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## Second case of Theileria found in a southeast Iowa cattle herd

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**  
Iowa Correspondent

DES MOINES, Iowa – Less than two weeks after the first case of Theileria in Iowa was confirmed in a Van Buren County cattle herd, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship confirmed the second positive detection of the disease June 24. Both cases were in southeast Iowa.

“Theileria orientalis Ikeda is a protozoan parasite carried by the Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT),” said State Veterinarian Jeff Kaisand in a June 13 media statement after the state’s first confirmed case of Theileria.

“The parasite infects red and white blood cells, and causes bovine infectious anemia,” he added. “According to USDA records, this is the first time Theileria and the ALHT have been confirmed in Iowa. There are no approved treatments for Theileria in the United States.”

Grant Dewell, Iowa State University associate professor of veterinary medicine and beef extension veterinarian, said in a June 13 media statement, “Although the tick will be active all summer, it is common to see a surge of infestations when cattle are first introduced into a new pasture. The



**Above:** Theileria and the Asian Longhorned tick have been confirmed in Iowa for the first time. (photo courtesy of James Gathany, CDC)

presence of a preferred host generates a surge in new ticks, as females will begin to lay thousands of eggs.

“Cattle producers should closely observe cattle on pasture regularly for signs of tick infestation, especially in southern Iowa, although expect the tick to spread north this summer, particularly since many cows have been turned out to pasture recently,” he added.

He said, typically, cattle affected by Theileria will show signs of lethargy, anemia, and difficulty breathing, and may develop ventral edema, exercise intolerance, jaundice and miscarriages.

“Although signs of Theileria are similar to anaplasmosis, often younger animals and calves can have more severe signs, compared to mature cows and bulls,” he said. “Due to anemia from both tick infestation and Theileria, death loss can be elevated.”

In the first reported case of the disease, about 20 percent of cows in the 100-head herd died from it, he told The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, which reported the information June 24. However, he added it’s typically not as fatal.

He also told The Gazette the tick’s movement throughout Iowa is likely due to the movement of deer that carried the tick. However, he said he doesn’t anticipate the infection becoming too widespread throughout Iowa.

Dewell told Farm World, “Theileria can be a problem, but expect it to stay fairly localized to southern Iowa. With as much as we move livestock, we could see it spread more, but naturally, it shouldn’t spread too fast. We have seen some death loss in a few of the herds. Expect that to decrease over time as immunity increases. Enhanced tick control and making sure cattle are in good nutritional status will help them if they are exposed.

“Be aware when moving into new pastures as ticks could be waiting for new hosts, and we get a bloom of new ticks and severe infestations of cattle, which is what we have seen these last few weeks,” he added.

He said, “Producers should be regularly checking cattle on pasture, looking for increases of ticks, or cattle that are becoming lethargic because of anemia. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of those conditions.”

Dewell added, “Cattle producers should be aggressive with external



**Above:** We wish all of our readers and advertisers a happy and safe Fourth of July! Photo by Leondia Walchle

## Indiana FFA elects 2025-2026 state officer team

By **Michele F. Mihaljevich**  
Indiana Correspondent

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Indiana FFA has a new state officer team for the upcoming academic year. The seven-member group will be lead by President Kaitlyn Maruszewski, of the Tri-Central FFA chapter.

The rest of the team is Lauren Argotte, secretary, Lebanon chapter; Erianna Vela, northern region vice president, Prairie Heights chapter; Calvin Myers, southern region vice president, Bloomfield chapter; Lily Sloan, treasurer, Jennings County chapter; Jenna Lawler, reporter, Rushville chapter; and Jesus Santana, sentinel, North Miami chapter.

The officers were elected June 19

during the last day of the 96th state convention in West Lafayette.

Maruszewski has served as state Section II director and District V vice president, according to Indiana FFA. She operates ByKaitlynDesigns, which started as a small online shop on Etsy where she sold propagated houseplants, the organization said. Her business has expanded to include such products and services as plant care consultations, instructional classes on plant propagation and house calls to help clients with their plants.

Other awards and honors were handed out during the convention.

State Stars were announced in four areas: Farmer, Agricultural Placement,

( See Indiana FFA page 2)



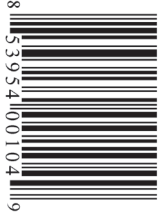
**Above:** The 2025-2026 Indiana FFA state officer team, left to right: Jesus Santana, sentinel; Jenna Lawler, reporter; Lily Sloan, treasurer; Calvin Myers, southern region vice president; Erianna Vela, northern region vice president; Lauren Argotte, secretary; and Kaitlyn Maruszewski, president. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)

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**Ohio couple sells Holsteins in order to build dairy herd in Tanzania ..... Page 1B**

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# Indiana FFA

FROM PAGE 1

Agribusiness and Agriscience. Each recipient received a \$250 scholarship. The Star Farmer is Kord Bailey, of the Central Noble FFA chapter. He has turned his passion for livestock into a thriving show goat operation, growing his herd from just a few goats to more than 70.

Emma Woodall, of the South Putnam FFA chapter, was chosen Star in Agricultural Placement. She is a skilled veterinary technician assistant and hopes to be a large animal veterinarian, according to a press release.

Maruszewski was named Star in Agribusiness. She turned her interest in welding into a thriving placement supervised agricultural experience, or SAE, gaining hands-on experience in metal fabrication and equipment repair, the release noted.

The Star in Agriscience went to Christina Caldwell, of the Connersville FFA chapter. She conducted six agriscience research projects across animal, plant, food and social sciences to better understand and improve ag-



**Above:** Christina Caldwell, Indiana FFA Star in Agriscience. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)

riculture education, the release said. Randy Barbee was the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award. The award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional service and monetary support to the Indiana FFA Foundation, FFA said in a press release. Barbee has supported the foundation for 37 years through her career at Farm Credit Mid America as the community investment manager. This initiative “strengthens rural communities and empowers the next generation of agricultural leaders,” the organization said. “Her unwavering commitment to youth development and agriculture education has made a lasting impact.” She plans to retire in July.



**Above:** Kaitlyn Maruszewski, Indiana FFA Star in Agribusiness. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)

Four people received Honorary Hoosier Degrees: Kendell Culp, Jeff Miller, and Glenn and Theresa Noll. Culp is vice president of the Indiana Farm Bureau and is a member of Indiana’s House of Representatives. He represents the 16th Congressional District and is an FFA alumnus. Miller is agricultural educator and FFA adviser at Sullivan High School. He will retire this year after 41 years in the classroom. Glenn Noll serves as chair of the Indiana FFA Ag Sales contest committee, and is a past superintendent of the National Ag Sales contest committee. Theresa Noll is the current superintendent of the national contest. Indiana FFA has more than 14,000 members in 230 chapters.



**Above:** Randy Barbee, Outstanding Service Award recipient. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)



**Above:** Emma Woodall, Indiana FFA Star in Agricultural Placement. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)

# Theileria

FROM PAGE 1

parasite control this summer. Insecticide ear tags alone are not enough to control ticks. Consider adding a back-rubber or regularly applying a pour-on during the summer. “There are some pyrethroid-based products that have a tick control label,” he said. “If you see an increase in tick infestations, an avermectin (that has anti-parasitic and insecticidal properties) pour-on may be the best

intervention.” Although Theileria and ALHT can be detrimental to cattle, there is no health risk for humans, he added. Kaisand said the best way to protect livestock is through tick control methods and proper biosecurity to prevent blood-borne spread between livestock. “Veterinarians should include Theileria among the list of differentials for livestock displaying these clinical signs,” he said. “Veterinarians should collect appropriate samples and submit them to Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (in Ames) for diagnosis.”



**Above:** Kord Bailey, Indiana FFA Star Farmer. (courtesy of Indiana FFA)

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# Ohio FFA names new state president and officer team

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

HILLSBORO, Ohio – Those residing in and around Highland County in Ohio are not surprised that Carter Boyd, a senior at Hillsboro High School and representative of the Hillsboro Great Oaks FFA chapter, was elected Ohio state FFA president. After all, this third-generation FFA member's grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins have all been active FFA participants. His aunt, the former Abby Yochum, even served as state vice president in 2003-2004.

"I can remember, going way back to our family Christmases and stuff as a kid, we'd always talk about their stories and goals and the things they did in FFA," Boyd said. "Hearing about that and their different achievements was really cool, and it's been even cooler in the past three years to kind of experience some of the similar things they did, but also kind of make my own path into that as well."

Boyd, the son of Clinton and Marcy Boyd, will be a senior at Hillsboro High School next fall. Boyd is the first Hillsboro High representative to serve in state office since Joe Heltbrand (2020-2021), although Highland County has been well represented at the state level in recent years. He is an active member of the Barnyard Bunch 4-H Club, shows cattle and serves as Junior Fair Board president. He's also a member of the National Honor Society.

"It's pretty exciting having another state officer as it's been a while since we've had one," Hillsboro FFA adviser



**Above:** On May 2, at the fifth session of the 2025 Ohio FFA State Convention, Carter Boyd was announced as the new 2025-2026 Ohio FFA state president. He is the second person from the Hillsboro Great Oaks FFA Chapter to ever serve as the Ohio State FFA president. (photo submitted)

Brian Cummings said. "Carter's put some effort in to get to this point. It was

(Ky FFA continued on page 6)

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# Corn, soybean exports up over last year

We are seeing a shift in the U.S. cash market to being more flat-price driven than futures driven. Farmers across the Corn Belt are showing little interest in marketing right now as futures are below breakeven. Buyers are now being forced to push basis for movement, creating more attractive flat price markets.

This is especially the case for the Eastern Corn Belt where basis values against July contracts are positive on both corn and soybeans. Cash bids of 50 over on corn futures and 40 over on soybean futures are not uncommon in the Eastern market, but bids are now firming in the West as well. More commercial terminals also report being out of marketable bushels which is uncommon for this time of year, and further supporting basis values.

The greatest hindrance for commodity futures right now is the lack of risk premium. Even with several areas of less than perfect crop production already noted, we do not see much urgency from end users and importers in extending coverage. Typically, when there are concerns over commodity supplies, we see more buying activity in the futures market.

One reason for the lack of risk buying in today's market is that at this time it is difficult to say total production will be less than expected, even with indications it will be. Today's trade wants proof stocks to use will tighten before buying. This is especially in corn where a considerable increase in production is expected, and a crop loss can be more easily absorbed. Another reason is uncer-



MARKET ANALYSIS  
By Karl Setzer

tain demand, especially with record crops out of South America and ongoing U.S. trade war developments.

Renewable and bio diesel fuel production for the 1st quarter of 2025 was down from the same period in 2024. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, renewable diel production averaged 170,000 barrels for the 1st quarter of 2025, a 12 percent decline from 2024. Biodiesel production averaged 70,000 barrels per day for the quarter, a 30 percent decline from 2024. Renewable diesel fuel can be used straight, while bio-diesel needs to be blended with petroleum products, normally at a 20 percent rate. Low margins are a primary reason for this decline, but so was uncertainty surrounding future bending credits that continues today.

The global group Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has updated its world economic growth forecast. The OECD now sees the global economy expanding by 2.9 percent in 2025 and 2026, down from the 3.3 percent growth in 2024. In March, the group had forecast economic growth of 3.1 percent for 2025 and 3 percent for 2026, but this has been impacted by the U.S. trade war. The U.S. economy is now forecast to expand 1.6 percent for this year and 1.5 percent for 2026, well below the 2.2 percent forecast in March.

Ukraine officials released their 2025 crop production estimate. Ukraine is expecting a total grain crop of 50.1 million metric tons, a 10 percent reduction from 2024. Corn

production is forecast at 26 mmt and wheat from 20 to 22 mmt. A lack of inputs, weather, and a loss of land to Russia are main factors for the reduction. Analysts are also forecasting a 5 percent reduction to Ukraine's oilseed production.

The Census U.S. export data for April was released with positive numbers. Corn exports in April totaled 289.36 million bu, a 21 percent increase from last year and the 2nd largest monthly volume on record. Soybean exports totaled 80 mbu, a 23 percent increase from April 2024. Soymeal exports were a record 1.35 million tons, and soy oil was a 16-year high at 159,050 tons. Wheat exports in April were a 4-year high at 80.7 mbu.

Beef exports for April totaled 273.2 million pounds, a five-year low and a 7.3 percent decline from March. Pork exports were a three-year low at 582.9 million pounds, 9.1 percent less than March's total.

