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Vol. 71, No. 33

Friday, September 19, 2025

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Final MAHA draft walks back earlier pesticide suggestions

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
 Illinois Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Suggestions for sweeping overhauls of pesticide regulations were largely discarded in what was billed as the final draft of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA) Commission’s recommendations, issued last week. Walked back were what many farmers considered onerous restrictions on pesticides, replaced with acknowledgements of the critical role they play in U.S. food production and the use of precision agriculture to limit unnecessary pesticide applications.

“We appreciate the commission’s willingness to meet with farmers across the country, hear our concerns and develop smart solutions,” said Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, in a prepared statement. “Those of us involved in the food system look forward to being fully engaged with the commission, and policymakers at all levels, to ensure a full understanding of the scope and intention of the recommendations and impact on our food supply chain.”

While the report places emphasis on cuts to food assistance, Medicaid programs and scientific research, as well as vaccine policy, its approach to the use of common crop chemicals was less specific. Dietary guidelines, which are expected to be updated by the government in the coming weeks, were not specifically addressed. However, the MAHA program calls for an effort to reduce the amount of refined starch and sugars in foods consumed by children.

“A renewed focus on American-grown fresh fruits, vegetables and

meat, along with reintroducing whole milk into the school meal programs can help provide a foundation for a lifetime of smart choices. Reducing or streamlining regulations in smart ways can allow farms operating on very thin margins to innovate, diversify and respond to consumer demand,” Duvall said.

As for farm chemicals, the new report states that “children are exposed to an increasing number of synthetic chemicals, some of which have been linked to developmental issues and chronic disease.” The strategy recommends that “the current regulatory framework should be continually evaluated to ensure that chemical and other exposures do not interact together to pose a threat.”

During the 2024 presidential campaign, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. had vowed to ban some pesticides and herbicides used by farmers. His final MAHA report settled for placing greater emphasis on the processing of food rather than its cultivation, while also recommending that American farmers are “put at the center of how we think about health.”

Don Guinnip, Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) District 12 director, said, “The commission confirmed that the Environmental Protection Agency is the appropriate agency to review pesticide approvals and recommended a review of EPA’s chemical approval process to prioritize timely reviews of the most current opportunities for farmers to control pests. ICGA and our farmer leaders hope to participate as much as possible in the implementation of these recommendations.”

Bayer-backed Modern Ag Alliance (MAA) represents more than 100 agricultural organizations advocating for U.S. farmers’ access to the crop protection tools, including pesticides and herbicides. According to MAA Executive Director Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, past and ongoing testing conducted by the EPA continues to prove the safety of glyphosate and other common crop protection chemicals used by U.S. farmers.

“To prevent harmful policy changes in the future, it is essential for policymakers in Washington and around the country to support sound scientific standards that are based on real-world risk,” Burns-Thompson said. “If farmers lose access to crop protection products because of misguided ideological



Above: For those who love to home-brew beer, hops harvest is here! Hops can also be used to make herbal teas. Their vibrant green leaves and delicate cones make them a natural choice for crafting wreaths and other decorative items. Photo by Leondia Walchle

ALHT, avian influenza called high priority threats to Indiana farms

By **Michele F. Mihaljevich**
 Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – The Asian longhorned tick (ALHT) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) could be the largest threats to Indiana’s cattle and poultry industries heading into 2026, according to the state veterinarian.

“The real threats to Indiana today are long term, the Asian longhorned tick and the devastating impacts it has, especially on the cattle industry. And then for the poultry industry and the dairy industry, the continued threat of influenza to those populations,” said Dr. Kyle Shipman, appointed Indiana state veterinarian in early January 2025.

“I do think, especially if you’re raising livestock, something to be mindful of as we move into the fall, is still going to continue to be the long-term risk of Asian longhorned tick,” he said. “But then also if we have a susceptible species like poultry or dairy cattle, we don’t anticipate avian influenza going away any time soon. We really need folks to be mindful and diligent about biosecurity to ensure we don’t have any undue incursions onto their farms. Those two are pretty high priority.”

Shipman spoke during an Aug. 27 Indiana State Board of Animal Health webinar that looked at the major disease and pest threats to animal health in Indiana.

ALHT first emerged as a new invasive species to the United States and a major livestock pest in 2017. It was first detected in Indiana in April 2023. Shipman said ALHT has been reported or established in six counties in the state – Dearborn, Dubois, Hendricks, Ohio, Spencer and Switzerland. The

tick has been found in many eastern and mid-Atlantic states, and in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee.

Animals succumbing to the tick likely died from an exsanguination (severe loss of blood) event in which the animal could no longer thrive with the amount of ticks that were feeding on it, he said.

The estimated cost to the U.S. cattle industry from the pest is about \$300 million annually and about \$400-\$760 per infected animal, Shipman said. ALHT doesn’t affect humans, and meat from infected animals is not a human health risk, he pointed out. ALHT is spreading across the U.S. quickly, Shipman added.

Prevention of ALHT is a multi-pronged approach, he said. “Treating the livestock for ticks is incredibly important in the prevention of Asian longhorned tick. The other piece is also taking an environmental approach. That really means keeping grass and weeds trimmed, especially around the wood line. If you can prevent animals from going into the woods, that’s even better. If not, try to keep the grass within 20 or 30 feet of the wood line mowed down to decrease the ability of the pest to quest on to the animals in that area.”

The Hoosier state declared its freedom from HPAI in late May. Since January, 8.3 million birds have been destroyed in the state. Nationwide, since 2022, HPAI has been found in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The influenza has been confirmed on 1,710 premises with 174.83 million birds destroyed.

Shipman said turkeys on an infected farm can die within 24-48 hours.

“The timing of this virus is why we take swift action at the state and fed-

(See MAHA on page 2)

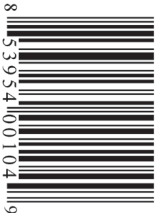
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In this Farm World:
Kentucky gourd farm draws artisans and crafters
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Cow rescued after spending night stuck in mud in pond.....Page 3B



MAHA

FROM PAGE 1

agendas, U.S. agriculture would be upended, potentially forcing many family farms to shut down and driving up food costs for every American.”

While the report acknowledges the critical role of government-supported conservation programs for farmers in food production, it also suggests that many of those programs are outdated and have drifted away from their original intentions.

“The MAHA commission has listened to and engaged with America’s farmers and that is encouraging,” Guinip said. “The process has worked as it should, with ideas being challenged and experts in the relevant fields being heard. I am happy to see the commission acknowledge that on-farm conservation practices are an extremely important element on our farms, often with pesticides being integral to the soil health practices like no-till that I rely on.”

The report acknowledges the role that precision technology has in the food system. Association of Equipment Manufacturers senior vice president of government and industry relations Kip Eideberg issued the following statement:

“The (AEM) applauds the MAHA commission for recognizing the critical role that precision agriculture technology plays in ensuring that future generations grow up in a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient America. Precision agriculture technology not only enhances agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability but also improves public health outcomes by reducing the amount of pesticides applied, improving air and water quality, and supporting the production of more nutritious food. AEM looks forward to continuing working with the MAHA commission to advance the adoption of precision agriculture technology and support its efforts to build a healthier, more resilient future for all Americans.”

Others were less than happy with the updated MAHA recommendations regarding agriculture, farm chemicals and the environment. “It looks like the pesticide industry lobbyists steamrolled the MAHA commission’s agenda,” noted Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group.

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Threats

FROM PAGE 1

eral level to depopulate these birds in a timely manner,” he stated. “Succumbing to the virus is not pleasant and so we want to make sure that we are able to swiftly move and depopulate these birds, for both humane reasons to prevent additional suffering of the birds and to also decrease the amount of virus that’s produced.

“The longer these birds are alive, the more virus they produce and the greater the chances this virus can spread from farm to farm and actually impact more birds.”

USDA doesn’t currently allow for the vaccination of birds for HPAI, Shipman said.

“There are some risks and benefits to vaccine strategy,” he said. “That’s not to say we don’t see it as a viable tool in the toolbox but some more work is continuing to be done to determine what a vaccine strategy might look like for the United States.”

Those risks include trade implications, as research shows if the U.S. were to vaccinate today, our trading partners would shut down our ability to trade with them, Shipman said. That could mean a loss of upward of \$6 billion in exports annually, or up to 200,000 jobs, he said.

The benefits would include a decrease in viral shedding, which further decreases environmental contamination and decreases risk of lateral spread.

Shipman also discussed New World screwworm (NWS) and Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) during the webinar.

NWS refers to the maggots’ feeding behavior as they burrow, or screw, into a wound, causing extensive – and often deadly – damage by tearing at the hosts’ tissue with sharp mouth hooks, he said. NWS can infest cattle, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and, in rare cases, people, Shipman said.

NWS is coming closer – about 200 miles away – to the U.S. border with Mexico, he said. In 2023, NWS detec-

tions in Panama increased from an average of 25 cases per year to more than 6,500.

A moderate outbreak of NWS in the United States could cost Texas producers \$561 million annually, and would threaten more than \$100 billion in U.S. economic activity tied to the cattle and livestock industry, he said.

FMD is found in cloven-hooved animals – cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, swine and deer. It’s easily transmitted via secretions and excretions, Shipman noted. It’s predominantly endemic in Africa and a lot of Asia, and has been sporadically found in South American, he said.

Before this year, the European Union hadn’t seen a case of FMD since 2011. In January 2025, the first case in Germany since 1988 was confirmed. In March, Hungary and Slovakia had their first cases since 1973. The source of exposure for these cases has not been identified, Shipman said.

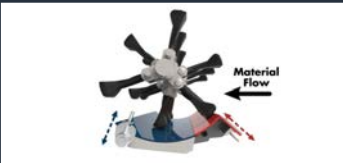
FMD was eradicated in the U.S. in 1929, according to the USDA.

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Farm World is published weekly, except for Christmas week, by MidCountry Media, Inc., 27 N. Jefferson St., Knightstown, IN 46148. Periodicals postage paid at Knightstown, IN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Farm World, P.O. Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148.

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Corn, soybean, wheat global ending stocks forecast to tighten

A major part of the latest USDA global supply and demand report has been ignored. Even with elevated production on corn, soybeans, and wheat, global ending stocks are forecast to tighten.

The world corn crop is projected at 1.29 billion metric tons by the USDA, a large 62.6 million mt more than a

year ago. Even with this increase the world corn carryout is expected to decline 600,000 mt as added demand will easily absorb these bushels. In soybeans, global production is forecast to increase 2.4 mmt this year, but carryout will still decrease by 300,000 mt. The U.S. world wheat inventory is expected to tighten by 2.6

mmt this year, even as production increases by 7 mmt. These contractions make it more necessary for global production to continue increasing as well.

More estimates are starting to be released ahead of the upcoming production season in Brazil. The firm Agresource predicts a 2025/26 Brazil soybean crop of 176.5 million metric tons, up 3 percent from the 2024/25 crop. Agresource believes soybean plantings will expand by 2 percent this coming year to give us the larger crop. While higher, this expansion will be the smallest in the last five years. The Brazil corn crop is expected to increase just 0.7 percent from this year to total 138.4 mmt. High input costs and low commodity values are the primary reasons for the lack of expansion, but logistic restraints are also an issue. Given this low expansion rate and building domestic consumption we may see less export competition from Brazil even with the build in production.

The Russian firm IKAR also updated its wheat crop estimate. IKAR puts the Russian wheat crop at 86 mmt, up 500,000 mt from its previous estimate. Improved weather is the prima-

ry reason for the added production. IKAR made an equal increase to the country's wheat export forecast, putting it at 43 mmt. Total Russian grain exports were also increased to 132.8 mmt. Questions are rising on the quality of Russia's grain crops though, with several sources claiming they are below recent years.

Ukraine farmers are becoming increasingly concerned over the country's fertilizer availability. The greatest concern is with seaward nitrogen imports that are currently suspended. The fear is this will create nitrogen supply shortages in the country and make prices unprofitable for farmer usage. Ukraine farmers point out this will only add to additional production losses as the country is already suffering from a major drought.

The U.S. harvest is going to start gaining momentum and this is starting to put some pressure on the U.S. cash market, but so far, this has been countered by favorable processing margins. Ethanol manufacturing is the most profitable right now at an average of 45 cents return per gallon of production. News that importers such as Vietnam are pushing ethanol blend rates higher continue to support ethanol margins. Vietnam is in the process of doubling its ethanol blend rate to 10 percent, which would add to an already growing U.S. export market.

Soybean crush margin is also solid at nearly \$2.00 per bushel. Crush margins on soybeans are at a two and a half month low though, and this has caused some soybean buyers to scale back purchases.

The National Corn Growers Association is showing more concern on future production economics. The NCGA is worried that even with a decline in corn production costs, farmers will face a third year of negative returns this coming year. Data from the NCGA shows the cost of production for corn has declined 3 percent from its all-time high in 2022. In 2022, the average cost of growing corn was \$928.00 per acre. This declined to \$897.00 per acre in 2025. The concern is that corn values are now half what they were in 2022, making the crop unprofitable for many producers.

Cattle futures are starting to correct from all-time highs. The annual fall run of calves has started and is being closely monitored as pasture conditions are very favorable with wheat being seeded into ample soil moisture. Feed grain is cheap though, and it currently is more economical to place feeders in lots rather than pastures. This trimmed feeder cattle demand right when inventory builds. The cash side led futures higher, and it appears it is going to lead the market lower as well. This is mostly seen in the feeder market where recent auction sales are well off from summer highs.

An interesting development in the U.S. cattle herd is taking place. More replacement dairy cattle are making their way into the milking line up and not into beef lots. The U.S. dairy herd at the end of July totaled 9.49 million head, an increase of 159,000 head from July 2024. July's total was up 10,000 head from the June number as well. These rising cow numbers led to a 3.5 percent increase in milk production for July from a year ago. The market is monitoring this expansion for signs of weakness in milk futures.

While Mexican officials have stated



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer



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(Setzer continued on page 4)

Setzer

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several times the country is working to contain New World Screwworm in livestock, data from sources in the country suggests otherwise. Data from the country indicates there were 5,086 cases of New World Screwworm in the country as of August 17th, a sizable 53 percent increase from mid-July. There are also 649 open cases of the highly infectious disease showing there is little control over it. This growing number of cases shows Mexico has little control over the outbreak, further delaying the reopening of cattle trade between Mexico and the United States.

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Equine businesses can now apply for TAEP in Tennessee

NASHVILLE – Equine businesses across Tennessee can now apply for support through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture’s premier cost-share initiative, the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP). The application period for TAEP is Oct. 1-7, 2025.

For the first time, horses, donkeys and mules may qualify under the Hay Storage, Livestock Equipment, and Livestock Solutions programs. To be eligible, applicants must operate a commercial equine business involved in breeding, training, and/or boarding, with a minimum of 20 head. Horses, donkeys and mules may be combined to meet this requirement.

“All Tennessee producers contribute to the strength of our state’s agricultural economy,” Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, DVM, said. “By extending TAEP eligibility to equine businesses, we are recognizing their vital role in our communities and making sure they have the resources to grow and remain competitive.”

Applications must be submitted online through the TAEP homepage at www.tn.gov/taep. Program details are available on the TAEP website. For additional information or application assistance, visit www.tn.gov/taep or call 1-800-342-8206.

