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SSGA helps farmers connect with growing specialty soybean market

By TIM ALEXANDER Illinois Correspondent

POTOMAC, Ill. —With demand increasing from Japan, South Korea and the European Union (EU), U.S. farmers are well positioned to take advantage of the boom in specialty soybeans, which boast a higher premium than commercial beans and are more environmentally-friendly to produce.

A key partnership between the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and the six-year-old Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance (SSGA) has helped Illinois growers to connect with processors, suppliers and transportation allies to build and maintain a reliable infrastructure system for the marketing of specialty soy products. The partnership is possible due to funding from the ISA's checkoff program. The SSGA is also supported by the soybean checkoffs of Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

"Connecting end users with soybean producers is a big part of what SSGA does, in order to move our specialty soybeans from point A to point B," said Bryan Severs, an Illinois farmer who grows non-GMO corn and soybeans with his sons in the east-central Illinois community of Potomac (Vermilion County). Severs is currently serving as chairman of the SSGA and is one of two farmers on its board of directors.

"At ISA we're trying to develop markets, and through SSGA we can do that. Many of the board members on SSGA are buyers and they have contracts with farmers that have specific requirements our end users want. We're working on expanding that market throughout Illinois," he said.

Severs, who is also ISA's soybean production committee chairman, add-

ed that SSGA's U.S. Identity Preserved (IP) Assurance Plan can help assure foreign buyers that the soybeans they purchase have adhered to their production specifications and shipping demands. SSGA has stated that a 2025 goal is to expand their IP program because of the premium prices specialty beans bring and to counterbalance tariffs or economic challenges.

"At SSGS we have buyers from foreign countries who want specific types of beans, with specific proteins and specific hilum, because they are making tofu, or soy milk or other products. They want to get the maximum out of the products they buy, and with just-average soybeans they don't get that. Non-GMO is an important part of this," he said.

Shipping is another very important aspect of SSGA's work, according to Severs, who joined the SSGA board two years ago before becoming its chairman. Building out domestic transportation systems that provide the backbone to trade is another of SSGA's stated goals for 2025.

"We can't connect the grower's products with the end user without the people that are shipping them. We work with politicians, and have a person on staff who works specifically with that to get legislation on shipping containers and things like that," said Severs.

Unlike with organic production, farmers need not let fields lie fallow for long periods in order to convert their production to non-GMO and other types of specialty soybeans. Chemicals are still used by most producers, though non-selective, GMO herbicides like Roundup and Liberty are, of course, eschewed.

"We use old-technology sprays, so we deal with weeds," said Severs. "We spend a little more money on chemicals, which is offset by the premium, but seed is generally not as expensive



Above: Farm World newspaper made an appearance at the Parke Heritage High School graduation in Rockville, Ind., last week. Farmer Scott Ramsay introduced his daughter, Valedictorian Raegan Ramsay, during the event and put his notes inside a copy of Farm World. The family raises grain and cattle in northeastern Parke County. Raegan has been involved in FFA and will be a 10-year 4-H member this year. She will be headed to Purdue after graduation. (Photo courtesy of Scott Ramsay)

Indiana dairy farm answers call to provide cow for Indy car driver

By Stan Maddux Indiana Correspondent

GREENFIELD, Ind. — A surprise phone call quickly took a dairy farmer and her cow into the spotlight of an Indianapolis 500 driver looking for a stroke of luck before the race.

Marla Stone watched as driver Pato O'Ward pulled on the teat of her two year old Holstein near the surface of the track in what was his first attempt at milking a cow.

Stone said her cow, Rhianna, seemed a bit unsettled from the drastic change in her surroundings and being milked by a stranger but she didn't break under the big city-like pressure.

two second place finishes in the race, O'Ward thought milking a cow might break what seemed like a curse keeping him out of victory lane.

In response, Stone received a call from Allie Rieth, who's in public affairs with the American Milk Association of Indiana (AMAI), which is in charge of providing the ceremonial milk for winning drivers to drink after crossing the finish line.

They know each other from Stone and her family showing dairy cows at the Indiana State Fair where Rieth maintains a presence in her job capacity to promote milk.

because it's not genetically modified."

Special care must be taken when planting, harvesting and transporting certain types of specialty soybeans, with the prevention of species cross-contamination in the front of mind. These steps must be traceable, transparent and documented in order for a producer to meet the requirements necessary to earn a premium for their beans.

"When it comes down to it, the farmer that is going to be successful is one that's willing to clean out your planter, clean out the semis before you haul,

(See Specialty beans on page 2)

"When he was doing that, we were all kind of petting on her. Kind of calming her down. Overall, she acted fairly well," she said.

Less than 24 hours earlier, Stone was asked to provide a cow for the driver, who made a last-minute decision to milk one for luck prior to the May 25 race. It's an Indianapolis 500 tradition for rookie drivers to milk a cow during the annual rookie luncheon.

However, when O'Ward was a rookie in 2020 Covid pushed the race back to August and there were no fans. He also did not get to milk a cow. With Stone said Rieth is also familiar with her daughter, Amelia, a freshman at Purdue University and one of the ambassadors for the AMAI.

The next morning, Stone loaded the cow into a trailer and made the just over 30-minute drive with her high school sophomore daughter, Taylor, and Rieth, who guided her to the track.

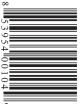
Stone pulled inside the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and walked a short distance with her cow before greeted by O'Ward, who was surrounded by members of his team, representatives from the race and members of the me-

(See Race cow page 2)



In this Farm World: Some places may see more limited strawberry supply due to disease...... Page 18 FFA Page 19





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Specialty beans

FROM PAGE 1

along with the combine, the auger cart and the grain bin. Doing all those things enables you to get the premium," Severs said. "Those end users want consistency, and the IP program brings them a consistent product. At \$9 (per bushel) beans, your profit margin is pretty tight right now and if you can get a premium on top of that it can make a big difference."

The expanding global demand for non-GMO and other specialty soybeans and farm products is part of a continuing international consumer food purchasing shift that places a greater value on product traceability and accountability, according to Severs.

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"More and more people are saying 'we want non-GMO and we want to know where our food came from," he said. "With the IP program that we are promoting, (buyers) can follow the product all the way back to the farm. I think there is going to be more demand, but we always have to remember that the consumer is the one we have to cater to. What we are trying to do is have an idea where our soybeans are going to go before we even grow them, and we are achieving that."

Learn more about the SSGA at soyagrainalliance.org.



Call Melissa At: 1-800-876-5133, Ext. 222 For Advertising Info In Southeastern Indiana and Central & Southwest Ohio

<image>

Above: Indianapolis 500 driver, Pato O'Ward, milked a cow provided by nearby dairy farmer Marla Stone. (left) Her daughter, Taylor, joined her on the short trip to the track.

Race cow

From Page 1

dia.

"He was answering questions while we were there with the cow in the background. It was neat," she said.

The atmosphere included an occasional race car heading to and from the track for final test runs.

After wrapping up the news conference, Stone said O'Ward after a short milking lesson by her daughter went to work.

Two days later, O'Ward consistently near the top of the leaderboard during the race had to settle for a fourth place finish. Stone, who watched the event on TV from home, said her experience at the track seemed to make the race this year more exciting. "It would have been even better had he won. We were really hoping," she said.

Stone and her husband, Chad currently have about 30 mostly Holstein dairy cows at their over 100 acre SilverStone Farm, which they purchased in 2017 near Greenfield.

They milk about a half dozen of the cows and sell the milk raw to customers showing up to buy it.

The couple also raises about five acres of sweetcorn.

"We just recently opened up a wedding venue and are hosting events in it now," she said.



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g groups call for uniformity in federal pesticide labeling

By Michele F. Mihaljevich **Indiana Correspondent**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Legislation designed to clarify and reaffirm long-standing provisions in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) regarding labeling requirements should be enacted by Congress, according to a recent letter signed by hundreds of agricultural-related groups.

Under FIFRA, states are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides, but are preempted from requiring additional or different pesticide labels or packaging, the letter said. FI-FRA authorizes the U.S. EPA to make foundational, science-based decisions on how pesticides can be labeled and used, the letter noted.

In the letter dated May 28, the groups said, "In recent years, we have seen actions from states that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety. These actions risk creating an unworkable, inconsistent patchwork of state pesticide labels that can quickly disrupt commerce and access to these much-needed tools.

"As concerning, this threatens to jeopardize public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulation under FIFRA, as well as the continued availability of individual tools on which there are contradictory claims."

The groups are concerned that if contradictory labels are required on the same package, it could lead to some products being pulled from the



Soybean Association (ASA), one of the 365 groups that signed the letter.

The letter was sent to House and Senate leadership.

In the letter, the groups called for the passage of the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act, introduced during the last Congress by Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.) Among the legislation's provisions is a requirement for uniformity in national pesticide labeling.

"Political agendas in states like California are causing confusion in the ag industry," Johnson said in a release in June 2023, when he introduced the measure. "Labeling decisions must be based on sound science, not unsupported claims that instill fear in consumers. The bill would make it clear there is only one standard to follow."

Added Costa, "Growers depend on resources like herbicides to manage pests and disease prevention, which threatens our food supply chain. This bill will assure uniformity in the national pesticide labeling under federal law, which will result in a more sustainable and secure food supply."

Caleb Ragland, ASA president, said not only does FIFRA prohibit states from requiring labels that conflict with federal findings, but also labels are not allowed to be false or misleading.

"If a state requires a product to be labeled in contradiction to scientif-

market, according to the American ic findings from federal regulators, it places manufacturers in a no-win situation - either disregard a state labeling requirement or put a false and misleading label on a product, contradicting EPA findings and violating federal law," he said in a release. "This situation is not sustainable.

> "We're really taking an 'all of the above' approach to bring certainty to this issue. Unless there is clarity, we're worried manufacturers could exit the market and leave farmers without much-needed tools needed to protect crops and provide affordable food for consumers."

> The bipartisan legislation doesn't impact use restrictions, noted CropLife America, which also signed the letter. "It would reaffirm that the EPA is the preeminent authority on pesticide labeling and packaging requirements, while still allowing states to enact use restrictions under current law," the organization said.

Other ag organizations that signed the letter include the American Farm Bureau Federation and farm bureaus in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee; the National Association of Wheat Growers; the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; the National Corn Growers Association: the National Milk Producers Federation; and the National Turkey Federation.

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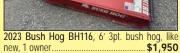
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There is a lack of urgency seen in commodity market

One of the greatest hindrances for the commodity market at the present time is a lack of urgency. This is in both the domestic and export markets. On the domestic side, enough processors have taken downtime for maintenance that we have not seen the competition for bushels we normally do in the spring season.

On the global side, record

large crops from South America, currency volatility, and uncertain tariff rates have all combined to reduce importer desire to extend future coverage, as determining a final price ahead of delivery is becoming more difficult to predict. All commodity buyers are showing more concern over consumer demand, and until those numbers improve, all buying interest may be subdued.

This lack of urgency is being most noted in the U.S. soy complex. The United States currently has 508,000 metric tons of new crop soybean sales on the books. Last year the U.S. had forward sold 861,000 mt of soybeans, and the prior year sales totaled 1.84 million mt by this time. One of the big differences is the lack of forward contracting by China. China currently has no new crop soybeans bought from the U.S. China also has just 132,000 mt of old crop soybean purchases left to ship.

Strong domestic demand has quieted some fears of slowing U.S. exports. The U.S. soybean grind in the month of March was a record 206.5 million bu according to Census data. This compares to 190 mbu in February and 204 mbu in March 2024. Soy oil reserves were a little higher than expected at 2.08 billion pounds versus the average trade guess for 1.95 billion pounds. End of March meal stocks were 378,851 metric tons, a



Census also reported a March corn grind for ethanol of 454 mbu. This was up 8 percent from February, but a 2 percent decline from March 2024. Dried distiller grain production in

five-month low.

March was 1.81 million mt, a 7 percent increase from last month, and 7 percent less than in March 2024.

While the U.S. has not confirmed any new trade deals as a result of recent tariffs, several other countries have improved relations. One of the most noted recently is Brazil solidifying trade relations with China, the European Union, and South Korea. The United Kingdom and India announced they have come to terms on a free-trade agreement that will remove nearly all tariffs between the two parties. As these trade deals start to take place, they will start to lessen U.S. influence on global commodity values.

Depressed commodity prices have started to attract export buyers. The U.S. remains the primary corn source for global importers as not only do we have the largest supply, but we remain price competitive. This may change once the safrinha crop from Brazil becomes available, but that's not for another several weeks. Brazil's domestic corn demand is growing which will further restrict the country's exportable stocks.

Domestic corn and soybean demand remains high as well, but we are seeing some signs of slowing consumption. Soy crush remains high, but margins have weakened and are now holding near \$1.30 per bushel. This is not low enough to impact current crush rates, but uncertainty over future biofuel demand and a lack of clarity on 45Z credits are clouding future demand.

The ethanol industry has also seen



diminished returns to just 5 cents per gallon, half recent margin. Depressed margins are causing plants to take extended periods of downtime for maintenance, dropping corn demand below the rate needed to meet the current yearly USDA estimate.

Two conflicting long-range weather outlooks have been released. One is the El Nino outlook that shows indicators have now turned neutral. It is believed this will remain steady through the U.S. growing season and into the fall, reducing weather-related crop stress.

NOAA has released its 90-day outlook and is calling for elevated temperatures and reduced precipitation for much of the Midwest, including the Corn Belt. This does not necessarily mean a drought though, which is limiting risk buying in the commodity market. Trade also views current weather as mostly favorable, even with reports of drought in the west and saturated fields in parts of the eastern U.S.

Trade volume on the CME was up in April, which generated the choppy, volatile trade we have seen. The average daily trade volume on the CME was 35.9 million contracts, a 36 percent increase from a year ago.

Ag contracts saw a trade volume increase of 16 percent in April, and option trade increased by 31 percent to 399,000 contracts per day. Corn volume was up 18 percent from last April at 514,000 contracts. Soybean volume was up 20 percent at 366,000 contracts. Daily wheat trading volume was 229,000 contracts, a 26 percent increase from a year ago.

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Farm groups speak out on key aspects of MAHA report

By TIM ALEXANDER Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Reaction from the farm world was swift and often severe regarding a White House report issued by the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission that seeks broad changes in how food is produced in the United States. The MAHA regulations, spearheaded by Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert F. Kennedy, denigrates the safety of key pesticides used by corn growers and other agricultural producers.

"It is deeply troubling for the White House to endorse a report that sows seeds of doubt and fear about our food system and farming practices, then attempts to celebrate farmers and the critical role they play in producing the safest food supply in the world," stated Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), who also questioned the "science" behind the report's recommendations in a May 29 statement.

"Farmers are identified as 'critical partners,' yet were excluded from development of the report, despite many requests for a seat at the table. The report also expresses a desire to ensure farmers continue to thrive, but undermining confidence in our food system directly contradicts that noble goal. The report spotlights outlier studies and presents unproven theories that feed a false narrative and only then does it acknowledge a mountain of evidence about the safety of our food system," said Duvall.

Also on May 29, Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) Director of Conservation and Nutrient Stewardship Megan Dwyer discussed Kennedy's MAHA recommendations during an interview with Farm World.

"This report is supposed to be providing guidance and in the next several weeks we are expecting to see more action coming out of this report," said Dwyer, who last year was named to a special agricultural advisory panel to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and recently testified before the Senate Ag Committee. "The report broke things down into four categories around impacts to human health, specifically to children's health: poor diet, environmental chemicals, lack of physical activity and overmedication.

"We were very interested, of course, in what they had to say about environmental chemicals. From our perspective there were a couple of things that really stood out, and we are seeing others emerge every day."

Like Duvall and the AFBF, Dwyer and the ICGA, which issued a separate statement decrying the contents of the MAHA report, take issue with the Trump administration and RFK for claiming the report's recommendations are based on proven science.

"RFK touted this as being really solid science, the gold standard of science, with 500 studies going into the report. As we're finding out what's in the report, it's been disheartening because we in agriculture really want to rely on and believe in sound science. Some of the citations in this document don't exist, are inaccurate or taken out of context from what the study was all about.

"The overarching concern is that the report is going to lead to more undue, unnecessary concern and fear about our food source and how our farmers are growing food. This is probably our number-one issue with what we've been reading," she said.

Also like Duvall, Dwyer found it to be ironic how the report extolled farmers as "the backbone of America" and "the most innovative and productive in the world" while also suggesting the disassembly of a key aspect of their food production sys-

nd we tem.

"The report calls into question some of our crop protection products and practices, but there are few positives that we can't completely negate, either," she continued. "They talk about looking at what has been tested for residue levels on food, and do note that testing shows that our products are safe when used in accordance with (product) label directions. Overall, though, this report really missed the mark on using high-quality science and showing the entire picture of how agricultural producers are being innovative and using technology to be precise and efficient."

