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Katie Brown, new IPPA leader brings research background

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – As a mother, pig farmer and associate director of research and development for The Maschhoffs, Katie Brown, of Morrisville, Ill., in Christian County, will bring a three-tiered approach to her year of service as president of the Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA). Brown, who described herself as a wean-to-finish contract grower who is patiently tutoring her non-farming husband on farm life, was elected 2026-2027 IPPA president during their annual meeting at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Li-

brary in Springfield.

“It’s a good time to be a pork producer. With meat being at the center of the plate in the new (USDA) food pyramid, what’s better than a pork chop? That’s one thing to highlight, but I’m excited to represent this industry because it is where I grew up – so I know how great it is,” said Brown, a fifth-generation hog farmer who with her husband, Ethan, are farm-raising their two sons. In addition, Brown’s parents and grandparents are all still active in the pork industry.

In her career as associate director of research and development at the Maschhoffs, Brown has had the opportunity to travel the Midwest and work with producers on problems they face in everyday pork production. With this knowledge, the new IPPA president is ready to advise pork industry policy at a state level in her new role as IPPA president.

As a pork producer and row crop farmer, Brown said she is acutely aware of the current economic split in the ag economy between row crop and livestock production. “I think that there is a balance that we need to find as an industry to see both sides succeed. I think it’s making sure that pork is priced appropriately and then also moving more pork products. I think the National Pork Board’s big campaign ‘Taste What Pork Can Do’ will hopefully increase demand for pork, and then we can just keep feeding our pigs more corn and soybeans and we’ll all make money,” she said.

In addition to her roles with IPPA and The Maschhoffs, Brown serves as the treasurer of the Parents in Education Committee at her children’s school and takes an active role in her county’s Farm Bureau Young Leaders program. She has earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from the University of Illinois.

“I think I offer a lot of different perspectives,” Brown said. “I have ownership in barns and pigs, but I also have the ability to utilize a lot of resources that The Maschhoffs have, mainly from a leadership standpoint. They really stress leadership and I’ve been able to take part in a lot of the programs they’ve had, so that allows me to help out with public speaking and helping others understand (issues). It allows me to position myself a little differently from, say, a production partner or a grower or independent producer. I can leverage a little bit from both sides but

(See Katie Brown on page 2)



Above: Katie Brown, a Morrisville mother, pig farmer and research associate for the Maschhoffs, is pictured shortly after her election as 2026-27 president of the Illinois Pork Producers Association. (Tim Alexander photo)



Above: Storm clouds rolling in at sunset produced some spectacular scenery in Indiana recently. (Photo by Sam Swaim)

January cattle numbers are the smallest in 75 years USDA says

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**
Iowa Correspondent

STILLWATER, Okla. – The U.S. cattle herd is the smallest in 75 years according to the Jan. 1 USDA Cattle Inventory Report. This was despite an increase in replacement heifers, according to the report released Jan. 30.

“The beef cow inventory now stands at 27.61 million head, the smallest since 1951,” said Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist in Stillwater, Okla., in his Feb. 2 analysis of the report. “Since the cyclical peak in 2019, at 31.64 million, the beef cow herd has decreased 4.03 million, a total seven-year drop of 12.7 percent.

Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm

World, “It is the smallest beef cow herd since 1961 (65 years). It is the smallest all cattle and calves since 1951 (75 years).”

He said there are several theories of why producers have been slow to grow the cattle herd: “Some say it is the aging cattle producer, and some add that urban sprawl and development is taking land out of production, and not allowing for herd expansion. I think the answer is easier than that. There have been some regions that are trying to expand, and other regions that haven’t expanded.”

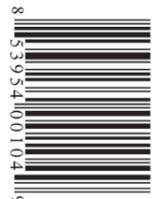
He said fall drought in many portions of the country also may have contributed to the lower numbers. “This coincides with the time period when cattle producers wean the calf

(See Cattle on page 3)



Above: The Jan. 1 USDA Cattle report indicates the U.S. herd is the smallest in 75 years. Logan, a red Angus, is a good calf producer for Waltz Farm in Indiana. Photo courtesy of Raina Blaylock

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	Indiana fish hatchery celebrating 100 years with goldfish and koi Page 1B
	Chrisman, Ill., FFA captures Can-Do challenge title Page 8B



Cattle

FROM PAGE 1

crop, and thus make heifer retention decisions. Thus, a producer experiencing drought is not likely to retain heifers for replacement, and that is because environmental and climatic challenges can outweigh economic incentive of higher cattle prices."

John Nalivka, Sterling Marketing, Inc., president in Vale, Ore., said in his Jan. 31 analysis that heifer

slaughter during 2025, at 9.5 million, was down 7 percent from the prior year, but still represented 52 percent of the heifers weighing over 500 pounds on Jan. 1, 2025.

"In 2024, the industry slaughtered 56 percent of the Jan. 1 heifers weighing over 500 pounds," he said. "When the industry was retaining heifers to build herds, the percentage of heifers weighing over 500 pounds that were slaughtered ranged from 39 percent to 49 percent.

"From 2015-2018 when producers began aggressively building herds,

the average number of heifers that were identified as replacements on the Jan. 1 inventory was 6.2 million, or an average heifer retention rate of 21 percent," he added.

He said only time will tell if the USDA's Cattle Inventory is on track, adding that one verification will be cattle slaughter, which is an actual number that packers report to the USDA.

He added that numbers will continue to tighten, and when coupled with continued strong demand for beef, will support the market at levels at - and likely above - the market peak seen during third-quarter 2025.

Griffith said, "I think there is a lot said about this being the smallest cattle inventory in 75 years, but these are also the biggest cattle in 75 years. We are still producing a lot of beef with fewer cattle," he added. "The smaller calf crop in 2025 and the expectation of an even smaller calf crop in 2026 may take the cake, because it will continue to support cattle prices in 2026."

Looking ahead, Grant Dewell, Iowa State University associate professor of veterinary medicine and extension beef veterinarian, who also holds a master's degree in agricultural economics, said, "Heifer retention was up slightly, indicating we may see some growth in 2027 or 2028. It is not much, but maybe a glimmer of hope we are ready to turn the cycle up.

"Cattle on Feed numbers were down 3 percent (from 2025), so inventories



Above: While the U.S. cattle herd may be smaller, analysts say cattle are larger now. Photo courtesy of Raina Blaylock

Katie Brown

FROM PAGE 1

also have the awareness of owning my own pigs and barn."

Brown, who took the IPPA presidential gavel from 2025-2026 President Josh Maschhoff during the Feb. 17 meeting, identified her top priority heading into her year of leadership as agricultural labor.

"I've had the opportunity on my farm to utilize the TN visa program. It's a legal way of bringing workers into this industry that allows my family to have a reliable source of labor. Anytime we are talking about H2As and making them year-round, or TN visas or anything like that, I get very passionate and vocal. It's something that I'm not afraid to push to our legislators to make sure they make changes happen," she said.

Brown is also passionate about lowering production costs for IPPA's over 800 producer-members and all Illinois pig farmers through better access and reform to government programs.

"During our annual meeting we talked about USDA loans. I think that is something I would like to push, coming from a young producer who had to take out an FSA loan. We weren't able to completely leverage some of those programs because they weren't quite tailored to pork production. We brought awareness to this at our annual meeting (in a form) that will go to our national pork forum. I want to push through some awareness that things might need

to change on this front," Brown said.

In an IPPA news release, Brown was asked how she believed the landscape of the industry has changed over the last five years. "From COVID to the struggle to find labor and bring people into the hog industry, we have certainly seen some ups and downs. That being said, what I have truly seen is how resilient hog farmers are," she stated.

"The landscape has shifted but we are adapting. We have found new avenues for labor; we figured out how to slow growth in pigs when supply chains shut down and came out once again caring for our pigs to the highest standard. Change has come in many different ways but the most exciting thing for me is the adaptation to technology. We have seen new controllers, applications that simplify sow farm data collection, and even camera systems that can count pigs on the run. I'm excited to see what the next five years hold."

remain tight and prices for feeder calves should remain strong for several more years," he added. "Expect any rebuilding that does occur to be slow as cost remains high and the future uncertain. Most producers still remember how fast the market fell 10 years ago, and producers seem more cautious this time around."

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House Ag Committee leader dissects Farm Bill 2.0

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - The timing for the Feb. 17 visit by U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson to the annual meeting of the Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA) in Springfield couldn't have been more fortuitous. "Farm Bill 2.0 was officially introduced last week, and it is vital for our ag economy that it becomes law soon," Thompson told a packed conference room of around 200 farmers, elected officials and media at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

The Pennsylvania Republican, who leads a House Ag Committee that includes Illinois Democrat Nikki Budz-

inski and Republican Mike Bost, detailed the thought processes and bipartisan teamwork the committee exhibited in drafting their proposed Farm Bill 2.0, which at press time was scheduled to be "marked up" by the committee Feb. 23. He began by stating that he and various committee members visited producers in 43 states and one territory, including Illinois a "number of times," gathering input for the legislation. Thompson added that work on a new farm bill is already around 20 percent complete via measures and appropriations for agriculture contained in President Donald Trump's 2025 One Big, Beautiful Bill (BBB).

"We've done this (House farm bill) from a perspective of legislating from the outside-in, which is a little dif-

ferent from what normally happens. Washington typically does this kind of thing from the inside-out," he said. This approach came because the committee sees agriculture as anything but typical, according to Thompson, who earlier in the day was hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau during its annual legislative meeting at the Bank of Springfield Center.

"We work on your behalf," he told the IPPA farmers. "We work on behalf of Illinois and America's number one industry, which is agriculture. That's why we took the show on the road and came out to America's farms and ranches and sat down and talked to people."

The House Ag Committee's 802-page Farm Bill 2.0, or "skinny" farm bill, was crafted using a "three-legged" approach, Thompson said, by considering input from Republicans, Democrats and the agricultural community. It includes some updated language and provisions from a similar farm bill version advanced by the Committee in 2024 that did not become law.

"Producers are currently operating under 2018 policies, and it's just a fact that 2018 policies are no match for 2026 challenges. Honest-

ly, there is no better example of that than California's Proposition 12 and the issues it is causing the swine industry," said Thompson, striking immediately on the IPPA and National Pork Producers Council's stated top legislative priority for 2026.

"Like the farm bill that we passed out of the Committee in 2024, the 'Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026' includes a fix for Prop 12, and I call it the 'Save the Bacon' provision. Prop 12 is, at its core, a regulatory overreach by the state of California. It's rooted in political science, not animal science. We believe hog farmers know their animals best when it comes to animal health and safety. At the end of the day, it is not common sense to let a small percentage of California voters (less than 10 percent of eligible Californians cast a vote on the issue in an off-year election) to (decide national policy) on animal health or anything like that," he added.

The committee's Farm Bill 2.0 includes significant investments in animal health research and prevention programs, Thompson continued. "Through the Working Families Tax Cut that went into law with the

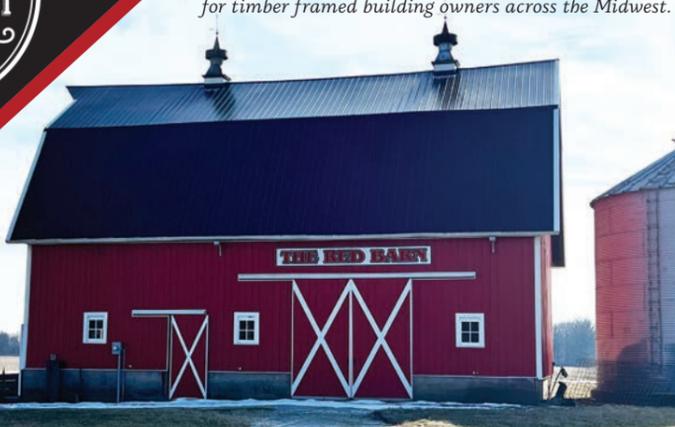
(Farm Bill continued on page 8)



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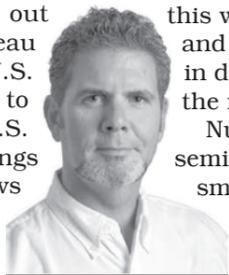
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American Farm Bureau: Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings spiked last year

A concerning report came out of the American Farm Bureau Federation regarding the U.S. farm economy. According to a report from the group, U.S. Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings spiked in 2025. Data shows there were 315 Chapter 12 filings in 2025, up 46 percent from 2024. The highest cases were in the Midwest and Southeast with 226. Low commodity values have been compounded by production losses and elevated input costs to strain the U.S. farm economy.



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

What is most concerning is this is the second consecutive year of higher bankruptcies after four years of declines. U.S. Chapter 12 bankruptcies peaked at 599 in 2019 and declined to a low of 139 in 2023. Given current market economic outlooks, conditions may not improve in 2026.

U.S. farmer sentiment continues to decline as worries over the state of the U.S. farm economy grow. Data shows U.S. operating note loans are up 40 percent from a year ago, and the size of loans are up 30 percent. Farmers blame low commodity values, rising input costs, and unfavorable trade policies for the current state of the farm economy. As a result, U.S. lawmakers, ag economists, and USDA officials have reached out to both Ag Committee members, and even President Donald Trump to look into ways to improve the economy.

Recent weather events have disrupted commodity movement across the interior market. Several terminals have had to pay quick ship incentives to entice movement, but even then, selling interest has been low from harsh weather, mainly bitter cold. Winter weather has not only impacted truck movement, but barge shipping as well. Water levels on U.S. rivers remain low from drought conditions last fall, and now we are seeing icing take place. This has limited barge movement south and caused export basis to firm.

Commodity futures have started to see a little pressure from Brazil's harvest, but cash markets remain firm. A big part of this recently has been weather, which is not uncommon in winter months. Bitter cold and several storm systems have made it quite difficult to haul grain, and farmers are showing little interest in doing so. Adequate cash flow from recent sales and government support payments have lessened the need to market more inventory. The next big flush of farm stored inventory may not come until early spring, depending upon when U.S. spring fieldwork gets underway.

The Buenos Aries Grain Exchange revised its crop ratings, and once again cut the soybean crop condition. BAGE now has the Argentine soybean crop rated 40 percent Good/Excellent and 25 percent Poor/Very Poor. This compares to last week's 47 percent G/E and 16 percent P/VP and is the fifth consecutive week of lower crop ratings. We are also hearing reports of corn in the state of Cordoba being cut for silage as it will not make grain quality. There are also thoughts that the corn crop will die before reaching full maturity. These have led to analysts cutting their Argentine crop estimates in recent weeks.

The United Nations has reported that global food values retreated for the fifth consecutive month in January. The global food index held a reading at the end of January of 123.9. This was down 0.4 percent from December and 0.6 percent less than at the end of January 2025. Grains and oilseeds rose in value in January, but

this was offset by declines in dairy and meat costs. The greatest was in dairy, with prices -5 percent in the month.

Numbers from the January semi-annual report indicated the smallest U.S. cattle herd since 1951 at 86.2 million head. This was followed by the Tyson CEO stating the U.S. cattle herd will remain tight through 2027 and there is doubt over the resumption of Mexican feeder imports anytime soon. As a result, U.S. cattle futures have been difficult to pressure in recent months and likely will remain that way. Tyson expects to see an increase in chicken consumption over this time, which will start to temper beef and cattle values.

The global corn market is closely monitoring China farmer sales. Chinese farmers have started to market more corn, according to research from the Sitonia group. These elevated sales are coming prior to warmer spring temperatures that could easily compound mold issues in stored corn.

China's corn crop is reportedly high in toxins from last year's growing conditions with upward of 10 percent being unusable for feed. China has tuned to feed grain imports as a result, including large volumes of U.S. sorghum. Now that stored corn is moving, the need for imports may decline, but are still likely to be needed for blending with domestic inventory.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration released data showing crude oil values will likely fall for the next two years. The EIA feels that Brent crude oil will decline from an average of \$69.00 a barrel in 2025 to an average of \$58.00 in 2026. In 2027, the average is expected to decline to \$53. Overproduction has led to a global build in crude oil reserves, as is a shift to more renewable fuel usage. The concern is this could lead

to pressure on renewable fuel margins, and pressure that industry.

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MARKETS

Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, February 19, 2026 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS						
Exchange	Commodity	Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 2/19/26				
CBOT	Corn	425.75 (Mar 26)	436.25 (May 26)	444.50 (Jul 26)	446.50 (Sep 26)	461.50 (Dec 26)
CBOT	Soybeans	1141.00 (Mar 26)	1156.00 (May 26)	1168.00 (Jul 26)	1157.50 (Aug 26)	1122.25 (Sep 26)
CBOT	Wheat	559.50 (Mar 26)	566.75 (May 26)	574.50 (Jul 26)	585.75 (Sep 26)	603.00 (Dec 26)
CBOT	White Oats	330.00 (Mar 26)	322.00 (May 26)	322.75 (Jul 26)	335.25 (Sep 26)	337.50 (Dec 26)
KCBT	Wheat	565.50 (Mar 26)	576.75 (May 26)	588.50 (Jul 26)	602.25 (Sep 26)	622.50 (Dec 26)
MGE	Wheat	582.50 (Mar 26)	594.50 (May 26)	607.00 (Jul 26)	624.25 (Sep 26)	642.50 (Dec 26)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	75.00H to 175.00H	UNCH	5.0075-6.0075	DN 0.0125	5.5075
	Pennyrile	50.00Z	UNCH	5.1150	UP 0.0050	5.1150

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Lower KY	170.00H	UNCH	5.9575	DN 0.0125	5.9575
	Ohio River - Lower KY	50.00Z	UNCH	5.1150	UP 0.0050	5.1150
	Purchase	165.00H	DN 5.00	5.9075	DN 0.0625	5.9075
	Purchase	60.00Z	UNCH	5.2150	UP 0.0050	5.2150

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	Pennyrile	50.00Z	UNCH	5.1150	UP 0.0050	5.1150
	Green River	25.00H	UNCH	4.3650	UP 0.0075	4.3650
	Green River	25.00H	UNCH	4.5075	DN 0.0125	4.5075
	Green River	-10.00Z	UNCH	4.5150	UP 0.0050	4.5150
	Pennyrile	-10.00Z to 18.00H	UNCH	4.1575-4.4375	DN 0.0125	4.2625
	Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -14.00Z	UNCH	4.3150-4.4750	UP 0.0050	4.3917
	Louisville	-8.00H	UNCH	4.1775	DN 0.0125	4.1775
	Louisville	-8.00H	UNCH	4.1775	DN 0.0125	4.1775
	Bluegrass	4.00H	UNCH	4.2975	DN 0.0125	4.2975
	Bluegrass	-45.00Z	UNCH	4.1650	UP 0.0050	4.1650

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-6.00H to 4.00H	DN 1.00-UNCH	4.1975-4.2975	DN 0.0225-DN 0.0125	4.2475
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00Z to -22.00Z	UNCH-UP 1.00	4.3150-4.3950	UP 0.0050-UP 0.0150	4.3550
	Ohio River - Lower KY	8.00H to 20.00H	DN 2.00-UNCH	4.3375-4.4575	DN 0.0325-DN 0.0125	4.4025
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-30.00Z to -12.00Z	UNCH	4.3150-4.4950	UP 0.0050	4.4390
	Purchase	8.00H to 30.00H	DN 2.00-UNCH	4.3375-4.5575	DN 0.0325-DN 0.0125	4.4575
	Purchase	-17.00U to -19.00Z	UNCH-UP 1.00	4.2950-4.4250	UP 0.0075-UP 0.0150	4.3450

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	15.00H	UNCH	11.5600	UP 0.0750	11.5600
	Pennyrile	-10.00X	UNCH	11.0825	UP 0.0175	11.0825
	Green River	-15.00H	UNCH	11.2600	UP 0.0750	11.2600
	Green River	-40.00X	UNCH	10.7825	UP 0.0175	10.7825
	Pennyrile	-35.00H to 18.00H	DN 5.00-UNCH	11.0600-11.5900	UP 0.0250-UP 0.0750	11.2000
	Pennyrile	-60.00X to -16.00X	UNCH-DN 1.00	10.5825-11.0225	UP 0.0175-UP 0.0075	10.7025
	Louisville	-59.00H	UNCH	10.8200	UP 0.0750	10.8200
	Louisville	-59.00H	UNCH	10.8200	UP 0.0750	10.8200
	Bluegrass	-32.00H	UNCH	11.0900	UP 0.0750	11.0900
	Bluegrass	-75.00X	UNCH	10.4325	UP 0.0175	10.4325

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-11.00H to 2.00H	UNCH	11.3000-11.4300	UP 0.0750	11.3650
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-28.00X	UNCH-DN 3.00	10.9025	UP 0.0175-DN 0.0125	10.9025
	Ohio River - Lower KY	4.00H to 30.00H	DN 1.00-UNCH	11.4500-11.7100	UP 0.0650-UP 0.0750	11.5867
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-16.00X to 10.00X	UP 4.00-UNCH	11.0225-11.2825	UP 0.0575-UP 0.0175	11.1250
	Purchase	7.00H to 28.00H	DN 3.00-DN 2.00	11.4800-11.6900	UP 0.0450-UP 0.0550	11.5925
	Purchase	-6.00X to -5.00X	UP 1.00-UNCH	11.1225-11.1325	UP 0.0375-UP 0.0175	11.1292

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	25.00H	UNCH	5.8450	UP 0.1250	5.8450
	Pennyrile	10.00N	UNCH	5.8450	UP 0.1475	5.8450

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	-15.00N	UNCH	5.5950	UP 0.1475	5.5950
	Green River	-75.00N	UNCH	4.9950	UP 0.1475	4.9950
	Pennyrile	-55.00H to -40.00H	UNCH	5.0450-5.1950	UP 0.1250	5.1050
	Pennyrile	-60.00N to -8.00N	DN 5.00-UNCH	5.1450-5.6650	UP 0.0975-UP 0.1475	5.3233
	Louisville	-32.00H	UNCH	5.2750	UP 0.1250	5.2750
	Louisville	-79.00N to -34.00N	UNCH	4.9550-5.4050	UP 0.1475	5.1800

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-25.00N	UNCH	5.4950	UP 0.1475	5.4950
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-15.00N to -5.00N	UNCH	5.5950-5.6950	UP 0.1475	5.6490
	Purchase	-24.00H to -10.00N	DN 3.00-UNCH	5.3550-5.6450	UP 0.0950-UP 0.1475	5.5000
	Purchase	-20.00N to -10.00N	UNCH	5.5450-5.6450	UP 0.1475	5.6117

