tractor w/loader, hrs: 2751, CHA; New Holland T5070 4x4 tractor w/loader, hrs: 3883, CHA; IH 1086 tractor, hrs: 6019, factory 4-post operation station; White Field Boss 2-105 tractor, hrs: 2808, cab/duals/weights; Oliver 1655 tractor w/BH 2485QT loader, hrs: 4761, engine: gas, ROPS; Oliver 1650 tractor, hrs: 5528, engine: gas; Oliver 1650 w/Oliver 1610 loader, hrs: 5377, engine: gas; Oliver 550 utility tractor, hrs: 4128, engine: gas, PS; Co-op E-3, all original (non-running); several loader/skid steer attachments; (10) IH suitcase weights; Oliver weights; IH/Oliver items **COLLECTOR TRUCK:** '80 Chevy Silverado C30 4x4 PU truck, miles: 72K, engine: 400 V8, trans: auto, 8' PU bed **TRUCKS & TRAILERS:** '03 GMC 3500 4x4 flatbed truck, miles: 145K, engine: Duramax, trans: auto, 9' bed, GN; '68 GMC 5500 grain truck, miles: 74K, 14' bed with hoist; '00 JI GN 25' flatbed trailer; '89 W-W 14' livestock trailer **COMBINES:** JD 6620 Titan II combine with JD 444 corn head, hrs: 6071, used 2024 season; JD 915 15' grain head w/EZ Trail 680 cart; AC Gleaner F4 combine w/corn head, barn kept **UTILITY VEHICLES/MOWER:** '16 Polaris Ranger 570 4x4, hrs: 1651, soft cab; '94 Suzuki King Quad 4WD atv; Gravley 252 ZTR mower, hrs: 576, 54" deck **HAY EQUIPMENT:** NH 1409 9' disc mower conditioner; JD 457 round baler, bale: 4x5, bales: 18K, net wrap; JD 24T square baler, barn kept; AG-Maxx G4LPE 4-basket hay tedder; (3) NH 256/258 hay rakes **FARM/TILLAGE EQUIPMENT:** E-Z Trail 510 grain cart; Haybuster 147 14' grain drill, grass seed; JD 7000 4x36 corn planter; Bush Hog 2615 15' rotary mower; Kewanee 20' manual-fold disk; Athens 11' disk; Oliver 546 5x16 plow; Oliver 548 4x14 plow; Oliver 3x14 plow; BH 84" 3-pt finish mower; 500 gal, 32' sprayer; grain augers; Farmhand grinder mixer; pull-type fertilizer spreader; Danuser F7 PHD; New Idea 306 manure spreader (nice); 3-pt equipment; (7) gravity box wagons (Bushnell, Kilbros, Parker); (5) flatbed hay wagons **LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT:** (2) Apache portable creep/self-feeders; portable livestock chute; Klein 16' feeder; (24) pc corral panel system; (9) galvanized gates (new); fencing equipment/tools; (14) rolls Gaucho 48' woven wire; (6) rolls Bekart barbed wire; new/used cattle gates **SHOP EQUIPMENT & TOOLS:** Acetylene/ Oxygen torch set with tanks; 20-ton shop press; Stihl chain saws; power tools; hand tools; pipe wrenches; implement parts; shop grease & oil; long handled tools; fuel cans; air compressors; truck mtd fuel tanks; heavy shop table w/vise; ladders; shop fans; (4) overhead fuel tanks; 18x20 cart port **OWNER:** Estate of Maurice L. Day



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Spaulding

FROM PAGE 5B

Monon South Trail's longest new section to date. The 5.5 miles of trail in the town of Borden has both paved and crushed stone surfaces. The newly opened trail section goes from the west end of Borden to Deam Lake Road near Deam Lake State Recreation Area.

"With the opening of this newest section of the Monon South Trail, we're looking forward to welcoming more visitors to Deam Lake State Recreation Area," said Maddy Conner, DNR chief of staff. "Next Level Trails is all about connecting people to the outdoors and important destinations, and we're excited to see this new link added through the Monon South."

