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## Look at field residue as treasure rather than as trash to get rid of

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

URBANA, Ill. — A March 12 webinar forum offered by the University of Illinois Extension examined methods to maximize the value of field residue, or convert “trash” into “treasure.” Though residue can present issues at planting time and is often regarded as “trash” by farmers, U of I researchers including Dr. Connor Sible and Crop Physiology Lab masters student Ava Isaacs have been studying the nutritional value residue can offer to a subsequent crop and its ability to maintain healthy soils year after year.

“There has been a consumer shift away from chemical-based systems to sustainable or regenerative agriculture-based systems, and with that residue is a really big topic,” said Isaacs, who will complete her masters later this year. She added that residue is enjoying a higher level of discussion lately because of increases due to wider use of cover crops and enhanced yields.

“As grain yield goes up, so does our stover biomass. For every bushel of corn increase, there are 44 more pounds of residue. If you are increasing your yield by 20 bushels an acre, that’s 880 pounds of residue that you’re adding back into the field. At 180 bushels per acre, you’re looking at around four tons per acre of residue in your field,” Isaacs explained, adding that while some farmers see residue as trash, savvy ones regard it as treasure.

“Too much residue can be a problem at planting, but there are a lot of nutrients tied up in corn residue. For nitrogen, for every one ton of residue there is 20 pounds of N. So if we are looking at a 230 bushel per acre corn crop there is around 5.5 tons of resi-

due per acre, around 108 pounds of N per acre and 21 pounds of phosphorus. For potassium, it’s 122 pounds per acre,” she said.

“This (corn residue) is treasure, but as when you often find treasure, there is usually a lock on it. You have to find the key to unlock the treasure, and residue is the same way. I like to think of it as a big machine, and to unlock the value of your residue there are three speeds or gears, and the first one is to Convert,” said Isaacs.

She explained how the Conversion gear involves residue degradation, specifically the encouragement of such. The second gear involves the Capture of the nutrient value of the residue degradation, and the third gear Creates plant growth and higher yields.

Adding fall fertility to residue can encourage microbes to accelerate degradation, according to Isaacs. Microbes prefer a C-N (carbon-nitrogen) ratio of 24-1, with anything above that ratio shown to induce N immobilization. If there is not enough N within residues microbes will pull it from the soil, creating deficiency issues.

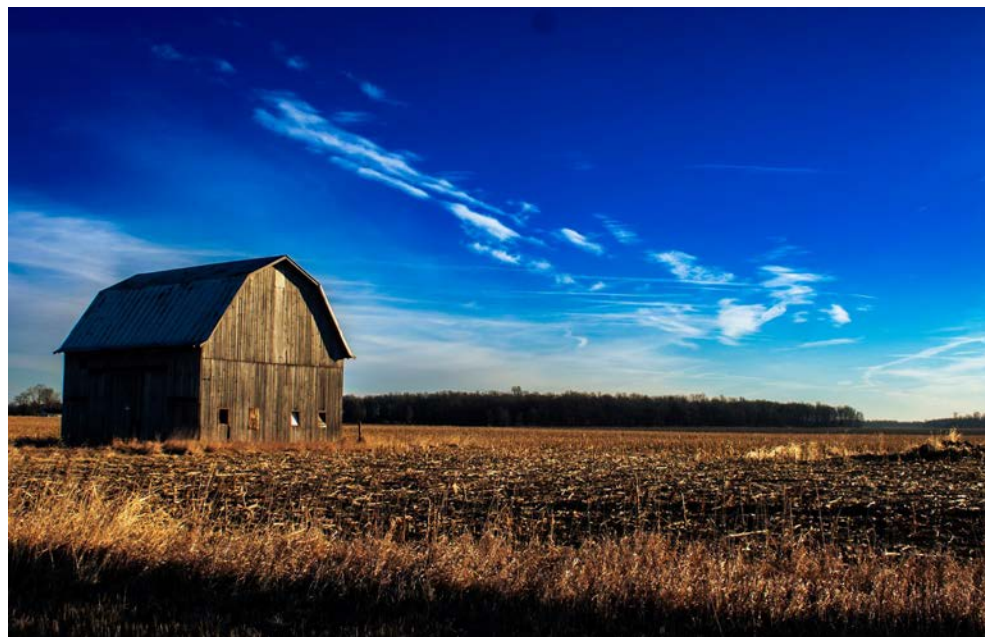
Studies conducted by the U of I over multiple years have confirmed that additional fertility—specifically Ammonium sulfate (AMS)—enhances degradation and improves residue. Studies have shown that mechanical slicing of the residue from tillage will also help facilitate degradation and improve residue. The result has been higher corn yields in studies conducted by the Crop Physiology Lab team.

“Regardless of the system whether it’s standard or chopped residue, with the addition of AMS we are seeing a yield increase, especially in no-till where we are dealing with more corn residue,” Isaacs said.

A third method of enhancing decomposition involves the use of biologicals, which the U of I team is currently studying more closely. “There is a big boom in the market of biologicals, which can be split into two groups: beneficial microbes and biostimulants. We have focused on the living beneficial microbes and how we can add on these biologicals with levels of fertility or other levels of management,” she added.

The team’s studies continue to focus on all three methods of increasing the nutritional value of crop residue, according to Sible, who is in his tenth year working with Dr. Fred Below in the U of I Crop Physiology Department.

(See **Trash** on page 2)



**Above:** Keri Bailey sent in this photo of a barn in Jay County, Ind. If you have farm photos you want to share with readers, email them to [connie@farmworldonline.com](mailto:connie@farmworldonline.com)

## Kentucky farm wins prestigious environmental stewardship award

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**  
Iowa Correspondent

LAWRENCEBURG, Ky. — When Mike and Tammy Wilson purchased 75 acres in January 1999, they literally had to start from scratch because the worn-out farmland hadn’t been touched since 1971, according to this Lawrenceburg couple.

“I got the farm at a very reasonable price, which made it worthwhile for me to come in here and clean it up, and turn it back into a working farm,” Mike said in an interview last year with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA). “Anderson County has some good flat cropland. Then it has some hilly land kind of like what we’ve got here. But you’re not going to crop this land. So, I mean it’s either cows, or just let it grow up.”

On the front of it, he said he has Indian Creek that runs through it: “And on the back of my farm, I have Hammond’s Creek where it runs into Salt River, and I’m trying to keep those creeks as clean as I can. So, the big thing is not to overgraze when you put (cattle) in the field.”

He said he’s always looking for new ways to make the farm — known as Whispering Hills Farm in Lawrenceburg — profitable and sustainable for future generations: “I got one young son now. That’s his dream. I like to see it pass on and keep going. I’m grateful for what I’ve got.”

“I’m grateful for what I’ve managed to accomplish, getting it cleaned up,” he added. “But it took a lot of sweat and blood to get it to where it’s at now.

But I can look back on my accomplishments, and I’m very satisfied with my results. It’s just a joy.”

He told Farm World, “We named our farm Whispering Hills because it has a lot of rolling hills, and there is often a breeze blowing through the hills like a whisper.”

The Wilsons were among the 2025 regional honorees at CattleCon 2026, Feb. 3-5, in Nashville, Tenn. They were selected as NCBA’s Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) Region 1 winner.

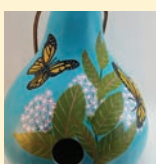

Established in 1991, ESAP celebrates outstanding land stewards in the cattle industry. ESAP sponsors include the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Corteva Agriscience, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, partnering with NCBA to promote environmental stewardship throughout the beef supply chain.

“Mike Wilson has worked with numerous federal, state and local government conservation agencies for the last two decades, allowing him to gain new insight on an array of techniques related to cattle farming, silviculture and wildlife habitat,” said Brandon Jacobs, NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program state manager.

Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet diverse needs like timber production, wildlife habitat, and conservation, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

“The meetings, training and field days Mr. Wilson has hosted or attend-

(See **Farm wins** on page 2)

<b>In this Farm World:</b>	
	
<b>Kentucky farmers take former tobacco ground and plant gourds. . . . . Page 1B</b>	<b>All things John Deere are displayed in Kevin McMath’s Man Cave . . . . . Page 14B</b>





**Above:** Mike and Tammy Wilson (pictured center) of Whispering Hills Farm in Lawrenceburg, Ky., were among the 2025 regional honorees at CattleCon 2026, Feb. 3-5, in Nashville, Tenn. They were selected as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Award Program Region 1 winner. (courtesy of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

## Farm wins

FROM PAGE 1

ed are far too many to count, but one thing is for certain: the impact his family has within the local community is inspiring," Jacobs added. "It resonates and makes a significant impact on those aspiring to be better stewards of the land."

