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Darke County farm hosts USDA secretary, Ohio governor, neighbors

By **DOUG GRAVES**
Ohio Correspondent

VERSAILLES, Ohio – Ryan and Krista Schmitmeyer have played host to farm tours, agri-business luncheons and other community gatherings on their dairy farm in Darke County in Ohio. But they never dreamed they'd be asked to host USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Brian Baldrige.

This three-person delegation converged on the Schmitmeyer farm in April to discuss innovative tools for nutrient management. About 40 area developers, local politicians, farmers and business leaders gathered for the Our Land, Our Water Tour to learn more about land and manure-management efforts that could help improve the water quality of Grand Lake St. Marys.



Above: Ryan Schmitmeyer, his wife Krista, and their six children welcomed national and local politicians, as well as neighboring farmers, to their farm last month during the Our Land, Our Water Tour. Speaking is USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. At left are Ohio Department of Agriculture director Brian Baldrige and Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. (photo submitted)

"I was a bit stunned, to be honest," Ryan Schmitmeyer said. "Our local NCRS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) agent contacted me to see if I'd let the officials check out our farm."

The couple's six children begged to be a part of the gathering.

"Our oldest took off from school be a part of it, and we picked up the other children from school a little early so they could be in attendance as well," Ryan said.

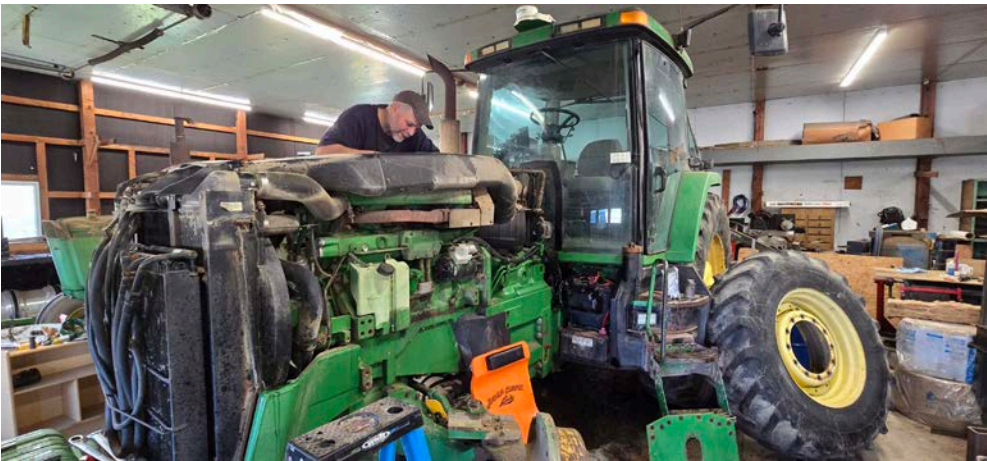
Earlier in the day the entourage met just down the road at Weaver Eggs to tour one of the farms affected by the bird flu outbreak and to get a closer look at their operations and technology. That afternoon, they visited the Schmitmeyer farm to take a closer look at the 360 RAIN Irrigation System, one that makes work more efficient.

The 360 RAIN unit is an autonomous irrigation system designed to deliver water, nutrients and even manure to crops. It's essentially a self-propelled machine that moves along rows of crops, applying water or other liquids directly to the root zone. This allows for efficient irrigation and fertilization, especially in irregular fields or where water is limited.

The event was the second annual tour and presentation meant to bring together local people from all walks of life and educate them on efforts to improve nearby Grand Lake St. Marys. Darke County has approximately 344,000 acres of farmland with 96 percent being family owned farms.

"Some AI-driven technologies are game changers for agriculture, in the markets and in the fields," said Scott Shearer, professor and chair of Ohio State University's Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering. "We're seeing an upward trend in the use of AI-driven autonomy packages to do work that used to be done by humans. This is a great solution to the persistent farm labor shortage."

The 360 RAIN system is coveted by the Schmitmeyers, who milk around 400 head of dairy cattle and farm more than 800 acres of row crops. The 360 RAIN unit delivers manure and water directly to the crops through Y-drop irrigation lines, reducing the potential for runoff and nutrient loss. The unit is self-driving and can be monitored and adjusted through a cell phone app. The system replaces the need for drag-line manure application, ensuring that the growing crop gets the right



Above: Rain may hamper field work, but there is always something to repair in the meantime as shown by Doyle Fuelling, DeLane Farms, Decatur, Ind. Photo by Leondia Walchle

Researchers are working to limit soybean cyst nematode infections

By **Hayley Laichand**
Ohio correspondent

AMES, Iowa – A long-time research collaboration between the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, and Iowa State University is bringing scientists one step closer to combatting field infections of soybean cyst nematodes (SCN).

SCN are worm-shaped animals that are responsible for over a billion dollars in losses annually in the US and Canada, with estimated yield losses exceeding 125 million bushels each year. Best management practices to combat SCN include using resistant soybean varieties and rotating to non-host crops. However, SCN have been able to adapt and thrive on resistant crops, and it's impossible to eliminate SCN from a field once it's been infected.

"(SCN) is a very successful pathogen that has evolved over hundreds of millions of years, and it's ready for problems coming its way," Thomas Baum, professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Entomology and Microbiology at Iowa State University, said. "Under the microscope, they look like a boring little animal. No, these things are very sophisticated and have developed mechanisms of interactions with hosts that are exceedingly complex and fascinating."

Baum said that what makes the nematode interesting biologically is that it doesn't just go into the root of the plant and start feeding – it crawls through the root in search of a suitable place to start feeding and does "major remodeling" of the root area.

"The way that parasites or pathogens do that is by communicating with their hosts, and they use chemicals to do so," he said. "The nematode, like

most or maybe all pathogens, delivers certain molecules into the host, and the ones we are dealing with are proteins."

The proteins are known as effectors. Effectors are delivered from the nematodes to the plant to achieve a variety of outcomes, like altering plant cell structure and function to facilitate feeding. Baum and his collaborators became interested in understanding how SCN knew when to produce and deploy effectors, especially because effectors are critical to the nematode's success.

"We study all this kind of stuff because we want to find weak points in the nematode life cycle," Baum said. "When we think of the tools nematodes use to infect plants, we want to know what happens when we take those tools away."

However, SCN make about a thousand or more effectors. Taking just one away from the worms wouldn't do much, Baum said, because the nematode has many other proteins available to perform similar functions. Instead, the group focused on understanding the molecular mechanism that turns on the production of effectors in SCNs, recently discovering a molecule that activates the production of effectors called SUGR-1.

"We now know the switch that turns on effector production, and we also have an idea of what flips the switch, and it turns out to be signals from the plant," Baum said. "We're talking about the nematode sending proteins to the plant, but the plant also sends signals to the nematode. The nematode uses those compounds released by the plant to switch over to effector synthesis."

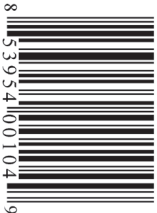
(See Drake on page 2)

(See Soybean page 2)

In this Farm World:

Illinois teen farms and will perform at Illinois state fair
Page 1B

Check out the latest for state and local fairs in our B section this week





Above: Pictured is the 360 RAIN unit, an autonomous irrigation system designed to deliver water, nutrients and even manure to crops only where needed. The sprayer utilizes water/nutrient only as needed and helps prevent runoff. (photo submitted)

Drake

FROM PAGE 1

nutrients at the right time.

In addition, the 360 RAIN system aligns with the goals of DeWine's H2O-hio water quality initiative, which is currently facing proposed budget reductions.

"We had several reasons for adopting AI," Schmitmeyer said. "We're always looking for ways to be more profitable, but it's not just about money. The more we automate, the more we can get done – and that frees up time for family. Plus, it has a better environmental impact."

The 360 RAIN system replaces the old tank-out or drag-line method of delivering water and nutrients, which is labor intensive with potential runoff and nutrient loss. The 360 RAIN unit is programmed to inch down crop rows to irrigate and deliver nutrients drawn from a holding pond where manure is

stored.

But the innovation doesn't end there.

"We're also prototyping injecting cover crops into the liquid stream and seeding cover crops with this irrigation machine," Schmitmeyer said. "We'll be the first farm in the world to inject cover crop seeds this way."

On Schmitmeyer's farm, automation isn't just in the fields. It's also in the dairy parlor.

"We recently started using manure-scraping robots. They're like a Roomba for manure," he said. "They squeegee and vacuum the manure and send it to the lagoon. They operate around the clock and they're quiet. The cows don't mind them at all."

Shearer predicted, "In the future, there will be a gradual acceleration of technology into the practice of agriculture in Ohio, where even smaller operations will produce more from limited land resources with the help of technology driven by AI."

Soybean

FROM PAGE 1

SUGR-1 triggers 58 effector genes. Researchers can focus on SUGR-1 as a target to take away a large number of effectors from SCN all at once.

"If we take that switch away (SUGR-1), the nematode is not happy anymore. We have identified and validated a target that can be exploited," Baum said.

For example, chemicals could be applied to plants that are designed to switch on SUGR-1 at the wrong time or block the switch, preventing SCN from feeding on and remodeling plant roots and structures. Additionally, plants can be modified to block the molecular mechanism that signals to the nematodes to start producing effectors. While field applications are years off, the discovery is a breakthrough in cre-

ating new ways to manage SCN.

Baum added that the research may also be applicable to other nematodes, such as the Root-Knot Nematode. Moving forward, the group will perform experiments to observe what happens when SUGR-1 is knocked out in SCN. The group is also ready to explore other regulatory proteins like SUGR-1 to find even better candidates.

"Other regulatory proteins may have a more pronounced effect when we knock them out, or they may be easier to knock out. This is just the first discovery of this molecular mechanism in the regulation of the effector repertoire of the worm, and we'll explore the whole arsenal and see which ones we should focus on," Baum said.

Finding a way to control SCN would have a huge impact on the profitability of soybean production. Baum extended his thanks to soybean farmers who have been instrumental in funding research projects.



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By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

To slow the northern progression of NWS, effective immediately, the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in conjunction with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, will restrict the importation of live animal commodities originating from, or passing through to Mexico, the agency said. This import suspension will be

The USDA said effective eradication requires active field surveillance with education and outreach to ensure prevention, treatment and early detection; controlled animal movement to limit spread; and sustained sterile insect dispersal. Suspending livestock imports will assist in limiting the spread of NWS, while allowing the U.S. to reassess current mitigation standards. The northward spread of NWS is also possible through natural wildlife movements, the agency added.

Grant Dewell, Iowa State University beef extension veterinarian, told Farm World, "It is troubling in that last fall,



the belief was that it was a single incursion (invasion or an attack) found during routine inspection near the Mexico-Guatemala border. The U.S. closed the border until we strengthened important requirements for cat-

(Screw worm continued on page 5)

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Screwworm

FROM PAGE 4

tle coming from Mexico, including enhanced inspections and treatment of livestock could be implemented.

“Now, six months after the first identification in Mexico and a couple of months of resumed trade, they are now finding the New World screwworm 300-plus miles north of Guatemala well into Mexico,” he said.

“This could indicate that either the infestation was a lot more than they initially thought, or that they are unable to stop the spread within the country,” he added. “Regardless, until Mexico can demonstrate that they have contained New World screwworm, I would not expect the routine importation of livestock from Mexico.”

Andrew P. Griffith, University of

Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm World, “There are several thought processes as it relates to this announcement. The first is how it impacts the domestic calf and feeder cattle market.

“In reality, the quantity of cattle crossing the border and coming north the past couple of months is only about 60 percent of what would typically be coming into the U.S. market,” he said. “This immediate closure, and not knowing how long it may last, should support prices for calves and feeder cattle as producers in the southern-feeding region will be needing cattle.

“The second thought is: how much of this is due to the threat of the New World screwworm and how much of it is to put pressure on the Mexican government to achieve alternative objectives?” he added. “I am not willing to say or not say that is what is going

on, but this immediate closure could be serving multiple agendas.”

In the meantime, Dewell said, “We will probably lose all exports of live animals out of the U.S., at least in the short-term until containment can be established. The USDA would then begin releasing sterile male flies (in Southern Mexico and other areas throughout Central America, according to the USDA) to stop reproduction of the fly, but that will take a year or more, depending on the extent of infestation until they can have it contained and eradicated again.”

On May 14, NCBA joined affiliate state associations to urge Congress to pass the Strengthening Tactics to Ob-

struct the Population of Screwworms (STOP Screwworms) Act – introduced by U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Texas) and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) – to fund the opening of a new sterile fly facility in the United States.

Currently, the only such facility still active is in Panama, but it can’t produce enough sterile flies to fully prevent NWS from spreading to America’s southern border, NCBA said.

For more information on NWS-affected regions, visit the USDA’s APHIS Animal Health Status of Regions website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/regionalization-evaluation-services/region-health-status.

May WASDE report offers some surprises for corn

The May WASDE report corn balance sheet updates were a little surprising. The USDA trimmed its 2024/25 corn carryout estimate to 1.41 billion bu, down 50 million bu from April. This was the result of a 50 mbu increase to exports. The most interest in corn was the initial 2025/26 balance sheet release. The USDA put this year’s corn crop at 15.82 bbu from a yield of 181 bushels per acre. U.S. farmers are expected to plant 95.3 million acres of corn this year, the most in over a decade.

The USDA is expecting strong new crop corn exports due to lower prices, and also higher feed and residual usage, which is more from market economics than outright demand. The USDA put its initial new crop carryout estimate at 1.8 bbu, 200 mbu less than expected. The average cash corn price

projection for this year is \$4.35 and for next year is \$4.20.

On the global side, world corn consumption is expected to outpace production for the second consecutive year. This is expected to cut the 2025/26 world corn carryout to 277.84 million metric tons, well below the 298 mmt that trade was expecting. This was also below the 287.3 mmt carryout estimate for this year and the lowest world-ending stock estimate in 12 years.

On the soybean side, the USDA put the U.S. 2024/25 carryout at 350 mbu, 25 mbu less than trade was expecting from a 25 mbu increase to exports. On the new crop side, the U.S. yield is estimated at 52.5 bushels per acre and a crop of 4.34 bbu. Exports are forecast to slow from the smaller crop, but do-

(Setzer continued on page 6)



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer



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Setzer

FROM PAGE 5

mestic crush is forecast to increase as the U.S. biofuel industry expands. This is forecast to drop the U.S. carryout to 295 mbu at the end of the 2025/26 marketing year, which is well into where rationing is needed. Soybean cash values are estimated at \$9.95 for the remainder of this year and \$10.25 for new crop.

Global soybean balance sheets are forecast to remain tight as well. The USDA is forecasting world ending stocks of 123.18 mmt this year. New crop ending stocks are little changed at 124.33 mmt despite record South American production forecasts.

Wheat balance sheet updates were less than supporting this month. Ending stocks for the 2024/25 marketing year are now at 841 mbu, slightly less than the 850 mbu that was expected. The total U.S. wheat production for 2025/26 is forecast at 1.92 bbu, down 3 percent from last year. The U.S. is forecast to see stronger export competition on wheat, which will be partially offset by stronger milling use. U.S. wheat carryout is still expected to increase to 923 mbu this year, 70 mbu more than trade was forecasting. Average cash bushel projections on wheat are \$5.50 for this year and \$5.30 for new crop.

The 2024/25 world wheat carryout was 5 mmt more than last month and 4 mmt above the average trade estimate at 265.21 mmt. This is expected to be little changed for 2025/26, with ending stocks estimated at 265.73 mmt, which was also 4 mmt more than forecast.

Beef production for 2025 was cut 280 million pounds this month to 26.42 billion pounds. Declining cattle numbers led to this decline. Beef production for 2026 is forecast to be even less, coming in at 25.14 billion pounds. The loss of feeder cattle imports from Mexico were a primary cause of this lower beef production forecast. Beef exports for 2025 were trimmed 22 million pounds to 2.66 billion, and the initial export forecast for 2026 came in at 2.5 billion pounds. The average steer price is estimated at \$214.51 per hundredweight for this year and \$222.75 per cwt for 2026.

For pork, the USDA trimmed this year's production by 80 million pounds to a total of 28 billion pounds. Pork pro-

duction for 2026 is initially forecast at 28.37 billion pounds. Pork exports were bumped up 103 million pounds for this year to 7.06 billion pounds. The first export forecast for 2026 is 7.14 billion pounds. The average hog value for 2025 held at \$65.65 a cwt and the initial forecast for 2026 is at \$63.50 per cwt.

The USDA included a statement in this data that U.S. trade policy at the time of the report release was used in determining balance sheet possibilities.