Including previous openings in Mitchell and Orleans, the Monon South now has more than 9 miles of trail open to the public.

"When our team was planning Phase 1 construction of the Monon South Trail, we pushed the boundaries of our budget to make sure that we built this connection to Deam Lake," said Jeff Quyle, president and CEO of Radius Indiana. "Providing the ability for Deam Lake visitors to visit Borden by walking or biking gives an immediate example of the power this trail will have to connect our communities, provide outdoor recreation, and revitalize communities with trail-related business opportunities."

Next Level Trails (NLT) funded the purchase of the 62.3-mile corridor on behalf of New Albany and Radius Indiana for the combined sum of \$5.5 million. DNR granted Radius with an additional \$22.3 million to support Phase 1 development, which is expected to be completed by August, offering Hoosiers and visitors alike over 20 miles of hard-surface trail along the historic former Monon Railroad rail line.

NLT is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. The \$180 million program is administered by the DNR and facilitates critical trail connections within and between Hoosier communities. Forty three of the 89 NLT projects are complete, totaling more than 116 miles of trail built since the program's inception. Several projects are under construction, with many more slated to break ground this year.

Spongy moth aerial Btk treatments to begin

Aerial treatments conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) divisions of Forestry and Entomology & Plant Pathology to slow the spread of Lymantria dispar, now called spongy moth, in a selected area of

Marshall County, could begin May 9, if the weather allows.

Spongy moth is one of North America's most devastating invasive forest pests and has caused thousands of acres of defoliation across the eastern United States.

Treatment begins shortly after sunrise but could be delayed until later in the morning or to the next day due to unfavorable weather conditions such as morning fog or rain.

During treatment, a yellow airplane flying 75-125 feet above the treetops will conduct the treatment, starting at sunrise and continuing throughout the day, as the weather and flight schedules permit. With favorable weather, treatments may be completed by late morning or early afternoon.

The airplane distributes a spray containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, referred to as Btk, which is sprayed into the treetops of infested areas where spongy moth caterpillars feed on tree leaves. Btk kills spongy moth caterpillars by disrupting their digestive systems after they ingest it. Btk has been used for decades by gardeners and does not adversely affect people or animals.

People who live or work near the treatment areas might want to stay inside when the planes are flying and for about 30 minutes after treatments are complete. This gives the material time to settle out of the air and stick to treetops. For more information on Btk, call toll-free at 1-866-NO-EXOTIC (663-9684) or call your county extension office.

If the weather cools and slows the emergence of the caterpillars, the treatment application could be delayed until the following week. Updates will be posted on X (formerly Twitter) @INdnrinvase. DNR will also issue news releases to update the status.

Once treatment begins, rain or high wind may interrupt it. If it happens, treatment will resume the next suitable day and continue until all sites have been treated.

To determine if your property is in the treatment areas or to view maps of all treatment locations, or for more information about spongy moth, see on.IN.gov/spongy moth.

'till next time,
Jack

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

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

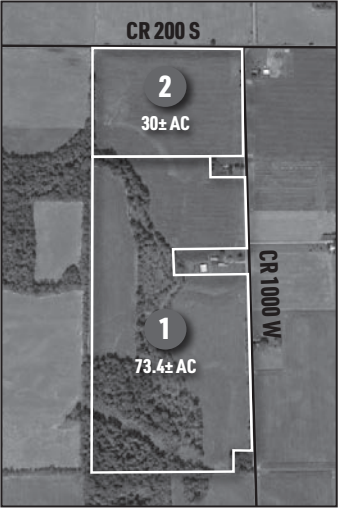
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LAND AUCTION

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH • 6PM

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This tract is a square 30± acres that is mostly tillable and lends itself to row crop production.

These parcels have different ownership and therefore, we are unable to combine these tracts as multi parcel.