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

USDAAMS 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/lpgm | https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ | https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2892

AG FUTURES

February 20, 2026

Commodity	Delivery			Commodity	Delivery		
	Month	Last	Change		Month	Last	Change
Corn	Mar 26	\$427-0	+ 1-2	Wheat	Mar 26	\$ 569-0	+ 9-4
	May 26	\$438-6	+ 2-4		May 26	\$ 576-0	+ 9-2
	July 26	\$447-2	+ 2-6		July 26	\$ 583-4	+ 9-0
	Sep 26	\$448-6	+ 2-2		Sep 26	\$ 594-0	+ 8-2
	Dec 26	\$463-4	+ 2-0		Dec 26	\$ 610-6	+ 7-6
Soybeans	Mar 26	\$1135-2	- 5-6	Oats	Mar 26	\$ 322'6	+ 2'6
	May 26	\$1150-4	- 5-4		May 26	\$ 328'0	+ 6'0
	July 26	\$1162-6	- 5-2		July 26	\$ 328'0	+ 5'2
	Aug 26	\$1153-2	- 4-2		Sep 26	\$ 335'2	0
	Sep 26	\$1117-2	- 5-0				
Soybean Meal	Mar 26	\$ 310.1	+ 5.3	Live Cattle	Feb 26	\$ 247.050	- 0.450
	May 26	\$ 314.1	+ 5.2		Apr 26	\$ 242.475	- 0.950
	July 26	\$ 318.1	+ 5.2		June 26	\$ 237.925	- 0.950
	Aug 26	\$ 317.6	+ 4.6		Aug 26	\$ 235.250	- 0.850
	Sep 26	\$ 316.1	+ 4.0		Oct 26	\$ 234.050	- 0.950
Soybean Oil	Mar 26	\$ 58.71	- 0.97	Lean Hogs	Apr 26	\$ 93.925	+ 0.475
	May 26	\$ 59.08	- 1.01		May 26	\$ 98.300	+ 0.550
	July 26	\$ 59.25	- 1.00		June 26	\$107.925	+ 0.750
	Aug 26	\$ 58.89	- 0.96		July 26	\$109.875	+ 0.900
	Sep 26	\$ 58.42	- 0.91		Aug 26	\$108.825	+ 0.900

Ag Futures sponsored by



Ag Futures taken from
 CME Group/Chicago Board of Trade &
 Dow Jones Industrial Average
<http://www.cmegroup.com>

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 2/16/2026 - Final

	AUCTION		
	This Week	Last Reported	Last Year
		2/9/2026	
Total Receipts:	962	907	0

Feeder Cattle:	835(86.8%)	840(92.6%)	0(0.0%)
Slaughter Cattle:	120(12.5%)	60(6.6%)	0(0.0%)
Replacement Cattle:	7(0.7%)	7(0.8%)	0(0.0%)

Compared to last Monday the feeder market was stronger with a good quality offering. Feeder steers and heifers 600 lbs and under were 8.00 to 10.00 higher or greater in several spots with a good supply and strong demand. Yearling steers were mostly 2.00 to 4.00 higher with a moderate supply, while the yearling heifers appeared sharply higher but with limited comparisons. Slaughter cows were steady to 2.00 lower with a good supply and slaughter bulls were steady with good demand. Supply included: 87% Feeder Cattle (36% Steers, 50% Heifers, 13% Bulls, 0% Dairy Heifers); 12% Slaughter Cattle (78% Cows, 22% Bulls); 1% Replacement Cattle (38% Stock Cows, 54% Bred Cows, 8% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 53%.

Groups of 20 Head or More

STEERS	HEIFERS
84 Hd 75% Black/XBRED 625 lbs 450.75	22 Hd Black/BWF 506 lbs 439.00
	80 Hd Black/BWF 622 lbs 424.00
	53 Hd 90% Black 663 lbs 375.00

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
1	175	175	582.50	582.50	Thin Fleshed	
1	205	205	547.50	547.50	Fancy	
1	240	240	630.00	630.00	Thin Fleshed	
1	250	250	595.00	595.00	Thin Fleshed	
2	340-345	343	552.00-570.00	561.07	Fancy	
3	305-345	332	597.50-613.00	608.25	Thin Fleshed	
3	390-397	395	520.00-531.00	527.38		
4	350-387	371	555.00-575.00	566.04	Fancy	
5	425-445	432	490.00-517.50	500.35		
5	425-440	436	532.50-547.50	542.26	Fancy	
4	405-445	419	562.50-580.00	567.39	Thin Fleshed	
2	465-495	480	487.50-499.00	493.43		
25	456-491	482	507.50-525.00	521.72	Fancy	
4	523	523	440.00	440.00		
15	505-515	507	502.50-517.00	513.97	Thin Fleshed	
9	515-529	524	485.00-492.50	491.13	Value Added	
4	560-595	581	411.00-422.50	418.49		
3	550	550	493.00	493.00	Thin Fleshed	
24	585-597	588	453.00-469.00	466.64	Value Added	
1	605	605	385.00	385.00		
96	600-636	623	432.50-450.75	449.84	Value Added	
8	681-693	686	387.50-397.00	395.06		
15	653-685	668	410.00-427.50	420.51	Value Added	
1	705	705	345.00	345.00		
6	705-727	720	378.00-390.00			

MARKETS

Daily Livestock and Poultry Slaughter

Report For Thursday, February 19, 2026 - Final

Current Day Slaughter									
Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026	Week Ago	Year Ago	WTD	Prev Week WTD	Last Year WTD	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	% Change	
Calves	1,000	1,000	354	4,000	4,000	1,842	18,707	20,152	-7.2%
Cattle	112,000	115,000	113,747	427,000	454,000	441,584	3,840,537	4,256,795	-9.8%
Hogs	491,000	456,000	470,206	1,918,000	1,922,000	1,912,839	18,101,620	18,524,559	-2.3%
Sheep	8,000	7,000	8,224	30,000	34,000	28,204	257,139	250,861	2.5%
Chicken (Young)	35,578,000	35,329,000	32,572,000	141,873,000	141,567,000	133,241,000	1,235,876,000	1,304,798,000	-5.3%

Previous Daily Slaughter									
Wed., Feb. 18, 2026	Week Ago	Year Ago	WTD	Prev Week WTD	Last Year WTD	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	% Change	
Calves	1,000	1,000	622	3,000	3,000	1,488	17,707	19,798	-10.6%
Cattle	113,000	116,000	117,812	315,000	339,000	327,837	3,728,537	4,143,048	-10.0%
Hogs	483,000 R	487,000	481,362	1,427,000	1,466,000	1,442,633	17,610,620	18,054,353	-2.5%
Sheep	8,000	8,000	7,301	22,000	27,000	19,980	249,139	242,637	2.7%
Chicken (Young)	35,492,000	35,428,000	31,808,000	106,295,000	106,238,000	100,669,000	1,200,298,000	1,272,226,000	-5.7%

Previous Day Breakdown									
Wed., Feb. 18, 2026									
Cattle	Steers/Heifers ... 92,000				Cows/Bulls ... 21,000				
Explanatory Notes: Livestock Species listed consists of young and mature animals. Poultry references young only. Year to Date calculation is based on week 1 of calendar year. R = Revision WTD = Week to Date YTD = Year to Date									
USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News Washington, DC (202) 720-1990 https://ams.usda.gov/pgmn https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3208									

Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, February 13, 2026

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week slaughter woolled and shorn lambs sold higher. Slaughter ewes sold firmer.

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

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3	
San Angelo:	50-60 lbs 445.00; 60-70 lbs 400.00-447.00; 70-80 lbs 415.00-437.00.
New Holland:	50-60 lbs 425.00-530.00; 60-70 lbs 450.00-510.00; 70-80 lbs 475.00-485.00; 80-90 lbs 380.00-455.00; 90-100 lbs 380.00-435.00; 100-110 lbs 370.00-400.00; 110-120 lbs 340.00-415.00; 120-130 lbs 380.00-385.00.
Billings:	80-90 lbs 283.00-305.00; 90-100 lbs 272.50-287.50; 100-110 lbs 269.00-275.00; 110-120 lbs 258.00-265.00; 120-130 lbs 210.00-220.00.
Ft. Collins:	80-90 lbs 330.00-347.00; 90-100 lbs 315.00; 100-110 lbs 300.00-347.50; 110-120 lbs 290.00.
Kalona:	40-50 lbs 440.00-465.00; 50-60 lbs 415.00-455.00; 60-70 lbs 410.00-465.00; 70-80 lbs 400.00-440.00; 80-90 lbs 375.00-420.00; 90-100 lbs 355.00-410.00.
Equity Coop:	130-140 lbs 249.50.
Sioux Falls:	60-70 lbs 415.00; 70-80 lbs 375.00-415.00; 80-90 lbs 350.00-398.00; 90-100 lbs 315.00-400.00; 100-110 lbs 325.00-360.00; 110-120 lbs 345.00-350.00; 120-130 lbs 262.50-302.50; 130-140 lbs 240.00-272.50; 140-150 lbs 240.00-270.00; 150-160 lbs 210.00-262.50.
Buffalo, MO:	No test.
Missouri:	No test.
Arkansas:	No test.
Equity Coop:	No test.
Slaughter Ewes:	Good 2-3:

San Angelo:	135.00-172.00.
New Holland:	135.00-180.00.
Billings:	100.00-200.00.
Ft. Collins:	100.00-180.00.
Kalona:	125.00-190.00.
Equity Coop:	No test.
Sioux Falls:	135.00-190.00.
Buffalo, MO:	No test.
Missouri:	No test.
Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1:	No test.
San Angelo:	50-60 lbs 320.00-335.00; 70-80 lbs 310.00-315.00; 80-90 lbs 387.50.
Billings:	50-60 lbs 320.00-335.00; 70-80 lbs 310.00-315.00; 80-90 lbs 387.50.
Sioux Falls:	40-50 lbs 465.00; 50-60 lbs 430.00-465.00; 60-70 lbs 435.00-465.00.
Buffalo, MO:	No test.
Missouri:	No test.
Ft. Collins:	No test.
Kalona:	No test.
Equity Coop:	No test.
Arkansas:	No test.
Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2:	No test.
San Angelo:	1-6 years old families 100-160 lbs 280.00-450.00 per unit.
Billings:	No test.
Ft. Collins:	1-6 years old families 100-160 lbs 280.00-450.00 per unit.
South Dakota:	No test.
Kalona:	No test.
Missouri:	No test.
Arkansas:	No test.
Sioux Falls:	2-6 year old WIN/SPR 140-200 lbs 320.00-460.00 per unit.
Buffalo, MO:	No test.
Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 39,000 compared to 38,000 last year and 36,269 last year.	
Source: USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News General inquiries, please call: (202) 720-1990 email: mymarketnews@usda.gov	

Missouri Direct Hay Report

Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 2/20/2026

Several areas of the state received some much need moisture over the last week. Drought conditions are still slightly concerning, but everyone knows this situation can quickly change before growing season starts. Although there could and likely will still be more winter to come recent weather hasn't felt like it. Record highs have some daffodils blooming and peeper frogs peeping. The supply of hay is moderate to heavy for this point in the feeding season, there is some movement taking place, but no one is really having to look very hard to find hay. Prices continue to be mostly steady even with the thoughts of spring, abundant supplies, and cheap corn. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory> or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at <https://feedstufffinder.org>

HAY (Conventional)	
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)	Medium Square 3x3
250.00-300.00	
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)	Small Square
10.00-15.00	
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	Medium Square 3x3
175.00-225.00	
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)	

Large Round	150.00-175.00
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)	Small Square
6.00-10.00	
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)	Large Round
125.00-150.00	
Mixed Grass - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	Medium Square 3x3
150.00-200.00	
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Ton)	Large Round
100.00-150.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)	Large Round
75.00-125.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)	Small Square
3.00-7.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)	Large Round
20.00-45.00	
STRAW (Conventional)	
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	Small Square
4.00-7.00	
Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2929	

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These areas experienced multiple reports of late deliveries during the week of 01/23/26: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio.

These States reported single reported of late delivery for the same week: Georgia, New York, Tennessee.

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Market Report
February 18th 2025 41st Auction
This Report is the Actual High and Average Prices.

	Hd. Ct.	High	Avg.
Fat Hogs:	N/A		
Sows:	N/A		
Boars:	N/A		
Feeder Pigs:	N/A		
Beef & X Veal #1:	39	\$1775.	\$1425.90
Beef & X Veal #2:	2	\$285.	\$272.50
Dairy Veal #1:	79	\$1600.	\$1241.65
Dairy Veal #2:	11	\$750	\$415.91
Jersey Cross:	3	\$275	\$183.33
Beef Fdrs 200#-550#	8	\$3.30	\$2.55
Beef Fdrs 551#-1000#	4	\$2.75	
Dairy Fdrs 200#-550#	17	\$3.00	\$2.63
Dairy Fdrs 551#-1000#	N/A		
Cull Cows #1:	1	\$1.375	\$1.37
Cull Cows #2:	5	\$1.20	\$0.94
Fat Cattle Colored:	N/A		
Fat Cattle Holstein:	N/A		
Bulls:	N/A		
Cow/Catf Pair:	1	\$3100	\$3100
Breed Cows Colored:	N/A		
Milk Cows:	N/A		
Springers:	N/A		
Sheep Ram:	N/A		
Sheep Ewe:	N/A		
Lamb 0-60:	3	\$4.85	\$4.64
Lamb 61-85:	N/A		
Lamb 86-100:	N/A		
Goat Nannies :	3	\$280	\$250
Goat Billys :	N/A		
Firewood:			\$340
Total Hd Cnt:	151		

Auction Every Wednesday
Sale Order
Hay / Straw / Firewood 11:30 AM
Livestock 12:00 PM
Small animals 5:00 PM.
Licensed and Bonded # AC32500012

Hay Lg Sq:	15	\$50	\$47.50
Hay Sm Sq:	409	\$7.75	\$6.04
Hay Rnd Bale :	44	\$67.50	\$51.19
Straw Lg. Sq:	14	\$50	\$50
Bedding	11	\$3.25	\$3.25
Straw Sm. Sq:	41	\$4.25	\$4.25
Rabbits:	N/A		
Chickens:	N/A		
Chicks:	N/A		
Bantys:	N/A		
Roosters:	N/A		
Ducks:	N/A		
Turkey:	N/A		
Quail:	N/A		
Pigeon:	N/A		
Guinea:	N/A		
Guinea Pig:	N/A		
Geese:	N/A		
Peacocks and Hens :	N/A		
Eggs:	N/A		

Horse Sales 1st Friday of every month!!
The 1st sale of the month will have Vet on grounds for checks and vaccines, etc.
Contact Us: 1-765-725-2552
Market Report: 1-765-725-2552, Ext. 2
Address: 10927 N. US 27. Fountain City IN 47341
Next small animal sale will be Feb.25th

GSS Grazing Systems Supply, Inc.
YOUR FORAGE SEED HEADQUARTERS
NEW!
2,4-D Herbicide Tolerant Red Clover
Bearcat Red Clover Jumbo II Ladino
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PROVEN PASTURE & HAYFIELD OVERSEEDING CLOVER COMBINATIONS
GREENSBURG, IN - 663-8588
888-635-8588
DUBOIS, IN
812-678-2602

Monroe Livestock Auction Market Report
Contact us at: (260) 216-5489 | Market Report (260) 216-5050
Address: 1871 E 200 S, Monroe, IN 46772
Sale every Tuesday night: Small animals @ 5pm • Livestock animals @ 11am
BID ONLINE VIA DVAUCTIONS.COM
**please note that our market report is an overall average price-they are not always the highest and lowest price.*

Small Animals	2/17/2026	Sheep	Cows
Chickens	\$3.50-\$9	Ewes	Cull Cows
Bantys	\$6-\$9.50	40-60# Lambs	Bulls
Ducks	\$5-\$17	61-80# Lambs	
Pigeons	\$4.50-\$15	81-100# Lambs	Fat Cattle
Eggs	\$1.50-\$6		Holstein
Rooster	\$5-\$25		Colored
Turkey	\$35	Goats	
Peacock	\$85-\$175	Billys	Pigs
Rabbits	\$4-\$20	Nannies	Fat Hogs
	1162	Kids	Sows
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Holstein (80# and UP)	\$1100-\$1410	200-500#	20-45#
Beef Cross (80# and UP)	\$1250-\$1700	501-800#	46-65#
	281		

Farm Bill

FROM PAGE 3

BBB, which I like to call Farm Bill 1.0 because it includes so many farm bill programs, Congress invested \$2 billion into programs that prevent infectious (animal) diseases such as foot and mouth disease, New World screwworm, African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza. Keeping our livestock herds healthy is one our main priorities," he said, adding that a lot of issues remained from the BBB to be solved by Farm Bill 2.0.

"Trade promotion programs, market access programs and foreign market development programs (are addressed in Farm Bill 2.0)," Thompson said. "Why are we going there? Because every time I came to Illinois you told me that's what we needed to do."

Without delving into specifics, Thompson noted that the House farm bill also addresses a number of other diverse issues from rural health care access to environmental brownfields, microplastics and "forever" chemicals in soils.

"With that in mind I want you to know that your voice matters, and you have a role to play in getting a new farm bill across the line," the

Right: U.S. House Ag Committee Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Penn.) speaks to about 200 pig farmers, media and elected officials at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library on Feb. 17. Thompson was in town as a guest of the Illinois Pork Producers Association days before the committee was scheduled to begin marking up their new farm bill. (T. Alexander photo)

House Ag Chairman said. "The Ag Committee is marking up this bill next week and we need our entire congressional body spurred to action. I want you to call your representative and talk to them or a staffer, focusing first on those on the Ag Committee, but also including other congressional members. Write letters of support, send emails and tell your story to help people to understand why the farm bill matters so much to our producers."

Also present for Thompson's speech were Illinois Republican Reps. Darrin LaHood and Mary Miller; Budzinski and Bost were not present. Thompson was the featured speaker at the IPPA's first "Swine Mixer" event following IPPA's annual meeting, during which Katie Brown took the gavel from Josh Maschhoff after being elected to serve as 2026-2027 IPPA president.



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Record snow drought is impacting some western states

A record snow drought with unprecedented heat is hitting most of the American West, depleting future water supplies, making it more vulnerable to wildfires and hurting winter tourism and recreation.

Scientists say snow cover and snow depth are both at the lowest levels they've seen in decades, while at least 67 western weather stations have measured their warmest December through early February on record. Normal snow cover this time of year should be about 460,000 square miles - about the size of California, Utah, Idaho and Montana - but this year it's only California-sized, about 155,000 square miles, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

"I have not seen a winter like this before," said center director Mark Serreze, who has been in Colorado almost 40 years. "This pattern that we're in is so darned persistent."

The snowpack - measured by how much water is trapped inside - in Oregon is not only record low, but 30 percent lower than the previous record, said Jason Gerlich, regional drought early warning system coordinator for the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration.

Much of the U.S. east of the Rockies is snowbound and enduring more than two weeks of bone-chilling abnormal cold, but in West Jordan, Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City, Trevor Stephens went to the store last week in gym shorts and a T-shirt.

"Right now, there's no snow on the ground," he said in a video interview, looking out his window and lamenting the lack of snowboarding opportunities. "I'd definitely rather have icy roads and snow than whatever is going on out here right now."

Ski resorts had already been struggling through a difficult season, but the lack of snow has been persistent enough that concerns are growing about wider effects.

Oregon, Colorado and Utah have reported their lowest statewide snowpack since the early 1980s, as far back as records go.

A dry January has meant most states have received half their average precipitation or even less. Along with sunny days and higher-than-average temperatures, that's meant little snow build up in a month that historically gets a lot of snow accu-

mulation across much of the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies. Because of heavy rains in December, California is in better shape than the other states, scientists said.

As of Feb. 9, it had been 327 days since Salt Lake City International Airport got 1 inch of snow, making it the longest stretch since 1890-91, according to the National Weather Service.

The meager snow in Colorado and Utah has put the Upper Colorado River Basin at the heart of the snow drought, Gerlich said.

A robust mountain snowpack that slowly melts as winter warms to spring provides a steady flow of water into creeks and rivers. That helps ensure there's enough water later in the year for agriculture, cities, hydro-power electric systems and more.

But lack of snow or a too-fast melt means less water will replenish rivers like the Colorado later in the season.

"This is a pretty big problem for the Colorado basin," said Daniel Swain, of the University of California's Water Resources Institute.

Experts said the snow drought could also kick-start an early wildfire season. Snow disappearing earlier than average leaves the ground exposed to warmer weather in the spring and summer, which dries soils and vegetation quicker, said Daniel McEvoy, researcher with the Western Regional Climate Center.

While it's been dry, the record-low snowpack is mostly due to how warm the West has been, which is connect-

ed to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, several scientists said. Since Dec. 1, there have been more than 8,500 daily high temperature records broken or tied in the West, according to NOAA data.

Much of the precipitation that would normally fall as snow and stay in the mountains for months is instead falling as rain, which runs off quicker, Swain and other scientists said. It's a problem scientists have warned about with climate change.

Going snowless happens from time to time, but it's the warmth that has been so extreme, which is easier to tie to climate change, said Russ Schumacher, professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University and Colorado State Climatologist.

"It was so warm, especially in December, that the snow was only falling at the highest parts of the mountains," McEvoy said. "And then we moved into January and it got really dry almost everywhere for the last three to four weeks and stayed warm."

Meteorologists expect wetter, cooler weather across the West in late February with some snow, so this may be the peak of the snow drought. But it'll still be warmer than usual in many areas, and scientists aren't optimistic the snow will be enough.

"I don't think there's any way we're going to go back up to, you know, average or anywhere close to that," Schumacher said. "But at least we can chip away at those deficits a little bit if it does get more active."