TAEP offers opportunities in hay, livestock, commercial poultry and swine, and row crops. Programs include dairy solutions, genetics, hay equipment, hay storage, herd health, livestock equipment, livestock solutions, poultry grower, row crop solutions, swine producer, and working structures and fence-line systems. The TAEP Producer Diversification program supports investments in agritourism, fruits and vegetables, honeybees, horticulture, organics and value-added products.





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By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

(Income continued on page 6)

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Income

FROM PAGE 5

crease by \$30 billion, or 11.2 percent, from \$268.6 billion in 2024 to \$298.6 billion in 2025. Receipts for all major animal/animal products are expected to grow mostly from higher prices. If realized, this would be a record high for cash receipts from animals and animal products.”

Overall, Griffith said, “My thoughts are these are just forecasts. I guess it provides a financial benchmark, but it does not really provide a good indicator of the financial health of farming operations in the United States. Just as we have variability across operations operating in the same sector, we have variability across grains, oilseeds, different livestock sectors, poultry, eggs, produce, etc.

“Thus, it is sometimes difficult for me to really have much of a take-home message from the aggregated values,” he said. “Information can certainly be inferred, but they tend to be very general.

“Specifically toward livestock, the magnitude of increase in net farm income and production expenses makes it look like the cattle business is a big business,” he added. “It is no bigger today

than it was a year ago, or 10 years ago.”

He said, “The only thing that has happened is the market is placing a higher value on the animal, which tends to inflate what people are looking at. It simply tells me there is more financial risk in cattle today than there was one year ago.

“If a person is keeping up with what is going on in the industry, then they should not be surprised,” he added. “The general public will be surprised with the increase in government support and how much cattle prices have increased, but most in agriculture already knew this information.”

Nelson and Parum concluded, “Stronger livestock markets provide critical support, but continued reliance on government aid reacting to prior years underscores the fragility of farm finances that are being degraded by rising farm debt and interest expenses to service that debt.

“Without sustained market-driven growth, the rebound in net farm income will be difficult to maintain, leaving many producers vulnerable to future price shifts, expense pressures and policy changes,” they added.

To read the full USDA September 2025 net farm income forecast, visit: www.ers.usda.gov.

Tennessee forestry office break-in under investigation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is seeking information leading to the identification of the person or people who broke into a Division of Forestry office in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. on Aug. 25, 2025, a gloved and masked intruder illegally entered the New Prospect office at 57 Tower Road.

Security footage shows the individual first searched through compartments on a state truck, then cut the office’s phone lines before gaining access through a side window.

The burglar exited through the back door with stolen items including, in part, a Stihl chainsaw, Stihl backpack blower, Ingersoll Rand air hammer, DeWalt router, DeWalt hammer drill, DeWalt grease gun, DeWalt 20V

Grinder and a DeWalt 20V jig saw. Staff arriving later that morning discovered the break-in and immediately notified the Lawrence County Sheriff’s office and TDA’s Agricultural Crime Unit (ACU).

Based on the thief’s approach, investigators believe the individual had prior knowledge of the facility and surrounding area. Rather than driving down the main road, which dead-ends at the property, the thief likely traveled through private lands, cornfields, and pastures to park behind the building. Neighbors who find evidence on or near their property are asked to contact ACU.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact ACU at 844-AG-CRIME (844-242-7463) or agriculture.crime@tn.gov.







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60x120x25	18x16 door
60x150x25	18x16 door



Round storage buildings with galvanized, single-tube frame and 22 ounce PVC fabric.

30x40x15	11x11 door
30x65x15	11x11 door
30x85x15	11x11 door

Additional sizes and colors available. Custom buildings available.

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TRACTORS

2022 CIH STEIGER 500 AFS QUADTRAC, PTO, GUIDANCE, 600 HRS
2023 CIH STEIGER 470 AFS QUADTRAC, 3PT, PTO, GUIDANCE, 1400 HRS
2022 CIH MAGNUM 310 AFS CONNECT, PS, MFD, GUIDANCE, 1800 HRS
2008 CIH MAGNUM 275, PS, MFD, 3200 HRS
2012 CIH MAGNUM 235, PS, MFD, 1300 HRS
2020 CIH PUMA 150, PS, MFD, LDR, 1700 HRS
2023 JD 8R 250, PS, MFD, GUIDANCE, 800 HRS
2013 JD 8360R, IVT, ILS, 3200 HRS
2016 JD 8345R, IVT, ILS, 3400 HRS
2012 JD 8335RT, PS, 6400 HRS
2014 JD 8295R, IVT, ILS, 3900 HRS
2005 JD 8520, PS, ILS, GUIDANCE, 5500 HRS
2004 JD 7420, IVT, MFD, 8300 HRS
2011 JD 7330, PQ, MFD, LDR, 3690 HRS
2006 JD 6120L OS, TWD, LDR, 3500 HRS
2004 JD 6420, CAB, MFD, PQ, 3600 HRS
2013 CHALLENGER MT655D, CVT, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3600 HRS
2011 VERSATILE 305, PS, MFD, GUIDANCE, 3000 HRS

COMBINES

2020 CIH 8250, RWA, RT, CHPPR, SPRDDR, AUTOMATION, POWER TOP, 1500/1100 HRS

GRAIN CARTS

J&M 1122 X-TEND GRAIN CART, TRACKS, TARP
BRENT 472 TARP, SCALES
UNVERFERTH 325 GRAVITY WAGON
KILLBROS 390 GRAVITY WAGON
KILLBROS 375 GRAVITY WAGON

PLANTERS

2017 KINZE 3600 ASD 16/32 PLANTER
2013 KINZE 3500 8/16 NO-TILL PLANTER
2011 KINZE 3500 8/15 NO-TIL PLANTER
CIH 5300 GRAIN DRILL, SEEDER
UNVERFERTH 3750 SEED TENDER

EQUIPMENT

2013 LANDOLL 9630 30FT FIELD CULTIVATOR
CASE IH TIGERMATE 200 25FT FIELD CULTIVATOR
KONGSKILDE 2900 40FT FIELD CULTIVATOR
SUNFLOWER 5035 24FT FIELD CULTIVATOR
JOHN DEERE 2310 33FT SOIL FINISHER
SUNFLOWER 6333 22FT SOIL FINISHER
CASE IH RMX 340 24FT RF DISC
BRANDT 326A 26FT HIGH SPEED DISC
CASE IH SPEED TILLER 475 21FT HIGH SPEED DISC
SALFORD 570RTS 41FT VT
LANDOLL 7431 29FT VT PLUS
MCFARLANE RD4030 REEL DISC
CASE IH 3850 13FT DISC
UNVERFERTH 1225 22FT & 30FT DOUBLE ROLLING BASKET
KRAUSE 4428D SOLID ROLLER PACKER
BRILLION XXL184 40FT SOLID ROLLER PACKER
2009 JD 512 5 SH DISC RIPPER
CASE IH RMX 690 7 SH DISC RIPPER
CIH 2500 7 SH 3PT RIIPER
UNVERFERTH ZONE BUILDER 3PT RIPPER 6 SH
CASE IH DC92 MOCO, RUBBER ROLLS
NH 565 SQUARE BALER
KUHN KNIGHT 1215 SINGLE AXLE MANURE SPREADER

HEADS

2021 MAC DON FD140 40FT DRAPER, CNH ADAPTER
2012 CASE IH 3020 20FT GRAIN HEAD
2017 CIH 4412 FOLDING 12R30 CORN HEAD, KR, HH
2013 JD 608C, KR, HD, HH, RS, REEL

CONSTRUCTION

2021 GEHL ALT750, CAH, 3 SPD HYDRO, 170 HRS
2019 DEERE 304L LOADER, 552 HRS
2023 CAT 259D3, CAH, 2 SPD, HIGH-FLOW, 700 HRS
2018 KUBOTA SVL95-2S, CAH, 2 SPD, HIGH FLOW, 2100 HRS
1993 DEERE 375, OPEN STATION, DIESEL, 600 HRS
ROWSE 700 DIRT PAN, DOLLY WHEEL

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HOURS: Mon-Thurs 7am-5pm | Fri 7am-4:30pm | Sat 7am-11:30am

MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 9/8/2025 - Final AUCTION			
	This Week	Last Reported 8/25/2025	Last Year
Total Receipts:	1,823	896	2,109
Feeder Cattle:	1,639(89.9%)	773(86.3%)	1,880(89.1%)
Slaughter Cattle:	179(9.8%)	116(12.9%)	213(10.1%)
Replacement Cattle:	5(0.3%)	7(0.8%)	16(0.8%)

No trends due to market being closed last week for the Labor Day holiday. However, the feeder market appeared spotty and cheaper in spots as increased numbers of fat bawling calves are hitting the market and buyers are discounting accordingly. Yearling cattle appeared mostly steady with a good supply and good demand. There was a good supply of slaughter cattle and buyers showed demand. Supply included: 90% Feeder Cattle (52% Steers, 38% Heifers, 10% Bulls); 10% Slaughter Cattle (1% Steers, 73% Cows, 26% Bulls); 0% Replacement Cattle (33% Stock Cows, 67% Bred Cows). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 64%.

Groups of 20 Head or More			
STEERS	HEIFERS		
112 Hd Black/2Colored	885 lbs	342.00	89 Hd 90% Black 601 lbs 386.00
60 Hd Black/BWF	890 lbs	346.10	88 Hd 75% Black 703 lbs 349.00
57 Hd XBRED/Colored	900 lbs	338.00	73 Hd Black/BWF 918 lbs 339.50
55 Hd XBRED/Mixed	953 lbs	330.00	54 Hd 90% Black 966 lbs 337.00
50 Hd XBRED/Colored	969 lbs	325.00	

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	265	265	592.50	592.50	Fancy
5	312-335	326	480.00-487.50	484.63	
6	302-330	314	502.50-517.50	510.80	Fancy
5	396	396	460.00	460.00	
3	352-395	366	505.00-512.50	509.80	Fancy
16	405-444	435	471.00-482.50	478.10	
18	467-496	478	407.50-433.00	420.93	
6	466-475	469	469.00-477.50	474.63	Fancy
16	507-546	534	379.00-397.00	386.09	
29	516-548	536	407.50-411.00	409.34	Value Added
19	555-597	569	370.00-393.00	385.60	
4	571	571	322.50	322.50	Fleshy
5	582-586	584	401.00-407.00	403.39	Value Added
9	605-638	629	349.00-377.50	353.81	
13	614-621	618	399.00-401.00	399.76	Value Added
25	664-675	667	347.50-363.00	361.23	
5	660-682	673	366.00-375.00	371.14	Value Added
6	705-740	721	323.00-346.00	332.92	
30	750-795	775	338.75-357.00	343.58	
13	868-880	871	331.00-337.00	332.08	
172	885-890	887	342.00-346.10	343.44	Value Added
3	925-930	928	313.00-328.00	323.02	
132	900-922	910	336.00-339.50	338.81	Value Added
3	993	993	314.00	314.00	
164	953-966	959	325.00-337.00	330.68	Value Added

STEERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	280	280	430.00	430.00	
2	370-380	375	435.00-445.00	440.07	
11	418-442	424	414.00-420.00	418.36	
4	465-488	482	380.00-400.00	384.82	
3	538	538	362.50	362.50	
1	550	550	343.00	343.00	
2	635	635	320.00	320.00	
1	735	735	306.00	306.00	
3	755-757	756	311.00-320.00	313.99	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	385	385	350.00	350.00	
2	432	432	310.00	310.00	
1	490	490	285.00	285.00	
2	530	530	292.50-310.00	301.25	
1	640	640	205.00	205.00	
S					

TEERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	445	445	352.50	352.50	
2	827	827	235.00	235.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	225-247	240	412.50-420.00	414.85	
2	205-210	208	450.00-465.00	457.59	Fancy
3	250-265	257	470.00-495.00	483.57	Fancy
2	255-280	268	510.00-520.00	515.23	Thin Fleshed
6	322-343	334	400.00-407.50	402.41	
6	315-331	326	465.00-470.00	467.50	Fancy
12	362-397	374	405.00-420.00	412.20	
6	370	370	442.50	442.50	Fancy
23	400-448	435	381.00-397.50	391.20	
13	405-445	431	400.00-417.00	405.95	Fancy
15	450-495	473	370.00-392.50	383.89	
18	450-487	475	395.00-415.00	401.75	Fancy
2	487	487	302.50	302.50	Full
25	500-545	530	350.00-373.00	364.89	
1	545	545	300.00	300.00	Full
9	500-510	507	382.50-405.00	394.21	Value Added
47	550-595	574	345.00-367.50	355.66	
18	555-566	557	375.00-398.00	393.09	Value Added
32	610-645	632	329.00-346.00	342.53	
89	601	601	386.50	386.50	Value Added
10	662-682	676	300.00-328.00	307.53	
2	695	695	357.50	357.50	Guaranteed Open
15	711-730	712	320.00-323.00	322.80	
4	717	717	282.00	282.00	Fleshy
88	703	703	349.00	349.00	Value Added
4	763-770	765	280.00-281.00	280.75	
18	775	775	332.00	332.00	Guaranteed Open
1	845	845	272.50	272.50	
2	895	895	260.00-281.00	270.50	
1	920	920	217.50	217.50	
4	962	962	249.00	249.00	Guaranteed Open
1	1060	1060	217.00	217.00	
1	1100	1100	205.00	205.00	
1	1190	1190	187.00	187.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	260	260	392.50	392.50	
4	302-320	310	385.00-397.50	392.38	
10	362-395	380	360.00-385.00	374.44	
7	420-426	423	362.50-374.00	371.51	
4	472-495	482	330.00-331.00	330.25	
6	500-520	512	330.00-345.00	338.31	
6	550-593	582	312.00-335.00	329.04	
3	610-640	627	300.00-317.50	309.92	

4	680-695	685	285.00-297.50	291.85	
3	730	730	261.00	261.00	
1	870	870	211.00	211.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	270-290	280	310.00-320.00	315.18	
2	335-345	340	295.00-302.50	298.69	
4	445-447	446	330.00-341.00	337.76	
3	462-490	471	290.00-310.00	296.93	
1	500	500	270.00	270.00	
1	550	550	265.00	265.00	
2	625-630	628	260.00-282.50	271.21	
1	665	665	243.00	243.00	

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	515	515	255.00	255.00	
1	590	590	287.50	287.50	

HEIFERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	450	450	322.50	322.50	

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	197	197	500.00	500.00	
3	230-245	240	470.00-480.00	473.19	
5	305-332	327	502.50-505.00	502.97	
3	380-387	385	492.50-500.00	497.53	
2	400-415	408	457.50-472.50	465.14	
11	450-475	462	375.00-397.00	387.53	
17	510-545	528	340.00-367.50	352.61	
2	517	517	393.00	393.00	Fancy
7	566-585	570	349.00-362.50	354.29	
12	600-647	626	311.00-333.00	324.25	
3	606	606	345.00	345.00	Fancy
9	653-690	662	300.00-317.50	311.31	
6	710-745	721	295.00-313.00	307.59	
2	755-765	760	284.00-307.50	295.83	
4	806-810	807	218.00-222.00	221.00	
2	867	867	208.00	208.00	
4	900-915	908	214.00-227.50	220.69	
1	1030	1030	229.00	229.00	
2	1050-1065	1058	207.00-233.00	220.09	