On May 28, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) issued a new report, "MAHA Efforts on Pesticides Could Cost Farmers," which spoke to the economic impact of widely used crop protection technologies like atrazine and glyphosate. Farmers would face at least a 60 percent increase in cost if they were to switch from glyphosate and atrazine to alternative herbicides, according to the report. Another analysis looking at the potential short-term economic impact of losing glyphosate in North Carolina estimated a 73 percent increase in costs for corn.

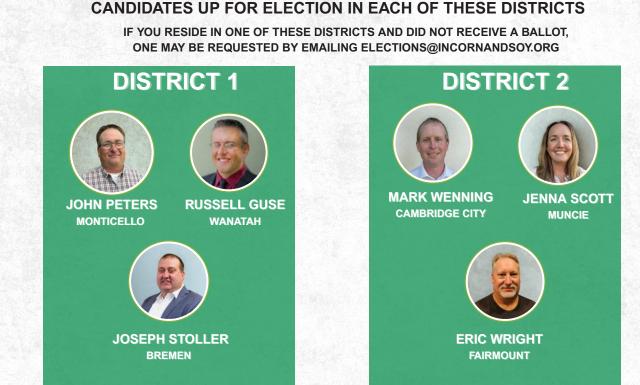
"Without access to effective and affordable herbicides, farmers could turn to other options to control weeds, though all present difficult trade-offs," states the report, which was authored by Krista Swanson, NCGA chief economist and an Illinois farmer. "Given current labor wage rates and challenges in finding farm labor, manual control is likely too costly and inaccessible to be realistic on most corn acres."

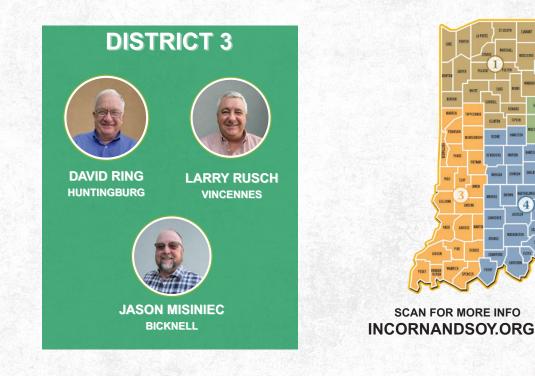
Swanson noted that despite claims that growers could pivot to tillage as an alternative to crop protection, such a move would lead to greater soil erosion and compaction, contrary to sustainable farm practices favoring less tillage. Additionally, it could take up to three or four tillage passes per acre to effectively control weeds, costing about \$15 to \$30 per acre, per pass, and require increased use of fuel, according to the report, which can be accessed at https:// ncga.com/stay-informed/media/ in-the-news/article/2025/05/newreport-maha-efforts-on-pesticidescould-cost-farmers.

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Horses on a Kentucky farm are helping men build sober livesand reunite families

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Jaron Kohari never thought his path to sobriety would involve horses.

The 1,000-pound animals unnerved him upon his arrival at a farm outside Lexington that teaches horsemanship to addicts, with the prospects of a job and a future if they get clean. But in short order they were making him feel content, the same emotion he used to chase with alcohol and drugs.

"You're not used to caring for anything," said Kohari, a 36-year-old former underground coal miner from eastern Kentucky. "You're kind of selfish and these horses require your attention 24/7, so it teaches you to love something and care for it again."

Frank Taylor's idea for the Stable Recovery program was born six years ago out of a need for help on his family's 1,100-acre farm that has foaled and raised some of racing's biggest stars in the heart of Kentucky horse country.

The area is also home to America's bourbon industry and racing has long been associated with alcohol.

"If a horse won, I drank a lot," Taylor said. "If a horse lost, I drank a lot."

He believes his own consumption had contributed to a close family member's alcoholism. He quit and said he's been sober for five years.

The basic framework for the program at Taylor Made Farm came from a restaurant he frequents whose owner operates it as a second-chance employment opportunity for people in recovery. Taylor thought something similar would work on his farm, given the physical labor involved in caring for horses and the peaceful atmosphere.

Taylor just had to convince his three brothers.

"It's a pretty radical idea because we're dealing with million-dollar horses and a lot of million-dollar customers and to say, 'Hey, I want to bring in some alcoholics, some felons, some heroin addicts, some meth addicts, whatever.' There was a laundry list of things that could go wrong," he recalled.

His brothers' response?

"Frank, we think you're nuts."

He reminded them the farm's mission statement includes living Christian values while serving customers and making a profit. They agreed to let him try it for 90 days, with the promise he would shut it down if anything went wrong.

"I wouldn't say it's gone perfectly, but it's been so much more good than bad," Taylor said. "The industry's really embraced it, the community around Lexington and all over the country have really embraced it, and we've had fantastic results."

Taylor said 110 men have successfully completed the program, which requires participants to be 30 days sober before they start.

Funded by donations, Stable Recovery does no advertising. Colleagues in the racing industry contact Taylor about potential participants. Sobriety homes and judges in the area also refer men, with the program offered as an alternative to jail.

It doesn't charge its participants until they start earning money once they begin working on the farm.

At that point, they pay \$100 a week for food, housing, clothing and transportation. They earn \$10 an hour the first 90 days, then get a raise to \$15 to \$17 an hour.

The goal is to keep men in the program for a year as opposed to other recovery programs that run for 30, 60 or 90 days.

That allows bonds to form among the group, instills confidence and gives the men time to rebuild their lives and relationships with their families.

But for every success story, there are some who don't last.

"They come in here and they think that they're ready and they're really not ready," Taylor said. "They don't have a gift of desperation to where they've got to change and they've hit the bottom and they have to be willing to do a lot of little stuff that's aggravating and challenging."

That includes rising at 4:30 a.m., cleaning their room and keeping the public areas spotless. There are Alcoholic Anonymous meetings at 6 a.m. Work hours run from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. four days a week. Life on the farm involves grooming the horses, getting them out of their stalls and into the pastures daily, visits from veterinarians and farriers, and farm maintenance.

The other days the men attend therapy offsite or visit doctors to build their sobriety. Stable Recovery partners with an outpatient treatment program.

At night, the men take turns making dinner for the group and then it's lights out at 9 p.m.

Always waiting for them are the hors-



es, their big dark eyes staring from their stalls. The animals are barometers for how their human handlers are feeling each day.

"I think the horse is the most therapeutic animal in the world," Taylor said. There's other animals like dogs that are very good, but there's something about a horse, like Winston Churchill said, 'The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man."

New arrivals often have nothing to be proud of and are weary of being judged by their families, their communities and the legal system. They're depressed, anxious, sometimes suicidal.

"Being around a horse early in recovery, it's a difference-maker," said Christian Countzler, CEO and co-founder of Stable Recovery who said he overcame his own addictions to alcohol and drugs.

"Within days of being in a barn around a horse, he's smiling, he's laughing, he's interacting with his peers. A guy that literally couldn't pick his head up and look you in the eye is already doing better," he said.

Kohari said he had been in and out of treatment since he was 18, failing numerous times to kick the lure of alcohol and then heroin, fentanyl and meth, before coming to Taylor Made Farm.

"I was just broken," Kohari said. "I just wanted something different and the day I got in this barn and started working with the horses, I felt like they were healing my soul."

After completing the program, he worked at WinStar Farm before returning to Taylor Made Farm as a coordinator for a barn full of pregnant mares.

Stable Recovery helps the men get a job in the industry after 90 days when they graduate from its School of Horsemanship. Participants don't have to work in the industry but the majority want to.

Among other successful graduates are

the sons of two racing industry veterans. Blane Servis, a recovering alcoholic, is

an assistant trainer to Brad Cox in Kentucky. Servis' father, John, trained 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Smarty Jones.

Will Walden beat a 12-year heroin addiction to become a trainer. His father, Elliott Walden, is president and CEO of racing operations for WinStar Farm. He previously trained Victory Gallop to a win in the 1998 Belmont Stakes.

Once the younger Walden, Tyler Maxwell and Mike Lowery had gotten clean, they asked Taylor to find someone to buy 10 horses so they could train them.

Unable to convince anyone, Taylor talked himself into it. He purchased 10 horses at \$40,000 each.

"I tell my wife and she's ready to kill me," he said.

He upped the ante by putting in another \$400,000 to care for the horses and hire Walden and the other men to train, leaving Taylor on the hook for \$800,000.

His wife was still upset, so he found others to buy in for \$200,000.

"We lost about half our money," Taylor said, "but from that all those guys stayed sober and today Will Walden has 50 horses in training."

Walden's stable earned \$4.2 million last year.

His filly, the aptly named Bless the Broken, recently finished third in the \$1 million Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs.

Maxwell is an exercise rider at Win-Star Farm's training center. Lowery is the divisional broodmare manager at Taylor Made.

'We're looking to get these guys sober," Taylor said, "and then you can get them in spots to work where they can advance in the industry and we're seeing that happen on a daily basis."



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2013 CHALLENGER MT655D, CVT, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3600 HRS

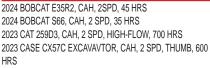
HEADS

2003 JD 7420, PS, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3700 HRS

2020 JD 5100M, CAH, MFD, 1100 HRS

2019 JD 745FD HYDRAFLEX DRAPER 2021 MAC DON FD140 40FT DRAPER, CNH ADAPTER 2015 MAC DON FD75S 35FT DRAPER, CNH ADAPTER 2012 CASE IH 3020 20FT GRAIN HEAD 2013 JD 608C, KR, HD, HH, RS, REEL

CONSTRUCTION



2023 FC15E 15FT ROTARY MOWER BUSH HOG SQ840 7FT 3PT ROTARY MOWER

PLANTERS

2017 KINZE 3600 ASD 16/32 PLANTER 2013 KINZE 3500 8/16 NO-TILL PLANTER 2011 KINZE 3500 8/15 NO-TIL PLANTER LANDOLL 5530 30FT GRAIN DRILL

NH 565 SQUARE BALER

GRAIN CARTS

J&M 875-18 GRAIN CART, SCALES, TARF BRENT 472 TARP, SCALES UNVERFERTH 325 GRAVITY WAGON KILLBROS 390 GRAVITY WAGON KILL BROS 385 GRAVITY WAGON KILLBORS 375 GRAVITY WAGON





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Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, May 29, 2025 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS

Exchange	Commodity		Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 5/29/2025					
CBOT	Corn	447.00 (Jul 25)	427.25 (Sep 25)	441.25 (Dec 25)	456.25 (Mar 26)	465.00 (May 26)	470.00 (Jul 26)	455.75 (Sep 26)
CBOT	Soybeans	1051.75 (Jul 25)	1048.50 (Aug 25)	1030.00 (Sep 25)	1037.25 (Nov 25)	1050.75 (Jan 26)	1058.75 (Mar 26)	1067.75 (May 26)
CBOT	Wheat	534.00 (Jul 25)	548.75 (Sep 25)	571.50 (Dec 25)	592.25 (Mar 26)	604.50 (May 26)	613.00 (Jul 26)	625.50 (Sep 26)
CBOT	White Oats	375.50 (Jul 25)	369.25 (Sep 25)	359.75 (Dec 25)	362.75 (Mar 26)	368.75 (May 26)	352.75 (Jul 26)	368.50 (Sep 26)
KCBT	Wheat	531.75 (Jul 25)	545.75 (Sep 25)	567.50 (Dec 25)	586.75 (Mar 26)	597.25 (May 26)	604.75 (Jul 26)	616.25 (Sep 26)
MGE	Wheat	615.50 (Jul 25)	628.00 (Sep 25)	644.75 (Dec 25)	661.00 (Mar 26)	669.25 (May 26)	675.50 (Jul 26)	674.00 (Sep 26)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators	- Conventional	<u>03 #2 WHITE</u>	CORN (BULK)				
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
Pennyrile	25.00N to 115.00N	UNCH-UP 20.00	4.7200-5.6200	DN 0.0400-UP 0.1600	5.1700		
Pennyrile	40.00Z	UNCH	4.8125	DN 0.0225	4.8125		
	vators - Conventional	ONOT	4.0125	DIN 0.0225	4.0125		
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
Ohio River - Lower		UNCH	4.7125	DN 0.0225	4.7125		
Purchase	0.00N	DN 85.00	4.4700	DN 0.8900	4.4700		
Purchase	45.00Z	UNCH	4.8625	DN 0.0225	4.8625		
	US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)						
Country Elevators	- Conventional						
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
Purchase	15.00N	UNCH	4.6200	DN 0.0400	4.6200		
Purchase	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.1625	DN 0.0225	4.1625		
Green River	15.00N	UNCH	4.6200	DN 0.0400	4.6200		
Green River	-20.00Z	UNCH	4.2125	DN 0.0225	4.2125		
Pennyrile	-20.00N to 17.00N	UNCH-DN 2.00	4.2700-4.6400	DN 0.0400-DN 0.0600	4.3900		
Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -10.00Z	UNCH	4.1125-4.3125	DN 0.0225	4.1875		
Louisville	5.00N	UNCH	4.5200	DN 0.0400	4.5200		
Louisville	5.00N	UNCH	4.5200	DN 0.0400	4.5200		
Bluegrass	12.00N	UNCH	4.5900	DN 0.0400	4.5900		
Bluegrass	-40.00Z	UNCH	4.0125	DN 0.0225	4.0125		
	vators - Conventional	Dania Channa		Dries Change	A		
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
	KY10.00N to 12.00N KY-29.00Z to -27.00Z	DN 1.00-UNCH UNCH-DN 1.00	4.5700-4.5900 4.1225-4.1425	DN 0.0500-DN 0.0400 DN 0.0225-DN 0.0325	4.5800 4.1325		
	KY14.00N to 22.00N	UNCH-DIN 1.00	4.6100-4.6900	DN 0.0223-DN 0.0323	4.1323		
	KY-30.00Z to -16.00Z	UNCH	4.0100-4.0900	DN 0.0400	4.0307		
Purchase	14.00N to 15.00N	UNCH	4.6100-4.6200	DN 0.0400	4.6167		
Purchase	-17.00U to -25.00Z	UNCH	4.1025-4.1625	DN 0.0250-DN 0.0225	4.1300		
T dronado	17.000 10 20.002			DIN 0.0200 DIN 0.0220	4.1000		
Bargo Loading Elo	vators - Conventional	<u>03 #2 30KC</u>	<u> SHUM (BULK)</u>				
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
Ohio River - Lower		UNCH	4.0125	DN 0.0225	4.0125		
Onio River - Edwer	10.002		EANS (BULK)	DIN 0.0225	4.0125		
Country Elevators	- Conventional	03#1 3016	CANS (BULK)				
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average		
Purchase	0.00N	UNCH	10.5175	UP 0.0325	10.5175		
Purchase	-30.00X	UNCH	10.0725	DN 0.0025	10.0725		
Green River	-25.00N	UNCH	10.2675	UP 0.0325	10.2675		
Green River	-50.00X	UNCH	9.8725	DN 0.0025	9.8725		
Pennyrile	-45.00N to 12.00N	UNCH-UP 1.00	10.0675-10.6375	UP 0.0325-UP 0.0425	10.2489		
Pennyrile	-60.00X to -27.00X	UNCH	9.7725-10.1025	DN 0.0025	9.8608		
Louisville	-48.00N	UNCH	10.0375	UP 0.0325	10.0375		
Louisville	-48.00N	UNCH	10.0375	UP 0.0325	10.0375		
Bluegrass	-70.00N	UNCH	9.8175	UP 0.0325	9.8175		
Bluegrass	-95.00X	UNCH	9.4225	DN 0.0025	9.4225		
	vators - Conventional						
Region/Location		Basis Change		Drice Change	Average		
Ohio River - Upper	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	<u>Price (\$/Bu)</u>	Price Change	Average		
Ohio River - Upper		UNCH	<u>Рпсе (ъ/Вц)</u> 10.5475	UP 0.0325	10.5475		
		-		-	-		
Ohio River - Lower	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X	UNCH	10.5475	UP 0.0325	10.5475		
	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025	10.5475 10.0475		
	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508		
Ohio River - Lower	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675		
Ohio River - Lower Purchase	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X 0.00N to 7.00N -30.00X to -15.00X	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH UNCH UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525 10.5175-10.5875	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675 10.5642		
Ohio River - Lower Purchase	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X 0.00N to 7.00N -30.00X to -15.00X US #1 M	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH UNCH UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525 10.5175-10.5875 10.0725-10.2225	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675 10.5642		
Ohio River - Lower Purchase Purchase	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X 0.00N to 7.00N -30.00X to -15.00X US #1 M	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH UNCH UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525 10.5175-10.5875 10.0725-10.2225	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675 10.5642		
Ohio River - Lower Purchase Purchase Country Elevators <u>Region/Location</u> Pennyrile	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X 0.00N to 7.00N -30.00X to -15.00X <u>US #1 M</u> - Conventional <u>Basic (¢/Bu)</u> -15.00N	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH UNCH ILLING SOFT RE Basis Change UNCH	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525 10.5175-10.5875 10.0725-10.2225 D WINTER WHEAT Price (\$/Bu) 5.1900	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 (BULK) Price Change UP 0.0375	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675 10.5642 10.1525 Average 5.1900		
Ohio River - Lower Purchase Purchase Country Elevators Region/Location	KY 3.00N KY-33.00X to -32.00X KY8.00N to 19.00N KY-30.00X to -12.00X 0.00N to 7.00N -30.00X to -15.00X <u>US #1 M</u> - Conventional <u>Basic (¢/Bu)</u>	UNCH UP 1.00-UNCH UP 2.00-UNCH UNCH UNCH ILLING SOFT RE Basis Change	10.5475 10.0425-10.0525 10.5975-10.7075 10.0725-10.2525 10.5175-10.5875 10.0725-10.2225 D WINTER WHEAT Price (\$/Bu)	UP 0.0325 UP 0.0075-DN 0.0025 UP 0.0525-UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 UP 0.0325 DN 0.0025 (BULK) Price Change	10.5475 10.0475 10.6508 10.1675 10.5642 10.1525 Average		