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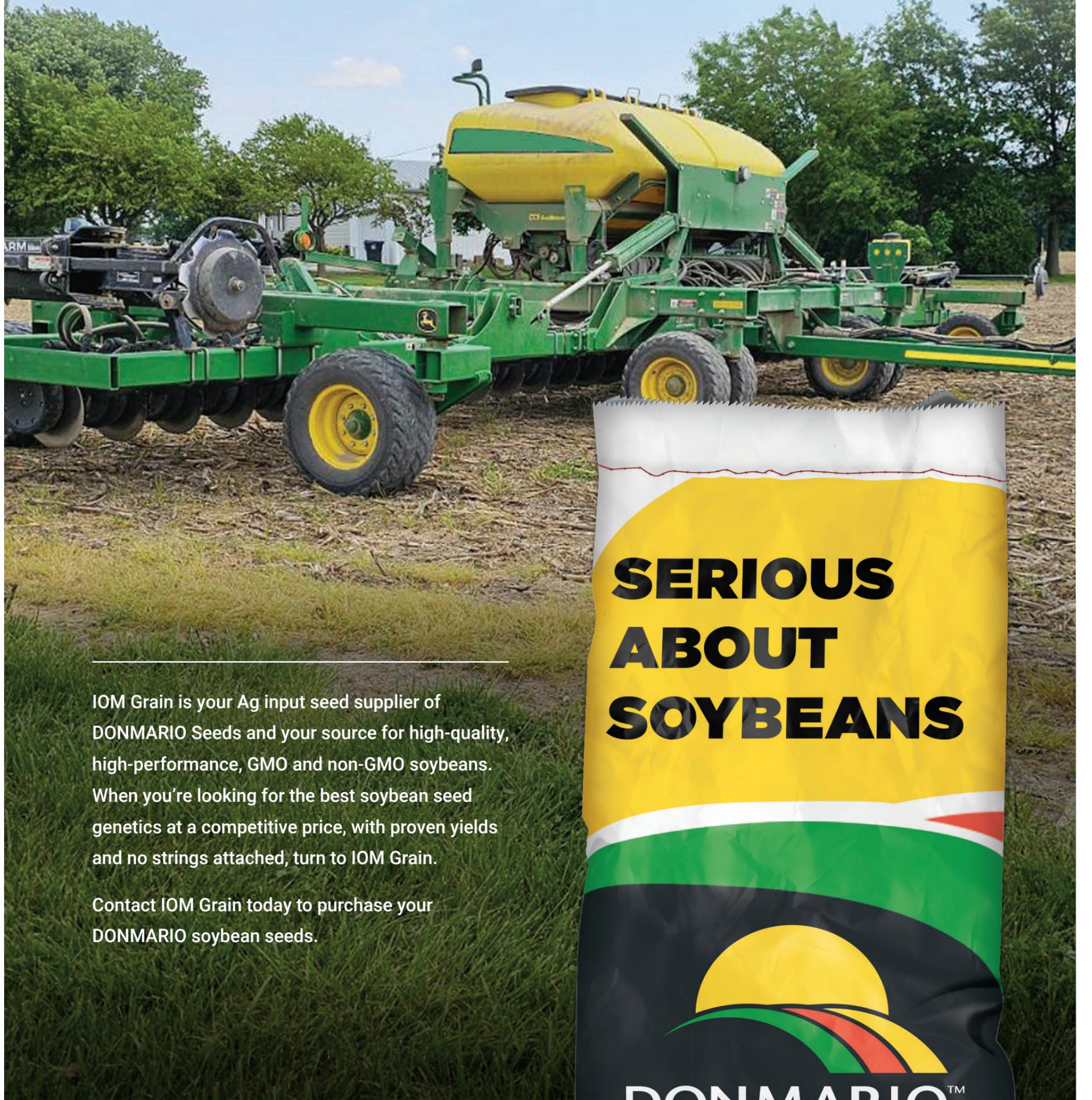
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Looking at the pros and cons of being a farmer in the future

I was talking to my 86-year-old neighbor recently and we wound up reminiscing over the past, trying to make sense of the present and pondering about the future.

In all our lamenting we inevitably came around to talking about what it's going to take farming into the future.

Like every other farmer in the country, I do worry about finances, but when people ask why I do it, even when family asks, it's because it's a life of purpose, the real living of day-to-day life on the farm is seeing God's creation up close and personal. There are so many ways in each day that we see miracles that can only be defined as created by intelligent creation,

55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT
BY BILL WHITMAN

and we get to see and interact with these miracles every day of the year. As I write this, we're amid a snowstorm dropping enough snow accumulation

that we haven't seen at one time for several years. This storm is potentially affecting over 200 million people. I heard a meteorologist describe it as "God flexing," which aptly describes what my wife and I are watching out our front windows.

What I've learned over 67 years, is that each time, as a young man, that I thought of leaving the farm, I couldn't find a single thing that gave me the satisfaction that I found every day as a farmer. Things that I tried

gave me a better perspective of how the world works. I saw several foreign countries and learned the stark benefits of living in America when I was in the service. I learned a great deal about business and how big businesses take advantage of people's ignorance, when I was in insurance. I also learned about how much people need power greater than themselves to have hope when I worked for a large homeless shelter as mental health liaison and development director. In each of these endeavors for me, there was something missing.

When I talk to farmers and ranchers across the country and even in Canada each week, inevitably we will talk about how great it is to be in agriculture. I think most of us know deeply within us we get to see life at its purest. I told someone just today that of the hundreds if not thousands of calves and horses born, I am humbled by the privilege of seeing this miracle, every time. When I'm doing field work in the spring and watch that little seed grow into a harvestable crop and experience the transition day after day, I am humbled.

Over the last six decades, I've watched the agriculture environment evolve into something that forces us to consider "what if" every day. Not that things weren't stressful in the 1980s, but there are far fewer of us today and because the cycles of good years are stretched out more than we saw in the 60s-70s-80s and even the 90s, we generally lost money one year and made money the next, cattle

farmers lost money three out of five years and made good money the other two. Today we have a generation of farmers that made money for 20 years and got comfortable with profits, granted, some more than others but as I heard on YouTube the other day, if you didn't make money between 2000 and 2022 then you really shouldn't be farming. Today we have creditors that have no idea how or why anyone would do what we do. In their world it makes no sense. Invite them out to the farm or ranch and they'll frown at the dust on their shoes and car.

So, when our small group of 1 percent of the population has so many issues to deal with every day, why do we look forward to each day? It's because we love doing what we do. Whether we're in the livestock business or growing grain or a combination of both, we see every day the fruit of our labor. When I look at a herd of cattle with straight backs and shiny hides, I know that the herdsman is doing a great job and feels good about what he/she does. When I watch crops being planted in the spring and see straight and clean rows, I know the farmer is proud. None of the other 99 percent of the population gets this. When they work on a factory assembly line and complete their quota which takes half the time they're paid for, how can they be proud of that. So, the reason we do what we do is because it is the one thing we can do where we can be proud of every day's work. It's because when we do get a vacation, we know that we earned it, it isn't "owed" to us.

Horse Sense: Each day begins in the East, is it any wonder it's also the direction with the most promise.

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Hancock County farmer tops field of corn growers with 347.51 bushels per acre

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

FINDLAY, Ohio - In 2025, Ohio corn farmers from nine separate districts competed to produce the highest bushel per acre of corn in the state in a contest sponsored by Ohio Corn & Wheat.

By using biologicals, precision nitrogen management and strategic fungicide applications, Ohio farmer Matthew Bame, of Hancock County, finished atop the field, producing 347.51 bushels of corn per acre.

Bame used Beck's Hybrids 6280TCV2P. Jim Dauch, of Sandusky County, earned the title of runner-up with a yield of 345.53 bushels using Pioneer P1383AM. Both represented District 2.

"These results highlight the skill, precision and dedication Ohio corn farmers bring to their operations every year," said Wendy Osborn, director of market development for Ohio Corn & Wheat. "The Ohio Corn Yield Contest continues to showcase the best of Ohio agriculture and the innovation on farms across the state."

Bame, 25, farms 1,700 acres of corn and soybeans alongside his father, Bruce. This marked Bame's third year of competing in the contest. Droughts in 2023 and 2024 put a crimp in his growing efforts, but the rains in 2025 were just right.

"Rain was very scarce the first two years, but this year we got good rain in July," Bame said.

Growers have their own methods

when it comes to growing, and Bame is no different. He was working on ground that was tilled three years ago and is still undergoing tillage to even out the ground. No cover crops were planted. Heavy rains delayed his planting until late May, but the timing was right, Bame said.

Some of his early-planted fields endured up to seven inches of rain before emergence and the contest plot avoided the worst of the spring downpours.

"Some of the seed we've planted in the past has been aged out, so this year, about 60 percent of what we planted were new hybrids, including the contest plot," Bame said.

Bame applied hog manure to the contest plot, using manure from his nearby hog-finishing barns.

Bame had strategically used innovative products during the growing season, including biologicals like Boost Max M, Nutrify and Carbon RX in-furrow, along with nitrogen, sulfur, potassium, boron, zinc and humic acid.

"The humic acid helped buffer the herbicide," Bame said.

Bame utilized two nitrogen passes, ensuring nitrogen availability throughout the growing season. He also used a two-pass fungicide program. Just before tasseling, he applied Veltyma fungicide, followed by a second application of Headline Amp about four weeks

later. On the test plot, Bame applied boron during both fungicide passes.

Perhaps Bame is what some call a perfectionist, as he conducts weekly tissue sampling to monitor crop needs. He says this gives him an idea of what the crop is going to need before it gets there.

"With the right weather, we were able to combine everything to produce a good crop," he said.

Bame admits all his efforts wouldn't have been so successful without the help from Mother Nature.

"July is what made that corn," Bame said. "We got about four inches of rain, spread out over the month. It was about an inch one week, two inches the next, another after that. It was perfect. The July rain, combined with our Y-drop applications, helped get the nutrients into the plant to sustain it through the drought."

As the state winner, Bame will receive a one-year free lease on an Unverferth seed tender. Second place winner, Dauch, will be awarded BASF corn fungicide. Bame, Dauch and the eight district winners were recognized at the 2026 Celebration of Ohio Corn & Wheat on Feb. 5 at Mac-O-Chee Castle in West Liberty, Ohio.

Ohio Corn & Wheat is a strategic alliance encompassing three distinct organizations: the Ohio Corn Check-

off, the Ohio Small Grains Checkoff and the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association.

Aaron Stuckey and Jason Rufenacht, both of Fulton County, finished 1-2 in District 1. Stuckey finished at 288.42 bushels.

Brian and Dale Jostpille, both of Allen County, were tops in District 3. Brian finished at 289.06 bushels. Dale was right behind at 288.20 bushels.

Mark Scheffler, of Crawford County, was tops in District 4 at 339.95 bushels, while Wesley Roberts, of Marion County, followed at 315.10 bushels.

In District 5, Kent Edwards, of Erie County, held the top two spots on two separate contest plots, 333.50 and 326.78 bushels respectively.

Don Jackson, of Preble County, captured the District 6 title at 332.34 bushels, while Ben Brautigam, of Shelby County, came in at 314.21 bushels.

Corey Farrens, of Madison County, was first in District 7 at 324.86 bushels, while Scott Haerr, of Champaign County, was next at 318.13 bushels.

In District 8, Jay Writsel, of Pickaway County, led with 333.71 bushels, while Kyle Croft, of Coshocton County, was second at 328.10 bushels.

In District 9, James Jacobs, of Fayette County, finished first at 323.36 bushels, while Nathan Ewing, of Pike County, was second at 319.43 bushels.



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New FFA chapter in place at Madison High in Ohio

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio - The 1,500-student Madison Local School district in Butler County is among the most rural in Ohio. So why, then, was there no FFA program all these years? For many years, students at Madison High have been asking this question. Students wanted to explore careers in agriculture and saw FFA as a perfect fit for their school's rural roots.

In November, Madison High School's chapter (officially named the Madison/Butler Tech FFA) became the state's 342nd FFA chapter.

"I know the students always wanted an FFA program long before I

arrived," said Annell Prochnow, Madison High's new agriculture instructor. "At first, I personally didn't know how to get it all started, but thanks to Jason Jackson becoming principal at the high school, the ball started rolling. He played a big part as he was the push that this school needed. He brought FFA to life here."

Just days after Prochnow agreed to take the adult advisory role (and following a few after-school announcements) 20 students signed up, four of those at the junior high level. Officials at Butler Tech are just as excited, stating that "the rural school district is well-suited for a farm career program."

"This initial group of 20 has been very enthusiastic," Prochnow said.

"When I told them we could do the bare minimum several of them said 'we want to go big or go home.'"

Madison students and now officers Lyla Comer (president), Alivia Comer (vice president), Lanie Rawlins (historian) and Hope Ritter (secretary) were among the first to raise their hands when the opportunity of a school FFA chapter arose.

"We've always heard about FFA at other schools," Lyla Comer said. "When we found out agriculture was coming to Madison, we hoped we'd finally get the same opportunity."

The new FFA students often walk the halls at the high school wearing their blue FFA jackets. An advertising tactic, if you will, as the students can entice other students to join.

"It's been a bit of a rocky start getting the SAEs (supervised agriculture experience) started, trying to find each student's interest and finding a project that's a fit for them," Prochnow said. "But most have found something and are off and running, whether it's showing chickens at the fair, working with horses or working in their gardens. Their immediate dedications and hard work tell me I can see banners on the walls and plaques in their hands soon."

While their early dedication is strong, so are their dreams. Plans are on the drawing board for an agricultural building, one with perhaps a greenhouse or mechanical workshop.

"Taking these kids outside of the classroom and into a laboratory space is what these kids really need," Prochnow said.

Prochnow said the chapter is already seeing strong support from families and community leaders. An advisory board is forming to connect parents, local businesses and alumni

who want to help the chapter grow.

"We need chaperones, mentors and supporters to help us get off the ground," she said.

Prochnow said her after-school gatherings and classes will focus on local agricultural industries like farming, raising livestock and researching careers in farming-related industries. The new group plans to attend leadership events, meeting members from other local school chapters and host fundraisers and competitions. And of course, the annual FFA State Convention.

For Prochnow, the excitement isn't just about agriculture - it's also about students learning so-called "soft skills" to assist their maturation in the adult work world.

"FFA builds leadership, communication and responsibility," she said. "Those are skills that serve students for life, whether they go into agriculture or any other career. This is a student-led organization and I want them to take it as far as they want to go."

For Comer, the new chapter is a dream come true.

"It's bittersweet," she said. "I was afraid I wasn't going to get the agricultural experience until this year, but it's a dream come true. I'm going to absorb everything I can in my last year in school. More importantly, it's an exciting feeling knowing that students coming down the road can get involved with this new FFA program." Prochnow (students call her Miss Jo) attended Brownsburg High School in Brownsburg, Ind., before her family moved to Wilmington, Ohio, during her sophomore year. There, Prochnow joined the Wilmington FFA Chapter, the same chapter her mother was a member of when she was in high school.



Above: Heading up Madison High's first FFA chapter are (from left) Alivia Comer (vice president), Abby Rose (sentinel), Lanie Rawlins (historian), Lyla Comer (president) and FFA Adviser Annell Prochnow. Not pictured is Hope Ritter (secretary). (Doug Graves photo)

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Kentucky based Better For Butchery acquires USDA-inspected building

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

PRINCETON, Ky. - Better For Butchery, Inc., a co-packing service provider that supports independent American meat producers, recently acquired a 27,000-square-foot USDA-inspected processing facility in Princeton.

At a Jan. 20 "Meat + Greet," hosted by Better For Butchery, farmers, butchers, industry executives and government officials gathered to tour the facility, which will serve as the company's centralized processing, packaging, cold storage and fulfillment hub.

According to company officials, this expansion, supported by a \$2.5 million USDA loan, aims to strengthen local food infrastructure, providing 83 full-time jobs, and serving over 70 restaurants.

Company officials added that the facility will provide consistent quality, reliable scheduling and access to regional and national distribution - capabilities that have historically been difficult for small- and mid-sized producers to secure at scale.

Secure at scale in livestock agriculture refers to the implementation of comprehensive, technology-driven biosecurity, surveillance and management measures across large-scale industrial farming operations to maintain herd health, prevent disease outbreaks and ensure business continuity.

Christopher Roach, Better For Butchery CEO, said the company's work has been focused on three areas from the start: Helping small family farms monetize and scale their operations; giving local communities access to the nourishment grown in their region; and reconnecting producers and consumers through a transparent, accountable supply chain.

"In this time of mass consolidation and monopolies, our work is proving rural food infrastructure is growth-oriented and investable," he said at the Meat + Greet event. "We offer hands-on operational partnership for processing, co-packing, storage from the same infrastructure that has powered over \$65 million in direct to consumers sales, and provided fulfillment services that have delivered 500,000 orders nationally."

Travis Burton, USDA Rural Development state director for Kentucky, said of Better For Butchery's acquisition, "What we're celebrating today is not just a facility, but rural jobs, stronger markets, and a food system rooted in our local communities."

"Better For Butchery is modeling a new meat economy that levels the playing field for small, rural farmers," he said. "Against a backdrop of meat industry consolidation and plant closures, what they are doing is really going to be the model for the rest of the country."

The building acquired by Better For Butchery was previously run by Porter Road Meat Co., in Princeton. Company officials said this milestone marks Better For Butchery's growth from turnaround operator to platform-scale processor - formalizing the co-packing, cold storage and fulfillment services the company is already providing to farmers, ranchers and anchor customer Porter Road, and extending that capacity to like-minded third-party partners across America.

Brock Thomas, Princeton mayor, told Farm World, "Better For Butchery is a wonderful community partner. Their business model is a blessing for the City of Princeton, and all of Western Kentucky. It will allow better opportunities for regional farmers, and high-quality products to families."

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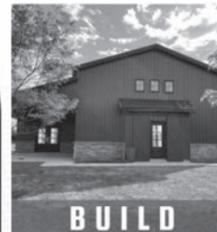



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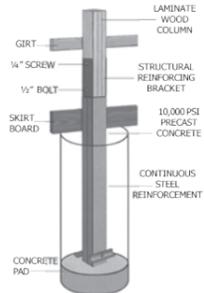
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Indiana fishery celebrates 100th year of operation

By **DOUG GRAVES**
Ohio Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE, Ind. – Think of Indiana and things like the Indy 500, the movie “Hoosiers” or even TV icon David Letterman might come to mind. But goldfish and koi?

Ozark Fisheries in Martinsville is celebrating its 100th year of raising and selling these fish, putting its stamp on Indiana being the goldfish and koi capital of the country.

“Martinsville is known for fish and



Above: Indiana FAA chapters often visit the Ozark Fisheries in Martinsville, Ind. (photo submitted)

there are even other fish farms across Indiana,” said Margaret Cleveland, senior vice president at Ozark Fisheries.

Cleveland, a fourth-generation farmer, grew up on her family’s fish farm in rural Missouri and then studied fisheries and wildlife at the University of Missouri. She spent three years abroad in South Korea before rejoining Ozark Fisheries in 2018 on the sales and marketing team.

Ozark Fisheries got its start as a trout hatchery in Stoutland, Mo., in 1926, led by two men: F. Lawrence Bailliere and Dr. Charles A. Furrow.

In the 1920s, the big boom in goldfish popularity started with the establishment of pet departments in the chain stores such as S.S. Kresge, Woolworth, Grant and McLellan’s. There were more than 60 goldfish producers in the U.S. at that time, located mostly in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana.

Grassyfork Fisheries in Martinsville was already in existence. This Indiana fishery started in 1899. In the 1970s, Ozark Fisheries acquired Grassyfork Fisheries in Martinsville. Both Missouri and Indiana locations now produce and sell five different types of goldfish and two types of koi.

“We’re now the oldest privately owned fish farm still in operation in the United States, especially when it comes to goldfish and koi,” Cleveland added. “The goldfish is our ‘bread and butter’ fish as those are



Above: Goldfish and koi are the top fish found at Ozark Fisheries in Martinsville, Ind. (photo submitted)

our biggest seller. Most goldfish are sold under a year old and under 12 inches in length. The koi are sold at 18-20 inches long.”

The fish get their start indoors in tanks. Nylon fiber spawning mats are at the bottom of each tank. They’re kept indoors for safety as these fish have a lot of predators like snakes, turtles, bullfrogs and birds.

Once big enough, they’re moved to one of more than a dozen ponds across the property, where they’ll continue to grow.

“It’s in our best interest to give the fish the best chance at survival before heading to one of numerous

ponds on the property,” she said. “Just like any other crop you’re raising, we spawn our fish. The fish that lay their eggs, we hatch them in a hatchery, and then we move them to ponds where they live most of their lives here on the farm, and so we put that crop into production. We have to feed it, take care of it.”

The ponds, which are right off I-69, have fish in them throughout the year. In the winter, when the ponds are ice-covered, it takes workers more time to fish out the goldfish and koi.

(Goldfish continued page 2B)

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Goldfish

FROM PAGE 1B

"We have an estimated number of fry that we hatch from our farms, which is about 100 million per location," Cleveland said. "This area in Martinsville is known for its underground water, flowing from natural springs. You need a lot of water to raise a lot of fish."

From the pond, the fish are transported to an indoor facility, full of holding tanks. The fish are fed with a soybean/corn mix from area farms. The fish are then graded, or sized, before being shipped via UPS or FedEx throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, to pet stores, garden centers and others.

"Most of our goldfish are sold when they're under a year old. When they're the right size and color we harvest them out of the outdoor ponds, then sell them to customers."

"In the early history of our hatchery, we shipped fish by railroad in big metal cans, and then we switched to shipping in a cardboard box with insulation."

While the anniversary is officially in April, Ozark Fisheries has started



Above: Ponds (many ponds) are needed when operating a fish hatchery. Ozark Fisheries in Martinsville, Ind., utilizes many in their fish business. (photo submitted)

its 100-year celebrations, honoring all family members who helped them get the farm to where it is today.

"My grandmother is still alive," Cleveland said. "My great-grandfather started the farm, but my grandmother is still alive. We're planning several different celebrations throughout the year. We just finished publishing a 100th centennial book about the history of Ozark Fisheries. We've got a lot of fun things planned."

The fishery is not open to the public for in-person sales, but they do offer farm tours for school and FFA groups.



Above: Mature fish are kept in holding tanks, graded (or measured) before being shipped across the country. (photo submitted)

Facility to disperse sterile screwworm flies opens in Texas on former base

EDINBURG, Texas (AP) - The first center for dispersing sterile screwworm flies from U.S. soil in decades opened Feb. 9 in Texas, part of a larger effort to keep the flesh-eating parasite they spawn from crossing the Mexican border and wreaking havoc on the American cattle industry.

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott unveiled the new facility on a former Air Force base near Edinburg. It will allow the U.S. to disperse millions of sterile male New World screwworm flies bred in Mexico or Panama on both sides of the border.

The USDA is building a new \$750 million factory nearby for breeding sterile flies, but Rollins said construction on the fly factory won't be done until the end of 2027. The USDA also is spending \$21 million to convert a fruit fly breeding facility in far southern Mexico into one for breeding screwworm flies starting this summer.

The sterile male flies would mate with wild females, who mate only once in their weeklong adult lives. Their eggs, laid in open wounds or on mucous membranes, would then not hatch into the flesh-eating maggots that can infest livestock, wild mammals, household pets and even humans.