Wilson told Farm World all their children have been involved with helping on the farm at some point. "Currently, our son-in-law helps occasionally, and we have a 15-year-old that helps frequently," he said. "We are a cow and calf operation. We have a Simmental and Angus cross herd. We also sell freezer beef and bred heifers. We grow hay for ourselves and sell some of it."

In July 2025, he was named a finalist for the Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year award. Whispering Hills Farm won the 2024 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award at

the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Convention, receiving \$10,000 for being selected. The award honors farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners who go above and beyond in the management of soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat on working land.

Wilson said, "As we face limited resources and a growing population, it is only going to become more important for our industry to adapt and innovate. As a farmer, it is my job to take care of the land, and if I take care of it, it will take care of us."

He told Farm World they are honored to win the award and be recognized for their dedication: "We plan to share what we have learned with others," adding, "I would advise new farmers to get in touch with other conservation specialists and to network with other farmers so they can gain knowledge about what works best. Also, becoming active with their local cattlemen's association is helpful."

## Trash

FROM PAGE 1

first as a student and now as a faculty member. "We're looking at the options we have in agronomic management solutions for residue, and it's really

the mechanical, the chemical and the biological. How we then integrate that into useful systems that can benefit is where we will transition now," he said.

The entire March 9 webinar, "Maximize the Value of Your Residue," will be archived at <https://farmdoc.illinois.edu/webinars>.

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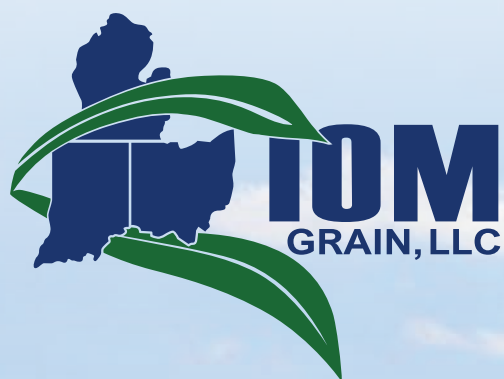
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# Ohio State's Fayette County Extension office hosted ag practices training session

By Mike Tanchevski  
Ohio Correspondent

FAYETTE COUNTY, Ohio – The Ohio State University Fayette County Extension office continued its commitment to local agriculture in February by hosting a Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) training session. The introductory course provided 12 local producers with essential tools to ensure the safety of fresh produce through risk assessment, standardized procedures and meticulous record-keeping.

Ken Ford, agriculture and natural resources educator with the Extension office, noted that the training was specifically tailored for small-scale growers who frequent local markets. "We provided the introductory course to local producers who bring items to the Fayette County Farmers' Market," he said. "Topics include hand washing, care when harvesting your product, and things you do to make sure that product gets to the final consumer without any issues."

While federal and state technical support for full certification has shifted due to budget changes, the curriculum remains vital. Participants received a certificate of attendance to display at their market booths, providing a visible signal of safety to consumers.

Beyond local stalls, GAPs training is becoming an increasingly required step for broader market access. "The original intent of that certification was to open up other opportunities," Ford explained. "We have several markets that market produce through an auction, and some of those require a GAPs training certification before participants can sell."

Jennifer Eggleton, family consumer sciences and community development educator in the Extension office, and course participant, observed that the drive for more mindful practices is growing within the community. "There's a real push to be more mindful of the practices they're using and the food they're bringing to the market," she said.

A major focus of the three-hour session was identifying risks that might be overlooked, particularly those re-



**Above:** Presenters Ashley Kulhanek, agriculture and natural resources educator, Medina County, and Beth Scheckelhoff, agriculture and natural resources educator, Putnam County, used volunteers to demonstrate the hand-washing exercise with glow germ. GAPs Training Picture.jpg

lated to water quality. "One area they spend a lot of time on is water and testing water," Ford said. "That could contaminate your fruit or vegetables just by washing them with water that's not good."

Eggleton said that this was an "aha moment" for many, including a representative from the local YMCA who manages a children's learning garden. Other key takeaways included the effectiveness of proper hand washing – demonstrated through a "Glow Germ" exercise – and the complexities of chemical management.

"The big takeaway was that they are producing a product going straight to the consumer, so they're responsible for the well-being of that product," Ford said. "There's not a middleman in most of these situations."

Ashley Kulhanek, agriculture and natural resources educator in Medina County, and Beth Scheckelhoff, agriculture and natural resources educator in Putnam County, presented the free training.

To implement GAPs effectively, Fayette County Extension relies on a curriculum titled Good Agricultural Practices to Ensure Fresh Produce Safety, developed by Ohio State University Extension.

The guide outlines six fundamentals of produce safety that growers must manage.

Food safety begins even before seeds are planted. Through Land Use and Environmental Risk Assessments,

farmers use property maps and logs to scout for potential hazards – like runoff from nearby livestock or faulty septic systems – to ensure the ground itself is fit for production.

Once the growing season is underway, the focus shifts to Water Management. Because water can easily carry pathogens, the guide requires regular microbial testing for E. coli and detailed inspections of both the water source and the distribution lines. This vigilance continues after the harvest. For growers who wash or cool their produce, specialized logs track pH and sanitizer levels to ensure that the water acts as a safety barrier rather than a source of cross-contamination.

Sanitation and Soil Management provide the next line of defense. The training introduces a rigorous four-step cleaning process – pre-rinse, scrub, rinse and sanitize – for every surface that comes into contact with food. For those using soil amendments like manure, compost logs are vital to verify that the material reached the high internal temperatures (131°F-170°F) necessary to kill off harmful bacteria.

Under Wildlife and Pest Control protocols, workers are trained to scout for animal tracks or feces. If evidence of an animal is found, a strict five-foot "no-harvest" buffer zone is established around the area. Inside the packing-house, pest control logs ensure that exclusion methods are effective in keeping rodents and birds away from the final product.

The Human Element is the most critical factor. Since people are the most likely source of contamination, the program emphasizes documented 20-30 second handwashing protocols and strict "no-work" policies for anyone feeling sick. These rules apply to everyone; even visitors must sign in and follow hygiene policies before entering the field.

Finally, the entire safety program is tied together by Traceability. Using a "One Step Forward, One Step Back" philosophy, every crate of produce is assigned a unique lot number. This allows a grower to track a specific item from the field it was grown in, all the way to the final buyer. To prove the system works, producers conduct "mock recalls," ensuring they can quickly and accurately account for their product in the event of an emergency.

Eggleton sees the value of the training for both current and future producers. "It's going to be a benefit for those who took the course to display that certificate," she said. "That can lead to a conversation about what this GAPs training actually means. They can explain that they've gone through the course and are more mindful of the practices they're using. Hopefully, that leads to more courses with our office and encourages other producers to be more mindful of their own practices as well."

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40x100x21	13x13 door
40x120x21	13x13 door
50x80x23	18x16 door
50x100x23	18x16 door
50x120x23	18x16 door
50x200x23	18x16 door
60x80x25	18x16 door
60x100x25	18x16 door
60x120x25	18x16 door
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# MARKETS

## Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 3/9/2026 - Final  
AUCTION

	This Week	Last Reported 3/2/2026	Last Year
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	883	1,342	1,240
<b>Feeder Cattle:</b>	772(87.4%)	1,140(84.9%)	1,045(84.3%)
<b>Slaughter Cattle:</b>	96(10.9%)	124(9.2%)	176(14.2%)
<b>Replacement Cattle:</b>	15(1.7%)	78(5.8%)	19(1.5%)

Compared to last Monday the feeder market was spotty and mixed with a plainer than average quality offering. Feeder steers 350 lbs and under were steady to 5.00 higher, while the 400-600 lbs steers were steady to 5.00 lower or greater in spots with a good supply and mixed demand. Yearling steers were 3.00 to 5.00 lower with a moderate supply and moderate demand. Feeder heifers 600 lbs and under were mostly steady to 5.00 lower or greater in a few spots with a good supply and spotty demand. Buyers were active today and willing to pay premiums for quality cattle, however a softer and spotty undertone was noted. Slaughter cows were 1.00 to 3.00 lower with a good supply and slaughter bulls were steady to 2.00 higher with good demand. Supply included: 87% Feeder Cattle (45% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 40% Heifers, 14% Bulls); 11% Slaughter Cattle (1% Steers, 84% Cows, 15% Bulls); 2% Replacement Cattle (10% Stock Cows, 40% Bred Cows, 30% Bred Heifers, 20% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 38%.