BULLS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	215	215	415.00	415.00	
1	275	275	450.00	450.00	
1	340	340	467.50	467.50	
4	370-395	383	440.00-460.00	450.33	
6	410-445	428	417.50-445.00	436.91	
1	455	455	437.50	437.50	
7	500-545	530	320.00-335.00	327.63	
2	555-560	558	320.00-330.00	324.98	
3	601	601	300.00	300.00	
2	652	652	286.00	286.00	
2	767	767	280.00	280.00	
1	1040	1040	179.00	179.00	

BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	347	347	300.00	300.00	
4	497	497	347.50	347.50	
1	505	505	307.50	307.50	

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
6	593-595	593	312.50-335.00	331.24	
3	665	665	304.00	304.00	

BULLS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	405	405	305.00	305.00	
1	575	575	280.00	280.00	
1	825	825	220.00	220.00	

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

STEERS - Select and Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1202	1202	233.00	233.00	Average

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
23	1210-2040	1513	156.00-169.00	162.30	Average
7	1340-1745	1525	170.00-176.00	172.19	High
3	1300-1400	1357	149.00-153.00	151.05	Low

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
17	1035-1375	1224	158.00-168.00	162.57	Average
7	1155-1560	1334	172.00-181.00	175.62	High
12	945-1465	1225	145.00-154.00	150.49	Low

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MARKETS

Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, September 11, 2025 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS		Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 9/11/2025						
Exchange	Commodity							
CBOT	CBOTCorn	399.00 (Sep 25)	419.75 (Dec 25)	437.25 (Mar 26)	447.50 (May 26)	454.50 (Jul 26)	451.00 (Sep 26)	460.50 (Dec 26)
CBOT	Soybeans	1015.25 (Sep 25)	1033.50 (Nov 25)	1052.50 (Jan 26)	1068.00 (Mar 26)	1081.50 (May 26)	1091.25 (Jul 26)	1088.25 (Aug 26)
CBOT	Wheat	503.00 (Sep 25)	521.50 (Dec 25)	538.25 (Mar 26)	549.25 (May 26)	558.50 (Jul 26)	571.50 (Sep 26)	589.00 (Dec 26)
CBOT	White Oats	294.00 (Sep 25)	318.00 (Dec 25)	330.25 (Mar 26)	338.00 (May 26)	336.00 (Jul 26)	351.75 (Sep 26)	352.25 (Dec 26)
KCBT	Wheat	487.00 (Sep 25)	510.00 (Dec 25)	530.25 (Mar 26)	544.00 (May 26)	556.50 (Jul 26)	571.00 (Sep 26)	590.25 (Dec 26)
MGE	Wheat	550.25 (Sep 25)	571.50 (Dec 25)	591.00 (Mar 26)	604.50 (May 26)	617.00 (Jul 26)	629.25 (Sep 26)	646.50 (Dec 26)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	50.00Z to 90.00Z	UNCH	4.6975-5.0975	UP 0.0275	4.8975
Pennyrile	50.00Z to 90.00Z	UNCH	4.6975-5.0975	UP 0.0275	4.8975

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	80.00Z	UNCH	4.9975	UP 0.0275	4.9975
Ohio River - Lower KY	80.00Z	UNCH	4.9975	UP 0.0275	4.9975
Purchase	75.00Z	UNCH	4.9475	UP 0.0275	4.9475
Purchase	90.00Z	UNCH	5.0975	UP 0.0275	5.0975

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	-25.00Z	UNCH	3.9475	UP 0.0275	3.9475
Purchase	-20.00Z	UNCH	3.9975	UP 0.0275	3.9975
Green River	-5.00Z	UNCH	4.1475	UP 0.0275	4.1475
Green River -10.00Z	UNCH	4.0975	UP 0.0275	4.0975	3.8100
Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -5.00Z	DN 5.00-UNCH	3.8975-4.1475	DN 0.0225-UP 0.0275	4.0008
Pennyrile	-45.00Z to -14.00Z	UNCH-UP 2.00	3.7475-4.0575	UP 0.0275-UP 0.0475	3.8658
Louisville	-50.00Z to -35.00Z	UNCH	3.6975-3.8475	UP 0.0275	3.7725
Louisville	-35.00Z	UNCH	3.8475	UP 0.0275	3.8475
Bluegrass	-15.00Z	UNCH	4.0475	UP 0.0275	4.0475
Bluegrass	-40.00Z	UNCH	3.7975	UP 0.0275	3.7975

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00Z to -20.00Z	UP 1.00-UP 2.00	3.8975-3.9975	UP 0.0375-UP 0.0475	3.9475
Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00Z to -27.00Z	UP 1.00-UP 3.00	3.8975-3.9275	UP 0.0375-UP 0.0575	3.9125
Ohio River - Lower KY	-19.00Z to -5.00Z	UP 2.00-UP 1.00	4.0075-4.1475	UP 0.0475-UP 0.0375	4.0725
Ohio River - Lower KY	-22.00Z to -11.00Z	UP 2.00-UP 4.00	3.9775-4.0875	UP 0.0475-UP 0.0675	4.0392
Purchase	-17.00Z to -12.00Z	UP 1.00-UNCH	4.0275-4.0775	UP 0.0375-UP 0.0275	4.0500
Purchase	-17.00Z to -16.00Z	UP 2.00-UNCH	4.0275-4.0375	UP 0.0475-UP 0.0275	4.0300

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	-40.00X	UNCH	9.9350	UP 0.0825	9.9350
Purchase	-30.00X	UNCH	10.0350	UP 0.0825	10.0350
Green River	-60.00X	UNCH	9.7350	UP 0.0825	9.7350
Green River	-60.00X	UNCH	9.7350	UP 0.0825	9.7350
Pennyrile	-75.00X to -32.00X	UNCH-UP 2.00	9.5850-10.0150	UP 0.0825-UP 0.1025	9.7036
Pennyrile	-75.00X to -38.00X	UNCH-UP 7.00	9.5850-9.9550	UP 0.0825-UP 0.1525	9.6950
Louisville	-116.00X	UNCH	9.1750	UP 0.0825	9.1750
Louisville	-116.00X	UNCH	9.1750	UP 0.0825	9.1750
Bluegrass	-95.00X	UNCH	9.3850	UP 0.0825	9.3850
Bluegrass	-95.00X	UNCH	9.3850	UP 0.0825	9.3850

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-42.00X to -40.00X	UP 3.00-UNCH	9.9150-9.9350	UP 0.1125-UP 0.0825	9.9250
Ohio River - Upper KY	-54.00X to -40.00X	UP 3.00-UNCH	9.7950-9.9350	UP 0.1125-UP 0.0825	9.8650
Ohio River - Lower KY	-43.00X to -23.00X	DN 1.00	9.9050-10.1050	UP 0.0725	9.9983
Ohio River - Lower KY	-51.00X to 0.00X	DN 1.00-UNCH	9.8250-10.3350	UP 0.0725-UP 0.0825	9.9717
Purchase	-41.00X to -35.00X	UP 1.00-UNCH	9.9250-9.9850	UP 0.0925-UP 0.0825	9.9450
Purchase	-51.00X to -40.00X	DN 1.00-UNCH	9.8250-9.9350	UP 0.0725-UP 0.0825	9.8850

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	-30.00Z	UNCH	4.9150	UP 0.0650	4.9150
Pennyrile	10.00N	UNCH	5.6850	UP 0.0550	5.6850

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Green River	-75.00N	UNCH	4.8350	UP 0.0550	4.8350
Pennyrile	-55.00Z	UNCH	4.6650	UP 0.0650	4.6650
Pennyrile	-60.00N to -55.00N	UNCH	4.9850-5.0350	UP 0.0550	5.0225
Louisville	-103.00U	UNCH	4.0000	UP 0.0800	4.0000

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional

Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	-35.00N to -15.00N	UNCH	5.2350-5.4350	UP 0.0550	5.3683

Explanatory Notes: Price & Basis Values quoted are for Current Delivery, unless otherwise noted.

CBOT/KCBT/MGE Trade month symbols: F January; G February; H March; J April; K May; M June; N July; Q August; U September; V October; X November; Z December. FOB: Freight On Board. CIF: Cost, Insurance, and Freight. T: Truck, R: Rail, B: Barge, T/R: Truck/Rail, R/B: Rail/Barge, T/R/B: Truck/Rail/Barge, OV: Ocean Vessel

USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

KY Dept of Ag Market News-Kevin Bowling, Market Reporter | Frankfort, KY | (502) 782-4139

http://www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmm | https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ | https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2892

Weekly Combined Regional Shell Egg Report

Report for: 09/07/2025 - 09/13/2025

National Shell Eggs - Caged				
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	246.00 - 279.00	264.75	0.00	264.75
Large	245.00 - 272.00	258.69	0.00	258.69
Medium	157.00 - 182.00	170.00	0.00	170.00

Midwest Shell Eggs - Caged				
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	246.00 - 255.00	250.50	0.00	250.50
Large	245.00 - 254.00	249.50	0.00	249.50
Medium	157.00 - 166.00	161.50	0.00	161.50

Delivered Store Door, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	253.00 - 261.00	257.00	0.00	257.00
Large	251.00 - 259.00	255.00	0.00	255.00
Medium	163.00 - 171.00	167.00	0.00	167.00

Paid to Producers - FOB, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Large	227.00 - 237.00	232.00	0.00	232.00
Medium	139.00 - 143.00	141.00	0.00	141.00
Small	69.00 - 75.00	72.00	0.00	72.00

Northeast Shell Eggs - Caged				
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	253.00 - 270.00	261.50	0.00	261.50
Large	247.00 - 261.00	254.00	0.00	254.00
Medium	159.00 - 172.00	165.50	0.00	165.50

South Central Shell Eggs - Caged				
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	270.50 - 279.00	274.75	0.00	274.75
Large	263.50 - 272.00	267.75	0.00	267.75
Medium	173.50 - 182.00	177.75	0.00	177.75

Southeast Shell Eggs - Caged				
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen				
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (9/5/2025)
Extra Large	268.50 - 276.00	272.25	0.00	272.25
Large	260.00 - 267.00	263.50	0.00	263.50
Medium	171.50 - 179.00	175.25	0.00	175.25

Explanatory Notes: Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, white eggs in cartons. Regional Breakdown: Midwest: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, Western NY, and Western PA. Northeast: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, Eastern PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT. South Central: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, and TX. Southeast: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA.

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News
General inquiries, please call: (202) 720-1990 or email: mymarketnews@usda.gov
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Small Animals		9/9/2025	Sheep		Cows	
Chickens	\$2-\$13.50		Ewes	\$0.90-\$1.30	Cull Cows	\$1.30-\$1.81
Bantys	\$2-\$6.50		40-60# Lambs	\$1.50-\$2.40	Bulls	\$1.75-\$2.15
Ducks	\$4-\$11		61-80# Lambs	\$1.50-\$2.75		44
Pigeons	\$3-\$5		81-100# Lambs	\$1.75-\$2.75	Fat Cattle	
Eggs	\$1.50-\$2.50		258		Holstein	\$1.90-\$2.10
Rooster	\$2-\$12				Colored	\$2.17-\$2.30
Turkey			Goats			11
Peacock	\$33		Billys	\$55-\$500	Pigs	
Rabbits	\$7-\$20		Nannies	\$45-\$280	Fat Hogs	\$.55-\$1.02
	1009		Kids	\$35-\$100	Sows	\$70-\$80
Veal Calves				186	Boars	\$0.15
Holstein (80# & UP)	\$900-\$1140		Feeder Cattle Dairy and Beef			45
Beef Cross (80# & UP)	\$1200-\$1475		200-500#	\$1.45-\$4.80	Feeder Pigs	
	419		501-800#	\$1.30-\$2.95	20-45#	\$20-\$40
				93	46-65#	\$45-\$65
						63

U.S. cattle experts express caution over Australia easing beef restrictions

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

AMES, Iowa – While many in the U.S. beef industry are praising the Australian government’s July 28 decision to ease its restrictions on American beef, others express caution concerning the move.

“Australia easing their restrictions on U.S. beef imports is more symbolic than anything else,” said Grant Dewell, Iowa State University associate professor of veterinary medicine and beef extension veterinarian.

“Australia is one of the last, if not the last, country still restricting U.S. beef due to BSE in 2003,” he added. “Symbolically, re-establishing trading opportunities based on scientific risk assessments is important.”

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, is a fatal neurodegenerative disease in cattle.

“However, even pre-2003, we never exported that much beef to Australia and I don’t foresee that changing.

“Since Australia produces plenty of their own beef, the market will be mostly limited to high-value prime cuts of meat as there is a higher percentage of grass-fed beef in Australia,” he added. “If we had extra beef to sell, then there may be some opportunity, but as tight as U.S. cattle numbers are there, there is little margin to make headway into the Australian market.”

The U.S. dollar adds another level of complexity.

“The other stumbling block is the value of the U.S. dollar, compared to the Australian dollar, which is about half the value of our dollar, so we are really talking about a really expensive, high-quality steak that is more of a novelty rather than staple.

“Other potential issues would be other trade barriers such as growth promotants (that promote cattle growth),” he added. “Australia has not approved beta-agonists (on-hormonal feed additives used in beef production to increase carcass weight, improve feed efficiency, and enhance carcass leanness by redirecting nutrients from fat to muscle growth) for beef production, so they could limit imports from treated cattle.”

He said, “Beta-agonists will be an issue to limit eligibility of U.S. beef, adding, there will be other issues that come up as beef producers, regulators, and politicians try to protect their market. Regarding biosecurity, Australia is considered to have the strongest biosecurity program in the world. As an island (often referred to as an island continent), they have both the fear and the ability to impose strict biosecurity standards.”

He said, “One major difference would be a national identification system that tracks location and movements. The diseases they are concerned about are similar to the U.S. as they are free of most diseases that affect global trade.

“Since they are primarily an exporter, any trade restrictions would devastate their livestock industry,” he added. “Being an island, they don’t have to worry about movements over a border, so they only have to focus on a few ports of entry, and have pretty rigorous inspections and regulations to clear.”

Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, said the potential of Australia opening its market to American beef products is extremely small from the cattle producer standpoint.

“It is always positive to have a mar-

Right: Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, said the potential of Australia opening its market to American beef products is extremely small from the cattle producer standpoint. (courtesy of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association)

ket open to a product, but Australia has more cows than people,” he said. “Australia is a country known for being a beef exporter and not a beef importer,” he said. “Given their total beef production, it is unlikely they will import much beef from the United States.

“They certainly do not produce the same grain-finished beef as the U.S. does, but they are increasing production of grain-finished beef,” he added. “Additionally, there is no information I am aware of that supports Australian consumer demand for U.S. beef of any significance.”

He said, “Doing business with Australia is not like doing business with China where they are known for canceling orders and rejecting shipments. In my opinion, the reason Australia agreed to open their market to U.S. beef was because they know they will not import much beef from the U.S.”



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Farmer sentiment falls in August for third straight month

Farmer sentiment dipped for the third straight month in August, with the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer Index falling 10 points to 125. Producers expressed markedly less optimism about the future, as reflected in the Index of Future Expectations, which fell 16 points to 123. This marks the lowest reading for the future index since last September.