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for week ending 5/30/2025 Special Note: Beginning 6/19/25, this report will be pub-

Although it continues to be abnormally to moderately dry in the northern one-third of the state traveling south yields a quite different story. The Springfield area for example has recorded the wettest April/May combination on record. Despite a slow start haying is now running ahead of average with 38 percent of the first cutting of Alfalfa complete, 10 percent ahead of the five year average. Other hay is 21 percent baled, which is 6 percent ahead of the five year average. Although there has not been a lot of new crop hay sold thus far asking prices are mostly steady, supply is moderate and demand is light to moderate. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder

HAY (Conventional)	
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-300.00
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	10.00-17.00
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	
Medium Square 3x3	175.00-225.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	150.00-175.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	6.00-10.00
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	125.00-150.00
Mixed Grass - Premium/Supreme (Ask/Per	Ton)
Medium Square 3x3	200.00-250.00
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Tor	ו)
Large Round	125.00-200.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)	
Large Round	80.00-125.00
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	3.50-8.00
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)	
Large Round	25.00-50.00
STRAW (Conventional)	
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	4.00-7.00

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2929

AG FUTURES

May 30, 2025

	<u>US</u>	#2 SOFT RED WI	<u>NTER WHEAT (BU</u>	JLK)	
Country Elevators	- Conventional				
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	<u>Price (\$/Bu)</u>	Price Change	Average
Purchase	-10.00N	UNCH	5.2400	UP 0.0375	5.2400
Green River	-90.00N	UNCH	4.4400	UP 0.0375	4.4400
Pennyrile	-100.00N to -55.00N	UNCH	4.3400-4.7900	UP 0.0375	4.4483
Pennyrile	-60.00N to 0.00N	UNCH	4.7400-5.3400	UP 0.0375	4.8900
Louisville	-67.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	4.6700-5.2400	UP 0.0375	4.9550
Bluegrass	-45.00N	UNCH	4.8900	UP 0.0375	4.8900
Barge Loading Ele	evators - Conventional				
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	<u>Price (\$/Bu)</u>	Price Change	<u>Average</u>
Ohio River - Upper	KY -23.00N	UNCH	5.1100	UP 0.0375	5.1100
Ohio River - Upper	KY -10.00N	UNCH	5.2400	UP 0.0375	5.2400
Ohio River - Lower	KY-12.00N to 0.00N	DN 2.00-UNCH	5.2200-5.3400	UP 0.0175-UP 0.0375	5.2900
Purchase	-80.00N to -4.00N	UNCH	4.5400-5.3000	UP 0.0375	4.9200
Purchase	-7.00N to 3.00N	UNCH-UP 1.00	5.2700-5.3700	UP 0.0375-UP 0.0475	5.3225

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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		Delivery				Delivery		
	-	Month	Last	Change		Month	Last	Change
	Corn	July 25	\$ 448-4	+ 1-4	Wheat	July 25	\$ 534-0	UNCH
		Sept 25	\$ 426-4	- 0-6		Sept 25	\$ 548-4	- 0-2
		Dec 25	\$ 440-4	- 0-6		Dec 25	\$ 571-0	- 0-4
		Mar 26	\$ 455-2	- 1-0		Mar 26	\$ 591-4	- 0-6
I		May 26	\$ 464-2	- 0-6		May 26	\$ 603-4	- 1-0
I	Soybeans	July 25	\$ 1046-2	- 5-4	Oats	July 25	\$ 377'0	+ 1'4
I		Aug 25	\$ 1041-6	- 6-6	Outo	Sept 25	\$ 369'6	- 0'2
I		Sept 25	\$ 1022-2	- 7-6		Dec 25	\$ 361'6	+ 2'0
I		Nov 25	\$ 1030-2	- 7-0		Mar 26	\$ 362'6	- 0
I		Jan 26	\$ 1043-6	- 7-0			φ 302 0	- 0
	Soybean	July 25	\$ 297-7	+ 1.3	Live	June 25	\$ 216.200	+ 0.675
I	Meal	Aug 25	\$ 301-4	+ 1.4	Cattle	Aug 25	\$ 210.350	+ 0.275
I		Sept 25	\$ 304-1	+ 1.2		Oct 25	\$ 208.350	+ 0.200
I		Oct 25	\$ 305-5	+ 1.1		Dec 25	\$ 209.000	+ 0.225
I		Dec 25	\$ 309-4	+ 0.6		Feb 26	\$ 208.900	+ 0.300
	Soybean	July 25	\$ 47.13	+ 1.26	Lean	June 25	\$100.475	+ 0.450
I	Oil	Aug 25	\$ 47.34	+ 1.26	Hogs	July 25	\$103.850	+ 0.875
I		Sept 25	\$ 47.57	+ 1.21	Ū	Aug 25	\$104.250	+ 0.850
I		Oct 25	\$ 47.65	+ 1.18		Oct 25	\$ 88.825	+ 0.550
		Dec 25	\$ 47.88	+ 1.14		Dec 25	\$ 80.375	+ 0.375
	Ag Futures sponsored by Farm World Ag Futures taken from CME Group/Chicago Board of Trade & Dow Jones Industrial Average http://www.cmegroup.com							



Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, May 23, 2025

	Compared to last week slaughter rm, Slaughter ewes mostly firm.	New Holland:
Feeder lambs no Auction had a au	ot well tested. Equity Cooperative action. All sheep sold per hundred less otherwise specified. All sheep	Billings:
	d weight (CWT) unless otherwise	Ft. Collins:
Slaughter Lambs	: Choice and Prime 1-3	Kalona:
San Angelo:	Wooled and shorn 60-70 lbs	
	276.00.00-340.00; 70-80 lbs 284.00-385.00; 80 lbs 280.00; 120 lbs 242.00.	Sioux Falls:
New Holland:	Wooled and shorn 40-50 lbs 260.00-281.50; 50-60 lbs 260.00-	Missouri:
	280.00; 60-70 lbs 270.00-297.00;	
	70-80 lbs 300.00-330.00; 80-	Arkansas:
	90 lbs 320.00-340.00; 90-100	Feeder Lambs: San Angelo:
	lbs 320.00-340.00; 100-110	San Angelo.
	lbs 325.00-345.00; 110-120 lbs 250.00-275.00; 120-130 lbs 257.00-360.00.	Billings:
Billings:	60-70 lbs 250.00-275.00; 70-	Sioux Falls:
2	80 lbs 240.00-280.00; 80-90	
	lbs 220.00-265.00; 90-100 lbs	
	220.00-255.00.	
Ft. Collins:	Wooled and shorn 50-55 lbs	Equity Coop:
	290.00-315.00; 80-90 lbs	Equity 000p.
	305.00-312.50; 90-100 lbs 310.00; 115 lbs 285.00.	
Kalona:	Wooled and shorn 40-50 lbs	Kalona:
	285.00-330.00; 50-60 lbs 250.00-	
	325.00; 60-70 lbs 255.00-295.00;	Missouri:
	70-80 lbs 255.00-295.00; 80-90	Ft. Collins:
	lbs 260.00-300.00; 90-100 lbs	Arkansas:
	270.00-295.00.70-80 lbs 270.00-	Replacement E
	290.00; 80-90 lbs 270.00-290.00;	San Angelo:
Sioux Falls:	90-100 lbs 270.00-290.00. 50-60 lbs 257.50-319.00; 60-	Ft. Collins:
SIOUX Fails.	70 lbs 235.00-287.00; 70-80	South Dakota
	lbs 230.00-285.00; 80-90 lbs	Kalona:
	250.00-281.00; 90-100 lbs	Billings:
	250.00-275.00;100-110 lbs	
	237.00-256.00; 120-130 lbs	Missouri:
	220.00; 130-140 lbs 227.00-	Arkansas:
	235.00; 140-150 lbs 225.00-	
Minneyri	229.00. Wooled and shorn 60-70 lbs	Sheep and lam for the week to
Missouri:	265.00; 70-80 lbs 270.00; 80-90	36,000 last wee
	lbs 265.00-285.00; 90 lbs 265.00.	
Arkansas:	No test.	Source: US
Equity Coop:	No test.	General inqu
Slaughter Ewes:		email:
San Angelo:	Good 2-3 96.00-130.00; Utility	email.
	1 0 70 00 77 00	

olland:	Good 2-3 125.00-165.00; Utility					
	1-2 100.00-105.00.					
:	Good 2-3 87.00-101.00; Good					
	3-4 91.00-97.00; Utility 1-2 90.00-					
	105.00.					
ins:	Good 2-3 80.00-145.00; Good					
_	4-5 80.00-150.00.					
:	Good 2-3 90.00-115.00; Utili-					
	ty 1-2 96.00-107.00; Utility 1-3					
-	90.00-105.00.					
alls:	Good 2-3 80.00-145.00; Good					
	4-5 90.00-115.00; Utility 1-2					
	75.00-110.00.					
ri:	Good 1-3 102.50-117.50; Utility					
~~.	and Good 2 85.00-170.00.					
as:	No test. Medium and Large 1:					
igelo:	30-40 lbs 250.00-252.00; 40-50					
	lbs 260.00-280.00. 40-50 lbs 230.00; 50-60 lbs					
:	235.00-245.00.					
alls:	20-30 lbs 335.00-355.00; 30-					
alls.	40 lbs 280.00-360.00; 40-50					
	lbs 275.00-325.00; 50-55 lbs					
	265.00-315.00; 60-70 lbs 270.00-					
	300.00.					
Coop:	90-100 lbs 221.00; 110-120 lbs					
000p.	201.50-202.00; 130 lbs 189.50-					
	190.00.					
:	20-30 lbs 300.00-330.00; 30-40					
	lbs 300.00.					
ri:	No test.					
ins:	30 lbs 280.00; 40-45 lbs 290.00-					
	300.00.					
as:	No test.					
	es: Medium and Large 1-2:					
gelo:	No test.					
ins:	No test.					
Dakota:	No test.					
	No test.					
:	Medium and Large 1-2 young					
	open 120-160 lbs 101.00-107.00.					
ri:	Young and exposed with lambs					
	200.00-210.00/family.					
as:	No test.					
nd lamb	slaughter under federal inspection					
	nd lamb slaughter under federal inspection veek to date totaled 39,000 compared to					
	and 36,305 last year.					
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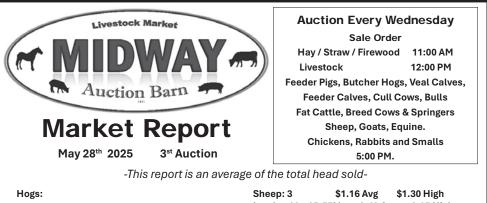


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please note that o	please note that our market report is an overall average price-trieg are not always the highest and lowest prices					
Small Animals Chickens Bantys Ducks Pigeons Eggs Booster	5/27/2025 \$5-\$21 \$7-\$10 \$5-\$22.50 \$3.75-\$8.25 \$2-\$3.25 \$5 \$20	Sheep Ewes 40-60# Lambs 61-80# Lambs 81-100# Lambs	\$0.75-\$1.40 \$2.75-\$3.00 \$1.95-\$3.30 \$1.75-\$3.30 422	Cows Cull Cows Bulls Fat Cattle Holstein/cross Colored	\$1.00-\$1.72 \$1.60-\$1.91 43 \$1.90-\$2.02 \$2.20-\$2.25	
Rooster Turkey Peacock Rabbits	\$5-\$20 \$25 \$75 \$4-\$30 1193	Goats Billys Nannies Kids	\$55-\$535 \$45-\$350 \$65-\$285 156	Pigs Fat Hogs Sows Boars	13 \$.55-\$.77 \$.60-\$.67 \$0.09	
Veal Calves Holstein Beef Cross	\$875-\$1020 \$1000-\$1450 356	Feeder Cattle Dairy 200-500# 501-800#	and Beef \$1.50-\$3.00 \$1.15-\$2.30 78	Feeder Pigs 20-45# 46-65#	37 \$45-65 \$80-\$100 25	



Dairy Calves: 32 \$905.31 Avg \$1020.00 High Goats: 4 Beef Calves: 14 \$1154.29 Avg \$1380.00 High Small Animals Feeder Cattle: Chickens: Cull Cows: 8 \$1.19 Avg \$1.68 High Rabbits: Bulls: 1 \$2394.00 High Fat Cattle: Breed Cows & Springers:

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Daily Livestock Slaughter Under Federal Inspection

Report for Thursday, May 29, 2025 - Final Special Note: ***Starting on June 2nd, 2025 this report will include daily poultry slaughter information*** **Daily Slaughter** YTD Prev Weel Last Year 2025 2024 Thu., May 29, 2025 <u>WTD</u> 4,000 <u>YTD</u> 56,987 <u>YTD</u> 92,436 Year Ago Week Ago WTD WTD % Change Calves 1,000 1,000 56 3,000 2,649 -38.4% 120,000 471,000 Cattle 116.000 123.512 355.000 373.778 12,177,841 12,959,864 -6.0% 52,311,313 -2.1% 478,499 1,439,000 1,441,311 53,416,158 480,000 479,000 1,928,000 Hogs Sheep 9.000 8.000 8.606 26.000 34,000 27,981 801.834 802.065 0.0% **Previous Daily Slaught** Prev Week 2025 YTD Last Year 2024 <u>WTD</u> 3,000 <u>YTD</u> 55,987 <u>YTD</u> 91,875 Year Ago Wed, May 28, 2025 Week Ago WTD WTD % Change Calves 1,000 1,000 1,003 2,000 2,088 -39.1% 119,000 Cattle 120.000 124.145 235.000 355.000 250.266 12,057,841 12,836,352 -6.1% 51,831,313 52,937,659 479,000 R 483,680 1,449,000 962,812 -2.1% 485,000 959,000 Hogs 7,000 8.000 7,327 17.000 26,000 19.375 792.834 793.459 -0.1% Sheep Previous Day Breakdow Wed., May 28, 2025 Cattle Steers/Heifers ... 98,000 Cows/Bulls ...21,000

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Butler County Farm Bureau members begin policy discussions

By Celeste Baumgartner Ohio Correspondent

BUTLER COUNTY, Ohio - They gathered around the table and over pizza, discussed Butler Farm Bureau policy concerns. It was the first of several Butler County policy meetings. They may not all have pizza, but farm bureau members in counties around the state are going through the same process.

"Tonight. we are reviewing policies, writing new policy, and filling in some information on some past policy that we are going to take back to the state," said Tim Hesselbrock, director of public policy in Butler County.

Eventually, Butler Farm Bureau members will establish their policy concerns, which will be voted on at the county's annual meeting in September. Those that are approved will be sent to the state to be discussed and voted on.

Hesselbrock and the group talked about the need for country of origin labeling, and inspection by USDA inspectors, or at least someone from this country, of food shipped here from other countries. He said there are concerns about lab-created meat and other foods,

"I have even seen videos of them using printers to make 3D steaks," he said. "It makes a steak of whatever size you would buy. The biggest problem is you don't know what is in it. Some states like Florida and Arkansas have banned it."

The meeting evolved into a discussion of problems that those in attendance were aware of. Larry Johnson, a beekeeper, said he lost 40 percent of his hives over the winter, and that bees were still in trouble. He also mentioned the need for more bee inspectors as the number of beekeepers has increased dramatically.