We are starting to see trade show a little more interest in U.S. weather models as hot, dry conditions are forecast for much of the western U.S., including the Plains and Midwest. We are also seeing drier conditions in Brazil. Right now, these are favoring respective planting and harvesting, but before long this will turn bullish. New crop balance sheets are already at a rationing level on soybeans are not far from it on corn to keep risk buyers interested in the market.

The United States has again suspended imports of live animals from Mexico, including feeder cattle. This is due to Mexico's lagging response to contain its outbreak of new world screw-worm in cattle. Mexico now has confirmed cases of screwworm 700 miles from the U.S. border, which is concerning. This import suspension will be on a month-to-month basis until the U.S. sees improvements are made to testing protocols. This will further tighten the U.S. feeder cattle supply, as the U.S. typically imports 100,000 head of feeder cattle from Mexico per month.

RISK DISCLAIMER: The risk of loss in trading commodity futures and options is substantial. Before trading, you should carefully consider your financial position to determine if futures trading is appropriate. When trading futures and/or options, it is possible to lose more than the full value of your account. All funds committed should be risk capital. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. The information contained in this report is collected from a variety of sources and is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed to be accurate. This report is provided for informational purposes only and is not furnished for the purpose of, nor is it intended to be relied upon for specific trading in commodities herein named.

EPA will allow the sale of E15 gas across the US this summer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – Consumers across the U.S. still will be able to buy higher-ethanol blend E15 gasoline this summer, the Environmental Protection Agency announced April 28, saving them a little money at the pump but frustrating environmentalists who believe the move potentially harms the air and water.

The emergency waiver issued by the EPA prevents retailers in most states from having to stop selling E15 gasoline on May 1. While the waiver remains in effect only through May 20, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin signaled that he plans to keep issuing waivers through Sept. 15, the date when the federal government typically would allow E15 sales in all states again.

Most gasoline sold across the U.S. is blended with 10 percent ethanol, but 15 percent blends are becoming increasingly common, particularly in the Midwest, where most of the nation's corn is grown. E15 gasoline generally costs at least 10 cents less a gallon than E10 gasoline, but the EPA had previously prohibited its sale during the summer over concerns that its use during the summer

driving season could increase smog. But the EPA has relaxed restrictions on E15, granting a series of short-term waivers in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to allow its sale nationwide through the summer. And last year, the EPA issued a rule allowing year-round sales in eight Midwestern states – Iowa, usually the nation's top corn producer, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Trump administration officials said the action will lower consumers' costs and give them more choices at the pump while also increasing the demand for corn. They also described it as reducing America's reliance on imported energy.

The biofuels industry and politicians in both major parties argue that ethanol helps farmers, lowers prices at the pump and reduces greenhouse gas because the fuel burns more cleanly than straight gasoline.

But ethanol consumes about 40 percent of the nation's corn crop, and environmentalists argue that higher corn production leads to higher use of fertilizers that are a leading source of water pollution.

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2020 JD 5100M, CAH, MFD, 1100 HRS
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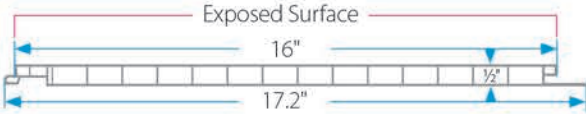
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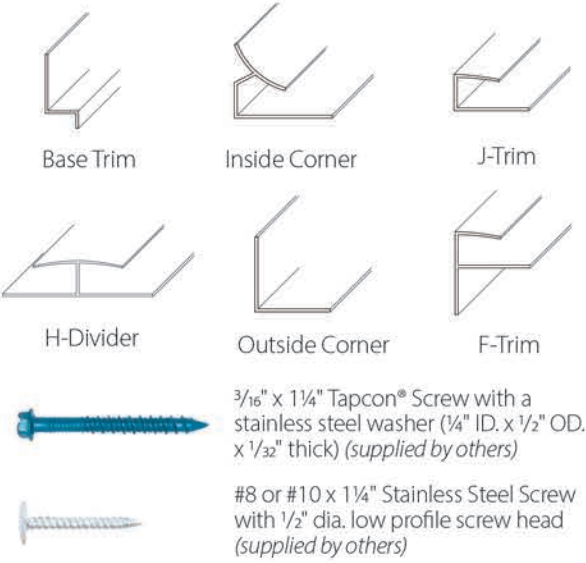


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MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 5/12/2025 - Final AUCTION			
	This Week	Last Reported 5/5/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	1,062	1,006	671
Feeder Cattle:	908(85.5%)	920(91.5%)	558(83.2%)
Slaughter Cattle:	140(13.2%)	77(7.7%)	105(15.6%)
Replacement Cattle:	14(1.3%)	9(0.9%)	8(1.2%)

Special Note: Baby Calves: 165lb 875.00 per head.
Correction to remove NHTC comment from feeder bulls.
Compared to last Monday feeder steers sold 5.00 to 10.00 higher with very good demand for weaned packages. Feeder heifers over 475 lbs 5.00 to 10.00 higher with very good demand for weaned packages; light weights steady. Very good demand for yearling heifers in a limited comparison. Yearling steers lite test. Slaughter cows sold 2.00 to 4.00 higher with very good demand; lean cows noticeably higher with very good demand. Slaughter bulls sold 5.00 to 7.00 higher with very good demand. Supply included: 85% Feeder Cattle (25% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 50% Heifers, 25% Bulls); 13% Slaughter Cattle (1% Steers, 4% Heifers, 84% Cows, 9% Bulls, 1% Dairy Cows); 1% Replacement Cattle (74% Stock Cows, 11% Bred Cows, 16% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 40%.

Groups of 20 head or more:

Heifers
88 hd 618 lbs 346.10 Bk/Few Bwf Fancy

FEEDER CATTLE					
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
5	305-345	326	430.00-455.00	447.82	Value Added
7	396-398	397	444.00-445.00	444.43	Value Added
12	407-433	417	423.00-440.00	431.56	Value Added
9	450-480	463	397.50-412.50	406.94	
13	460-494	488	415.00-422.50	419.59	Value Added
6	510-542	537	381.00-385.00	381.63	
24	511-522	513	406.00-425.00	416.94	Value Added
5	550-577	571	372.00-380.00	376.77	
23	550-584	567	380.00-393.00	388.13	Value Added
7	608-630	611	330.00-336.00	335.12	
25	605-643	616	352.00-378.00	369.21	Value Added
5	655-685	666	317.00-335.00	327.20	
21	650-673	664	336.00-367.50	358.75	Value Added
3	710-740	730	294.00-297.50	295.13	
14	710-745	732	303.00-321.00	316.32	Value Added
5	750-790	774	283.00-288.00	284.94	
5	770-785	776	300.00-301.00	300.40	Value Added
4	800-805	801	285.00	285.00	
4	855-893	884	259.00-264.00	262.79	
1	1025	1025	249.00	249.00	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
6	365-390	386	352.50-382.50	377.77	
2	505-545	525	351.00-360.00	355.33	
4	575-590	579	361.00-367.50	365.25	
1	675	675	282.00	282.00	
1	710	710	281.00	281.00	

STEERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	520	520	365.00	365.00	
2	570	570	361.00	361.00	
1	985	985	222.00	222.00	

DAIRY STEERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	405	405	185.00	185.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	230	230	377.50-390.00	383.75	
2	260-265	263	380.00-390.00	384.95	
4	265-292	279	407.50-422.50	414.64	Value Added
1	325	325	380.00	380.00	
8	321-345	330	390.00-423.00	406.34	Value Added
9	355-395	378	350.00-383.00	366.24	
14	365-395	391	395.00-420.00	401.18	Value Added
16	400-447	432	355.00-379.00	367.38	
17	405-448	438	380.00-420.00	383.00	Value Added
20	450-495	476	360.00-371.00	362.95	
19	450-467	459	372.50-389.00	382.18	Value Added
56	500-545	526	330.00-362.50	349.22	Value Added
7	550-576	564	302.50-315.00	308.71	
38	550-590	572	327.00-367.50	345.53	Value Added
4	605-640	629	272.00-291.00	281.85	
88	618	618	346.10	346.10	Fancy
41	600-645	611	300.00-342.00	334.37	Value Added
3	650-665	657	279.00-289.00	282.64	
16	650-695	664	290.00-333.00	310.84	Value Added
6	700-730	713	265.00-282.50	272.32	
1	750	750	259.00	259.00	
3	786	786	285.00	285.00	Value Added
6	844	844	240.00	240.00	
1	945	945	252.00	252.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	260-285	275	310.00-357.50	337.06	
6	300-340	324	300.00-367.50	338.30	
6	410-446	438	333.00-352.50	345.69	
1	440	440	337.50	337.50	Value Added
11	450-495	472	321.00-355.00	342.16	
3	465-480	470	337.50-359.00	344.82	Value Added
2	520-535	528	310.00-317.50	313.80	
5	570-590	580	290.00-302.50	296.78	
2	600-605	603	230.00-269.00	249.42	
2	690	690	230.00-255.00	242.50	
2	715-725	720	229.00-257.50	243.35	
1	750	750	241.00	241.00	
2	825-835	830	221.00-231.00	225.97	
1	970	970	220.00	220.00	

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	475	475	292.50	292.50	
BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	

2	292	292	433.00	433.00	Fancy
2	300-330	315	405.00-417.50	410.95	
1	330	330	422.50	422.50	Value Added
11	355-390	375	395.00-422.50	410.86	
4	350-385	361	430.00-442.50	436.68	Value Added
8	400-440	417	375.00-412.50	389.88	
15	415-439	430	417.50-426.00	421.66	Value Added
10	450-480	463	380.00-399.00	390.44	
7	455-490	478	399.00-409.00	403.38	Value Added
6	510-530	525	369.00-375.00	372.36	
16	502-537	519	376.00-397.50	383.96	Value Added
10	550-580	565	369.00-382.50	373.51	
2	640	640	319.00	319.00	
2	612	612	333.00	333.00	NHTC
16	602-645	619	313.00-354.00	331.82	Value Added
7	655-687	680	312.00-327.50	323.36	
9	655-695	668	313.00-331.00	322.71	Value Added
3	720-725	723	280.00-301.00	292.36	
12	700-742	722	291.00-317.00	300.27	Value Added
1	755	755	262.00	262.00	
3	810-845	828	209.00-242.00	223.93	
2	870-885	878	229.00-243.00	236.06	
2	950-975	963	235.00-237.50	236.27	
BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	270-295	283	350.00-375.00	361.95	
5	365-390	382	360.00-397.00	373.34	
5	415-445	421	365.00-375.00	369.93	
12	460-495	477	339.00-375.00	363.47	
7	541-545	542	332.50-367.50	361.83	
15	550-595	567	321.00-359.00	338.69	
1	640	640	305.00	305.00	
10	790-795	791	219.00-247.50	241.77	
1	810	810	185.00	185.00	

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	625	625	315.00	315.00	
BULLS - Small and Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	510	510	317.50	317.50	
2	575-590	583	317.50-319.00	318.26	

SLAUGHTER CATTLE					
HEIFERS - Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1080-1255	1168	199.00-241.00	218.43	Average
HEIFERS - Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	1050-1490	1193	180.00-192.00	187.81	Average
HEIFERS - Select and Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1385	1385	169.00	169.00	Average

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
11	1155-1595	1383	145.00-153.00	149.21	Average
28	1115-1820	1438	154.00-173.00	162.36	High
1	1290	1290	144.00	144.00	Low

COWS - Boner 80-85%(Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
5	1055-1530	1190	143.00-153.00	149.44	Average
35	1040-1560	1266	155.00-177.00	166.21	High
4	1015-1230	1139	137.00-143.00	140.67	Low

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
9	850-1080	972	129.00-137.00	134.00	Average
17	885-1230	1043	140.00-163.00	152.82	High
4	825-1200	965	120.00-127.00	124.09	Low

DAIRY COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1260	1260	140.00	140.00	Average

DAIRY COWS - Lean 85-90%(Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1050	1050	138.00	138.00	Average

BULLS 1-12 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1345-1465	1405	166.00-174.00	169.83	Average
10	1275-2105	1645	192.00-228.00	205.31	High

REPLACEMENT CATTLE						
STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	12	805-1190	969	156.00-187.50	166.22
STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	2	835-1070	953	143.00-151.00	147.49
BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T3	2	1130-1585	1358	2525.00-2600.00	2556.22
COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	1	1715	1715	3300.00	3300.00
COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ >300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	2	1752	1752	3900.00	3900.00

MARKETS

Kentucky Daily Grain Bids
Grain Report for Thursday, May 15, 2025 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS								
Exchange	Commodity	Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 5/15/2025						
CBOT	Corn	448.50 (Jul 25)	425.00 (Sep 25)	438.75 (Dec 25)	453.50 (Mar 26)	462.00 (May 26)	466.50 (Jul 26)	453.75 (Sep 26)
CBOT	Soybeans	1051.25 (Jul 25)	1047.25 (Aug 25)	1029.50 (Sep 25)	1035.25 (Nov 25)	1046.75 (Jan 26)	1053.00 (Mar 26)	1061.00 (May 26)
CBOT	Wheat	532.75 (Jul 25)	546.50 (Sep 25)	568.00 (Dec 25)	587.00 (Mar 26)	597.75 (May 26)	605.00 (Jul 26)	617.00 (Sep 26)
CBOT	White Oats	340.00 (Jul 25)	333.25 (Sep 25)	334.75 (Dec 25)	337.75 (Mar 26)	343.75 (May 26)	327.75 (Jul 26)	343.50 (Sep 26)
KCBT	Wheat	528.25 (Jul 25)	542.00 (Sep 25)	564.50 (Dec 25)	583.75 (Mar 26)	594.00 (May 26)	600.75 (Jul 26)	611.50 (Sep 26)
MGE	Wheat	580.00 (Jul 25)	593.00 (Sep 25)	611.75 (Dec 25)	630.50 (Mar 26)	640.50 (May 26)	650.25 (Jul 26)	658.25 (Sep 26)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	25.00N to 95.00N	UNCH	4.7350-5.4350	UP 0.0300	5.0850
Pennyrile	40.00Z	UNCH	4.7875	DN 0.0175	4.7875
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price(\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	25.00Z	UNCH	4.6375	DN 0.0175	4.6375
Purchase	90.00N	UNCH	5.3850	UP 0.0300	5.3850
Purchase	45.00Z	UNCH	4.8375	DN 0.0175	4.8375

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	15.00N	UNCH	4.6350	UP 0.0300	4.6350
Purchase	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.1375	DN 0.0175	4.1375
Green River	10.00N	4.5850	UP 0.1000	4.5850	
Green River	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.1375	DN 0.0175	4.1375
Pennyrile	-20.00N to 16.00N	UNCH-UP 1.00	4.2850-4.6450	UP 0.0300-UP 0.0400	4.4033
Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -10.00Z	UNCH	4.0875-4.2875	DN 0.0175	4.1558
Louisville	5.00N to 9.00N	UNCH	4.5350-4.5750	UP 0.0300	4.5550
Louisville	5.00N	UNCH	4.5350	UP 0.0300	4.5350
Bluegrass	12.00N	4.6050	UP 0.1000	4.6050	
Bluegrass	-40.00Z	UNCH	3.9875	DN 0.0175	3.9875

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	7.00N to 11.00N	UP 1.00-UNCH	4.5550-4.5950	UP 0.0400-UP 0.0300	4.5750
Ohio River - Upper KY	-31.00Z to -29.00Z	UNCH	4.0775-4.0975	DN 0.0175	4.0875
Ohio River - Lower KY	11.00N to 17.00N	UP 1.00-UP 2.00	4.5950-4.6550	UP 0.0400-UP 0.0500	4.6283
Ohio River - Lower KY	-35.00Z to -18.00Z	DN 5.00-UNCH	4.0375-4.2075	DN 0.0675-DN 0.0175	4.1508
Purchase	10.00N to 14.00N	UNCH	4.5850-4.6250	UP 0.0300	4.6017
Purchase	-30.00Z to -25.00Z		4.0875-4.1375	DN 0.0350-DN 0.0175	4.1088

US #2 SORGHUM (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	-30.00Z	UNCH	4.0875	DN 0.0175	4.0875