"It's a real testament to all the hands on deck - federal, state and local - the fact that we do not have the pest in our country yet," Rollins said.

In November, the USDA opened a facility in Tampico in central Mexico for dispersing Panama-bred flies. However, it is about 330 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"We knew we needed a short-term, gap-filling solution, which is exactly what we are cutting a ribbon on today," Abbott said.

The Mexican cattle industry has been hit hard by New World screwworm fly larvae infestations, and the U.S. has closed the border since July to imports of cattle, bison and horses.

A similar program breeding sterile male flies had largely eradicated the pest from American soil by the early 1970s, except for a limited, short-lived outbreak in the Florida Keys in 2017 and its appearance recently when officials blocked a horse being imported from Argentina into Florida until the animal was fully treated, Rollins said.

The U.S. shut down its fly factories after eliminating the pest from its soil, and sterile males have been bred since in the Western Hemisphere only at a single facility in Panama, which can produce about 117 million a week. The new fly factory in Texas will be designed to produce 300 million a week.

The USDA also announced last month that it is offering up to \$100 million in grants for projects designed to improve fly breeding, create new fly traps and lures, and produce treatments for infestations.

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Broiler chicken output strong, expansion opportunities narrowing

By DOUG SCHMITZ
Iowa Correspondent

CLERMONT, Fla. - A recent analysis by CoBank Knowledge Exchange shows broiler chicken output remains strong, but expansion opportunities are narrowing.

According to the report, the construction of new processing plants has slowed due to higher capital costs, limited labor availability and tighter local regulations -

factors that are restricting the industry's ability to add new processing capacity.

Brian Earnest, CoBank lead animal protein economist in Clermont, said chick availability has trended downward as genetic priorities have shifted from hatchability (or how many chicks a hen could produce), to meat yield, but adding more pounds per bird has its limits: "The potential long-term challenge becomes, 'How big is too big?' for birds on the processing line, and what will drive consumer preferences for chicken products into 2030 and beyond."

In the short-term, he said, there has been a growing interest in secondary processing or the value-add segment: "That's helping chicken producers meet increased consumer demand for further-processed and flavor-enhanced items like tenders, nuggets and sandwiches. But it's not necessarily a sustainable or long-term approach to consistently increase overall production volume."

Earnest told Farm World the analysis draws on data from the USDA "and a variety of independent market research firms, as well as our work and direct interaction with producers and processors across the industry."

According to USDA data, annual per capita chicken consumption in the U.S. has increased 30 pounds since 1995, and currently stands at 103 pounds. That number is projected to rise to 107 pounds by 2030, which far exceeds U.S. per capita consumption of beef and pork.

With the change in genetics, the analysis said, producers are now able to achieve more than 1,000 pounds of chicken from a single egg-laying hen, a 17 percent increase since 2005. While the shift in genetics enabled processors to increase broiler meat yields, those gains have come at a cost.

Earnest said his calculation (of more than 1,000 pounds of chicken from a single egg-laying hen) is based on the total amount of eggs that a broiler hatching type egg-laying hen produces during their productive life-cycle, multiplied by the average weight of the broiler chicken (ready-to-cook weight), based on USDA data.

In addition, he said he thinks producers recognize the opportunities for growth in the current market environment and are maximizing those opportunities in the further-processed category of retail chicken items: "As a whole, the chicken industry has done a remarkable job of meeting consumer demand through product innovation and operational efficiency."

"And we expect that will continue over the next several years, or until capital expenses associated with new greenfield processing plant capacity moderate," he added.

Greenfield expansion involves building new, from-scratch infrastructure on previously undeveloped or agricultural land, offering maximum design flexibility for modern, efficient facilities without the constraints of existing structures.

"And over time, a shift in genetics to place more emphasis on hatchability will further increase the opportunity for production growth," he added. "The remarkably steady increase in consumer demand for chicken will continue to be a tailwind for the industry for the foreseeable future."

He said the elevated costs associated with new greenfield expansion will limit the addition of meaningful head count in the near future, and short-term growth will be facilitated by larger birds and continued investments will further process capabilities.

"Relying on efficiencies in per-bird production will require flexibility and technology," he said. "For processors, that means line speed efficiency will be paramount to grow production until such time as more birds can be added to meet steady growth in demand."

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44-SOLD-BBA

Puck Boost Pump - JD engine 550hp, 2,810hrs, Cornell 6819 MPC, hybrid White Iron Pump, Bambauer Watchdog Remote Controls, four-125gal fuel bladders, LED work lights, ATV rack, hydr outriggers; 2024 Bambauer Super Tandem Hose Reel - 1,000 PTO, fair lead, eight full sect 8in hoses (six w/o mender, two w/mender) & one 100ft, 8in feeder hose; 2012 Baumbauer Tandem Hose Reel - 1,000 PTO, 185cfm compressor, fair lead, five full sect 8in hoses (2 w/o mender, 3 w/mender), one 1,320ft drag hose 5.5in, new fall of 2025; 2012 Baumbauer S/A Hose Reel - 1,000 PTO, one full sect 8in hose w/mender, four full sect 6in hoses (no menders), one 1,320ft drag hose 5.5in w/mender, new in fall of 2023; 2012 Baumbauer 25 Foot Injector Toolbar - three pt hookup, new 2 1/2 in tubing in fall of 2025, NEW high lift sweeps, 6in Krohne flowmeter w/head; 2014 Baumbauer Splash Pan Surface Applicator - 6in Krohne flowmeter, three point hook up. 32ft spread; Nuhn 48 Foot Lagoon Agitator - 1,000 PTO, header style, wall walker, loadout, hydr remote control; Houle 42 Foot Lagoon Agitator - 540 PTO, bearing frame rebuilt Fall, 2025; Sullivan Palatek Towable Air Compressor - 2,216hrs, 375cfm, JD engine, good runner



TRACTORS: 2023 New Holland WORKMASTER 120 Tractor - 12hrs, 3 remotes, PTO, 3 pt w/top link, 10 frnt wghts, lights; 2023 New Holland WORKMASTER 120 Tractor - 16hrs, 3 remotes, PTO, 3 pt & top link, drawbar; HP 2024 New Holland WORKMASTER 70 Tractor - 294hrs, w/New Holland 621 LT ldr, 70in bckt, 1 remote, 540 PTO, 3 pt w/top link, lights; **FORKLIFTS:** 2009 Hamech G32HT 16 Forklift - 13,278hrs, OROPS, gas powered, 3 stage mast, 48in frks, side shift, man adj frks; 2025 Heli CPYD25-M1H Warehouse Forklift - 5,000lb cap, sideshift, 3 stage mast, mast tilt, LPG powered engine, 42in adj frks, LED frnt lights, LED comb lights, rear view mirror, backup alarm, load backrest, toolbox steering wheel knob, LED amber rotating warning, light, air filter svc indicator, susp seat w/operator presence sensing, back up handle w/horn, new forklift sells w/propane tank, NEW/UNUSED; **SEMI:** 2005 Peterbilt 385 Semi - 820,419mi, CAT engine, manual trans, 6X4, tandem axle, duals; 2012 Kenworth T660 Sleeper Semi - 1,163,178mi, Paccar engine, 10 spd trans, mid roof sleeper, heat/AC, radio, diff lock, VIN# 1XKADP8X5CJ311462; 2004 Peterbilt 370 Sleeper Semi - 1,501,655mi, CAT engine, manual trans, alum wheels, rear bunk, heat/AC, radio, VIN#1XP5DB9X84D815484; 2007 Peterbilt 379 Sleeper Semi - 1,060,402mi, CAT engine, 10spd trans, alum wheels, dual stacks, adj fifth wheel, heat/AC, radio; **SEMI-TRAILERS:** 1995 East 36 Ft. Dump Trailer - elect tarp, newly rebilt hydr cyl, little use last 10 years, tandem axle; 2001 MAC TRAILER MFG 34 Ft. Frameless Dump Trailer - elect tarp, tandem axle; **FLATBED TRUCKS:** 2012 Peterbilt 348 Semi - 287,760mi, 25ft bed, Paccar PX-8 engine, auto trans, cab, heat/AC, radio; **MEDIUM DUTY TRUCKS:** 2001 Freightliner FL60 - mulch/topsoil truck, 227,443mi, elect tarp system, rear door side swing, hydr pwr'd by engine, conveyer system with front side & rear unload, storage boxes, CAT 3126 7.2L diesel eng, 25,500 GVWR; **MOTOR GRADERS:** 2013 Deere 770G Motor Grader - 9,120hrs; **EXCAVATORS:** 2020 Caterpillar 320 Hydr Excavator - 7,700.5hrs, aux hydr, EROPS, heat/AC; 2022 Case CX75CSR - 815hrs, Oriel quick coupler, Oriel hydr thumb, 36in bckt, backfill blade, rear camera, EROPS, heat/AC, radio; 2018 CATERPILLAR 313FL Hydr EXCAVATOR - 4,276hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, hydr qck att; 2017 SANY 365C LC Hydr EXCAVATOR - 7,018hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, heat/AC, radio; **FORKLIFTS (TRUCK MOUNTED):** 2015 Moffett M50-4 Truck Mounted Forklift - 1,074hrs, 48in forks, 2 stage mast, lights, stabilizer jacks, mast tilt, 5,000lb cap, OROPS; **SKID STEERS:** 2020 Caterpillar 279D3 Skid Steer - 2,655hrs, hydr qck att, 2spd, HI Flow XPS, wghts, EROPS; 2018 Caterpillar 299D2 Skid Steer - 590hrs, hydr qck att, aux hydr, EROPS, 2022 Caterpillar 249D3 Skid Steer - 2,990hrs, qck att, 2spd, EROPS; 2022 Caterpillar 259D3 Skid Steer - 2,810hrs, 2spd, hydr qck att, aux hydr, EROPS; 2019 Caterpillar 249D3 Skid Steer - 3,410hrs, 2spd, qck att, aux hydr, EROPS; 2023 Deere 333G Skid Steer -1,140hrs, qck att, 2spd, aux hydr, EROPS, SN#1T0333GMAPP451875; 2020 Deere 333G Skid Steer - 2,755hrs, aux hydr, hydr qck att, 18in rubber tracks, 82in bckt, EROPS, rear camera; 2021 BOBCAT T870 SKID STEER - 3,765hrs, 2spd, HI Flow hydr, selectable joystick cntrl, R/C ready, hydr qck att, rubber tracks, auto ride cntrl; 2016 Bobcat T650 Skid Steer - 1,899hrs, 84in bckt, 18in rubber tracks, OROPS; 2020 Caterpillar 259D3 Track Skid Steer - 3,068hrs, qck att, 2spd, aux hydr, EROPS; 2015 Deere 323E Track Skid Steer - 4,775hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, qck att, EROPS; **WHEEL LOADERS:** 2005 INGERSOLL RAND WL400 WHEEL LOADER - 3,228hrs showing, EROPS, hydr qck coupler, 72in bckt 2003 Case 621D XT Wheel Loader - 9,063hrs, qck att, 102in bckt, EROPS, susp seat



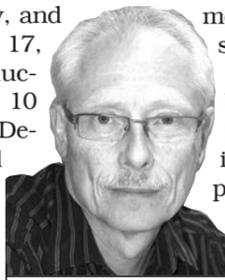
TERMS & CONDITIONS: A 10% BUYERS PREMIUM WILL BE CHARGED ON ALL ITEMS CAPPED @ A MAXIMUM OF \$5,000.00 IN PREMIUM. Online bidder fees apply. EVERYTHING SELLS AS IS WHERE IS W/ NO GUARANTEES. ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE EQUIPMENTFACTS.COM & PROXIBIDCOM & NEXTLOT. Auctioneers Note: More items are coming in, please check back for more updated auction information. Call early for the best exposure for your equipment! For a full listing please visit Equipmentfacts.com or Auctionzip.com #47130

(844) 765-3222
LOCATION: 4938 S State Route 49 Greenville Ohio 45331
ONSITE & ONLINE BIDDING!!



2026 forecast for milk per cow raised 65 pounds, to 24,585

The USDA's Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook, issued Feb. 17, mirrored milk price and production projections in the Feb. 10 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates. It also stated that recent data on dairy cow inventories, weekly estimated slaughter, and milk-feed ratio support downward revisions for the 2026 expected average number of milk cows. The herd is forecast to average 9.54 million, 15,000 less than last month's projection. However, with higher-than-expected milk per cow in the last quarter of 2025, the 2026 forecast for milk per cow was increased 65 pounds to 24,585 pounds.



MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY
By Lee Mielke

Milk components continue to test at higher levels as milk becomes denser over time, says the Outlook. The December milk-fat test averaged 4.51 percent, while the skim solids test averaged 9.23 percent, both higher year over year. For the full year in 2025, the milk-fat test averaged 4.32 percent, compared to 4.24 percent in 2024. Similarly, the skim-solids test averaged 9.12 percent in 2025, up from 9.1 percent in 2024.

The Restaurant Performance Index shows the restaurant industry remained largely in contraction for most of 2025, according to the Outlook. Restaurants serve as an important channel for food service, thus their reduced activity contributes to lower domestic utilization of dairy products, particularly milk-fat-based items such as butter and certain cheeses.

Meanwhile, CoBank says, "Low crop prices and high production costs are weighing heavily on U.S. farmers as spring planting season draws near and farmers make critical decisions about which crops will offer the most favorable economic return. While late-winter price

movements and regional basis signals could influence farmers over the next few weeks, soybeans are currently expected to increase their share of American farmland in 2026 while planted acreage of corn, wheat, grain sorghum, cotton and rice is expected to decline."

U.S. soybean acreage is projected to increase nearly 6 percent this year, according to a CoBank report, with soybeans pulling acres from multiple crops. "Expansion of U.S. soy crush capacity and expectations of continued Chinese demand lifted soybean prices to more attractive levels than competing crops," says CoBank.

"Following recent price rallies, soybeans offer greater profit potential than corn, wheat, sorghum, cotton and rice," says Tanner Ehmke, lead grains and oilseeds economist. "Beyond price signals, crop rotation needs will also play a role. Following a big year for corn in 2025 in which acres climbed to the highest level in decades, more corn acres will be available to rotate to soybeans. And with record supplies of corn in storage, farmers will look to rotate into other crops to diversify their marketing risk," according to Ehmke.

The latest Margin Watch (MW) from Chicago-based Commodity and Ingredient Hedging LLC. Reports, "Dairy margins weakened over the first half of February as milk prices declined (albeit following a sharp rally), while feed costs were steady to slightly higher. Both the Class 3 and especially Class 4 Milk Futures caught a bid from late January to early February as continued strength in the export market has absorbed increased dairy product production in the U.S., which has prevented inventories

(Mielke continued on page 7B)

STOLDT FARMS ONLINE AUCTION

BIDDING ENDS: TUESDAY, MARCH 10
IMLAY CITY, MI



TRACTORS

- 2014 JD 8245R TRACTOR
- 2012 JD 9420 TRACTOR
- 2008 JD 7130 TRACTOR WITH 741 LOADER
- 1997 JD 9400 ARTICULATED TRACTOR
- 1993 JD 4455 TRACTOR, MFWD

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

- 2023 JD 2680H HIGH SPD DISC
- JD 2210 FIELD CULTIVATOR
- JD 980 FIELD CULTIVATOR

PLANTERS

- 2016 JD 1775NT 16-ROW CORN PLANTER
- JD 1770NT 16-ROW MAXEMERGE PLUS CORN PLANTER

SPRAYER

- GREAT PLAINS TSF1280 SPRAYER

GRAIN CART

- 2022 J&M X1122 GRAIN CART WITH 22' AUGER

HEADS & CART

- 2014 JD 608C STALKMASTER 8-ROW CORN HEAD
- JD 635 FD DRAPER HEAD
- UNVERFERHT HT36 HEADER CART

TRUCKS & TRAILERS

- 2002 PETERBILT 389 SEMI TRACTOR
- 1992 WHITE GMC VOLVO SEMI TRUCK
- 1976 FORD 8000 GRAIN TRUCK, TANDEM
- 2005 WHEELER 30' SINGLE HOPPER GRAIN TRAILER
- 1996 JET DOUBLE HOPPER GRAIN TRAILER

FARM & SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

- 2006 SCHULTE RSH4-H HIGH DUMP ROCK PICKER
- SMYTH WELDING CUSTOM BUILT XS40 ROLLER
- JD RC8M BRUSH HOG
- JD 115 BACK BLADE
- MILLER AC/DC WELDING GENERATOR
- (8) JD CLOSING WHEEL ARMS
- (16) JD FERTILIZER DISCS
- 16-ROWS OF MARTIN SPIKED CLOSING WHEELS & DRAG CHAINS
- (2) BUCKHORN SEED PRO BOX
- HARVEST HANDLER 20' CONVEYOR

Plus Much More

VIEW ALL ITEMS IN DETAIL
AND/OR BID AT ORBITBID.COM
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616-560-0839

MIEDEMA'S ORBITBID

John Pat Hart

Retirement Farm Auction SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 * 9:30 AM EST

LIVE ONSITE & ONLINE (Online Bidding will start at 10:00)

ADDRESS: 10383 E. 100 S., CANNELBURG, IN 47519

Directions: 8 miles east of Washington, In on Highway 50 to Cannelburg, In, then turn south onto CR 900 E and proceed 1 1/2 miles CR 100 S (old Hwy 50), then turn east and proceed 1 1/2 miles to auction site.

COMBINE, HEADS & CARRIERS: 2017 Case IH 9240 Axial Flow combine, 2300 engine hrs, 1780 sep hrs, front tracks, rear wheel assist, new transition cone & front half of the rasp bars replaced prior to 2025 season, Precision set up, auto steer compatible, AG Solutions computer chip; 2012 Case IH 2162 draper head, 40'; Geringhoff NS830 corn head, 8 row; 2 Unerferth header carts (HT30' & HT42').

TRACTORS: 1999 John Deere 8400, FWA, 16 speed power shift, 8,200 hrs; 2009 John Deere 8430, FWA, 16 speed power shift, 7210 hrs; 2007 Case IH 275 Magnum, FWA, 4137 hrs; 1972 International 1066 with Great Bend 660 loader.

SEMI'S: 2016 Volvo VNM Semi, day cab, 13 speed auto trans, V13 motor(150,000 miles on newer motor), shows 817,469 miles; 2006 Volvo VNL Semi, sleeper cab, Eaton Fuller 10 speed, VED12-365 motor, shows 968,444 miles; 1977 Ford 9000 Semi, Cummins motor, shows 232,821 miles.

TRAILERS: 2009 Wilson 40' hopper bottom, DWH-500; 2004 Wilson 40' hopper bottom, DWH-500; 1986 Trail Mobile drop deck, steel deck, 46'.

JOHN PAT HART, OWNER - 812-486-8866

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: John Pat retirement auction. This is a good line up of well-maintained equipment. For pictures and details go to www.auctionzip.com (ID #15097). For more info on machinery call John Pat at 812-486-8866 or Lucas at 812-486-7649.

Online Bidding: To bid Online, google equipmentfacts/jyagle. The Online Bidding will begin at 10:00 am EST. We will start with approximately 5 small pcs of items followed by Tillage, Planters, Combine, Tractors, Semis and Trailers, so be signed in and ready to start bidding!!! **Please Note:** You must register at least 1 day before the auction!!!!

TERMS: Cash or check w/proper ID. No Credit Cards. Out-of-state buyers must have letter from bank guaranteeing funds. Announcements day of auction take precedence over any prior written or oral statements. Not responsible for accidents. All items sold "AS IS". There will be a 2% buyer's premium with a \$750.00 cap on Online bidding only. No buyer's premium at on-site bidding.

J. YAGLE AUCTION SERVICE, LLC
Sandborn, IN | Ph: 812-890-1496 | AU0103688

PLANTERS: John Deere 1770 NT Max Emerge Planter, Precision, vacuum, 16-30" rows, no-till, hyd down pressure, 2x2 liquid fert, individual row shut off, V-drives, corn, bean & milo units; 2009 Kinze 8/15 split row planter, no till, corn and bean meters, rebuilt in 2024.

TILLAGE: Case IH 330 True Tandem Turbo Till, single rolling basket; 2014 Case IH RMX340 disc, rear hitch; 32' J&M Torsion Flex TF212 Double Twist rolling basket; Blu-Jet Sub-Soiler II inline ripper; John Deere 712 pull type disc chisel; other items.

GRAIN CART: Demco 850 Grain Cart, good tires, scales, new tarp, newer auger flighting.

NH3 TOOL BAR: Case IH NPX5300 Anhydrous pull type tool bar, cutters, closing wheels, Raven flow control.

FORKLIFT: Yale forklift, LP, 3 stage, side shift.

OTHER EQUIPMENT: Land Pride PBT6010 grader blade, 6-way; 32' Donahue trailer; Knight Little Auggie tub mixer; Badger BN3282 tandem axle manure spreader, fixer upper or parts; Snyder 2,300-gal poly tank; 3 pt bale mover; portable livestock chute; GSI grain leg boot; other farm items.

KIKO AUCTION

MEHRVALE FARMS (HOWARD BOOHER) COMPLETE DISPERSAL

QUALITY EQUIPMENT, JOHN DEERE TRACTORS, COMBINE, APACHE SPRAYER, PLANTING & TILLAGE EQUIPMENT, SEMIS, DUMP TRUCK, ALUMINUM DUMPS, DETACH & FLAT TRAILERS, EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT, COMPLETE GRAIN HANDLING FACILITY, FORKLIFT & CHIPPERS, FARM RELATED ITEMS

LIVE ONSITE WITH ONLINE BIDDING ON LARGE ITEMS

Over half a century of successful farming. Absolute auction, all sells to the highest bidders.
Location: 359 Trump Rd. NE, Hartsville, OH 44632.
Directions: Take Rt. 224 east of Rt. 43 or west of Rt. 44 to Hartville Rd. and south to Trump Rd. and just west to farm. Watch for KIKO signs.

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9:30 AM

Preview: Friday, March 6, 2026, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

For questions on the grain facility equipment call Dan Zippay, with Custom Agri Systems, 330.614.4703

SALE ORDER: 9:30 start on shop tools and small items, online catalog to start at 10:30 AM with large equipment. You'll like what you see at this auction. Over half of a century of successful farming. Plan to attend or bid online through Proxi or Equipmentfacts. Note: Full detailed catalog online at www.kikoauctions.com with many photos.