Producers’ perspective on current conditions changed little this month, as the Current Conditions

Index rose 2 points from July to 129. Sentiment differed widely among producers according to whether their operations focused mainly on crops or livestock. Crop producers responded with much less optimism than their livestock counterparts, reflecting the profitability disparity between the two enterprises. Beef cattle operations are experiencing record profitability as the smallest cattle inventory since 1951 has pushed cattle prices to record levels. This stands in sharp contrast to returns for crop

production, which have weakened in 2025. The August barometer survey took place from Aug. 11-15, 2025.

Farmers again reported weak financial expectations for their farms in the coming year. As in July, the Farm Financial Performance Index remained below 100. The reading of 91 barely changed from July’s index value. Crop prices that stand below the cost of production for many farms help explain why more farmers expect weaker incomes for the coming year. The USDA released its August Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports during the week the August survey was conducted. The USDA forecasted a 2025-26 season average corn price of \$3.90 per bushel and a soybean price of \$10.10 per bushel. Both estimates fall well below estimated break-even levels for U.S. farmers. Despite the weak income outlook, the Farm Capital Investment Index improved 8 points from July to 61. Livestock producers had a notably more optimistic outlook in August than crop producers, which helped push the index higher.

The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index reading of

112 dropped 3 points from July, continuing a three-month trend. Even so, the index remains above 100. This indicates that more farmers still expect rising values in the coming year than those who consider declining values as more likely. This perspective is similarly held by three-fourths of crop producers, who said in the August survey that they expect farmland cash rental rates in 2026 to remain unchanged from 2025. Only 12 percent of respondents said they expect lower rates next year.

Every January, the Ag Economy Barometer survey includes two questions about farmers’ expectations about the size of their farm’s operating loan for the coming year and the reasons for a change in operating loan size. Given the concerns about weak farm income in 2025, the two questions about operating loans were added to the August barometer survey. Twenty-two percent of August’s respondents said they expect their 2026 operating loan to be larger than in 2025. This was up from January, when 18 percent of respondents said they expected their 2025 loan size to increase compared to 2024.

A follow-up question to farmers who said they expected their operating loan size to increase asked for the reason behind the larger loan. Twenty-three percent of those farmers in the August survey said it was because they expected to carry over the unpaid operating debt from 2025 to 2026. The responses to these questions suggest that farmers’ financial stress increased from January to August. Financial stress appears to be noticeably higher than it was in January 2023, when only 5 percent of farmers with larger operating loans attributed that to the need to carry over unpaid operating debt. That number rose to 17 percent in January 2024 – still lower than this year.

In sum, the August Ag Economy Barometer survey results show that U.S. farmers generally expect their financial performance for the coming year to drop from the previous year. Despite a weakening Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index in August, more farmers still expect farmland values to rise rather than to weaken. Lastly, the percentage of farmers citing expectations for rising operating debt because of unpaid operating debt carrying over from the previous year could signal increasing farm financial stress in production agriculture.

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Adults Ages 12 and Up (Sun-Sat)	\$7
Children 11 and Under (Sun-Sat)	FREE
School Children (Mon and Tues Only)	FREE
Veterans Day (Mon)	FREE
Senior Day Ages 65 and Over (Fri)	\$2
Weekly Pass 12 and Over	\$35

RIDES

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- Tickets Available:4 for \$5
- Daily Ride Bands are available except Wednesdays
- *TICKET TO RIDE* - Wed. Only 1 ticket needed to ride

Sun (1 pm-10 pm)	\$30
Mon (12 pm-10 pm)	\$25
Tues (3 pm-10 pm)	\$20
Wed (3 pm-10 pm)	*TICKET TO RIDE*
Thurs (3 pm-10 pm)	\$20
Fri (3 pm-10 pm)	\$30
Sat (1 pm-10 pm)	\$30

PARKING

Shuttle service starts at 10 am daily courtesy of Skerbeck Family Carnival, Jonesville Lumber, The Gerken Companies, and Jackson College.

Weekly Car and Driver	\$60
Parking (Auto, Motorcycle, and Scooters)	\$5

*Veterans Day free admission is available to Veterans only--any military service with proper credentials, including Reserves and National Guard. Daily purchases are valid on the day of purchase only. No transfers or swapping. All sales are final. Ride opening and closing times are subject to change without notice due to weather or other unforeseen occurrences.

SUN | 21

FIRST DAY OF THE FAIR!

1 pm Rides Open
1 pm Exhibits Open
2-3:15 pm ... **Church Service @ Bandshell**
4-5:30 pm *Talent Show @ Woman's Congress*

4 pm @ Grandstand NTPA TRACTOR PULL
Show @ 4 pm, Doors @ 3 pm Reserved Box Seat \$20 General \$15 5 and Under Free

5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
6-8 pm **Destiny Worship @ Bandshell**

MON | 22

VETERANS & CHILDREN'S DAY

sponsored by McDonald's.
Children 18 and under and Veterans* receive FREE admission! *Veterans only – any military service with proper credentials, including Reserves and National Guard.

9 am Judging of Floats
10 am Veterans Day Parade
10 am Exhibits Open
11 am Pedal Pull Registration (Near the Horseshoe Pavilion)
11:15-12:15 pm. **Veteran of the Year Program @ Bandshell.** *FREE coffee/donuts for veterans and families at 10:30 am.* Donuts by Hillsdale County Agricultural Society.
12 pm Rides Open
12 pm Heavy/Lightweight Pony Pulls
12:30 pm. Horseshoe-Open Singles/ Veterans
1-4 pm **Pedal Pull (Youth & Adult) @ Bandshell**
1:30 pm. *Woman's Congress Program*
5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
6-7:30 pm **RUSCH Entertainment CEYX Band - Dueling Fun @ Bandshell**
6:30 pm @ Grandstand
ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL & MINI RODS
Show @ 6:30 pm, Doors @ 5:30 pm
FREE
Sponsored by **Community Choice Credit Union**

TUE | 23

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children 18 and under receive FREE admission!

10 am Exhibits Open
12 pm .. National Heavyweight Horse Pulls
1:30 pm. *Woman's Congress Program*
3 pm Rides Open
5-6:30 pm. **Pure Energy Cloggers @ Bandshell**
5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
7 pm **Back Porch @ Bandshell**
6:30 pm @ Grandstand
TNT DEMOLITION DERBY
Show @ 6:30 pm, Doors @ 5:30 pm
Reserved Box Seat \$18
General \$15
5 and Under Free
Sponsored by **Lake Pleasant Recycling**

WED | 24

1 TICKET PER RIDE!

10 am Exhibits Open
10 am ... Horseshoe-Doubles Tournament
12 pm ... National Lightweight Horse Pulls
1:30 pm. *Woman's Congress Program*
3 pm Rides Open
4-5:30 pm. **Common Bond @ Bandshell**
5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
6-9 pm . **My Redneck Brother @ Bandshell**
7:30 pm @ Grandstand
TK-PRO RODEO
Show @ 7:30 pm, Doors @ 6 pm
Reserved Box Seat \$25
General \$15
5 and Under Free

THUR | 25

10 am Exhibits Open
1:30 pm. *Woman's Congress Program*
3 pm Rides Open
4-5:30 pm **Bob Pogue @ Bandshell**
5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
6 pm .. SMALL ANIMAL SALE @ EXPO BUILDING
6:30-8:30 pm. **Kay Harper & Company @ Bandshell**

7 pm @ Grandstand THUNDER THURSDAY TRUCK PULLS
Show @ 7 pm, Doors @ 6 pm Reserved Box Seat \$15 General \$12 5 and Under Free

FRI | 26

SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY

Senior Citizen's ages 65 and over pay \$2 for admission!

10 am Exhibits Open
10-2 pm **Senior Day Activities @ Bandshell**
12 pm .. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
1:30 pm. *Woman's Congress Program*
3 pm Rides Open
4-5:30 pm ... **Morgan Blonde @ Bandshell**
5:30 pm. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Singles
6:30-9 pm **Full Moon @ Bandshell**
6:30 pm @ Grandstand
TYLER FARR CONCERT
with Special Guests
Jason Cross & Hayden Ladd
Show @ 6:30 pm, Doors @ 5:30 pm
Track \$60
Reserve Box Seat \$45
General Admission \$29
Sponsored by **Jackson College, Ritz-Craft, Walmart**

SAT | 27

9 am ..Large Animal Sale @ Expo Building
10 am Exhibits Open
10 am Exhibits Open
10 am .. Horseshoe Pitching-Open Doubles
12-2 pm **DeWayne Spaw @ Bandshell**
1 pm Rides Open
3-5 pm . **Kailey Rodriguez Dance Program @ Bandshell**
6:30-9 pm **Revlimit @ Bandshell**
6:30 pm @ Grandstand
TNT DEMOLITION DERBY
DeWayne Spaw 5:30-6:30 pm
Show @ 6:30 pm, Doors @ 5:30 pm
Reserved Box Seat \$18
General \$15
5 and Under Free
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Blacksmithing and **CIW Wrestling** are also part of the free daily events.
No alcohol, skateboards, rollerblades, roller skates, or pets allowed. The complete schedule is available at the Information Booth by the main gate.

SHUTTLE SERVICE STARTS AT 10 AM DAILY!

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CIW Wrestling Sponsored by **Pittsford Gas & Tire**

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Be sure to visit the Hillsdale County Fair Museum and Centennial Farm Display near Walt's Donut Hut at the top of the hill!

HORSE, PONY & TRACTOR PULLS!

Mon - Fri (See Open Class Judging Schedule)
Horse Pulls Sponsored by **Frank Beck Chevrolet**



JD 2305, hydro trans, 4WD, 62" mid mount mower, 575 hrs., exc. cond. \$9,500



IH 884 row crop, 1 owner, 700 hrs, 540/1000 pto, 2250 loader, always housed, Excl \$27,500



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Kubota MX5100F 2WD, 650 hrs, Turf tires, loader, good condition \$17,500



Kubota B2301 HSD w/Loader & 60" mower deck, 100 hrs., very good \$19,500



2022 Kubota M7060 HDC12, cab w/heat & AC 2 rear remote valves, 12F-12R hydraulic shuttle, cast rear wheel centers, 930 hrs., very nice \$55,900



JD X475 garden tractor w/54" deck, grass catcher, liquid cooled Kawasaki engine, exc. cond., \$3,200



Kubota L3200F, 2WD, gear drive trans., 32 hp pre emission engine, 300 hrs., exc. cond. \$15,500



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No cost soil sampling program offered

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) to develop a no-cost program with a focus on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit farm operations. The program, titled Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program, is open now for applicants.

"This program is helpful and valuable for our Hoosier farmers," Lt. Gov. Michh Beckwith, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture, said. "By offering no-cost access to soil sampling, this initiative supports farmers with the tools and knowledge to make smarter nutrient management decisions. I encourage our farmers to apply."

ISDA promotes the importance of nutrient management and the principles of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework. The 4R framework incorporates using the "Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place" to achieve cropping system goals. This program focuses on soil sampling and testing as it is a key component, and first step, of developing a plan for nutrient management. Soil sampling provides an assessment of the soil's fertility which can be used for making fertilizer application recommendations, assessing available nutrients over time, increasing farmer profitability and

enhancing environmental protection by reducing the risk of nutrient loss. This project was developed to help further Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy efforts.

"A no-cost program for farmers to utilize for soil testing is a great tool in this farm economy," said Don Lamb, ISDA director. "Healthy soils are vital for crop health, animal health and conservation. I am very proud of our department for managing this crucial on farm program and we encourage both row crop farmers and pasture owners to apply."

This program includes row crop fields, pastures, hay and specialty crops located within Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin. Eligible landowners will be prioritized by acreage enrolled (i.e., 100 acres or less), fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last four years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on ISDA's workload capacity. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns.

Interested landowners can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager, Ophelia Norman at soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

ISDA is accepting registrations until Oct. 17, 2025, or until funds are exhausted.

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Antique Farm Equipment	170	Generators	230	Poultry	300
Antique Tractors	410	Goats	270	Rabbits	320
Augers	390	Grain Bins & Drying Equip.	480	Ratites	400
Buildings	50	Grinder-Mixers	550	Real Estate For Sale	160
Building Materials	200	Harvest Equipment	310	Real Estate Wanted	150
Bush Hogs	101	Hay & Straw	340	Recreational Vehicles	70
Cars	60	Hay Equipment	530	Seed Handling Equip.	370
Cattle	210	Help Wanted	30	Services	180
Combines & Pickers-Headers	490	Horses	290	Sheep	260
Custom Work	120	Industrial Equipment	100	Skid Steer Loaders	420
Dairy Equipment	330	Irrigation	430	Swine	250
Dogs-Cats	280	Lawn & Garden	460	Tillage (Plows, Discs, Etc.)	510
Farm Equipment Wanted	440	Livestock Equipment	220	Tractors	450
Farm Tires	470	Lumber	190	Trailers	90
Feed-Seed	350	Manure Equipment	540	Trucks	80
Fert./Chemical Appl. Equip.	380	Misc. Farm Equipment	560	Wagons	500
Fertilizer & Chemicals	360	Misc. Parts	240	Wanted To Buy	20
For Rent	130	Organic	40	Wanted To Rent	140

10 FOR SALE, GENERAL

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(6) complete Thorp all SS farrowing crates, exc. cond., \$200 ea. 812-326-2912 St. Anthony, IN.

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ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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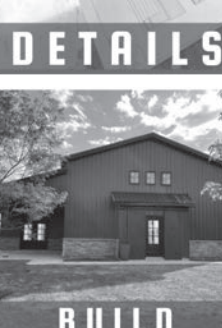




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1997 Peterbilt, 378, 3406 CAT motor, 13 spd., 48" bunk, 2 line wet kit. 765-344-1158, 765-592-1276 Rockville, IN.

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2010 Wilson 34' hopper btm., ag hoppers, gd. tires & brakes, exc. cond. 765-993-4250 Liberty, IN.

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(4) crossbreds, approx. 325 lbs., castrated, vaccinated. 260-849-2489 Bryant, IN.

(5) cow/calf pairs, (12) bred cows, (2) bulls. 812-593-3909 Greensburg, IN.

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Kentucky gourd farm is the destination for artists and crafters

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

MELBER, Ky. – Fifteen miles south of Paducah, Ky., on Owens Chapel Road in Graves County, is The Gourd Barn, owned and operated by David and Donna Meeks. The farm sits half-way between Paducah and Mayfield, and roughly 30 minutes from the Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee state lines.

“I see people all the time from four different states,” David Meeks said,



Above: The two most popular items made from gourds are drums and birdhouses.

“for the reasons I have so many gourds to choose from and my prices are reasonable.”

An area that was once rich with tobacco fields is best known for gourds these days. All thanks to the Meeks, whose farm has become a go-to place for gourds of all shapes and sizes. Meeks offers a large selection of raw gourds, cleaned gourds or dyed gourds. Meeks has dedicated 1.5 acres to growing this hard-shelled fruit.

Meeks, 80, started growing pumpkins, gourds and corn as a hobby after he retired from teaching welding at West Kentucky Community & Technical College roughly 25 years ago. His pumpkin patch became a prime destination for many school children. Meeks opened his farm to students for 10 years.

“We offered the kids a free miniature pumpkin and a free fruit drink, didn’t charge them one red cent,” Meeks said. “That was smart business because the kids would go home and tell their parents about our farm and many families would show up on the weekend.