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	0.00N	UNCH	10.5125	DN 0.2650	10.5125
Purchase	-30.00X	UNCH	10.0525	DN 0.2600	10.0525
Green River	-25.00N	UNCH	10.2625	DN 0.2650	10.2625
Green River	-50.00X	UNCH	9.8525	DN 0.2600	9.8525
Pennyrile	-45.00N to 10.00N	UNCH	10.0625-10.6125	DN 0.2650	10.2411
Pennyrile	-60.00X to -24.00X	UNCH-DN 2.00	9.7525-10.1125	DN 0.2600-DN 0.2800	9.8458
Louisville	-48.00N	UNCH	10.0325	DN 0.2650	10.0325
Louisville	-48.00N	UNCH	10.0325	DN 0.2650	10.0325
Bluegrass	-70.00N	UNCH	9.8125	DN 0.2650	9.8125
Bluegrass	-95.00X	UNCH	9.4025	DN 0.2600	9.4025

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	1.00N	UNCH	10.5225	DN 0.2650	10.5225
Ohio River - Upper KY	-34.00X to -33.00X	UP 4.00-UNCH	10.0125-10.0225	DN 0.2200-DN 0.2600	10.0175
Ohio River - Lower KY	6.00N to 17.00N	UP 1.00-UNCH	10.5725-10.6825	DN 0.2550-DN 0.2650	10.6208
Ohio River - Lower KY	-30.00X to -12.00X	DN 7.00-UNCH	10.0525-10.2325	DN 0.3300-DN 0.2600	10.1525
Purchase	5.00N to 8.00N	UNCH	10.5625-10.5925	DN 0.2650	10.5758
Purchase	-30.00X to -12.00X	DN 5.00-UNCH	10.0525-10.2325	DN 0.3100-DN 0.2600	10.1575

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	-15.00N	UNCH	5.1775	UP 0.0800	5.1775
Pennyrile	-5.00N	UNCH	5.2775	UP 0.0800	5.2775

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	-10.00N	UNCH	5.2275	UP 0.0800	5.2275
Green River	-90.00N	UNCH	4.4275	UP 0.0800	4.4275
Pennyrile	-100.00N to -55.00N	UNCH	4.3275-4.7775	UP 0.0800	4.4358
Pennyrile	-75.00N to 0.00N	UNCH	4.5775-5.3275	UP 0.0800	4.7704
Louisville	-67.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	4.6575-5.2275	UP 0.0800	4.9425
Bluegrass	-65.00N	UNCH	4.6775	UP 0.0800	4.6775

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price(\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-23.00N	UNCH	5.0975	UP 0.0800	5.0975
Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00N	UNCH	5.0275	UP 0.0800	5.0275
Ohio River - Lower KY	-10.00N to -4.00N	UP 3.00-UNCH	5.2275-5.2875	UP 0.1100-UP 0.0800	5.2495
Purchase	-81.00N	DN 1.00	4.5175	UP 0.0700	4.5175
Purchase	-8.00N to 0.00N	UP 3.00-UNCH	5.2475-5.3275	UP 0.1100-UP 0.0800	5.2900

Explanatory Notes: Price & Basis Values quoted are for Current Delivery, unless otherwise noted.
CBOT/KCBT/MGETrade month symbols: F January; G February; H March; J April; K May; M June; N July; Q August; U September; V October; X November; Z December. FOB: Freight On Board. CIF: Cost, Insurance, and Freight. T: Truck, R: Rail, B: Barge, T/R: Truck/Rail, R/B: Rail/Barge, T/R/B: Truck/Rail/Barge, OV: Ocean Vessel

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Small Animals	5/13/2025	Sheep		Cows	
Chickens	\$5-\$15	Ewes	\$0.75-\$1.50	Cull Cows	\$1.15-\$1.69
Bantys	\$5-\$20	40-60# Lambs	\$2.75-\$3	Bulls	\$1.70-\$2.02
Ducks	\$7-\$20	61-80# Lambs	\$1.95-\$3.15		42
Pigeons	\$2.50-\$4.25	81-100# Lambs	\$1.75-\$3	Fat Cattle	
Eggs	\$2-\$4.50		397	Holstein/cross	\$1.83-\$2.11
Rooster	\$5-\$60	Goats		Colored	\$2.14-\$2.16
Turkey		Billys	\$55-\$480		13
Peacock	\$55	Nannies	\$45-270	Pigs	
Rabbits	\$4-\$19	Kids	\$15-\$120	Fat Hogs	\$35-\$56
	1011		124	Sows	\$45-\$65
Veal Calves		Feeder Cattle Dairy and Beef		Boars	\$0.7-\$2.0
Holstein	\$850-\$1170	200-500#	\$1.50-\$3.20		46
Beef Cross	\$1000-\$1450	501-800#	\$1.15-\$2.55	Feeder Pigs	
	396		105	20-45#	\$35-55
				46-65#	\$65-\$120
					52



Market Report

May 14th 2025 1st Auction

-This report is an average of the total head sold-

Hogs	7	\$.62 Lbs.	Breed Cows & Springers	-
Veal Calves	34	\$918.00 Avg.	Sheep	17 \$1.49 Avg
		\$1350.00 High	Goats	21 \$84.00 Avg
Feeder Cattle	20	\$2.41 Avg.	Small Animals	
Cull Cows	10	\$1.22 Avg	Chickens	\$3.00 - \$22.00
Bulls	1	\$1.48 Avg	Rabbits	\$2.00 - \$16.00
Fat Cattle	2	\$1.72 Avg	Hay	Sm. Sq. \$3.25 – \$5.75
Breed Cows & Springers	-			

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Weekly National Sheep Summary
For Week Ending Friday, May 9, 2025

Weekly Trends:	Compared to last week slaughter lambs traded firm, Slaughter ewes mostly firm. Feeder lambs not well tested. Equity Cooperative Auction had a auction.	127.00; Utility 1-2 100-150 lbs 100.00-110.00.
All sheep sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.		Billings: No test.
Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3		Ft. Collins: Good 2-3 95.00-125.00; Good 4-5 85.00-125.00.
San Angelo: Woolled and shorn 50 lbs 290.00; 60-70 lbs 302.00-310.00; 70-80 lbs 300.00-322.00; 80 lbs 289.00; 100-110 lbs 230.00-280.00.		Kalona: Good 2-3 120.00152.50; Utility 1-2 100.00-115.00.
New Holland: Woolled and shorn 80-90 lbs 340.00-365.00; 100-110 lbs 320.00-345.00; 110-120 lbs 315.00-320.00		Sioux Falls: Good 2-3 80.00-120.00; Good 4-5 85.00-100.00; Utility 1-2 80.00-105.00.
Billings: No test.		Missouri: Good 2-3 120.00; Utility and Good 1-3 92.50-145.00.
Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 70-80 lbs 300.00-310.00; 80-90 lbs 300.00-310.00 90-100 lbs 295.00-325.00.		Arkansas: No test.
Kalona: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 280.00-332.00; 60-70 lbs 275.00-305.00; 70-80 lbs 275.00-305.00; 80-90 lbs 280.00-300.00; 90-100 lbs 275.00-295.00.		Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1: 40-50 lbs 296.00-307.00; 50 lbs 290.00.
Sioux Falls: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 285.00-310.00; 60-70 lbs 290.00-305.00; 70-80 lbs 255.00-295.00; 80-90 lbs 278.00; 90-100 lbs 267.50-300.00; 100-110 lbs 245.00.		Ft. Collins: No test.
Missouri: Woolled and shorn 100-110 lbs 142.50.		Sioux Falls: 40-50 lbs 360.00-380.00; 30-40 lbs 345.00; 50-55 lbs 285.00-325.00; 60-70 lbs 272.50-305.00.
Arkansas: No test.		Equity Coop: 120 lbs 215.00; 85 lbs 268.00.
Equity Coop: Medium and Large 1-2 90 lbs 249.50.		Kalona: No test.
Slaughter Ewes:		Billings: No test.
San Angelo: Good 2-3 120-140 lbs 110.00-128.00; Good 4-5 lbs 180-190 lbs 102.00-134.00; Utility Good 1-2 110 lbs 100.00.		Missouri: No test.
New Holland: Good 2-3 110-150 lbs 120.00-		Arkansas: No test.
		Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: No test.
		Ft. Collins: No test.
		South Dakota: No test.
		Kalona: No test.
		Billings: No test.
		Missouri: Middle age with lambs 165.00-240.00/family.
		Arkansas: No test.

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 35,000 compared to 33,000 last week and 36,449 last year.

Source: USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News
General inquiries, please call: (202) 720-1990 email: mymarketnews@usda.gov

Some farm groups disappointed in ITC ruling regarding 2,4-D

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Some farm groups expressed disappointment with a recent decision by the International Trade Commission affirming that Corteva Agriscience was harmed by imports of a critical herbicide, called 2,4-D. This decision means that duties will be placed on imports of the herbicide at a final rate determined later by the Department of Commerce.

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) recently voted in favor of imposing final anti-dumping and countervailing duties (levied tax) on imports of 2,4-D from China and India, agreeing that the agricultural chemical company Corteva Agriscience was harmed by imports of the herbicide.

“Over the past three years, a large majority of the imports of 2,4-D into the United States came from China and India,” said Cynthia Ericson, Corteva vice president, weed control segment, in her April 1 testimony before the ITC. “We have witnessed a tremendous increase in imports coupled to a significant decrease in price of those same imports. As a result, Chinese and Indian producers are now selling to our former customers.”

According to the EPA, 2,4-D (or 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) is a widely-used herbicide that controls broadleaf weeds, and has been used as a pesticide since the 1940s. More than 1,500 herbicide products contain 2,4-D as an active ingredient that contains carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and oxygen.

Anti-dumping and countervailing

duties are extra import duties designed to protect domestic industries from unfair trade practices, such as selling goods at less than fair market value, or benefiting from foreign government subsidies, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. These duties aim to level the playing field by offsetting the advantage gained through such practices, the agency added.

Last July, a coalition of six national farm groups asked U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo in a letter to weigh the impact on U.S. farmers as she reviewed a petition by Corteva that would place tariffs on imports of the herbicide, 2,4-D, from China and India.

Kenneth Hartman, Jr., National Corn Growers Association President and a Waterloo, Ill., farmer, said in an April 29 media statement, “We are concerned and alarmed by this ruling. Corn growers should not be forced to rely exclusively on one domestic supplier. Today’s decision threatens to cause availability shortages for 2,4-D that will hamper the work of our farmers, who are facing a tough environment due to a prolonged period of high input costs and low prices.”

Caleb Ragland, American Soybean Association president and a Magnolia, Ky., soybean farmer, said in an April 29 media statement, “The announcement of these final duties on imports is disappointing to soybean growers across the country who depend on imports of generic 2,4-D in combination with other herbicides for burn-down purposes to kill weeds before planting, particularly in no-till and minimum-till operations.”

In early April, Ragland joined Hartman to testify in front of the ITC regarding the negative impact additional duties would have on soybean and corn farmers.

“For soybean farmers, times are already tough,” Ragland said. “Production costs are nearing record highs. The prices of soybeans have decreased more than 40 percent in the past three years. Our herbicide options are becoming increasingly limited.

“Imports of 2,4-D products do not compete at all with Corteva’s 2,4-D choline product that is required by law and by contract to be used with Corteva’s Enlist soybeans – and which have a 60 percent market share that continues to increase every year,” he added. “New duties on 2,4-D would make things even harder, further disrupting our access to reliable herbicide tools in our toolbox.”

Dave Walton, Iowa Soybean Association District 6 director and Wilton, Iowa, farmer, who grows soybeans, corn, commercial hay and manages beef cattle with his father, son, and wife, Paula, told Farm World, “For me as a soybean farmer, I think the decision is a little disheartening. Mainly because of already high production costs, and the shrinking number of

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2025 Crawford County Farm hop called success by organizers

By Mike Tanchevski
Ohio Correspondent

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ohio – Despite the cold and rainy weather, over 230 people attended the Crawford County Farm Hop on April 26. This was the third Crawford County Farm Hop in two years.

“We did a farm hop last April and we did another one, in believe it was August or September, just to kind of test two different cycles of the year,” Scott McKnight said. “We definitely had better engagement and better attendance in the one in April.”

The event focused on interacting with local farmers through a participatory agritourism activity. It came about through the efforts of Scott and Lydia McKnight, owners of Abundantly Blessed Farm.

The couple wanted to get products from their boutique lavender farm directly into consumers’ hands. The couple turned to other farmers in Crawford County to inquire about creating product awareness in the community and selling directly to consumers.

Scott noticed that most farms in the community developed a product and sold it to another business, using the business-to-business model. Farmers raising grain or raising animals sold directly to either a grain storage company or a meat processor, McKnight said.

He and Lydia were looking for another way to sell their products. “We appreciated the business-to-consumer model where we’re able to make our goods and sell them directly to the consumer,” he said. “Ultimately, we get to keep a larger chunk of the profit margin, and our customers build a relationship with us, and we

get to build a relationship with them.” The pair found that even farms that sold directly to consumers didn’t know how to connect with customers, and many didn’t even know their ideal customer.

“You really have to know who your ideal customer is to market and sell to them,” Scott said. “Because you can’t sell to everybody, and if you’re trying to sell to everybody, you’re essentially going to sell to nobody.”

In their search, the McKnights turned to agritourism to bring customers to area farms.

“We were looking at different ideas from farms in and outside the state – there were a few smaller entities, one in Canada, that did this farm crawl event,” Scott said.

Building on the crawl concept and the time of the event, Easter, Scott turned the Crawl into a Hop. “The name kind of stuck,” he said. “It’s been a good opportunity for us, and the farms we’ve partnered with to invest in this community.”

Five stops were part of the Hop, and people could visit the farms any way they wanted. “Most people started closer to their home and worked their way backwards,” he said.

Abundantly Blessed Farms, The Market and Cafe at Pickwick Place, Paynter Family Organic Farm, Brandywine Creek Farm, Gracie’s Botanical, Rus-Men Farms, Chicory Girl Wellness, The Ohio Flower Girls, and the Bucyrus Public Library Seed Library were all represented on the Hop.

While visitors were encouraged to take part in activities, producers were trying to sell their products too.

At Abundantly Blessed Farm, visitors got the chance to interact with the farm products. “Participants got to feed chickens, create a lavender



Above: Mendy Sellman, right, of Rusmen Farms, talks with a young visitor about the cattle at her family's farm during the 2025 Crawford County Farm Hop. Rus-Men Farms is east of Galion, Ohio.



Above: Visitors had the opportunity to feed cattle at Paynter Family Organic Farms in Crestline, Ohio, during the 2025 Crawford County Farm Hop.

sachet, and enjoy toxin-free products produced on the farm or sourced through reliable vendors,” Lydia McKnight said.

Local products included honey, maple syrup, loose leaf tea, and Smith Acres Produce lavender vanilla popcorn. In addition, Grace Hand with Gracie’s Botanicals offered dried flower arrangements, and Wayside Christian School Robotics Club provided freshly grilled all-beef hot dogs and bratwurst from Rus-Men Farms.

Mendy Sellman with Rus-Men Farms offered frozen meats from their farm, including hot dogs, bratwurst, steaks and more. Eggs, jams, jellies, syrup and honey were also available. “They also invited participants to see goats and chickens in the nearby barn,” Lydia said.

Samantha Tanner with Brandywine Creek Farm allowed guests to interact with a snake, possum, porcupine, flying miniature squirrel and more animals. Rachael Dornbirer with Chicory Girl Wellness had loose-leaf tea available to taste.

The Market at Pickwick Place had field tours, activities, and offered locally



Above: The Ohio Flower Girls, at Pickwick Farms north of Bucyrus, Ohio, showcased their beautiful flowers with a Tulip Bar inside the Market at Pickwick during the 2025 Crawford County Farm Hop.



Above: Scott McKnight, whose family owns Abundantly Blessed Farm south of Bucyrus, Ohio, hands a small cup of chicken feed to visitors to feed the family's chickens during the 2025 Crawford County Farm Hop.

(Crawford continued on page 14)



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Irby’s Old School Farm looking to host STEM classes

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

TROTWOOD, Ohio – The chickens are their primary focus right now but at Irby’s Old School Farm, Christine and Dale Irby plan on expanding. They’re prepping their fields for growing vegetables, berries, fruits, and they might get a couple of goats. They never saw themselves as farmers, until COVID. Now they want to make farming accessible to everyone.

“We were just coming out of COVID and we had a lot of questions about where our food was coming from. We met Sharifa Tomilson, Arrowrock Sanctuary Farm,” Christine said. “She got me interested in growing chickens for ourselves. She said it was easy. She had rabbits, she had turkeys. I said we can definitely do the chickens.”

Shortly after, they met Tia Stuart, of Narrow Way Farm. She influenced them

to talk with the Ohio Association of Food Banks. Irby Farm got a contract with them to raise 500 to 1,000 Rock Cornish chickens. Dale set up the detached garage to raise chickens.