The U.S. export/import market has quieted recently but remains rather consistent. We remain in a hand-to-mouth market environment where buyers are not extending coverage past a few months, and in some cases, a few weeks. Uncertain trade relations is a primary cause of this market environment, but there are other factors, including fluctuations in currency values, elevated interest rates, and uncertain consumer demand around the world.

A more consistent supply of commodities is also reducing the need to extend coverage much beyond the spot market. Between the United States, South America, and other major grain and oilseed producers, the

global supply is being nearly perpetually refilled. This shift to a global market and improved farming practices are also lowering risk of widespread production losses.

It was not surprising that the Federal Reserve opted to leave interest rates unchanged in its last meeting. The Reserve voted unanimously to hold rates from 4.25 percent to 4.5 percent. The reasons were uncertainty surrounding tariff impacts and indications for a tightening labor market. The Reserve is also showing more concern over a stagnating economy. We are still expected to see 50 basis points cut from rates prior to the end of the year, which is optimistic, but the number of members who support a cut is decreasing. The Fed also stated it is showing more concern over the U.S. economy heading into 2026.

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# Ky FFA

FROM PAGE 3

quite an honor and exciting to see that happen at state convention. He's been a very active member of our chapter. He's involved in a lot of our activities, community service and CDEs. He continues to develop his leadership qualities and mentors younger members."

During his tenure with the Hillsboro FFA, Boyd has participated in a variety of events and contests, such as livestock judging, ag sales, ag biotechnology, job interview, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, soil judging and envirothon. He said a favorite memory was competing in the state public speaking CDE contest with three other Hillsboro FFA members, as he and two teammates advanced to the national contest in Massachusetts this September.

"A lot of times elected presidents are going into college, but Carter got the privilege of being elected going into his senior year," Cummings said. "It will be a challenge to balance, but I know Carter will continue to do a lot of things with us but will do also a lot of

stuff with the state officer team. Trying to balance those things will be somewhat of a challenge, but I'm sure he'll do fine."

Boyd will travel around the state representing Ohio FFA this upcoming school year, including doing chapter visits and other public speaking events.

"I'm also really excited to just go to the different chapter visits and go give speeches for banquets and things because I just love to go up to people and talk and hear their stories and hear the things they've done. That's kind of inspirational for me, so being able to have the opportunity to talk to so many kids who are so diverse and have different goals is something I'm really looking forward to.

"The team I'm on now is really fun, too. We're a very strong group of kids that are all very involved in FFA, and great leaders, so there's a lot of ideas coming in. It's kind of fun to take everyone's ideas and shape (them) into something new that we want to do. We've had a lot of different events we've started this year or taken further."

As an example, last fall Boyd and his team hosted their Highland County Hoedown, a dance whereby they invit-

## Trump administration plans to rescind rule blocking logging on national forest lands

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The Trump administration plans to rescind a nearly quarter-century-old rule that blocked logging on national forest lands, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced on June 23.

The roadless rule adopted in the last days of Bill Clinton's presidency in 2001 long has chafed Republican lawmakers, especially in the West where national forests sprawl across vast, mountainous terrain and the logging industry has waned.

The rule impeded road construction and "responsible timber production", Rollins said at the annual meeting of the Western Governors Association.

"This move opens a new era of consistency and sustainability for our nation's forests," Rollins said.

Scientists say that worsening wildfires are driven by a combination of climate change that warms and dries out forests, less logging and decades of fire suppression that has allowed fuels to build up.

The roadless rule has affected 30% of national forest lands nationwide, or about 59 million acres, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency over the Forest Service.

State roadless-area rules in Idaho and Colorado supersede the boundaries of the 2001 roadless rule, according to the USDA, meaning not all national forest land would be affected by a rescission.

Rollins' announcement was a first step in a process to rescind the roadless rule to be followed by a formal notice in

coming weeks, the Agriculture Department said in a statement.

Selling public lands drew a mixed reception from governors at the same meeting. They expressed enthusiasm for economic development and worries about curtailing public access to shared lands.

Speaking to a panel of governors, Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum described a new "era of abundance" on public lands under President Donald Trump's administration in the development of natural resources including energy and critical minerals needed for domestic production of cellphones, computers and vehicles.

Outside the hotel entrance in downtown Santa Fe, several hundred protesters filled the street to denounce efforts that might privatize federal public lands.

Environmental groups, who want to keep restrictions on logging and road-building for places such as Alaska's Tongass National Forest, criticized the possibility of rolling back the protections.

"Any attempt to revoke it is an attack on the air and water we breathe and drink, abundant recreational opportunities which millions of people enjoy each year, havens for wildlife and critical buffers for communities threatened by increasingly severe wildfire seasons," Josh Hicks, conservation campaigns director at The Wilderness Society, said in a statement on the USDA's plans.



**Above:** The newly elected Ohio FFA State officers are, from left, Malainy Boes, Melinda Wesley, Paris Anderson, Audrey Boeshart, Isabella Nardecchia, Taylor Johnson, Abbey Garland, Henry Hoisington, Austin Manning, Ryace Boyer and Carter Boyd. (photo submitted)

ed all the Highland County FFA chapters. The money and proceeds from the event went to a member of his chapter whose stepfather was battling cancer.

What Boyd will do after his high school and FFA career is over is still undecided, but he said he hopes to go to college somewhere in Ohio for a degree in the business field. His plan is to return to Hillsboro, where he wants to help with his family businesses, The Porch and A-1 Tree Care, and continue to give back to the community he loves.

Along with Carter Boyd, this year's

officers include Vice President Henry Hoisington (Bloom-Carroll FFA), Secretary Abbey Garland (Talawanda-Butler Tech FFA), Treasurer Taylor Johnson (Evergreen FFA), Reporter Austin Manning (Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington FFA), Sentinel Malainy Boes (Upper Sandusky FFA), and five state vice president at large: Paris Anderson (Big Walnut-DACC FFA), Audrey Boeshart (Utica FFA), Ryace Boyer (Warren FFA), Isabella Nardecchia (Wayne County Career Center), and Melinda Wesley (Utica FFA).

**raham**

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# East Tennessee struggles to recover from Hurricane Helene

By Celeste Baumgartner  
Ohio Correspondent

LIMESTONE, Tenn. – When Hurricane Helene blew through East Tennessee in September 2024, it was front-page news, but it fell out of the news cycle shortly after. However, farmers are still struggling to get their land in production. They had to clear out tons of sediment, and clear downed trees. Riverbanks were gone. There is a danger of pollutants.

Leaders from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) recently toured the area to witness the clean-up efforts and identify the remaining needs. TDA has petitioned USDA's Farm Service Agency for a block grant to cover losses caused by the storm. Hurricane Helene's economic impact on Tennessee farmers and forestland owners is now estimated at \$547 million to \$1.8 billion.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) researchers, specialists, Extension agents, and students have worked alongside farmers as they rebuild. This hands-on, science-driven approach is set to bring production back to farmland while strengthening it against future floods.

"We had a lot of water that came through the Carolinas into Tennessee and with that, everything that comes with the water, other soils that were coming from other properties," said Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UTIA forage specialist. "We had thousands of acres damaged with sediments that we had to learn how to deal with. The first big challenge for farmers was to clean the area, to get rid of the trees and clear the sediment."

The hardest part was that the experts didn't know how to answer and resolve all the issues, said Dr. Emine Fidan, with UTIA's Department of Bio-



**Above:** The Tennessee Department of Agriculture visited the Miller Farm in Unicoi County to see the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. Pictured with Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher is Doug Bowman.

systems Engineering and Soil Science. They have not faced a disaster like this before and have not seen how a hurricane can impact an area. They don't have prior experience in dealing with this type of catastrophe.

"A lot of the croplands here in East Tennessee that were impacted from Helene had before been growing crops, or hay, grasses, and different types of agricultural fields," Fidan said. "But after Helene, we had so much sand and silt deposits that the crops fields were completely covered in some areas by 6 feet of just sand. So, managing that quantity of sand and sediment was the first challenge because we wanted to restore the cropland."

The sediment had completely encompassed the fields and changed the

entire landscape, Fidan said. Rivers were created in croplands and other areas where there had not been a river before. Riverbanks were destroyed. There were no trees to hold them in place.

Herbicide residue is one of the biggest challenges right now, Pedreira said. Farmers had used herbicides in pastures and those herbicides ended up in pumpkin fields. Now the pumpkins won't grow. Farmers have been replanting hay and it is short and turns yellow.

"So, we know that there is something in the soil that is not OK to grow a crop," Pedreira said. "In some fields, it is 5 percent of the field, in some it is about half of the field. Everything is a learning process as we go. The hardest

part for us as researchers is that we do not have all the answers yet."

Fidan said, "The concerns are shifting now to the contaminants. The water flooded some septic tanks and it flooded some graveyards. The water moved potential contaminants from septic tanks, and graveyards, and is leaving some of those contaminants behind on cropland."

The researchers are concerned about the growth of crops in those fields but also about the safety of tomatoes and lettuces that are harvested from those fields. They are testing the soil, water, and plant tissue, and ultimately will be testing the crops, looking for E. coli and similar things.

Pedreira noted that the sediment has developed a crust on top and seeds, even if they are blanched before, will try to germinate but cannot get through the crust. They are experimenting with mixes of seeds, large and small, to see what works.

The researchers are making sure that farmers are involved in every step of the recovery efforts. They have held field trials, workshops, and one-on-one consultations to help growers find the best way forward. On Aug. 20, 2025, UTIA will hold a field day where farmers and producers can see firsthand which strategies work best for their fields and operations.

The field day will be held in Washington County at Runion Farm, 269 Bent Rd., in Limestone, Tenn. On-site registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. EDT. The program will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A sponsored lunch will be provided. To register online go to [tiny.utk.edu/Flood](https://tiny.utk.edu/Flood).

Added Pedreira: "After we make it through this we will have the knowledge we need as a group. If we have another disaster like this, we would be prepared to handle it."

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March 2026

**Session 4 • Lansing**  
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**Session 5**  
**National Corn**  
**Growers**  
**Association**  
July 2026  
Washington, DC

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS

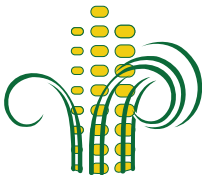
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# MARKETS

## Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

### Livestock Weighted Average Report for 6/23/2025 - Final AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 6/16/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	535	901	1,419
Feeder Cattle:	472(88.2%)	843(93.6%)	1,358(95.7%)
Slaughter Cattle:	61(11.4%)	52(5.8%)	60(4.2%)
Replacement Cattle:	2(0.4%)	6(0.7%)	1(0.1%)

Special Note:

Compared to last Monday feeder steers and heifers sold steady on good quality offerings: softer undertone on average quality offerings. Very good demand for yearling steers and heifers in a limited comparison. Slaughter cows and slaughter bulls sold steady with very good demand. Very hot weather this week with many farmers working in hay. Supply included: 88% Feeder Cattle (37% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 46% Heifers, 17% Bulls); 11% Slaughter Cattle (2% Heifers, 69% Cows, 30% Bulls); 0% Replacement Cattle (50% Stock Cows, 25% Bred Cows, 25% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 52%.