Contact Andy at 765-748-4509 for more information today!

See Website for Full Terms: 10% non-refundable deposit down on the day of sale with balance upon closing. Bidding is not contingent upon inspection or financing. Closing of this transaction to be on or before July 18th, 2025, 2025 @ Rickert Title @ 125 S Main St., Winchester, IN. These parcels sell subject to tenant lease for the 2025 growing season. Buyer to receive the 2nd installment of the 2025 cash rent.

OWNERS: Margery Aigner Testamentary Trust (Tract #1)
Margaret Scott (Tract #2)



INSPECTIONS BY APPOINTMENT

SALE MANAGER: ANDY WAGNER 765-748-4509

WagnerLandAuctions.com AU10200074

MASSIVE "HIT AND MISS" ENGINE AUCTION

Sale Location: Baxter Auction Gallery
8051 East 46th Street, **LAWRENCE, IN** 46226

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 9:30AM

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 9:30AM


FRIDAY - Antique and Modern tools and much more!!

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Go to Baxterauction.com for photos

NOTE: Sale held inside but due to volume, seating is limited. Bring trucks and trailers and help to load. Tractor will be on property to help load also.

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ALLEN COUNTY, IN: JUNE 3 (ONLINE) 57+/- Acres • Tillable Near Fort Wayne Airport and Amazon Fulfillment Center Development Potential Contact: Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 or Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177

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Collectors and farmers weigh in on their ‘best of best’ lists for tractors

Discussions that center around “best tractor” will probably go on forever. YouTube.com is available for individuals to post their own opinions. Many have done that. Some feature opinions regarding best five, while others include most reliable and greatest of all time.

I’m listing some of them here (you can also see them on YouTube) so you can decide if you agree with them.

Most reliable - JD730, Ferguson TE20, AC WD45, Farmall M, David Brown 880.

Greatest of all time - Ford 9N, MF135, JD4440, Oliver 70, Farmall M, Ford 8N,

Fordson Model F, Farmall Regular.

Top 10 classics - Farmall 1206, JD4650, WFE 2-135, Ford 7700, MMG1000Vista, AC 8050, MF2475. International 1566, JD4555, Coop D1000 06.

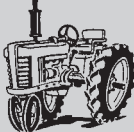
All of these are opinions only. If you disagree, you can create your own YouTube video.

Sources of information about the IH company

Farm World readers have asked for sources of information regarding International Harvester products since the company disbanded in 1985. I’ll start from 1915.

ALL ABOUT TRACTORS

BY PAUL WALLEM



The McCormick Historical Association was formed that year to preserve company history.

In 1962, everything was relocated to the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison. Between 1959 and 1985, International Harvester made large donations regarding company history. During the 1960s and 1970s, indexes and descriptive lists were created and exist today. During these years, a significant amount of material was also forwarded from the McCormick estate.

In 1985, following the sale of the IH farm equipment division, the company name was changed to Navistar International Transportation Corporation. All remaining IH documents and other materials were then moved to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Over the years, an estimated 100-plus truckloads of materials have been transported to the society.

By going to wisconsinhistory.org and entering International Harvest-



Above: Part of the Stitzel collection, which includes three Wheatlands

er Company in the search bar, you can select from categories regarding IH. They are year, county, community, category, subject, type, historical use, architectural style, creator or reproduction rights.

Email requests for specific information can be directed to feedback@wisconsinhistory.org.

Every collector is different

It’s always intriguing to meet with a tractor collector. This visit was special because of the unique collection and the farm operation.

The Stitzel’s farm is near Shannon, Ill. Father and son, Dan and Darrell Stitzel, have accumulated 17 tractors over many years. The collection includes a Farmall F14, B-275, 2- F30, M, 2-706 (one a Wheatland) 2-806 (one a Wheatland), 2-1206 (one a Wheatland), 1466, CaseIH 105-U, 7220 Magnum, 8940 Magnum, 1956 JD B, and a MH44. These last 2 were Dan’s first tractors.