Other members brought up topics including the need to maintain roundabouts, a petition to abolish property tax, and concerns about possible changes to the Emergency Management Agency.

Across the state counties are talking

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about the issues pertinent to them. That is what they have done since farm bureau's start in 1919, said Evan Callicoat, Ohio Farm Bureau's director of state policy.

"They will decide what matters most to their county in current issues and they are also able to open our policy book," Callicoat said. "If there is a policy that has already been passed that they would like to edit based on other variables (they can do that). So, it is not just new policies but also updating policies that we already have."

Once the counties have officially voted on those policies as their submission, that is sent to the state policy development committee, Callicoat said. That committee is made up of members of the state board and of county or local board members. They go through all the policies that are submitted and decide what will be brought to the floor at the annual state meeting in December.

If a county's policy does not make it into the slate, that county can resubmit and it will be discussed on the floor at the annual meeting. Throughout that meeting any delegate may submit a policy, as long as it is signed by their county president, to discuss on the floor.

"So. it is a true grassroots process," Callicoat said. "The discussion can get lively at the annual meeting. A couple of years ago we debated raccoon policy for 45 minutes. I did not expect that. We appreciate that our members get to have a healthy discussion about whatever they would like to."

Delegates will debate both state and national policies. National policies will be sent to the American Farm Bureau for debate at their January meeting. The policies that are adopted at both the state and federal levels are put into the respective policy books.

"That is how we take positions on every piece of legislation. If it is not in the book, we will very seldom take a position, if at all. We are proud of our true grassroots process."



been using it 15 years. I put it

heifers with edema. We also use

it immediately if we see signs of

She works for Love Haven Farm,

milking 60 cows, and is building

Her foundation Ayrshire is Lone-

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purchased as a 3-day-old calf. Today.

at age 5. Ruby has blessed Jess with

3 daughters. Led by her or her son

Gage Hegedus, Ruby earned grand

year. Fresh March 23, she is making

100 lbs of 4.5F milk and is due to be reclassified in June. What does

champion at 2 county fairs last

Jessica love about dairying?

her own Rebel Heart herd of

out," says 4th generation dairywoman

mastitis, and I put it on udders

Jessica Takitch, Scottdale,

Pennsylvania.

on fresh cows. I'll do prefresh

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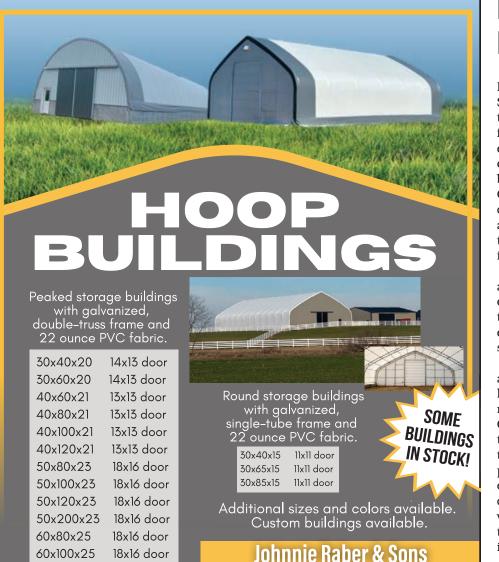
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High Performance Low Carbon Liquid Fuels Summit plants big ideas

Performance Low Carbon Liquid Fuels Summit, May 6-7 at the headquarters of the Indianapolis Colts, brought together farmers, fuel retailers and bio fuels advocates to explore the growing potential of corn-based ethanol and soybean-based biodiesel. Hosted by the Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and the Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership and Policy Committee, the event featured experts on decarbonization, policy, infrastructure and innovation.

Biofuels play a critical role in Indiana's economy. Forty-three percent of its corn supports ethanol production, and the state's largest biodiesel plant processes more than 300 million pounds of soybean oil annually.

"Ethanol is more than a fuel or fuel additive. It's a performance-enhancing, low-carbon, octane source made from renewable corn," said ICGA President Chris Cherry, a farmer from New Palestine. "It improves air quality, is good for the environment and costs less at the pump. At ICGA, we are incredibly excited to focus this event on helping retailers discover and capitalize on the tangible value of adding higher ethanol blends to their stations. In a race for retailer profitability, ethanol is a winner."

David Hardin, a farmer from Avon who serves on the Indiana Soybean Alliance's Membership & Policy Committee, echoed the enthusiasm for plant-based

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.— The 2025 High energy. "Biodiesel is clean burning, and it can be used in any diesel engine without making any modifications. Biodiesel is commercially available nationwide, and it is today's solution for heavy-duty trucking, emergency vehicles, bus fleets and farm equipment."

> Wally's Travel Center is constructing a massive new fuel station near the I-65 exit in Whitestown that will feature several new ethanol pumps. Nate Hale, director of construction and facilities at Wally's, said he came into the industry with a healthy skepticism of biofuels. "I've always supported agriculture, but I was aware of the stigma around biofuels. I needed to see the results for myself - and now I'm a believer," Hale said. There's a real opportunity to educate consumers on what they're spending at the pump and to unify our message. If we can bring retailers, consumers and the biofuels industry together, we can tell a stronger, clearer story about ethanol's value."

> During the panel discussion about state policy, speakers talked about the recent biofuels tax incentives bill, which didn't advance in this year's legislative session. However, panelists expressed optimism for future progress, noting the absence of opposition as a positive sign.

> Dallas Gerber of Growth Energy and Lawrence McCormack of Cummins emphasized the importance of continued engagement with lawmakers and raising public awareness. "I think we can build on the progress we had this year," Mc-Cormack said, expressing confidence that increased awareness will help move the bill forward in upcoming sessions.

> The two-day program featured many industry experts and covered topics pertinent to all involved in the biofuels industry. The keynote speech by John Eichberger, executive director of the Transportation and Energy Institute, explained that the push to remove carbon from the environment does not mean that all vehicles and machinery should be powered by electricity. In many cases, he said, low carbon solutions can come from renewable liquid fuels.

> In a panel discussion about how federal government policies and regulations affect the biofuels industry, David Cobb of Clean Fuels Alliance America said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could help by increasing its Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO) number under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to 5.25 billion gallons in 2026. Cobb said U.S. biodiesel producers can make that much, and he believes there is a market for it.

> Wrapping up the program, Courtney Kingery, CEO of ICGA, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) and the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA), talked to Roger VanDerSnick, Chief Commercial Officer for the Indianapolis Colts, Mel





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Learn about fighting fires, climate change in new book

"When It All Burns" by Jordan Thomas

c.2025, Riverhead Books, \$30, 350 pages

Don't touch!

You tell a toddler that something's hot, don't touch, a dozen times but you know they've got to learn it on their own. The lesson is set when they put fingers to the fire and ouch. That's how many

of us learn to steer clear of flames while, as in the new book "When It All Burns" by Jordan Thomas, some heroes rush toward it.

In the summer of 2020, with a fresh new graduate degree in hand and a solid relationship in his life, Jordan Thomas left the Midwest to move to California. There, he planned to dive into a doctorate degree in anthropology at the University of California Santa Barbara, where he wanted to learn more about large fires in human history. Almost coincidentally, fighting fires was "a way to pay the rent."

He didn't admit that to anyone when he applied for training. The money, as he learned, wasn't the point anyway.

Early in this new career. Thomas often heard about the hotshots, an elite group of front-of-the-line firefighters who seemed fearless, and he was intrigued. Despite that hot-

FIGHTING FIRE IN A NSFORMED NORLD ΤΑΙ URN JORDAN THOMAS



shots weren't paid as well as their city-employee brethren, their Olympian-level athleticism and their reputation appealed to him. Job security was nonexistent, as was company insurance, while the chances of danger were off the charts. The job interview, a long, timed "walk" up a steep hill didn't deter him. And so, for six months, Thomas became a hotshot.

During that time, he learned some of what he'd set out to know.

Long before Europeans came to California, Native people there understood controlled burning and how it helped to avoid large-scale conflagrations. White settlers, he says, ignored ancient practices, enslaved the Natives, and fought all fires instead. Over time, climate change made things worse, and a danger to humans, wildlife, and giant national-treasure trees.

Says Thomas, about the sequoias, "It was easy to forget that, in their two hundred million years of life, they had never inhabited a planet like the one we have created.'

In the first many pages of "When It All Burns," it may sometimes seem that the author is playing it cool as he tells his story. It's factual and straightforward for a while, like that of any journey taken to land an unusual job, to fit in, and impress the coworkers - but then heart-pounding cracks in the veneer start to show. There's a well-earned bit of swagger here, and an irresistible camaraderie with other hotshots but as pages pass, Thomas writes alarmingly of risk, exhaustion, menace, and a growing sense of fear on two fronts: One, for himself. The other, for the planet.

Fighting fire with fire, as it turns out, is not just an overused phrase. It's a real but ancient method of turning down the heat on the Earth, saving flora, fauna, homes, and lives - something Thomas prods us to fully understand, and soon.

"When It All Burns" is great for adventurous readers, true thriller seekers, or anyone concerned about wildfires and climate change. You'll cringe, and you'll be enflamed.





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Three Bar J IPRA Seven Event Rodeo Wednesday , June 25th a 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 a 7pm

503 Dirt Drag Racing 503 Diesel Performance Thursday, June 26th a 7pm

KOI Dirt Drag Racing Saturday, June 28th, @7pm

Progress isn't as fun as it is made out to be

All this modern technology stuff sure has taken all the fun out of ranching. With these fancy hydraulic squeeze chutes it's nearly impossible to have a bull get his head caught in the headgate that wasn't shut all the way so the bull's body is out of the chute with only his head caught so some idiot (usually me) has to volunteer to dodge the bull to get to the head gate release

so the bull can escape so he can then put the volunteer in the hospital.

When the vet comes to preg check he doesn't get his elbow slammed into the tail gate anymore and no one gets conked in the head. And remember all those hilarious times when you were preg checking and someone might accidentally on purpose open the head gate a little early so the cow leaves the chute with the vet's arm fully engaged in the cow while all the crew is laughing their butts off.

One reason I got in this business was because I love riding horses but now with all these fancy ATV's many cowboys have sacked their saddles in favor of these golf carts on steroids. Heck, cowboys might as well join the PGA or the Hell's Angels if all they want to do is ride a glorified motorcycle.

And PLEASE stop it with all this drone stuff. They're able to check the water, the fences and the exact location of every cow on the place all while the cowboy geek sits in the comfort of the bunkhouse in his bunny slippers and his velour bathrobe. I even heard there's research being done to use a drone that sounds like a bee enabling it to gather the herd without a single cowboy. Personally, I'd rather have a

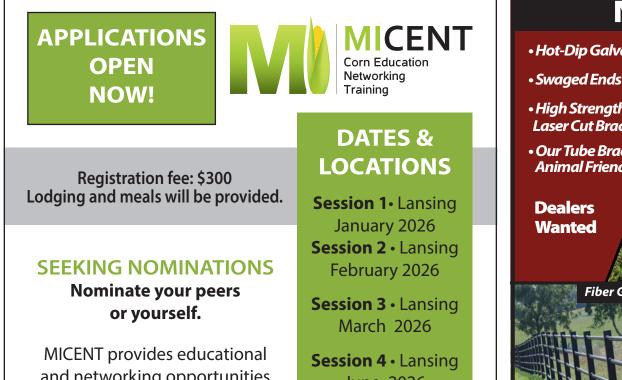
colonoscopy than become a computer cowboy.

Now this virtual fencing means that no one will smash their thumb or get tied up in barb wire any more. Ranchers won't need cowboys; they'll hire electricians instead.

Some of the best fun in my life was attending auction markets to buy cattle. I'd get to see all my friends, eat at the auction market cafe and then bid on cattle, which I always thought was more fun than a birthday bounce house. Now a lot of those cattle are bypassing the auction market and selling "on the video." I was the announcer for 20 years for a video company so I get it... there are many advantages. But you don't get to stare down the contending bidder or try to intimidate the auctioneer with a snarl that has taken decades to perfect.

Boring people have done the same thing with bull sales and all this EPD stuff so now everyone knows which are the best bulls. You go to a bull sale these days and hardly anyone is in the pens looking at the bulls. Heck, there may not even be any bulls to look at with photos on a screen replacing the real thing so now nobody who sits in the front row gets doused with manure. No bulls get on the auction block with the auctioneer and no bulls escape, knock over the

(Pitts continued on page 14)



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Grand Rapids restaurant crowned champ of Great Lakes Burger Battle

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - After have tried in years," said Dave Neitzel, weeks of sizzling competition, hundreds of votes cast and burger judging by a secret panel, The Black Napkin has emerged as the winner of the inaugural Great Lakes Burger Battle, solidifying its status as home to Michigan's most legendary burger for 2025.

Presented by the Michigan Beef Industry Commission (MBIC), the Great Lakes Burger Battle invited Michigan residents to nominate their favorite burger spots. Restaurants were encouraged to promote the contest to their supporters in hopes of making it into the 2025 Top 10 Burger Legends.

The Black Napkin not only had strong support through the nomination round but had the highest scoring burger from "secret shopper" judges. The burgers were judged on taste, appearance, proper cooking temperature and overall eating experience.

"This was one of the best burgers I

MBIC board member and secret judge who visited The Black Napkin. It was also noted that while the burger was the only menu item judged, the fries were also fantastic and the restaurant makes their own homemade sodas.

"Announcing the winner of the Great Lakes Burger Battle during May Beef Month makes this celebration even more meaningful," said Lindsay Green, director of marketing communications for the MBIC. "It's the perfect way to highlight the delicious nutrition beef producers work hard to provide consumers while spotlighting a local restaurant who supports the industry by providing an incredible eating experience."

To learn more about The Black Napkin and the Great Lakes Burger Battle, visit www.mibeef.org and follow us on Instagram @mibeef @blacknapkingr.

Pitts

FROM PAGE 13

bleachers and get out on the interstate any more like they used to. (I've personally witnessed this twice and it never gets old.)

I've always believed, "The eye of the master fattens his cattle" but now a blind techie can find the best bulls armed only with a braille sire summary.

We've made our cattle so healthy I hardly ever get to wait two hours any more for my vet to show up. If you go to a branding so many ranchers are banding their bull calves so that you hardly ever have a good old fashioned Rocky Mountain Oyster pig out. It's been decades since I've seen a guy cut off his finger by wrapping it in his dally or by using the castrating knife. So many ranchers are using ultrasound to test for pregnancy that I haven't seen a vet get kicked in the face for years. It's all about as much fun as an ulcerated tooth.

I haven't seen a good old-fashioned wreck in years and if this keeps up it's gonna put cowboy poets and cowboy columnists out of business.

I tell va, this may be progress but it sure ain't fun.



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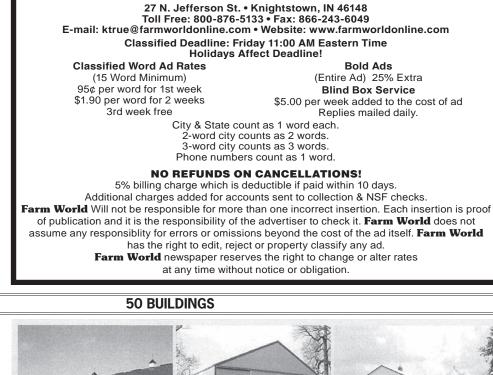
Steel buildings. Built to last. We also do post frame or cattle barns, reroofs or houses. Give us a call 937-300-0324 Monroe, IN.

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LASSIFIE

Beware of text & phone solicitors. Don't be a victim. ALERT! If you get a TEXT message from anyone about your equipment, it's most likely a fraud. BEWARE OF JIM BROWN, NATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRY, 531-242-5967, JOSHUA BROWN & MICHAEL BRYANT, 912-771-5495, 434-226-4602 (NC)!!!

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

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

> A scammer will often try to pressure you into making a quick decision and to pay up front. These are warning signs that should not be ignored!

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





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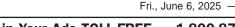
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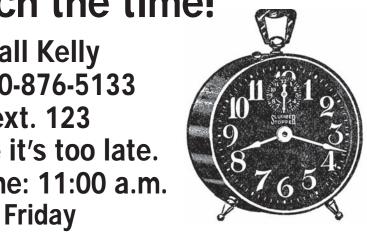
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'12 Bush Hog 12715 1000 RPM, 8 Laminated Tires, Chains\$ 14,200	'13 J&M 1251-22 w/ Tarp, Scales, Tracks\$ 75,000					
'11 Bush Hog 12715 1000 RPM, 8 Airplane Tires, Chains\$ 11,500	'11 J&M 1250-22 w/Tarp, 1250/45R32 Tires\$ 52,000					
'11 Bush Hog 2715 540 RPM, 8 Airplane tires, Chains\$ 12,100	'23 J&M 1312-20 w/ Tarp, RH Unload, and 1250/50R32 Tires\$ 94,000					
'10 Bush Hog 12715 1000 RPM. 6 Airolane Tires. Chains\$ 10.900	'11 J&M 1326-22 w/ Tarp,, J&M Tracks\$ 63,000					
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Market rabbits gain in popularity with Ohio 4-H and FFA youth

By Mike Tanchevski **Ohio Correspondent**

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Mainly bred for their meat and fur, market rabbits are gaining popularity with youth who raise rabbits. Market rabbit varieties continue to gain favor as a 4-H and FFA project in Ohio. Only hogs are more popular.