Groups of 20 head or more:

Steers

28 hd 946 lbs 279.50 Blk Fancy

46 hd 992 lbs 279.00 Rrwf-Few Blk/Charx

Heifers

85 hd 628 lbs 348.75 Blk Few Bwf Fancy

#### FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	270-290	280	412.50-417.50	415.09
4	365-385	375	392.50-399.00	396.97
1	440	440	391.00	391.00
3	400-415	405	412.50-417.00	414.04 Value Added
5	465-493	487	380.00-392.50	388.46
9	471-480	472	395.00-417.00	414.51 Value Added
5	510-545	524	368.00-377.00	371.44
7	552-592	578	354.00-366.00	362.23
7	562-580	567	377.00-390.00	386.20 Value Added
3	610-645	627	330.00-355.00	340.44
1	625	625	353.00	353.00 Fancy
1	660	660	339.00	339.00
22	681-696	690	338.00-341.00	339.21 Value Added
28	946	946	279.50	279.50 Fancy
47	965-992	991	222.00-279.00	277.82
1	1075	1075	225.00	225.00
1	1210	1210	210.00	210.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	380	380	383.00	383.00
3	450-485	462	361.00-377.50	367.66
1	525	525	285.00	285.00
1	580	580	327.50	327.50
1	650	650	317.00	317.00
1	830	830	228.00	228.00
1	930	930	241.00	241.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	875	875	167.50	167.50

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	270-295	283	375.00-382.50	378.92
1	295	295	402.00	402.00 Fancy
4	338-345	340	370.00-387.00	374.32
6	360-393	380	355.00-378.00	361.55
2	390	390	380.00	380.00 Value Added
4	405-425	413	350.00-367.00	358.45
3	410-430	422	370.00-380.00	376.76 Value Added
3	450-487	475	347.50-350.00	349.21
16	450-496	487	357.50-367.50	362.15 Value Added
4	510-545	525	327.00-335.00	330.50
21	507-540	520	340.00-364.00	358.18 Value Added
2	565-575	570	315.00-329.00	321.94
10	566-575	571	336.00-337.00	336.40 Value Added
10	611-633	619	285.00-315.00	306.46
85	628	628	348.75	348.75 Fancy
3	691	691	269.00	269.00
1	905	905	226.00	226.00 Guaranteed Open

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	325	325	325.00	325.00
5	387-395	390	300.00-340.00	319.89
1	435	435	340.00	340.00
1	520	520	280.00	280.00
1	585	585	311.00	311.00
1	645	645	260.00	260.00
2	670-680	675	257.00-260.00	258.49
1	740	740	220.00	220.00
3	765-780	773	205.00-235.00	215.56

1	825	825	202.50	202.50
1	880	880	201.00	201.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	545	545	327.00	327.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	270-280	275	400.00-430.00	415.27
7	312-327	323	412.00-427.00	422.86 Fancy
10	362-395	383	392.00-420.00	407.75
2	352	352	425.00	425.00 Fancy
3	401	401	380.00	380.00
5	455-467	461	375.00-387.50	378.46
9	463-470	465	390.00-391.00	390.78 Value Added
15	505-527	516	350.00-375.00	364.74
2	555-575	565	347.00-375.00	360.75
1	640	640	281.00	281.00
1	690	690	270.00	270.00
2	715-725	720	247.00-252.50	249.77
2	780	780	244.00	244.00
1	805	805	229.00	229.00
1	930	930	215.00	215.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	420	420	342.50	342.50
3	450-495	470	337.50-352.00	343.88
2	575	575	332.00	332.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	790	790	244.00	244.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	490	490	301.00	301.00
2	530-540	535	315.00-325.00	319.95

#### SLAUGHTER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1500	1500	190.00	190.00	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1255-1590	1423	157.00-164.00	160.09	Average
2	1215-1700	1458	170.00-175.00	172.92	High

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1080-1275	1178	169.00	169.00	Average
14	1010-1745	1349	172.00-185.00	179.10	High
5	1180-1470	1272	144.00-153.00	148.95	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
7	885-1185	1040	142.00-148.00	144.92	Average
4	855-1115	1001	159.00-174.00	168.95	High
1	1100	1100	128.00	128.00	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
10	1025-1270	1176	190.00-204.00	195.74	Average
6	1560-2035	1857	215.00-235.00	223.29	High

#### REPLACEMENT CATTLE

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	1	960	960	203.00	203.00

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	3	780-1060	960	145.00-163.00	158.13

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2	1	1230	1230	2475.00	2475.00

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2	1	1075	1075	1700.00	1700.00

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

Age	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	1	1040	1040	2525.00	2525.00
2-4	1	1115	1115	2850.00	2850.00

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

Explanatory Notes:

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

Age - Numerical representation of age in years.

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

## Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, June 20, 2025

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week slaughter lambs 50-90 lbs 15.00-20.00 lower, over 90 lbs. firm and feeder lambs not well tested and slaughter ewes weaker.

All sheep sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3

San Angelo: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 254.00 60-70 lbs 252.00-254.00; 70-80 lbs 264.00.

New Holland: 100-110 lbs 290.00; 130-140 lbs 265.00-285.00.

Billings: Choice 1-3: 40-50 lbs 247.00-252.00; 60-70 lbs 237.50-247.00; 70-80 lbs 220.00-251.00; 80-90 lbs 222.00-243.00 90-100 lbs 200.00-241.50.

Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 40-50 lbs 252.50; 60-70 lbs 222.50-242.50; 70-80 lbs 220.00-275.00; 80-90 lbs 235.00-270.00; 90-100 lbs 230.00-305.00.

Kalona: Woolled and shorn 40-50 lbs 255.00-300.00; 50-60 lbs 225.00-270.00; 60-70 lbs 220.00-260.00; 70-80 lbs 215.00-242.50; 80-90 lbs 220.00-245.00; 90-100 lbs 215.00-227.50.

Equity Coop: No test. 70-80 lbs 250.00-285.00; 80-90 lbs 260.00-305.00; 90-100 lbs 265.00-280.00.

Sioux Falls: 50-60 lbs 240.00; 60-70 lbs 200.00-232.50; 70-80 lbs 210.00-235.00; 80-90 lbs 205.00-237.50; 90-100 lbs 212.50-240.00; 100-110 lbs 210.00-225.00; 120-130 lbs 202.50-221.00; 130-140 lbs 202.50-219.00; 140-150 lbs 209.00-219.00; 150-160 lbs 191.00-202.50.

Buffalo, MO: No test.

Missouri: Woolled and shorn 50-60 lbs 245.00; 90-100 lbs 200.00; 110-120 lbs 205.00.

Arkansas: No test.

Equity Coop: No test.

Slaughter Ewes: San Angelo: Good 2-3 102.00-135.00.

New Holland: Good 2-3 100.00-157.00; Utility 1-2

Billings: 80.00-115.00; Cull 1 95.00-97.00. Good 2-3 80.00-88.50; Good 3-4 74.00-86.00.

Ft. Collins: Good 2-3 80.00-132.50; Good 4-5 80.00-135.00.

Kalona: Good 2-3 80.00-120.00; Utility 1-3 75.00-95.00.

Sioux Falls: Good 2-3 65.00-95.00; Good 4-5 60.00-90.00; Utility 1-2 60.00-85.00.

Buffalo, MO: No test.

Missouri: Good 2-3 133.00.

Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1: San Angelo: No test. Billings: 50-50 lbs 227.50; 70-80 lbs 232.50-247.00; 80-90 lbs 223.50-242.00; 90-100 lbs 213.00-232.00; 100-110 lbs 205.50-210.00; 110-120 lbs 195.00-196.00.

Sioux Falls: 30-40 lbs 255.00-260.00; 40-50 lbs 287.50-312.50; 50-55 lbs 255.00-282.50; 60-70 lbs 215.00-277.50; 70-80 lbs 233.00-248.00.

Buffalo, MO: No test.

Equity Coop: 90-100 lbs 223.50.

Missouri: 40-50 lbs 200.00.

Ft. Collins: No test.

Kalona: 30-40 lbs 270.00-285.00.

Arkansas: No test.

Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: No test. Ft. Collins: No test. South Dakota: No test. Kalona: No test. Billings: Middle aged Ewes open Medium and Large 1-2: 150-190 lbs 84.00-112.50.

Missouri: No test.

Arkansas: No test.

Buffalo, MO: No test.

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 37,000 compared to 37,000 last week and 35,646 last year.

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



<b>Contact Us:</b> 1-765-725-2552 <b>Market Report:</b> 1-765-725-2552, Ext. 2 <b>Address:</b> 10927 N. US 27, Fountain City IN 47341	Next Special Horse Sale Fri. Aug. 8 <sup>th</sup> Driving, Draft or Riding Horses & Ponies
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# Tales about the fish that got away, and more

“Lunkers, Keepers, and Ones That Got Away: Fish Tales from Four Generations of Anglers” by Jerry Apps  
c.2025, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$20, 168 pages

That thing that floats on the top of the water is very aptly named.  
It follows the waves, whether gentle or fierce, just bob-bob-bobbing with a rhythm that, if you keep your eyes on it, will drain every ounce of stress from your body. It’s almost hypnotic – that is, unless that thing bobs beneath the water and there ya go. As in “Lunkers, Keepers, and Ones That Got Away” by Jerry Apps, you’re in for some reel fun.

For as long as he can remember, Jerry Apps has loved to drown a few worms. When he was a boy in east central Wisconsin, he looked forward to the end of each summer day when, after chores were done and supper was over, his father would tell Apps to go dig some worms. Then Apps and his twin brothers would grab their cane poles and they’d all go to a nearby lake to see how the fish were biting. On a good evening, they’d come home with a few perch or a bluegill or two, or at least a good story.

That’s the thing about fishing: you never know what you’ll end the day with but it sure is fun to spend it waiting to see.

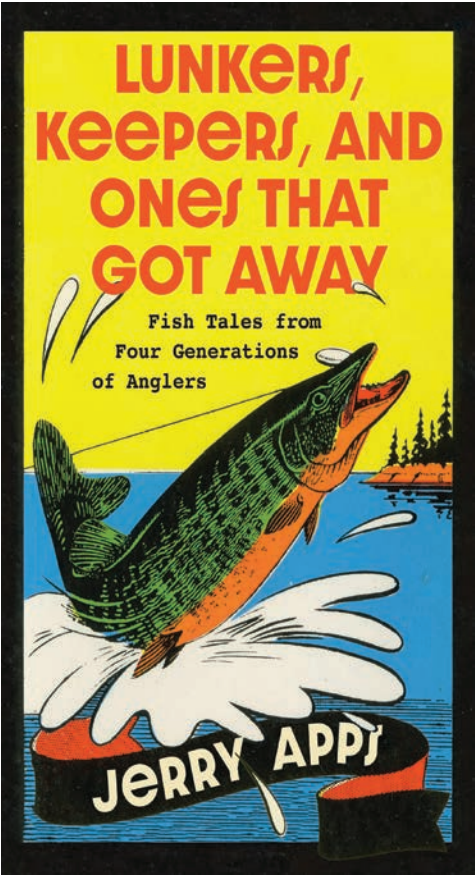
Things have changed since Apps was a boy, and that includes fishing. He used to fish with a cane pole that he got “for about a dollar,” until he learned to use fancy rods and reels and even fancier lures. He learned to fish from a canoe and how to stay upright in a cold stream wearing chest-high waders. He knows that a rusty tin can next to a rental boat means somebody will bail water at some point. He appreciates the se-



THE BOOKWORM SEZ  
Terri Schlichenmeyer

renity of sitting lakeside, leaning against a tree in front of a fire, watching ice-fishing tip-ups while it snows like crazy around you.  
And he knows that sometimes, a guy’s gonna “get skunked” but he’s still going to learn “patience and persistence, problem-solving and resourcefulness. Lessons that have lasted a lifetime.”

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# Vintage John Deere tractors sparked strong bids at Sheridan

By William Flood  
Ohio Corresponden

WILLIAMSTON, Mich. — On June 17, Sheridan Auction Service hosted the sale of the Brunger collection, featuring antique tractors, farm machinery, parts and accessories, lawn and garden equipment, power and hand tools, plus boats, trailers, and vintage outboard motors.

The five vintage John Deere tractors drew strong interest. All but one brought in four-figure bids. The highest bid of the auction, \$3,190, was paid for a well-kept 1951 John Deere BW wide-front. Close behind was a nicely preserved 1930 John Deere D, which fetched \$2,640.

Also drawing attention was a 1944 John Deere D with spoke wheels, a restorable piece that brought in \$1,870. A narrow-front John Deere B (year not identified) in decent condition sold for \$1,072.50. Interest dipped a bit for a 1949 John Deere MT narrow-front in usable but less pristine shape, which changed hands for \$797.50.

Complementing the tractors were around two dozen lots of tractor parts and accessories. Highlights included a pair of 17.5L-24 tires mounted on

rims from a Ford tractor, which earned \$577.50. Three separate John Deere hydraulic cylinders (two equipped with hoses) sold between \$121 and \$181.50. A DLTX3 carburetor kit with four floats for an Unstyled D went for \$187, while another DLTX3 carb without floats brought in \$132. Later, a pair of metal seats for an Unstyled D was picked up for \$55.

The agricultural machinery category saw steady bidding. A two-row planter with extra seed plates went for \$412.50. A vintage corn sheller pulled in \$357.50. Both a 4-section drag with a 3-point hitch and a 3-point cultivator found buyers at \$275 each. A more modern 3-bottom plow rounded out the group at \$170.50.

Other equipment lots attracted fair interest. A 6.6 by 12-foot utility trailer with a fold-down gate sold for \$1,650, while an antique 1927 Hercules hit-and-miss engine was claimed for \$440.

Much like for the tractors, farm machinery parts and accessory lots were sprinkled throughout the auction. One group of six vintage grease cups brought \$82.50. Bidding went to just \$44 on two separate lots of pressure relief valves,



**Above:** Not all the vintage tractors were pristine. This 1944 John Deere D with spoke wheels (\$1,870) was ready to restore.