“We’re on two acres,” Irby said. “It is rural but it is considered urban because it is Trotwood. We converted our detached garage and we started from there. The contract is, that we raise a certain breed of chickens to eight weeks.”

At eight weeks the chickens are processed and the meat is distributed throughout Southwest Ohio to food banks and pantries. That contract is up in June and Irby thought the current administration was unlikely to renew it.

Along the way, the couple collected what they call the Divas. They are egg layers, and they are mostly heritage breeds.

“We spoil them rotten,” Irby said. “They have personalities. We have eight

different breeds right now. We have 25 divas. We get our eggs from them. We have heritage birds because they are hardy with the heat and the cold.”

The Divas include Benga, a Wyandotte, which is so called because of her orange-copper color; Benjy, a brown chicken, came accidentally with the white Rock Cornish chicks raised for processing. They named the supposed rooster Benjamin Baneker for the civil rights activist who predicted a solar eclipse. When “he” turned out to be “she” they shortened the name to Benjy. A Rhode Island Red is named Red-Tail in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen (the red markings on their planes distinguished them).

Each day the Divas produce 12 to 18 eggs of different colors. The Irbys package them in an octagon-shaped box designed by Dale and they fly off the shelf at Gem City Market, a co-op built and owned by the Dayton community. Customers like them because the Irbys use no supplements or antibiotics.

For their day job, the Irbys both work in the Dayton school system. In 2019, Christine won the National Innovative Educator Award for her work teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts to special education students at Westwood Elemen-

are working on establishing classes and workshops based on STEM for their farm.

Her classes at the Dakota Center’s after-school program create a lot of interest. She teaches that farmers are scientists, and farmers are engineers.

Central State College donated a hydroponics garden to the Dakota Center. So, while the students learned how to garden outside, during last year’s drought they brought the basil seeds inside and planted them in the hydroponics garden.

“So, they learn; even though it may look like you may not have anything, there is always something you can use,” Irby explained.

The Irbys are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) farmers. They feel strongly that everyone needs to know how to grow their own food. Irby has made several YouTube videos that show and talk about their laying hens. She tells her students:

“You don’t have to be a farmer, I just want you to know how to be one. Not knowing how to grow your food, that is not acceptable. That is our vision to make agriculture accessible to everyone. I embrace all children but teach special needs. It is paramount that agriculture needs to be accessible to everyone.”



Above: At Gem City Market, a Dayton City co-op, the eggs are in high demand. Dale Irby designed the octagon-shaped box.



Above: Coming out of COVID, Christine and Dale Irby had questions about where their food was coming from. After meeting and talking with several people, they started raising chickens.



Above: The Irbys call the egg layers the Divas and “spoil them rotten.” They have 25 of them and all have personalities. They have several heritage breeds. This one is Benga, a Wyandotte.

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Above: Members of the Earth, Wind and Flowers Garden Club helped visitors find their perfect seeds in the Seed Library at the Bucyrus Public Library during the 2025 Crawford County Farm Hop.

Crawford

FROM PAGE 12

sourced products for sale. Haley Fannin and Hannah Stuckey, of The Ohio Flower Girls, helped guests create a tulip arrangement with flowers fresh from their greenhouse at the Market.

Adam Paynter with Paynter Family Organic Farm gave guests a chance to feed cows and see pigs, chickens, and turkeys on his farm tour. His market trailer sold organic hot dogs, bratwurst, steaks, chicken and ground beef.

A stop at the Bucyrus Public Library's "seed bank" allowed visitors to get five free packets of flower, fruit, herb and vegetable seeds. "The seeds were donated or purchased through local vendors with an emphasis on Ohio native seeds," Lydia said. "The Earth, Wind and Flowers Garden Club was present to highlight the seed bank and discuss other gardening initiatives in the area."

Farmers and producers who participated in the Crawford County Farm Hop saw the financial benefits asso-

ciated with the event. Many increased their single-event sales by two to three times during last year's Hop.

"It's definitely been beneficial getting people engaged and getting them present at the farms," Scott said. "We have found, as it's true with most retail operations, if you can connect with the producer, you tend to have higher sales."

Scott wasn't sure if there would be a fall Hop this year. "I don't know that we will," he said. "We're looking at some other options for we can how we can continue to grow this idea in the community."

Lydia was pleased with the turnout. "Expectations were met," she said. "We feel like guests had a positive experience. Guests traveled from two-three counties away, though most were from the Crawford County area, which should be positive for future engagement."



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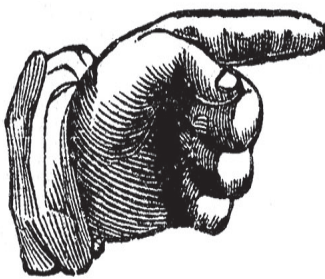
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Soil microbes influence plant-pollinator interactions

By Hayley Lalchand
Ohio Correspondent

STANFORD, Calif. – New research finds that certain soil microbes influence how plants and bees interact.

When Aidee Guzman, assistant professor of biology at Stanford University, began studying for her doctoral degree, she was interested in exploring bee health and conservation. One question that drove her curiosity was understanding how to make agricultural systems more nutritious for bees.

In her pursuit to study bee health and conservation, Guzman came across the mutualistic relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and plants. Mycorrhizal fungi are a group of fungi that form symbiotic relationships with the roots of plants, greatly increasing the absorptive area of a plant and enhancing nutrient and water uptake. In turn, the fungi receive access to sugars produced from photosynthesis.

Guzman wanted to know if a plant that has more positive associations with mycorrhizal fungi below ground led to more positive effects for the plant above

ground. Newly published research conducted by Guzman and colleagues investigated how arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), a type of mycorrhiza in which the fungus penetrates the roots of a vascular plant forming arbuscules, influenced floral traits.

The research focused on summer squash (*Cucurbita pepo* L. var. *cylindrica*). The research team found that in a laboratory setting, squash plants inoculated with AMF demonstrated enhanced flower size and number of flowers as well as nectar volume and pollen protein. Bee visitation to plants was highest for plants inoculated with a diverse composition of AMF species.

Interestingly, a trade-off was observed between higher AMF concentrations and flower size. Especially high AMF root colonization led to smaller flowers, adding to the idea that not all AMF are the same and have varying effects on flower size, nectar volume, and other measures studied.

“The way we are thinking (about the trade-off) – and obviously this would mean more research – is that we think when plants associate with mycorrhizal fungi, they produce more

hyphae, so they are able to explore the soil more, and then that leads to more positive benefits,” Guzman said. “But potentially when they associate with mycorrhizal fungi that just establish themselves in the root, they might be associating with cheat-er AMF that might not actually provide many nutrients but take a lot of carbon from the plant instead.”

Guzman added that many people ask about mycorrhizal fungi inoculants to improve plant health. She said many inoculants have low species diversity, and it’s not possible to guarantee that the inoculant captures the diversity of functions that the fungi could provide to plants.

Additionally, Guzman was surprised to learn that the main driver of bee visitation in the study was bigger flower sizes. Prior to the study, she thought that bee visitation would be driven by the nutritional value of the nectar and pollen. Still, the results of the study showed that AMF can lead to increased protein content in pollen, increasing nutritional value for bees.

“There’s a potential through these associations and by fostering beneficial organisms in the soil, that we

could improve or at least contribute to the health of bee communities,” she said. “For people focused on pollinator conservation, we may have been overlooking these other factors (in soil) that might help bees and bee health in their communities.”

In the future, Guzman is interested in exploring if management practices lead to certain effects on AMF diversity and if those effects led to certain outcomes in bee communities and studying plant-pollinator interactions on active farms. Her research group is also looking into the interactions between the “three sisters” (squash, corn and bean) crops to understand the cascading effects of multiple plants in close proximity.

For farmers interested in supporting bee health and bee communities, Guzman said that plant diversity is important, and that published research indicates hedgerows attract a lot of pollinators. Previously, she studied monoculture squash farms versus farms with squash and other crops, curious to see if fields plentiful with squash flowers would support squash bees, specialized pollinators that only eat squash pollen. Interestingly, she found that squash bees preferred to pollinate squash plants at polyculture farms because they offered a more diverse source of nectar.

She also added that bees need to eat beyond just the months that crops are flowering, advocating for floral diversity and floral strips that bloom at different points in the season.



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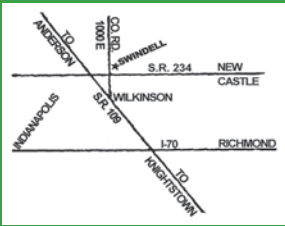
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From farming to singing; this Illinois 15-year-old does it all

By Tim Alexander
Illinois Correspondent

CAMBRIDGE, Ill. — For Chloe Mae Finch, 15, the second semester of her freshman year of high school has been busy with exams, shooting sports, 4-H and FFA. The north-central Illinois country girl just concluded her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) for her high school FFA chapter, which involved preparing and planting 10 acres of farmland into crops. She's also a highly sought-after regional entertainer, a country and folk music guitarist and songstress who gave more than 40 public performances in 2024 and will be bringing her mix of crowd favorites and original compositions to the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

All of this activity is not anything the

energetic rural teen, with the unflagging support of her family, can't handle.

"I am a member of the Cambridge FFA Chapter. Our chapter is the National Premier Chapter from 2022 and 2024 and the Illinois Premier Chapter 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2024. We have been a three-time National Star Chapter from 2016 - present. The chapter consists of 85 high school members and 60 middle school members," Chloe said.

"My 4-H club is Burns Boosters. We are the oldest club in Henry County, going on around 90 years. I am the club president this year and have also been the club reporter three times. I have also earned the Outstanding Reporter award three times. I joined 4-H at five years old as a Cloverbud mem-



Above: Chloe Mae Finch, 15, is pictured planting row crops as part of her FFA supervised agricultural experience (SAE). In addition to her love for agriculture, Chloe is a talented and popular singer-songwriter-guitarist who will perform at the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

ber. I have been selected as the Henry County State Fair Delegate for projects including sewing, shooting sports, woodworking and visual arts - metal," she added.

For her recently completed FFA SAE project, Chloe enlisted the help of Melton Seed & Service LLC, which provided the seed, and Rick Yarger of Yarger Machinery for the loan of a six-row planter, which Chloe used to complete the project. A family friend provides custom harvesting for Chloe, who has now planted and raised row crops on her family's rural property for two consecutive summers.

Chloe chose to plant crops as her SAE because farming is in her DNA — both her grandpa and great-grandpa are farmers. "My SAE record book shows all the hours I put into this project, and to get the state and national degrees in FFA you have to have a

record book," she said. "I am hoping to take my project to state and national levels in the future. This year I did compete in grain production entrepreneurship in the section contest. I made it to district, where I ended up second. I hope to compete again next year."

Chloe's Cambridge Jr.-Sr. HS FFA chapter is led by advisors Trent Tabor and Haley Gruber. The school's junior high chapter was chartered just last year, which was when Chloe began her FFA career.

"I hope to learn a whole lot about agriculture (through 4-H and FFA) and I hope to learn a lot about business and networking," she said. "In 4-H there are a bunch of different projects you can choose from, and not all of them involve ag. You get the opportunity to build a number of skills, like in FFA,

(Singing continued on page 2B)

IN
THIS
ISSUE

FarmWorld

2025 Summer

COUNTY FAIRS

& MORE

Beginning on page 12B

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Using new needles for injections can help reduce bovine anaplasmosis

By Doug Schmitz
Iowa Correspondent

ATHENS, Ga. – A new report is urging U.S. farmers and livestock handlers to update their health and safety practices for bovine anaplasmosis, a blood-borne disease that is carried from one animal to another through blood-feeding flies and ticks, or with contaminated tools during herd health processing.

The disease is characterized by severe anemia and can lead to reduced production, abortions, and even death in affected animals.

Jason Duggin, University of Georgia beef extension specialist, who authored the report, said one of the most important steps in preventing this disease is using a new needle for

every injection.

“In the past, we have often said that it is an acceptable practice to use a needle up to 10 injections if it doesn’t dull or become contaminated,” he said. “With the continual spread of anaplasmosis in the region, the best practice is to use a new needle for every injection.

“It’s more than just delivering a pharmaceutical product in a humane way, while reducing lesions and abscesses,” he added. “Possibly now more than ever, it is a matter of herd health. To maintain herd health and profitability as bovine anaplasmosis continues to spread, we will need to change how we approach needles, castration, dehorning, implanting, and parasite control.”

He said, “At this point, scientists

believe that ticks are the major contributor. However, there are multiple strains of the bacterial organism known as ‘A. marginale’ that live in the red blood cells of infected cattle. Some strains are carried by ticks, while other strains are more commonly carried by blood-feeding flies.”

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), bovine anaplasmosis is endemic in many parts of the U.S., particularly the South, Midwest and the West. States like Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas have reported increases in bovine anaplasmosis cases, particularly in herds near rivers and in humid climates.

Grant Dewell, Iowa State University beef extension veterinarian, told Farm World, “In most cases, the disease is transmitted by insect vectors (insects that transmit pathogens, such as viruses, bacteria, or parasites, from one host to another) such as ticks and biting flies, so if you are in an endemic area and your herd is clean, your biggest risk is insects and needle transfer is minimal. If you have carrier animals within your herd, then needle transfer may spread the disease, but insect activity is still probably more of a risk.

“Single-use needles are a good biosecurity practice in most situations, but probably the biggest return is in dairy herds where they give more injections and where they can’t control the disease by feeding chlortetracycline (an antibiotic used in cattle feed to treat or control various diseases, approved for use in feedlot cattle to treat or prevent respiratory disease and for liver abscess control) during the vector season to limit disease transmission,” he added.

“We generally consider the south-

ern part of Iowa as endemic, anywhere south of I-80, and I assume that Missouri is endemic, and I know most of Kansas is.

“In these areas, beef producers are commonly using chlortetracycline in the summer to help control the disease,” he added. “The University of Missouri recently produced a new effective anaplasmosis vaccine, but I’m not sure that is available yet.”

He said, “Generally, with some intensive prevention and treatment strategies (i.e. single use needles, chlortetracycline during vector season, testing and culling in winter), we can clear the herd in a couple of years. (But) it’s always a good idea to test for anaplasmosis whenever purchasing cattle.”

He added, “With the primary vector being biting insects, then control of flies and ticks is important. Tick control is difficult as most of our external parasite control products do not have a claim for tick control, and the ones that do would need to be applied on a regular basis through the summer. You can reduce some tick exposure by decreasing brush and keeping pastures grazed so that ticks do not have a habitat. Biting flies can be controlled, but they need to be applied regularly.”

Citing a 2022 University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine report, Duggin said, “In the U.S., the cost of a clinical case of anaplasmosis is conservatively estimated at \$400 per animal, according to their findings. That cost has likely increased since then. Working with a veterinarian to be proactive in prevention will be a great step forward in reducing mortalities and economic losses.”

Singing

FROM PAGE 1B

where there are opportunities to be an officer.”

Chloe, however, does not necessarily envision her future career involving agriculture, at least for the time being. She’s fully devoted to making it in Nashville and beyond as a country-folk music artist.

“My music is my main goal and I want to become a famous singer-songwriter musician,” said Chloe, who maintains a YouTube page detailing her musical and shooting sports adventures at www.youtube.com/@ChloeMae-sMusic.

“I started music at six (years old) and my first show was at seven. I played one song on guitar that my neighbor

and teacher taught me on lap steel (guitar). This was my Grandpa Donnie’s lap steel guitar; my hands were too small to fit around a regular guitar. I played the lap steel for a couple of years, and it was a pretty cool way to get started in music,” Chloe said.

“In addition to Chloe learning more about agriculture, specifically in our region, and business, organizations like 4-H and FFA serve to forge friendships and associations that last a lifetime,” said Chloe’s mother, Courtney Finch. “She can go wherever she wants, but she’s going to need leadership skills. She’s involved in Parliamentary Procedure, and holds officer positions. She is not an FFA officer currently, but will probably run again next year.”

Chloe Mae and her family are very excited that the teen country music phenom will have a chance to play at the 2025 Illinois State Fair in Springfield. She’ll take the Expo Building Stage on Saturday, August 16 from noon to 1:30pm.



Above: Walking her Henry County, Illinois crop field is 15 year-old Chloe Mae Finch, who planted 10 acres of corn for her 2025 FFA SAE project. Finch is a member of her local FFA and 4-H chapters, a shooting sports enthusiast and popular singer-songwriter-guitarist. Photos provided by the Finch family.