The unusual part about the collec-

tion is the Wheatland models, and the one F-30 that had been re-powered up to 100 HP for pulling contests.

The unique part of the Stitzel farm is its diversification. Darrell and Dan not only farm their own ground but also 240 acres custom farmed. They also buy 1,300 pigs every 45 days to feed and sell to the market – over 10,000 each year.

My time with the Stitzel family was really interesting. And the highlight was a great lunch.

Burma Save signs - Cautious rider to her reckless dear: Let’s have less bull and more steer!

Paul Wallem was raised on an Illinois dairy farm. He spent 13 years with IH corporate on domestic and foreign assignments. He resigned to own and operate two IH dealerships. He is the author of THE BREAKUP of IH and SUCCESSES & INDUSTRY FIRSTS of IH. See all his books on PaulWallem.com

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PUBLIC AUCTION

GREG CLINGAN - AU01040362, AC31900006 HANNAH CLINGAN AU11800013

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11:00am EST REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 12PM EST

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2.5 miles South of Brazil on S.R. 59
1 mile North of I-70. West side of road.

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5-BEDROOM, 4.5 BATH HOME

61.3 ACRES

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25-KENNEL FACILITY
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2 NEW YEAR-ROUND CABINS
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2 LARGE POLE BARN
52x92ft; 32x48ft with heating & cooling

2 NEW BUILDING SITES
with foundation and utilities & blueprints

OPEN HOUSE: 1-3PM EST ON SUNDAY, MAY 11, 18, & 25

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SEE OTHER SALE BILL OR VISIT AUCTIONZIOP.COM FOR MORE DETAILS & PERSONAL PROPERTY PREVIEW

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INSPECTION DATES: Tuesday(s), May 20th & 27th • 6pm - 7pm
Saturday, June 7th • 9am – 11am | Wednesday, June 11th • 6pm - 7pm

OWNER: Daniel Buchan • Sale Manager(s): Andy Walther: 765-969-0401 & Ritter Cox: 260-609-3306

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Purdue agronomy center hosts drainage tile installation field day June 18

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Farmers interested in in-crop drainage tile installation can learn more about it during a June 18 field day at Purdue University's Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE).

The free event will be hosted by the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association (INLICA) and the university. During the field day, dual wall mains will be installed at the ACRE site.

A dual wall main is utilized for high-capacity drainage, said Nanci Gutwein, INLICA executive director. It has a corrugated exterior for strength, and a smooth interior for better flow, she said.

"Installing drain tile is a practice that has been around since the mid 1800s," Gutwein explained. "The goal of these practices is two fold. The installation of tile effectively manages the water table. In a time of higher-than-average rainfall, the pipe allows for excess moisture to flow freely through the tiles and off of the field and into ditches, holding ponds, etc. It also gives the soil a naturally greater moisture holding capacity and prevents erosion from rainwater run-off."

"In times of drought, roots are able to grow deeper in search of moisture. The tile also increases the ground temperature allowing for earlier planting."

The project to be demonstrated during the field day is the first of two phases, she noted. The mains will be installed, and are strategically mapped out and placed in areas that maximize natural topography. Next year, Gutwein said the project will be completed by installing laterals, which are a smaller diameter and are used to "tie" the system together.

Attendees will be able to view the installation process from a safe distance, Gutwein said. They will be able to see into the trench being dug, how the pipe is laid into the trench and how the pipe is connected together.

The field work will begin at 8:45 a.m. Over lunch (which will be available for purchase), an informational session will look at why the ground needed to be tiled, how and why the design of the project was developed, and why an in-crop installation is suitable for this project, Gutwein said.

INLICA has hosted drainage tile installation projects like this on other Purdue farm grounds, she said. The

organization has also installed a bio-reactor and a two-stage ditch at Purdue's Throckmorton facility in Lafayette.