**Above:** This 1951 Deere BW secured the auction's top bid of \$3,190.



**Above:** A well-preserved 1930 John Deere D was acquired for the modest sum of \$2,640.



**Above:** A vintage David Bradley garden tractor with a mower attachment bid to \$165.

while a mixed lot with belt pulleys, cultivator teeth, and various small parts went for \$33.

There was also a nice handful of lawn and garden gear. Leading this group was a home-built yard tractor that looked as if it was pieced together from old tractor parts sold for \$440. A newer tow-behind brush chipper wasn't far behind at \$412.50. A David Bradley garden tractor with a mower attachment topped out at \$165, while a Toro push mower was scooped up for \$143.

Tool buyers found a mix of hand and power tools. Two buzz saws — one complete with a blade and one without — sold for \$33 and \$27.50, respectively. A collection of S wrenches and assorted hitches was claimed for \$93.50. A modest \$33 scored an antique grinding stone with a seat.

Outdoor and recreational items added variety to the auction. A 14-foot aluminum rowboat with a trailer and an 8hp Evinrude motor was taken home for \$522.50. Bidding on the vintage outboard motors saw two Evinrudes go for \$27.50 and \$16.50, and a Johnson selling for \$16.50.

Collectibles of interest included some Deere memorabilia, like a mixed lot with three Deere bar stools and a JD branded rug brought in \$275. Another lot, which included a die-cast Deere tractor set, JD promotional items, and souvenir tableware, ended at \$115.50. Yet another lot held a Deere martin house and bird feeder, which sold for \$82.50.

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MONDAY, JULY 14TH, 6 PM - Motocross .....

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH, 6 PM - Antique Tractor .....

Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH, 7 PM - Truck & Tractor Pull .....

Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH, 7 PM - Flat Drags.....

Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 7 PM - Flat Drags .....

Grandstand: \$5, Pit Pass: \$15

4-H EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH

9:00am

Tractor Driving Contest

1:30pm

Fashion Revue Contest

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH

4:30pm

Dog Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH

1:30pm

Public Speaking Contest

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

8:00am

Horse & Pony Show and Mini 4-H Horse & Pony Show

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

8:00am

Horse & Pony Contesting

5:00pm

Country Hymn Sing

MONDAY, JULY 14TH

9:00am

Poultry Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

9:00am

Sheep Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

1:00-9:00pm

Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

2:00pm

Meat Goat Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

6:00-10:00pm

Commercial Vendors Open

8:00pm

4-H Awards Presentations

TUESDAY, JULY 15TH

9:00am

Rabbit Ambassador and Showmanship Contest (Mini 4-H to follow)

9:00am

Beef Show

11:00am-3:00pm

Ribeye Dinner (Cattlemen's Association)

4:00-7:30pm

Ribeye Dinner (Cattlemen's Association)

5:00pm

Rabbit Show

5:00pm

Talent Show

5:00-9:00pm

Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm

Commercial Vendors Open

6:30pm

Dance Revue Vicki's Studio of Dance

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH

9:00am

Swine Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

11:00am-2:00pm

Pork Chop Dinner (Knights of Columbus)

4:00-7:00pm

Pork Chop Dinner (Knights of Columbus)

5:00pm

Pet Show

5:00pm-9:00pm

Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm

Commercial Vendors Open

6:00pm

Baby Show

6:00pm

Horse & Pony Versatility Class and Awards

7:00pm

Fashion Revue Awards

8:00pm

4-H Fun Night

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH

8:00am

Dairy Goat Show (Mini 4-H to follow)

1:00pm

Dairy Cattle Show

5:00-9:00pm

Franklin County Farmers Mutual Exhibit Halls Open

6:00-10:00pm

Commercial Vendors Open

6:00-8:00pm

Tea Party with the 4-H Queen Court

7:00pm

Showman of Showmen Contest

7:00pm

Kiddie Pedal Pull

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH

5:00-9:00pm

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6:00-10:00pm

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# Farmers and ranchers must take every opportunity to make, save money

Somehow, we must at least cashflow a bare minimum of living expenses along with base operational expenses this year. The question each of us must ask ourselves is, "How?"

I was talking to a friend recently and as usual, his sage thoughts have given me so much to think about. He brought up the fact that the American farmer and rancher are among a handful of businesses in this country that produce new products (new money) every year. Think about this for just a minute. Agriculture produces new crops and livestock every year. That means crops and livestock generate new money to support the American economy. In effect, agriculture puts in excess of \$555 billion of new money annually.

According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, agriculture, food and related industries contributed roughly \$1.537 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023. To simplify this, each farm/ranch in the United States generates production that expands into \$247,903,000 economic value by the time it reaches the consumer. This number, to me, is unreal. I mean, I know that our farms and ranches receive the smallest piece of the agriculture pie with so many others taking larger and more profitable pieces, but I had no idea that the disparity was this significant.

I look at these numbers and struggle to relate. Then I try to understand why we as farmers and ranchers are tasked with accepting table scraps

55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

BY BILL WHITMAN

while the big corporations continue to make their profit margins as they sell us fertilizer, seed, herbicides, equipment, meat and poultry, satisfying their

shareholders with profits year after year. I want to suggest that these big corporations know that our tolerance has limits, which is why they continue to push mega operations. Ironically, mega farms don't produce the profit margins to satisfy investors, so they invest in real estate. What happens when they want to cash in on their real estate investment? They sell it.

So, what does understanding these numbers have to do with making money this year? All these businesses with their fingers in the pie understand our financial conditions and requirements better than we do. Most of us do things by rote. We do what we do, year in and year out, surviving by the skin of our teeth. The point though is that these businesses can't afford to let too large a percentage of farmers and ranchers fail. I feel sure that there will be a raft of subsidies available this year, maybe hitting the 3-400 percent increase forecast by some economists this spring. The point is, we need to become very familiar with what is available to us and take advantage of every opportunity to save or make money so that we can, once again, survive by the skin of our teeth.

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### Ohio couple sells Holsteins, builds dairy operation in Tanzania

By Celeste Baumgartner  
Ohio Correspondent

EATON, Ohio – Mark and Joy Yeazel recently sold their renowned Ja-Bob Holstein herd of more than 180 cows to provide funds for Mark to build a dairy for an orphanage in Tanzania. Mark has been known worldwide for his work with Red and White Holsteins. Some people thought he was crazy, but as his time for retirement came closer, his focus changed.

The Yeazels belong to the Eaton Community Church. Over the years, they have made mission trips to Romania, Haiti and Tanzania. In 2019, they learned about an atypical orphanage in Tanzania called Eternal Families. It was just getting started.

In 2023, Mark and Joy were going to Kenya where Mark was to present

three seminars with information on sick animals. They booked their tickets but then things fell apart. They were disappointed but decided to go on to Tanzania.

Eternal Families had seven families living in rented homes in what they called Village One. It was modeled after Caminul Felix in Romania, which the Yeazels had visited earlier.

“Caminul Felix’s structure is 10 homes in a village, a set of parents who would make a life-long commitment to the children and raise them as a family in an individual home,” Yeazel said. “The parents are providing home, care and emotional support. A set of parents can take on 14 children and that includes their children.”

In 2021, the church bought Eternal Families a tractor and some implements. In April 2023, the couple decided to visit, see how things were going and how they were using the things the Yeazels and the church had given them.

“By the end of the trip I felt like I was supposed to sell my herd and go build a small dairy to produce fresh milk for the children there at Eternal Families,” Yeazel said.

Added Joy: “It was pretty inspiring because as long as I have known Mark he has been a dairy farmer, known worldwide. When we got on that plane to come back and he said ‘God has called me to build a dairy and the only way I can do that is to sell the cows here on the farm,’ I knew it had to be God because he would not sell the



**Above:** The barn has a grass roof. It is a traditional building technique that helps provide natural cooling.

dairy cows since that is all he had ever known. I was very inspired and I said, ‘I think if God is calling you to do that then you definitely need to do that.’”

It was an emotional day when they sold the herd, Yeazel said.

“We sold cows to 15 states and Canada and Mexico,” Yeazel said. “I told people what I was going to do. I made it clear that this was why I was selling my cows. As I let people know that throughout our community, our church, and even through the dairy industry I was overwhelmed with people saying they wanted to help build this dairy. A lady at our sale just handed me a check for \$2,500. Other people were giving me donations before I

started asking for donations.”

In February 2024, Yeazel went on a fact-finding visit to Tanzania, to see what resources were available, where he could buy cows, equipment, and feed, where he should build the dairy and what kind of building would it be.

“We had a piece of land picked out when I went there in February,” he said. “I came home and they were supposed to get it cleared. I go back in June of 2024 to start building and they hadn’t done anything. They had removed a couple of stumps. I was so upset at them. Then, like within a week, another piece of property came

(Ohio Couple continued on page 2B)



**Above:** The Yeazels bought a four-row corn planter to make planting a bit easier. But if something breaks, they cannot easily get parts.

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## Ohio couple

FROM PAGE 1 B

up for us on the other side of our village."

It was a better property, about 10 acres, and already cleared.

"But it also started to teach me about the cultural difference; that Tanzanians are on a different time schedule than we are," he said. "They don't have a sense of urgency about much of anything."

They bought the land, plans were drawn, and a contractor came in and built a dairy barn, a heifer barn, and a hay storage area. They built a house for the herdsman and used the money

from their church to drill a well there and at the school. They had to drill down more than 700 feet.

They had to build roads and bring in electricity. They ordered some forage equipment from Kenya in June 2024. It was supposed to take 10 to 12 weeks to get there. It took seven months.

“By the time it got there my corn was too dry,” Yeazel said. “The silage we made was on the dry side although we went out into the community and found a couple of fields that were a little wetter.”

Yeazel is heading back to Tanzania soon and hopes to buy bred heifers. He was hoping to buy Holsteins but decided he might do better with Jerseys. They will be coming in a box truck, so they need a pile of dirt to unload the



## Pedal tractor powers \$2,300 bid

One June 14 Wegner Auctioneers conducted a live onsite auction for the Bott Family in St. Charles, Mich. One of the highlights was this vintage Eska Oliver pedal tractor. It was in good condition but was missing its crank. The Bott family had paid \$8 for the tractor at auction many years ago. On this day it sold for \$2,300. For more information visit [www.wegnerauctioneers.com](http://www.wegnerauctioneers.com)



**Above:** Mark Yeazel talks with one of the farm workers. He hopes to buy bred heifers on his next trip to Tanzania. He is still getting used to the cultural differences he encounters.



**Above:** At Eternal Families, a set of parents lives with 14 children, which may include some of their own. The parents make a life-long commitment.

cattle onto.

In the long-term, Yeazel hopes to provide the orphanage with a small dairy of 10 to 12 cows that will produce enough milk for the orphanage, to pay for itself, and to create a little

income.

Eternal Families is still working on a website. For information or to receive a newsletter, email Mark Yeazel at [y2kows@gmail.com](mailto:y2kows@gmail.com).



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		Engineered Truss 4' on Ctr.	Engineered Truss 4' on Ctr.

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23 John Deere 9R 440, 363 hrs.,  
Stk #01305003, \$492,500 (PL)



**By Mike Tanchevski**  
**Ohio Correspondent**

The day began with agricultural



"This year, our keynotes are local (high school) ag teachers who are working collaboratively in their schools with their elementary teachers," Smith said. "It's another way of doing bigger projects or doing different projects that the older kids can mentor the younger kids on."



(Ag in class continued on page 4B)



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# Flower strips studied to control pests in apple orchards

By Hayley Lalchand  
Ohio Correspondent

READING, United Kingdom – Perennial flower strips, or bands of land intentionally planted with a mix of flowering plants, could be a cost-effective way to control rosy apple aphid (RAA), research from the University of Reading finds.

“Our research was inspired by earlier studies showing that flower strips help pollinators thrive,” Charlotte Howard, postdoctoral research associate at the University of Reading, said via email. “That got us thinking, could they also support other beneficial insects, like natural pest predators?”

At the same time, Howard said apple growers were facing major challenges with RAA, a pest that can cause significant damage to orchards, such as leaf curling and small, deformed fruits. Although the pest can be well controlled under conventional management programs, infestations can vary with environmental factors. For example, cool, wet springs can help RAA populations increase rapidly because conditions are unfavorable for natural predators.

Even at low population levels, RAA can cause significant damage to orchards. Economic losses are estimated to be 30-80 percent if RAA is left untreated. Typical treatment includes spraying with insecticide and maintaining properly trimmed trees to make conditions less favorable for the pest.