Above: Chloe Mae Finch, 15, is seen loading seed into a six-row planter in preparation for her FFA SAE project.

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Pickaway County farmer wins OFB young farmer competition

By Mike Tanchevski
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Will Minshall, of Pickaway County, winner of Ohio Farm Bureau's Young Agricultural Professionals (YAP) 2025 Outstanding Young Farmer competition, is always on the move, supporting agriculture in three Ohio counties.

"I live in Hocking County, I grew up in Pickaway County, and I'm a farm bureau member in Pickaway County because that's where our main farm is," Minshall said. "I'm involved in Ross County because that's where I went to 4-H, and I'm the treasurer for the Ross County Cattlemen's Association – I jump around."

The Outstanding Young Farmer Award competition is designed to help young farmers strengthen their business skills, develop marketing opportunities, and receive recognition for their accomplishments. Contestants are judged on the growth of their farm businesses and involvement in farm bureau and their community. Minshall was announced as the winner during the YAP Winter Leadership Experience.

Minshall's peers suggested he apply for the competition. "A couple of members on the Young Ag Professionals Committee mentioned that I should

apply," he said. "The application goes over everything about me, success stories in my farming career, and the growth of my farm. It also focuses on farm bureau involvement, so I applied."

The YAP program provides leadership development and professional growth opportunities for farm bureau members aged 18-35. One of the biggest opportunities the program provides is the chance to network with other young farmers in the state.

"You meet people from all over the state, and even people that are not that far away from you, but you just didn't have an opportunity to know before," Minshall said. "Everybody in the state has different problems, or some of the same problems. Being able to talk about what you're doing and see what they're doing – it makes you better or gives you a different idea or a different thing to try, or if it just gives you support knowing that you're not alone and you're going in the right direction or you're doing what you can to get something done."

As a full-time farmer, Minshall's schedule allows him to be more involved in the community. "There's times of the year that I don't get out of the tractor seat, but then there's other times of the year that I have more

time than what most people would," he said. "I think that's a good use of free time, in my opinion, because it's not wasted if you're giving back to your community or the agricultural industry."

A graduate of University of Northwestern Ohio with an associate's degree in ag/diesel technology, Minshall currently farms in a partnership with his family.

"We have a partnership that consists of me, my dad, my mom, and my sister," he said. "As far as day to day, it's mainly me and my dad, and we have three employees that help us."

Minshall's farming roots run deep in South Central Ohio. "I'm in the 8th generation to farm the farm and live in the house, so, it's kind of a kind of a big deal," he said. "In 2026, we're going to celebrate 200 years – it will be a bicentennial farm – it's been in the family for 200 years."

Minshall's exposure to cattle as a child and through early adulthood led him to become a 1st-generation cattle farmer. "My dad had cows when I was younger, and by the time I was maybe 13 or 14, he had got rid of them," he said. "I always had a passion for cows, and I showed cattle at the fair when I was in 4-H."

When he turned 18, Minshall's fa-



Above: Will Minshall, Ohio Farm Bureau's Young Agricultural Professionals 2025 Outstanding Young Farmer competition winner.

ther let him use one of the barns at his grandfather's house to satisfy his passion. "After buying a couple of cows, it was kind of slow going through college," Minshall said. "Then, right around 2020, I had the opportunity to rent some pasture, and I slowly grew to where I am now – I tripled the size of my herd in just a couple of years."

Minshall's herd consists of Angus, Simmental, or a cross of the two breeds. He raises about 25 cattle and finds several ways to market them.

"Because we're in an area where there's not much pasture, I knew that my herd size couldn't be as big as what a lot of places could handle, so I knew I'd have to find some sort of niche market – or I'd have to increase the value of the calves I sell over regular stockers," Minshall said.

Through the use of AI in his breeding program, Minshall has tapped into the show calf and registered breed market. "I sell half a dozen show calves a year – that's a good way to increase a little bit of value, then I'll sell Angus breeding bulls or registered stock," he said.

His largest market segment, and the primary purpose of the beef herd, is freezer beef. "Since 2020, demand has slowly increased," Minshall said. "I think my first year I sold four or five whole beefs, and now this year I'm up to over 20 appointments. I've had to start buying calves because I'm out-producing what I have calved out every year."

A member of the Pickaway County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees since 2023, Minshall serves as the committee chair for the organization's membership campaign. He is also actively involved in 4-H as an adviser and has taken on the role of superintendent of the beef barn at the Ross County Fair.

Before getting involved in all his activities, Minshall wasn't quite sure what to expect.

"I'm pretty new to the farm bureau thing," he said. "I didn't really know if I had time to do it." Minshall's father was a county farm bureau president. "So, I knew about farm bureau, but I didn't really know much about what they did and how they proceeded with doing things," he said.

After he was asked to be on the county board, Minshall still didn't think he had time to do it but decided to do it anyway. "I'm glad I did because I now know why we need farm bureau and why the county boards are so important," he said.

As the winner of the Outstanding Young Farmer competition, Minshall received a \$3,000 cash prize, an expense-paid trip to the 2025 Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, and an expense-paid trip to the 2026 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Anaheim, Calif., to represent Ohio in the national competition.

Minshall plans to put the cash prize back into his farm enterprise.

"You know how it is when it's farming, there's always bills to get paid," he said. "I've got a fencing project I need to start working on, and if it doesn't get put toward that first, I need to add on to my barn to accommodate the extra cattle I need to feed out. Either way, it's going to get spent up pretty quickly."

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Fayette County boasts oldest 4-H club in Bluegrass State

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

LEXINGTON, Ky. - There are 4-H clubs in each of Kentucky's 120 counties, accounting for 6,000 youth engaged in 5,000 projects.

The county with the oldest 4-H club in the state is Fayette.

The club was first known as the Fayette County Corn Club, organized in 1909 by Professor George Roberts and Nannie G. Faulconer. Roberts was from the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station at the time and Faulconer was the superintendent of Fayette County Schools. The club was formed to encourage farm families to adopt new farming practices and encouraged children on these farms to try these new techniques on a small portion of the farm.

The thought was that the children's success with these practices would lead to greater acceptance by the adults.

The success of the Fayette County Corn Club led to the development of what is known today as Kentucky 4-H, with camping activities beginning in 1920. (The name "4-H" was added in 1939.)

The boys grew one acre of corn and reported their yield and production cost at the end of the growing season. From that successful beginning, Extension personnel chose what was later to be called Junior Agricultural Clubs as one avenue to promote their services.

Kentucky was not the first state to have such clubs. Ohio started its corn club in 1902, thanks to A.B. Graham. (Graham is credited being the founder of 4-H). The first club work in the south began in Mississippi in 1907 at a time when the boll weevil had become a serious threat to cotton-growing states.

On the heels of corn clubs in Kentucky, other similar clubs became prevalent: pig clubs, poultry clubs and canning clubs. Pig clubs began in 1911. Poultry clubs and canning clubs for girls started in 1912.

Agricultural Extension leaders wanted to take advantage of the very successful club movement and in 1912 formed



Above: Fayette County 4-Hers from 1963 took time out for this group photo. (photo submitted)

a boys' camp at the State Fair Grounds. About 100 boys attended that first camp and they showed corn, poultry, pigs and cattle to compete for prizes. The first 4-H educational exhibit was introduced at the 1913 State Fair.

In 1914, girls took interest in poultry and pigs and by the end of the year some clubs began to be referred to as "Boys & Girls Club Work." Statewide enrollment totaled 1,250.

By 1917, war efforts caused clubs to expand, spreading to 42 Kentucky counties and including 4,000 boys and girls.

In 1924, the four-leaf clover became the official symbol for the clubs. Enrollment in Kentucky rose to 18,548 that year.

In 1927, J.M. Feltner of Kentucky coined the 4-H Pledge, "To Make the Best Better."

In the 1930s, for the first time, youth who did not live on a farm joined 4-H and by 1935 25,000 Kentucky youth enrolled in 4-H. On the national scene,

(Fayette continued on page 14B)



Above: Nannie Faulconer (shown), then superintendent of Fayette County Schools, is credited with forming the Fayette County 4-H club. This photo was taken in 1910.



Above: Long before being referred to as 4-H club, such gatherings in Kentucky were called Boys' Corn Club. On the far right is Nannie Faulconer, who was the superintendent of Fayette County Schools during that time. (photo submitted)



Above: Fayette County 4-Hers proudly display their trophies they earned at the 1933 county fair. (photo submitted)

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Michigan 4-H volunteers are honored for half century of service

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

EAST LANSING, Mich. – For a half century, a Michigan woman has been an adult volunteer with 4-H, teaching children things like sewing and knitting. Sharon Mitchell, a 10-year 4-H member as a youth, has sewn the same fabric into her children, grandchildren and soon, perhaps, her great grandchildren. Mitchell, 80, who lives on her grandfather's 67-acre farm in Burr Oak, said being involved in the program simply hasn't left her heart. "I liked all of the kids that would be in 4-H. Those kids are always nice and helpful and that sort of thing," she said. Mitchell and eight other adult volunteers were recognized for 50 years

of adult service to 4-H by the Michigan State University Extension office. The others were Cheryl Barton, of Shiawassee County; Lisa Coe, of Barry County; Janel Horrocks-Boehmer, of Ingham County; Vanessa Powell, of Jackson County; Diane Shepherd, of Sanilac County; Paul Shoup, of Mason County; Bernadette Strahl, of Menominee County; and Marla Wedge, of Allegan County. Initially, Mitchell said she joined 4-H as a child because she wanted to show animals like cows and pigs from the nearby farm she grew up on in St. Joseph County in the southwest part of the state. However, she said her parents weren't into that sort of thing and her father was too busy milking his dozen or so cows twice a day, raising corn and soybeans on his roughly 50 acres of ground and doing other work, to transport the animals to the fair and other competitions. Instead, Mitchell said she did knitting and sewing, "the sort of things girls did back in those days." She was married and owner of her grandfather's farm after his death when her opportunity to be involved in showing animals came as 4-H volunteer. After her sons were old enough to join 4-H, Mitchell said she tried getting them interested in showing horses, but they were more into showing cows, hogs and sheep along with tractors at the farm. "They always wanted to drive the tractors and plow the fields and do all of that stuff. If it had a motor, they were interested," she said. Her activities as a volunteer leaned



Sharon Mitchell was one of 10 4-H volunteers in Michigan honored for 50 years of service to the program.

(Michigan continued on page 5B)

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Indiana’s migratory bird hunting seasons announced

Indiana’s migratory bird hunting seasons for 2025-26 have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hunting seasons for mourning doves, waterfowl (i.e., ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese), woodcock, snipe and sora rails are:

Rails (Sora only) Sept. 1-Nov. 9, 2025. Daily Bag Limit: 25. Possession limit: 75. Shooting hours: half-hour before sunrise to sunset. HIP registration required.

Mourning Doves Sept. 1-Oct. 19, Nov. 1-30, Dec. 20-30, 2025. Daily Bag Limit: 15. Possession limit: 45. Shooting hours: half-hour before sunrise to sunset. HIP registration and Game Bird Habitat Stamp required.

Woodcock Oct. 15-Nov. 28, 2025. Daily Bag Limit: 3. Possession limit: 9. Shooting hours: half-hour before sunrise to sunset. HIP registration

required.
NOTE: Woodcock hunters must wear, exposed at all times, as an outer garment solid hunter orange in color one or more of the following articles: a vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat or cap.

Snipe (Wilson’s) Sept. 1-Dec. 16, 2025. Daily Bag Limit: 8. Possession limit: 24. Shooting hours: half-hour before sunrise to sunset. HIP registration re-

quired.
The white-fronted goose season and bag limit are separate from other geese. The white-fronted goose season is closed during the first and second Canada goose segments but opens at the same time as the other geese seasons during the third segment. The daily bag limit is two white-fronted geese.

The Canada goose daily bag limit is

five, which may include Brant geese in aggregate, in any combination. The daily bag limit for light geese (snow and Ross’s geese) remains 20.

There is one change in duck bag limits from 2024-25. The daily bag limit for pintails is three. The scaup daily bag limit remains one during the first 15 days of the duck season, and two for the rest of the season.

The possession limit for all migratory birds is three times the daily bag limit, except for light geese for which there is no possession limit.

To see species and limits and to find more information about the migratory gamebird hunting seasons and regulations, go to: on.IN.gov/gamebird-seasons.

Sheridan Monon Trail extension

On May 9, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the town of Sheridan celebrated the start of construction for phase 2 of the Monon Trail extension in Northern Hamilton County.

The asphalt multi-use trail will be constructed by the town with help from a \$2,089,850 Next Level Trails (NLT) grant. The award was announced in April 2022 as part of the third grant round of NLT.

“Indiana’s Next Level Trails program is all about making connections – and the Monon Trail hits the mark,” said Allen Hurst, trails manager for the DNR. “With this extension, thousands of Hoosiers across Hamilton and Marion counties will soon have an improved connection north to Boone County, and south to downtown Indianapolis.”

The new trail will extend 1.1 miles northwest from Second Street to the Hamilton/Boone County line. It will connect to the existing trail project from State Road 47 to Second Street. The trail follows the historic railroad corridor through the town center of Sheridan. To the south, the existing Monon Trail extends more than 26 miles and travels through Westfield, Carmel and Broad Ripple, ultimately ending at 10th Street in downtown Indianapolis. The project completes the trail within Hamilton County.

“Sheridan’s vibrancy and connectivity will be greatly enhanced by the Monon Trail,” said Si DeVaney, president of the Sheridan Town Council. “We are grateful to the Department of

Natural Resources for its partnership.”

Nappanee Hunter injured

Indiana Conservation Officers were investigating a May 10 hunting accident in Fulton County. About 6:20 a.m., Fulton County Dispatch received a call reporting an person was shot while turkey hunting near County Road 375 N and County Road 100 W in Rochester.

Brian Lehman, 41, of Nappanee, suffered a gunshot wound to the head and neck from a shot fired from a 12-gauge shotgun. Lehman was airlifted to South Bend Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

The initial investigation revealed Lehman and a juvenile hunter were walking a farm lane to gain access to a property when a hunter on the adjacent property mistook Lehman’s movement for a turkey and fired in his direction, striking Lehman. The juvenile was not injured. The incident is still under investigation.

Indiana Conservation Officers would like to remind hunters to always identify their target, what is in front of it, and what is behind it before shooting while in the field.

Unidentified body recovered from Lake Michigan

Indiana Conservation Officers were investigating after a fisherman on the morning of May 10 discovered a body in the water approximately 2 miles offshore from Central Beach on Lake Michigan.

Shortly after 8:00 a.m., officers arrived on the scene and found the body of an unidentified person. Due to the deteriorated condition of the body, the person appears to have been missing for an extended period. The person was wearing red and black plaid pajama pants, black socks, and there was a unique ring on the right index finger.

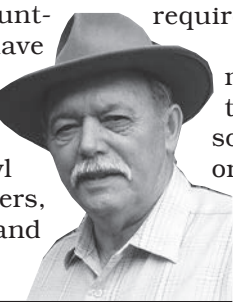
Anyone with information is asked to contact Indiana Conservation Officers dispatch at 812-837-9536.

‘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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Saturday, June 7th, 2025, 10am
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LIFTS * SKID STEER * MOWER: Gradall Model 534C9 42' Telescoping Boom Fork Lift, 9K w/4 New Tires showing 1229 hrs.-Meter Changed at 3988 hrs. SN#0344059; JLG 2646 E2 Platform Lift(Battery Weak); Grasshopper 721D w/61" Cut-Fully Serviced; New Holland LS160 Skid Steer w/Cab & Heat; John Deere BA84 Work Site Pro Skid Steer Road Sweeper; 3 Way Skid Steer Bucket.

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OTHER: Home Comfort Wood Cook Stove; (1)Steel Jail Cell-Milford Center;

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Talks lead to temporary de-escalation of tariff spat between US and China

The tariff tit for tat took on another new look this week. Talks last week-end between the U.S. and China in Switzerland produced a temporary de-escalation.

Beginning May 14, they have agreed to a 90-day pause, reports HighGround Dairy. "The U.S. will reduce tariffs on Chinese goods from a peak of 145 percent to 30 percent, while China will lower tariffs on U.S. imports from 125 percent to 10 percent. China has also halted and scrapped other non-tariff counter-measures, such as the export of critical minerals to the U.S., put in place in response to the initial escalation."