ONSITE TERMS: Driver's license or State ID required to register for bidder number. Cash, Check, Debit Card, Visa, or Master Card accepted. 4% buyer's premium on all sales; 4% waived for cash or check when paid sale day. Information is believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Multi Par auction process may be used.

ONLINE TERMS: Wire transfers or certified check required. 2.5% buyer's premium on all sales. Information is believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Multi par auction process may be used.

Auction By Order Of: Mehrvale Farms. For questions, call farm manager for 50 years, Bo Herman, 330.495.5701 between 9:00 AM-4:00 PM please.



KIKO Auctioneers | (330) 455-9357 | www.kikoauctions.com

WABASH COUNTY, IN • 4560 S 390 E, Wabash, IN 46992
*** Timed Online Only ***
PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
 Lots Start Closing at 6 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH
 • ANTIQUES • HOUSEHOLD • COLLECTIBLES
 • SHOP • LAWN & GARDEN • FIREARMS
 • FIREARMS RELATED • TRUCK • CARS
 • MOTOR HOME • TRACTOR • TRAILERS
 • ZERO TURN MOWER

PREVIEW: 4pm-6pm Thursday, March 5th




SELLER(S): Martindale • AUCTION MANAGER: Phil Wolfe, 260-248-1191
SCHRADER Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc. SEE WEBSITE FOR BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS
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KIKO AUCTION
Annual Winter Machinery And Equipment Consignment Auction
 Auction Located At The Columbiana County Fairgrounds
 Tractors, Farm & Construction Equipment, Trucks, Trailers, Lawn Equipment, Etc.
ONLINE ONLY
 Absolute auction, all sells to the highest bidders.
 Location: 225 Lee Ave. (SR 164), LISBON, OH 44432
 Directions: US Rt. 30 to Lisbon and north on SR 45 to Lee Ave. (SR 164) and east to the fairgrounds.
 STARTS: Thurs., Feb. 26, 2026, 12:00 PM
 ENDS: Mon., March 2, 2026, 5:30 PM
 OPEN HOUSE/PREVIEW: Sat., February 28, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM & Monday, March 2, 2:00-5:00 PM
 PICKUP/LOADOUT: March 5 & 6, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, & March 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.






HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: John Deere 9670 STS combine, both heads; like-new John Deere 1590 grain drill; NH FP 240 chopper, both heads; very good Vermeer 504 Pro round baler only 600 bales; 2024 LS MT357 5-HST tractor with loader, only 124 hrs; Diller 4K gallon manure tanker spreader; Landoll 7410 vertical tillage tool 14 ft.; See website for full listing and photos www.kikoauctions.com - Approx. 500 lots total.

ONLINE TERMS: Wire Transfer only or Auctioneer approved check. 10% buyer's premium on all sales. Information is believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Multi par auction process may be used.
 Auctioneers: Rudy W. Kiko, 330-540-2416
rudykiko@kikocompany.com
 KIKO Auctioneers | (330) 455-9357 | www.kikoauctions.com

NEW SALEM LIONS CONSIGNMENT SALE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ 9:00 AM
 At 4324 US 52, RUSHVILLE, INDIANA 46173
 Combine will sell at 12:00 PM • Will have wagons with misc. items

LIONS CLUB SALE 2026

TRACTORS, COMBINES, HEAD MOVERS
 Killbros 30 ft. Head Mover, 2003 Gleaner R62 w/3635 ENG & 2700 Sep. hours, 2001 Grow Corn Head, 20' Grain Table on Cart Sells as Complete.

TRUCKS, CARS
 2006 F250 Service Truck w/4WD, 1977 Dakota 4WD, 1994 GMC Propane Truck (ready to work), 2004 Chevy Trail Blazer, 1999 Chevy K 19, Corn Pro Stock Trailer, 53' F&S Box Tandem Trailer, 53' Box Trailer, Flatbed w/Lift Gate, Drake Hopper Bottom, 1996 Peterbilt 377, 1993 Kenworth Tractor/Diff. Lock does not work.

WAGONS
 Brent 440 w/Brakes, (2), JM 385 Bu., (2) DMI 440 J&M 250 BU., Killbros 250, Several Flat Bed Wagons, (6) Anhydrous Running Gear, Several Gravity wagons & running gears.

HAY EQUIPMENT
 Massey Ferguson, JD 9 - with bar mower, New Holland 488, Hay Tedder, New Holland Haybine 474, NH Square Bailer 271, NH Haybine 1465, GEHL 187 Baler, JD Hay Rake Round Bale Mover, 2-Basket Rhino Hay Tedder, Round Bale Mover-6 Bales, Skid Steer Bale Spear, N H square 276 N H square baler.

MISC. EQUIP. & TILLAGE & PLANTERS
 (2) Fertilizer Spreader, 1500 Gal. Fertilizer Tank on stand, Mayrath swing-away 10-63, M & W 1165 3 Shank Disk Ripper, Landoll-15' Field Calender w/Hurrow, Powerhead Flex Auger, 3 pt. 7 Shank Chisel Plow, 3 pt. Spot spreader 55 gal. w/PTO pump, Kewanee 12' Disk, 12' cultipacker, AC 6' Rotary Move, pull type, AB12 Farm Fans Drier, (2) 24' unload augers, Bin Flooring, 300 gal. Fuel tank w/electric pump, 500 gal. Fuel tank, 500 gal. Poly tank, 100 gal. L-shape fuel tank, Post hole digger w/2 augers, small grader blade, Duetz Allis 385 planter parts w/seed boxes, seed plates & blower motors, John Blue ground drive pump, Locust Post-several good ends & line, Oliver 3BT pull tape, 2-row cultivator 3 pt., 20' Taylorway Disk, Kelly Loaders, Pallet Forks, West Field 10x63, M & W Rotary Hoe, West Field 6x60' West Field 10x70', DMI Anhydrous Bar, Wes Field 10x81', Hardy Spray-60' Boom, N I Elevator 36', McKee 6' Row Cultivator, Honda 2" pump 6x160, Honda 2" pump 6 x 200, 2"x25' Super Hose Reel, Great Plain 3010 Air Seeder 30 ft., 6324 Kraus Land 30 Ft, Seed Cleaner, Mounitionur Wood Burner, Miller Welder, Generator, Demco Sprayer w/monitor 70 gal.-booms, 10" Hutchinson Vertical Top Drive, 10"x62' Swing-Away Auger, Glenco Soil-Saver 11-Shank, Hutchinson 8"x57", 1 H 5 BT plow, JD 10' Drill w/Grain Seeder, White 4 RW planter, JD 7000 4 row wide w/3 Row Splinter, JD 450 gal. Tank for 1770, JD 300 gal. w/saddle for 1770, JD 220 Disk 18', 1-crate w/16 spike & 160 cast closing wheels, JD 7' KBA Disk, Disk Ripper, 2x6 Treated Lumber Tongue & Groove 3 pt. Kelly N 40 Backhoe, Rock Picker, IH 12 R Cultivator, 8 FT Snowplow, Skid Loader Bucket, Burch 27 FT Disk, ATV Sprayer 60 gal. w/45" boom, JD 8300 Drill, 1999 sterling semi tractor w/310 CAT engine, 200,000 miles.

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT
 CO-OP wheel drive manure spreader, (good shape) 12 calf wts, Several wire panels-cattle & hog, Several steel T-posts, 2'x10' Bunk Feeders, 30"x16' Bulk Feeder, Head Gate, Cattle Shutt, 16' Kline Feed Bunk, (7) 16' Cattle Gates, Farmhand 815, Vertical Max 5133 4-hole drinkers, and more.

GRAVITY WAGONS; BLUE JET 11 SHANK 28% APPLICATOR w/ John Blue pump; Duo-Lift 1000 gal. nurse wagon w/5th wheel hitch; Duo-Lift 1000 gal. nurse trailer w/6.5 Hp B&S motor & pump; 2008 JD 1790 planter (12-24 with 15/30" row spacing) includes Unverferth belt conveyor & CCS seed delivery; Brillion 9 shank Super Soil Builder disc chisel (SB-91); 2022 (25'5") JD 2660 vertical till tool with Tru Set; 2016 Blue Jet 5 shank sub-tiller; 12' JD 110 disc; 2022 JD MX 7 rotary mower, 540 pto; 10"x63' AGI-Hutchinson (HX 10-63) swing away grain auger, pto; 10"x31' Wheatfield (GHR 100-31) grain auger with 7.5 Hp motor; Pto generator; Poly tanks; Misc.

MISC. TOOLS SELLING LIVE ONLY AT 10AM
 - Parker 3" vise; Craftsman 7 1/4" worm drive elec. saw; Sears & Skil drills; Drill bits; Shop Source jig saw; Shop Smith lathe tools; Ridgid pipe cutters; Craftsman & misc. 3/4" drive sockets; Craftsman 1/2" & Thorsen 3/8" ratchets; 1/4" - 3/8" - 1/2" drive sockets; Craftsman, Pittsburg, S-K & misc. combination wrenches metric and standard (Upto 1 1/8" & 25mm); Reamers; Sears nut drivers; Snap ring pliers; Ace tap & die set; Chain binders; Pto adapter; Pintle hitch; Reese hitches & Misc.

NOTE - Well maintained, complete line of equipment.
TERMS - Cash or Checks with Photo ID & Bank Letter or Wire transfer. Titled Items will stay on premise until funds clear. 3% Conveyance fee for credit card payment. 5% Buyers Premium for Internet Bidding.
OWNER - DALE SMITH 740-627-8030
 Link to bid <https://bit.ly/4bLQNXu> Auctionohio.com or Auctionzip.com ID # 4889
 Auctioneers - Tom Rawn 614-580-6171, Rick Haag & Chris Davis

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 Robert Vestal - AU 193220 • Meno Hershburger - AU1060077

Mielke
 FROM PAGE 6B

from building despite lackluster domestic demand.

"The U.S. dollar index is trading at its lowest level in four years and over the past 12 months has depreciated 12 percent versus the Euro and 6 percent against the New Zealand dollar, making U.S. dairy product exports much more competitive on the global market. Moreover, the U.S. dollar has also declined 19 percent relative to the Mexican Peso, with Mexico sharply increasing their purchases of U.S. dairy.

"With increased milk production and higher components, U.S. cheese production during December rose 6.7 percent year-over-year to 1.279 billion pounds, while butter production of 203.848 million pounds was up 2 percent from December 2024.

"The average fat test during December rose to 4.51 percent, up 0.05 percent from the prior year. U.S. butter prices have been trading at a steep discount relative to both EU and Oceania prices throughout 2025, with prices expected to remain competitive through the Northern Hemisphere spring flush. Canada accounted for 37 percent of total U.S. butterfat trade during 2025, running almost 50 percent ahead of 2024's volume while the U.S. share of Mexico's butterfat imports more than doubled to 35 percent while New Zealand's share declined from 80 percent to 60 percent," the MW concluded.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, Thursday, announced steps to boost low milk prices and expand dairy consumption through Section 32 purchases of what National Milk called "A balanced, effectively targeted mix of dairy products, including the first major butter purchases in five years."

"Dairy farmers have shared in the struggles faced throughout the agricultural economy, and these purchases will provide important relief to producers who will benefit from the additional demand, helping them provide nutritious dairy products to Americans and the world," said NMPF President & CEO Gregg Doud.

USDA will purchase \$75 million

of butter; \$32.5 million in Cheddar cheese; \$20.5 million in fresh fluid milk; \$10 million of Swiss cheese; and \$10 million in Ultra-High Temperature (shelf-stable) milk.

After dropping 8.50 cents last week to \$1.3875 per pound, CME block Cheddar was regaining ground in the President's Day Holiday Week, closing Thursday at \$1.51, still 39 cents below a year ago. Traders are anticipating Friday afternoon's first Milk Production report of 2026. I'll have details next week. The barrels were at \$1.47 Thursday, 33 cents below a year ago. They closed Friday at \$1.44.

Milk production is seasonally strong in the Central region as contacts tell Dairy Market News that farm level output is up from a year ago. Class III spot milk at mid-week ranged from \$2-under to \$1-over class. Spot trades were light. Cheesemakers are using milk from within their network and not often moving milk to the spot market or looking to it for additional loads. Demand is strong for barrel cheese. Retail and foodservice demand was unchanged. Competitive prices for cheese produced domestically is contributing to strong export interest, says DMN.

Milk production continues to cover needs of cheese manufacturers in the West. Demand for spot milk from cheese makers was strong. Domestic retail demand is steady, while domestic food service demand is moderate, says DMN. Demand from international buyers was steady to strong. Cheese production is strong.

Cash butter jumped 7.50 cents Thursday, hitting \$1.78 per pound, highest since Sept. 18, 2025, but still 63.50 cents below a year ago. It closed Friday at \$1.7050.

Cream production is strong in the Central region and spot volumes were available. Some butter makers were securing additional cream to run busier production. Bulk butter demand is strengthening, while retail and food service sales are steady. Domestic 82 percent butter fat remains priced competitively globally and contributing to strong export demand. Spot loads of 80 percent butter are available, but contacts say loads with more recent production dates are more difficult to obtain.

LIVE/SIMULCAST AUCTION
 After 50 years of Farming I have decided to retire and no longer need the following
 Farm Equipment, Trucks & Trailer. Sold at
 8580 Northridge Road
JOHNSTOWN, OHIO 43031
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026, LIVE ONLY 10 AM
SIMULCAST STARTS AT 10:30 AM

TRACTORS, TRUCKS & TRAILERS
 2007 JD 8330 tractor w/Green Star ready (4308 Hrs.); 2003 JD 8120 tractor, 4 dual remotes & Auto Trac Universal 300 & Green Star ready (3675 hrs.); 1961 JD 3010 tractor w/JD 148 loader & 6' material bucket - Mast quick attachment, new tires (Approx. 5,000 total hours, 500 hrs. on overhaul); Pallet forks, Manure fork bucket, Mast quick attachment; 2020 Ford XL F-250 truck with regular cab and Knapheide utility bed, 4WD, 6.2 engine (51,200 miles); 2003 Freightliner semi-truck w/N-14 Cummins engine - 450Hp, with 10 speed, 540,000 miles; 2021 Timpte 40' alum. hopper bottom trailer w/roll tarp & hopper lights.

COMBINE & FARM EQUIPMENT
 2018 JD S-760 combine with Lankota 4' auger extension, duals, new bin auger, auto steer ready, ActiveVision with camera's (1413 Engine hrs. & 955 separator hrs.); 2018 JD 635FD grain table; 2018 Unverferth AWS-36 header cart with stubble lights; 2017 JD 608C corn head with Pequea 606 header cart; 2014 J&M 1130 grain cart with Grain Storm roll tarp & Digi Star scale; Unverferth 235 gravity wagon with RG-12 gear & roll tarp; Parker & misc.

Chrisman FFA captures Can-Do Challenge title with 3,000 canned items

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

CHRISMAN, Ill. - When Chrisman FFA members in Illinois heard about the Can-Do Challenge, their entire chapter joined to help their community.

The challenge, organized by Bayer Agriscience and country musician Luke Bryan, tasked FFA chapters in Illinois, California, Michigan and Wisconsin with creating a farm-themed structure made out of collected canned goods and nonperishable items, which would then be donated to their local communities.

Chapters then posted a photo of their creation on their chapter's Instagram. Judges looked for creativity and imagination in the structures and posts that tell what inspired the design or tell the chapter's food collecting story.

The Chrisman FFA earned top honors and captured the \$2,500 prize with their can drive theme: "Small community, big impact." The chapter earned the opportunity to attend a Luke Bryan concert and meet him in person.

"We're like a family here. We understand what our community needs and we want to help one another," said Mikayla Wheeler, Chrisman High junior and chapter officer.

To take part in this Illinois Can-Do Challenge, members of the Chrisman FFA chapter collected nearly 3,000 canned and nonperishable food items. They used the donations to build a farm-themed display, which they shared on social media as part of the competition.

Students collaborated with the local food bank manager to identify high-need items for the community, including those needed for the after-school backpack program and the Cardinal Cupboard, the school district's pantry

that provided food for student-athletes and students in need.

To spur donations, the chapter members created a competition between its elementary, middle and high school students to see which group could collect the most items. It also made an Amazon wish list, so people could conveniently purchase and deliver the items to the school.

Chrisman agriculture teacher Jennifer Honnold said the members launched their campaign before the school year began, quickly organizing a food drive using an Amazon wish list.

"This approach made it easy for donors to contribute specific items such as cereal, peanut snacks and other kid-friendly foods young children could prepare on their own," ag teacher Jennifer Honnold said.

Over the course of two and a half weeks, the group received dozens of packages daily, filling their classroom with donated goods. The chapter collected donations twice a week and tracked them daily.

"It means a lot to me to see our community come together," said chapter officer Autumn Ellis. "Being part of this project showed that we're actively involved and ready to step up when help is needed."

To highlight their work, the chapter designed a farm-themed display featuring barns, silos and apple trees. They also painted a backdrop to enhance the presentation and added a rainbow, which they said represented hope after encountering tough times. The design was developed over weeks of planning and painting.

And the work of the Chrisman FFA chapter didn't end with this challenge. The chapter regularly volunteers at the local food bank. Students serve month-

ly, helping sort donations and assist with distribution.

"I don't know if my students fully understand the impact they have made," Honnold said. "They came together, put in the hours, and did something truly remarkable for our community."

Between the four states, roughly 23,000 pounds of food was collected for local food banks. Bayer Agriscience intends to do more Can-Do Challenges in the future.

"We are deeply committed to rural America and community well-being

and seeing the passion and creativity of these FFA chapters was truly inspiring," said Richard Meiers, communications manager at Bayer. "You can see the love they have for their communities. A food drive can be quite simple, but these students went above and beyond for their communities."

The challenge fits right into Bayer's mission: "Health for All, Hunger for None."

"And strengthening our relationships with future farmers speaks to who we work with," Meiers said.



Above: One Michigan FFA chapter erected a harvest theme from their accumulated cans. Pictured are yellow cans of corn that represent corn stalks. The "tractor" is constructed of canned goods as well. Other submissions included towering barns and spinning windmills. (submitted photo)



Above: Chrisman FFA members collected nearly 3,000 items and over 2,300 pounds of nonperishable food items. To showcase their work, the members painted a farm-themed backdrop, complete with a rainbow, which they said represented hope after tough times. (Chrisman FFA photo)

ONLINE ONLY!

AUCTION

Excess Equipment

LaGrange County, IN • 3690 N CR 800 E, Howe, IN 46746

Friday, March 13th

Lots Start Closing at 10AM

- HAY EQUIPMENT - IRRIGATION TRAVELERS & PUMP - SEMI - PICKUPS - EQUIPMENT TRAILER - AUGERS - JD LOADER - FISHING BOAT - SKID STEERS - TILLAGE - GRAIN DRILL - TRACTORS - FEED TRUCK - PIK RITE - JD MANURE SPREADERS - FERTILIZER SPREADERS - SEED TRAILER - WAGON - CATTLE EQUIPMENT/MISC

INSPECTION DATES/TIMES:
Sat., March 7 • 10am-12pm | Wed., March 11 • 10am-12pm

Sellers: Chad and Angie Neff
Auction Managers: Robert Mishler, 260-336-9750 & Eric Ott, 260-413-0787

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CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 @ 9:30 AM

Located At Decatur County Fairgrounds, 1645 W. Park Rd.

GREENSBURG, IN

TRACTORS: JD 4755 w/5731 hrs.; AC 7080 power director w/5331 hrs.; **TILLAGE:** DMI Eco tiger 527 & 530B disc rippers; AC Min-Til 7 shank disc chisel w/leveler; Kewanee 21' disc; DMI 30' field cultivator; 3-shank ripper; JD 845 12R cultivators; **HEADS/CARTS:** Case IH 1083; head cart; **PLANTERS/DRILLS:** 2011 Kinze ASD 16/32 NT, pneumatic down-force, brush meters; Kinze 3500 8/16 NT; JD 1780 NT 6/11 liq. fert.; JD 1760 NT 8R; **APPLICATORS:** CIH 2800 11 knife Nutri Placer, 1000 gal. tank; **TRUCKS/TRAILERS:** 1998 Peterbuilt 385, day cab, tandem, Cummins M11, 723k; 2011 Tempte 40' hopper bottom, new doors & roll tarp, commercial tub; 42' & 45' drop-deck w/ramps; 12'x6' enclosed trailer; **HAY/FORAGE:** JD 348 square baler; Kuhn 5202 4 basket tedder; 4-16' hay wagons; Hesston 1120 mower conditioner; JD 702 10 wheel rake; Gehl 1250 chopper; Badger 1050 & Gehl 970 silage wagons; **CONSTRUCTION:** Case 850D dozer; Kobelco 150 excavator; **MOWER/GOLF CART/UTV:** Yamaha custom 4-seat, gas; Kubota Z232 42", 32 hrs.; JD 100 series w/42" cut; JD X540 54" cut; **MISC. EQUIPMENT:** 2016 Hagie STS12, 90' boom, Cummins, 4039 hrs.; Great Plains TSF 1060 w/1000 gal. tank, 60' booms; Wheatheart 13"x72' auger w/swing away; NH 355 grinder mixer w/scales; Bobcat 3 pt. backhoe; 1 ring bulk tank w/auger & motor; other bulk tanks; 4-livestock ventilation fans; misc. ripper points; super single wheels; numerous wheel & suitcase weights; more items coming in daily.

TERMS: Cash/Check/Card • Lunch Served • Not Responsible for Accidents

OWENS AUCTION SERVICE, INC. - Ph. 812-528-7021
Brian Owens - AU19300185; Brayton Owens - 812-662-4099;
Chad Carder - 812-662-1098; Steve Fortner - 812-614-7200;
Frank Narwold - 812-614-5300; Josh Kuntz; Aaron Gault.

ACCEPTING MERCHANDISE STARTING: Wednesday, Feb. 18. Weekdays 8-4, Sat. 8-2. To consign call above numbers. Auctionzip.com23153 for complete listing & pictures.