Groups of 20 Head or More

STEERS		HEIFERS	
27 Hd Black/FEWCHR	875 lbs 321.00	24 Hd Black/1CHR	371 lbs 545.00
58 Hd Black/BWF	902 lbs 327.75		

### FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	272	272	630.00	630.00
13	283	283	705.00	705.00 Fancy
2	315-345	330	542.50-580.00	560.40
17	320-349	344	620.00-640.00	623.28 Fancy
1	395	395	505.00	505.00
6	381	381	575.00	575.00 Fancy
5	410-440	433	487.00-500.00	495.97
21	418-440	419	515.00-525.00	516.08 Fancy
21	450-492	482	482.00-497.50	489.73
2	465	465	527.50	527.50 Fancy
14	515-548	538	430.00-455.00	437.20
14	551-598	587	407.50-432.00	417.26
2	585	585	440.00	440.00 Value Added
10	610-646	627	377.50-395.00	387.09
6	607-620	611	412.50-422.50	419.12 Value Added
9	655-692	674	361.00-393.00	378.34
7	730-732	731	350.00-372.50	363.86
17	753-777	767	342.50-359.00	355.07
6	809-835	813	320.00-330.00	328.29
3	816	816	289.00	289.00 Fleshy
28	875	875	320.00-321.00	320.96
7	905-922	919	303.00-310.00	306.13
58	902	902	327.75	327.75 Value Added
2	1057	1057	280.00	280.00
1	1110	1110	270.00	270.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	360	360	465.00	465.00
1	470	470	450.00	450.00
1	520	520	417.50	417.50
1	575	575	385.00	385.00
2	670-675	673	350.00-355.00	352.49
2	745	745	344.00	344.00
2	760-785	773	307.50-322.50	314.88
3	851	851	300.00	300.00

#### STEERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	600	600	342.50	342.50

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	850	850	227.50	227.50

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	215	215	495.00-515.00	505.00
8	220-235	228	695.00-700.00	697.42 Fancy
11	289	289	605.00	605.00 Fancy
1	345	345	475.00	475.00
4	300-330	319	517.50-540.00	527.45 Fancy
2	305	305	570.00	570.00 Thin Fleshed
4	355-375	364	462.50-487.50	475.99
24	371	371	545.00	545.00 Fancy
35	405-445	426	450.00-475.00	460.71
4	410-432	421	480.00-487.50	483.65 Fancy
33	460-495	482	420.00-449.00	434.10
7	450-461	456	455.00-470.00	461.86 Fancy
9	500-540	523	375.00-391.00	384.72
15	505-545	524	407.50-422.50	414.74 Value Added
17	575-598	588	373.00-391.00	385.64
4	563-580	567	400.00-405.00	403.72 Guaranteed Open
6	625-635	629	345.00-370.00	354.15
4	605-611	610	382.00-389.00	387.26 Guaranteed Open
3	657-670	661	320.00-340.00	333.25
1	655	655	280.00	280.00 Fleshy
11	678-690	685	350.00-357.50	354.12 Guaranteed Open
15	705-743	718	313.00-327.00	321.91
2	805-840	823	304.00-320.00	312.17
3	823	823	265.00	265.00 Fleshy
3	885	885	305.00	305.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	175	175	405.00	405.00
2	305-315	310	430.00-435.00	432.54
2	395	395	437.00	437.00
1	485	485	410.00	410.00
4	515-535	530	347.50-365.00	351.75
4	590-591	591	347.50-360.00	350.62
4	605-610	606	339.00-340.00	339.25
2	685	685	290.00-303.00	296.50

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	465	465	350.00	350.00
1	560	560	250.00	250.00
1	630	630	265.00	265.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	645	645	300.00	300.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	340	340	560.00	560.00
3	300-320	310	600.00-620.00	609.89 Fancy
7	365-395	383	500.00-540.00	523.00
9	421-440	430	475.00-492.50	483.84
2	405-420	413	505.00-510.00	507.45 Fancy
7	475	475	465.00	465.00
4	451-470	456	495.00-497.50	495.64 Fancy
5	520-530	526	400.00-441.00	424.27
8	507-528	518	457.50-465.00	461.33 Fancy
8	568-583	575	415.00-420.00	417.78
1	645	645	367.50	367.50
3	612-635	620	409.00-410.00	409.66 Fancy
2	660	660	370.00	370.00
3	715	715	365.00	365.00 Fancy
3	765	765	331.00	331.00
1	815	815	322.50	322.50
1	990	990	290.00	290.00
2	965	965	200.00	200.00 Fleshy
5	1024	1024	297.00	297.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1200	200	490.00	490.00	
2	410-415	413	430.00-450.00	440.06
1	465	465	442.50	442.50
1	510	510	382.50	382.50
1	585	585	373.00	373.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2410-415	413	317.50-330.00	323.79	
1	470	470	350.00	350.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	495	495	432.50	432.50
2	672	672	330.00	330.00

### SLAUGHTER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1400	1400	232.00	232.00	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	1455-1790	1599	152.00-165.00	158.50	Average
6	1405-1805	1592	177.00-181.00	179.02	High

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
131115-17251323	155.00-168.00	162.37		Average	
6	1250-1490	1335	173.00-182.00	175.51	High
3	1160-1690	1340	142.00-153.00	147.28	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
14	795-1350	1080	136.00-150.00	143.81	Average
9	900-1205	1072	154.00-163.00	157.73	High
7	785-1200	909	107.50-125.00	117.50	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	2090	2090	218.00	218.00	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
3	1495-2110	1770	187.00-196.00	191.88	Average
4	1885-2010	1963	206.00-209.00	207.49	High
3	1035-1520	1287	170.00-177.00	174.10	Low

### REPLACEMENT CATTLE

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	O	1	890	890	190.00	190.00

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>5	T2	2	1225-1465	1345	2800.00-3400.00	3073.23
>8	T3	2	1180-1230	1205	2000.00-2750.00	2367.22

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

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	T2	1	975	975	2550.00	2550.00
<2	T3	2	800-1055	928	2500.00-3300.00	2954.99

#### COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 2 w/ <150 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>5	O	1	1075	1075	2500.00	2500.00

#### COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>5	O	1	1140	1140	2800.00	2800.00

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

Explanatory Notes:  
Stage (Cattle) - Represents pregnancy stage (O = open; T1 = 1st Trimester, 1 to 3 months; T1-2 = 1st/2nd trimester, 1 to 6 months; T2 = 2nd Trimester, 4 to 6 months; T2-3 = 2nd/3rd Trimester, 4 to 9 months; T3 = 3rd Trimester, 7 to 9 months; T1-3 = all trimesters, 1 to 9 months)  
Age - Numerical representation of age in years.

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News  
KY Dept of Ag Market News Richard Midden  
Frankfort, KY | (502) 782-4138 | www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn  
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/  
https://mymarketnews.ams.usda

# MARKETS

## Weekly National Sheep Summary For Week Ending Friday, March 6, 2026

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week slaughter lambs traded 1.00 higher and slaughter ewes steady.

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

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3  
San Angelo: 70-80 lbs 415.00; 80-90 lbs 355.00-385.00.

New Holland: 40-50 lbs 440.00-475.00; 50-60 lbs 355.00-375.00; 60-70 lbs 380.00-485.00; 70-80 lbs 380.00-455.00; 80-90 lbs 350.00-425.00; 90-100 lbs 370.00-435.00; 100-110 lbs 340.00-420.00.

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 20.00-220.00.

Ft. Collins: 60-70 lbs 370.00-395.00; 70-80 lbs 345.00-390.00; 80-90 lbs 355.00-375.00; 90-100 lbs 355.00-365.00; 100-110 lbs 360.00-390.00; 120-130 lbs 252.50-287.50; 140-150 lbs 242.50-255.00; 160-200 lbs 177.50-230.00.

Kalona: No test.  
Equity Coop: No test.  
Sioux Falls: 70-80 lbs 365.00-395.00; 80-90 lbs 370.00-392.50; 90-100 lbs 355.00-382.50; 100-110 lbs 310.00-325.00; 110-120 lbs 300.00-330.00; 120-130 lbs 265.00-295.00; 130-140 lbs 247.00-266.00; 140-150 lbs 250.00-260.00; 150-160 lbs 238.00-257.50.

Buffalo, MO: No test.  
Missouri: No test.  
Arkansas: No test.  
Equity Coop: No test.  
Slaughter Ewes: Good 2-3:  
San Angelo: 144.00-190.00.  
New Holland: 100.00-185.00.

Billings: 100.00-170.00.  
Ft. Collins: 120.00-180.00.  
Kalona: No test.  
Equity Coop: No test.  
Sioux Falls: 100.00-165.00.  
Buffalo, MO: No test.  
Missouri: No test.

Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1:  
San Angelo: No test.  
Billings: 50-60 lbs 320.00-335.00; 70-80 lbs 310.00-315.00.  
Sioux Falls: 30-40 lbs 475.00-490.00; 40-50 lbs 465.00; 50-60 lbs 430.00-455.00; 60-70 lbs 385.00-395.00; 70-80 lbs 370.00.

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:  
San Angelo: No test.  
Billings: 2-6 SPR 200-230 lbs 380.00-430.00 per unit.

Ft. Collins: No test.  
South Dakota: No test.  
Kalona: No test.  
Missouri: No test.  
Arkansas: No test.  
Sioux Falls: No test.  
Buffalo, MO: No test.

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 37,000 compared to 38,000 last week and 39,228 last year.

Source: USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News  
General inquiries, please call: (202) 720-1990  
[https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/sa\\_ls855.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/sa_ls855.txt)  
email: [mymarketnews@usda.gov](mailto:mymarketnews@usda.gov)

## Daily Livestock and Poultry Slaughter

Report For Thursday, March 12, 2026 - Final

Current Day Slaughter									
Thurs., Mar. 12, 2026	Week Ago	Year Ago	WTD	Prev Week	Last Year	2026	2025	YTD	% Change
Calves	1,000	1,000	401	4,000	4,000	1,956	24,542	28,099	-12.7%
Cattle	108,000	111,000	122,094	425,000	433,000	483,938	5,407,893	6,011,900	-10.1%
Hogs	492,000	491,000	483,232	1,968,000	1,944,000	1,945,619	25,615,102	25,984,925	-1.4%
Sheep	8,000	8,000	8,635	34,000	32,000	34,551	379,802	372,611	1.9%
Chicken (Young)	35,459,000	35,479,000	34,788,000	140,567,000	141,214,000	139,105,000	1,818,129,000	1,863,636,000	-2.4%

Previous Daily Slaughter									
Wed., Mar. 11, 2026	Week Ago	Year Ago	WTD	Prev Week	Last Year	2026	2025	YTD	% Change
Calves	1,000	1,000	532	3,000	3,000	1,555	23,542	27,698	-15.0%
Cattle	106,000	111,000	122,842	317,000	322,000	361,844	5,299,893	5,889,806	-10.0%
Hogs	496,000	494,000	488,426	1,476,000	1,453,000	1,462,387	25,123,102	25,501,693	-1.5%
Sheep	7,000	7,000	6,929	26,000	24,000	25,916	371,802	363,976	2.2%
Chicken (Young)	35,567,000	35,579,000	34,508,000	105,108,000	105,735,000	104,317,000	1,782,670,000	1,828,848,000	-2.5%

Previous Day Breakdown		
Wed., Mar. 11, 2026		
Cattle	Steers/Heifers ...	Cows/Bulls ...
	82,000	24,000

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

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\*please note that our market report is an overall average price-they are not always the highest and lowest price.

Small Animals	3/10/2026	Sheep	Cows
Chickens	\$3-\$20	Ewes	\$1.15-\$1.60
Bantys	\$6.00	40-60# Lambs	\$2.50-\$4.35
Ducks	\$6.50-\$25	61-80# Lambs	\$3.25-\$4.15
Pigeons	\$4.50-\$4.75	81-100# Lambs	\$2.50-\$4.00
Eggs	\$5.00-\$2.00		323
Rooster	\$1.50-\$20.00		
Turkey	\$40-\$60	Goats	
Peacock	\$225	Billys	\$140-\$510
Rabbits	\$4.50-\$12.00	Nannies	\$70-\$315
	1698	Kids	
			127

Veal Calves	Feeder Cattle Dairy and Beef	Feeder Pigs
Holstein (80# & UP)	200-500#	20-45#
Beef Cross (80# & UP)	501-800#	46-65#
344		25-\$70
		\$40-\$105
		92
		83

**MIDWAY Auction Barn**  
Market Report  
March 11th 2025 44th Auction  
This Report is the Actual High and Average Prices.

Hd. Ct.	High	Avg.	
Fat Hogs:	2	\$55	\$50
Sows:	N/A		
Boars:	N/A		
Feeder Pigs:	N/A		
Beef & X Veal #1:	30	\$1925	\$1726.67
Beef & X Veal #2:	14	\$1350.	\$865
Dairy Veal #1:	77	\$1850.	\$1449.29
Dairy Veal #2:	20	\$950	\$698.25
Jersey Cross:	4	\$850	\$481.25
Beef Fdrs 200#-550#	3	\$2.30	\$1.37
Beef Fdrs 551#-1000#	1	\$2.95	
Dairy Fdrs 200#-550#	19	\$3.00	\$1.75
Dairy Fdrs 551#-1000#	1		
Cull Cows #1:	1	\$1.55	
Cull Cows #2:	6	\$1.25	\$1.12
Fat Cattle Colored:	N/A		
Fat Cattle Holstein:	N/A		
Bulls:	1	\$1.70	
Cow/Calf Pair:	N/A		
Breed Cows Colored:	N/A		
Milk Cows Jersey:	1	\$1075	
Springers:	N/A		
Sheep Ram:	N/A		
Sheep Ewe:	1	\$1.10	\$1.10
Lamb 0-60:	N/A		
Lamb 61-85:	4	\$3.40	\$3.36
Lamb 86-100:	3	\$2.85	\$2.60
Goat Nannies:			
Goat Billys:	N/A		
Firewood:	2 loads	\$325	\$262.50
Total Hd Cnt:	187		

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Next Special Horse Sale March 6th 6 p.m

# War with Iran causing concerns for fertilizer pricing of urea

As expected, the March WAS-DE report contained very few changes to balance sheets. The U.S. corn carryout was left unchanged this month at 2.127 billion bu as no changes took place to either side of the ledger. This held the U.S. stocks to use on corn at 12.9 percent and average cash value at \$4.10 per bushel. We did see a slight increase to the global corn carryout estimate, going from 288.98 million metric tons to a current 292.75 mmt.



**MARKET ANALYSIS**  
By Karl Setzer

We did see a few changes to soybean demand numbers, but ending stocks still held steady. The USDA increased soybean crush by 5 million bu this month but also increased soybean imports an equal amount. This kept ending stocks at 350 mbu, an 8.2 percent stocks-to-use ratio. This held the average cash value estimate at \$10.20 per bushel. The world soybean carryover is now estimated at 125.31 mmt, a 200,000 mt reduction from February.

No changes were made to domestic wheat balance sheets this month either. This held ending stocks at 931 mbu, which is a 45.9 percent stocks to use. The USDA raised the average cash value of wheat to \$4.95, a 5-cent increase from February. The world wheat carryout came in 550,000 mt less than last month at 276.96 mmt.

Beef and pork balance sheets were also little changed this month. This year's beef production is now estimated at 25.81 billion pounds, a decrease of 110 million pounds from February. Beef exports are forecast at 2.4 billion pounds, down 30 million pounds from a month ago. Beef imports are projected at 5.675 billion pounds, a month-to-month increase of 100 million pounds. The average steer value is now estimated at \$242.00 a hundredweight, up \$1.75 from February.

Yearly pork production was left unchanged this month at 28.28 billion pounds. Pork exports were bumped up 50 million pounds to a total of 7.185 billion pounds. The average U.S. hog value was raised \$1.25 a hundredweight to \$70.25.

Several global trade deals are being made, and many of these exclude the United States. A top one is China announcing it will be suspending its 100 percent tariff on Canadian canola through the end of 2026. China and Canada have been in a trade war stemming from disputes over electronic vehicles. This led to China launching an anti-dumping investigation on Canada's canola, which

was now been resolved. Another trade deal is between Brazil and Mexico with Mexico agreeing to import Brazil's beef. Both are markets the U.S. had hoped to expand trade with itself.

A situation is developing in the U.S. beef industry that is elevating consumer costs. U.S. beef is currently grading at 89 percent or greater as choice. This is record high and is cutting into an already strained supply of select grade beef. Select cuts are what is usually used for ground beef, along with South American imports. These imports have been greatly impacted by tariffs, and while they are starting to resume, they are still not enough to satisfy demand. As a result, more choice or better beef is being ground, adding even more premium to an already inflated retail cost.

The question now is what impact this may have on the summer grilling season, especially with softer U.S. labor market and economic outlooks.

Changes are taking place in the Chinese hog industry that bear monitoring. The Chinese government has long stated it needed to streamline its hog industry and has forced feeders to cull their herds. Even with feeders making sizable reductions to hog herds, the country is still over-producing pork. China produced 15.7 million metric tons of pork in the 4th quarter of 2025, the highest volume since 2018. This caused pork values to drop 14.6 percent in December alone. China's consumers have started to add more beef to their diets, causing pork stocks to build even with a decline in hog numbers.