Still, broad-spectrum insecticides can contribute to the problem by killing off natural predators of RAA, such as ladybugs and lacewings. Howard and her team were interested in investigating practical, sustainable control options for apple growers.

Previous research by Howard and

her colleagues has shown that flower strips can reduce damage by RAA by up to 32 percent in bad pest years by attracting natural predators. The team also found that in years with high pest pressure, orchards with flower strips could see profits increase by around \$4,000 per hectare, through reducing the damage done by pests. Importantly, this is one of the first studies to put real numbers to the financial benefits of flower strips, Howard added.

“That matters because farmers need to know if these practices are worth the investment, and our findings suggest they are,” she said. “Even in quieter pest years, flower strips (especially those planted around the edges on non-crop land) were a good investment and paid for themselves.”

Wildflower plots reduced the spread of RAA on infested trees, up to 50 meters away from the flower plot, and reduced the number of trees with RAA-damaged apples from 80 percent to 50 percent, reads a pamphlet Howard created for farmers. The wildflower plots were from two to six years old, sown with four low-growing fine grasses and 15 perennial wildflowers, 18 meters wide along the length of the orchard edge, and cut short once annually. Not only do these plots reduce RAA, but they also improve the diversity of beneficial predators and parasites in the orchards and do not spread weed species into the orchard.

“Our flower strips were sown with native perennial wildflowers like clover, birdsfoot trefoil, oxeye daisy, black knapweed, and dandelion, along with grasses that provide shelter in the winter,” Howard said. “The mix was carefully chosen to provide something in bloom all season long, offering consistent nectar for beneficial insects year

after year.”

Flower strips aren’t just beneficial for controlling RAA and other pests. Howard said that flower strips offer many other additional benefits, including contributing to carbon capture and supporting broader biodiversity and wildlife. The research is still ongoing, with the group working to understand how the benefits play out over time and under changing conditions. Additionally, Mike Garratt, a research professor at the University of Reading, and his group are investigating how flower strips support beneficial insects, such as natural enemies and pollinators, in tropical crops like mango and moringa.

“There’s strong evidence that flower

strips lead to benefits in many kinds of crops, not just apples. A recent large-scale study found that flower margins boost both the abundance and diversity of helpful insects in and around all sorts of fields,” Howard said. “There’s still a lot to learn about how flower strips can best serve both farmers and ecosystems.”

For farmers interested in more information about flower strips and wildflower plots, there are resources available at <https://northsearegion.eu/beespoke/guides-evaluation-tools-other-publications/establishing-perennial-wildflower-areas/>. It’s important to note that native wildflowers and plants will vary from region to region.

## Ag in Class

FROM PAGE 3B

teachers.”

Agriculture instructors Dillon Muhlenkamp from St. Marys Memorial High School, Deanna Wenning from Coldwater High School, and Sarah Heilers from Anna High School had a panel discussion on how elementary teachers could integrate agriculture programming at their grade levels.

“It was great to hear their approaches and then receive questions from the teachers,” Smith said. “It was an opportunity for them to learn how to integrate and do programming with their high school counterparts.”

Teachers were able to choose from two books based on a demonstration and a lunch activity.

J&M Manufacturing, a farm equipment manufacturer in Fort Recovery, Ohio, did a demonstration on how drones are used on the farm, and teach-

ers could choose the book: Agriculture Drones by Simon Rose.

The Pie That Molly Grew, by Sue Heavrich, a book about how a seed grows into a pumpkin, tied into the lunch activity.

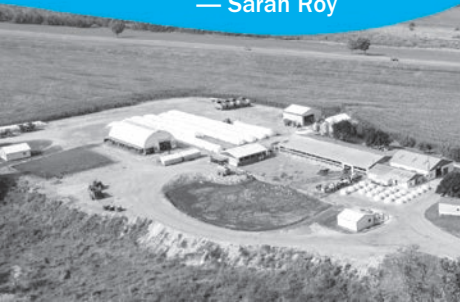
Smith solicits teacher feedback following each conference, and what teachers want most is concrete activities they can use to involve students in learning about agriculture.

“So many times educational programming revolves around someone talking to teachers all the time; however, be active just as much as their kids do,” Smith said. “If they’re experimenting, then they know how to do it when they’re doing it with their kids – we have learned to utilize the standards and use those to help them integrate programming into their everyday teaching.”

Smith has shared the Ag in the Classroom concept with Ohio’s other county farm bureaus, and she sees the opportunity for more teachers to get involved in ag literacy in the state.

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— Sarah Roy



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“Applying Udder Comfort in the pens as they’re getting ready to calve puts us ahead of the game. We spend way less money and time on treatments, have far fewer issues, and are not needing as much spray in the parlor now,” she says.

Doug lives on the farm, operating the 160-cow dairy with good employees. Sarah manages the business side, navigating the future with consumer-facing diversification.

“Udder Comfort is worth its weight in gold. In today’s world of product ads, this one lives up. Using it proactively before calving makes a noticeable difference, especially for heifers. Everything is new to them. Now they are less anxious, loosened up, and ready to go,” she says.

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# Bull nettles may be difficult to gather; but make excellent greens

Wild foragers' love affair with the morel mushroom may be over until next year, but nature's goodness is still out there for the gathering.

There is one wild edible growing in abundance, is readily available, and it is guaranteed no one will challenge you or try to run you out of your "hot spot."

I'm talking about the bull nettle. You should remember it as a kid... it was the unsuspecting weed you rubbed up against setting your skin on fire! The only way to stop the burning was to flush the area with water. The plants leaves and stems are covered in ultra-fine barbs which pierce the skin and cause an intense burning sensation.

The well-kept secret is the plant makes excellent greens but must be boiled prior to consumption.

When gathering the plants, pick only the stems and leaves from the youngest plants or just the tops of mature plants. Gloves, a long-sleeved shirt and heavy pants are a must when gathering nettles.

After picking, rinse the greens to re-

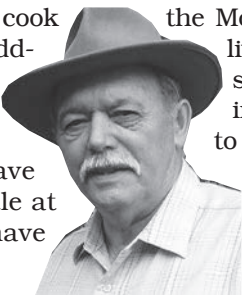
move any dirt or insects. Then cook the greens by boiling before adding to soups, or just adding bits of smoked bacon and onion to make excellent greens.

As with any wild food you have never tried, start with just a little at first to make sure you don't have an allergy.

Make sure the nettles are thoroughly cooked. I boil and drain mine a couple of times before adding the smoked bacon and onion.

**Monon South Trail segments open**  
On June 20, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Radius Indiana celebrated the opening of two segments of the Monon South Trail. The trail segment in Campbellsburg and Saltillo totals 3.53 miles, with 0.59 miles asphalt pavement and 2.94 miles of crushed stone surface. In New Pekin, 1.39 miles of asphalt pavement and 3.9 miles of crushed stone surface were opened for a total of 5.29 miles.

"With the completion of Phase 1A of



SPAULDING OUTDOORS  
By Jack Spaulding

the Monon South Trail, Hoosiers living across this region of southern Indiana gain an incredible new connection to the outdoors, neighboring communities, and to one another," said Mad-dy Conner, DNR chief of staff. "DNR was proud to support the acquisition of this rails-to-trails corridor and the first phase of trail construction of the Monon South, which will eventually become Indiana's longest recreational trail."

Together with previous openings in Mitchell, Orleans, Borden and Salem, the Monon South Trail now has 20 miles of trail open to the public. The recent openings complete Phase 1A of construction on the Monon South corridor by Radius Indiana.

With dedicated state funding support, Indiana's DNR purchased the 62.3-mile Monon South corridor on behalf of New Albany and Radius Indiana for the combined sum of \$5.5 million. DNR granted Radius an additional \$22.3 million to support Phase 1A development, offering Hoosiers and visitors more than 20 miles of hard-surface trail along the historic former Monon Railroad rail line.

## Off-road accident claims the life of Madison woman

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a fatal off-road vehicle (ORV) accident occurring on June 21 in the Hanover area.

At 9:30 p.m., responders were dispatched to the 5200 block of South River Bottom Road. Upon arrival, an officer determined Charles Howell, 75, of Hanover, was operating the ORV with three passengers when they ran off the road, causing the ORV to roll multiple

times down a hill. Charles Howell and Jacquelyn Howell, 74, of Hanover were flown to the University of Louisville Hospital in serious condition. Donald McAlister, 55, of Madison, was transported to King's Daughters Hospital with minor injuries. Paula McAlister, 56, of Madison, was pronounced dead at the scene and an autopsy was scheduled to determine the cause of death.

The incident is under investigation. Alcohol is not suspected of contributing to the accident, but a toxicology test has been requested. None of the occupants were wearing a seatbelt or helmet at the time of the accident.

## Body recovered from West Boggs Lake

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating after recovering the body of a man from West Boggs Lake on June 21.

At 6:55 p.m., conservation officers were dispatched to the area for a person going under water and not resurfacing.

Indiana Conservation Officer divers arrived on scene and recovered the body of Mitchell L. Worland, 33, of Washington, at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Indiana Conservation Officers remind the public to always wear a life jacket when on or around the water.

'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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Above: Bull nettles may be prickly to gather, but you can eat them.

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**Parcel 1:** A solid 2-story farmhouse on 5.2 acres, featuring 2 bedrooms and 1 full bath. While it could use some updating, the home has strong bones and classic charm—offering great potential for someone ready to make it their own.

This parcel includes multiple outbuildings: a 40x62 bank barn, 24x40 outbuilding, 16x18 detached garage, 16x22 outbuilding, and a 13x18 utility shed—perfect for hobby farming, livestock, or extra storage.

Whether you're starting a mini farm, restoring a classic farmhouse, or looking for space to spread out, this property offers a versatile and valuable opportunity.

**Parcel 2:** 10 acres, roughly half wooded and half tillable. A picturesque setting perfect for building your dream home with enough acreage for a

hobby farm or outdoor recreation.

**Parcel 3:** 53 acres—tillable ground at the front with the majority in mature woods. Ideal for a home site with room to roam, and excellent hunting opportunities right out your back door. Whether you're a deer hunter or nature enthusiast, this parcel offers seclusion, beauty, and utility.

**Parcel 4:** 40 acres of all tillable ground. Gently rolling terrain makes it great for farming or investment. Well-located and a strong addition to any agricultural operation.

**Parcel 5:** 42 acres, predominately tillable. Pairs exceptionally well with Parcel 4 for those looking to expand their row crop acreage or establish a small farmstead.

**Parcel 6:** 26 acres featuring both open tillable ground and wooded areas. Includes a 24x48 and a 36x48 outbuilding, offering endless use options. A secluded, scenic site that's perfect for building, farming, hunting, or a combination of all three.

**Parcel 7:** 2.7 acres—a manageable and inviting building lot that offers both woods and open ground in a great location.

**Parcel 8:** 9 acres—mostly tillable with a touch of woods. A perfect setting for your future home with the flexibility of open space and privacy.

**Parcel 9 & 10:** 5.5 acre lots, all open and ideal for building. A blank canvas in a peaceful country setting.

**Parcel 11:** 6 acres, open and buildable—perfect for anyone looking for a modest amount of land in the country.

**Parcel 12:** 18 acres featuring open tillable fields in the front and mature wooded acres in the back. A dream setting for a home with scenic views, hunting potential, and income-producing ground.

This one-of-a-kind auction has something for everyone—whether you're a farmer, hunter, investor, or someone looking for the perfect country property to build your forever home. From rolling tillable fields and mature hardwoods to buildable lots and an existing farmhouse with outbuildings, every parcel offers its own unique opportunity. Buy one, a few, or all twelve parcels and turn your dreams into reality. With location, land diversity, and long-term potential, this is a rare chance to own a piece of the countryside that truly has it all.

**Open House:** The home will be open for inspection Thursday, June 26th 5:00-6:30PM. Private showings available through Jon Mast, 330-763-3883. Pick up a brochure and walk the land at your leisure.

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# International Harvester introduced first lawn and garden tractor

**Some Tractor Design progress: 1960-1995**

1960 - International Harvester announced the Cub Cadet as the first lawn & garden tractor from a major tractor manufacturer

1977 - Versatile150, the first bi-directional tractor with a full-time hydrostatic drive to all 4 wheels with automated steering

1986 - Massey Ferguson introduces the first electronic lift control (ELC) 3-point hitch as standard equipment on their tractors

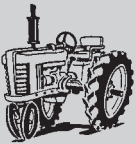
1987 - Caterpillar introduces “Mobil-Trac” rubber track system on Challenger

1991 - JCB introduces high road speed equal-size tire tractor capable of 35 MPH road speeds

1995 - Fendt announces VARIO CVT (continuously variable transmission)

ALL ABOUT TRACTORS

BY PAUL WALLEM



tractor terminology)

**Virtual fencing**

Granted, this is a tractor column, but this innovation is so interesting I want to tell you about it. The story comes from Farmweek following a recent grazing conference.