"It's a growing project," said Ryan Lentz, president of the Ohio Market Rabbit Breeders Association (OMRBA) said. "Depending on the year, market rabbits or hogs is the most taken project - it bounces back and forth, but it's one of the top two."

Of the 52 breeds of rabbit recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA), New Zealands and Californians are the most popular market rabbits used as 4-H and FFA projects. They fall into the Commercial Rabbit category.

"There are quite a few breeds that can do it, but to be competitive, you're talking New Zealands, and Californians," Lentz said. "Those are your two main breeds; 90 percent of your market rabbits are those two."

A quick growth rate and efficient feed to meat conversion make New Zealand and Californian rabbits excellent market rabbits. Both breeds share similar body types, with Californians being slightly smaller.

OMRBA is dedicated to promoting the highest quality market rabbit stock and advancing the standards of market rabbit production in Ohio.

"The club started mainly to provide awards to the Ohio State Fair kids who show rabbits," Lentz said. "That's the main goal because that was the one livestock project that wasn't included in the Sale of Champions."

OMRBA's incentives to those who show market rabbits have grown. "I



Above: David Moll, American Rabbit Breeders Association judge and market breeder.

think in the beginning, they might have paid the top 10 kids, and now through fundraising and donations, we pay the top 30 placings," Lentz said.

In addition to the state fair, OMRBA hosts shows throughout the year to promote interest in show-market rabbits.

New Zealand rabbits are bred in five colors: white, red, black, blue and broken. Californians are white with black points: ears, feet, nose and tail.

"Generally speaking, when you're talking New Zealand, whites are the dominant variety," Lentz said. "I will say, the brokens and the blacks are starting to catch up to them, but at most shows you're going to see an abundance of the whites."

David Moll and his brother Greg have raised New Zealands and Californians for over 30 years. It was something he got started with as a child. "I grew up in a subdivision, and we couldn't do large animal livestock, and so it gave me a



Above: A Californian rabbit with distinct markings on the ears, nose and feet.

way to stay involved and do stuff at the pounds (over 5 months); Pen of three. fair, and it's grown," Moll said.

Moll, an ARBA judge, is passionate about New Zealands and Californians.

"I just love them. I love the muscle that they have," Moll said. "We're trying to breed them and produce the really good ones. It's an art form to produce high-quality ones."

ARBA has over 23,000 members in Canada and the United States. Members keep rabbits as pets, raise and show purebred rabbits, or raise them commercially. Most rabbits raised in Ohio are sold as breeding stock and, more significantly, for 4-H and FFA projects.

Moll is an example. "We show rabbits," he said. "But we sell breeding stock, and then we also sell market rabbits to kids that compete in a lot of different county fairs and several different state fairs in Ohio and other states."

Market rabbits are shown in four classes. Fryers: 31/2-51/2 pounds (8-10 weeks of age); Roasters: 51/2-9 pounds (not over 5 months); Stewers: over 8

A pen of three, or a meat pen, consists of three rabbits of the same breed and variety. They may be from the same litter. They are judged on their uniformity of weight, muscle firmness, and fur texture.

"All fairs are different," Lentz said. "Single fryers are probably the most popular because it's the easiest - you have one rabbit. You don't see a lot of Stewers, but I know a handful of fairs that do Roasters."

Lentz sees fryers and the Pen of Three at most events. However, there are exceptions. "Some fairs tweak it and do a Pen of Two to make it easier on the kid," he said. "They only have to find and take care of two rabbits.'

Moll, who judges all over the world, values the camaraderie of the rabbit community, "Although it's big, it's also still small," he said. "We have friends throughout the world who do the same thing. It's very unique in a niche kind of market and hobby, it's cool."



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SECTION B

Friday, June 6, 2025

Neo-P pathogen may affect strawberry supplies this season

by DOUG GRAVES **Ohio Correspondent**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In June strawberry festivals pop up as towns compete to turn the tasty item into a fun event.

This year however, strawberry supplies may be slightly less than past years due to the fungal disease Neopestalotiopsis, commonly called "Neo-P." It's a pathogen that can spread rapidly. Although the fungus poses no threat to human health, it damages every part of the strawberry plant and results in lost crops.

"Consumers can expect that there will be a limited supply of Ohio-grown strawberries this year," said Melanie L.



Above: Neopestalotiopsis, or Neo-P, produces sunken tan lesions with black sporulation. (photo submitted)

Lewis Ivey, associate professor of fruit pathology in the Department of Plant Pathology at the Ohio state University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). "Based on reduced supply, the price of strawberries may be higher than in previous years."

CFAES provides guidance and support to growers who are faced with limited fungicide options and no resistant strawberry varieties available.

"Neo-P, which was first identified in Ohio in 2021, has made it increasingly difficult for growers to obtain healthy transplants," said Ivey, who is also a fresh produce safety specialist with OSU Extension. "The primary challenge growers have faced is purchasing disease-free transplants. Most Ohio producers now plant in the fall for a spring/summer harvest, but last fall, nurseries were unable to supply transplants due to Neo-P."

The disease is particularly problematic for greenhouse and high tunnel growers, as there are even fewer fungicide options available for controlled environment agriculture than for field production.

"There are no varieties that are resistant to the fungal pathogen, and managing the disease in greenhouses is especially difficult," Ivey said. "We're assessing the ability of the pathogen to overwinter in Ohio soils. We're also working to identify the disease early to prevent the introduction of the fungus into new plantings."

Dr. Nicole Gauthier, University



Above: Strawberry festivals are in full force the first week of June, but some areas may see their strawberry crops affected by Neo-P. (photo submitted)

of Kentucky Plant Pathologist, says Neo-P first showed up in Kentucky in August.

"We're suspecting the disease came in the state through commercial plugs," Gauthier said, "and we're certain even backvard gardens will end up with this fungus this spring. It's super challenging because Neo-P looks just like the other strawberry diseases. This disease has negatively impacted research because we obtain

transplants form the same nurseries as field growers."

"The strawberry season is going strong in Tennessee, though there have been a few growing challenges," said Kim Doddridge, Public Information officer at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

"Below-average temperatures in late

(Strawberries continued on page 2B)









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4-H Career Cards lead youth to in-demand agriculture jobs

By DOUG GRAVES Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio recently celebrated In-Demand Jobs Week, a statewide celebration of the jobs, industries and skills that are in-demand in the state.

In-demand jobs are those that pay a sustainable wage and offer a promising future based on the projected number of openings and growth. Ohio has in-demand jobs in more than 200 occupations across a wide range of industries.

Ohio State University Extension's 4-H is doing its part in this effort to empower young people in all 88 counties with leadership, citizenship and life skills with its 50 4-H Career Cards.

Developed by the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the 4-H Career Cards help connect youth with high-demand roles in Ohio's growing ag sector. These tools are designed to align students' interests with job opportunities in fields currently seeking skilled workers.

"4-H professionals in each county have access to a set of the Ag Career Cards to use in various ways to educate youth about agricultural careers," said Leslie Cooksey, a 4-H Youth Development educator. "They can use them to help youth understand career options and build skills that employers value. Also, educators who already use the Real Money, Real World curriculum can easily incorporate these cards as youth choose a career and work through the financial literacy simulation."

Each card features job descriptions, required education or training, expected salary ranges, and key skills. For example, the Agronomy and Crop Science card introduces crop scouts who help farmers protect crops from pests, while the Grain Elevator Manager card explains grain storage and shipping.

The 4-H Career Cards describe 50 careers that were identified by 17

different universities and prioritized by a team of agriculture professionals in Ohio. The collection represents a variety of careers in biotechnology, business, technology, communication and other agriculture-related sectors. The cards are also used in agriculture awareness events in schools and communities. The Exploring Agriculture Career Cards PowerPoint presentation is included with every purchase.

"Educators can take the cards to the next level by incorporating them into simulations," Cooksey said. "These cards encourage youth to think realistically. For example, if a youth realizes they don't enjoy math, they might reconsider becoming an accountant. Or, if they want to avoid college debt, they could explore careers like Farm Manager, which requires less formal education compared to roles like Biosystems Engineer. They can find a great career that doesn't require a four-year degree."

The categories found in each box include Agricultural Economics and Business, Ag Education, Communications and Studies, Agronomy and Crop Sciences, Animal and Dairy Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife Biology, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Horticulture, Technical and Biosystems Engineering, Industrial Tech and Packaging Services.

Additional sets of these cards and other Ohio State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development publications are available through local OSU Extension offices and online at extensionpubs.osu.edu. Ohio residents get the best price when they order and pick up their purchases through local Extension offices. To purchase or learn more about the 4-H Career Cards go to https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/agriculture-career-cards/.

According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the top three highest-paying jobs in agriculture in the country are farm manager, forester and agricultural specialist.

Strawberries

FROM PAGE 1B

March in some parts of the state put strawberry plants at risk of frost damage. And of course, we have to deal with Neo-P."

Neo-P has been found in all Midwest states, including Illinois, but for most strawberry operations across this state it's business as usual.

Flamm Orchards in Cobden, Illinois opened for the strawberry season on April 26. It's a little bit of a later start for the season due to the very wet spring season and many in this area have wondered if the historic rain event in April would affect this year's strawberry crop.

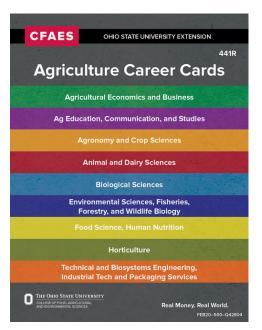
Co-owner Austin Flamm the only effect to this year's crop was a later start by about three weeks.

"We're a few weeks later opening later this year," Flamm said, "and that's due to the cool and wet weather we've had in early spring. Typically when we open we are worried about the supply because we aren't in full production yet. But production does not seem to be an issue right now." The farm manager (with a national average annual salary of \$61,100) are responsible for directing and overseeing the operations of a farm. These managers will delegate tasks like planting, fertilizing and harvesting crops. In addition, farm managers will also manage budgets, purchase materials and interact and maintain relationships with vendors and clients.

Foresters (with a national average salary of \$42,608 annually) play critical roles in conservation efforts, land management and rehabilitation. These professionals develop, plan and implement various projects to protect and maintain the environment.

Agricultural specialists (\$60,393 annually) are trained Customs and Border Patrol professionals responsible for ensuring imported agricultural products comply with United States policies on imports.

Rounding out the top 15 occupations related to agriculture are water treatment specialist, food technologist, environmental scientist, water resources engineer, operations manager, ecologist, agronomy manager, grower, agricultural equipment technician, agribusiness manager, veterinarian and biostatistician.



Above: Ohio 4-H is attempting to enlighten young people in all 88 counties with leadership, citizenship and life skills with its 4-H Career Cards. Organizers are out to show youth that agricultural-related occupations are both enticing and attainable. Pictured is the cover of the box that holds the 50 cards. (photo submitted)

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ICGA director says conservation programs important

By TIM ALEXANDER Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Megan Dwyer, director of conservation and nutrient stewardship for the Illinois Corn Growers Association, testified on the need for vital conservation programs and the positive effects that conservation practices have on the environment, soil, and future of farming for the Senate Agriculture Committee. Her May 13 testimony advocated on behalf of farmers for science-based, farmer-friendly policies including smarter conservation funding through flexible, regionally tailored programs.

"Conserving our most productive agricultural acres is essential if we want to stay competitive in global markets and continue feeding and fueling a growing population," she said. "These lands deliver more output with fewer inputs and are better positioned to adapt to economic pressures, policy shifts, and weather extremes. Without deliberate efforts to protect and manage these critical resources, farm families will face increased land prices, reduced margins, and greater pressure to overwork marginal land."

In her testimony, Dwyer pointed out inconsistencies in how federal crop program contract disbursement is handled. From 2018 to 2022, she said, Illinois received just 1.31 percent of total EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) funding. In comparison, Georgia received nearly three times that investment for one-fifth of the cropland.

"In 2024, only \$6.4 million of the \$21.5 million in EQIP funds Illinois received supported cropland conservation. Of that, less than \$600,000 reached beginning farmers. Thanks to strong collaboration with Senator Durbin's office,

the Illinois Corn Growers Association buried in paperwork but instead run and the Illinois Department of Agriculture were able to secure an additional \$15 million of traditional EQIP funds to address conservation priorities," Dwyer explained.

"This more than doubled the state's cropland EQIP budget, enabling targeted efforts to reduce nutrient loss and preserve topsoil. While those funds were contracted, it provides an example of the competition farmers face when trying to sign up for federal conservation programs and the role partnerships play in securing funding."

One way to help ensure Illinois and other states have adequate conservation program funding would be to incorporate Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation funds into the Farm Bill baseline, Dwyer told the Senate Ag Committee members. "Advocating for IRA funds to be incorporated into the conservation funding baseline in the upcoming Farm Bill is essential," she advised. "This would enhance technical assistance, strengthen partnerships, and most importantly, deliver direct support to farmers — empowering them to make lasting, on-the-ground improvements."

She also advocated for more trusted, local technical assistance personnel to assist farmers in USDA-funded and staffed offices. "Today's farmers operate state-of-the-art equipment from their tractor cabs, but personal relationships still matter. They don't want to talk to an AI-generated voice and they don't want self-service from a computer," said Dwver.

"Farmers want a knowledgeable, trusted expert who understands local resource concerns and can dedicate time to their individual needs. To make this a reality, we need well-staffed local offices — places where providers aren't efficient programs that allow time for meaningful interaction with the farmers they serve."

Turning to federal crop insurance programs and conservation, Dwyer noted that federal crop insurance can support in-field conservation by "recognizing the risk-reducing benefits of conservation, covering the transition to new practices, and offering flexibility for innovative approaches like growing cover crops for seed ahead of cash crops.

"The historic rainfall of 2019 caused unprecedented planting delays across the U.S., leading to record-high prevent plant claims and highlighting the vulnerability of our agricultural system to extreme weather. In response, a 2022 analysis examined the impact of two common conservation practices, cover crops and no-till, across six major row crop states. The findings were clear: these practices reduced the odds ratio by 24 percent. This kind of research underscores what many farmers already know - conservation not only protects the environment but also reduces production risk."

Continuing to offer robust and inclusive conservation and climate smart agricultural practices incentives through government-led programs will be essential in attracting and retaining future generations of farmers, Dwyer concluded. "Baby boomers currently own the majority of farmland across the United States, and within the next decade, their average age will reach 80. This puts us on the edge of a generational cliff. Without robust programs to help the next generation gain access to farmland and be economically equipped to adopt conservation practices, we risk losing our position as the global leader in production agriculture," she said.



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4B - Farm World - Fri., June 6, 2025 **National Pork Board launches 'Taste What Pork Can Do' campaign**

By DOUG SCHMITZ Iowa Correspondent

DES MOINES, Iowa - The National Pork Board (NPB) recently announced the launch of its new nationwide campaign, "Taste What Pork Can Do," hoping to reposition pork, not just as an alternative to other meats, but also as a primary protein choice, officials said.

The campaign includes what officials called "highly focused, digital content delivered through numerous social media and advertising channels, as well as supporting retailers, packers and processors, state associations, online influencers and others in their efforts to share the campaign's messages."

"A good tagline has a call to action," said Jose de Jesus, NPB assistant vice president of consumer marketing in a May 6 media statement. "This campaign was built on deep insights about what consumers want from their food, which is taste, balance and convenience - and all of those values, plus pork, are front and center of this tagline and campaign."

According to recent research from Datassentials, nearly two-thirds of consumers have purchased a food, beverage or related product after viewing a marketing campaign or advertisement.

Officials said the launch of Taste What Pork Can Do begins positioning pork in the channels where consumers receive inspiration and information, including social media, streaming services, satellite radio advertisements and online display ads.

"The goal is to be the number one protein in flavor and expand pork from a special-occasion protein to an everyday choice," de Jesus said. "Today, the average consumer purchases pork six times a year. We're focused on convincing them to make pork their choice more regularly.'