Stats Canada released its 2026 planting estimates with numbers differing from trade expectations. Stats is projecting total Canadian wheat acreage of 26.74 million acres, 300,000 more than the average trade guess, but below last year's 27.48 million acres. Canola acreage is estimated at 21.84 million, 500,000 fewer than the average guess. Stats is predicting a soybean crop of 5.89 million acres, up 1.9 percent from a year ago, and corn plantings are expected to increase by 1.7 percent to 3.85 million.

The U.S. acreage debate is becoming more of a market topic, especially following the start of the U.S./Iran war that is impacting fertilizer values. The main one is urea with values spiking over \$100.00 a ton following the conflict start. Urea is now nearly \$700 a ton at the U.S.

Gulf and making corn much less attractive for uncommitted acres. The price spread between corn and soybeans is also narrowing and is now at 2.34:1, down from 2.4:1. While this was not a significant shift, it is a trend that may continue and make soybeans even more attractive.

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# 300 participants attend Indiana Boer Goat Associations third annual GoatCon

LEBANON, Ind. — A sunny Saturday kicked off the third annual GoatCon Premier Education Event and Show weekend, Feb. 28-March 1, at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Ind. More than 300 goat enthusiasts participated.

Hosted by the Indiana Boer Goat Association (IBGA), GoatCon focused on providing a platform for education, discussion, and growth from the budding 4-Her to the seasoned producer of meat and dairy goats. Saturday's sessions included a full day of seminars, workshops, and roundtable discussions.

Mandy Horn, IBGA president, welcomed guests and shared the goals of the weekend. Jenna Lawler, Indiana FFA state reporter, engaged youth with a workshop titled Who is Holding the Lead, where she encouraged youth to focus on what they could impact and not what they cannot.

Other topics included stress management, feeding small ruminants, the impacts and management of gastrointestinal parasites in meat goats, and showmanship training in both Boer and Dairy goats.

The afternoon sessions included a breeder roundtable, and a session on interpreting laboratory results of three diseases affecting goats (CAE, Johnes, and CL). The day culminat-

ed with a workshop where attendees learned about semen collection in bucks as well as laparoscopic artificial insemination in does, and viewed a live demonstration of both techniques.

On Sunday, the 2026 IBGA Show Series kicked off with a commercial doe, buck, and concurrent ABGA breeding goat show. Compared to 2025, numbers nearly doubled, and more than 115 goats were exhibited by 68 youth and adults from 10 states. For a full listing of results, please visit the IBGA's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/indianaboergoatassociation](http://www.facebook.com/indianaboergoatassociation).

For more information on how to become involved with the IBGA, please reach out to [indianaboergoat@gmail.com](mailto:indianaboergoat@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page or website at [www.indianaboergoatclassic.org](http://www.indianaboergoatclassic.org).



**Above:** IBGA Youth Ambassadors lead a workshop focusing on showmanship skills to youth attendees. Youth were allowed to bring their own goats to the workshop to practice skills such as showing etiquette, how to properly set up your animal in the showing, and asked questions as they honed their skills.



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# Enticing high school seniors to consider agriculture fields

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

MORROW, Ohio – How to keep the kids down on the farm has long been a topic of discussion. Many children who grow up on farms leave after high school.

Businesses, schools and even farms have taken note of the dwindling number of students who choose not to remain on the farm and are taking action to alter the trend.

The Little Miami School District in Morrow has implemented a new agricultural pre-apprentice program (Panther Success Academy) that introduces students to careers in agriculture and encourages workforce development ahead of graduation. The program was approved by the state of Ohio and has been in place

at the school district this school year.

With the help and support of several partners, or ag-related businesses, students at Little Miami High School now have an opportunity to explore agricultural careers and opportunities, in addition to other industries available in the career experience pathway.

Dustin Goldie, Panther Success Academy educator, played a major part in the agricultural pre-apprenticeship's initial founding. Goldie owns Goldie Beef, a 21-acre farm that raises cattle and hay, corn and soybeans. He assumes a dual role in the community, a first-generation cattle farmer in southwest Ohio and a 23-year educator for the Little Miami School District.

In its first official school year, Goldie said the purpose of the pro-

gram was simple: introduce students to ag careers and help them find purpose. Currently, the program has 20 students.

"Agriculture brings us together," Goldie said. "There is an opportunity for every student to discover agriculture and find a purpose. I'm excited for the opportunities ahead for both students and partnering businesses."

Many partners have taken an interest in the agricultural pre-apprenticeship program at Little Miami High School, opening doors and opportunities for students to learn and work in agricultural settings:

- Buckley Brothers – with three locations and one not far from the high school – employs students and offers tours of its agriculture supply retail and grain storage facilities.

- Goldie Beef invites students to

learn about raising cattle on its farm. The farm features a cattle barn and four cattle pens. The farm grows corn, soybeans and hay, and sells grass and grain-fed, free-range beef.

- Southern Equine Services offers students tours of its equine facility, introducing students to equine therapy and careers in the equine business.

- Findlay Market near downtown Cincinnati teaches students about fresh produce and teaching them the farm-to-market philosophy and entrepreneurship.

- Cincinnati State Community College is the state-approved sponsor for Little Miami School District's agricultural pre-apprenticeship program, and Ohio State Apprenticeship Council operates Apprentice Ohio that provides oversight, support and registration for registered apprenticeship programs and apprentices in Ohio.

"Farming isn't just working outside or sitting in a tractor and growing row crops," Goldie said. "It's a diverse field especially in southwest Ohio where we have a mix of city and rural life, farmers, agricultural businesses, and a growing community that will continuously need workers for generations to come."

Goldie said that students receive a 12-point credential that allows them the alternative pathway to graduation.

"Ohio schools are now turning to workforce development and giving opportunities to students who prefer to opt out of testing and gain career experience instead," Goldie said.

Other organizations are working to get help for those high school seniors who have intentions of remaining on the farm upon graduation. For instance, the Miami County Farm Bureau in Ohio is accepting applications for First Harvest Grants, created for students who are choosing to remain on the farm after high school. The grant is designed to offset farm operation costs, such as fertilizer, equipment repairs, land rent and others. The First Harvest Grant encourages the next generation to remain involved in agriculture.



Above: Seniors at Little Miami High School in Morrow, Ohio, are introduced to agriculture through the school's program called Panther Success Academy. Through this program the students can explore trades in lieu of taking required end-of-course exams and state tests. (photo submitted)

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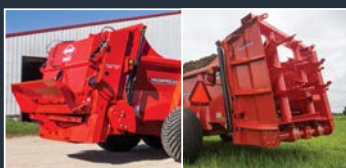
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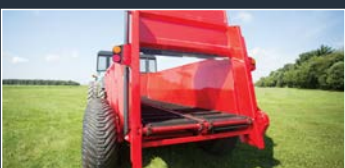
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# Farm productivity growth stagnating leading to loss of competitiveness

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill.— Stagnation in farm productivity growth, measured in total factor productivity (TFP), is contributing to a loss in international export competitiveness and putting excess pressure on U.S. farmland. This is according to economists who participated in a recent Farm Foundation forum, "Power Shifts and the Future of the Global Food System," which offered insights on the forces shaping global agricultural productivity.

"A decline in public research and development investment is leading to a stagnation in U.S. agricultural productivity growth," said Keith Fuglie, chief economist for the Food Security Leadership Council and senior fellow at the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy.

Jessica Agnew, director of the GAP Initiative at Virginia Tech University and associate director of CALS Global, agreed. "TFP looks at the changes in how efficiently our agricultural inputs, so land, labor materials, machinery and livestock — are transformed into output," she said. "What we have seen in TFP over the last several decades is a cooling in our development of innovation within our system, or our system-wide efficiency. In the early 2010s we saw robust growth that was matching pace with the target growth rate to sustainably meet the agricultural demands on our system.

"But what we've seen in the last decade is a cooling of TFP growth, which is telling us something about the innovation in our system. Either we are not keeping pace in technological innovation, or our farmers are unable to access those technologies. We've had to revise our target growth rate to make up for this shortfall we've been experiencing in the last decade."

While TFP in innovation must increase by two percent per year to meet efficiency goals, Agnew explained that U.S. TFP growth has registered a year-over-year average of 0.76 percent over the last 10 years. Annual average output growth from agriculture has slid correspondingly, according to data she shared that is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The dataset that we use was actually developed by Keith Fuglie and can be found on the USDA's Economic Research Service website. It measures total output from over 200 commodities, and (reflects) the decline in output growth," Agnew said. "We were averaging between 2.5 and 3 percent annual output growth in the early 2000s, and that has come down to under 2 percent. This actually has really important implications around food prices and food insecurity globally; import-dependent nations need us to continue a certain pace of output growth to ensure that food prices remain affordable."