Similar to virtual pet fencing, each cow gets a GPS-tracked neckband that runs off a cellular system. The operator creates virtual boundaries from a cell phone. When a cow gets too close to the boundary, the neckband pulses, alerting the animal to stop. If it happens to stray outside the established boundary, the shocks will cease, and the animal can return to the herd.

Calves don't wander far from their

mothers, so they do not need neckbands. The solar-powered neckbands are expected to have a life of seven-eight years. This system can be especially useful for rotational grazing and short-term grazing acreage rental.

**International Harvester dividends**

Excessive dividends to IH shareholders were in the financial news long before the IH breakup in 1985.

Although the line of equipment had been in existence for much longer, the company known as International Harvester was formed in 1902 through the merger of McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. and Deering Harvester Co.

After reviewing the new company's first annual reports from 1903 to 1912, evidence suggests that the pattern of excessive dividends began then. The average dividend payout for those 10 years as a percent of net earnings was 51.5 percent.

High dividend payouts continued for many years. During the Great Depression, the profit margin for IH averaged 9.7 percent. For the same period, John Deere averaged 18.5. During the period from 1956 to 1960, when Deere surpassed IH in total farm equipment sales, IH retained a profit margin of 3.8, versus Deere's profit margin of 7.2. Following that period, IH was never again first in annual sales.

The high dividends were great for shareholders but ultimately fatal in the long term for IH. Funds were not available without borrowing for plant modernization, updated production lines, and a strong level of research and development.

**A brand of the past**

The main tractor on our dairy farm was an Allis Chalmers WC. It was a popular 23 HP tractor built from 1933 to

1938. It became the largest-selling model Allis ever built. Another popular model during that period was the WD, built from 1933 to 1948, with an additional 5 horsepower (28).

Allis Chalmers had many strong years in its later years. The D-series did well. During the 1980s, divestiture changed the firm and ultimately led to its dissolution. The farm equipment line was sold to K-H-D (Deutz). The tractor line was then sold to AGCO, who closed the brand in 2011.

Allis Chalmers Energy, Inc. continues to this day as an American, Houston-based oil company.

**Cat's 100th birthday**

Well before 1900, Benjamin Holt and C.L. Best each pursued their vision of a better way to farm. In 1925, they combined their ideas to form the Caterpillar Tractor Co.

One hundred years later, they pioneered farm crawler tractors and became the world leader in construction and mining equipment, off-highway diesel engines, diesel-electric locomotives, and other related products. In 2022, their global headquarters moved to Irving, Texas.

This week's Burma-Shave from the past - "It's Best for One who hits the bottle

To let Another use the Throttle."

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



Above: The Allis Chalmers WC became the largest-selling model built by Allis.

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# Milk output is up from a year ago for the fifth straight month

U.S. dairy farmers are putting the pedal to the medal in milk production as low feed costs and good milk and beef returns provide incentive for expansion. Milk output surpassed that of a year ago for the fifth month in a row in May.

The Agriculture Department's latest Milk Production report shows output hit 19.930 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from May 2024. The top 24 state total, at 19.137 billion pounds, was up 1.7 percent. The April 50-state total was revised up 15 million pounds, up 1.6 percent from April 2024, instead of the 1.5 percent originally reported. The 24-state total was raised by 17 million pounds, up 1.7 percent, instead of 1.6 percent.

Component adjusted production was up 3.0 percent, according to StoneX, and has been 3.0 percent or higher in three of the last four months. They believe it will remain above 3.0 percent through June and possibly July.

May cow numbers totaled 9.445 million, up 5,000 head from April and 114,000 or 1.2 percent more than a year ago. The April count was revised up 15,000 head. The 24-state count, at 9.004 million, was up 6,000 from April and 118,000 or 1.3 percent above a year ago. The April count was revised up 15,000 head. The U.S. dairy herd has grown 121,000 head in the last 11 months.

May output per cow in the 50 states averaged 2,110 pounds, up 7 pounds or 0.3 percent from a year ago, and averaged 2,125 pounds, up 7 pounds or 0.3 percent in the 24-state data. April's output was revised down 2 pounds in both.

California, still recovering from bird flu, saw its milk output down 64 million pounds or 1.8 percent from a year ago, and down for the eighth month in a row. Cow numbers were up 2,000 head but output per cow was down 40 pounds.

Wisconsin output was down 3 million pounds or 0.1 percent, due to a 7,000-cow drop. Output per cow was up 10 pounds. Idaho boosted output 87 million pounds or 6.0 percent, thanks to 31,000 more cows and a 30 pound gain per cow.

Kansas again scored the biggest percentage increase, up 15.7 percent, thanks to 26,000 more cows

milked, and a 10-pound-gain per cow. Michigan was up 3.2 percent on 9,000 more cows and a 25-pound-gain per cow. Minnesota was off 0.4 percent, on a loss of 5,000 cows, though output per cow was up 15 pounds.

New Mexico was up 0.2 percent on 1,000 additional cows but output per cow was down 5 pounds. New York was up 1.3 percent on 8,000 more cows, though output per cow was unchanged.

Oregon was down 2.3 percent on 2,000 fewer cows and a 10-pound drop per cow. Pennsylvania was unchanged, with a 5-pound-gain per cow offsetting the loss of 1,000 cows. South Dakota was up 9.5 percent, thanks to 18,000 more cows and a 20-pound-gain per cow.

Texans put an additional 128 million pounds of milk in the tank than a year ago, up 8.9 percent, thanks to 45,000 more cows and a 40-pound-gain per cow.

Vermont was up 0.5 percent, thanks to a 30-pound-gain per cow offsetting the loss of 1,000 cows. Washington State was down 3.3 percent, on a drop of 10,000 cows. Output per cow was up 10 pounds from a year ago.

Cow numbers are behind the growing milk output, says Corey Geiger, lead dairy economist at CoBank. Speaking in the June 30 Dairy Radio Now broadcast, Geiger said cow numbers have increased 114,000 head the past 12 months and in the past five months, farmers have added 90,000 head. He adds that butterfat and protein content has doubled the growth of milk production.

The big question is where are the heifers coming from considering the beef on dairy movement in genetic breeding programs, which has resulted in dairy heifers being at their lowest level in 20 years. Geiger says USDA reports average prices at \$2,900 but he has seen 2-year-old cows bring \$4,000 at auction.

Furthermore, farmers are culling less, as numbers were down 98,000 head.

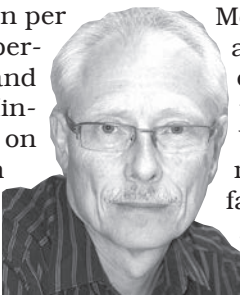
Speaking of beef, Texas became the seventh state to ban lab-grown meat and joins Indiana, Nebraska,

Montana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Jack Hubbard, executive director of the Center for the Environment and Welfare, says, "The lab-grown meat sector will continue to face headwinds as consumers and lawmakers learn more about the lack of long-term health studies and use of 'immortalized cells.' We are seeing a bipartisan consumer movement against the experimental product that is gaining more and more momentum."

Checking the fields, the latest Crop Progress report shows 97 percent of the U.S. corn crop emerged, as of the week ending June 22, up from 94 percent the previous week, 1 percent above a year ago, and 1 percent behind the five-year average. Seventy percent was rated good to excellent, down 2 percent from the previous week, and 1 percent behind a year ago.

Soybeans were 96 percent planted, up from 93 percent the previous week, dead even with a year ago, and 1 percent behind the five-year average. Ninety percent had emerged, up from 84 percent the previous week, 1 percent ahead of a year ago, and squares with the average. 66 percent were rated good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week, but 1 percent behind a year ago.

Last weekend saw bombs dropping on Iran and a different kind of heat in much of the Central U.S. and moving east. This could impact milk production in those regions, depending on how long it lasts. The entry of the U.S. into the Israel-Iran war could impact



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY  
By Lee Mielke

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# Michigan farmer to become first vice president of NCGA

By Stan Maddux  
Indiana Correspondent

APPLEGATE, Mich. – A Michigan farmer said he never expected to move so high up the ladder when first elected to a decision-making position with the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Matt Frostic, 50, will become first vice president of NCGA's executive board starting Oct. 1.

Following standard procedure, Frostic will move up to president of the governing body a year later, and then serve as chairman for 12 months before NCGA retires him from the organization.

Frostic is nearing the end of his first three-year term on the regular 15 member NCGA board after holding positions for more than decade with the Michigan Corn Growers Association.

He was elected to his first term on the board in a vote by over 120 delegates from the 27 states NCGA serves

during the group's annual convention in Washington, D.C.

"When first elected to this, I never thought I'd be in a leadership position with this type of board," he said.

He was going to run for a second and final three-year term until his colleagues on the board chose him to serve on the executive panel.

"It's exciting. It's kind of humbling that the board has that type of confidence in me to lead," he said.

Frostic, with help from his family, raises corn, soybeans, edible beans and sugar beets on 1,000 acres near Applegate in the east-central part of the state. The fifth-generation farmer also has 550 head of beef cattle.

Frostic said he plans to adhere to the NCGA's current strategic plan, which includes strong focus on increasing demand from having aviation fuel produced with corn along with retention and expansion of current markets for ethanol blended gasoline.

The plan also calls for discovering new markets, in general, for corn domestically and in other countries.

"Every year, we grow more and more bushels of corn per acre and we got to find markets for those," he said.

Another priority is increasing the amount of plastics made with corn as a key ingredient instead of petroleum.

"We're starting to get some of that in production, but it takes time," he said.

Frostic also emphasized the importance of free trade and keeping the markets stable and competitive.

He also plans to continue with traditional efforts to protect the industry against harmful regulations and educating members of Congress before decisions are made on the next Farm Bill and other matters such as energy policy.

"There's a lot of challenges we want to hit the marks on," he said.

Frostic has a degree in public administration from Oakland University outside Detroit, but after he graduated, he realized farming was still in his blood.

He returned to work at his father's farm and later took over and noticeably grew the operation.

In recent years, he's relied more on other members of his family to keep the farm running since his NCGA position requires heavy travel to address matters related to agriculture.

His daughter, Katelyn, takes care of the livestock while her twin sister, Gabrielle, an agronomist, works out in the fields.

Frostic said their husbands also help whenever they can.

"It's a committee effort and we seem to work through all of the ins and outs of farming and things get done," he said.

Frostic said being away so much has also provided his daughters with the opportunity to learn and become more prepared to take over the operation someday.

"For me, it's a way of letting go and allowing them to do their thing," he said.

Once his time with NCGA is over, Frostic said he has no problem with returning to the farm on a full-time basis, but he prefers to wait and see where the road takes him next.

"I take life one day at a time. Enjoy every day and every experience and try and do the best job I can in the position that we're put in," he said.

**Above:** Matt Frostic, a farmer from Michigan, was chosen to become the next first vice president of the National Corn Growers Association.

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# Kentucky dairy team excels at national event, moves onto Scotland

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

TAYLORSVILLE, Ky. – Kentucky is well known for college basketball championships, but a very different kind of team is well on its way to a dynasty.

The dairy judging team from Spencer County High School (SCHS) in Taylorsville has earned a strong reputation at both state and national levels in dairy judging. And they finished atop the national field once again, capturing the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event for the 11th time. The event was in October in Louisville, Ky.

Members of the team included Even Waller (seventh high individual), Greyson Humes (sixth high individual), Scarletann Williams (fourth high individual), Hunter King (second high individual) and Seth Monroe.

“We’ve won the national contest 11 times, but have won at the state level probably the last 20 years, except for one year.” said Bland Baird, a retired agriculture teachers and longtime coach of the team. Baird has been mentoring students for 20 years.

“By winning the state competition, you are qualified to participate in the nationals,” Baird added.

Victories at the national level open doors to international opportunities, including the prestigious Royal Highland Show in Edinburg, Scotland. The team has already claimed the top spot there on two occasions.

“This year will be the 10th year that we have participated in Scotland,” Baird said.

The school team left for Scotland on June 18, competed for two days, then began a two-week tour of Scotland.