Auction Alert

TRUSTEES LAND AUCTION & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Date: March 17TH @ 4pm

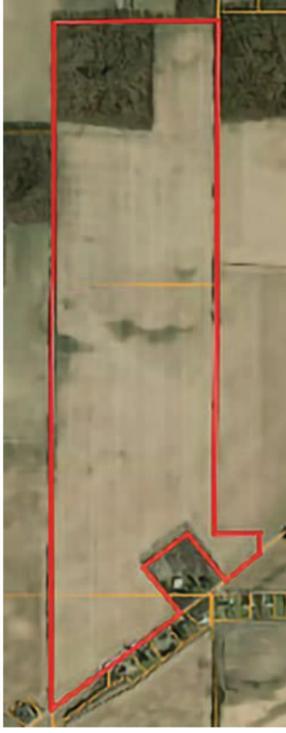
Sale Location: 7731 Township Rd
32 Clyde, OH. Bill Frankart Farm

Whether you are looking to expand your current farm operation or invest in a land portfolio, we are pleased to offer this 160-acre farm at public auction. Farm Specifications:

- Total Acreage: 160 +/- Acres (Approx. 140 Tillable, 20 Wooded)
- Productive Soils: Hoytville Clay Loam, Kibbie Fine Sandy Loam, Tedrow-Dixboro Complex, Belmore Loam, and Napanee Silt Loam.
- FSA Base Acres: 66.75 Corn / 66.75 Soybeans.
- Possession: Farming rights transfer to the buyer at closing.

OWNER: Merritt Kracker, Successor Trustee of The Nancy L. Liming Family Trust

AUCTIONEER: Chip Carpenter
United Country Real Estate and Auction Services, LLC
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Real Estate and Auction Services

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



FARMLAND AUCTION

South Greene Co. County Lots
38 Acres ♦ 3 Mini Farm Tracts
Wednesday ♦ March 18 ♦ 1:00 PM

Farm Location: 3435 SR 380 Xenia, OH
Auction Location: 200 Parkview Lane Cedarville, OH

3 Beautiful Tracts along SR 380 backing up to federal land in Spring Valley Township. Ideal for a home site, mini farm, or country retreat. Tract 2 features a farmhouse and barns. Scenic open ground with rolling views and direct access to nature.



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OLSON AUCTIONS ONLINE ONLY HIBID CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Auction opens March 1, 2026 & ends March 6, 2026 - olsonauctions.hibid.com

Consignments taken February 25th to February 28th (8-5) - Location: 259 S 700 W, Winamac, IN
 Inspection Day: March 2nd (9-2) ET - Buyer pick up: March 7th & March 9th (9-4) ET

TRACTORS - CONSTRUCTION - EQUIPMENT - TRAILERS - VEHICLES - MISC.

Case 2590, duals; IH 560 LP; IH H, WF; Hyster 12k diesel forklift, Perkins; new GF Industry H12R mini excavator; new Future FT36C stand-on skid steer; new Giyi skid steer mount backhoe; IH 5400 15' drill on coultter cart; CIH 3950 30' RF disk; IH 496 24' disk; IH 490 24' disk; Landoll 24' soil finisher; IH 5212 discbine; NI 5208 discbine; Gehl 910 TA silage wagon; Best Way 1200 gal 80' sprayer, Raven mon; UM HT25 head cart; GSI 12x80 SA auger; WF 10x61 SA auger; Mayrath 10x61 SA auger; 6' 45 degree 6" to 8" auger w/5hp motor; 30' planter trailer; 1000 gal fert tank on gear; '07 Wade 45' drop deck semi trailer w/ (2) 2500 gal poly tanks; '99 Drake 30' HB, tandem axle; Jet 22' HB; Sea Sprite boat & trailer w/Mercury 50hp engine; '11 Ford F450 dually, 4x4, 6.7L diesel, custom bed, elec/hyd lift gate, 282k miles; '08 Chevy Trailblazer, 4x4, 186k miles; '08 GMC Envoy, 214k miles; '06 Jeep Liberty, 4x4, 168k miles; '96 Dodge Dakota; '10 Ford Ranger, noisy engine; new yard barns, chicken houses & livestock sheds; new 40' & 20' containers; new gates, rd bale feeders & poly lined feeders; new wood posts; 3x4x8 big sq bales mixed 1st cut hay; 4x5 rd bales alfalfa mix; 250 gal spray tank w/pump & motor; hyd fert auger; pr 10x16.5 tires; Buhler 7' rear discharge finish mower; Woods 5' rotary mower; misc oil & air filters; tree shear for payload; 16T dry box w/rear discharge auger; (8) Yetter single disk fert openers; (8) Yetter combo trash wheels for JD 7000; JD 7000 planter monitors; Land Honor 11x19 metal buildings; new 5/16" G70 chains; new chain binders; (4) Firestone 480/80/R50 tires; (4) Firestone 380/80/R38; pr of 480/80/R42 duals; hubs for CIH 7130;

This is a partial listing of what is expected

Online catalog will be updated daily after February 25th

For catalog, registration, bidding & terms go to: olsonauctions.hibid.com

For info call Nate @ 574-242-1262

<p>Gary L. Olson Auctioneer IN Auc Lic #AU01031658</p>		<p>259 S 700 W, Winamac, IN 46996 Phone: 574-595-5164 or 574-242-1262 Email: olsonauctions1@gmail.com www.olsonauctions.com</p>
<p>Nathan D. Swartzell, Auc Lic# AU11400050 - Kenneth R. Becker, Auc Lic# AU11400044 - Jordan A. Broeker, Auc Lic# AU11400049</p>		

WILSON AUCTION

202.7 ACRES
FAYETTE COUNTY GRAIN FARM
W/IMPROVEMENTS - 187.2 ACRES TILLABLE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 6 P.M.

AUCTION LOCATION: Mahan Building, Fayette County Fairgrounds, 213 Fairview Avenue, Washington Court House, Ohio.
LOCATION: 2.5 miles North of Washington Court House at 4698 US 62 and Old Springfield Road NE. (Watch for signs)

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND
SMALL ACREAGE - LIFESTYLE FARM

SELLING IN 3 TRACTS BUY ANY INDIVIDUAL TRACT, COMBINATION OR WHOLE PROPERTY
 TRACTS RANGING FROM 14 ACRES TO 131 ACRES
 66% BROOKSTON SOIL | SOME SYSTEMATIC TILING
TRACT #1: 14.56+/- acres with improvements. 1100' frontage on US 62. Approx. 40x78 steel implement building, older 46x25 livestock barn with 46x18 and 60x46 lean to, small grain bin and 26x26 block garage. A super building site.
TRACT #2: 59.28+/- acres vacant land with 58.8 acres tillable. 1030' frontage on Old Springfield Road NE, 695' frontage on US 62.
TRACT #3: 131.51+/- acres vacant land with 128.4 acres tillable. 918' frontage on US 62.

PREVIEWS: TUESDAYS
FEBRUARY 17 & MARCH 3
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Charles Green remembered for his generosity and his Holstein herd

By Stan Maddux
 Indiana Correspondent

ELSIE, Mich. — A prominent member of Michigan's dairy industry with one of the largest registered Holstein herds in North America has died. Charles "Velmar" Green died on Feb. 4 at the age of 88.

His long list of achievements includes being recognized as Dairyman of the Year at the World Dairy Expo in 2013. He also loved to travel to places like South America where he judged cattle shows.

Justin Green said his grandfather was still active at his Green Meadow Farms in Elsie until his death.

His son, Craig, has been the main operator of the farm for years now but Charles still pointed out what needed to be done at the farm while mowing the grounds on a riding tractor and did other things like haul silage.

Justin Green, 28, said a lot of people in their spare time do things not related to their jobs but his grandfather, except for traveling and attending Michigan State University men's basketball games, didn't seem to have many other interests away from the industry. "His hobby was dairy farming. It's all he ever wanted to do."

Charles Green was raised and later operated the dairy farm started by his father, Merle, who once had more than 300 registered Holsteins, a large number at the time. Currently, the farm north of Lansing milks 3,400 Holstein cows and keeps another 4,500 Holstein heifers.

While assuming more responsibility at the farm as an adult, Charles started to become involved with

trade organizations like the Michigan Milk Producers Association. He was treasurer and member of the MMPA board for 42 years.

Green was also president of the National Holstein Association, chairman of the Michigan Commission on Agriculture & Rural Development and served in decision making roles with other organizations like the National Milk Producers Federation.

In 2017, Green and his late wife, Margaret, were inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame.

Green did a lot of work-related traveling but he also took time personally to see other parts of the country and the world. In his later years, Justin Green said his grandfather took him to Europe and most states out west. "We would always go out in the countryside to go look at the farms," he said.

Justin Green said one of the things he remembers most about his grandfather was his generosity with his donations of money and time.

Most recently, Green said his grandfather donated funds to have a bathroom installed in an emergency room after he discovered the hospital's ER didn't have one. "He wouldn't want to be recognized for it but he'd help out anybody whoever needed it. He'd just do it quietly," he said.

Charles Green was also a longtime supporter of MSU, doing things like allowing the university to establish a training center on his farm that provides veterinarian students with hands-on experience in treating cattle.

After retiring from the MMPA Board, the organization established a scholarship fund in Green's name to help one MSU student each year with a real desire to work on a dairy farm pay their tuition.

Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen, an associate professor at the MSU Department of Animal Science, said Green also helped raise money for an endowment at the university that produces scholarships for students interested in careers in the dairy industry.

"He was a great supporter of our program and a tireless worker in that regard to help raise funds to support tomorrow's students in dairy," she said.

Nielson said she worked most closely with Green when he was a board member for the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation. "Velmar was direct and didn't hesitate to ask the tough questions, you know, and the relevant questions," she said.



Charles Green

TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN **Farm World**

LAND AUCTION

88-Acre Fairborn/Dayton Area Farm Auction

Tuesday ♦ March 10 ♦ 1:00 PM

Farm Location: 9030 Adams Rd. Dayton, OH

Auction Location: Emerge Center, 2960 W. Enon Rd. Xenia, OH

Prime Bath Township, Greene County, OH farm opportunity with development potential. Offered in 2 tracts featuring 68 tillable acres, 14 acres fenced pasture, and a 2-story 4BR/1BA home. Excellent location near SR 4, minutes from WPAFB with easy access to I-70, I-75 & I-675.



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Register for Patoka Lake's Women's Wilderness Weekend

Registration is now open for Patoka Lake's Women's Wilderness Weekend, a women-only event for learning outdoor skills in a relaxed environment scheduled for May 15-17.

The event will start at the Patoka Lake Nature Center and includes overnight camping for the duration of the weekend. Women age 16 and older can participate in activities including in-depth archery lessons, kayaking, Dutch oven cooking, basic wilderness survival skills, hunting 101, wilderness first aid, trap shooting, rifle shooting and boat operation.

Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday, and camping will take place in Patoka Lake's modern electric campground. There is also the option to rent cabins, at the participants' expense, at a nearby private facility.

Advance registration is required by April 15, and the cost to attend is \$85. This year, priority registration will be given to women who have never attended the event.

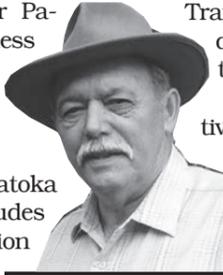
The registration link can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/g/M7L2Y-v0td3>.

Tri-County FWA to get new 3D archery range and walking trail

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been awarded a \$49,377 grant by the Community Amenities Program (CAP) to support the construction of a 3D archery range and walking trail at Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA).

The archery range will have 25 target stations, allowing archers to hone their skills in an outdoor setting. The trail will be 1.5 miles long through an oak-hickory woodlands with scenic lake views and have three rest areas.

Located north of North Webster, Tri-County FWA is the largest publicly accessible green space in Kosciusko County, encompassing 3,546 acres of land with more than 650 acres of lakes and streams. The property also includes upland fields, wetlands, and 10 natural lakes, making it a unique destination for residents and visitors alike.



SPAULDING OUTDOORS
By Jack Spaulding

Trail construction is currently underway with plans for completion by mid-2026.

CAP is a countywide initiative designed to enhance the quality of life across Kosciusko County by investing in shared spaces and projects strengthening community connection. Backed by a portion of the Orthopedic Industry Retention Initiative's \$30 million commitment from the

State of Indiana, CAP helps bring bold community visions to life by combining local, state, and philanthropic resources.

Indiana Master Naturalist Gathering

Indiana Master Naturalists are invited to the 2026 Indiana Master Naturalist Gathering, May 1-3, at New Harmony State Historic Site.

The gathering is open to any IMN student, certified IMN, Advanced IMN, IMN host, and IMN workshop speaker. IMNs may bring a guest. Teen/Junior IMNs may join too, but must be accompanied by a guardian with paid registration.

Registration deadline is April 10, or once it's full. Space is limited to 120 people.

If you have questions, please contact Jody Heaston at jheaston@dnr.IN.gov or 463-203-6562.

New nature preserve dedicated and another expanded

The Natural Resources Commission recently approved the dedication of Barnebey Woods in Owen County as a nature preserve as well as an expansion of Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County.

"Nature preserves represent Indiana's most unique and significant natural areas, which is why we're committed to continuing to work with partners to protect them," Gov. Mike Braun said. "These new and expanded protected natural areas in Owen and Lake counties now have Indiana's highest level of protection, conserving them for future generations."

A nature preserve is an area of high natural significance representative of what Indiana would have been in the

pre-settlement period, and it is given the highest protection possible by state law.

Barnebey Woods Nature Preserve is owned and managed by Sycamore Land Trust, which acquired the property last year with funding from the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust. It features 141.5 acres of mature upland forest with excellent tree species composition. It has moderate slopes with deep drainages interspersed among long ridges. A small bedrock overhang creates a waterfall when it rains and is a habitat for rock dwelling species such as the walking fern.

There are currently no trails at Barnebey Woods Nature Preserve, but Sycamore is considering future trail additions as part of its long-term planning for the property. The preserve is not currently open to the public to protect the sensitive natural area.

The expansion to Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve is known as Sundew Prairie and adds 24.77 acres of wet sand prairie and oak savanna to one of the largest tracts of its type in the state. Many rare species such as Northern bog clubmoss, paper birch, and several sedges can be found on the addition.

The preserve lies within the boundary of Indiana Dunes National Park and is owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Sundew Prairie is not currently open to the public.

Learn more about nature preserves at: IN.gov/dnr/nature-preserves. Learn more about the blue Environmental Plate at: on.IN.gov/enviropate.

'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.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

40 +/- ACRES

Parke County - Washington Township

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 - 6:00 PM

PARKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
PROPERTY LOCATION: 4900 E. SR 236 ROCKVILLE, IN 47872
Property is located 2 miles East of Marshall, IN on Hwy 236

32 +/- acres tillable; 5 +/- acres currently pasture/could be tillable; 3 +/- acres Home/Barn Site: 2 Story House; Pole Barn: 40' x 64'; Open-sided cattle shelter 28' x 21'; Horse Barn 40' x 60'.



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Photos & advance sale bills available on our searchable website:
www.sellauration.com OR
www.auctionzip.com ID # 2932

COUNTRY STORE ADVERTISING, HAND-HELD CORN SHELLERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026, 9:30 AM

3760 WHEAT RIDGE RD., AMISH COMMUNITY BLDG., WEST UNION, OH 45693

HAND-HELD CORN SHELLERS: Fisher 50 cent corn sheller - Canton, OH; ring sheller, Smalley's Universal sheller, Gray Bros. pat. 1870 - Louisville, KY; Cincinnati, OH pat. Nov. 23, 1869 sheller; 20 row wooden sheller; Little Giant; 5785 G JD sheller; Jiffy sheller; 10 & 12 row shellers; F&F Co. pat. July 6, 1869 - Springfield, OH sheller; Kenney & Minice 1869 The Bird - Springfield, OH sheller; 2 brush-type shellers; 5 row cup sheller; Family pop corn - A.H. Patch, Clarksville, TN sheller; Gary Spec. Co. pat. apd. - Gary, IN sheller; Baldwins corn shock binder.

WATCH www.auctionzip.com - ID #4988 for updates & pictures.

TERMS: Cash, good check w/proper ID.

AUCTIONEER: HERBERT ERWIN - 937-544-8252
License - 57198639959

Farm Equipment • Farm Primitives • Household & Antiques

Old-Time Country "ON-SITE" Auction

Saturday, March 7th • 10:30 A.M.

Held at the Farm: 9348 West 600 South, MODOC, IN 47358

Highlights Include:

- John Deere 4440 Tractor only 5,384 hrs, 18.4R38 Firestones, *010171R*, Super Clean Tractor w/brand new front tires
- 1998 JD 9410 Combine, Mauer Hopper extension, 2,615 Engine hrs / 1,932 Sep. hrs, One Owner
- JD 918 Grain Table w/ cart, One Owner
- JD 693 Corn Head, poly snouts
- 2012 John Deere 1750 Planter, 6 x 30", liquid fertilizer, excellent, One Owner
- John Deere 750 No-Till Drill
- Glenco 4300 18 1/2' Soil Finisher
- 1969 C-50 Grain Truck w/18' Bed
- IH 720 6-Bottom Plow, 6 - 16"
- JD 6 x 30" Cultivators
- Hopper Wagon
- JD 415 Rotary Hoe, 3 pt.

- 2011 Buick LaCerne CXL Sedan, 105K miles
- JD X530 Garden Tractor, 540 hrs
- Shop Tools
- Barn Primitives
- Fence Posts
- Antiques
- Tell City Hutch and Kitchen Table & Chairs
- Furniture
- Appliances
- Fruit Jars
- Primitive Furniture & Much More!



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OWNER: Blount Farm Trust, Brice Blount, Trustee

AUCTION MANAGERS: Andy Walther 765-969-0401 & Mark Smithson 765-744-1846



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GENE WEGER ONLINE ONLY FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

BEGINS CLOSING THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. CENTRAL

ROBINSON, ILLINOIS

LOCATION: 15438 North 600th St., Robinson, IL 62454

DIRECTIONS: From the west side of Robinson and IL Rte 33, proceed west 1 1/2 mile to Co Rd. 800 E, turn north and go 5 1/4 mile to Eaton (Co. Rd 1625N), turn west and go 2 mile to Co. Rd 600 E, turn south for 1/4 mile to Co. Rd. N 600th, then turn south and proceed 1/2 mile to sale site.

INSPECTION: Saturday, February 28th from 9:00 A.M. to 12 NOON CENTRAL

For information concerning the equipment, contact Gene Weger at (618) 569-3138
To view catalog and register to bid, visit bostoncentury.hibid.com

TRACTORS: 1988 John Deere 4850 MFWD w/ CAH, 15-spd P.S., 3-pt, lg 1000 pto, (3) SCV's, fast hitch, near new F.S. 20.8-38 radials, plus duals, (11) front weights (NOTE: we have John Deere store trans. receipts totaling \$28k, 293-hrs ago, plus rebuilt engine w/ new crank (\$10,555) 1,036-hrs ago, plus rebuilt inj. pump and more, meter shows 2275-hrs.); 1978 John Deere 4840 w/ CAH, "P.S.", 3-pt, 1000-pto, (3) SCV's, fast hitch, F.S. 20.8-38's w/ duals, front weights (NOTE: approx. 1000-hrs on engine O/H, rebuilt inj. pump, meter shows 2209-hrs); John Deere 4630 w/ CAH, 8-spd, 3-pt, sm. 1000 pto, (2) SCV's, fast hitch, F.S. 18.4-38 drive tires, plus G.Y. duals, (8) front weights (9173-hrs, NOTE: new short block approx. 2000-hrs ago & more); **COMBINE, HEADS AND CARRIER:** 1991 John Deere 9500, 4x4 w/ chopper, dble chaffe spreader, bin ext., F.S. 30.5L-32 front, F.S. 18.4-26 rear (NOTE: Yearly inspected by John Deere and gets "what it needs", the hour meter was replaced prior to Mr. Weger's purchase, shows 1021 / 592-hrs); JD 643, 6R30 C.H. w/ poly; JD 922, 22' table; EZ Trail 30' carrier; **TILLAGE:** IH 496, 24'x7 1/2" disk; UF 220, 28' rolling harrow; UF 225, 23' rolling harrow; F.C. 20' Do-All w/ rear hitch and hyds; J.D. 1600, 12', 3-pt chisel; DMI 13-knife, NH3 tool bar; **PLANTER / DRILL:** Black Machine 12R30 / 13R15, no-till split row planter; J.D. 8300, 16x10" p.w. drill; **MISC.:** IH 47 wire tie baler; J.D. 1210A, 400-bu cart; and more; **GRAIN TRUCKS:** 1977 Chevy C65, 10-wh. w/ air tag, M.W. 16' steel bed & hoist, great 10:00R20's, 427 V-8, 5 & 2-spd; 1970 Chevy C50, S.A. w/ 15' steel bed & hoist, good 9:00-20's, 366 V-8, 4 & 2-spd. **TERMS: NO Buyer's Premium! All items sold AS-IS.**

ONE DAY PICKUP / PAYMENT: Sat., March 7th from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. CENTRAL



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New 45Z credit rules include no foreign feedstocks

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — New published guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury on the 45Z Clean Fuel Production tax credit includes language prohibiting foreign feedstocks, providing both clarity and fuel for thought for Illinois and Corn Belt growers. After this and other modifications to key aspects of the proposal (which now enters a formal comment period until May 26), the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) reversed its position on the tax credit and now endorses many of its provisions, including the removal of an indirect land use change penalty on agricultural feedstocks.

"Illinois Soy supports putting out rules for 45Z and finalizing the new RFS volumes because without them the biofuels industry is currently at a standstill," Kevin "KJ" Johnson, director of government relations and strategy for ISA, told Farm World. "There are certain provisions in the newer version of 45Z that we support like North American feedstocks, and the elimination of indirect land use change. Both of these help set a more level playing field for Illinois soybean farmers."

ISA's reversal on 45Z mirrored that

of parent organization American Soybean Association (ASA), which applauded the updated language and, along with the National Oilseed Processors Association, urged swift finalization of the Treasury proposal, which was issued on Feb. 3. The two organizations noted that the guidance must be paired with swift finalization of the Trump administration's Renewable Fuel Standard proposal to further promote "pro-farmer and pro-American" biofuel production.

"Updating federal biofuel policies to prioritize soy-based fuels is a key ASA priority, and we applaud Treasury for this action which will help build domestic markets for U.S. soybeans," said Scott Metzger, ASA President and Ohio farmer. "While Treasury's work to update tax guidance is critical, ASA strongly urges the administration to immediately finalize RFS blending targets that complement the work of Treasury and Congress, by setting robust biofuel volumes and implementing new policies that will prioritize the utilization of U.S. soybeans in production."

According to Renewable Fuels Association President Geoff Cooper, "The proposal appears to resolve some of previous confusion around what constitutes a 'qualified sale,'

and begins to integrate the important improvements to 45Z that resulted from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, such as removal of indirect land use change emissions from the carbon intensity scoring framework."