Jason Menke, NPB director of consumer public relations, told Farm World, "This campaign is the Pork Checkoff's biggest consumer outreach campaign in 25 years, and we're doing things differently. We're using research-backed, digital-forward tactics to really set this campaign apart, and drive demand here at home.

"Using the National Pork Board's Checkoff-funded Consumer Connect, a ground-breaking, data-driven tool, we've developed audience-specific strategies to increase consumer demand for pork," he said. "The new campaign is designed to be a longterm play to boost demand, bringing the campaign's new tagline, Taste What Pork Can Do, to life by prioritizing the eating behaviors of new audiences, and putting pork front and center as a convenient, nutritious, tasty, and flavorful protein."

He added, "The campaign focuses on younger consumers by utilizing targeted data to deliver results that will drive the campaign's success, ultimately improving domestic demand and adding value to pork. The shortterm play is increased sales of pork, but the longer-term play is building a bigger appetite and affinity for pork."

He said the way NPB intends to reach new consumers is, "We're deploying the campaign in densely populated urban areas where the majority of the U.S. population resides. Fifty percent of the U.S. population and fresh pork consumption is consolidated in 10 states (e.g., Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania), with California, Florida, New York and Texas accounting

R

lation."

David Newman, NPB senior vice president of market growth, said as part of the campaign launch, NPB will engage directly with online influencers and leading food media in New York City, complete with multiple pork-focused culinary tastings, while touring the city, reaching out to Gen Z (born between 1997 to 2012) and millennial (born between 1981 to 1996) consumers.

"This is a transformational time for the pork industry," he said. "We have a significant opportunity to build passion for pork among younger consumer generations, and we're going to do that by being unapologetic about our product, working as a partner with the supply chain, and focusing on the whole hog.'

Menke said, "Older generations are familiar with - and frequently incorporate - pork in their daily lives. Younger generations, like millennials and Gen Z, aren't as familiar with pork, especially with fresh cuts like loin or ribs.

"This industry-wide campaign is connecting pork's flavor and versatility with the emotions and motivations of millennial and Gen Z consumers, who often view pork as an ingredient in culturally relevant dishes: think Carnitas Street tacos or a Teriyaki pork noodle bowl," he added. "We're using pork to sell more pork by highlighting the taste and flavor of the full portfolio (such as bacon, sausage and ham); something we've not done in the past."

He said. "Consumers will see the campaign in digital formats - online and in mobile apps - rather than in printed outlets because that's how they consume media. This campaign

for one-third of the total U.S. popu- relies heavily on intentional and focused consumer outreach - laser-focused, in fact, on younger populations in densely-populated areas.

> "That means producers may not necessarily see the campaign materials in the wild, but it doesn't mean they will be left out of the equation," he added. "State pork associations and the Pork Board will continue to communicate about the campaign and showcase materials on their channels so producers can stay up to date."

> Moving forward, the campaign will expand to include a presence in retail stores, incremental retail ads, and partnerships with food service, said Patrick Fleming, NPB vice president of demand development.

> "Our goal is to provide an experience at purchase through point-ofsale materials, incremental ads and more that aligns with the consumers' experience with our information online or through media," he said. "We're delivering messages at the point of sale - or one click from sale - by empowering retail to be a touchpoint for the consumer."

> Newman said the campaign will continue to grow, based on the consumer response and continued analytics of its performance.

> "We want to be innovative disruptors; that means we will change and pivot, based on what we learn as this enters the marketplace," he said. "But we also want to create long-term change and opportunity. And that takes time and patience. We're excited to continue learning about our consumer and delivering the meaningful connections that make pork more relevant to their daily food experience."



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Demand for butter keeping prices up and stocks low this season

April butter and cheese inventories were below those a year ago. The latest Cold Storage report showed April 30 butter stocks at 337.4 million pounds, up 14.2

million pounds or 4.4% from March, but 24.7 million or 6.8% below those in April 2024. March stocks were revised down 578,000 pounds from last month's report.

StoneX says this was the smallest seasonal butter build in 10 years, add-

ing "There was plenty of milk/cream available in April so we have to attribute this to demand; increased exports and maybe slower imports. With inventory this low the second quarter stocks/use ratio is looking tighter than last year which would justify a \$2.60 per pound average price." It shot higher this week.

American type cheese stocks climbed to 805.9 million pounds, up 10.3 million pounds or 1.3% from March level, but were down 19.6 million pounds or 2.4% from a year ago. The March total was revised 2.1 million pounds lower.

The "other" cheese category holdings inched up to 579.1 million pounds, up 753 million or 0.1% from the March level, but were down 16.8 million pounds or 2.8% from a year ago. The March level was revised up 3.4 million pounds.

April's cheese inventory totaled 1.4 billion pounds, up 10.4 million pounds or 0.7% from March, but down 35.4 million or 2.4% from a year ago. The March total was revised up 5.9 million pounds.

The Daily Dairy Report stated "Cheese stocks have now trailed prior-year levels for 14 consecutive months, but April's year-over-year



seen in a year."

The DDR's Sarina Sharp wrote in the May 23 Milk Producers Council newsletter; "Plentiful milk and high components add up to a lot of cream. Churns are running hard. But US butter is among the cheapest in the world and exports are booming. Domestic consumption is also record high. It was up 3.6% year

over year in the first quarter. Insatiable demand for butter helped keep stocks in check." The March to April build was the smallest since 2014, according to the DDR, which added; "Butter stocks have topped year-ago volumes in every month since January 2024, but in April they fell 6.8% below prior-year levels."

Rabobank dairy analyst Lucas Fuess, speaking in the June 2 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, credited the Cold Storage report for the strength in dairy prices in the Memorial Day Week but warned that tariff and trade policy pose "some cloudiness."

He said limited escalation with Mexico has meant product continues to flow freely and we saw a reprieve in the relationship with China. But, the tariff freeze with China is only for 90 days, he said, and we could see further escalation there so volatility is to be expected.

Worst case scenario would be any escalation of trade differences with Mexico, according to Fuess. "It is in the best interest for both countries to make sure that does not happen," he said, "Due to the food that flows both ways across that US Mexican border." He adds that there would be a lot of downside for our whey protein, ing Update, attributed butter's

decline was the narrowest loss permeate, and lactose exports in any escalation with China.

> Fuess does not see much more rise in cheese prices ahead, due to the anticipated higher supply in the coming weeks but concluded; "Thankfully cheese exports have remained strong at least through first quarter."

> CME Cheddar block cheese climbed to \$1.95 per pound Wednesday, highest since Oct. 3, 2024. It was trading Thursday morning at \$1.9475, after closing Friday at \$1.87.

> The barrels saw their Thursday close at \$1.87, following a Friday finish at \$1.8525.

> Retail cheese demand is strengthening in the Central region, according to Dairy Market News, and food service sales are steady. Exports are also strengthening. Class III milk is available and cheesemakers say they are purchasing additional loads as low as \$7-under class and are running busy schedules. Spot milk availability is mixed in the west with decreasing farm level output in some parts and more educational institutions starting spring recesses.

> Cheese manufacturers convey that milk is sufficiently meeting needs. Cheese production was steady or stronger following the holiday weekend. Inventories are extremely tight. Domestic demand is reported as steady, stronger, or in balance with supplies. International buying varies from steady to strong, says DMN.

> Butter soared 10 cents on Tuesday, hitting \$2.52 per pound. It added a half-cent Wednesday, inching up to \$2.5250, highest CME price since Jan. 27, 2025. It gave back 7 cents Thursday, falling to \$2.4550, after closing Friday at \$2.42 per pound.

StoneX, in its May 27 Early Morn-

strength to end-users seeking more price coverage thru year end and into 2026 amid global fat prices that have yet to show material weakness." "With inventory this low the second quarter stocks/use ratio is looking tighter than last year which would justify a \$2.60 average price," according to StoneX.

DMN says milk output is steady in the Central region and contacts report cooler temperatures in parts of the region are leaving plenty of cream available. Ice cream makers are pulling on supplies as they prepare for the summer.

Cream multiples are holding steady in the Central region. Butter makers are actively churning, and spot loads of butter are available.

Cream continues to be more than ample in the West despite milk production decreasing week-to-week for parts of the region and ice cream production increasing. Cream multiples remained above flat market mid-week. Churning schedules were steady or stronger following the holiday weekend. Domestic butter demand is steady. Retail demand is described as at or above expectations. Food service demand was termed as down from expectations while export demand is strong, according to DMN.

Grade A nonfat dry milk also had a good week, climbing to \$1.2850 per pound Wednesday, highest since Feb. 13, 2025. It held there Thursday, after finishing Friday at \$1.2525.

The DDR's Sarina Sharp says "The anemic dollar is helping US milk powder compete abroad. That's boosting export prospects and finally starting to prop up US prices."

Dry whey hit 57.50 cents per

(Mielke continued on page 11B)





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Fri., June 6, 2025 - Farm World - 7B

Antique cars added to upcoming tractor and machinery show

By Stan Maddux Indiana Correspondent

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – There will be plenty of stories behind the beloved antique tractors and other machinery during an upcoming display in Indiana that will feature, for the first time, motor vehicles from back in the day.

For example, Justin Vaughn said he was just a kid when he started riding his two 1955 Oliver tractors passed down from his father, Gaylord, and grandfather, Robert.

Vaughn said he still puts them to work at the family farm for things like pulling logs and wagon rides. He also drives them in parades and takes them out for joyrides.

"They're not all shiny with a \$4,000 paint job like a lot of them, but they look pretty good," he said.

Dave Bruner will be there with his 1957 Oliver tractor formerly owned by his grandfather, and the 1965 Chevy Chevelle Malibu he purchased in high school and just recently had fully restored.

He bought the car with money earned bagging groceries at a local supermarket and later drove it to and from Purdue University where he enrolled after graduating.

Bruner said he enjoys taking his wife and grandchildren along for rides in the car that he kept in his barn without cranking the engine for close to 50 years. "It's quite a feeling," he said.

Both men are members of the Putnam County Antique Tractor and Machinery Association, which is hosting the event for the 9th consecutive year on June 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It'll be at the Putnam County Fairgrounds along U.S. 231 in Greencastle. Admission is free.

There will also be several dozen vendors offering food, beverages, arts and crafts along with a swap meet for the first time so people can buy, sell or trade car and tractor parts.

Other attractions are a pedal tractor



pull for kids, blacksmith demonstrations, a petting zoo and wagon rides.

"There's going to be a lot of people," Vaughn said.

Vaughn and Bruner were among the founding members of the association formed about a decade ago to offer a glimpse of a way of life, especially for children without a connection to such a heritage.

"It's mostly about kids," Vaughn said. Vaughn said he expects anywhere from 30 to 50 antique tractors of various brands to be in the show, along with some farm implements and hit and miss engines of different sizes.

In past shows, Vaughn said people have brought their hit and miss engines to operate things like corn shucking and ice cream making machines.

"Sometimes, the large ones are sitting on a trailer. They're huge," he said.

Bruner said it's difficult to predict with any car show how many owners will show up but thinks there could be as many as 40 or more antique vehicles, depending on weather and response to free registration at the gates.

"I got a lot of people saying they're going to come," he said.

Also happening at the fairgrounds that

day will be the Texas Longhorn Association show featuring about 50 head of cattle with horns up to eight feet long in the show arena starting at 10 a.m.

Bruner, 72, had his car and the tractor he started riding on his grandfather's farm at age 9 fully restored after a near death experience with COVID-19 a few years ago.

He was on a ventilator for 16 days in what turned out to be a two-month hospital stay. He then spent another 90 days recovering at home "learning how to talk, walk and breathe again," he said.

After buying the tractor from his grandfather, Bruner said he stored it in his barn for 15 years because the engine wouldn't run.

Bruner said he parked his car in the barn after purchasing another vehicle after he and his wife decided to get married and travel to Florida.

"I bought it for \$1,050 in 1970. I got a lot of old friends that go I can't believe you kept that thing," he said.

He later became involved in finance and land appraisal at a farm credit company while raising anywhere from 25 to about 40 Columbia sheep, the same species he showed during his 10 years in 4-H and FFA programs.



Above: Dave Bruner with his granddaughters, Carly and Kate, on a 1957 Oliver he plans to show at an upcoming tractor and machinery show also featuring antique vehicles.

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Indiana Conservation Officers memorial and awards ceremony

On May 23, the Division of Law Enforcement held a ceremony at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis to remember fallen Conservation Officers and recognize officers who are currently serving for their achievements.

Indiana Conservation Officers are law enforcement officers for the DNR. The DNR Division of Law Enforcement is the oldest law enforcement agency in Indiana and has 214 officers.

The ceremony started with a time of remembrance for fallen officers. The seven conservation officers who have died in the line of duty since the division's inception in 1911, listed with their end of watch date, are: Sgt. Ed Bollman, Feb. 13, 2018; F/Sgt. Karl E. Kelley, April 17, 1998; Officer Thomas Deniston, Oct. 16, 1990; Officer James D. Pitzer, Jan. 2, 1961; Officer Robert S. Perkins, May 27, 1958; and Wardens William J. Nattkemper and William J. Peare, who both died on April 27, 1926.

After the memorial ceremony, the division recognized current individual officers for their outstanding service.

District 7 Officer Joe Haywood, assigned to Dubois County, was selected as the James D. Pitzer Indiana Conservation Officer of the Year. The award recognizes Haywood as the top officer of 2024, selected from the 10 district



officer of the year recipients.

The Pitzer award is named for James Pitzer, who was killed in the line of duty in Jay County. The recipient of the award demonstrates professional ethics, attitude, and service to the public while demonstrating dedication to the conservation of natural resources and the enforcement of laws affecting the department. The officer

must also provide a positive influence, develop camaraderie within the ranks, and gain the confidence and respect of fellow officers.

Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman received the Director's Leadership Award for his work temporarily filling the role as district commander in District 7 and his liaison work with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

District 5 Officer Matt Landis was presented with the William J. Nattkemper Brotherhood Award. The award is named in remembrance of William J. Nattkemper who, along with Peare, lost his life on the Wabash River near Tecumseh. Officers L.B. Watson, John Pile, and A.R. Hill, who were witnesses to the incident, remained at the scene until the bodies of their fallen comrades were recovered. The award recognizes the commitment and inseparable bond of brotherhood and has become the hallmark of Indiana Conservation Officers.

Steve Dickover was presented with the Honorary Lt. Colonel Award recognizing his significant lifetime contributions which shaped the integrity and professionalism of the Division of Law Enforcement through his involvement in hunter education.

District 1 Officer Nick VanderMolen was recognized by the National Associ-

ation of State Boating Law Administrators the state's Boating Enforcement Officer of the Year for his leadership in boating education.

District 4 Officer Draven Browning was presented with the 2024 Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year award for his enforcement of waterfowl regulations and his related performance in public education and community interaction.

District 8 Officer Zach Howerton was selected as the National Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer of the Year. Considerations for the award include an officer's case involvement, public relations outreach, and service to the community.

Officers Max Winchell and Nick Hartman of District 5, Ryan Blackman of District 3 and Kendrick Fuhrman of District 7 were honored with Life Saving Awards for their exceptional actions saving lives.

Communications specialist Kaleb King received the Dispatcher of the Year Award for his work in the Indiana Conservation Officers Central Dispatch Center.

April Chappell received the 2024 Civilian Employee of the Year Award for her dedication, competence, and exceptional attention to detail in assisting the Law Enforcement Division carry out its mission and responsibilities.

Four new K-9 teams join Indiana's IDNR law Enforcement

On May 23, four Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 teams were recognized for completing the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Law Enforcement's nine-week K-9 Resource Protection Program during a graduation ceremony on the south lawn of the Indiana Statehouse.

Indiana's K-9 program started in

1997 with a pilot program of two teams. Because of its effectiveness, the program has grown to 10 K-9 teams throughout the state, one in each of the Indiana DNR Law Enforcement districts.

The Indiana K-9 program is well respected and consistently recognized as one of the nation's best. Indiana has helped start and train teams from natural resource agencies in Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia and Washington as well as from the African country of Zambia.

All K-9s are trained to locate ginseng as well as white-tailed deer, wild turkey and waterfowl. They may also be trained to locate other species, depending on where in Indiana the handler is stationed. The K-9 program also trains Indiana teams in wildlife detection and article searches and they especially excel in man-tracking and locating firearms.

K-9 teams have been especially helpful in stopping poaching. They have been used to find concealed game and firearms, shell casings in road hunting and hunting-with-a-spotlight cases, and poachers hiding from officers. They are also used to find lost hunters.

Because of their unique abilities, K-9 units are often requested by other state and local law enforcement agencies for help in locating evidence, missing persons or fleeing felons.