Average daily attendance for a project like drainage tile installation is about 200, but those are usually two-day events, Gutwein pointed out. She said she would like to see more for the June event, given that it's a one-day project. Rain dates are June 19 and 20.

Gutwein said education is the reason INLICA offers events such as the upcoming field day.

"For the farmers that attend, we want them to see that something like this doesn't have to affect their yield, and that the benefit of tiling their fields can pay off with greater yields for years to come," she said. "For contractors, we want them to learn best practices. Safety is of utmost importance and a trench can collapse in any environment. There are also many other factors to a proper install. Many contractors try to stretch their pipe – literally – to save on material cost. This can lead to weakening of the pipe, resulting in a collapse, effectively rendering that tile useless."

"These field days also help our vendors advertise their products. Many will have booths set up and all of the equipment used in the project will be supplied by INLICA associates."

Indiana LICA is a not-for-profit organization geared for dirt moving contractors, Gutwein said. They are a state chapter of a nationwide organization that started in 1950. She said the group provides education to the association and promotes high standards of workmanship in resource management, land improvement practices, and safety on the job.

For more information, contact Gutwein at indianalica@gmail.com.



Above: A June 18 field day at Purdue's Agronomy Center for Research and Education will feature a demonstration of in-crop drainage tile installation. (photo provided)



Above: Dual wall tile has a corrugated exterior for strength, and a smooth interior for better flow. (photo provided)

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Friday, May 16, 2025
2653 E. US 30, Warsaw, IN

AUCTION

Pez Dispenser Collection
Sunday, May 18, 2025
1582 SR 114, N. Manchester, IN

AUCTION

Longaberger Collection
Monday, May 19, 2025
1582 W. State Road, N. Man., IN

AUCTION

Chapman Lake Home!
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
818 Chapman Lake Dr., Warsaw, IN

AUCTION

Antiques & Collectibles
Saturday, May 17th, 2025
N. Manchester, IN

AUCTION

Quality Antique & Jewelry
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Walkerton, IN

AUCTION

Ranch Home Sells Absolute
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Fort Wayne, IN

AUCTION

Antiques & Household Goods
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Fort Wayne, IN

AUCTION

Discount Warehouse
Auctions Every Saturday & Sunday
Pierceton and Warsaw, IN

AUCTION

Massive Collectible Auction
Friday May 23, 2025
Fort Wayne, IN

AUCTION

Market Monday Consignment
Auction Ending Every Monday!
1582 SR 114, N. Manchester, IN

AUCTION

Ranch Home with Garage
Thursday, May 29, 2025
119 Southridge Rd., Fort Wayne, IN

AUCTION

Quality Coin Collection
Thursday, May 29, 2025
1582 W. SR 114, N. Manchester, IN

AUCTION

Ranch Home with Garage
Thursday, May 29, 2025
2326 E. 1050 S., LaFontaine, IN

AUCTION

Commercial Real Estate
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
1275 W. Park Dr., Huntington, IN

AUCTION

Amick Welding Liquidation
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
1275 W. Park Dr., Huntington, IN

AUCTION

Waterfront Condo in Naples
Wednesday June 4, 2025
Naples, Florida

AUCTION

Split-Level Home & Garage
Thursday, June 5, 2025
3 Jeffrey Dr., Columbia City, IN

AUCTION

3BR Home with Garage
Thursday, June 5, 2025
221 N. Conde St., Tipton, IN

AUCTION

Country Building Site & Barns
Thursday, June 5, 2025
5749 W. 50 S., Tipton, IN

AUCTION

Crawler, Trucks, Tools
Thursday, June 5, 2025
221 N. Conde St., Tipton, IN

LIVE AUCTION

Country Home & Outbuildings
Saturday, June 14, 2025
3648 E. 300 S., Albion, IN

AUCTION

Tractor, Gators, Mini Excavator
Saturday, June 14, 2025
Albion, IN

AUCTION

Equipment Consignment
Tuesday June 17th, 2025
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