Cooper added that there continue to be unresolved issues around the new 45Z language, including the release of a revised version of the 45Z GREET model used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions in order to determine credit values. "Questions remain to be resolved around the quantification of emissions related to low-carbon feedstock production at the farm level, implementation of foreign feedstock prohibitions, and provisions related to the use of energy attribute credits," he said.

A new feedstock carbon intensity calculator is currently under development by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will allow for carbon intensity adjustments for feedstocks produced using no-till farming, cover crops and nutrient management practices.

Soybean growers were dead-set against the 45Z tax credit proposal as recently as August, when Farm World spoke with ISA District 6 Director and Utilization Committee Chair, Jim Martin, during the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Illinois. At that time, Martin lambasted the 45Z tax incentive as using tax dollars to promote imported feedstocks and displacing soybean oil in biofuels. He said that 45Z, which is a carbon intensity-based credit modeled after California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, stacked the deck against Midwest soybean growers and gave farm-based feedstocks artificially-lower scores, pushing U.S. farmers out of the biofuel marketplace.

Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-Ill.), a

staunch supporter of the 45Z Clean Fuels Production Credit, said the revised rules reflect several of the key requests she had made to the administration that are critical for growers and producers in her district. "By taking steps to lock in rules through 2029, this guidance will provide a long-term commitment that allows our ethanol and biodiesel producers to plan, invest, and fully benefit from the 45Z tax credit," she said.

"While there is still work to be done to ensure growers producing low-emission feedstocks are rewarded, this renewed clarity is a strong foundation. Together, these policies will grow the biofuels sector, create economic opportunity, and deliver real support for rural America."

According to Illinois Corn Growers Association President Mark Bunselmeyer, whether or not farmers can participate in the new and improved 45Z tax credit this growing season hinges on the timeliness of the final rule.

"In today's challenging farm economy, farmers need durable market signals and opportunities to build a positive balance sheet. When crafted appropriately, this tax policy can help. I would urge the USDA to finalize its guidance and Treasury to promptly adopt the language, because our members need opportunities to consider changes to their on-farm management that will result in financial gain," Bunselmeyer stated. "ICGA looks forward to continued engagement with agency officials regarding this rule and submitting formal comments to the docket."

A Treasury Department hearing on 45Z will be held on May 28 following the closure of the comment period on May 26.

**THE ANNUAL GIGANTIC CONSIGNMENT
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AUCTION**

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1004 W Housman St - The Fairgrounds Hwy 121 - MAYFIELD, KY

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IMPLEMENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION!!**

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THOUSANDS... TO MAYFIELD, KY**

**BRING YOUR EQUIPMENT Wednesday Thursday Friday
MARCH 11th 12th 13th**

**STAFF & LOADERS WILL BE AVAILABLE
8:00 A.M TO 6:00 P.M. EACH DAY... UNTIL THE LOT IS FULL...**

Only Farm Related Items Will Be Accepted!! Please No HAND TOOLS, Worn Tires, Battered Fuel Tanks. We Only Accept Items That In Our Discretion Are Saleable.

JAMES R. CASH
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**33.6 ACRES
VACANT LAND**

BROWN TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OH

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 • 6 P.M.

AUCTION LOCATION: Franklin County Fairgrounds, 4100 Columbia St., Hilliard, OH.
LOCATION: 7469 Davis Road, Hilliard, OH at corner of Davis Road and Walker Road. (Watch for signs.)



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Approx. 915' to Hilliard Corp. limit,
in Hilliard Comprehensive Plan.
Open tillable land with level
topography. Excellent parcel for
potential development.**

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Friday, February 27 & Friday, March 6
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Buyers choose selling order at Midwest Beef Cattle Consultants

By DOUG GRAVES
Ohio Correspondent

CARTHAGE, Ind. — With most livestock sales, the animal is presented before potential buyers and a long, drawn out bidding war oftentimes. Bids, once low, begin skyrocketing.

"Naturally, most sales are performed this way, but ours is very different," says Mark Hilton, Beef Cattle veterinarian at Midwest Beef Cattle Consultants (MBCC).

Hilton and MBCC will host their 23rd annual spring bull and female sale on March 14 at M5 Family Farms, 3824 Binford Road in Carthage, Ind. And Hilton promises attendees will enjoy the experience.

"We've all been to sales where we kinda like bull No. 2, but we really want bull No. 4," Hilton said. "For example, Bull No. 2 might be \$500 below what you had budgeted for him. You make a bid and get him. You're happy because you might save a few hundred dollars. Now bull No. 4 comes in and brings, say, \$1,000 less than you would have spent, and now you're disappointed."

"This rarely happens in our sale because the bull with the most first-place 'votes' sell first. This way, buyers have a good chance of their first choice bulls selling before their second and third choice bulls."

To make the bidding less complex, Hilton utilizes a 'buyer board' where all animals and their base prices are listed. If a buyer has an interest in an animal, they place their buyer number next to these lot numbers. This allows everyone

to see the competition on each bull. If the buyer sees that there are seven buyer numbers on their first-choice bull and only two on their second choice, they may choose not to bid extremely high on their first choice, hoping their second choice bull will sell for much less.

"If a buyer has their buyer number on seven bulls that fit their goals and they only need one, we remove their buyer number from the other six bulls after they purchase their bull," Hilton said. "This again allows potential buyers to see the competition. If only one person is interested in a bull, he sells for the base price. Any bulls that are not sold the day of the open house are sold by private treaty after the sale and at the base price."

"At one of my earlier sales two of my clients were bidding against each other for the same bull," he said. "My board was in an adjacent room so they didn't know they were the only two interested in that bull. As a result, one got a bull at a much higher price than the base price and the other guy got his second choice bull at the base price. And at that time there was no Internet bidding. The board lets people know who their competition is and lets them make an informed decision what they're going to do with their hard-earned money. We want people to get the right bull for them."

Hilton graduated from Purdue University veterinary school in 1983. In 1988, he started the Total Beef Herd Health Program and Midwest Beef Cat-

tle Consultants. Hilton has been selling bulls the past 20 years.

"One of the things we do is have the potential buyers make the sale order," Hilton said. "They call me before the sale and give me their top three choices, or top six if they are buying multiple animals. I then make the sale order based on the buyer's ranking of each bull. Today, 75 percent of the bull buyers contact me ahead of the sale and list their top picks. My research over the years shows that 87 percent of the people got their first, second or third choice at the sale."

Hilton's team also includes Chris Muegge, a beef nutritionist with Lowe's Pellets and Grain.

"With Chris' program our bulls gain 3.2 to 3.3 pounds per day and they're not fat and don't live like feedlot steers,"

he said. "We call our bulls endurance athletes, not couch potatoes. And everything we do is to help ensure that the buyers get the animal that really fits their goals."

The March 14 sale will include 45 bulls (Balancers, Gelbvieh, SimAngus and 3 & 4 breed composites). In the female sale, 15 bred females and pairs will be available, as will eight open spring Balancer females.

"Our motto is 'Producing Cattle that Works for You,' and not the other way around. As a veterinarian I see problem cattle every day, and that is not what we want to produce. We want to produce cattle as problem-free as possible. We encourage buyers to call us ahead of the sale so we can learn about their goals."

For more information visit <https://www.mwbeefcattle.com/>



Above: Midwest Beef Cattle Consultants (MBCC) veterinarian Mark Hilton promises a unique, smooth experience for those attending the company's 23rd bull and female sale on March 14. (photo submitted)

TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN
FarmWorld

KALB FARMS COMPLETE CLOSEOUT AUCTION

- THURS., MARCH 5TH, 2026 @ 11AM -
ADDRESS: 3505 Orr Rd., Bloomville, Ohio 44818
DIRECTIONS: 8 Mi. N of Bucyrus, OH to Orr Rd, then E. Signs Posted.
CASE IH FARM EQUIPMENT



(6) TRACTORS

'95 Case-IH 7240 MFWD, 18 Spd. PS Trans., CHA, 1000 PTO, 20.8-42 Rears, 16.9-30 Fronts, Trimble Auto Steer, FM750 Monitor, LED Lights, 4 SCVs, Fenders, 4378 Hrs., (SN:JJA0061066); '91 Case-IH 7110 2WD, 18 Spd. PS Trans., CHA, Dual PTO, 18R-38 Rears W/ Axle Duals, 11L-16 Fronts, 3 SCVs, Trimble Auto Steer, FM750 Monitor, 3350 Hrs. (SN:JJA0030982); '70 FARMALL 1026, 2WD, Open Station, Hydro, 18.4-34 Rears, 11L-15 Fronts, Axle Hubs, 3 Pt., 2 SCVs, Rebuilt Inj. Pump, 3516 Hrs., (SN:2610130U007669); '57 FARMALL 450, Gas, TA, 540 PTO, 3284 Hrs., (SN:9993); '58 FARMALL 340, Gas, TA, Fast Hitch, 540 PTO, 2719 Hrs., (SN:1936); '41 FARMALL M, Gas, 540 PTO, (SN:3130).

HARVEST EQUIPMENT AND GRAIN CART

'09 Case-IH 7088 Combine, Mud Hog 4WD, 900/60R32 Fronts, 540/60R30 Rears, Power Fold Bins, AFS Pro Monitor, 3017E./ 2213S. Hrs., (SN:Y9G002466); '13 Case-IH 3020 Platform, 30', Single Pt. Hookup, Full Finger, Long Knife, Terra Flex, (SN:YCH210298); '10 Case-IH 3206 Corn Head, 6R-30, Poly, Single Point, Hgt. Control, 350 Acres on New Snap Rolls & Chains, (SN:YAS023202); (2) UNVERFERHT HT30 HEADER CARTS, (1) Bar Cut to 20', Tele. Tongue, (1) Newer, Tele. Tongue, Lights, J&M 525 GRAIN CART, w/ 14' Corner Grain Auger, Roll Tarp, 20.8-38 Tires, 540 & 1000 PTO Shafts.

GRAIN TRUCKS AND TRAILER

'04 INT'L 9200i, Cummins 855 Big Cam Eng., Auto Trans, Air Ride, S.S. Fuel Tanks, Tandem Axle w/ Cheater, Metal 20' Bed w/ Wood Floor, Twin Cyl. Hoist, Roll Tarp, 525,191mi., (VIN:2HSCAEP85C033165); '85 INT'L S-1900, w/ 466 Turbo Dsl. Eng., 10 Spd., 20' Bed, Steel Sides, Wood Floor, Twin Screw, Roll Tarp, Has Newer Eng., Clutch, Radiator, 379,285 mi., (VIN:1HTLDTVN3FHA57302); '79 Chevrolet C-70, 360 Gas Eng. Twin Cyl. Hoist, 18' Grain Bed, Rear



Hitch, 9-20 Tires, 27,112 Original Mi., (VIN:C17D-B9V109727); '86 GMC 7000 Topkick, Cat 3208 Dsl., W/ 16' Obeco Bed, Wood Floor, Scissor Cyl. Hoist, Air Tag, Needs Head Gasket & Air Bags for Tag Axle, 11R22.5 Tires; 175,081 mi., (VIN:1GDM-7D1Y3GB541299); Homemade Dump Bed Trailer, Draw Bar Receiver, Hyd. Cylinder Lift.

PLANTING AND TILLAGE

Case-IH 900 Cyclo-Air Planter, 6R-30, Trash Wheels, Rubber Press Wheels, 2x2 Liquid Fert., Squeeze Pump, Hyd. PTO Pump; Case-IH 5400 No-Till Drill, HD Cart 8" Spacing, Rib Press Wheels; INT'L 710 5-16" Toggle Trip, Semi-Mtd Plow; INT'L 720, 6-18 Btms, On-Land, Auto Reset; Landoll Mod. 2200 Weatherproofer II, 5 Shank W/ Leaf Springs, Walking Tandem Wheels; Case-IH 3900 Disk, 25', Hyd. Fold, 7" Spacing, 18" Blades, Rear Hitch, Tandem Wheels; Case-IH Tigermate 200, 26", 7" Spacing, Rear Hitch & Hyd., Walking Tandems; Brillion X-108 Packer, 27'; JD 400 Rotary Hoe, 15'; CLARK 1000 Gal. Tender, Tandem Axle, Honda Eng., 1.5" Plumbing; 200 GAL BULK TANK, Case-IH Magnum Front Mount, Banjo Fittings, 1.5" Plumbing.

ROTARY CHOPPERS, WAGONS AND AUGERS

BUSH HOG 12215 Batwing, 15', Hyd. Fold, 1,000 PTO, Like New, WOODS 214 Rotary Chopper, 14', Man. Wings, 540 PTO; (2) J&M 350 Gravity Beds Tenders, Tele. Tongues., HD Gears, 14' Unverferth Augers w/ Poly Screws; J&M 250 & 200 Bu Gravity Beds; 125 Bu. Gravity Bed; (4) Hutchinson Augers, 62"x8"-PTO Drive, (2) 54"x8"-PTO Drives, 32"x8"-Elec. Motor, Single Phase.

Etc.

Rear Axle For 2188 Combine, 14.9-24 Duals, Hanson 8.5' Snow Blower, Single Stage, Hyd. Chute; HICAP Mod.40 Grain Cleaner, 40" X 70" Barrell w/ 8"x8"; 1984 Honda Big Red Trike, Surge PTO Generator.

INSPECTION: Thurs., Feb. 26th • 10:30am-2:30pm

OWNERS: Kenny Kalb

EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS: Doug Walton (419) 294-7112, Office: (419) 294-0007

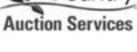
AUCTION NOTE: Not many smalls. Tractors sell at 11:00am! See website for full terms/ conditions and online bidding. www.waltonauctionco.com SAVE THIS AD! Douglas E. Walton, Darby J. Walton, Sam R. Baer, CAI, Auctioneers

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10415 Milton-Potsdam Road, WEST MILTON, OH 45383 (Miami Co., OH)

Wayne Wertz FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH • 10:30AM

INSPECTION DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH • 10AM - 1PM

(7) JD TRACTORS

• 2013 JD 8235R, MFWD, IVT, (4) SCV remotes, PRE-DEF, QH, hammer strap, 1000 pto, front fenders, (22) front wts, New auto steer valve • 1997 JD 8300, MFWD, PS, (4) SCV remotes, PRE-DEF, QH, hammer strap, 1000 pto, Front rock box, Pair rear 680kg wheel wts, Sells w/ JD ATU 300 Steering system & JD Starfire ITC Globe • 1995 JD 8200, MFWD, PS, (3) SCV remotes, PRE-DEF, QH, hammer strap, 1000 pto, Front rock box, Sells w/ JD ATU 300 Steering system & JD Starfire 3000 Globe • 1995 JD 8200, MFWD, PS, (3) SCV remotes, PRE-DEF, QH, 1000pto, 20 front wts • 1995 JD 8100, MFWD, PS, 3 SCV remotes, PRE-DEF, QH, 1000 pto, hammer strap, Front rock box, fenders, JD ATU 200 Steering wheel • 1993 JD 7700, MFWD, PS, fenders, (3) SCV, QH, 540 pto, 12 front wts • 1980 JD 2040, 2wd, w/ JD 143 Loader, single remote, pto, 3pt., Independent loader valve, single ram bucket

SPRAYER & TANKS

• 2009 JD 4730 Sprayer, SS 800 gal tank, 100ft booms, sells w/ 2630 Display & JD 3000 globe • (3) 1,000 Gal Nurse Tanks

COMBINES • HEADS & CARTS

• 2013 JD S660, contour master, Power cast Tailboard, Chopper • 2013 JD S550, Contour Master, Maurer Hopper Extension • JD 608C Corn head, 30" x 8 row, single-point hookup, hyd deck plates, header height sensors, poly snouts • JD 606C Corn head, 30" x 8 row, single-point hook-up • JD 630F Grain Platform, Hydra-flex, single-point hook-up, 3" rock dam • JD 625F Grain Platform, Hydra-flex, single-point hook-up, 3" rock dam • Unverferth HT-25 Header cart w/Shop-built alteration, 30' • Killbros Header cart, 25', lights, ext tongue • Header cart for 6-row head

ANTIQUA TRACTOR

• 1954 Farmall Super MTA, 13.6-38 Firestones

SEMI TRUCKS • GRAIN TRAILERS • PICKUP TRUCK

• 2020 INTERNATIONAL ProStar LT-625 Day Cab, EE12 Auto, Cummins X15 Engine, white, Clean Truck • 2014 INTERNATIONAL ProStar+ Model 122, Day Cab, Auto Eaton Fuller UltraShift Plus, Cummins ISX 15 • 2014 INTERNATIONAL ProStar+ Model 122, Day Cab, Auto Eaton Fuller UltraShift Plus, Cummins ISX 15 • 2023 STOUGHTON Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer, 34'x96"x66", Spring Ride, AG Hoppers, Front/Rear Alum catwalks, Shurlock manual roll-tarp • 2015 STOUGHTON PLATINUM Mod. AHV-341T-S Hopper Bottom 34'x96"x72", AG Hoppers, Spring Ride, Front/Rear Alum Catwalks • 2004 TIMPTE SUPER Hopper Bottom, 34'x96"x66", AG Hoppers, Spring Ride Shurlock manual tarp, Front/rear catwalks, (4) Alum Corners • 1995 JET Hopper Bottom Grain Trailers, 22',

single hopper, roll-tarp • 1994 JET Hopper Bottom Grain Trailers, 22', single hopper, roll-tarp • 1993 JET Hopper Bottom Grain Trailers, 22', single hopper, roll-tarp • 1987 GMC BRIGADIER Semi, showing 410K, Single Axle • 1987 GMC BRIGADIER Semi, Single Axle • 1987 GMC BRIGADIER Semi Single Axle • 2013 Chevrolet Duramax, 3500HD, flatbed, 11' Knapheide stake bed • 1999 Donahue 20' + 4' tandem axle trailer, Gooseneck, 14K GVWR, dovetail back

PLANTERS • SEED TENDER • 28% APPLICATOR

• KINZE 3600 Corn Planter, 12 x 30", mechanical drive, HD row starter units, (4) 160 gal tanks, 2x2 fertilizer set-up, John Blue Pump, Fold markers, 2 solid closing wheels, HD Spring Down Pressure, insecticide boxes, KPM-2 monitor, Field Ready • JD 1690 Soybean Special, 30', 15" spacing, Kasco Fill Auger, Ground-drive update kit • Blue Jet AT3000 28% Applicator, 11 knife, 1,000 tank, rinse tank, Only 450 acres on all new steel, 2 year old hyd drive pump

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

• Landoll 7431-23 VT Plus, 23' Vertical Tillage Tool, rear rolling basket, rear hitch, walking tandem axles, wing gauge wheels, cushion gang • Landoll 6230-23 Disk, 23', cushion gang, front gauge wheels, rear-hitch & hyds, Tandem walking axles, scrapers • JD 726 Mulch Finisher, 24'6" working width, 5-Row high residue harrow, rear-hitch, rear hyds • JD 980 Field Cultivator, 30', Walking axles, 3-Bar spike flex harrow, rolling basket, like new shovels • (2) DMI 25' Rolling Basket • Brillion Optimizer X-series, 23' culti-packer

AUGER CART, AUGERS, & GRAVITY WAGONS

• KILLBROS 590 Grain Cart, 14" auger, Lights, small 1000 pto • (2) J&M 385 Gravity Wagons, lights, site window, Shurlock roll tarps, extendible tongue • Mayrath 8" x 62' swing away auger, hyd lift, single screw, pto • Mayrath Swing-away auger, hyd. lift, 8" x 60" 540 pto • Hutchinson/Mayrath 8" x 60' Straight auger, 10HP 230V motor • Hutchinson 8" x 30' load-out auger, elec motor • Farm-King Portable Incline Auger, 10', elec motor • Hutchinson Portable Incline Auger, Hyd. drive Motor, 8"

DOZER, BACKHOE & FORK-LIFT

• JD 410E Backhoe, TURBO 4x4, Standard Hoe, CAH, sold w/ (3) Buckets • JD 450J LT Crawler Dozer, 6-way blade, 16" Tracks • 25 Ton Detach trailer, 20' well, w/ Honda powered hyds, fold-out side extensions

MISC EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

SELLER: Wayne Wertz | AUCTION MANAGERS: Andy Walther, (765) 969-0401 and Arden Schrader, (260) 229-2442

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Two dairy conferences are scheduled for March, April in Indiana

By Michele F. Mihaljevich
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS - The Hoosier state will host two dairy-related gatherings in March and April - the Indiana Milk Quality Conference in Indianapolis and the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference in Fort Wayne.

The milk quality conference is March 10-11 at the Drury Plaza Hotel. The dairy nutrition conference is April 13-15 at the Grand Wayne Center.

The Indiana Milk Quality Professionals (IMQP) sponsors the milk quality conference. It's open to anyone with an interest in learning more about the dairy industry, with a focus on milk quality, said Brent Caffee, IMQP president.

"Our committee has put together a strong agenda of topics and speakers with the goal of informing the attendees on the latest advances in the dairy industry," he said. "Our attendees typically include regulatory personnel, dairy product processors, laboratory personnel, equipment manufacturers, cooperative services, dairy producers,

milk haulers, and many others interested in the dairy industry."

The conference serves as an excellent opportunity to provide continuing education on relevant industry topics, Caffee noted. It is also valuable to network within the industry and gain insight to the many important roles it takes to get dairy products to the consumer, he added.

Last year's conference attracted about 80 people, said Robin Fuhrman, the organization's secretary/treasurer.

One of the conference sessions is called "the day in the life."

"With the wide diversity of attendees at the conference, the planning committee felt it would be educational to learn what some of the different positions in the dairy industry entailed," she explained. "We will be asking the participants of the panel what a typical day is for them, and also diving into some of the high and low points of their careers."

Other speakers include Don Lamb, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Kerry Estes, who has served as a "Milk Man" for the Indianapolis 500,

will be the conference's keynote speaker. The Indy 500 Milk Man or Woman is a dairy farmer who delivers a bottle of milk to the race's winner, according to the American Dairy Association Indiana.

The registration fee is \$175 for everyone in the dairy industry except dairy producers, Fuhrman said. Dairy producers may register as a farm for \$50 for an unlimited number of representatives from that farm. For the producers, lunch is an additional \$25 per person, and the awards banquet is \$50 per person. For more information, including a pre-conference trip to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, visit <https://imqp.org>.

Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference

The dairy nutrition conference is in its 34th year. Last year's attendance was about 400 and organizers expect the same this year.