"The 30 percent levy that the U.S. is now imposing on Chinese goods includes an existing 20 percent tariff intended to pressure China into doing more to prevent the synthetic opioid fentanyl from entering the U.S. It also includes the same 10 percent "baseline" tariff Trump slapped on imports from most of the world's countries. The 30 percent tax comes on top of other levies on China, including some left over from Trump's first term and kept by former President Joe Biden (such as solar panels and electric vehicles). On the Chinese side, retaliatory tariffs imposed in March on specific U.S. dairy exports remain in effect. These measures highlight that deeper trade frictions persist," says HGD.

Meanwhile, the April Consumer Price Index was better than expected, according to StoneX. "Inflation increased 0.2 percent versus 0.3 percent expected month over month and appears to not be influenced by tariffs yet. However, if we look at the major categories of the CPI, we see that services did not cool, and energy is helping to keep commodities even on average. If rates are cut and the economy expands (instead of the expected recession), we would expect energy prices to come back, leaving commodities to inflate higher," says StoneX.

The USDA raised its 2025 milk production forecast from last month in its latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report, citing expectations of an increased cow herd and a faster growth rate in output per cow. The report also gave us our first preview of 2026 and looks for an expanding milk cow herd and slightly higher milk per cow.

2025 production and marketings were projected at 227.3 and 226.3 billion pounds respectively, up 400 million on both from a month ago. If realized, both would be up 1.4 billion pounds or 0.6 percent from 2024.

2026 production and marketings were projected at 227.9 and 226.9 billion pounds respectively. If realized, both would be up 600 million pounds or 0.3 percent from 2025.

Butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, and whey price forecasts for 2025 were raised from last month, based on recent prices and increased export demand for the second half of the year. The Class III and IV price forecasts were also raised.

The Class III average was projected at \$18.70 per hundredweight, up \$1.10 from last month's estimate, and compares to \$18.89 in 2024 and \$17.02 in 2023. The 2026 average was projected at \$17.50.

The 2025 Class IV is expected to average \$18.45, up 25 cents from last month's estimate, and compares to \$20.75 in 2024 and \$19.12 in 2023. The 2026 average was estimated at \$18.10.

Commercial exports for 2026 were forecast to be lower than in 2025 on a fat basis, but higher on a skim-solids basis due to additional exports of whey products. Commercial imports were forecast to increase on a fat ba-

sis due primarily to increases in imports of butter. Imports on a skim-solids basis were forecast to increase slightly. Domestic use in 2026 is expected to increase on both a fat basis and skim-solids basis, according to the WASDE.

Dairy product prices in 2026 were forecast to be lower for butter, nonfat dry milk, cheese, and whey, compared with 2025, primarily due to increased milk supplies. As a result, Class III and Class IV milk prices were also forecast lower.

The CME Cheddar blocks fell to \$1.78 per pound Monday, then rallied Wednesday, and closed Thursday morning at \$1.8975, highest CME price since Feb. 21. They closed Friday at \$1.76. The barrels were trading Thursday at \$1.82, highest since April 17, after closing Friday at \$1.77.

Retail cheese sales remain strong in the Central region, according to Dairy Market News, but contacts report food service sales continue to soften. Export demand is strengthening. Milk output is at or near its seasonal peak however, some cheesemakers noted that milk was more difficult to obtain in some portions of the regions. Class III milk was available as low as \$7 under Class. Cheese production is active and inventories are somewhat tight, according to DMN.

Milk production is seasonally ticking down for some parts of the West but cheese manufacturers indicate supplies are meeting needs. Cheese production is generally steady. Demand from domestic and international buyers is somewhat stronger as domestic cheese prices continue

to retain some competitiveness against international prices.

Cash butter was at \$2.3325 per pound Thursday. It saw its Friday finish at \$2.33. A year ago this week it closed at \$3.07 per pound.

Cream is plentiful throughout the Midwest, though contacts in the southern part of the region say increasing temperatures are having a negative impact on milk components. Ice cream makers are purchasing a greater volume of cream but butter makers say cream remains sufficient to run busy schedules. Some are at capacity and unable to purchase additional cream even at favorable pricing. Butter makers continue to freeze butter for the fall and winter months.

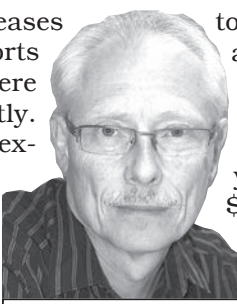
Domestic butter prices remain competitive internationally and contributing to increased export interest, according to DMN.

Milk output is also ticking down seasonally for some parts of the West but cream remains widely available. Bottom end cream multiples moved up to flat market at mid-week for the first time this year in the West.

Churns are heavily active for the most part and manufacturers continue to seasonally build inventories. Domestic demand is steady to strong. Export demand is strong, says DMN.

Grade A nonfat dry milk was trading Thursday at \$1.2275 per pound, highest since Feb. 21, following a \$1.2075 Friday close.

The latest Dairy Supply and Utilization report gave us a good look at demand. HighGround Dairy's Alyssa Badger reported in the May 19 Dairy Radio Now broadcast that March cheese utilization was down 0.9 per-



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cent from a year ago and down for the second month in a row. She blamed weaker domestic demand, which was off 0.8 percent and smallest for the month since 2021. Exports were down 1.5 percent, but that's compared to a record month in March 2024. Totaling 108.7 million pounds, it was the third highest March on record, according to Badger.

Disappointing domestic demand is an ongoing concern, she said, as store sales slump and pizza sales struggle. "Consumers are really weary about where their dollar is going right now and, unfortunately dinning out will be talking a bigger hit because of that, and that's where a lot of cheese consumption happens."

On a brighter note, "Butter demand was 'red hot' and followed the seasonal increase from February to March. It was the third consecutive month of year-on-year gains, up 6.8 percent throughout first quarter," she said, compared to a year ago.

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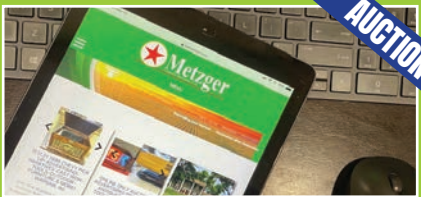
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Montgomery reaches 70-year milestone as 4-H volunteer

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

ZANESVILLE, Ohio – Dorothy Montgomery, 93, of Muskingum County, has dedicated 70 years to Ohio 4-H. She shrugs off any fanfare or honor people try to bestow upon her. But her service to 4-H wasn’t brushed aside so easily as she would have liked, and in March she was honored for her lengthy service during the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held at the Ohio 4-H Conference Center in Columbus.

“Lots of people before me set a lot of good examples,” Montgomery said modestly. “One of those people was 4-H founder A.B. Graham, the schoolteacher from Clark County who founded the organization in 1901. I had the privilege of knowing him. He was a lovely person.”

Montgomery grew up on her family’s 24-acre farm. According to records, her great-grandfather received the land as payment for fighting in the Revolutionary War. Her family raised sheep, hogs, horses, chickens, turkeys and Hereford cattle.

Her parents ran a stock farm. Montgomery learned all about raising animals and crops long before becoming a 4-H member. She joined 4-H when she was 10 years old after finding her brother’s storage crate labeled “Megs Lop Eared Pig Club” tucked away in their family’s barn.

She continued from there into her teens when she became a member of the Muskingum County Junior Leadership Club until heading off to Muskingum University, where she received her degree in elementary education.

She attended a 4-H camp in Utica, Ohio, where she met her husband, John, who was a lifeguard. She was the camp’s music director. They married in 1953 and left the Zanesville area when John joined the Air Force. They returned to the Muskingum County area in 1955. The county agent for 4-H at the time asked both to become advisers for the Muskingum County Junior Leadership Club. Seventy years later, Dorothy is still an adviser.

“If you are part of your community, your community will be part of you,” Montgomery said. “And I guess green is in my blood.”

Montgomery grew up in the Great Depression without electricity and has lived to see the development of computers, cell phones and smart technology. Like many others in the county, life for Montgomery has always been centered around agriculture.

Her father worked for 50 cents a day and was able to buy a horse to build a team with the neighbor. Together, they helped one another with their farm work.

“If one of your family members or

neighbors needed something, you shared what you had, but you also learned to make do with what you had,” she said. “That really was the beauty of the Depression because you had to.

“I was little and I didn’t realize, but I think the general consensus was we were all poor but we didn’t know it because everyone was the same.”

Her mother would take eggs, cream and butter into town to sell to the produce man, then turn around and purchase the bare essentials for the kitchen. Everything else was provided by the farm.

“We made our clothes out of seed sacks and, of course, lots of hand-me-downs as we had older cousins who shared their old clothes,” she said.

As a child, Montgomery attended Meigs Rural School and graduated in 1949. After college, she taught first grade in Zanesville for most of her career.

In 1971, she retired when her first daughter, Nancy, was born. She had a second daughter, Susan, in 1973. Nancy died in a car accident in 1990. Montgomery’s husband John died in 2014.

As her girls grew up, Montgomery was sure to give them an experience in 4-H, just as she did.

Daughters Nancy and Susan took eight to 12 4-H projects a year. And as Nancy and Susan got more involved, so did Montgomery. From the Muskingum County 4-H advisory committee all the way to the state-level committee. As she opened more doors, her daughters got even more opportunities, including state camps, conservation camp, leadership camp, sea camp and National 4-H Congress.

Dorothy has served on 4-H advisory committees for Ohio State Extension at county, district and state levels. She was inducted into the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame in 1990.

As advisers of the junior leaders’ program, John and Dorothy also took groups on weekend camping trips, held square dances to raise funds for the club, did community service projects and threw memorable parties for the 4-Hers in their basement, which ran the full length of the house. She opened the doors to 4-H to others throughout the county over the years.

“She has made herself part of the community and the community loves her,” said Jamie McConnell, Muskingum County 4-H youth development extension educator. “She’s had a tremendous impact on young people as leaders, who’ve become leaders in our community and leaders in other places, through encouragement, through setting high expectations for being the definition of a community servant. Dorothy’s impact is multi-generational.”

From 1993-2009, Montgomery was

elected to the office of Muskingum County Commissioner for four terms. She said she owes all her life’s success to 4-H.

“I’d like to say I got my start in life thanks to 4-H, because it has opened many, many doors to me,” she said. “I’ve met so many people and have had the privilege of working with so many delightful young people and their parents. It’s just been fantastic.”

She remains active as a community leader at various capacities, including as an agricultural columnist for the Zanesville Times Recorder. She tries to help on the farm, but not as much as she used to. Much of her free time is spent watching grandsons Jack and Eli fish in ponds.

“I pull a weed now and then,” she joked. “I still know what a hoe is for, but I don’t get on the tractors anymore. One of my favorite spots is on my back porch



Above: Dorothy Montgomery was honored for 70 years as a 4-H volunteer in March during the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Ohio 4-H Conference. (photo submitted)

where I watch the cows and the calves, and listen to the chickens sing to me when they lay their eggs.”

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All-state youth band, choir only found at Ohio State Fair

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Just about any state fair you attend will offer plenty of arts and crafts exhibits, rides, livestock, tasty foods to enjoy and stage show entertainment. But the Ohio State Fair is the only state fair in the nation that offers an all-state youth band and choir.

The All-Ohio State Fair Band and All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir feature the talents of high school instrumentalists and vocalists from more than 125 high schools from many of Ohio's 88 counties. Eligible participants are traditionally chosen through an online application and recommendation process, the latter coming from the student's high school band or choir director.

The All-Ohio State Fair Band was founded in 1925 by Jack Wainwright, of Fostoria. It was first known as the All-Ohio Boys' State Fair Band. There have been only five directors of the band since 1925. The band's director, Brian W. Dodd, is celebrating his 10th year as director of the band.

The All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir was founded in 1963 by Glenville D. Thomas, a long-time vocal music director at Zanesville High School. There have been six directors since 1963. Jon C. Peterson, of Hudson, has led the



Above: Roughly 200 high school students from Ohio participate in the All-Ohio State Fair Band each year during the Ohio State Fair. (photo submitted)

choir since 2014.

Two former members of the band and choir are Ed and Lisa Gallagher. Both were elected to the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame.

Ed was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2007. He was a four-year member of the state band and has served on the band staff for 38 years, having served in several roles.

Lisa was elected to the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame in 2024 for her support of the Ohio State Fair itself and service to the All-Ohio band and choir for 26 years.

To this day, Ed is the director of oper-

ations for the All-Ohio State Fair Band and the All-Ohio State Youth Choir. Lisa now serves as the administrative assistant for the band.

"I was in the state fair band in 1988 and have been on the staff of the fair itself since I was in high school," Ed said. "I was an exhibitor in the arts and crafts and played the state fair mascot for parades and opening ceremonies. This fair tends to be my hobby as well as my part time gig. From the time I was in the Hall of Fame I've been with the choir as well."

Lisa laughed, "I married into the fair. When Ed and I were dating and we decided to get married, Ed told me right off the bat that we couldn't get married during the state fair dates. I started working at the fair in 1999 and began with the band. I became the administrative assistant, and I also work with the choir. I was judge of the Girls Scouts talent show for 15 years and was a pianist for the judging of the Holstein Futurity. I'd play as the kids marched their animals before the judge. Like Ed, I was an exhibitor too. The fair gets in your blood."

The couple's daughter, Megan, was an All-Ohio State Fair Band member for six years (flag three years, trumped three years) and now serves as social media coordinator for the state band.

Applications for the band and choir are accepted each year from Feb. 1 through March 31. Membership is determined by student proficiency, instrumentation needs of the band, and geographical considerations. All instruments are needed, including oboe, bassoon, Sousaphone and French horn.

"We don't hear them play, it's all based on their high school director's recommendation," Ed said. "We ask if they take music lessons and if they participated in solo ensembles at school.

The same applies to those who want to participate in the state choir."

Members of this band arrive at the Rhodes Center near the end of July to begin several intense days of rehearsal. The band members live on site at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus and are housed in the Rhodes Center complex. Students are under adult leadership night and day. Meals are provided and sleeping arrangements are in bar-rack-style dormitories.

They rehearse over 60 pieces of concert music as well as numerous marches. Each year members perform nearly 90 concerts during the fair schedule.

"Our ensembles' distinguished and experienced staff is comprised of musicians and educators who strive to provide outstanding direction and supervision to each member," Ed added. "During their stay at the Ohio State Fair, members work with peers who share similar interests who develop friendships that last a lifetime."

Five days before the opening of the Ohio State Fair, the new choir meets at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus and launches into a rigorous schedule that includes vocal training, sectional and full rehearsals, solo auditions, and marching instruction. Once the fair opens, the Youth Choir sings six to eight concerts a day and marches up to 10 miles a day to various performance sites around the 360-acre fairgrounds.

"These kids come in and maybe they don't know each other, but they can make music together and that's something they have in common," Dodd said. "Their musical skills improve, and their leadership skills improve, and then they go back to their home high schools just better players and better leaders."

This year's Ohio State Fair runs from July 23 to Aug. 3.

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Bus crash injures Indiana teen active in FFA and 4-H

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

NEW CARLISLE, Ind. – An Indiana teenager was seriously injured in a May 8 school bus collision.

Classmates of Lucas Bradshaw describe him as having a heart for working on his family farm outside New Carlisle in the northern part of the state.

He is on the junior varsity baseball team, which was making the one-hour drive to Hobart in two mini-buses for a game when the collision, also involving a box truck and tractor trailer, happened less than 10 miles from the school.

Also badly hurt was Rich Shail, a volunteer coach who remained at the same hospital with a fractured vertebrae in his back, broken ribs and other injuries.

Six other students, along with one other coach, were hurt but they're now recovering at home.

"All you can do is pray, really. Pray and hope," said Emma Deutscher, who like Bradshaw is a sophomore at New Prairie High School and student in the school's FFA chapter.

Her twin sister, Chloe, who's also in FFA, described Bradshaw as being a hard worker in the classroom. He likes to talk about his activities on his family farm.

"Ever since we were younger, I just remember him always talking about farming. That's his passion," she said.

Bradshaw, a 4-H member who shows livestock at the St. Joseph County Fair, was the secretary this year of the school's FFA chapter.

He was among the members of an FFA small engines team at the school that placed seventh out of 34 teams in a recent state competition.

Michigan

FROM PAGE 5B

more into teaching children how to do things like sewing, knitting and canning vegetables once her two granddaughters joined the program.

"They did that sort of stuff. They also showed animals. They were into showing and selling them to make some money," she said.

Mitchell is not sure how much longer her health will hold up to remain a volunteer, but it might be long enough to teach her 5-year-old great-grandson and 1-year-old great-granddaughter a thing or two if they join 4-H once they become old enough.