Without output growth, Agnew said, you will see an increase in output prices. "That can be good for farmers, but can also be challenging for our global food markets," she said.

A recent and alarming trend is that U.S. agriculture output growth is being partially driven by input growth — in particular, through farmers paying more for fertilizer and seed. Where technological innovation historically served as the primary driver for output growth, it is now an equal split between TFP growth and input intensification.

"I will note that input intensification is not necessarily a bad thing or inherently unsustainable, but it can lead to practices that are unsustainable and contribute to certain types of environmental degradation. That is why we want to see input intensification come down and be able to

capture output growth from technological innovation within the agricultural system," Agnew said.

"TFP is a measure of technical change and efficiency improvement in how we produce food. This concerning trend (Agnew) identified is a slowing rate of growth of TFP at the global level,"

said Fuglie, who spent 25 years with USDA ERS, where he conducted research on the economics of technical change and science policy for agriculture. He also served as a senior economist for USAID and has consulted for the World Bank and FAO. "Output growth, too, has been falling."

Probable drivers behind sluggish TFP include barriers to the adoption of new innovations, environmental degradation including climate change and loss of soil and water, and biodiversity losses, according to Fuglie. "Especially this underinvestment in agricultural R&D (research and development) that is not keeping the pipeline of new innovations full, leading to current and emerging challenges," he added.

A major shift in worldwide agricultural R&D investment by higher-income nations has been noted since around 2010, when TFP began to stagnate, Fuglie continued. He noted that larger middle-income countries

such as China and Brazil have been increasing their R&D investment and are now spending more on agricultural R&D than higher-income countries. Meanwhile, lower-income countries with higher food insecurity have shown very little investment.

Mikayla Mooney, venture partner at Ag Startup Engine, which serves as a conduit between early stage ag startups and investors, said there has been less venture capital investment in U.S. agricultural R&D in recent years. "In the past couple of years we've seen venture capital pretty much walk away from ag-tech," said Mooney. "The reality is a little nuanced; in 2021 there was a plethora of capital available but over the last couple of years we've seen that decrease from \$51 billion down to \$16 billion. The number of new funds that are launching to support early ag-tech innovation has decreased from 49 down to 17, and overall only about one percent of all global venture capital actually goes into food and ag-tech. What I think we are seeing is that in today's market, capital is just getting more selective."

The Farm Foundation forum, "Power Shifts and the Future of the Global Food System," is archived for review at <https://www.farmfoundation.org/forums>.

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# Cotton leafroll dwarf virus has been lurking for two decades

By Hayley Lalchand  
Ohio Correspondent

Cotton leafroll dwarf virus (CLRDV) was officially detected in 2017 in Alabama, but new research finds that that virus has been lurking in the Cotton Belt since as early as 2006.

CLRDV has been detected in almost all states of the Cotton Belt, including Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, the Carolinas and Tennessee. While the virus hasn't led to widespread damage in the Cotton Belt, localized economic damage has occurred. One study estimated yield reduction of 560 kg/ha over 25 percent of Alabama's 2018 cotton acreage and a statewide farmgate income loss of \$19 million as reported by Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities Extension offices. In South America's commercial cotton industry, up to 80 percent yield loss has been observed due to CLRDV.

When Alejandro Olmedo-Velarde, assistant professor in plant pathology, entomology, and microbiology at Iowa State University, first began working with cotton and CLRDV something didn't quite add up, he said. Instead of seeing severe outbreaks everywhere, the virus was present in fields with mild or hard-to-detect symptoms. A pathogen may cause major problems in one region or be relatively mild in another, especially if it has been present in that region for a long time, Olmedo-Velarde explained, and crops and pathogens can slowly adapt to each other, with local varieties developing some level of tolerance to the virus even without intentionally breeding for it.

"At the time, most reports suggested CLRDV was a newly introduced virus from South America or elsewhere.

But when we looked closely at the genetic sequence of U.S. virus samples and compared them with those from South America, the data didn't clearly support a recent introduction. The U.S. strains looked distinct," he said. "That combination - mild or inconsistent symptoms in U.S. fields and genetic evidence that didn't match the 'recent introduction' story - motivated us to dig deeper and ask a simple but important question: Has this virus actually been here longer than we think?"

To answer this question, Olmedo-Velarde and a team of researchers began data mining, a technique that involves reanalyzing publicly available datasets to answer research questions. Over the past 15 to 20 years, thousands of plant samples have been genetically sequenced and uploaded into public databases that scientists around the world can access, Olmedo-Velarde explained. Through searching a database called Serratus, which scans RNA sequencing data and identifies viral signatures, and using a tool called BLAST, which helped to find matches of CLRDV in older plant samples, the team made their discovery.

"Using these approaches, we found strong genetic evidence of CLRDV in cotton samples from Mississippi in 2006, Louisiana in 2015, and California in 2018. In each case, we were able to recover partial to nearly complete virus genomes that closely matched modern U.S. isolates," Olmedo-Velarde said. "That told us it wasn't contamination or a random fragment - the virus was genuinely present in those plants years before its official report in 2017."

There are a few likely reasons why the virus went undetected for so

long, Olmedo-Velarde said. One reason is that plants infected with CLRDV don't consistently show obvious damage, making it difficult to know a new pathogen is present. Additionally, the symptoms of CLRDV overlap with other issues like nutrient stress, drought, and other known diseases, making it unlikely for growers to seek alternative explanations.

"There's also an interesting possibility involving a condition called bronze wilt, which was reported in parts of the South in the 1990s and 2000s. Bronze wilt has an unclear cause, but some of its symptoms overlap with those associated with CLRDV," he added. "It's possible that some cases we thought were something else may actually have involved the virus. That's still a hypothesis and would require further study to confirm."

Olmedo-Velarde said future research steps include studying aphid pressure, which is strongly influenced by weather patterns.

"(The) next step is not just documenting presence, but refining risk prediction. We want to better integrate virus monitoring with aphid surveillance and weather data so growers can anticipate higher-risk seasons rather than react after symp-

toms appear," he said. "We also need continued evaluation of cotton varieties under different environmental conditions to understand which ones perform better when virus pressure is high."

Other research includes long-term regional monitoring to determine if the virus is stabilizing in production systems or if new genetic variants emerge over time and developing improved diagnostic tools.

Overall, the takeaway for farmers is that CLRDV is not a brand-new threat, which suggests U.S. cotton varieties may already have tolerance and knowing the true timeline of the pathogen helps to better understand risk, leading to research and progress on long-term management and monitoring.



"(It) reminds us that not every emerging disease is actually 'new.' Sometimes we only recognize a problem once it reaches a tipping point, maybe due to weather patterns, aphid pressure, changes in varieties or other stress factors," Olmedo-Velarde said. "Understanding the history helps us avoid reacting purely out of alarm and instead respond with data-driven strategies."

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# Efforts continue to put pork back on menus of Chicago Public Schools

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - An Illinois House resolution sponsored by two state representatives urges the Chicago Public School (CPS) board to reconsider their years-long prohibition on pork products within the cafeteria menus of their 650-plus schools. The resolution, offered by the Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA), was filed by Illinois House Ag Committee Chairwoman Sonya Harper, a Democrat whose 6th District includes many schools within the CPS system.

"(Harper) is urging Chicago Public Schools to review their current policy," said IPPA Executive Director Jennifer Tirey, who updated IPPA's efforts to reunite pork with the CPS menu during the IPPA's annual meeting in Springfield on Feb. 17.

"The largest percentages of demographic groups in the CPS system are Latino, African American, white, Asian and multi-racial. Of those students the pork consumption for those households in the Chicagoland area is 79.6 percent Hispanic, 79.1 white and 75.8 percent African American. Those households already consume pork in their homes," Tirey told a large crowd of IPPA voting officers and other producers gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library.

"CPS serves over 350,000 meals per day and currently there is a ban on pork products for their breakfast and lunch program. Our association found out by accident around March of 2025 by sending out our cookbook to food service directors across the state of Illinois that pork is not offered on the CPS menu. The Cook County public foods director responded back

to (us) and said that unfortunately they cannot serve pork."

A similar resolution will soon be filed by State Sen. Celina Villanueva, a Democrat whose 12th District also includes schools within the CPS, according to Tirey.

The CPS policy prohibiting pork, which was pushed through during a sparsely attended online board meeting at the height of the pandemic, led IPPA to request and receive permission to consult directly with the nutritional director for the CPS system. To prepare, they brought in someone from the National Pork Board to consult with the IPPA team on how to approach the CPS, but IPPA's initial requests to restore pork to the school menu were rebuffed.