“That was a lot of work and we had trouble providing enough pumpkins for the masses. I even went across the state lines to buy pumpkins from growers just to have my own supply. But that was a lot of work and we shot that venture down and put our efforts into gourds.”

To this day, the Meeks grow thousands of gourds on just 1.5 acres. While Meek’s pumpkin patch was a



Above: David Meeks’ arbor is the home to long-handle dippers. They are hung to prevent them from curling. (photo submitted)

lure for children, his gourds are coveted by the older crowd, mostly artisans from four states.

Meeks plants his gourds around May, and the vines begin producing in late June or early July. Some of the gourds, like the Indonesian bottle gourd, grow up to 5 feet in length and require support so they don’t fall to the ground and burst.

“That’s why visitors to my arbor will see gourds wrapped in pantyhose,” Meeks said.

Meeks’ barn houses as many as 8,000 dried gourds of all sizes and

shapes. Gourd artists come from miles around to get their hands on these gourds to make such things as birdhouses, bowls, musical instruments and drinking vessels. Meeks’ daughter, Tammy Thomason, is one of those avid gourd artists.

“Gourds are like any other craft you get into, it’s habit-forming,” Thomason said. “You enjoy and get pleasure and relaxation working on one.”

In addition to growing gourds under the open skies, Meeks grows some in

(Gourds continued on page 2B)

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Gourds

FROM PAGE 1B

his 30-foot-by-80-foot arbor.
“Artisans oftentimes add a stain to the gourds to give them an appearance of exotic wood,” said Ronny Moyers, a volunteer at Mayfield’s Ice House Art Gallery, which hosts the annual Gourd Patch Arts Festival and All About Gourds exhibition. “They’re real versatile.”

Meeks can be found manning his 40-foot wagon full of gourds at the Mayfield festival every year.

Meeks’ gourd patch is best known for the long-handle dippers (which range from 5-6 feet long), Tennessee spinner (roughly the size of a quarter),



Above: Gourds such as these are referred to as long-handled dippers. “You have to hang them to make them grow straight,” Meeks said. “If you put them on the ground they’ll curve every time.” (photo submitted)



Above: A 15-pound bottle gourd was used to make this unique drum. (photo submitted)

bushel gourd (roughly 2 feet across) and African wine kettle (about 24 inches tall).

Oh, and there’s so much more. Quite popular are bottle gourds. These hard-shelled gourds can be used for a variety of practical purposes, such as making water bottles, dippers and birdhouses. Apple gourds (shaped like apples) can be dried and painted for decorative purposes. These are also edible when young and are used in curries in some cultures.

Luffa gourds are known for their fibrous interior and often used as natural sponges. They can be eaten when immature but are primarily grown for their sponge-like texture when dried. Snake gourds are long and slender and can be eaten when immature. They are often used as a substitute for tomatoes in cooking. They have a unique appearance and can grow up to 6 feet long. Ornamental gourds are small and colorful, often used for autumn displays and crafts.

“Gourds, being 90 percent water, require constant hydration, and we use special drip irrigation that maintains water flow inside and out,” Meeks said.

Meeks harvests his gourds after the first killing frost.

“When the frost kills the vines, the



Above: Meeks’ barn houses as many as 8,000 dried gourds of all shapes and sizes. (photo submitted)

gourds are done growing,” he said.

Each fall Meeks makes use of 110 wooden pallets and fills each one with gourds. He drills quarter-inch holes in each and lets them cure until April.

“Gourds are 90 percent water, so a drill hole helps them cure faster,” he said.

His curing process also involves spreading the gourds around 100 pallets and drying them until spring in March or April. This process protects them from rain, snow and cold weather, preventing molding.

“I had a man come by recently and he bought 100 gourds,” Meeks said. “He attends all these festivals, and he makes bird houses out of them. I had

a young woman stop by and purchase 100 or so because she was making musical instruments and bowls out of them.

“We used to ship our gourds across the country, but the problem with that is shipping costs more than the gourds themselves. And we stopped shipping seeds. The problem was people would tell me on the phone what gourd seed they’re wanting, I’d ship them, then I’d get a call back and they’d tell me it wasn’t what they were looking for. We eventually discovered that the plants were cross-pollinated at night by moths, so we stopped selling the seeds. Now, we just sell gourds from our farm here in Melber.”



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Shorthorn rescued from farm pond after overnight adventure

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

REILY TOWNSHIP, Ohio – Rosie, the cow, went for a drink of water, but ended up spending the night stuck in a pond.

Wally Minges and his son, Wally Jr., noticed recently Rosie, one of their cows, was missing. After looking in the pasture they found her stuck in the muck of a pond.

“We got a pond out in the pasture for the cattle to wade in, but of course, with 40 some days of no rain, it is dried up,” Minges said. “She decided she was going to wade out into it to get some water and got stuck in the muck. Evidently, she was in it all night. The only thing exposed was about three inches of her back, and she had her head up above the mud.”

"I called 911 and requested a large animal rescue," he explained. "They responded, and they were here in about 12 minutes. They put boards down so they could get out to her safely."

They got a rope halter on her head," said Reily Township Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dennis Conrad. Reily Township is a rural community. The fire department has had its share of large animal rescues, so they know what to do and have rigged up the necessary equipment.

"All that was sticking out was her neck," Conrad said. "We put platforms down so we could get to her head; we got a halter on her, and then we took a garden hose with tubes we have made up that we can shoot air or water through. We kept pumping water down beside her legs in the mud to break the suction."

Four men tried pulling by hand and were able to get her front end moving.



Above: Rosie, a 14-year-old shorthorn and former county fair champion, still showing signs of her adventure, was comfortably munching hay in her stall the next day.

They finally hooked her to the winch on the truck. As they carefully inched her out, they kept pumping water down around her and slowly pulled her up on the bank.

"I never dreamed it, but once she got to the bank, she stood right up," Ming-es said.

Conrad added, "We get a few calls like this every year, but this was one of the worst ones we've had for a while. Most times their feet are stuck, but her whole body was in the mud. She tried to move, but she was just going deeper. It wouldn't have been long before her head would have been under. We have done it (these rescues) so much over the years that we've got the equipment made up to handle that kind of situation, whether



Above: The Reily Township Volunteer Fire Department carefully winched Rosie out of the muck while pumping water around her legs and under her. She surprised everyone when she stood up after the rescue.

it's horses or cattle."

The next day, Rosie, a 14-year-old shorthorn, was a little sore but resting comfortably in her stall. Colleen (Minges) Marker, Wally's daughter, was with her. Colleen, who was not present at the rescue, had shown Rosie in 4-H.

"We went to a couple of Jackpot Shows and she did well in the breeds, she won a couple of classes," Marker said. "At the Butler County Fair, she was Reserve Champion Overall. We took her to the North American International Livestock Exposition and she placed well."

Minges said he was impressed with the rescue.

"I have always told them I wanted to watch them do that, but I didn't want it to be one of mine," he said.



Above: The pond after Rosie's rescue.



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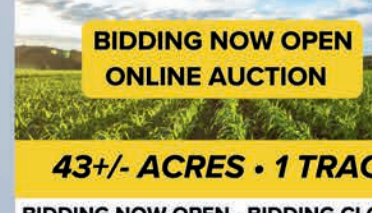
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Questions arise about EU-Trump administration trade deal

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – The head of the European Parliament’s trade committee said Sept. 3 he has “doubts” about aspects of the EU’s trade deal with the Trump administration and predicted the deal could be amended during the legislative approval process.

“A lot of questions are there, and I guess there will be some amendments,” said committee chairman Bernd Lange, adding that “myself and also some colleagues of mine have doubts about the deal.”

Lange stopped short of outright opposing the agreement struck July 27 between the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and U.S. President Donald Trump. The deal imposes a 15 percent tariff on European goods while lowering EU tariffs on U.S. cars and industrial goods to zero; some EU goods including aircraft, cork and generic pharmaceuticals, were exempted from the 15 percent rates.

The deal has had a mixed reception in Europe, with business associations saying it imposes high costs that will impede exports to the U.S. Von der Leyen says that it will lower a painful 27.5 percent tariff on autos and bring stability and predictability for businesses.

Lange however said “there is no security or predictability,” citing a U.S. decision two weeks after the deal was struck to include some 400 different goods containing steel such as pumps and motorcycle under a 50 percent steel and aluminum tariff instead of the 15 percent tariff.

A top EU trade official urged the committee to approve the deal, saying the rate was low enough to keep trade flowing and maintain EU companies’ access to the U.S. market while avoiding a worse trade conflict. “You need to look at the alternative,” said Sabine Weyand, director general for trade.

The agreement has been set down only in a statement that left room for further talks on key issues.

Trump faces questions about whether he exceeded his legal authorities by declaring a national emergency under a 1977 law to impose the broad tariffs. A U.S. appeals court in late August upheld a previous lower court ruling that the president lacked the power to exact tariffs of that magnitude without going through Congress or using other legal mechanisms, a decision that Trump said Sept. 2 will in turn be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Trump aroused concern Aug. 26 by threatening tariffs in response to EU digital regulation, which EU officials said were not part of the deal.

“Where will it end – we are just getting more and more demands from Trump,” said deputy Saskia Bricmont, a member of the Greens/European Free Alliance group.

Parliamentary action would be needed to implement the EU side of the tariffs deal. Lange did not say what the amendments might contain. The leader of one group in parliament, the center-left Socialists and Democrats, has come out against the deal but the group has only 136 seats in the 720-

seat parliament and cannot stop the deal by itself. Lange is a member of the group.

The European Commission underlined its determination to expand cooperative trade to other partners beyond the U.S., on Sept. 3 sending free trade deals with Mexico and the Mercosur trading bloc in Latin America for ratification by member states.

The Mercosur deal would create what EU officials call the world’s largest free trade zone with 700 million people and lower high tariffs on EU farm exports in Latin America. It also would protect some politically sensitive EU farm products, particularly beef, in an attempt to mollify objections from EU farm lobbies in France and Poland.

A limited amount of Mercosur beef – equal to around 1.5 percent of the European market – would face a moderate 7.5 percent tariff, but quantities above that would be hit with prohibitively high rates. There is also 6.3 billion euros in support for farmers in case of unexpected market disruptions.



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We live in a time like never before, and if you're like me, you have a real problem wrapping your head around the changes. We've had tough times, the late 90's, early 80's, and every year, ups and downs we all have to deal with as we try and keep our families healthy and cared for.

Add that to an economy, that in my opinion, is pulling equity out of agriculture faster than we can replace it, there is one change that I believe we can get a handle on. I recently read that over half of the farmers and ranchers in the country do not have their taxes filed by a CPA or accountant specializing in agriculture. I don't think that this is a practice that will be practical or even possible in the future. The tax code is so complex and doubly so for agriculture. Add to this the need for succession planning and the mom-and-pop bookkeeping service is well over their head, no matter how well intentioned. For those bookkeeping services that wish to do right by clients, there are specialized agriculture services that offer their help to accounting businesses, even smaller agencies.

On our farm we use a soil sampling service that provides us with fertilizer rates that maximize our land's potential. Anymore fertilizer and we're just trading dollars. In a sense this is risk management. Especially when we're losing money with our grains, we need to know the minimum we can spend to make a crop. I suggest that if more of us would be working towards a business model like this, we may also have an impact on the market. Although we will produce quantity less than our ability,

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BY BILL WHITMAN

we will come closer to being capable of mitigating losses on our operations. We need to integrate our numbers for use in every facet of our farms and ranches. I'd

like to see a service that can provide a data management covering everything from agronomy plans to tax planning, with one caveat, they are independent from any input service to maintain an unbiased base.

Without a doubt we're going to see our major input suppliers develop "whole farm" management programs where they will offer to help us with financial and tax decisions. I really question the wisdom of considering this but having watch so many embraces other facets of management of our farms, they will find themselves in even more control of American agriculture than they have now.

So, here's the two-edged sword, we need the data to make hard decisions which can determine the financial stability of our farms and ranches but for most of us, this means opening our personal finances to strangers to develop the data we need. My issue is that there is already so much of our farms data that we don't understand, how is adding to that burden going to help us?

It's time to start asking questions and have the understanding to use the answers to make the best decisions for our own farms. In a following article I'll present suggestions for questions needed asked and answered.

Horse Sense: Time is our most asset. Use it wisely.
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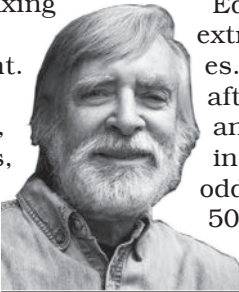


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Fast rooted in the fruitful soil. – Alfred Lord Tennyson



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK
By Bill Felker

The Moon September
The Plum Pie Moon is new on Sept. 21.
The moon enters its second quarter on Sept. 29.
Autumn Equinox is Sept. 22.

The Major Planets of September
Look for Jupiter high in Gemini before dawn. Saturn comes up in the middle of the night and remains in the sky throughout the day. Red Mars in Virgo and giant Venus in Leo will be the Evening Stars.

The Sun
The sun moves toward fall at a little more than one degree every three days until it reaches equinox at 3:44 p.m. (EST) on Sept. 22, entering the sign of Libra at the same moment.
The Weather in the Week Ahead

Equinox parallels a drop in extremes as well as in averages. Days in the 90s are rare after the 22nd of September, and even 80s will be gone in about three weeks. The odds for an afternoon in the 50s or 60s this week doubles over those odds last week. The season of light frosts deepens in Ohio, Indiana and southern Michigan; the 24th and the 27th even carry a 20 percent chance of a mild freeze – the greatest chance since May 10. On the 23rd and the 26th, chances of a high below 70 degrees are better than 50 percent, the first time that has happened since May 4. Precipitation is usually lightest on the 28th (just a 15 percent chance of showers on that date).

When-Then Phenology
When the autumn leafturn has begun along the 40th Parallel, the deciduous trees are bare in northern Canada. In New England and in the Rocky Mountains, foliage colors are approaching their best.
When the huge pink mallows of the wetlands have died back, then the juni-

per tip midge appears on junipers, and gall adelgids attack the spruce threes.
When milkweed pods open, then late hosta bloom ends in town. In the woods, Middle Spring's sedum is growing stronger. Henbit, mint and catchweed revive as the canopy thins. Waterleaf has fresh shoots. Snow-on-the-mountain has recovered from its mid-summer slump and can be as thick and as beautiful as in Early Spring.

Stilling the Kinematoscope
Keeping notes about events in nature over a number of years has shown me what I already knew: if something happens once, it will usually happen again.
When I see a particular insect or flower for the first time in the year, I check my daybook to find when I saw it in other years. Sometimes things are early, sometimes late, but they are almost always in the right sequence, the variations dependent on the quality of the season.
Often, however, I assume too much and go too far. When I see the same things happening every May, I develop expectations, and when those expectations are fulfilled, I take the

expectations a little further, and then a little further still. I pretend to find rules and systems.
Finally, I start imagining that not only is each day's journal a record of its own events, but a history of what has always occurred and what will occur again and again. I no longer wait for repetition to formulate patterns or predictions. One day's narrative becomes enough to defuse the need for replication.
Instead of the effect sought so diligently in the 19th century by the creator of the kinematoscope, in which still pictures were rotated or manipulated to create the illusion of motion, I find a reverse effect in multiple images and in repetition, an inverse kinematoscope that stills the disruption of passage.
Once I reach that point, everything makes sense. I settle into the solid landscape of here and now. One event reaches back and forth through multiple seasons, is knit tightly with parallel events that are separated only by time, time that, in spite of appearance, and no matter how fast it seems to fly, makes the present only more fixed and indelible. Nothing is separate. One event is all there is.