The MSU Extension branch in St. Joseph County gave her a cutting board with her name and image of a 4-H clover burned into the wood. Mitchell said she has no plans to use the cutting board hanging on her kitchen wall.

The award was a definite full circle moment for one of her granddaughters, Kayla Mitchell, who's the 4-H program coordinator at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office.

It triggered her memories of projects she took part in 4-H and the help she received from her grandmother along the way. She said her grandmother was also a former long-time leader of the 4-H photography program.

"We don't see a lot of 50-year volunteers to begin with, but to be able to recognize my grandmother in the position I have now is truly one of the greatest honors," she said.

MSU Extension has recognized adult volunteers hitting the half century mark for the past five years.

"Simply put, our Michigan 4-H programs would not be possible without the help of caring volunteers who give their time and talent," said Quentin Tyler, MSU Extension director.

His FFA instructor, Madison Coates, said Bradshaw is involved in other FFA projects at the school like gardening, but he seems to have a real knack for small engines and what it takes to make them run properly.

"It takes time. Patience. He has all of those qualities," she said.

Nearly a week after the crash, Bradshaw remained in the intensive care at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, where he was airlifted from where the accident occurred at U.S. 20 and Fail Road.

The day after the crash, several hundred people turned out for a candlelight prayer vigil at the baseball field of the high school.

A three-piece church band played gospel songs between prayer sessions led by Pastor Don Bayne, of New Carlisle Wesleyan Church, and Pastor Nick Bello, of Journey Church outside Rolling Prairie.

Principal Justin Heinold told the crowd his attitude is one of hope.

When reached, the boy's family chose not to comment.

The Bradshaw family is involved with Golden Acres Farm, which raises show pigs, and Zahl's Elevator and Feed Mill.

The latest social media posts from loved ones indicate Bradshaw re-

mained in critical condition with positive signs, though, in his bid to recover from a head injury.

Rich Shail has been out of bed with help from a walker and is wearing a brace from his neck to his hips to stabilize a fractured vertebrae in his back, according to his wife, Nancy.

Nancy Shail said a decision on surgery to help repair the fracture will not be made until the brace is removed in six to eight weeks.

She said he also suffered broken ribs along with cuts and lacerations over much of his body.

"It's quite awful to see because then you realize how badly you were beaten around," she said.

Shail said the bus carrying her husband and Bradshaw was stopped at a traffic light behind the other bus when struck in the rear by the box truck.

Shawn Akison, 41, of Romeoville, Ill., was being held in the La Porte County Jail on \$15,000 bond for Level 5 felony criminal recklessness.

Police said he caused the collision in a box truck minutes after St. Joseph County Police terminated a pursuit of his vehicle at the La Porte County line.

Akison refused to stop when an officer tried pulling him over for driving recklessly, police said.



Above: FFA member Lucas Bradshaw was seriously injured in a school bus collision in Indiana.

He was given a blood test, which is standard procedure in any serious injury accident to determine impairment.

The results of the test and further details about the crash were not being released due to the ongoing investigation, said La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen.

According to court records, Akison has a Level 6 felony charge of possession of a narcotic drug from January still undecided in Lake County, Ind.

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Indiana State Fair brings cornucopia of ag programing to life

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – This year’s Indiana State Fair includes the long-standing Featured Farmers program and other attractions geared toward agriculture, a spokesperson for the fair said.

The 168th edition of the fair is Aug. 1-17 (closed Mondays) at the state fairgrounds in Indianapolis.



“Agriculture can be found in all aspects of the Indiana State Fair,” said LeRoy Lewis III, director of community and media engagement for the fair. “From our educational exhibits that have become family traditions, including Little Hands on the Farm, to Pathway to Water Quality, to Pioneer Village and the Glass Barn. The Featured Farmers program is a must-visit, offering daily opportunities to meet and learn from local farmers.

“Additionally, our livestock barns are full of the hard work put in by thousands of 4-Hers throughout the summer. We truly couldn’t put the state’s largest event on without our incredible ag partners.”

During the fair, 15 farm operations across the state will be honored as Featured Farmers. The farmers will participate in live chats daily in the Glass Barn, and be available to talk with fair visitors. This is the 10th year for the program.

Farmers who grow corn, soybeans and wheat will participate, in addition to those raising such things as

goats, grapes, reindeer, ducks, tilapia and Christmas trees.

Lewis said fair officials are proud of the program.

“This platform is an incredible way for us to celebrate our Hoosier farming families and tell the story of the important work they do every day,” he explained. “Our mission at the state fair is rooted in celebrating all things agriculture, and this program is vital as it connects the public with the farmers who grow their food, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture.”

The attendance for the 2024 fair was over 854,000, and Lewis said officials are optimistic this year’s attendance could surpass that number.

This year’s fair theme is the Soundtrack of Summer. The theme will bring an array of music and sound-related attractions, including a Vinyl Revival exhibit, which celebrates the connection between music and visual art, he said. Various live performances will capture the essence of summer, Lewis added.

The schedule for the fair’s summer concert series will be announced in the coming months, he said.

Other attractions planned for this year’s fair include the World-Famous Big Top Circus, Mighty Mike Strong Man Show, DockDogs and Wolves of the World.

The fair is a celebration of community, culture and heritage, Lewis noted.

“From thrilling rides and delicious food to educational exhibits and live entertainment, the Indiana State Fair officers a unique experience that brings people together with a perfect blend of urban and rural Indiana. It’s a place to make memories, learn something new and enjoy the best of Indiana.

“Whether you haven’t been in years or have never stepped foot on the fairgrounds, you’re in for a surprise: this isn’t just your grandparents’ fair – though we still have their favorite lemon shake-ups. We’ve blended timeless traditions with bold new attractions, so every visit feels like a brand-new adventure. Come hungry, bring your curiosity, and leave with memories that smell like popcorn and sound like laughter.”

For more information, visit www.indianastatefair.com and click on the state fair tab. Early bird discounts on tickets are available through July 31.

• MIDWAY RIDES
PRESENTED BY
DREW EXPOSTIONS

• FREE ENTERTAINMENT

• 4-H LIVESTOCK SHOWS

• FOOD & VENDORS

• 4-H EXHIBITS

Now Showing

Lights, Camera

HENDRICKS COUNTY

FAIR

July 13-19, 2025

WWW.4HCOMPLEX.ORG

1900 E. Main St.
Danville, Indiana

FAIR FESTIVITIES AT FLEECE PERFORMANCE GRANDSTAND

IPA TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
Sunday, July 13th, 6pm
Monday, July 14th, 6:30pm
\$10 Per Person @ Gate

LAWN & GARDEN TRACTOR PULL
Tuesday, July 15th, 7pm
Free

IPRA RODEO
Thursday, July 17th, 7:30pm
Friday, July 18th, 7:30pm
\$15 Per Person @ Gate

DEMOLITION DERBY
Saturday, July 19th, 7pm
\$15 Per Person @ Gate

Visit 4hcomplex.org for presale

TICKET INFO:

Ticket price is for grounds admission per person. FREE PARKING!

\$3 - Until July 1st

\$4 - After July 1st

\$5 - At the Gate

FREE - Children Under 9

Tickets available at Fair Board Office Tickets available Online

FREE ADMISSION

WITH \$5 PAID ADMISSION

(GOOD FOR ONE FREE ADMISSION PER VEHICLE)

FREE ADMISSION

WITH THE PURCHASE OF A REGULAR PRICED TICKET

for the MONDAY NIGHT TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULLS

(GOOD FOR MONDAY, JULY 14 ONLY)

TELL THEM YOU
SAW THEIR AD IN

FarmWorld

Greenville Farm

Power of the Past

26th Annual Reunion

July 10-13, 2025

Darke County Fairgrounds
Greenville, Ohio

Featuring - - Oliver & Case,
Michigan-Built Engines,
Oil Field Engines

Hosting - - Buckeye Oliver
Collectors & Oil Field Engine
Society

Special Appearance by
Peterson Farm Brothers
July 10 @ 6:30 PM

Exhibits & Demonstrations, Kids’
& Ladies’ Events, Truck & Tractor
Pulls, Horse Pull, Camping, Food
Trucks, Swap Meet, Flea Market

Daily Admission - - \$5.00

Membership - - \$10.00

Ages 12 and under - - FREE

Golf Carts, Gators
\$10.00 Registration Fee

Exhibitor Camping
\$50.00 for the week

Non-Exhibitor Camping
\$50.00 per night

Chet Linebaugh, President
937-459-6424

Anissa Krueger, Vendors
937-564-4307
greenvillefarmvendors@outlook.com

Larry Parrett, Camping
937-654-1317

Les Spencer, Sr., Swap Meet
937-472-8036

www.greenvillefarmpower.org
Like us on Facebook

Fayette

FROM PAGE 4B

enrollment exceeded one million. By 1939, 4-H clubs were established in all 120 Kentucky counties.

For the next four decades, 4-H expanded rapidly nationwide. The 1970s were years of expansion of 4-H in Kentucky, with 254,000 youth and 45,000 volunteers involved. The theme for billboards, TV spots and print media was “4-H: It’s Where You’re At.”

In 2009, Kentucky celebrated the 100th anniversary of 4-H.

Today, 4-H is a youth development program that has grown into a national organization with six million members and 25 million alumni.

Today’s Fayette County 4-H is

spearheaded by Fayette County Extension Agent Amanda Clark. Clark was a 4-Her in McCracken County in western Kentucky.

“I attended camp from age 9 until I turned 22,” she said. “I was a camper, counselor and staff member.”

She’s aware of Fayette County’s place in Kentucky 4-H history, adding that 4-H in Fayette has a booming future.

“We offer many different disciplines in 4-H here in Fayette County,” Clark said. “We have 12 clubs going on right now, clubs that offer sewing, cooking and livestock to name a few. Our STEM Club offers members a wide range of hands-on experiences, including wilderness medicine, CPR, dissection and first aid training.

“We have a livestock club and it’s more than just about showing animals. Members learn about animal

anatomy, proper care and feeding, and develop a wide range of valuable agricultural skills.

“In all, we about 260 youth who participate in a number of clubs and programs. We are also very involved in a lot of school activities as well. We are taking around 320 campers to 4-H camp this summer.”

Perhaps the biggest project for any 4-Her in Kentucky is the Country Ham Project.

“Fayette 4-Hers compete in this as

well,” Clark said. “Since its inception in the late 1990s and with just 40 participants, the Country Ham Project has grown to include over 1,000 4-Hers from across the state. At the state fair, participants presented their cured hams for judging and delivered a 3-5 minute speech reflecting on their experiences. This project not only teaches where their food comes from, but also instills pride in Kentucky’s agricultural traditions and builds valuable public speaking skills.”



Above: Fayette county Junior Chef Club members learn a variety of essential kitchen skills, including knife safety, measuring techniques and cooking fundamentals. (photo submitted)

2025 Truck and Tractor Pull Schedule

AUGUST 4TH thru 9TH, 7 PM START

Mooreland, Indiana

MONDAY

4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, Div. II Antique, (4 mph). 15.5x38, 16.9x34 tire limit, 20" hitch, TOP CUT TIRES ALLOWED, 50% payback

5250 Terry Wilson Open (15.5x38, 16.9x34 tire limit)

5500 American Big Block Modified Rails

TUESDAY

4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, Div. III Antique (1980 and older, 8 mph)

4750 5750 Div. III Antique, (1980 and older, 12mph). **FULL CUT TIRES ALLOWED**, 18.4x38 tire limit, 20" hitch, 50% payback

5250 Terry Wilson Open (18.4x38 tire limit)

6200 N/A Super Stock Antique, 6000 V-8 Modified Antique (20" hitch)

WEDNESDAY

Draft Horse Pull, 5pm start

THURSDAY

6200 Alt Gas 4x4 Trucks

8500 Open Diesel 4x4 Trucks (26" hitch, hanging weights allowed, dot tires)

6500 Work Stock Gas 4x4, 8500 Work Stock Diesel Trucks, (**NO** hanging front weights or weight brackets, dot tires, 26" hitch).

Street Stock Semi Trucks

FRIDAY

INDIANA PULLING LEAGUE

Light Super Stock Combo

9500 Hot Farm

5800 Single Engine Modified

12000 10mph Farm Stock

IPL RULES

SATURDAY

9500, 10500, 11500, 15000 Farm Stock, (10mph, 3000 max rpm, any tire, top cut allowed)

11000, 12000 Farm Stock, (Open mph, 3000 max rpm, any tire, top cut allowed)

9000, 12000 ALT Farm, Open Weight Farm Stock. (All caged tractors must pull in the ALT class) 20" Hitch

Chairmen: Matt Glaser 765-744-6062

3" x3.75" HITCH HOLE, ALL CLASSES Schedule subject to change.

Gate admission: 10 and under free, Mon.-Wed. \$5, Thurs.-Sat. \$10

Pit Pass: Mon.-Wed. \$10, Thurs.-Sat. \$20

www.moorelandfair.com

Franklin County 4-H Fair

Brookville, Indiana

July 14-19, 2025

Pre-Fair Events: July 9-13, 2025

Franklin County 4-H Fairgrounds

GRANDSTAND

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH, 5 PM - Derby..... Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

MONDAY, JULY 14TH, 6 PM - Motocross Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH, 6 PM - Antique Tractor Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH, 7 PM - Truck & Tractor Pull Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH, 7 PM - Flat Drags..... Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 7 PM - Flat Drags Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

4-H EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH

9:00am Tractor Driving Contest

1:30pm Fashion Revue Contest

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH

4:30pm Dog Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH

1:30pm Public Speaking Contest

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

8:00am Horse & Pony Show and Mini 4-H Horse & Pony Show

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

8:00am Horse & Pony Contesting

5:00pm Country Hymn Sing

MONDAY, JULY 14TH

9:00am Poultry Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

9:00am Sheep Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

1:00-9:00pm Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

2:00pm Meat Goat Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

6:00-10:00pm Commercial Vendors Open

8:00pm 4-H Awards Presentations

TUESDAY, JULY 15TH

9:00am Rabbit Ambassador and Showmanship Contest (Mini 4-H to follow)

9:00am Beef Show

11:00am-3:00pm Ribeye Dinner (Cattlemen's Association)

4:00-7:30pm Ribeye Dinner (Cattlemen's Association)

5:00pm Rabbit Show

5:00pm Talent Show

5:00-9:00pm Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm Commercial Vendors Open

6:30pm Dance Revue Vicki's Studio of Dance

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH

9:00am Swine Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

11:00am-2:00pm Pork Chop Dinner (Knights of Columbus)

4:00-7:00pm Pork Chop Dinner (Knights of Columbus)

5:00pm Pet Show

5:00pm-9:00pm Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm Commercial Vendors Open

6:00pm Baby Show

6:00pm Horse & Pony Versatility Class and Awards

7:00pm Fashion Revue Awards

8:00pm 4-H Fun Night

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

8:00am Dairy Goat Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

1:00pm Dairy Cattle Show

5:00-9:00pm Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm Commercial Vendors Open

6:00pm Tea Party with the 4-H Queen Court

7:00pm Showman of Showmen Contest

7:00pm Kiddie Pedal Pull

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH

5:00-9:00pm Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm Commercial Vendors Open

6:00pm Livestock Auction

Family Fun Day & Rodeo

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Presented by Franklin Country Fairboard

Three Bar J Rodeo at 7:00pm

Franklin County Fairgrounds

Tickets available the day of the event.

Adults: \$20

Kids (ages 4-10): \$15

All day family fun

Food Trucks, Live Music, Craft Show (12pm-6pm)

Wayne County 4-H Fair

861 Salisbury Road North, Enter L Street Gate

Richmond, Indiana

Poor Jack Amusements Open June 21st - 28th

Open and 4-H Livestock Shows & Events

Free Family Entertainment - Special Attractions

Complete Schedules and Information

www.wayneco4hfair.com or **facebook**

At The FREE STAGE

Genuine Country Music Jim Burns Band - Saturday 21st @ 7:30pm

Blue Grass & Gospel Event - Sunday 22nd 3pm - 8pm

Dixon Dancers & Hoosier Corners Square Dance Club - Monday 23rd 6pm - 8pm

Silly Safari - Tuesday 24th @ 5:30 & 7:00pm

Wayne County Idol - Wednesday 25th @ 6pm (Semi finals)

Silly Safari - Thursday 26th @ 5:30 & 7:00pm

Country Artist Preston Cooper- Friday, 27th @ 7:30pm

Wayne County Idol - Saturday, 28th @ 5pm (Finals)

Track Events: Adults \$10, 6-12 years \$5.00 each, 5 and under Free. \$15.00 Pit Pass

***Seating at Track events NOT Guaranteed *NO REFUNDS *NO RAINCHECKS**

***NEW* Track Tickets can be bought online: <https://www.wayneco4hfair.com/tickets>**

Demolition Derby

Saturday, June 21st @ 6pm

Truck and Tractor Pull

(Darke county Tractor Pullers Association Rules)

Monday, June 23rd @ 7pm

Three Bar J

IPRA Seven Event Rodeo

Wednesday, June 25th @ 7pm

MUD BOG

Friday, June 27th @ 7pm

503 Diesel Dirt Drags

Sunday, June 22nd @ 2pm

Truck and Tractor Pull

Hoosier State Tractor Puller Assn.