Surprisingly, none of the current team members of the dairy judging team were raised on dairy farms. The students gained knowledge they needed from Baird’s guidance and hands-on experiences in the field.

“When I was in middle school I had an ag teacher, Rachel Cyber, who was on one of Mr. Baird’s former teams,” said Williams, the chapter’s outgoing secretary. “When I got into high school, I knew I wanted to be a part of it just of it just because of the influence she had on my life. I developed the feeling of family since working with this team.”

Waller, the chapter’s outgoing sentinel, said, “Spencer County is synonymous with dairy judging and FFA. “I’ve heard about this competitive team my entire life. I’ve had to cram a lot of information over the past several months, starting out knowing absolutely nothing about a dairy cow to knowing enough to be on the national stage. I don’t think we could

have done it without the leadership of people like our coach.”

Seth Monroe, the chapter’s recently chosen president, had a slight advantage over his teammates since his mother and grandparents operated a large dairy in Jefferson County. However, he admitted he did not grow up around dairy cows.

“I guess dairy judging is in my blood since my mother had won a national 4-H dairy competition,” Monroe said.

Monroe called this team a real “family” and an experience he will remember the rest of his life. He also said the experience taught him how to work well together.

Outgoing president King said he’s been involved in competitions he entire life, but credits coach Baird for pushing him past his limits.

“I grew up on a cattle farm, but judging dairy cows is completely different,” King said. “But I knew how successful the dairy judging teams have been, and if I wanted to be a part of a nationally known team, it would be on this team.”

And King added, it didn’t come easy. “It took a lot of hard work and we put in that extra work. Mr. Baird gave us that extra drive to succeed.”

Humes, the chapter’s outgoing treasurer, was encouraged to get involved in agriculture education and the dairy team by his father, a former agriculture teacher.

“I was fortunate to be involved as an alternate for FFA the past two years and got to go with the All-American Team to competition in Pennsylvania,” Humes said. “So, I knew that being on this dairy judging team there was a good chance of winning a national competition. It has felt amazing to be able to accomplish something that not a lot of people in our chapters say that they’ve accomplished before.”

Preparation for competitions began last January, with the team meeting four times a week. Throughout the season, they competed in numerous events to sharpen their abilities. Baird, who began his teaching career in 1978, noted that this will be his final trip as the team’s coach.

Spencer County FFA also placed seventh in the nation in the Nursery Career Development Event. Team members included Haley Goodlett, Tegan Buckman, Madilyn Hood and Sierra Martin. Goodlett ranked ninth place in individual competition in the event.



Above: Proudly displaying their FFA state title banner are, from left: Hunter King, Seth Monroe, Scarletann Williams, Evan Waller, Greyson Humes and team coach Bland Baird. (photo courtesy Kentucky Farm Bureau)

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# Mulberry Pie Moon reaches full moon July 11

I hear the wild bee wind his horn,  
The bird swings on the ripened wheat  
The long green lances of the corn  
Are tilting in the winds of morn,  
The locust shrills his song of heat.  
– John Greenleaf Whittier

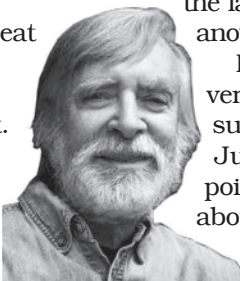
### The Phases of the Mulberry Pie Moon

and the Raspberry Pie Moon  
The Mulberry Pie Moon:  
Second Quarter: July 2  
Full Moon: July 11  
Final Quarter: July 17  
The Raspberry Pie Moon:  
New: July 24

### The Time of Aphelion and the Longest Days

The sun reached its highest position in the sky, a declination of 23 degrees - 26 minutes, on June 19. It remained at that height through June 23, and on the following day it began to fall a fraction of a degree every 24 hours. The effect was not measurable on sunrise/sunset charts until the 26th when the night grew by a minute for the first time since the middle of December.

Since that late-June change, sunset has remained steady at about 8:10. This week, however, sunset finally gives way and loses its first minute since Dec. 2. Sunrise became three minutes later in



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK  
By Bill Felker

the last days of June, and loses another five minutes this week.

In the middle of those reversals in the fortunes of summer, the first days of July bring aphelion, the point at which the Earth is about 153 million kilometers (its greatest distance) from the sun. Aphelion occurs almost exactly six months from perihelion, Earth's position closest to the sun (about 148 million kilometers). The first week of July is the reverse of the first week of the new year, and as the ripening of Deep Summer intensifies, the other side of time begins its passage to winter.

The sky of aphelion reflects this parallel universe of circular time. At noon, the stars over the United States are the stars of perihelion midnight: Orion due south, the Pleiades overhead. On the clearest July afternoons, January's Sirius is visible in the southeast. The Big Dipper lies in the northeast, Cepheus in the northwest. Leo is rising, Pegasus is setting.

On the other hand, this week's night sky is the day sky of Middle Winter. The teapot-like star formation of Libra lies in the south, followed by Scorpius and its red center, Antares. Sagittarius,

the Archer, follows the Scorpion in the southeast. Above the Archer, the Milky Way sweeps up toward Cassiopeia in the north.

### July Phenology

When the foliage of multiflora roses is yellowing, then poisonous white snake-root is budding in and around the woodlots. When wild grapes ripen, then the dry onion harvest begins.

When the green fruit of the Osage orange is big and fat enough to come down in thunderstorm winds, then swallows congregate on the high wires, resting on their way south.

When Joe Pye weed sends out its purple flowers in the wetlands, then farmers are preparing for August seeding of alfalfa, smooth brome grass, orchard grass, tall fescue, red clover and timothy.

When late crickets start to chant, then a few Judas maples produce red and orange foliage, telling farmers to finish the cutting of winter grains.

When seedpods are fully formed on the trumpet creepers and green berries on the poison ivy, and when white vervain blossoms reach the end of their spikes, then katydids start shouting "katy-did" after dark.

When ragweed comes into bloom, then a few cottonwoods are turning pale with age.

When black walnut leaves start to fall, then Deep Summer is coming to an end, blue-winged teal and meadowlarks have begun their southward migration, and pokeweed berries darken.

### Estimated Pollen Count

(On a scale of 0-700 grains per cubic meter)

Most of the pollen in the air this month continues to come from grasses.

July 10: 15  
July 20: 20  
July 25: 25  
July 30: 35

### Estimated Mold Count

(On a scale of 0-7,000 grains per cubic meter)

Average mold counts for this month increase as heat intensifies; they then decline slightly as the days grow shorter.

July 10: 3,400  
July 20: 5,600  
July 25: 5,400  
July 30: 4,000

### Natural Calendar

Timothy is bearded with seeds, and rose of Sharon comes into bloom. Autumn's bird migrations begin as the rough-winged swallow flies south. The summer apple harvest, wheat harvest and the summer potato harvest are all underway throughout the country. Almost all the lilies are in bloom. The bright yellow primroses and spring daisies are gone. The shade-loving cohosh has its berries. The Corn Tassel Rains are gathering to the west, and days suitable for field and garden work often drop to two and a half or three out of seven. Sirius, the Dog Star lies centered in the southern sky at noon.

Purple Loosestrife Season, Queen Anne's Lace Season, Purple Coneflower Season, Wild Petunia Season, Bouncing Bets Season, Blue Dayflower Season, Sow Thistle Season, White Vervain Season, Dogbane Season, Black-Eyed Susan Season, Leatherflower Season, Germander Season, Pokeweed Season, St. John's Wort Season, Teasel Season and Wild Lettuce Season dominate the fields. In the shade of the canopy, July is the time of Wood Mint Season, Wood Nettle Season, Leafcup Season, Touch-Me-Not Season, Lopseed Season and Avens Season.

### Almanack Literature

It's Got Me!  
By Charlotte Eikenberry  
"A relative of mine," recalls Charlotte, "took her small brother to the outhouse. She helped him sit on the seat, then waited outside for him to finish."

"Lo and behold, he started yelling and crying at the top of his voice, 'It's got me! It's got me! Get me out of here!'"

"She rushed inside and tried to lift him off the seat, but couldn't as he was hurting."

"She then ran into the house and called to her mother: 'Come quick and help me get him off the toilet seat!'"

"They both ran to the outhouse while the brother was still crying and yelling: 'It's got me! It's got me! Get me out of here!'"

"His sister went into the outhouse to soothe her brother, and the mother went to the back of the outhouse and discovered that a chicken was under the toilet seat and had hold of the brother's underside. His mother really whammed the chicken until it let loose."

"The incident scared the mother and the sister as much as the small brother."

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# Michigan confirms first Asian longhorned tick in the state

By Stan Maddux  
Indiana Correspondent

LANISING, Mich. – Cattle producers and other livestock owners in Michigan are urged to keep closer watch of their animals since the discovery of the first Asian longhorned tick (ALHT) in the state.

According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the blood sucking tick native to eastern Asia was confirmed June 11 from test results of specimens collected at Grand Mere State Park in Berrien County near Stevensville.

ALHT was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2017 in New Jersey. It has spread to more than 20 other states in the eastern part of the nation, including some in the Midwest like Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The concern about the potential impact on the health of animals, particularly cattle, is over the ability of this species of ticks to grow rapidly in population and totally infest an animal.

Female ALHT's can produce without a mate and lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time, MDARD said.

Large infestations of the tick have been known to form on an animal, causing stress, reduced growth and production along with death from blood loss.

Even though the ALHT is not known to carry Lyme Disease, the species can cause tickborne diseases affecting humans and animals, according to MDARD.

"By knowing this species of tick is in our state, we will increase our

educational outreach to producers, animal owners and animal health professionals so we can all do our part to safeguard animal and public health, said State Veterinarian Dr. Nora Wineland.

The discovery in the far southwest corner of Michigan was through routine tick surveillance efforts by research students at Calvin University, who have been studying the ecology and distribution of ticks in western Michigan since 2020, said William Miller, assistant professor of biology at the college in Grand Rapids.

Miller, who's also a certified wildlife biologist, said future monitoring of the tick will be ongoing.

"Since the longhorn tick is an agricultural pest of concern, our research team is continuing surveillance in the region to identify the potential distribution of the species, which will help to define the risk it poses to livestock," he said.

According to MDARD, tracking of the tick will also occur now in other parts of the state with help from academic partners, local health departments and other state and federal agencies.

Female ALHT's are about the size of a sesame seed or smaller, are light brown in color and can grow to about the size of a pea when full of blood.

However, they can be mistaken for other tick species, MDARD said. ALHT's have also been found on other animals such as goats, sheep, horses, chickens, dogs and cats.

The ticks collected in other parts of the country have been found to carry a pathogen that causes bovine theileriosis.

According to USDA, signs of bovine theileriosis infection range from weakness, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing to reduced milk production and abortion. MDARD is recommending livestock and owners of other animals to contact their veterinarians about performing regular tick treatments.

Other preventative measures include checking for ticks around the eyes, ears, limbs, tail and toes. Any ticks should be removed as quickly as possible.

According to MDARD, owners should also keep tall grass in pastures and lawns trimmed back or mowed along buildings and property edges.

Property owners are also advised to remove brush and leaves from the ground and create mulch barriers to help make spaces tick safe.

People finding an unusual-looking tick on an animal or a tick they suspect might be an ALHT should send it to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for identification, according to MDARD.

For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard)



Above: The first Asian longhorn tick has been found in Michigan.



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**PROPERTY LOCATION:** 1778 E. 1100 S., Clinton, IN 47842

**PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE:** Thursday, August 7, 2025, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

**OWNERS:** Rick and Christa Beard, and Michael Beard



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**SAT., JULY 12TH, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.**  
383 Georgetown-Verona Rd., WEST MANCHESTER, OHIO  
Preble County, Monroe Township, National Trail Schools  
Bidding open now for pre-bidding-all pre-bids will be used during the live portion of the auction.  
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**AUCTION LOCATION:** At Der Dutchman Banquet Center, 445 S. Jefferson Ave. (Rt. 42), Plain City, OH.  
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Online Only July Auctions

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THE WENDT GROUP

AUCTION OPENS: TUES, JULY 8TH, 2025 AT 12 NOON

Begins to Close: Wed, July 8th at 12 Noon

with staggered closing

FOUND on the FARM

AUCTION OPENS: WED, JULY 9TH, 2025 AT 12 NOON

Begins to Close: Thurs, July 10th at 12 Noon

with staggered closing



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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
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Cost of July 4th cookout is up in Indiana but down nationwide

By Michele F. Mihaljevich  
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – Hoosiers paid 5 percent more this year than they did in 2024 for the fixings for a July 4th cookout for 10 people, according to the Indiana Farm Bureau (INFB).