A Smart Dog
By Bill Rolke, Columbus, Ind.
“We used to have a dog which was so smart,” wrote Bill, “that it could and would answer questions.
“This dog ran around a lot at night, and in the morning, if we had time to do a little hunting, we'd just call him over and ask him if he had been in the woods last night.
“He'd then either nod his head ‘yes,’ or shake it for ‘no.’ He always answered ‘yes’ to that question. Then we'd ask, ‘Did you see any squirrels?’ and he'd either nod or shake his head. If the answer was ‘yes,’ we would take him with us back into the woods and never failed to get two or three squirrels.
“We got rid of that dog, though. We discovered there were always squirrels in the woods. But that dern dog would shake his head ‘no’ when he had really been over at the neighbor's place the night before and was just too tired to go hunting.”

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Several manufacturers show off new tractors and upgrades at Farm Progress Show

This year's Farm Progress Show brought out a host of new tractor models and upgrades. Here are some highlights from various manufacturers:

Fendt - The next generation of the Vario Series was on display, with numerous advancements.

Deere - A retrofitted autonomy kit can turn older tractors into robots. The overlapping cameras are connected to internal telematics, allowing them to navigate fields for tillage jobs.

Steiger (Case IH) - The 785 Quadrac has increased horsepower and protects engine health with a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) emissions system. SCR is a technology that reduces pollutants in exhaust gases.

Massey Ferguson - The introduction of the 5M series brings a new horsepower range into their dealerships. This line offers mid-size tractors, which are smaller than traditional full-size models and intended for smaller farms, a growing trend.

Case IH - The Farmall name is back. Farmall utility M series includes the 110M and 120 Super M. It's been 71 years since you could last buy a Super M.

Alongside these major launches, other manufacturers were present throughout the Farm Progress grounds, each introducing their newest models. Some products may have been introduced earlier than planned to boost sales during a season of low commodity prices.

With over 600 exhibitors, it's no wonder that some visitors spend all three days attending this event. It's truly an amazing experience.

INNOVATION

The definition is, "The process of bringing new or improved goods, services, or practices into practical use to create value or solve a problem."

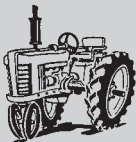
There is no better example of innovation than in the world of tractors. Certainly, cars, trucks and trains have changed dramatically through the years, but all with the same purpose: to better transport people or products. Tractors, however, have been put to endless new tasks every year through history, requiring non-stop innovation.

During the first two decades of the 20th century, 249 companies attempted to design tractors for various jobs. Only a few survived.

Starting at about 12 horsepower -

ALL ABOUT TRACTORS

BY PAUL WALLEM



which is a measure of the tractor's power output - tractors have now reached up to 1,000 horsepower.

A wide range of crop conditions and industrial needs require innovation to continue. It is a continuous process. For example, transmissions alone - have prompted hundreds of attempts to design variations suitable for different tasks.

It takes courage to dream outside the box. Often, the huge effort, investment, and perseverance do not pay off. But some do.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Today, this innovative drive is embodied in the ability of a machine to go to the field and operate without a driver (autonomously), made possible by artificial intelligence, or AI.

It's not new. At Dartmouth College in 1956, John McCarthy coined the phrase to describe the goal of creating machines that could simulate human thinking. The 1960s brought the development of the first AI programming language, LISP, as research continued.

The 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s saw more progress, including the creation of influential textbooks. Some call it math, others say it's not. It is a label placed on technologies ranging from self-driving vehicles to facial recognition, chatbox programs, etc. In general, whenever we discuss AI, we refer to technology that enables computers to perform tasks that we believe require intelligence when done by people.

This technology is being integrated into the software we use every day, from search engines to word processing apps to assistants that converse with you instead of humans on the phone. AI is not going away.

From robot-packed meals in the grocery store to the operation of your combine or tractor, AI is here to stay.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER - Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out. (John Wooden)

Paul Wallem was raised on an Illinois dairy farm. He spent 13 years with corporate IH in 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 comments to pwallem@aol.com



Above: Steiger hydraulic hookups on display at Farm Progress Show

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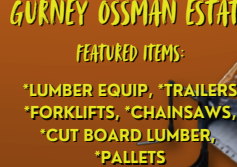
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Wet and dry weather have contributed to challenging weed problem this year



Above: Perilla Mint: Deadly to livestock, and it's no longer hiding in the shade – watch for it in open pastures.

Weather has been the biggest variable again this year, and it's made clear just how different conditions can be from one farm to the next. From my own place in southwest Indiana, we've had more rain than we'd like, while others nearby have been dealing with the opposite. No one set of observations covers every situation, so what I share each month comes from what I see at home, along with farm visits, conversations with producers and the questions and challenges you pass along. My goal is to offer ideas and principles you can adapt to your own conditions – rain or shine.

Weeds have been especially challenging this year across both pastures and hay fields. Prolonged periods of either excessive rainfall or drought have stressed desirable forage species, opening the door for opportunistic and often toxic weeds to expand. When cool-season grasses and legumes are weakened, weed species are quick to exploit the gaps. This season has seen widespread increases in Carolina horsenettle, nimblewill, ironweed, annual ragweed, cocklebur and Perilla mint, all of which are showing up more frequently and more aggressively than in recent years. Each of these presents its own risks and management challenges.

Both excessively wet and droughty conditions can create voids in preferred forage stands, whether through root damage, crown rot, dormancy or reduced regrowth. These openings are quickly exploited by opportunistic weeds, many of which have been lying dormant in the soil seed bank, waiting for the right conditions to emerge. Annual species like ragweed and cocklebur in particular are well-adapted to take advantage of bare soil and reduced competition, establishing quickly and spreading aggressively in stressed pastures and hay fields.

This year's hot, wet summer created ideal conditions in many areas for nimblewill (*Muhlenbergia schreberi*) to thrive across pastures, hayfields and lawns. As a warm-season perennial grass, nimblewill takes full advantage of hot temperatures and ample soil moisture – particularly in shaded, low-lying or poorly drained ground. In these favorable areas, cool-season grasses and legumes

GRAZING BITES

BY VICTOR SHELTON,
RETIRED NRCS AGRONOMIST/
GRAZING SPECIALIST

often went dormant or struggled with disease pressure, thinning out and leaving gaps that nimblewill quickly filled. Even pastures with

good fertility saw increased spread, as the grass's creeping stolons rooted easily in soft, saturated soils.

Managing nimblewill going forward will require a combination of strategic grazing, fertility management and timely reseeding. High-density, short-duration grazing (mob grazing) or targeted bale grazing during winter can help suppress existing stands by trampling growth and improving soil structure. Fall remains the best opportunity to overseed thin or infested areas with cool-season grasses and legumes. Soil testing and applying the correct balance of phosphorus, potassium and lime will support strong regrowth of desirable species, helping them compete more effectively.

While nimblewill may not be eliminated entirely, it can be pushed back with consistent pasture management that prioritizes dense, vigorous forage. Addressing compaction, improving drainage and rotating pastures thoughtfully are all key to keeping this opportunistic invader in check – especially as weather extremes become more common in the years ahead.

Another pest with a growing footprint is perilla mint. I first remember encountering perilla mint back in the 1970s on a farm I knew well. You usually smelled it before you ever saw it – that sharp, pungent, minty odor that filled the air when the plant was brushed or disturbed. Back then, it was mostly a plant of the woods edge, showing up along fence lines, in lightly grazed wooded areas or in spots where cattle had opened the understory a bit. It kept to the shadows, and you rarely saw it out in the open.

Fast forward to this year, and perilla mint is showing up in places it never used to – even in full sun. This shift is concerning, not just because it signals the plant is adapting to a wider range of conditions, but because of the serious toxicity risks it poses to livestock. All parts of the plant – especially the seeds – contain perilla ketones, which can cause fatal respiratory distress in cattle, horses and other ruminants. There's no antidote, and symptoms often appear suddenly, including labored breathing and reluctance to move.

Perilla mint takes advantage of disturbed or thin pasture ground, thriving where preferred forages have been weakened by drought, trampling, overgrazing or excess moisture. Once it finds a foothold, it can spread rapidly – especially in late summer – making it all the more important to scout regularly and take control measures before seed set. Mowing, targeted herbicide use and maintaining dense forage cover are key strategies to limit its spread. Given its toxicity and increased presence across a wider range of conditions, perilla mint can no longer be viewed as just a woods-edge nuisance, it's a pasture management priority.

It's considered safe to pull perilla mint by hand when individual plants are found, especially far from wooded or shaded areas – though you might want to wear gloves, if only to avoid carrying that strong, lingering minty smell with you all day.

When it comes to deciding whether to use mechanical or herbicide treatments for pasture weeds based on

(Grazing bites continued on page 19B)

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July cheese output fell just short of an all-time record

You'll recall July milk production was up 3.4 percent from a year ago. Milk components were also up, leaving plenty to convert into the cheese, butter and other products we all love. The USDA's latest Dairy Products report shows where the milk went.

July cheese output climbed to a record for the month and was a few million pounds short of the all-time record, coming in at 1.215 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from June, and 2.1 percent above July 2024. Total output in the seven-month period hit 8.5 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from the same period in 2024.

Mozzarella production totaled 412.3 million pounds, up 3.1 percent from a year ago, with year-to-date (YTD) output hitting 2.8 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from 2024. American cheese, at 475.7 million pounds, was up 0.4 percent from June, and 2.3 percent above a year ago. YTD American hit 3.4 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent. Italian style cheeses totaled 518.0 million pounds, up 1.5 percent from June, and up 4.1 percent from a year ago, with YTD at 3.6 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent.

Cheddar production slipped to 327.1 million pounds, down 4.9 million or 1.5 percent from June, but was up 20.4 million or 6.7 percent from a year ago. YTD Cheddar hit 2.3 billion pounds, up 5.6 percent from a year ago.

Butter output slowed some, slipping to 180.1 million pounds, down 8.2 million pounds or 4.4 percent from June, but was up 16 million or 9.8 percent from a year ago. YTD output totaled 1.4 billion pounds, up 5.4 percent from a year ago. The Sept. 5 Daily Dairy Report says this was the highest butter volume for the month since 1942.

Yogurt production totaled 437.6 million pounds, up 8.4 percent from a year ago, with output for the year so far at 3.1 billion pounds, up 8.1 percent.

Hard ice cream, at 69.3 million pounds, was up 4.2 percent from 2024. YTD production reached 436.4 million pounds, down 1.3 percent from a year ago.

Dry whey output came in at 63.3 million pounds, down 7.4 million pounds, or 9.8 percent from June, but was up 400,000 pounds or 0.6 percent from a year ago. YTD whey output hit 488 million pounds, down 6.2 percent from a year ago. Whey stocks fell to 50.7 million pounds, down 6.8 million or 12.0 percent from June, and down 13 million or 20.7 percent from a year ago.

The additional cheese production resulted in some added whey and the Daily Dairy Report stated that "Processors pushed as much whey as possible into high-protein concentrates and isolates. Production of whey protein concentrates (WPC) with at least 50 percent protein exceeded July 2024 by 8.4 percent, while whey protein isolate (WPI) production topped the prior year by 4.5 percent. Production of WPC 50-89.9 percent and WPI were on pace to set annual production records," the DDR stated.

Nonfat dry milk output dropped to 129.6 million pounds, down 10.9 million or 7.8 percent from June, but was up 8.6 million pounds or 7.1 percent from a year ago. NFDM YTD came in at 1.1 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from 2024. Stocks fell to 236.2 million pounds, down 7.8 million, or 3.2 percent from June, but were up 9.3 million pounds or 4.1 percent from 2024.

Skim milk powder production dipped to 44.4 million pounds, down 12.3 million pounds or 21.7 percent from June, and down 7.5 million or 14.3 percent from a year ago. YTD SMP reached 283.2 million pounds, down 21.7 percent from 2024.

The DDR warned: "As milk powder output climbs, prices may come under increasing pressure to keep product moving. Meanwhile, rising production in Europe and Oceania and poor demand from China could further undermine global milk powder values."

StoneX Sept. 8 Early Morning Update stated, "The July Dairy Products report might be an early signal that cheese makers are getting a little more disciplined in production (existing plants cutting as new plants in-

crease production)," but StoneX doesn't see anything shocking that the markets haven't already priced in.

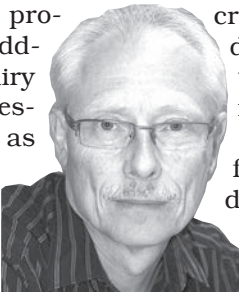
CME Cheddar block cheese fell to \$1.62 per pound Thursday morning, lowest price since June 26, after closing Friday at \$1.69. The barrels closed Thursday at \$1.6350, lowest since July 28, and down from Friday's finish of \$1.70. A year ago, the blocks were at \$2.2750 per pound and the barrels at \$2.4850.

Central region milk production is steady to higher, according to Dairy Market News, as cool temperatures contributed to an uptick in Midwest output. Cheesemakers say strong demand from Class I manufacturers is keeping spot volumes tight and trades are limited. Class III spot prices mid-week ranged from flat to \$2-over Class. Cheese production is steady. Export interest is steady and domestic demand was unchanged from recent weeks, but contacts continue to report lighter food service sales compared to 2024.

Class III milk remains sufficient for cheesemakers in the West, says DMN, despite seasonally higher bottling demands. Cheese production remains steady.

Distributors and traders report ample amounts of varietal cheese is available. Domestic demand remains unchanged while export demand is seeing more competition among sellers from various countries, according to DMN.

The CME butter meltdown fell below \$2 per pound Wednesday, first time since Dec. 2, 2021, and it dropped to \$1.9275 per pound Thursday, following a Friday close at \$2.0225. The butter is at the lowest CME price since Oct. 25, 2021. A year ago, it was trading at \$3.13 per pound.



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

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22

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24

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28

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OCTOBER

2

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4

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Former FSA leader ‘deeply concerned’ about USDA actions, farm bill and more

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

DECATUR, Ill. – The Farm Progress Show (FPS), widely regarded as a massive celebration of all that is great about farming and rural living in the USA, does not often serve as a platform for criticism of the USDA or federal agriculture policy. This didn't stop University of Illinois (U of I) agricultural policy and law professor Jonathan W. Coppess from delivering critical remarks regarding the Trump administration's policy direction on USDA realignment, the farm bill, crop insurance reference prices and more inside the confines of the Illinois Corn-Illinois Soybean tent on Aug. 27.

"I feel bad because I'm like a big, dark cloud over the Farm Progress Show," Coppess said. "They passed the (Big, Beautiful) budget reconciliation bill that included significant changes to the major parts of the farm bill. Now they are doing a budget reconciliation, and we're trying to sort these changes out. A particular one of interest to corn and soybean growers are some pretty significant changes in crop insurance that shall we say I am quite concerned about."