At that point, IPPA began turning to Freedom of Information Act requests to learn more about the genesis of the ban. Tirey learned that the ban went into effect in December 2020 during an "eight hour-long board meeting" and was voted on "in consent calendar" with only six board members remaining on a Zoom call.

"So, we have not found any documentation giving us the reason why this has happened. We started having meetings with Latino caucus members. We started talking with legislators. We started talking with CPS board members," she said. "I heard back from multiple CPS board members and none of them had any idea pork was banned."

Tirey's second application, which was copied by four other IPPA farm-

er-leaders to increase their odds of addressing the CPS board in person (there is an actual lottery), had yet to be granted at Farm World press time. She was, however, allowed to submit five pages of written testimony that is now public record. She also shared her comments individually with all current CPS board members.

IPPA plans to continue to push for pork on the CPS menu by working with a strategy team to reach out to CPS parents, the majority of which, Tirey believes, are likely not even aware pork was stricken from their child's school menu. "We're going to encourage them to speak to their CPS board members and ask them

why this protein is not available," she said. "This action is coming within the next three weeks."

In addition to the Chicago Public Schools issue, Tirey identified a number of other IPPA priorities for 2026. These priorities are detailed further in an IPPA impact report, "Advancing Pork, Supporting Producers, Feeding Communities," which examines 2025 growth and engagement and reaffirms IPPA's commitment to growing demand for Illinois pork. "Know that we are using your checkoff dollars and your non-checkoff dollars wisely," Tirey said. "You tell us what you need to succeed."



Above: Jennifer Tirey, executive director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, is leading the effort to restore pork to the menu of the Chicago Public School system, which has served over 350,000 pork-free meals per school day since around late 2020. (T. Alexander photo)

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# Researchers uncover more about invasive short-spined thrips

By Hayley Lalchand  
Ohio Correspondent

HOMESTEAD, Fla. - Short-spined thrips, an invasive insect species scientifically known as *Thrips parvispinus*, were first detected in Florida in 2020. Since then, the insect has been found in Georgia, the Carolinas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Texas, New York, and parts of Canada.

Short-spined thrips and other species of thrips are incredibly difficult to see with the naked eye at about 0.5 to 1.5 millimeters in length. They feed on a wide variety of plants including ornamental plants like hibiscus and jasmine and fruit and vegetable crops like peppers, beans, strawberries and eggplants. Adults and larvae cause damage by feeding on leaves and flowers; common signs and symptoms include silver scars on foliage, distorted or deformed plant growth, yellow or brown leaves, premature leaf drop, and scarring on fruits.

The damage that thrips cause is similar to damage caused by other pests which can lead to more severe infestations and economic loss. One South Florida farmer lost an entire pepper crop yield to thrips cost-

ing them \$1 million, said Alexandra Revynthi, assistant professor of ornamental entomology and acarology at the University of Florida.

"When we found (short-spined thrips) in Florida, we started working on research immediately in order to assist the ornamental industry which is very active and large in South Florida," she said. "It is a pest that you don't have the luxury to allow it to grow its population. It's a very aggressive pest that is very small. It lays its eggs inside the leaves (of a plant) so the eggs cannot even be seen with a hand lens or under a microscope. We only see the emergence of the larvae - and that's late."

In December, Revynthi and her research group published the first complete biological roadmap of the pest, discovering the biological traits that have allowed short-spined thrips to proliferate in Florida and beyond. One finding pertains to the pest's lifecycle - short-spined thrips pupate, or enter the transitional phase between larvae and adult, in the soil and emerge from the soil as adults.

"This information is very important because it tells us that if we want to break the cycle, we can of course

do so by treating the canopy and leaves, but we also have the opportunity to do so by treating the soil and preventing the insect from completing its lifecycle and emerging as an adult," Revynthi said.

Additionally, the researchers found that South Florida's climate is perfect for thrips, as the insect can complete its lifecycle in less than 13 days and reach peak reproduction rate at the region's average temperature of about 80 degrees. Short-spined thrips are unable to survive long periods of cold, suggesting that winter offers relief from the pest. The study also demonstrated that females can produce male offspring without mating, important for understanding how large populations can be established with only a few individual insects. Thrips also require live plants for survival.

Because of the small size of the pest, it can be difficult to monitor for it. Revynthi said a feasible method for monitoring involves taking a clipboard or other hard surface and adding a white piece of paper on top. Then, place the board with the paper beneath the plant leaves and gently hit the leaves on top of the paper. The

thrips will fall to the piece of paper, and it will be easy to see them. Sticky traps can also be deployed.

"You (won't) know which particular species you have - there are many species of thrips in the United States," she noted. "The next step will be to collect the species and send them for identification to an entomologist so that they can confirm the species and recommend the next steps."

Recommended pest management will depend on the size of the population of thrips and if one is close to harvest. Combining multiple management tools is recommended, Revynthi said. The current best identified management for thrips is chemical control, biological control, trapping and capturing, and pruning for ornamental plants.

"(Researchers) are still trying to make progress on the usual biological control, which is to use live organisms to mitigate the insect, but we are also looking at tolerant or resistant cultivars of peppers and other ornamentals," she added.

Producers are encouraged to monitor crops for outbreaks and implement integrated pest management if infestation occurs.

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## Early planting may be 'out the window' this year

Eric Snodgrass, of Nutrien Ag Solutions, said his current thinking is an "open" spring for April, May and June, with normal precipitation, although he also says

the spring rains may be of a "streaky nature." Another weather model he looks at shows a wet forecast in the 45-day time through about April 23. He mentioned last year's April and May were the windiest on record, and this year may follow suit.

Early planting (such as late March) looks like it may be "out the window" this year. The key is soil temperature and moisture. The worst thing is to start the year by planting into muddy and cold soils, even though the tractor has plenty of horsepower and flotation and the cab is nice and cozy. Some banks and lenders will "over lend" on planting equipment so it can be done in a timely manner. The NAU Country "early plant dates" for both corn and soybeans provide some good crop insurance guidance. Planting date is only one of several yield factors to achieve good yields. Tight budgets this year may also "rein in" trying something risky. This year may be

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

an excellent time to try something new, but on a limited basis. Former three-time soybean world record holder Kip Cullers wanted his "experimental" treatments near the

farmstead so he could keep an eye on things every day. The Ohio State 2025 eFields Report and Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Report for 2025 have many good ideas of things farmers can do on their own farm.

Protecting plants from frost may seem like a no-brainer but serves as a good reminder to watch the forecast, even when planting cool tolerant vegetables. Most frost-hardy (below 28°F), early season crops can withstand freezing temperatures and a hard frost for short periods without injury. Frost tolerant vegetables can withstand a light frost of between 28° to 32°F. Tender vegetables are damaged by even a light frost and should be protected, such as by row covers, blankets, cold frames or mulch to keep the plants warmer. Remember that even if air temperatures are as high as 38°F, frosts may occur on the ground and plants.

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# Researchers study how a potential antibiotics ban would affect apple growers

By Hayley Lalchand  
Ohio Correspondent

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - What would happen if the U.S. placed a ban on streptomycin, a commonly used antibiotic for treating fire blight in apple and pear orchards?

Across the pond, the European Union has implemented strict bans on the use of streptomycin and oxytetracycline for the control of fire blight in pome fruit production. In November 2025, a group of organizations including public health and farm worker groups filed a legal petition with the U.S. EPA calling for the end of antibiotics being sprayed on food crops. These groups say that antibiotic use in food production can lead to superbug bacteria that are antibiotic resistant, impacting human health.

Researchers are curious about how such a ban would affect apple growers, although there are currently no restrictions on using antibiotics in fruit orchards in the U.S. A new study from researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign considered how growers respond to the uncertainty of a potential antibiotics ban. While the study presented a hypothetical scenario, Shadi Atallah, associate professor in the College of Agricultural, Consumer,

and Environmental Sciences at the university, said the study is not an esoteric exercise.

"You can think about how a new government comes in place and then says, 'We are going to ban herbicides.' This is what happened with the MAHA (Make America Healthy Again) movement," Attalah said. "That uncertainty is real for farmers...a government might signal that they want to do something and might even get close to doing it. We wanted to look at the extremes of what if a farmer listens or what if farmers don't listen (to news of a potential ban)? Who is worse off or better off?"

Khashi Ghorbani, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the university, and Attalah developed a dynamic model that evaluates growers' decisions regarding antibiotic use if a ban looms in the distance. Two types of growers were identified: a proactive grower, or one who takes the ban seriously and begins to make changes in their strategy, and the business-as-usual grower, or one who doesn't make changes in response to a potential ban.