'till next time,

Jack

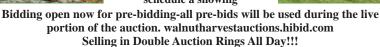
Readers can contact the author by writing to this publication or e-mail Jack at jackspaulding1971@outlook.com

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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Early June good time for managing pastures, forage systems

pro-

This period usual-

ly marks the peak

duction and rep-

resents roughly

two-thirds of the

total biomass for

the year. If you're

of forage

In many parts of the Midwest, the spring of 2025 has brought above-normal rainfall, leading to saturated fields, delayed planting and rapid pasture

GRAZING BITES BY VICTOR SHELTON, **RETIRED NRCS AGRONOMIST/ GRAZING SPECIALIST**

growth. Early June is a critical time for managing pastures and forage systems as it sets the stage for the remainder of the growing season.

Precipitation often balances out over time, but timing is unpredictable. Weather and climate can be so unpredictable that even after a wet season or year, it's hard to predict if a drought will follow. Each year introduces new variables, keeping you on your toes. That's why having a Plan B (or even C) is essential. Being prepared for different scenarios whether wet or dry – helps you stay ahead and ensures you're not caught off guard.

One key principle for managing forage is using early June as a gauge

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High Percentage Tillable - Systematically Tiled **Commercial and Residential Possibilities** TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH 5:30 PM Auction held on location at the intersection of US Route 250 North and Township Boad 126, Greenwich, Ohio, Take US 250 1.4 miles north of US Route 224 or 4 miles south of Fitchville, Watch for RES

signs. Real Estate: The property will be offered in 3 parcels and its entirety, selling in the manner that nets the most to the seller. Pick up a brochure in the info box on the property and walk the land at vour leisure



running out of forage by early June, it's a sign that your stocking rate is too high.

At this point, it's important to assess available forage. If you're low on forage or notice overgrazed pastures by early June, it's time to adjust your stocking rate. Prolonged grazing by ruminant animals negatively impacts pasture production, especially if the same plants are grazed multiple times without recovery.

Overgrazing depletes plant energy reserves, damages roots and reduces regrowth, leading to lower forage yields. This can lead to soil compaction, increased weed encroachment and degraded soil health. In addition, the quality of the forage also declines, as plants don't have time to reach their optimal nutritional stage. Rotational grazing, where animals are moved between different paddocks to allow plants time to recover, is a key strategy to mitigate these issues and maintain pasture productivity and plant health.

Conversely, if pasture growth has been vigorous and you have more forage than needed, consider harvesting excess forage for hay or setting aside areas for future grazing during drier months. Just be cautious about mowing too much for hay, as it could backfire if the weather turns dry.

Winter feed costs are a significant expense in a cow/calf operation, and reducing hay consumption should be a goal each year. Hay production isn't

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at 8845 SR 124, Hillsboro, OH

FARM LOCATION: 3.5 miles southwest of New Vienna fronting on Cumberland & Horseshoe roads. From New Vienna area take Rt. 73 south to Panhandle to Horseshoe or Rt. 28 west of New Vienna to Lacy Rd to Laymon Road to Cumberland Road. From Hillsboro take the High

for stocking rates. free - it involves equipment, fuel, labor and nutrient replacement. I've seen producers cut every acre of pasture for hay while still feeding it, only to find themselves feeding hay earlier than expected when drought conditions set in and pastures ran out.

Maximizing pasture productivity starts with proper fertility management. To make fertility management easier, fields that are difficult to fertilize due to topography or location should ideally be left for grazing rather than hay production. Focus on fields that can't be grazed for hav production instead. Building on soil fertility, organic matter and health will pay dividends in yield over the long term.

It's often more effective to manage forage through good grazing practices. Frequent moves to new allotments - ideally every day - allow for extended rest periods and optimal recovery of pastures. This practice encourages tillering, which boosts plant density and productivity, and it also ensures that the forage has enough time to regrow before being grazed again. As long as the proper residual grazing height is maintained, this rotational system can significantly increase overall seasonal production. For most cool-season forages, aim for three to four inches - that's the shortest forages left after grazing, not the tallest. The average forage height in appearance or measurement is actually closer to six to eight inches.

If forage is outpacing grazing in a designated pasture, try grazing first and then clipping if necessary, but clipping may not always be needed. When you do clip, try to leave enough leaf to avoid slowing regrowth. Remove seed heads, weed tops and open the canopy for light. Clipping too low can inhibit regrowth and reduce overall forage yield. A higher mowing height promotes better regrowth, more tillering and improves pasture health by maintaining a stronger root system, which increases drought tolerance. When grazing pastures, clipping height, if necessary, should be as high as possible without removing leaf area needed for photosynthesis. Clipping only for aesthetics often negatively impacts production.

Mechanical harvesting mowing height impacts forage yield significantly. When grass is mowed too short, it can stress plants, slowing recovery and even causing root dieback. Conversely, mowing at a higher height allows plants to store more energy, resulting in quicker recovery and increased forage yield. For hay production, a mowing height of three to four inches is recommended but it is more difficult to do with some tions to grazingbites@gmail.com. equipment.

While grazing management is often the best option, intensive rotational grazing can be effective, particularly during periods of rapid growth. By rotating livestock frequently, you prevent overgrazing, encourage regrowth and maintain high-quality forage. Setting up a rotational grazing system with smaller paddocks and frequent livestock movement ensures pastures have enough recovery time.

As pastures approach seed production, it's time to either shorten grazing periods and use smaller allotments to graze more evenly or clip plants to encourage new growth. This helps initiate fresh tillering and keeps the pasture productive. Clipping seed heads or reducing grazing periods redirects energy into regrowth, maintaining nutritional quality for the remainder of the season.

Despite lush pastures now, it's crucial to plan for a dry summer - if it happens or not. If drought conditions set in, pasture growth will slow. Additionally, planting fast-growing annual forages like Sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass, millet or a mix with legumes and brassicas can provide grazing or hay during the summer when pastures struggle. The time to think about that is now. Annual forages ensure fresh feed when pasture growth slows due to drought. This can be a very good option after wheat on cropland instead of double-crop soybeans.

As we move into summer, maintaining good soil cover is critical for moisture preservation. Healthy pasture cover reduces evaporation and helps retain soil moisture. A thick, well-managed cover is your best defense against drought. Managing grazing to leave enough plant material ensures that pastures can regenerate if dry conditions set in. It's not about maximizing a single grazing event but optimizing the entire grazing season. Observe, plan and keep on grazing.

Reminders & Opportunities

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

Please send comments or ques-

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ONLINE AUCTION: FARM & HAY OPERATION WITH TOOLROOM



FARM & HAY OPERATION WITH TOOLROOM (OWNER RETIRING) 2478 Trebein Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385

AUCTION BEGINS CLOSING TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 9:00 AM ET Inspection: Monday, June 9, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM ET • Online Bidding is Open

For Details & Bidding Go To: thompsonauctioneers.com or bidspotter.com

Bidding Is Open - One Owner, No Additions - Farm & Hay Operation: Case TR340B Track Loader, New 2020 Massey Ferguson 4710 & New Holland Tractors • IH/McCormick Farm All Tractor • John Deere & Oliver Tractors (2) JLG Boom Lifts • Case Square Baler • Massey Ferguson Disc Mower • Woods BZ12 Bat Wing Mower Land Pride FDR2572 Finish Mower • John Deere 8020 Mower Conditioner • Miller Trailblazer Welder/Generator Bush Hogs & Hay Rakes • Generators • Bobcat Procat Zero Radius Mower • Hay Wagons • Bobcat Attachments Vintage Corn Threshing Machine Complete Tool Room: Bridgeport, Engine Lathe, Surface Grinder, Welders, Tool Boxes, H-Frame Hyd. Shop Press, Vidmar Cabinets, Tooling & Gaging, Air Compressors & MORE!

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lune remains Dairy Month, a U.S. dairy promotion

Once again, we are blessed with another June Dairy Month. Thank you to America's dairy farmers.

Yes, June Dairy Month is a promotion by the U.S. dairy industry, but it serves as an important reminder to consumers of the tremendous nutrient package contained in milk, particularly cow's milk, and the many dairy products that are made from it.

Milk is perhaps best known for its high calcium and vitamin D content, which health advocates say are crucial for maintaining strong bones and teeth. Regular consumption of milk can help prevent osteoporosis and reduce the risk of bone fractures.

The high-quality protein that is found in milk also contains all nine essential amino acids, making it an excellent source for muscle growth and repair. This is especially beneficial for athletes, individuals engaging in regular physical activity and older adults.

Milk contains potassium, which helps regulate blood pressure by balancing sodium levels in the body. Some studies suggest that a diet high in potassium-rich foods, including milk, can even lower the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Drinking milk, particularly low-fat or fat-free varieties, can aid weight management by providing a feeling of fullness due to its protein content. Calcium in milk has been linked to fat breakdown and reduced fat absorption

in the body.

MIELKE MARKET

WEEKLY

By Lee Mielke

Milk is a good source of vitamins A and D, as well as zinc and selenium, all of which play a vital role in supporting a healthy immune system. These nutrients help the body fend off infections and promote overall well-being.

A lesser-known fact perhaps is the iodine in milk, which is essential for proper brain development, particularly during

pregnancy. Adequate iodine intake supports cognitive function and reduces the risk of developmental delays in children.

Lastly, B vitamins found in milk, particularly riboflavin (B2) and vitamin B12, are essential for energy production and a healthy metabolism. These vitamins help convert food into energy and support overall metabolic function.

Health studies, research, and nutrition science have evolved in the past decade to show neutral or positive benefits of full-fat dairy foods such as whole milk, including less weight gain, neutral or lower risk of heart disease, and lower childhood obesity. The old slogan, "Milk does a body good," was true back then and is still true today.

Plant-based beverages cannot make claims like these and that may be the reason for their shrinking in popularity. I have written many times in the past, encouraging shoppers to read the ingredients on the labels to see what is in these products to make them at least taste good.

Do some research on the impacts to



production of these plant-based products versus naturally produced cow's milk on the farm.

Sustainability is an important consideration and Dairy Management Incorporated states on its website that the dairy industry is "dedicated to addressing climate change and water quality while providing nutritious and affordable foods that will nourish generations to come." The dairy industry has put its money where its mouth is too.

"Every day, dairy farmers impact the land, water and air we all share. But as good environmental stewards, they have always innovated and adopted new practices and technologies to produce the same amount of food using fewer natural resources yet still provide all the same great nutrition.

"U.S. dairy is doing more to drive down greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, and enable renew-

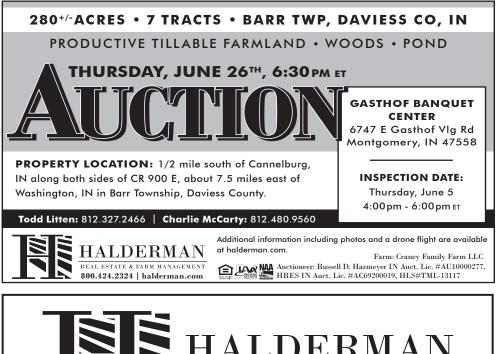
the environment that result from the able energy adoption. We will upcycle more waste into more resources, and we will invest and advance excellence in animal care.

> "As part of this pledge, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, founded by America's dairy farmers, has set aggressive environmental sustainability goals to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality, optimize water usage and improve water quality by 2050.

> "We're delivering for today while investing in tomorrow through innovation, science and a commitment to meaningfully contribute to a sustainable future for generations to come."

> There are volumes of information available at the Dairy Management Incorporated website. Log on and explore at https://www.usdairy.com/

> Enjoy your dairy products, America. They're good for you, your family, and your planet. Let's make America Dairy Again!





At Halderman, we recommend which type of sale is best for your farm based on the method we think can best achieve your goals and reach the **maximum** sale price for your property.

AUCTIONS

WHITE COUNTY, IN: JUNE 10 (ONLINE) 27.228^{+/-} Acres 3 Tracts • Potential Building Sites Near Lake Shafer

Contact: AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086, Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849, John Bechman: 765.404.0396 or Vogel Real Estate: Greg Vogel or Sherry Vogel: 574.583.3981

CLINTON & TIPTON COUNTY, IN: JUNE 18 (ONLINE) 158.251^{+/-} Acres • 4 Tracts • Prime Tillable Farmland Tracts

on CR 300 N (Tracts 1 & 2) and CR 1350 E (Tract 3). Tract 4 is located 12 miles southeast of Frankfort, IN on CR 1380 E.

48.251+/- Acres



Sam Clark: 317.442.0251 | Jim Clark: 765.659.4841

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Cheryl Burge, HLS# SFC-13111

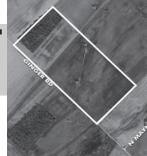
TILLABLE FARMLAND • WOODS • OPEN DRAINAGE DITCH

HUNTINGTON CO. IN

ONLINE at halderman.com

Wednesday, June 25th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION: Approximately 1/4 mile northwest of the T-Road intersection of Mayne Road and Ginger Road on the east side of Ginger Road in Jackson Township, Huntington County.



75 */- TOTAL ACRES 62.6 */- Tillable | 11 */- Woods | 1.4 */- Open Ditch for Drainage



Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Eic. #AC69200019, Farm: Opal Jeanette Click Estate, HLS# JRR-13110

Contact: Sam Clark: 317.442.0251 or Jim Clark: 765.659.4841

HUNTINGTON COUNTY, IN: JUNE 25 (ONLINE) 75^{+/-} Acres • Tillable Farmland • Woods • Drainage Ditch Contact: Jon Rosen: 260.740.1846 or Pat Karst: 260.563.8888

DAVIESS COUNTY, IN: JUNE 26 • 280^{+/-} Acres • 7 Tracts (ONLINE AND LIVE AT GASTHOF BANQUET CENTER) Productive Tillable Farmland • Woods • Pond

Contact: Todd Litten: 812.327.2466 or Charlie McCarty: 812.480.9560





- International 1026 Tractor
- 1972 John Deere 1020 Tractor
- 1968 International 504 Tractor & Loader Mack A40 Truck w/ Wooden Bed
- Chevy Fuel Truck
- (3) Antique Wagons
- Assorted Running Gears
- Cider Press Cider Press & Grinder
- Corn Bundler
- Antique Plows
- Antique Seed Cleaner Antique Seed Drills
- Kawasaki Mule UTV
- 1992 Ford F600 Truck

- Semi Cab Air De

- 250 Bu Huskee Gravity Bed Wagon
- FOUND ON THE FARM HIGHLIGHTS
- 1000-Gal Fuel Tank
- 550-Gal Fuel Tank
- 150-Gal Gravity
- (16) JD 3 Bu Plar

ALL EQUIP SELLERS LOC **CAN BE FOUND** THE (32) Gauge Wheel Arms off JD 1770

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- 1770 Planter • (16) Quick Attach Keeton Seed
- Firmer Tails(No Brackets) off JD 1770 6" Air Pipe & Distributor Planter
- (16) Pro Shaft Cable Drives off JD
- 1770 Planter
- Misc. Hex Bearings, Sprockets &
- Drives off JD 1770 Planter
- (16) Extensions For 3 Bushel
- Boxes(XP Units) off JD 1770 Planter (16) Seed Tubes w/Sensors & Row
 - Harnesses off JD 1770 Planter
- Planter Harnesses, Modules, Wedge John Deere Compressor/Generator Box, EPM & MMC off JD 1770 Planter • 6'Skid Steer Mount Rotary Mower
- (24) Gauge Wheels off JD 1770 Plante

UPCOMING 2025 ONLINE AUCTIONS

/ Feed Fuel Tank	EQU		XCHANGE	FOUND ON THE FARM		
nter Boxes w/ Meters eflector	2025	Auction Date	Equipment Due	2025	Auction Date	Equipment Due
	Jul.	7/9	6/18	Jul.	7/10	6/18
MENT REMAINS AT ATION. ADDRESSES D WITH EACH LOT ON WEBSITE.	Aug.	8/13	7/23	Aug.	8/14	7/23
	Sept.	9/10	8/20	Sept.	9/11	8/20
	Oct.	10/8	9/17	Oct.	10/9	9/17
	Nov.	11/12	10/22	Nov.	11/13	10/22
	Dec.	12/10	11/19	Dec.	12/11	11/19

CONTACT AN AGENT TODAY TO ADD YOUR EQUIPMENT NAA

Tyler Wilt at 740-572-1249 or tyler@thewendtgroup.com

Dale Evans at 260-894-0458 or dal y Smith at 740-505-8845 or kasey@thewendtgroup.com Kevin Wendt at 419-566-1599 or kevin@thewendtgroup.co <u>I</u>v Keagan Nicol 937-594-8146 or keagan@thewendtgroup.com WJ Fannin at 614-395-9802 or wj@thewendtgroup.com

Wet Cut Tile Saw

• (3) Kongskilde Blowers

• 1000-Gal Poly Tank w/ Bands

Kubota 1800 Diesel Mower w/

Trac Vac, 42" Snow Blower & Fimco

Grain Conveyor Pit

Pair of Tractor Fenders

Kongskilde Meter

• 7.60-16 Tire & Rim

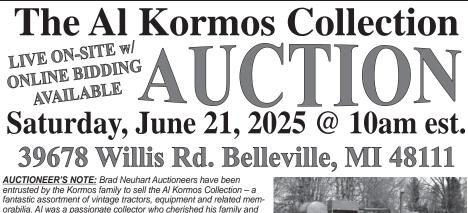
• 23.1-26 Tire & Rim

Spreader

1770 Planter

• (16) Promax 40 Corn Plates off JD

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fantastic assortment of vintage tractors, equipment and related mem-orabilia. Al was a passionate collector who cherished his family and his extensive collection of agricultural artifacts. This auction will be held live, in-person and on-site in Belleville, MI.