Coppess, who is the Leonard and Lila Gardner-Illinois Farm Bureau Family of Companies Endowed Associate Professor of Agricultural Policy for the U of I Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics, made his remarks on the Illinois Corn and Soy "Your Demand Destination" stage. He served as administrator of the USDA Farm Service Agency, appointed on July 9, 2009, by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, during the Obama administration. Coppess, an Ohio native, draws on his experi-



Above: University of Illinois farm economist and former USDAFSA director Jonathan Coppess is pictured delivering remarks on the stage in the Illinois Corn-Illinois Soy tent during the 2025 Farm Progress Show. Coppess voiced concern about changes to the crop insurance program through the Big, Beautiful Bill.

ence in federal policymaking to guide his research, extension and teaching in agricultural policy and law. "I'm quite concerned about how we are shifting this insurance program into much more of a direct subsidy payment program particularly aimed at higher risk areas and southern commodities, and particularly, Texas," Coppess said. "As you pay for insurance that you're not seeing indemnities out of, the concern is we're tilting the system and creating problems immediately and over the long run in terms of the integrity of the crop insurance program."

Coppess is also concerned about



Above: Farmers gathered in the Illinois Corn-Illinois Soy tent at the Farm Progress Show to hear former USDA FSA director Jonathan Coppess deliver remarks about crop insurance, the Big, Beautiful Bill and the reorganization of the USDA on Aug. 27. (T. Alexander photos)

crop insurance changes because of the vagaries of risk management and shifting weather patterns affecting Midwest-Corn Belt crops, and how the changes will affect USDA farm program services. "So, this is one of the main things we're trying to understand with my colleagues at farmdoc," he said. "We're doing the guesswork of what may happen in an unknowable future with changes that we're still sorting out."

The primary concern regarding

the changes is the tilting of crop insurance reference prices to favor small-acreage crops in the south, the former FSA director reiterated. "Cotton, rice and peanuts got the bigger increases and larger payments per acre," Coppess said. "It is a big concern for us in Illinois and the Midwest that this drastic shift was not debated or deliberated on like you would normally see in a farm bill, which means there was a lot less opportunity to fix (problems) as we go

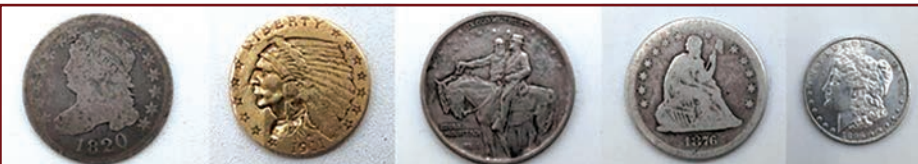
(FSA leader continued on page 15B)

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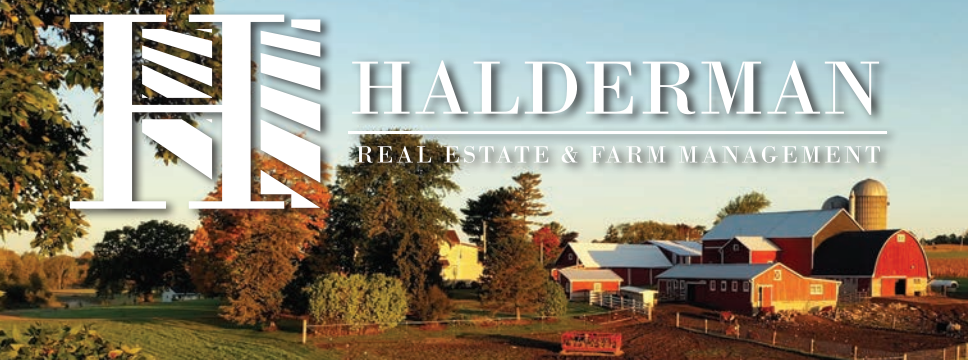
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FSA Leader

FROM PAGE 14B

through the process. This is where we're at, and we're kind of stuck with that through 2031."

This is because there will be no new farm bill forthcoming, Coppess predicted. "It's done; there is no farm bill," he said, in response to a Farm World reporter's query. "They put into the Big, Beautiful Bill a cut of \$200 billion to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and they reauthorized farm programs with the big increases to the subsidy payments. In a political sense, those are the big drivers for getting a (farm) bill done. Once these big programs are reauthorized, there isn't a driver. Programs that haven't been authorized will likely be extended."

Questions remain, however, about the status of the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which was not reauthorized and will expire at the end of September if a federal budget is not passed. "Illinois is the second largest state in terms of the rental payments that come in from CRP, so it is a really big program in this state. Of all of the programs we have, Illinois does best under the CRP than all the other states, so we are a little bit concerned about its expiration," Coppess said.

Citing an example of how the federal crop insurance program has been designed to make Illinois a pay-in state, Coppess noted that over the past 10 years the average Illinois row crop farmer has paid into the federal crop insurance program around \$1,000 more per USDA Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) policy than they have reaped in payouts.

"This certainly raises questions here as to whether we are seeing policy design to help all farmers equally or to help all farmers get their actual risks fixed," he said.

Under the realignment, SCO subsidies are now at 90 percent for a coverage trigger and 80 percent as a payment subsidy for Illinois farmers, which is an increase from previous levels. However, "If you're buying at 85 percent, are you trading off or is it a value? It's area-wide, so the whole county has to suffer loss to trigger an indemnity," Coppess said.

"One of the concerns we have is that it really benefits high-risk areas and high-risk crops, so it's going to be a moral hazard, to use an economist's term, where they are actually encouraging production in areas where they have high risk and not necessarily rating it properly so that you are paying for it. This makes it look more like a direct payment program operating under crop insurance. The cynic in me looks at this from the side of the farmer that is not getting indemnities; you are basically donating funds to this process."

Calling the reorganizing and reconstruction of the USDA "a time of significant uncertainty" and "a disruption," Coppess questioned whether the Brooke Rollins-led USDA was making wise use of taxpayers' money or simply performing political theater. "Having once upon a time worked there, please be nice to your county employees who have no ability to change what's going on at the top," he said.

To read a farmdoc article addressing the changes to crop insurance and SCO, visit <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2025/06/the-house-reconciliation-bill-proposal-for-sco-income-support-for-high-risk-farm-land.html>.

Finding a new rope wasn't easy process after first rope destroyed

My very first rope, or lasso as my grandpa called it, was a grass rope he gave me when I was 10. The problem was I didn't have a horse despite the fact that grandpa was an avid team rop-er and produced rodeos which he always called ro-day-ohs. Grandpa had sold his rope horses and quit team roping before he could teach me anything so I was left to my own devices, and although I couldn't rope a dead Longhorn when I first started, using that old grass rope over time I became a World Champion at roping fence posts and my younger sister. Yes sirree, I was a regular rock 'em, sock 'em double hock 'em roper. Whenever my sister saw me draggin' my rope in her direction she planted both feet firmly on the ground and wouldn't move them. That's why I became a header.

The legendary Ace Reid said, "A man shouldn't rope somethin' he didn't plan to brand, doctor or eat," but without any cattle I was forced to rope dogs, chickens and even my sister's Hampshire show pig. I slept with that old grass rope and like all good cowboys I did everything but eat with it. So, you can understand my consternation when an uncle tried to pull his truck out of the mud with it and turned it into cow feed.

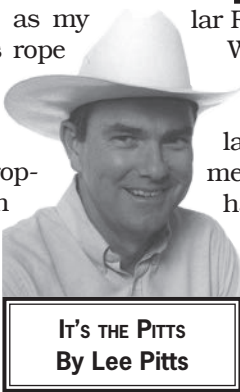
When grandpa heard about the demise of my grass rope he gave me an old maguey rope made from the century plant. Talk about a temperamental rope with a mind all its own. Those long fibers of the cactus plant were extremely stiff and what Mexican charros called "hot" because it gave the worst rope burn of any rope. I swear you could cut a tree down with that rope. I never got the hang of it and threw a lot of empty loops with it. The only useful tasks I could think of for that rope was to either hang the person who originated it or use it to clean the lint out of my wife's dryer vent. You could feed that stiff maguey through the vent and it was like a regu-

lar Roto Rooter®. When I got my first show steer, I bought my first real rope at the feed store. It was a manilla rope and I used it to rope my mean steer so I could get a rope halter on him. At least that's the excuse I gave. Frankly, I just needed the practice. That rope confirmed that I was a header, not a heeler, because whenever I aimed for his feet all I caught were dried up cow pies.

When my grandpa saw I'd bought a manilla rope he hit the roof and brought me two leather reattas. (Grandpa was a traditionalist.) He brought me two and told me if I wanted to be a cowboy use the 30-foot reatta but if I wanted to be a buckaroo use the 60-footer. It didn't really matter because I couldn't catch a cold with either one. You couldn't tie hard and fast without breaking the reatta and you had to give up some slack when a calf hit the end of the line or you'd snap it in two. You had to dally round your horn and give-and-take that was more like fishing than it was roping. I never could get the hang of it and retired both ropes and hung them on the wall.

As a leatherworker, I'd always wanted to visit King Ropes in Sheridan, Wyo., because Don King was king of the saddlemakers and made famous the "Sheridan Style" of leatherwork. When I worked the Buffalo Creek Sale in Sheridan I finally got the chance to visit. When you walk into King's Saddlery you are met by a wall of the ropes and if you walk to the back of the store and cross the alley you enter a fabulous museum dedicated to the art of leatherworking and the cowboy. Of course, I bought a King Rope and the requisite King Ropes ball cap.

When I wrote for Super Looper (now defunct) someone gave me a Classic Ropes "Rattler" and that rope had eyes. People still talk about the time I roped two calves and the fence post they were standing next to all in the same loop.



It's THE PITTS
By Lee Pitts

as advertised in Farm World

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Above: Max Armstrong is pictured next to the 1953 IH Farmall Super M tractor he auctioned for \$17,000 at the Farm Progress Show. The tractor will now be displayed at the American Tractor Museum in Missouri.



Above: The catch-all behind the seat of the Farmall Super M auctioned by Max Armstrong was autographed by the famous ag broadcaster and included a pair of his work gloves. (T. Alexander photos)

Farm broadcaster sells beloved Farmall at Farm Progress Show

By TIM ALEXANDER
Illinois Correspondent

DECATUR, Ill. — On the final day of the 2025 Farm Progress Show (FPS), world renowned farm broadcaster and “old iron” lover Max Armstrong parted with an old friend — his restored 1953 Farmall Super M tractor. Found in “beaten up” condition near Morris, Ill., and restored by members of the International Harvester Collectors Club Chapter 2 in Northern Illinois, the vintage tractor has been driven by Armstrong in dozens of parades and other special events over the past 27 years.

On Thursday, August 28, Armstrong’s vintage machine was sold on the grounds of the FPS by Sullivan Auctioneers to American Tractor Museum, Perryville, Mo., which purchased the tractor for \$17,000. It will be displayed at the museum, which is located around 100 miles south of the Gateway Arch.

“When I acquired my mom and dad’s Super H in 1995, the IH Collectors Club of Northern Illinois Chapter 2 said ‘you need a Super M to go with that’ and I agreed. As a club project they went ahead and restored an old Super M that came out of the Morris area. I supplied some of the money for parts to fix it up, and a few Saturdays they got together over a few pots of chili and made it happen. It was something to see,” Armstrong said.

“That tractor has been with me in five states, the Illinois and Indiana state fairs, and there was an occasion many years ago when it was hauled to the Watermelon Festival Parade in Owensville, Ind. It’s been on display at the Racine, Wis., headquarters of IH, and we took it down through the old Farmall plant in Rock Island before it was demolished in the early 2000s. There is a YouTube video of us taking it down to the old assembly line there just before they de-

molished it,” he added.

After showing the tractor at countless fairs and festivals, Armstrong, 72, finds less and less opportunities to drive the machine now that he lives in North Carolina and is starting to wind down the frequency and distance of his public appearances. “I just thought it was time for someone else to enjoy it,” he said.

Armstrong’s Super M once graced

the pages of a Classic Tractor calendar. It was also the inspiration for one-half of a scale-model boxed set of Armstrong-owned tractors that were custom made for charity. “The other tractor was my Super M, and we sold those sets to benefit 4-H and FFA,” he recalled. “That would have been around 1998 at the Farm Progress Show as the official FPS toy. It sold

around 10,000 sets and I was able to write nice checks for what would have been my royalty to 4-H and FFA.”

The model was manufactured by IH from 1952 to 1954, with the original Super M’s hood contour designed by Raymond Loewy, a French-American industrial designer who created the Coca-Cola bottle and the streamlined locomotive profile.

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Indiana Drainage Handbook hopes to have draft in February

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), charged with updating the state’s Drainage Handbook, hopes a draft is available in February, according to an official with the agency. ISDA anticipates the document will be ready for a public presentation next summer.

The update is required by Senate Enrolled Act 140, signed into law by then-Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in March 2024. The state’s Drainage Handbook was first published in 1996 and updated in 1999.

“We want to make sure this is a valuable tool for everybody and that really hits the points that are needed because again, it’s been a quar-

ter of a century since we’ve had an update,” explained David Bausman, ISDA general counsel. The goal is to make the handbook “to be more reflective of the practices that all of you utilize probably every day.”

Bausman spoke Aug. 26 during the Indiana Farm Bureau’s Drainage School.

An advisory board created under SEA 140 has met twice – in December 2024 and July 2025 – and will meet again in mid-November and in mid-March 2026.

During the advisory board’s December meeting, David Eichelberger, Burke’s vice president of government services, said the current handbook is made up of six sections. Included in the first section is information regarding the purpose of the handbook, which serves as an administra-

tive and technical guide for drainage activities within Indiana’s streams and ditches. It’s meant to ease the process of obtaining permits, he said.

Other sections include descriptions of the permitting processes and of various codes, a selection guide for different practices and details of different best management practices (BMPs).

ISDA has contracted with Christopher B. Burke Engineering LLC to update the handbook. They’ve also reviewed the current handbook and conducted a survey about how users utilize the current handbook, Bausman said.

Those responding to the survey included farmers, state and federal agencies, county surveyors, builders and river basin commissions.

Two-thirds of the respondents said they currently use or have used the handbook. Those respondents said the sections they most frequently reference are BMPs, required permitting and the selection guide, he noted.

The third of respondents who said they didn’t use or had discontinued using the handbook said it wasn’t up to date, and was too cumbersome and time consuming to use, Bausman added.

“We’re getting a big pulse of what do we want to keep doing well with the updated handbook and then how can we change it so that (for) the one third that aren’t using it, it can be more beneficial.,” he said.

The survey’s respondents said the

most useful organizational features in the handbook include use of common activities, and links to resources, detailed construction and standards, personal contact information and handbook chapters.

Bausman said the respondents would like to see several parts of the practices section of the current handbook kept or added: descriptions with pictures, basic information, design and construction guidelines, practice purpose and maintenance.

This past (legislative) session, ISDA was also tasked with creating the Indiana Agricultural Portal and we are currently in the process of building that, and a lot of very similar issues were reflective in the survey that we’ve done,” he said. “We are going to have conversations with Burke and with the advisory board of opportunities of linking in the ag portal with a lot of these types of features that are also being built to update the Drainage Handbook, also making sure that we’re connecting into the Indiana Waterways Portal.

“So I think there’s a really good opportunity of being able to have that up and being able to utilize a lot of this information that we’re seeing updated coming out of this handbook there as well.”