This year's average price for 12 items was \$71.49, up from \$68.33 last year, the organization said in a release. INFB's grocery list consisted of ground beef, cheese, cookies, ice cream, strawberries, chips, chicken breast, pork chops, pork and beans, hamburger buns, lemonade and potato salad.

Nationwide, an American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) survey found the same 12 items were \$70.92, down 30 cents from last year's record-high cost. The cost for the items in 2023 was \$67.73.

Regionally, the Midwest – including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio – paid \$69.87 this year, up from \$68.26 in 2024, AFBF said. In the south – including Kentucky and Tennessee – the cost was \$68.93, up 60 cents from last year. The most expensive region was the west at \$73.50, down \$7.38 from 2024.

"Inflation is slowing slightly, prices are leveling out and supply chain issues that have been prevalent for the last few years are slowly getting worked out, so we are seeing just a slight increase in prices compared to the last few years here in Indiana," Dr. Todd Davis, INFB chief economist, said in a release.

In Indiana, ice cream and strawberries rose 31 percent and 19 percent respectively, and were the two items with the largest price increases over last year. Potato salad was up 14 percent and pork chops dropped 8 percent.

"When you're shopping, look for the bargains on the protein side," Davis said. "According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there's more pork in cold storage so the prices you're seeing at the supermarket are generally going to be a bit lower. Ground beef, on the other hand, our shoppers found the price to be just about the same as last year, which is encouraging because cattle herd numbers remain low across the country."

Indiana's survey was done in early June by volunteer shoppers. The shoppers were asked to look for the best possible prices, without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or purchase deals, INFB said.

The AFBF survey showed an increase in the cost of beef, potato salad and canned pork and beans nationwide, while pork chops, chips and hamburger buns dropped, the organization said.

"We can celebrate America's independence every year in part because of the hard work of the farmers and ranchers who contribute to the nation's food independence," Zippy Duvall, AFBF president, said in a release. "Farmers are dedicated to doing the right thing, and their commitment to sustainable and innovative farming practices ensures a safe and abundant food supply for every family in America."

The retail price the consumer pays isn't always reflected at the farm gate, noted Dr. Christopher Pudenz, Iowa Farm Bureau economist. U.S. farmers get 16 cents of every retail food dollar spent, according to INFB.

LOTHAIR OXLEY FAMILY FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

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8 Miles South East of Muncie, IN  
ONLINE ONLY: [shireyfarmsauction.hibid.com](https://shireyfarmsauction.hibid.com)  
ENDS: Wednesday, July 16 @ 8:00 PM (soft close)  
PREVIEW: Saturday, July 12, 9am-Noon & Monday, July 14, 4pm-6pm

TRACTORS: John Deere 3020 Dsl, John Deere 620, John Deere 4640.

COMBINE: John Deere 9600 (Nice Machine).

FARM EQUIPMENT: Great Plains "Solid Stand" Drill, John Deere "N" Manure Spreader, 5.5x10 Utility Trailer (Like New), Sitrex 2GL-302 Hay Tedder, John Deere 12' Disc, John Deere 12' Cultipacker, JD 115 3-Pt Blade, JD 88 3-Pt Blade, LBI Quick-Hitch, JD A1450 5 Bottom Plow, JD 350 Conveyor/Elevator, Grain Elevator, Killbros Gravity Bed Wagon w/JD Running Gear, Hay Wagons, JD Rear Mount 4-Row Cultivators (38"), 3-Pt Bale Spear, JD 350 Sickle Bar Mower.

OTHER ITEMS: Anvil, 3-Pt Post Hole Digger, Knipco Heater, Galvanized Pig Feeders, Lincoln Welder, 18.4-34 Duals, 18.6-38 Duals, Bachtold Mower, JD 324 Roto-Tiller.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Mr. Oxley was meticulous with his equipment and maintenance! The condition of these items is above average and most of the pieces have been kept in an enclosed barn. Additional items will be added. Please attend one of our Previews!



All items sold AS-IS, no Guarantees or Warranties.

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901 W. 21ST ST., CONNERSVILLE, IN

This is the Estate auction of William Bill Mertens Founder of Indiana Ordnance Munitions 901 W 21st ST Connerville Indiana 47331. Bill Mertens founded IN. Ordnance Munitions in 1974. The MFG Plant has 5 LG Buildings that all served as MFG & Testing For all types of Munitions. IN Ordnance had several Government contracts and MFG Several types of Ammunition including the 40mm Munitions and many more. This auction is selling all machines needed to run a full Munitions plant. We have listed just over 200 items for Absentee bidding. **This will be a live auction that will begin at 10am on July 12th, 2025.** For those who can not attend live this auction format gives you a chance to bid on items from now until 9 am July 12th 2025. You can place your bid along with your max bids and we will bid on your behalf against the live public. Example if your bidding on a item and you place a bid for \$5 but are willing to pay a max price of \$100. When the live sale begins and you are the only bid at \$5 we begin bidding at \$5 looking for a \$10 bid from the live bidders if the live bidders bid it to \$60 you will win the item for \$60. If live bidders bid it above \$100 you will lose. If you do win a item you will be charged on Mon Morning, July 14th with your card you registered with & Sent a invoice. Not all items can be shipped. Pick up dates will be 9am to 5pm, July 15th & 16th, at 901 W 21st St., Connerville IN. On larger items we will have a Forklift on-site to assist in loading. If you purchase items that are marked *shipping is available* we will haul those items back to our location and ship them within 14 days of auction close. There will be a \$25 fee added to shipping for hauling back to our location. That \$25 is not per lot it will cover one lot to as many lots as you buy. We have added into this Absentee auction many of the more popular items being sold but there is another 300 to 350 lots not listed here so we welcome you to attend live if possible. As you go through the items most are all still in good working order. Most are ready to be used as soon as you get them. There will be some Guns added before this part of auction closes so check back for many possible add ons. If you can not make it to either of the days for pick up if you call us we are willing to work with you on a day that works best for you. You must call us on Monday, July 14th before noon eastern to schedule any special time request. Including pick up days and special request, everything has to be out no later than 5pm, Tues, July 22nd, 2025. Feel free to call us at 765-238-6560 during business hours Mon-Fri, 9am till 5pm After hours you can call 765-994-0667

Chris Thompson Auctions  
AC #12400011  
901 W. 21st St., Connerville, IN 47331  
765-994-0667



Damon Tyree Auctioneer  
AU19400024

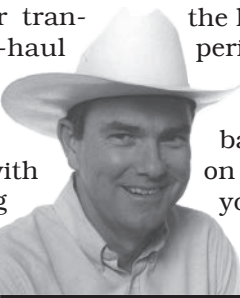


# Learn these signs from your wife before you back a trailer

When I was 12 my father transitioned from being a long-haul truck driver to being a heavy equipment operator because driving his semi on long trips was interfering with his drinking. His offspring took this news hard because we all looked forward to his absence.

Despite his uncountable flaws there was one thing my old man was good at: he could drive anything with a steering wheel or levers. He started by operating a backhoe, then a bulldozer and finally a truck crane. As part of his training he was given a pamphlet with the signs he needed to learn to operate a crane such as boom up, spool out, etc. I thought it would be neat to memorize these signs, although I never got a chance to use them as a writer or a rancher.

Far more important to me would have been a pamphlet that showed the hand signals your wife uses to help hubby back a trailer. So, I've put together a list that all husbands should memorize to keep harmony in



It's THE PITTS  
By Lee Pitts

the home. Men, from personal experience, I'd say you should hang this list on a wall in your tack room or shop and refer back to it before you embark on any trailering experience with your significant other.

#1 - Shaking Her Fist at You - This implies that you just ran over your wife's gardening bucket, broke the handle on her small shovel and flattened the bucket.

#2 - The OK Sign - You probably think this means you have backed the trailer into its ideal location but then you would be wrong... again. Your wife is trying to tell you from afar that zero is the number of animals you will be able to load or unload in your trailer's present location.

#3 - Jumping Jacks - When your wife is waving her arms over her head while jumping up and down it doesn't mean she's exercising. It means "Whoa Nellie" because you just backed into your antique loading chute that was only being held together because the termites were holding hands.

#4 - When She Covers Her Face and Tries To Hide Her Identity - This signal is usually used when you're trying to unload or load cattle at the auction yard and it's necessary for you to back your trailer into an alley. After about your fifteenth try your wife is so embarrassed that she is trying to hide her identity and wants to go into the witness protection program.

#5 - The You're Out Sign in Baseball - You've high-centered the trailer and in the process you tore out all the wiring that ran under the trailer thereby requiring 12 hours to fix the trailer lights and still the turn signals will come out backward.

#6 - Your Wife Is Raising Her Fist Above Her Head And Shaking It At You - No, she's definitely not giving the "Black Power" sign like those American athletes did years ago at the Olympics. I have first-hand experience with this signal and it indicates that you just put a huge dent in her beloved 25-year-old truck that she drives to work every day and everyone compliments her for having such a beautifully restored pickup. Not any more they won't.

#7 - When She Keeps Tapping Her Wristwatch And Steam Appears to Be Coming Out Of The Top of Her Head - No, she's not attempting to communicate with you with smoke signals. She's really mad and is asking, "Where did you learn to back a trailer ya big dummy and is there any chance you might get the trailer in its appropriate spot before nightfall?"

#8 - Your Wife Appears To Be Stirring a Bowl of Cake Batter - I borrowed this signal from the crane operator's pamphlet only I'm assigning it a different meaning. What she's saying is, "You'd make a better short order cook than a truck driver."

#9 - Slashing Her Throat - This usually happens at a bull sale when you're trying to load out with all your friends watching and people are waiting in line behind you to load out. It means, "Let's put a merciful end to this nonsense and let me drive so we can both avoid further humiliation."

WARNING: The signs your wife uses may vary and it behooves you to learn the many variations.

Happy trailering everyone!

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JULY ONLINE  
EQUIPMENT AUCTION



# Metzger Auction Calendar

Featured

www.BidMetzger.com



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



**Antiques, Glass, Pottery**  
Tuesday, July 8, 2025  
Walkerton, IN



**Vehicles, Household, Furniture**  
Wednesday, July 9, 2025  
Wabash, IN



**Chanel Home on Dewart Lk.**  
Thursday, July 10, 2025  
4294 E. Defreese Rd., Syracuse, IN



**Quality Antique Collection!**  
Thursday, July 10, 2025  
DeMotte, IN



**Glass, Collectibles, Antiques**  
Friday, July 11, 2025  
Fort Wayne, IN



**Tractors, Trailers, Horse Tack**  
Friday, July 11, 2025  
Roanoke, IN



**John Deere Toy Collection!**  
Monday, July 14, 2025  
1582 W. SR 114, N. Manchester, IN



**50+ Tractors, 150+ Gas Engines**  
Monday, July 14, 2025  
Morgan Hill, California



**Artifacts, Toys, Antiques**  
Tuesday July 15, 2025  
Bunker Hill, IN



**Farm Toy & Ag Collectibles**  
Friday, July 18, 2025  
Claypool, IN



**Wabash Co. Fair Auctions**  
Friday, July 18, 2025  
Wabash Co. Fairgrounds



**Modular Home with Carport**  
Monday, July 21, 2025  
112 Arnold Ave., Peru, IN



**Brick Ranch with Garage**  
Monday, July 21, 2025  
401 Woodland Dr., N. Manchester, IN



**Country Home on 4.6 Acres**  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025  
7404 N. State Road 13, N. Webster, IN



**Ranch Home in Winona Lake**  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025  
401 College Ave., Winona Lake, IN



**Antiques, Glassware, Silver**  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025  
Winona Lake, IN



**Lakefront Home on Blue Lake**  
Wednesday, July 23, 2025  
6480 E. McGuire Rd., Churubusco, IN



**20 Acres - Cropland/Build Site**  
Thursday, July 24, 2025  
W. 200 S., Warsaw, IN



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



**Weekly Homler Overstock**  
Auctions Every Sunday & Monday  
Huntington, IN



**4 BR Home with Garage!**  
Friday, July 25, 2025  
725 E. Fort Wayne St., Warsaw, IN



**Arcade Games, ManCave Coll.**  
Friday, July 25, 2025  
Warsaw, IN



**Quarterly Vehicle & Equipment**  
Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025  
1582 W. SR 114, N. Manchester, IN

## 20 ACRES AUCTION

THURS., JULY 24 6 PM

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