We will be offering LIVE online bidding on select items at www.bradneuhart.com. This auction presents a rare opportunity to

acquire pieces from a cherished collection. Whether vou're an avid collector or a newcomer to the world of vintage tractors, the Al Kormos Collection offers something special for everyone. Family will host an preview to view items on Saturday June 14, 2025 from 1p - 4p. <u>TRACTORS</u>: 1924 Waterloo Boy N - SN 30395 - Runs, Restored in the 1990's; 1963 John Deere 110 w/ Mower and Snowblower - SN 2958; Unstyled John Deere L - SN 621296 (Good Tag); John Deere 3020 D - 7500 hrs., NF, Diff Lock; John Deere 1070 - 1200 hrs., Loader, 4wd; John Deere G - SN 23463; John Deere 50 w/ 3pt. (2) John Deere MT's; John Deere M; John Deere 420c w/ Blade - 5 Roller; John Deere MC w/ Blade; John Deere R; John Deere H; John Deere L; John Deere D w/ Elect. Start, Lights, Hyd.; John Deere A; John Deere B; Gibson Model D; Gibson Model SD; (4) Allis Chalme

Mielke

FROM PAGE 5B

pound Thursday, highest since Feb. 10, 2025. It closed Friday at 54.25 cents per pound.

Sharp says "The US accounted for a typical share of China's whey imports in April, as shipments that arrived last month were not subject to the temporary but significant 145% tariff. Chinese importers stocked up on product and China's whey imports outpaced April 2024 by 13.9%. There will likely be fewer ships arriving at Chinese ports this month," Sharp warned. "But US exporters are now rushing to book sales and ship them during the 90-day pause."

Tuesday's Global Dairy Trade Pulse saw 4.6 million pounds of product sold, up from 4.4 million on May 13, and the largest Pulse volume since Dec. 31, 2024. It was the GDT's 80th Pulse event. The first was held Aug. 9, 2022. The prices on both skim milk and whole milk powder were down from the May 13 Pulse.

Meanwhile; The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) reported that US and Mexican dairy sectors renewed a partnership and unveiled

a work plan this week to "enhance industry collaboration" at their seventh annual summit held recently in Madison, Wis. "Industry representatives reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral collaboration and supporting the long-term success of the North American dairy industry," says NMPF.

Agriculture Secretary Rollins also announced this week that American dairy producers will have greater market access to Costa Rica, which has approved the first US dairy facility to be registered under their new streamlined approval process.

The announcement drew praise the International Dairy Foods Association which stated; "Costa Rica is a market growing in importance for US dairy. After being a net importer of dairy products a decade ago, the United States now exports more than \$8 billion worth of dairy products to 145 countries. US dairy exports topped \$8.2 billion in 2024, with Central American markets surging, including Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador all importing record values of US dairy.

In fact, US dairy exports to Costa Rica doubled in value between 2021 and 2024, growing from \$31 million to \$60 million."



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niture, Fire King Dishes, Cake Plates, Depression Glass, Misc. Music Boxes, Misc. Clocks, Vintage

Christmas Decorations, Vintage Color Wheel, Angel Collection, Misc. Steins, Vintage Vacuums, Ball

Jars, Pocket Watches, John Deere Items, Old Pens And Pencils, Globes, Vintage Radios & CB's, Zephyr Gasoline Money Clips, Vintage Car Manuals & Books, Taxidermied Deer Mount, Very Large

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Way Mtd. Plow (M/MT); MM SH 1R Picker; John Deere BW 11' Disk; 10' Brillion Cultimulcher; Gravity Wagon; John Deere Bw 494A Planter; John Deere 3pt. 3b Plow; IH 1pt. FH Planter; JD M Mtd. Plow, Spring Tooth and More Attachments; LOTS of Allis Chalmers G Attachments; John Deere 3pt. Blade; IH 1 pt. FH Plow; John Deere 80 Cart; John Deere Corn Sheller and MUCH MORE

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Dump Trailer: Parade Banner Trailer: FARM FRESH ANTIQUES: Ford Model T Parts: Lincolr SP135T Mig Welder; 60 gal. Air Compressor; Sandblasting Cabinet; Steel Workbench; Huskee 27 Ton Log Splitter; MUCH MORE





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TERMS: Cash, wire transfer or acceptable check. ANY out of state check OR check over \$3,000 MUST have a bank letter of guarantee (see website for example). 10% Buyer's Premium on online/phone purchases. No Buyer's Premium for on-site purchases. See website for full terms. Waterloo Boy and Dodge Truck will sell subject to owner approval.

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MAHINDRA 6010 W/CAB & LDR, MFWD, 539 HRS MF 2775, 2WD, 4735 HRS	BOBCAT S550 SKID STEER BOBCAT 853 SKID STEER BOBCAT T66 SKID STEER	(2) GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL, 20 IH 5100 GRAIN DRILL TYE SERIES V NO-TILL DRILL, 10' BRILLION OVERSEEDER	15" SPACING, CUMMINS ENGINE, AG LEADER INTEGRA DISPLAY, SWATH CONTROL, AG LEADER 2500 RECEIV-	GREEN W/STONE SEATS, 48V (10) 2016 CLUB CAR PRECEDENT, BLUE, GAS (60) 2016 YAMAHA, GLACIER WHITE, GAS	JD GX345, 1296 HKS JD GX325 JD F915 (AS IS) JD F725	SIMPLICITY COBALT, 700 HRS SIMPLICITY ZTR, 770 HRS (2) SIMPLICITY ZTR SNAPPER PRO S 200 XT. 60°, 400 HRS			

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DISC, 4" PRESS WHEELS

(2) GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL, 20'

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GREEN W/STONE SEATS, 48V

JD | A100

JD L100

JD GX345, 1298 HRS

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Farmers must make comprehensive succession planning a priority

By DOUG SCHMITZ Iowa Correspondent

MOUNT VERNON, Iowa - An agricultural transition specialist recently highlighted what he called the critical challenges confronting American agriculture during a webinar called "Common Traits of Highly Successful Farm Transitions" for members and member prospects of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants (ASAC).

Mike Downey is senior member coach and succession planning lead for UnCommon Farms, based in Brighton, Ill., which provides consulting services for farm businesses in strategic planning, management, human resources, financials, succession and risk management.

He said only 30 percent of farms successfully transition to the second generation, with only 12 percent reaching the third generation.

"Family farms are at a critical crossroads right now," said Downey, who works out of his office in Mount Vernon, Iowa. "We are about to experience the largest transfer of land and assets in agricultural history. Having the right plan in place can make the difference between a farm that thrives for another generation and one that fades away. Farmers must make comprehensive succession planning a top priority to secure their farm's future and operational legacy.'

He said about 68 percent of farmers with children have no one in the family who wants to take over the farm, and 51 percent have not identified a being 100 percent committed to comsuccessor. He added that this highlights the urgent need for new ways to plan farm transitions, including the option of passing the farm to someone outside the family.

He said successful farm transition starts with choosing and training a successor early, requiring open communication with everyone involved, and a well-rounded plan. That plan should cover who manages the farm, who leads it in the future, and how assets are shared fairly, he added.

"Succession planning is more than transferring assets with a will or trust," he told Farm World. "Most farms lack a written and comprehensive succession plan needed to support multi-generational transfers. This is a concern as every time a family farm leaves our rural communities, the chances of bringing them back become very unlikely."

He said among the key traits of successful multi-generational farm transitions is focusing on the successful transition of the farm first, and not estate or tax planning.

"Begin with the end in mind," he told webinar attendees. "Visualize the final outcome. Clarify your ultimate goals for the farm's future, and determine if continuing the farm is a priority." He added that personal assets should be kept separate from farmland assets.

Downey said other key traits for successful farm transition are determining what is fair and equitable;

municating; and working with a team of advisers, as well as asking what the family policies and guiding principles are regarding family values, employment, compensation, ownership, making decisions, and managing conflict.

He said there should be a structured ownership transfer, as well as customer buy-sell agreements (a contract that outlines how an owner's share of a family farm or business will be transferred to other owners or the business itself in the event of specific triggers like death, disability or retirement): "Spend some time walking through the different provisions that vou can include."

Individuals also need to understand farm transition numbers, he said. "Generally, farms that transfer multi-generations have more of the mindset that they don't expect the farm to be bought each generation. We can't always avoid that, but if there are going to be such buyouts, let's try to balance that with family fair price and family harmony with the future viability of the farm."

He said the guiding points for successful farm transitions for the role of a trusted adviser are: helping to get the succession plan started; establishing a safe environment; creating a structured agenda; clarifying family and business goals; accessing readiness and developing successors; structuring the business for continuity; integrating estate planning with succession; planning for transition; communicating and documenting the plan; and being an ongoing support and source of good information for families.

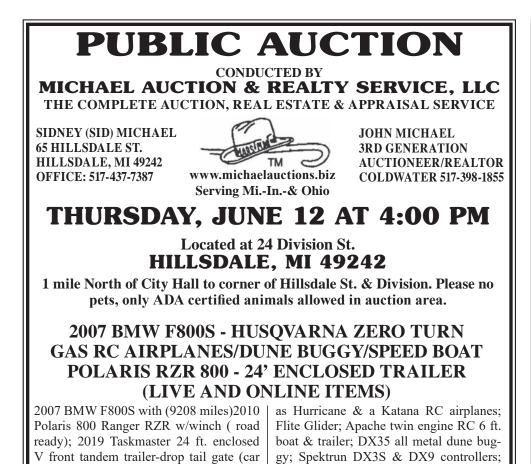
Downey said other questions to ask are: "What does success look like for your family in 10 years? What role do you see yourself playing in the farm in five years? What concerns you most about transitioning the business?

"You notice these are purposely designed and open-ended questions to get them (families) thinking and talking about it," he told webinar attendees. He added that 15 minutes daily or an hour and a half a week should be scheduled for strategic succession planning.

Dave Mielnicki, ASAC president, said, "Helping farm families navigate transition planning is one of the most vital services an agricultural consultant can provide today. The ASAC is proud to offer timely, relevant education like this webinar, not only for our members, but for anyone passionate about preserving the future of agriculture."

The ASAC's 2025 Annual Conference is Nov. 2-4 in Indianapolis. The conference will feature national experts in farm management, finance, transition planning, agricultural technology and rural entrepreneurship.

The event is open to both members and non-members. Conference details and registration information are available at: https://www.agconsultants. org/2025_annual_conference.php.





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long RC airplane; P51 Mustang-1-3in. in. 141 hrs.; No shipping available. These wingspan-70CC engine RC airplane; Tex- | items sell promptly at 4:00 pm.

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5X8 utility trailer w/drop tailgate; Stack | On Elite Digital 73 place gun safe; diamond point pickup toolbox; 4 sections scaffold w/levelers & walkway; Black Max (220) vertical 5 HP air compressor; Rigid tools inc. TS3650-10 in. table saw-12 in. chop saw w/stand-pancake air compressor-shop vac-18V-15 ga. nailer-elec. multi tool; Craftsman 19.2 V. tools inc. 5 drills-2 5in. saws- recip saw & 3 chargers; Husky air nailer; 1 ea. 12-2 & 14-2 elec wire; CST/Berger laser level w/transom; Remington ram set gun; Makita 18V 6 1/2 in saw; DeWALT chop saw; Paslode

hauler);Edge 540, 12 ft. wingspan/11 ft.

Impulse 6V nailer; Poulan 221 Pro gas 14 in. chain saw; Milwaukee elec. drill-sander-grinder-circular saw & a SawZall; Jet sawdust vacuum; Workhorse 25 gal. pull behind sprayer; NIB Craftsman double tool chests; NIB 20 V Craftsman drill; sockets & ratchets; new Kennedy machinist toolbox; Troy-Bilt 8500 W generator; shop hand tools; XL Harley Davison leather jacket; fish poles-sleeping bags-etc.; Ten Point Crossbow; folding ping pong table; Misc. misc. gas engines & parts for RC toys. Some household items.

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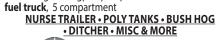
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• KINZE 3700 36-20" Planter, 60', Bulk Air Seed Delivery, AG LEADER Hydraulic Drive clutch controller, air bags, in-furrow fertilizer, Precision tillage opener blades, 500 gal liquid tank, Plastic Spike tooth closing wheels • CASE IH 1245 Planter, 12/23 row, 4 section shut-off, air bags, pneumatic down pressure, hydraulic drive w/hyd pto

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Champions Choice Camps lead to proficiency in the sheep show ring

by DOUG GRAVES Ohio Correspondent

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, Ohio — Young people interested in being competitive in the goat and sheep show ring may turn to Champions Choice Camps to improve their skills. Designed for those ages 5 to 21 the camps aim to provide techniques, advice, strategies and skills they can use in and out of the show ring. These single-day camps are held in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and eight other states.

Champions Choice Camp was started 20 years ago and is still led by the judge, breeder and agricultural educator that started it, Tracy Dendinger.

"I'm grounded solely in education, philosophy, mechanics and understanding," Dendinger said. "My method of showmanship is not just the surface scratching of just fun and games."

Based in Fayette County in Ohio, Dendinger teaches youth all aspects of raising and showing sheep and goats through her Champions Choice Camps in 13 states.

"From exercise and nutrition in the barn to handling, fitting, and showmanship in the ring. It's very structured," Dendinger says of the one-day camps.

"I do not do any fair work, nor do I instruct at fairs," she said. "The kids practice at camps then they practice all summer, then put their work into play. I teach the kids and turn them loose, and most can now do it better than me."

One of the most successful students is Linsey Eddy, now a senior at Purdue University. A native of Marysville, Ohio, Eddy started showing sheep through 4-H at age 9. She attended her first Champions Choice Camp the next year and hasn't missed one since, although she is now an instructor. The pinnacle came at the North American International Livestock Exposition, the largest allbreed, purebred livestock show in the country, where Eddy won the showmanship award in her class.

"Going from knowing absolutely nothing about showing sheep when I was a kid to getting to the top – Tracy had a very large hand in all of that," Eddy says.

Along with technical skills such as where to stand and how to hold the sheep's head, Dendinger teaches many finer points of presentation.

"Tracy also does a good job teaching what we call 'ring awareness,' where you learn how to relate all ring positions to your advantage," Eddy explains. "It's getting that animal shown to the best of its ability."

Dendinger, from Washington County House, Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Education, and Wright State University with a master's degree in School Counseling. From 1994 to 2014, Dendinger served as the agriculture educator and FFA advisor at Miami Trace High School. In 2014, Dendinger took the role of Agriculture Education Program Specialist at the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center. Today, she serves as an adjunct professor at Wilmington College, which is dedicated to growing and developing pre-service teachers in agricultural education. "We do things collaboratively, where older kids mentor younger kids, and we do a lot of hands-on activities," she says. "I can't teach kids work ethic, passion, or drive, but I can give them experiences that help them identify where and how to apply those skills," Dendinger says. "If they are coming to our camp, hopefully they are passionate about sheep, have the drive to become better, and

recognize the work ethic it takes to be successful in and out of the ring."

Dendinger has also played a vital role in livestock exhibitions, serving as a judge at national and state fairs, including the North American International Livestock Exposition and Arizona National.

In March, Dendinger was elected into the Fayette County Agricultural Hall of Fame. Her lifelong commitment to agriculture and youth development helped shape the future of countless individuals in this county. She has been a Fayette County resident for 31 years, serving the agricultural community throughout that time.

Below: Tracy Dendinger lectures before students at one of her day camps. This judge, breeder and agricultural educator was recently inducted into the Fayette County (Ohio) Hall of Fame. (Champion's Choice Camp photo)

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Above: Instructor Tracy Dendinger (left) teaches budding sheep showmen at one of her Champion's Choice Camps. (Champion's Choice Camps photo)

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