Tuesday, June 24th @ 7pm

503 Dirt Drag Racing

503 Diesel Performance

Thursday, June 26th @ 7pm

KOI Dirt Drag Racing

Saturday, June 28th, @7pm

MORGAN COUNTY ANTIQUE MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

Visit Us Online: www.mcama.org

33rd ANNUAL SHOW - June 27th, 28th & 29th, 2025

(Set-up all day on Thursday, June 26)

FEATURING JOHN DEERE TRACTORS & ENGINES

MORGAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

MARTINSVILLE, IN

I-69 & 252, EXIT 140 WEST

Visit us on FACEBOOK @ Morgan County Antique Machinery Association

OPENING CEREMONIES FRIDAY, 10:00 AM


ANTIQUE TRACTORS • MACHINERY & GARDEN TRACTORS • STEAM & HIT & MISS ENGINES • CARS, TRUCKS & MOTORCYCLES • WORKING EXHIBITS • BLACKSMITH • TOUCH A TRUCK • FARMERS MARKET • HUMANE SOC. PET ADOPTION • TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS • QUILT SHOW • TOY SHOW

NOTE: SETUP ALL DAY ON THURSDAY AT MORGAN CO. FAIR.

Skillt Toss Contest All Ladies Welcome \$50 Cash to Winner	GOOD FOOD AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS FREE ENTERTAINMENT KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL	FLEA MARKET & CRAFT SPACE AVAILABLE. AUCTION ITEMS WANTED FOR DONATION AND CONSIGNMENT	Church Services Sunday at 8:30 AM LARGE FLEA MARKET, SWAP MEET & CRAFT FAIR
Membership required for Exhibitors (\$15)	FREE BARREL TRAIN RIDES & BOUNCE HOUSE FOR KIDS	TRADING POST & SWAP MEET Bring Your Unwanted Items We Will Sell Them For You	AUCTION SUNDAY 1:00 PM
		4-H TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST AT 10 AM SUNDAY THE 29TH	CAMPER SPACE AVAILABLE FOR \$25/night Free Primitive Camping



In Partnership With



FARM TRACTOR PULL

JUNE 28, 2025

Morgan County Fairgrounds

Martinsville, IN

4:00 PM ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULLS / GARDEN TRACTOR PULLS BEGIN

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 2:00 PM

7:00 PM FARM TRACTOR PULLS BEGINS

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5:00 PM

SOUTHERN INDIANA FARMSTOCK PULLERS ASSOCIATION 2023-2025 RULES

General Rules:

1. Minimum Driver Age: For insurance purposes, drivers must be 16 years of age.

2. Legal Pass: When digital readout is in use, anything over posted limit at any time during hook, results in DQ. Test puller (first puller) must make a legal pass to qualify for rehook. If no digital readout is in use, any blowing of horn after 150 feet, will result in DQ.

3. Test puller may decide to rehook immediately or drop to 6th place in hook order.

4. If sled is reset or class is started over for unknown reason, all pullers that have pulled up to point of sled reset will have the opportunity to rehook.

5. Top 3 tractors subject to reweigh and inspection if so desired by event promoter.

6. Any unsecured part of tractor that falls from tractor, after tractor has been hooked to sled until unhooked from the sled, results in DQ.

7. Mandatory for all tractors to have air shutoff that can be activated by sled operator.

8. Mandatory for all pullers to use seatbelt.

9. Classes to be offered: Naturally aspirated (no turbo), 8 mph, 10 mph, 12 mph, 14, mph, 16 mph. Pull promoter may determine weights of classes. 16 mph cap requirements by SIFPA.

10. If puller goes over MPH at any time during hook, puller is allowed to finish the hook.

11. If any part of tractor goes over chalkline, pull will result in DQ. This includes front or rear tractor tire touching the chalkline, automatic DQ.

Exhaust:

1. Straight exhaust, NO curved stacks. Cross bolts required.

Frame:

1. No component chassiss.

2. No suspension front ends.

3. Wheelie bars are required.

4. Rollbars are required in 2024 pulling season for protection of driver.

Front Weight Bracket:

1. Front weight bracket may extend 13 feet max measured from center of rear axle (excludes tow hook)

Fuel:

1. Stock fuel for make and model. NO pressurized containers (nitrous propane, CO2, alcohol). First offense results in DQ of event. Second offense results in DQ for 1 year.

Hitch:

1. Max hitch height is 20 inches. Angle of hitch not to exceed 15 degrees. Hitch no less than 18 inches from center of rear axle to hitch point. Hole diameter 3x3.5 inches. Drawbar thickness may not exceed 2 inches.

2. No floating hitches, hitch must be constructed in a way that hitch is not allowed to move freely in any direction after tech inspection.

RPM:

1. 3000 RPM limit. Working RPM sensor is required with single magnet pickup, along with a twisted wire and molded end for RPM readout.

2. If the box is not in use or is considered defective during pulling event class by committee, paying places are subject to a dead rev with a working RPM box, or photo tack.

Tires:

1. Max tire limit is 20.8x38.

2. Max rear tire width is 96 inches outside to outside measurement.

3. Top cuts allowed (no alteration to front edge of tire). Double cuts allowed in P pump open classes only.

4. No dual tires.

5. Ag tires only.

Turbo:

1. Single turbo, no multiple turbos.

Weights:

1. Weights must be secured. Any falling weight while tractor is hooked to the sled results in DQ.

Protest:

1. Individual or group of individuals may protest a tractor that they suspect is in violation of rules. Must be specific on which rule they are protesting. Fee for protest is \$250. If tractor passes, driver keeps the fee. If tractor does not pass, then fee is returned to those protesting. Driver is then disqualified from event. The tractor is then subject to reinspection at next pull before being allowed to compete. First offense: DQ'd from event. Second offense: DQ'd for 1 year. During protest inspection, driver and protester, along with 3rd person (committee member) to be present. Failure to comply to protest results in DQ.

Rules will be locked in for 3 years.

SEE WEBSITE FOR ALL CLASS INFO AND RULES

THE HOOSIER

2025

May 16-17

JOHNSON CO. FAIRGROUNDS
FRANKLIN, IN

HUGE SWAP MEET

500+ VENDOR SPACES

MODEL RAMA

SWAP & SHOW

Presented By: **CHOPPED**
GLUED

ROCKET REUNION

Oldsmobile Gathering

OLD SMOBILE

OPEN CAR SHOW SATURDAY

Vintage Wheels
Swap Meet & Show

Sept. 19-20

JOHNSON CO. FAIRGROUNDS
FRANKLIN, IN

HUGE SWAP MEET

500+ VENDOR SPACES

A.D. NATIONALS


49-54 CHEVY
TRUCK SHOW

OPEN CAR SHOW SATURDAY

June 28

FREE
ADMISSION
& PARKING

MORGAN CO. FAIRGROUNDS
W/ MORGAN COUNTY
ANTIQUARY MACHINERY SHOW
SWAP MEET
&
VINTAGE MARKET



2nd Annual Tread Trimmers Car Show

in collaboration with the Morgan County Antique Machinery Association

Top 25

Best of Show

Best Motor

Best Paint

Best Interior

Best Motorcycle

Best Truck

Best Rat Rod

Best Lowrider

Best 2000s

Best 80s to 90s

Best 70s

Best 60s

Best 50s

Best Pre 50s,
1949 and older

Originating
Members Award
(Club Pick)

Morgan County Fairgrounds

Saturday, June 28th

8:30am to 2:00pm

Registration \$20

Cash only day of show

Tread Trimmers

MARTINSVILLE

All net proceeds will be donated to local charity



GUN RAFFLE

Winner to receive THREE (3) Indiana Morgan Co. Henry Rifles

(all three guns are number nine out of 25 made)

TICKETS: 1 - \$20, 3 - \$50, 7 - \$100

Drawing on October 12, 2025, 4 PM at Machinery Barn (After FFF Parade)



INDIANA LICENSE # 017930 - IGC Reference #162655

CONTACT INFORMATION:

JEREMY BRIGHT
765.346.0490

CHARLIE BEAVER
765.318.2458

GOOD FOOD AVAILABLE ALL DAY • FREE ADMISSION • FREE ENTERTAINMENT • FREE PARKING

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS			
THURSDAY, JUNE 26th		SATURDAY, JUNE 28th	
7:00 AM Setup Begins		Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day	
FRIDAY, JUNE 27th		7:00 AM Registration and Set-up Opens	3:00 PM Car Show Ends
Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day		8:00 AM Vintage Swap Meet Opens / Car Show & Judging Begins	4:00 PM Antique Tractor Pulls / Garden Tractor Pulls Begin
7:00 AM Registration and Set-up Opens		9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies All Vendors and Exhibits Open/Farmers Market Opens	5:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration
8:00 AM Hoosier Vintage Swap Meet Opens		10:00 AM Working Exhibit Demonstration / Motorcycle Ride Leaves Fairgrounds / Touch A Truck / Tractor Begins	6:00 PM Tom Fiddlerly at the Gazebo
9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies All Vendors & Exhibits Open		11:00 AM REMC Demonstration	7:00 PM Tractor Pulls Begin / Southern Indiana Farm Stock Pullers Association / Semis
10:00 AM Working Exhibit Demonstration		12 NOON Straw Search For Kids / Humane Society Adoption Event Opens	
11:00 AM REMC Demonstration		12:30 PM Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration Opens	SUNDAY, JUNE 29th
1:00 PM Tractor Dyno Opens		1:00 PM Kids Tractor Pedal Pulls/Farmers Market Ends	Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day
2:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration		2:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration / Pet Adoption Ends / Touch A Truck / Tractor Begins	7:00 AM Breakfast
3:00 PM Tractor Games			8:30 AM Church Service
4:00 PM Skillt Toss/Nail Driving Contest			10:00 AM Slow Tractor Drive / Working Exhibit Demonstration
5:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration/Cruise-in Opens			1:00 PM Auction Begins
6:00 PM Tom Fiddlerly at the Gazebo			
9:00 PM Cruise-in Ends			

CONTACT INFORMATION

JEREMY BRIGHT, Pres/Sponsors

GARRETT WILSON, VP

BECKI HAMILTON, Treas

SUE BOSWORTH, Sec/Flea Market

HANK BOSWORTH, Camping

JOHNNY SCHOOLCRAFT, Auction

765.346.0490

765.516.3368

317.797.2367

317.445.6800

317.538.4151

765.346.2551

PHIL RAWLINS, Auction

RONNIE BAUGH, Swap Meet

KERRIE OWENS, Craft Show

KAREN SCHOOLCRAFT, Food Court/Concessions

CARL "FRITZ" VAUGH, Tractor Games

765.346.3267

317.752.8554

317.318.0384

317.358.5307

812.720.0952

Free Parking / Free Admission

Morgan County Antique Machinery Assoc







2025 Ohio County Fair Schedule

JUNE 20th-JUNE 27th, 2025

1414 FAIRGROUND RD., RISING SUN, IN 47040



Friday, June 20 Gate Fee \$10 (5 & under free) 2:00 PM Pocket Pets Show (Exhibit Hall) 2:30 PM Cat Show (Exhibit Hall) 3:00 PM Gates Open 7:00 PM Flat Drags	Tuesday, June 24 9:00 AM Rabbit Show 5:00-8:00 PM Exhibit Hall Open 5:00 PM Dairy Goat Show 7:00 PM Meat Goat Show	Thursday, June 26 10:00 AM Horse Show 10:30 AM-NOON Mini 4-H Picnic 3:00 PM Dairy Cattle Show 5:00-8:00 PM Exhibit Hall Open 5:00 PM Supreme Showmanship 6 PM Baby Contest 7:30 PM Frog Jumping Contest
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Saturday, June 21 Gate Fee \$15 (5 & under free) NOON Tractor Driving Contest 3:00 PM Gates Open 6:00-8:00 PM Exhibit Hall Open 6:00 PM Pedal Tractor Pull 7:00 PM Truck/Tractor Pull



Monday, June 23 NOON Archery Shoot 5:00-8:00 PM Exhibit Hall Open 5:00 PM Sheep Show 6:45 PM Sweepstakes Winner Announced 7:00 PM Swine Show
--



Friday, June 27 10:00 AM 4-H Livestock Judging Contest 4:00-6:00 PM Farm Bureau Pork Chop BBQ 3:00-7:00 PM Exhibit Hall Open 6:00 PM Ohio County 4-H Auction



Flat Drags

June 20th @ 7pm

OHIO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1414 FAIRGROUNDS RD. RISING SUN, IN

- All vehicles MUST have DOT highway approved tires.
- Absolutely NO paddles, scoops, studded, or modified tires.
- Racers are able to wear a DOT approved helmet to compete.
- Drivers ONLY in vehicle.
- All drivers must be signed in before operating on the track.
- No burn outs, warm-up starts, or high speeds in pit areas.
- Track officials rulings are final.





TRUCK CLASSES:

1. 2 Wheel Drive Trucks 4 & 6 Cylinder
2. 4 Wheel Drive Trucks 4 & 6 Cylinder
3. Buggies – Open
4. 2 Wheel Drive Trucks 8 Cylinder
5. 4 Wheel Drive Trucks 8 Cylinder
6. Unlimited 2 Wheel Drive – OPEN (supercharge, nitrous)
7. Jeeps 4 & 6 Cylinder
8. Stock Trucks
9. Unlimited 4 Wheel Drive – OPEN (supercharge, nitrous)
10. Jeeps 8 Cylinder
11. Performance Diesel Truck
12. SUV 4 & 6 Cylinder
13. SUV 8 Cylinder
14. Dash for Cash – Street Legal (drive to track) – Open to All – Single Elimination – 1st Place Only
15. Dash for Cash – Unlimited – OPEN – Single Elimination – 1st Place Only



ATV CLASSES:

1. Trail MOD 4stroke (400 and Above, no alcohol, nitro, wheelie bar, race tires, tie downs. must have 6in clearance)
2. Trail mod 4 stroke (400 and below, no alcohol, nitro, wheelie bar, race tires, tie downs. must have 6in clearance)
3. Stock ATV 2 & 4 stroke (no tie downs/no race tires/no engine mods / must have stock air box)
4. Jr. quad stock no mod up to 125 2 stroke 200 4 stroke, if 3 or more 50cc's make their own class
5. Jr. bikes no mods 79cc or less
6. Jr. quads open up to 125 2 stroke 200 4 stroke if 3 or more 50 cc- make their own class
7. Jr. bikes open 79cc or less
8. Open outlaw (ATV, bikes, and snowmobile)
9. Automatic quads/side by side/utility 250 trailblazers
10. 4 stroke modified (all dirtbikes/polaris auto/blaster w/cut tranny) No street bikes.
11. 4 stroke 350cc or less blaster/250 trailblazer
12. Quads only2 stroke open (ATV motor only no faster than 4.00 in 300ft. quads faster than 4.00 in300ft are considered outlaw)
13. 4 stroke modifies/4 stroke ATV motor only
14. County class 2 and 4 stroke only (no outlaw bikes id is required)
15. Open dash for cash winner takes all
16. Bikes 80cc-150cc and 4 stroke (no 125 s stroke please)
17. Bikes 2 and 4 stroke (if 4 or more125 or 250cc make their own class)
18. 2 stroke modifies (must use clutch to shift, no cut tranny or mono block)
19. 4 stroke600cc's and below

KITPA Truck/Tractor Pull

June 21st @ 7pm

OHIO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1414 FAIRGROUNDS RD.
RISING SUN, IN



\$15 gate fee

Contact Tim Hudnall (502) 514-3628 or Bonnie Ried (502) 523-5960 for more information!

Classes:

- 4300 Pro Street Mini Trucks
- 5200 Pro Street
- 5700 4x4 Hot Small Block
- 6200 4x4 Hot Street Truck
- 7000 Farm Stock Tractors
- 6500 Light Hot Farm Tractors