"When we began the conference on the (Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne) campus in Fort Wayne, I did not think it would gain the notoriety that it has," said Maurice Eastridge, professor and senior associate chair of Ohio State University's Department of Animal Sciences. "Even though it is hosted by Michigan State, Ohio State and Purdue, it has become a much larger conference than a three-state program.

"It is certainly a regional, and perhaps even a national, conference. I think what keeps it strong is a combination of the topics and speakers at the conference, the partnership with allied industries, and the quality of the undergraduate and graduate pro-

grams at the conference."

The conference is geared toward feed industry personnel, nutrition consultants, Extension personnel, students and veterinarians.

Eastridge said he's looking forward to the presentations on milk components, given the advancement in milk fat levels among dairy herds and its impacts on revenue from milk for farmers. He's also looking forward to a session on feeding strategies with automatic milking systems (AMS).

"I think there is still much to learn about the best way to feed cows in AMS, whether that be the grain in the parlor or the PMR in the bunk," Eastridge said. "In addition, research is assisting in determining how the AMS is impacting cow behavior in regard to eating, trips to the AMS, and lying time."

Dr. Michael VandeHaar, from Michigan State, will discuss short-stature corn hybrids and if they can replace BMR corn to make top-quality silage for lactating cows. Eastridge said there is currently limited data on short-stature corn hybrids.

"The reason for the focus on it as a potential for replacement for BMR corn is that there is a limited availability of seed for BMR corn today because the major provider discontinued this seed corn," Eastridge said.

The conference fee is \$250 until March 30, and \$280 after. For university personnel, the fee is \$195. Student registration is free. For more information, including a complete agenda and registration form, visit www.tristatedairy.org.

ANNUAL FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 10:00 AM

**LOCATION: 3734 SOUTH HWY 27
WEST COLLEGE CORNER, OH 47003**

TRACTORS-BACKHOE-BOBCAT: John Deere 4440-Three Hydraulic Remotes, Bolt On Duals, ten Front Weights, Quad Range Transmission, 2nd Owner, 5354 Hours; White 2-70 Diesel Tractor with Allied 590 Loader, Pallet Forks, and Rear Weights, 9565 Hours; International Farmall Model 826 Diesel Tractor-Two Owner Tractor; 1968 Ford Commander Select-O-Speed Transmission; John Deere G-New Rubber; Cub Cadet 1650 Hydrostatic Mower-50" Deck; Case 580 Super K Backhoe 4x4 Extendahoe, 4x4, Four post open Cab, 5,468 Hours; 2019 Bobcat Model 1770-Two Speed, High Flow Hydraulics, Air Ride Seat, Deluxe Display Screen, Enclosed Cab, Track Skidsteer, Heat, AC, 2800 Hours; John Deere 8640, 5156 hours

TRUCKS-TRAILERS: 2007 International 7400SFA-DT750 Motor, Air Brakes Automatic Transmission, 1994 International Model 4900-DT466 Engine, Six Speed Transmission, Air Brakes, 12' Bed with 60" Sides; 1990 Ford Model L9000-3405 Cat Motor, 8 Speed Transmission, Air Brakes; 1996 Chevrolet 3500 Truck with Service Body; 1974 Dorsley HTL-35 low Boy Trailer-26' Deck, Air Brakes, 35 Ton, Extension Ramps; 1993 Altec Pole Trailer; Homemade 7'x17' Homemade Tandem Axle Flat Bed Trailer;

AUGER CART-GRAIN DRILL-TILLAGE: Parker Model 500 Auger Cart-400 Bu.; John Deere 750 Grain Drill; Allis Chalmers Four Bottom Semi Mount Plow; DMI Tiger Two Five Shank Disc Ripper-Hydraulic Front Disc and Front Points; Landoll 1514 D-4 Three Pt. Four Shank Inline Ripper; Allis Chalmers Four Bottom Plow; 2022 Kuhn/Krase Excelsior XT 30' Verticle Tillage; Three Pt. 14" Three Bottom Plow; Krause Model 1588 Disc-18" with 8" Spacing; John Deere 653A Six Row Crop Head; Cub cadet 5 HP Rear Tiller;

HAY EQUIPMENT: 1990 Class 66 4x5 Baler-Net and String Wrap, New Chains Last Year; Maxilator Accumagrapple Ten Bale Skid Steer Bale Accumulator; New Idea 4151 Hydraulic Driven Bar Hay Rake; New Holland 8' Bale Elevator Section; John Deere Model 27 14' Stalk Chopper; Snowco 36' Hay Elevator with Transport and Shoot;

SPRAYING-FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT: 2004 Apache 850 Plus Sprayer-850 gal. Tank, Three Way Nozzle, New Front Tires, Seven Section Automatic Shut Off; 2002 Apache A51010- 1,000 Gal. Poly Tank, 90' Booms, 2840 hours; DMI 3200 Eleven Knife Anhydrous-Applicator- 30" Spacing, Yetter Double Disc Closers; Chem Farm 250 Gallon Stainless Steel Saddle Tanks;

GRAVITY BED WAGONS-MANURE SPREADER-EQUIPMENT: New Holland 520 Single Beater Manure Spreader with Hydraulic End Gate; Danhusser F8 Three Pt. Post Hole Auger; L&S Line Three Pt. Boom Lift; Unverferth 13 Ton Running Gear Three Compartment Seed Wagon; Killbros 375 Gravity Wagon with 740 John Deere Running Gear; David 918 Electric Grain Bin Spreader; IH Fenders;

UTILITY VEHICLE-FOUR WHEELER: John Deere 4x2 Gator with Curtis Cab, Electric Dump, 4538 Hours; 2002 Polaris Ranger-1438 Hours, 4x4, Dump Bed;

MOWING: 2023 Grasshopper Model 335B Zero Turn Mower-72" Deck, 805 Hours; John Deere 2930 M Zero Turn Mower with 60" Deck, 799 Hours; John Deere 757 Zero Turn Mower with 60" Deck-947 Hours; Huskee 25 HP, 50" Cut Riding Mower; Simplicity Sun Star 20 HP, Hydrostatic Mower; Alamo EK11 Three Pt. Ditch Mower-5' Rotary Cut, PTO Hydraulic Pump; King Kutter Pull Type 6' Rotary Cutter;

TERMS: In-Person: CASH or PRE-APPROVED CHECK. CREDIT CARDS w/4% FEE.; Online: See Equipmentfacts

AUCTIONEERS:

**MATT NIXON (IN #AU10900037),
MIKE CAMPBELL (IN #AU01048954),
JOHN MUNCY (IN #AU11200057)**

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ALAN REAGIN ONLINE ONLY FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

CORY, IN (15 MI. SOUTHEAST OF TERRE HAUTE)

**BEGINS CLOSING THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH
@ 7:00 PM EST**

LOCATION: 3318 W. Co Rd. 200 S, Cory, IN 47846. **DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of St. Rd's 46 & 59 in Centerpoint, go west 2.3 miles on St. Rd. 46. to Co. Rd. 250 W, turn south for 2 miles to Co. Rd. 200 S, turn west and proceed ¼ mile to sale site.

To view catalog and register to bid, visit bostoncentury.hibid.com

INSPECTION: MONDAY, MARCH 9th from 9 AM to 3 PM EST

For info concerning the equipment, contact Alan Reagin (812) 240-4228

TRACTORS: 2022 New Holland 120 "Powerstar", MFWD w/ C.A.H., stereo, P.S. w/ shuttle, 3-pt, 540/1000 pto, (2) SCV's, buddy seat, wheel weights, N.H. 720 LU loader w/ 7' Q.A. bucket, rear 460/85R34's (1-owner, purchased new 11-30-22, only 595-hrs); 1988 CIH/Steiger 9150, 4x4, "Powershift", bareback w/ (4) SCV's, 20.8R42 radial duals (9780-hrs, 280-eng. hp, NOTE: 4-hrs on engine O/H & much more w/receipts); 1971 Case 970 D w/ cab (4285-hrs); 1971 Case 870 gas, o.s., P.S. (300-hrs on trans., 3680-hrs); (2) Case 1370 D's w/ cab's (AS IS).

CONSTRUCTION: John Deere 70D excavator w/ new 2' bucket, thumb (recently rebuilt u/c); Case 1818 skid steer w/ near new rubber (only 725-orig. hrs); AGT 6' skid steer brush cutter (used 1-hr); AGT skid steer p.h. digger w/ 14", 12" and 6" augers (near new).

COMBINE, HEADS, CARRIERS: CIH 2388, 4x4 w/ "Field Tracker", chopper, long auger, hopper ext., (3) spreaders, floater tires & more (set-up for Draper, 4675/3066-hrs); CIH 2062, 30' flex draper head; J.I. CASE 1083, 8R30 C.H. (recently rebuilt); J&M 30' & UF 25' carriers; 8R30 corn reel.

PLANTING / DRILLING: 2014 Kinze 3600 ASD bulk fill 16/32, split-row, no-till, corn & bean meters, pneu. down force, KPM III, 2x2 fert., (2) 200-gal. tanks, J.B. fert. pump, "V" slicer pop-up fert. (corn rows) & more (only 9265 total acres of use); Crustbuster "3400", 15' x 7 ½' no-till, p.w. drill; 1986 Strick 28', spray / tender trailer w/ tanks, pump, inductor & more.

SEMI'S / HOPPER BOTTOM: 2012 Freightliner "Cascadia" day cab, twin screw w/ DD13-400 hp?? Detroit, E.F. 10-spd, air ride cab & susp., 295/75R22.5's (360k); 1988 IH S1900, S.A. day cab w/ DT-466, 10-spd, wet kit, 11R22.5's, G.N. and 5th wh. hitches (188k); 1990 Ford L9000 tandem, day cab w/ 855, 10-

spd, 11R22.5's (603K); 1986 Ford L8000 S.A. day cab w/ 3208 CAT, 6-spd, 11R22.5's, G.N. and 5th wh. hitches (shows 186k); **ALUM. HOPPER BOTTOM:** 1987 Wilson 41' w/ Shur-Lok tarp & 11R24.5's.

GRAIN / FERT. TRUCKS: 1979 IH F-2275, air bag tri-axle twin screw w/ 22' O.S. steel bed & hoist, 60" sides, tarp, 855, 9-spd, 11R22.5's (372k); 1980 GMC 7000 Lime/Fert. spreader truck w/ reman. 427, 5 & 2-sp, New Leader L3020GT, 13' bed w/ 24" belt-over chain & good floaters.

TILLAGE: Krause 4830, 3-pt, 4-sh. inline ripper; CIH 3900, 25'x7 ½" disk; 16-knife p.t. NH3 tool bar; Landoll-Tilloll 875, 15' center fold finish tool; CIH 6500, 9-sh. p.t. disk/chisel.

HAY & LIVESTOCK EQUIP.: IH 1150, 2 ½-T grinder / mixer; Gehl Mix-All 2-T grinder / mixer; Gehl 420, 10-wh, p.t. "V" rake; N.H. side discharge manure spreader; 3-pt, 3-prong bale spear; 3-pt bale forks; Q.A. loader bale prong.

TRAILERS: 1994 Bilt-Rite, 25'+5', 20k, g.n. w/ tandem duals; 2005 Corn Pro, 16'+7' deck over, 2-axle stock trailer; 1979, 16'+5' dove, tri-axle, dual wheel, pintle hitch equip. trailer.

AUGERS: Late model AGI / Westfield MKX 10-63 swing-away w/ hyd. lift; W.F. 36' x 10" elec. unloading auger; GT 28'x8" unloading auger, 540-pto.

SPRAYER: 1996 Ag Chem 854 Row Gator, 4x4 w/ EZ Guide 500 auto steer, (5) section, 750-gal s.s. tank, 80' s.s. booms (5595-hrs).

SPECIALTY EQUIP. / WAGONS: Hutchinson port. belt conveyor, drive-over pit; Convey-All 12'x8' belt hopper unloader; Helicopter front nose (CIH) poly 200-gal. ea. fert. tanks & brackets, 2-yrs old (used on CIH 9130); Valmar 1655 cover crop air seeder, var. rate w/ cover crop & lg. seed rollers (near new); New Idea 313, 2-RW, p.t. corn picker; gravity wagons 150-350-bu.

TERMS: NO Buyer's Premium. All items sold "AS-IS". If you are farm or dealer exempt, please bring tax exempt form. Loader available.

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Forecast calls for warmer temperatures, more precipitation to mid-March

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's outlook to March 3 is calling for a good chance for likely above normal temperature and leaning to likely above normal precipitation. The three-to-four-week outlook, from Feb. 28 to March 13, is calling for an outlook favoring warmer temperatures and more precipitation. Eric Snodgrass, of Nutrien Ag Solutions, agrees with a 15-day and beyond outlook of overall mild weather conditions. He thinks El Niño will be fading and sees potential similarities to 2023, which in the near term had a drier May 2023. This comparison is very preliminary, however.

Planting short corn in narrow rows paid off at MSU in Lansing 2025, with 15-inch rows yielding 7 percent more than 30-inch rows. At Richville 2025, row spacing yield differences were not significant but showed a trend of yield increase (3 percent) in 15-rows compared to 30-inch row spacing, indicating a modest yield benefit of narrow rows for short corn even under high-yield conditions at this location. Similar patterns were found in 2024 with both trials conducted in Lansing. A 12 percent yield increase was found when switching from 30- to 22-inch row spacing in the first trial, and a 4 percent increase from 30- to 15-inch rows in the second trial.

Additionally, there was no significant interaction between row spacing and seeding rates on short corn grain

WEEKLY AG UPDATE
 BY NED BIRKEY
 MSU EXTENSION EDUCATOR EMERITUS
 SPARTAN AG

yield at any site-year. This means that the yield benefit of narrow row spacing was observed regardless of the seeding rate. Tall-stature hybrids tested in this

study did not show any yield increase from narrow rows at any of the MSU location in 2024 or 2025. Short-stature corn did respond to increasing seeding rate, although yield differences among seeding rates were not significant, but the numeric trend was clear. Yield improved by 3.7 percent by increasing seeding rate from 26,000 to 34,000 seeds per acre. The highest yield (223 bushels per acre) occurred at 42,000 seeds per acre, a 7.6 percent increase over the lowest rate.

At the Center for Excellence in Lenoire County in the late 1990s, using a Case IH experimental cornhead, the problem was always the weight and jamming the snapping rolls and gathering chains to fit into 15-inch rows.

The newest version of the 2025 Ohio State eFields Research Report is now available and chock full of data that can help farmers make informed big decisions this season. The latest report highlights 102 on-farm, field scale trials conducted in 29 Ohio counties. Research topics include nutrient management, disease management in both corn and soybeans, biologicals, utilizing drones for seeding and applications, and cover crop management. Interest in organic farming systems has been steady

ly increasing, which is reflected though the growth of organic focused trials from 8 in 2024 to 12 studies in 2025. Some new additions to the report this year include trials on sunflowers, flint corn, and a new statewide scouting project for Tar Spot. The Tar Spot Surveillance study, which will continue in 2026, was seeking to better understand what conditions Tar Spot thrives in and how it impacts yield. With the wide variety of trials, there is something for everyone to learn from in the 2025 report.

The 2025 eFields Report is available in both print and as an e-version. To receive a printed copy, contact your local OSU Extension office or email: www.digitalag@osu.edu. The e-version can be viewed and downloaded at go.osu.edu/eFields, with the online version being readable on smartphone or tablet devices. You can also explore the data from past seasons at: kx.osu.edu/efields.

Friday the 13th combines two long-standing superstitions: Friday be-

ing an unlucky day and the number 13 being associated with misfortune. Over time, folklore, religion, and historical events blended these fears into one infamous date. This year has three months with a Friday the 13th - February, March and November.

The fear of Friday the 13th is officially called friggatriskaidekaphobia. Frigga refers to the Norse god for which Friday is named, and triskaidekaphobia means fear of the number 13. An alternate term for anxiety is paraskevidekatriaphobia. Originating from Greek, paraskevi means Friday, dekatria refers to "13," and phobia translates as "fear." Some of today's skyscrapers and hotels don't have 13th floors or a room 13. More than 60 million people worldwide have a phobia of Friday the 13th to varying degrees.

Of course, Spring never arrives on the 13th, but does come on Friday, March 20th, so safe planting everyone!

LARGE INVESTMENT PROPERTY | COUNTRY FARMHOUSE
 200+/- ACRES | 4 TRACTS | WILDLIFE | WOODS | PULASKI CO, IN

ONLINE at halderman.com

AUCTION

Monday, March 2nd, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET
OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, February 17 | 4pm - 6pm ET

PROPERTY LOCATION: 9697 W 600 S, Francesville, IN 47946

Josh Wagenbach: 219.863.0870 | **AJ Jordan:** 317.697.3086
Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

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 800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Doll Farm 5 LLC, HLS#JPW-13197

TILLABLE • HOME • WOODS • 98.37+/- ACRES • WAYNE CO, IN

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

ONLINE at halderman.com

PROPERTY LOCATION: 1656 N Symonds Creek Rd, Cambridge City, IN 47327 in Jackson Township, Wayne County.

Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592 | **Lauren Peacock:** 765.546.7359 | **Rusty Harmeyer:** 765.570.8118

TUESDAY
MARCH 3RD
4 PM - 6 PM ET

OPEN HOUSES:
 FEB. 11TH | 4pm - 5pm
 AND
 FEB. 21ST | 12pm - 1pm

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 800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Additional information including photos and a drone flight are available at halderman.com HLS#CCP-13202

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Kenneth E. Stockton Estate Farm

PRODUCTIVE TILLABLE FARMLAND | **JASPER COUNTY UNION TOWNSHIP**

ONLINE at halderman.com

AUCTION

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM CT

PROPERTY LOCATION: 6 miles northwest of Rensselaer, IN on the west side of CR 650 W a half mile north of SR 14.

Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849 | **AJ Jordan:** 317.697.3086 | **Josh Wagenbach:** 219.863.0870

53.525+/- ACRES

52.35+/- Tillable
 1.175+/- Other

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 Seller: Merriman

Additional information including a drone flight are available at halderman.com

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ONLINE at halderman.com

AUCTION

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 4th
4 PM - 6 PM ET

PROPERTY LOCATION: 8 miles northeast of Lafayette, IN in Tippecanoe County (Tract 1); 5 miles northeast of Delphi, IN (Tract 2) and 3 miles west of Delphi, IN (Tract 3) in Carroll County.

AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 | **Larry Jordan:** 765.473.5849 | **John Bechman:** 765.404.0396
Emma Barr: 260.494.0992 | **Brandon Stroble:** 765.499.1170

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 800.424.2324 | halderman.com

Additional information including photos and a drone flight are available at halderman.com

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: Mary Fisher Estate

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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

PULASKI CO, IN: MARCH 2 (ONLINE) 200+/- Acres • 4 Tracts
Large Investment Property • Farmhouse • Wildlife Contact: Josh Wagenbach: 219.863.0870, AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 or Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849

WAYNE CO, IN: MARCH 3 (ABSOLUTE - ONLINE) • 2 Tracts
98.37+/- Acres • Tillable Cropland • Home • Woods Contact: Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592, Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359 or Rusty Harmeyer: 765.570.8118

TIPPECANOE & CARROLL CO, IN: MARCH 4 (ONLINE)
266.399+/- Acres • 3 Tracts • High Quality Farmland
 Contact: AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086, Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849, John Bechman: 765.404.0396, Emma Barr: 260.494.0992 or Brandon Stroble: 765.499.1170

SWITZERLAND CO, IN: MARCH 12 (ONLINE) 143.36+/- Acres
4 Tracts • Riverfront Property • Productive Farmland • Woods
Potential Building Sites • Recreational Opportunities Contact: Tyler Reiger: 812.614.8034, Dave Bonnell: 812.343.4313 or Michael Bonnell: 812.343.6036

JASPER CO, IN: MARCH 16 (ONLINE) 53.525+/- Acres
Productive Tillable Farmland Contact: Larry Jordan: 765.473.5849, AJ Jordan: 317.697.3086 or Josh Wagenbach: 219.863.0870

PRIVATE SALES

CLINTON CO, IN: 20+/- Acres • Potential Building Site
Attractive Farmland Contact: Jim Clark: 317.627.6928 or Sam Clark: 317.442.0251

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HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, IL Lic. #417.013288 MI Lic. #6505264076. AUCTIONEER: RUSSELL D. HARMAYER, IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, IL Auct. Lic. #441.002337 & OH Auct. Lic. #2001014575

Appraisal | Real Estate | Farm Management | Auction | Farm Investment

Metzger Auction Calendar

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LOCATED AT: 307 S. MAIN STREET, SIDNEY, IN

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MARCH 12, 2026
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Auction Manager: John Burnau - 574-376-5340

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Restaurant - SS Lillypad II Houseboat - Parking Lot

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March 11, 2026
Syracuse, IN 46567

BidMetzger.com

Tim Pitts
AUCTION MANAGER
317.714.0432

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FOREST TWP. CLINTON CO., IN MONROE & HARRISON TWPS., HOWARD CO., IN

Thursday, February 12th at 6:30pm

AUCTION LOCATION:
Jeff Stout Community Center
650 N. West Street
Russiaville, Indiana

BidMetzger.com

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- Brent Ruckman, Larwill, IN 260-609-2155
- Dustin Dillon, Warsaw, I N574-265-9215
- Dodie Lambright Hart, Howe 260-463-1717
- Tony Key, Logansport, IN 574-721-6966



Congratulations

2025 Yield Contest Winners

Seed Genetics Direct 2025 Corn Yield Contest Winners

FIRST--James Jacobs--Bloomington, Ohio

AGI-C-4111PWE 323.36 BU/ AC. NCGA NO-TILL 3rd OHIO
 AGI-C-6112PWE 304.07 BU/AC. NCGA NO-TILL 5th OHIO

SECOND--Don Jackson--Camden, Ohio

AGI-C-6112PWE 297.06 BU/AC. NCGA STRIP-TILL, MIN. TILL 8th OHIO

THIRD--Hartsock Farms/Tim & Tom--Circleville, Ohio

AGI-C-3114PWE 257.79 BU/AC. NCGA STRIP-TILL, MIN. TILL. IRRIGATED 5th OHIO

Seed Genetics Direct 2025 Soybean Yield Contest Winners

FIRST--Wenning Farms Inc.--Greensburg, Indiana

ET-4738E3 102.54 BU/AC. 1st

SECOND--Kannon Jones--Greensfork, Indiana

ET-4736E3 99.66 BU/AC 2nd

THIRD--Bruce Stephens/85:10 Farms--Columbus Grove, Ohio

ET-3731E3 90.89 BU/AC. 3rd



Seed Genetics
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