The ag portal is intended to be a “one stop shop” for Hoosier farmers, agribusinesses and consumers, according to ISDA. It is expected to launch next year.

Manchester Ag Parts Final Liquidation

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Bidding ENDS - SUNDAY, October 5, 2025 @ 6pm

12544 Carpenter Rd., Milan, MI 48160

THOUSANDS of NOS Parts/Manuals & MORE

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is the second and final auction to liquidate all parts inventory, service and parts manuals, toys, tools and MORE from Manchester Ag Parts via online only public auction! There are THOUSANDS of NOS parts and manuals from Deere, Case IH, AC, Kohler, Briggs & Stratton, Cub Cadet and MORE!! This sale also includes vintage advertising literature, store fixtures, forklift. We have also added in several pieces of equipment from local farmers and estates including a ONE OWNER John Deere 4040 with 2800 ORIGINAL HOURS!!!

Bidding will open in mid September and run until items begin ending on Sunday October 5, 2025 at 6pm. We will host an open house to view items in person on Thursday October 2, 2025 from 9a-2p at 12544 Carpenter Rd. Milan, MI. On-site item payment and pickup will be on Tuesday October 7, 2025 from 9a-5p. View items, register and BID at www.bradneuhart.com



See all info register and BID at: www.bradneuhart.com

TERMS: Cash, wire transfer or acceptable check. ANY out of state check or check over \$3,000 MUST have a bank letter of guarantee (see website for example). 10% Buyer's Premium. See website for full terms.

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CALL THE OFFICE AT (317) 996-3929

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LOADER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING THE AUCTION

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AC/WC	DUNHAM WHEEL DISC, 8'
IHC CUB LOWBOY	3PT BLADE, 6'
IHC S-M, PS	JD MANURE SPREADER
IHC H	DALE FLAT BED WAGON
MH 44	VEHICLES & TRAILERS
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MM UB, DSL	1952 INTERNATIONAL PICK-UP TRUCK
MM U, GAS	1973 COACHMEN CADET CAMPER TRAILER, 17', SLEEPS 6
SUPER MM670, DSL	BUMPER HITCH TRAILER, 20'
SUPER MM670, GAS	2-WHEEL FARM TRAILER, 8'
MM 670, NF, GAS	(2) LAWN TRAILERS
MM 445	MISC
MM 335	ARIENS EZR2048 LAWNMOWER
MM Z	ARTSWAY BUSH HOG, 3PT, 7'
MM 5 STAR, DSL	FINISH MOWER, 3PT, 60"
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Environmental policy expert talks budget cuts, MAHA and more at FPS

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

DECATUR, Ill. – Budget cuts at the state level are sending mixed messages to agricultural producers concerning conservation program adoption, according to Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) Environmental Policy Manager, Dr. Corey Lacey.

“On the one hand you have the state government telling farmers to do conservation, and on the other side we have the state government not supporting those programs in a lot of ways,” said Lacey, who spoke to producers from the ISA-Illinois Corn “Your Demand Destination” Stage at the 2025 Farm Progress Show. “The Illinois Fall Covers for Spring Savings program is a great example of that. Another example is our Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), which have traditionally funded their operational costs at \$8.5 million. The last couple of years (FY 2024 and FY 2025) that was cut by \$4 million dollars (per year).”

The “Fall Covers” program Lacey referred to, an Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)-administered initiative that incentivizes farmers to grow cover crops, was nearly a victim of the Illinois General Assembly’s budget axe for FY 2025. Funded at just \$960,000 in FY 2024, the program faced a proposed reduction of \$300,000 for FY 2025 despite demand for the program’s allotted acres that outpaced budgeted funds each year of the program’s existence.

“What this means for farmers is that there’s less technical services and less support in the field, less ability to adopt conservation. At the operational level for SWCDs, they need staff. For farmers it means there is



Above: Corey Lacey, Illinois Soybean Association environmental policy manager, spoke to farmers at the 2025 Farm Progress Show about using their voices to object to state and federal level budget cuts and policy changes affecting farm conservation programs and initiatives. (T. Alexander photo)

less support when they try to get an NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) grant or a state government grant. It’s a major problem for farmers that may go overlooked as we focus on other issues,” Lacey said.

He described how ISA has built out their “Loyal to the Soil” program, an educational and awareness initiative supported by Illinois soybean check-off funds, that aims to showcase how stewardship-focused practices benefit the land while improving farm profitability, water quality and carbon sequestration. “We have a broad range of supporters including the Illi-

nois Environmental Council, SWCDs, Illinois Soybean and a lot of other ag groups who’ve come together to share a unified voice about the need for conservation funding in the state, and the challenges farmers face in their need for support – especially in a time when federal funding for conservation is getting harder and harder to get ahold of,” Lacey said.

The answer to the state funding quandary may have to come from alternate, non-government sources, or perhaps public-private partnerships, according to the ISA environmental policy specialist. “Last year the Association of SWCDs put out (a legislation proposal) that put a tax on ag land that would be transferred from ag land to some sort of other infrastructure,” Lacey said. “If a field moved from corn and soybean to solar, it would have been taxed and that money would have gone into an account that would have helped fund SWCDs. There was a lot of interest in that conversation, also a lot of challenges, and unfortunately we didn’t see any movement on it. There is a lot of intent to bring it back again next year.”

Lacey also spoke about pesticide regulations, which is another topic of his expertise. Like many pundits, he’s concerned about the fallout for farmers from new EPA Endangered Species Act interpretations and regulations affecting crop pesticides that are due to take effect soon.

“The Herbicide Strategy, the Insecticide Strategy and the Mitigation Strategies have all come out and a lot of the requirements that are being put on farmers such as adopting cover crops, switching to no-till, doing things to increase erosion and run-off control, helping drift control, these are challenges that farmers

have to face in a climate where the money for technical services is getting lower and lower,” he said.

Echoing many in agriculture, Lacey called into question the science behind the Trump administration’s Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) recommendations affecting agricultural production, specifically the use of pesticides. “In the agriculture world, we’re already very much into making science-based decisions. In the pesticide world, we go through a very intense USEPA review process. As long as we are on-label in using products correctly, there’s safety measures already in place,” he said, while encouraging farmers and applicators to contact their elected federal and state lawmakers and ask them to withhold their support for MAHA recommendations affecting farm input use.

Those who may have become complacent in the face of abrupt federal and state environmental policy changes should use their “clout” as farmers and farm industry workers to pressure lawmakers to restore or increase funding for threatened programs, personnel, research and initiatives, according to Lacey. “As farmers you have a unique opportunity to tell your own story in a way that is engaging and exciting. I think that there is an opportunity for farmers to make a difference,” he said. “Farmers are loved in D.C. and in Springfield. Farming is America’s original small business, and everybody wants to be supportive of it.”

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Phase 1 of Parke Community Rail Trail officially opens in Rosedale

Parke Community Rail Trail Phase 1

On Sept. 9, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Parke Trails Alliance celebrated the opening of the first phase of the Parke Community Rail Trail in Rosedale.

“Hoosiers overwhelmingly tell us that hiking and getting out on trails is their favorite form of outdoor recreation,” said Allen Hurst, DNR trails manager. “Trails like the Parke Community Rail Trail provide a great way for Hoosiers to get outside, and at DNR, we’re proud to support their construction.”

Phase 1 stretches from Big Raccoon Creek, through Rosedale, to the Vigo County line. The section includes a repurposed railcar transformed into a cost-effective bridge. The segment, 2.6 miles of hard-surface trail, was constructed by the nonprofit with help from a \$5 million dedicated grant administered by the DNR.

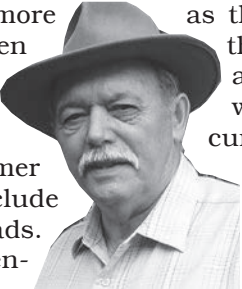
When complete, the Parke Com-

munity Rail Trail will add more than 8 miles of trail between the Rockville Depot and the Vigo County line, connecting multiple cities. The project uses portions of the former Vandalia Railroad and will include eight bridges and four trailheads.

“Phase 1 is officially opening. This is the first of four phases of construction in completing the Parke Community Rail Trail,” said Parke Trails Alliance board member Mark Davis. “This project is about more than just building a trail. It’s about creative use of resources, local partnerships, and developing something that will benefit residents and visitors for generations.”

Indiana tree largest of its species in the nation

A swamp chestnut oak tree in Jennings County has been recognized



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

as the largest of the species in the country by the National Champion Tree program, with a height of 95 feet, a circumference of 318 inches, and a canopy spread of 118 feet.

The record swamp chestnut oak is on the family farm owned by Richard and Kris Schepman outside of Crothersville. Gov. Mike Braun and Indiana Department of Natural Resources leaders recently presented the Schepmans with a certificate recognizing their family’s stewardship of the impressive tree.

“Over the last century, Indiana’s forested land has substantially grown as a result of Hoosiers’ conservation work and responsible stewardship,” Braun said. “The Schepman family and private landowners across the state deserve high praise for their commitment to growing healthy trees like this giant in Jennings County, which I hope continues to stand tall for generations of future Hoosiers to enjoy.”

The DNR Division of Forestry, which maintains a list of Indiana’s largest known tree of each of the

state’s native species, notified the national program of the tree, and its record score of 442.5, which is the tree’s height (feet), circumference (inches), and canopy spread (feet, multiplied by 0.25) added together.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the swamp chestnut oak is native to “the Atlantic Coastal Plain from New Jersey and extreme eastern Pennsylvania, south to north Florida, and west to east Texas; it is found north in the Mississippi River Valley to extreme southeast Oklahoma, Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, southern Indiana, and locally to southeast Kentucky and eastern Tennessee.”

The tree is on private property, so it is not available for public viewing.

‘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.

Grazing Bites

FROM PAGE 19B

how much canopy they cover, a good rule of thumb is that once weeds hit around 20 percent coverage, it’s usually time to act. If they’re under 10 percent, mowing or adjusting grazing often does the trick, and between 10 and 20 percent, it’s worth keeping a close eye and maybe spot-treating, especially if the weeds are aggressive or toxic. I used to lean toward waiting until 30 percent coverage before jumping to herbicides – and honestly, that might still be OK sometimes. It depends on the type of weed and whether your livestock will eat it, since some weeds can be surprisingly nutritious. It’s all about balancing how competitive and toxic the weeds are with how useful they might be for your animals.

For areas with adequate moisture this year, the classic mix of oats, a brassica such as turnips or radish,

and cereal rye can deliver exceptional grazing benefits. The oats and turnips mature early, providing high-quality forage that can be grazed comfortably well into December or beyond. Then, the cereal rye kicks in during spring, offering additional grazing or forage harvest opportunities before fields return to row crops. When grazing cereal rye ahead of cropping, it’s best to do so on dry or frozen soils to avoid compaction. This rotation also allows fall pastures more time to recover before going dormant, supporting healthier, more productive stands.

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

Reminders & Opportunities

Greg Brann’s Regenerative Farm-Pasture Walk – Oct. 16, 2025 - 683 Blankenship Rd, Adolphus, KY – 11 AM-5 PM ET - \$45 per person for the event. <https://gregbrann.com/pasture-walk-2025/>

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

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TRACT DESCRIPTIONS:

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Tract 2: 80 ± acres - 1300'± of rd frontage on CR 350E. Reesville-Fincastle & Xenia-Birkbeck soils.

Tract 3: 25 ± acres - "Swing Tract" (see note*). Reesville-Fincastle & Ragsdale soils.*This parcel must be purchased as part of auction tract #2 or by an adjacent landowner.

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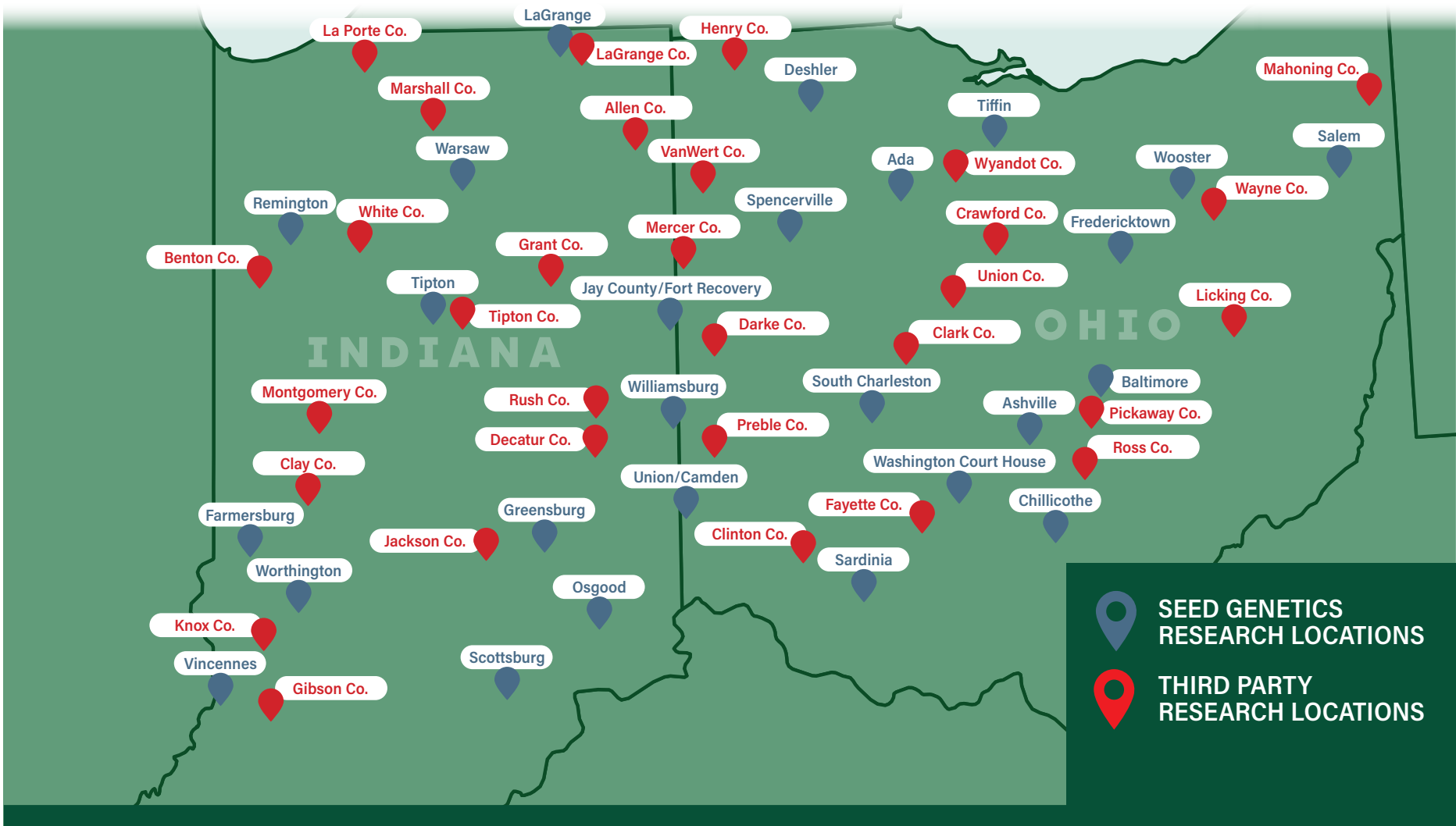
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