Proactive growers are likely to increase application of antibiotics in response to a potential ban, a well-known story in economics called a green para-

dox, Ghorbani said. Growers will rush to apply more antibiotics to maximize their efficiency before the product is no longer available.

"What if the government fails (to enforce the ban)? We find that those proactive growers are now doing much worse because they have depleted the effectiveness of that management method and need to reach toward less effective management," Attalah said.

In the scenario where the government fails to enforce the ban, the business-as-usual grower will be better off as they continued to apply antibiotics at the optimal level, and the management practice still works for their crop. The study also found that growers of lower value apple varieties like Gala and Fuji are more vulnerable to policy uncertainty, while varieties like Honeycrisp are less affected.

Farmers can use this information politically. Attalah calls for farmers to use this research to talk to representatives and policymakers to show how "their flip-flopping is affecting farmer livelihoods in ways that are uneven." Politicians listen to farmers, and presenting this type of research could be used as a request for policymaking to be thoughtful, he added.

Ghorbani agreed, adding that deci-

sion making in the face of uncertainty is made more difficult for farmers when administrations cycle. For example, while banning certain management practices might be the priority of one administration, the next administration could come in and reverse those same bans. Clarifying the negative impacts for farmers might be something that resonates with policymakers, he said.

"The only solution is to have a situation where policy is science driven regardless of partisanship," Attalah said.

There are still steps farmers can take to be prepared in the face of the unknown.

"I'm a big fan of Extension workers and there's a good chance that Extension educators, specialists, and economists would talk about these issues and be transparent about the potential impacts. That's one good way to go about it - trying to make those connections as much as possible with the Extension offices of universities supporting those growers," Ghorbani said. "Be up to date with policy. It's tricky depending on which source you get your news, so try to find resources that bridge the gap between the news and farmers."

Collaborating with other farmers and participating in farmer-led science are also helpful, Attalah added.

# Beef expert: Argentinian beef won't impact prices

By TIM ALEXANDER  
Illinois Correspondent

FORT WORTH, Texas - The Trump administration's decision to import \$800 million of beef from Argentina will not only fail to affect prices consumers pay for beef, but the majority of the beef products will not even make it onto supermarket shelves. This insight is courtesy of Andrew Coppin, CEO of the farm and ranch water resource management company RanchBot Monitoring Solutions, who spoke to Farm World about recent trade deals affecting beef and the state of the livestock industry.

"Essentially what Trump did was allow an increase in the quota of beef trim; this is not steak, this is not cuts of beef that are going to compete with prime U.S. cuts. It's going to end up in grinding beef at McDonald's, Taco Bell or some other institution that is selling tons of ground beef products," said Coppin, adding that the 80,000 metric tons of Argentinian beef represents less than 1 percent of the U.S. beef supply (2024 production was estimated at nearly 27 million pounds). In addition to casting doubt on whether U.S. retail prices for

beef will decline, Coppin is not sure that the overall volume of U.S. beef will actually increase as a result of the purchase.

"By pricing it favorably and avoiding tariffs, the question is does (the deal with Argentina) really result in more beef coming in? Or, does it just result in a substitute? Do I import less beef from Brazil or Australia or some other market and just replace it with Argentinian beef that is cheaper?" he posed.

Though Coppin is not directly involved in the meat trading business, it is his understanding that as of late February, none of the beef purchased from Argentina had yet entered the U.S. beef supply. "No material change in the beef supply has been noted in the few weeks since the announcement, but it's very hard to see it doing anything to the price of beef at the retail level," he said.

If any of the Argentinian beef were to make it into U.S. supermarkets it would likely be blended with American ground beef, according to Coppin, who said the biggest issue driving up beef prices is continuing drought in the southwestern U.S. that has forced livestock producers to reduce herd sizes to their lowest level in eight years.

"I'm sitting here in Texas and it's currently 80 degrees in the middle of winter, and it's dry. Forty to 50 percent of the nation's grazing lands are grading toward drought. On that basis, will ranchers increase their herd sizes? That is a risk play and it's a higher risk if you're not sure about grass and feed," Coppin said.

In addition to environmental factors driving up the price of beef, recent trade developments ostensibly fashioned to increase beef exports may end up backfiring on the American consumer, according to Coppin. "The recent announcement about a trade deal exporting beef to Taiwan on favorable terms could take more beef out of the market in America if someone can sell their beef to Taiwan for a better price," he said. "When you've got a scarce product, this takes it out of the hands of the U.S. consumer. It's a bit of a conundrum; you want to be selling your product globally and expand your markets, but you're doing it at a time when supply is already constrained."

Adding in recent trade deals with Australia (where a trade ban on U.S. beef was lifted in 2025), Indonesia, Cambo-

dia and Malaysia involving U.S. beef exports, the net result could be more high-quality U.S. beef being shipped overseas. This would further deplete the domestic beef supply and could work to drive prices higher. "We've probably done more in the last month to reinforce a stronger beef price than we have to keep it in check," Coppin said, adding that increased labor costs and a shortage of packing capacity have also contributed to higher prices.

The RanchBot co-founder, who works with hundreds of beef cattle ranchers across the country, feels that current retail prices for beef products are representative of a "new normal" facing consumers when budgeting their grocery lists. "We've got a risk-adjusted product, and all assets value themselves around risk. To grow beef is a high-risk business, and right now risk and demand are both very high," he said. "I think beef is fairly priced; it's what the market is prepared to pay. We haven't seen a decline in beef consumption, in fact we've seen U.S. consumption continue to increase versus pork, chicken and other proteins. The market is ripe."

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**Above:** Indiana's largest round barn (shown) was designed by prolific architect and builder Benton Steele in 1903 in Dearborn County, Ind. The diameter of the barn is 102 feet. (photo submitted)



**Above:** This 68-foot-by-50-foot round barn can be found in Perry, Ohio. It was erected in 1932. (photo submitted)

# Round barns dwindling from rural landscapes

By **DOUG GRAVES**  
Ohio Correspondent

ROCHESTER, Ind. – The round barn is disappearing from the Midwest landscape.

Luckily, The Fulton County Historical Society (FCHS) in Indiana has established a National Round Barn Center of Information to collect information on round barns and help find ways to save them. In 1989, the Fulton County Round Barn Museum moved and restored a round barn built in 1924 and converted it into a museum, which commemorates the county's role in round barn history. The museum has horse-drawn farm equipment, buggies and covered wagons

from the early 1900s.

"If we don't save some of these barns, people won't know what all this historic architecture looked like," said Melinda Clinger, director of the Fulton County Museum in Rochester.

Clinger said Fulton County's round barns were built from 1900 to 1925, with the Kindig Construction Co. building 11 of the original 17. They varied in size, she said, with the largest measuring 70 feet in diameter. The Round Barn Museum is 60 feet in diameter with two stories.

Clinger said round barns became a popular alternative to the traditional

**(Round Barns continued on page 18)**



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# Round Barns

FROM PAGE 17

timber barn because they were "faster, easier and cheaper to build."

"You didn't have to go to a sawmill and have a 70-foot beam sawed," she said. "Most of the barns are made of one-inch-thick green lumber, or they could soak it in the creek to make it pliable and bend like they needed it to."

Round barns rose in popularity during the late 19th century, particularly in the Midwest. These barns were constructed primarily from 1889 to 1936.

The circular shape of the barns offered a greater volume-to-surface ratio, making them cheaper to construct and more resilient against prairie thunderstorms. The interior layout was promoted as more efficient, allowing farmers to work in a continuous direction.

Fewer than 1,400 round barns are estimated to have been built around the turn of the last century, mostly in the Midwest. George Washington had a 16-sided structure on his Mount Vernon estate, but it was New Yorker Elliot W. Stewart's octagonal barn built in 1874 that really started the wheels turning on round barns. Low cost for construction and larger interior volume were Stewart's reasons for going round.

Benton Steele, a well-known architect and builder, is credited with building the first round barn in Indiana in 1903. Steele didn't stop at the borders of the state, though, and helped build three round barns in Marshall County, Kan., in 1906, 1913 and 1914.

Round barns were used to stabilize dairy cattle, as their round design made it easier to feed livestock in the middle of the barn. The round barns had an influence on modern bar design. The modern-day grain silo took much of its inspiration from the round shape of traditional round barns.

Perhaps Indiana might be the round barn capital of the world. At one time Indiana was home to about 225 round barns, and Fulton County claimed 17 of those. Today, the state's number has dwindled to just under 100 barns, and

the county claims seven.

The height of the round barn building boom was 1910, when more round barns were built in Indiana than any other year. The last round barn built in Indiana was in 1936.

By the 1920s, round-barn construction had begun to decline. One reason is the mechanization of American agriculture was more suited to rectangular barn design.

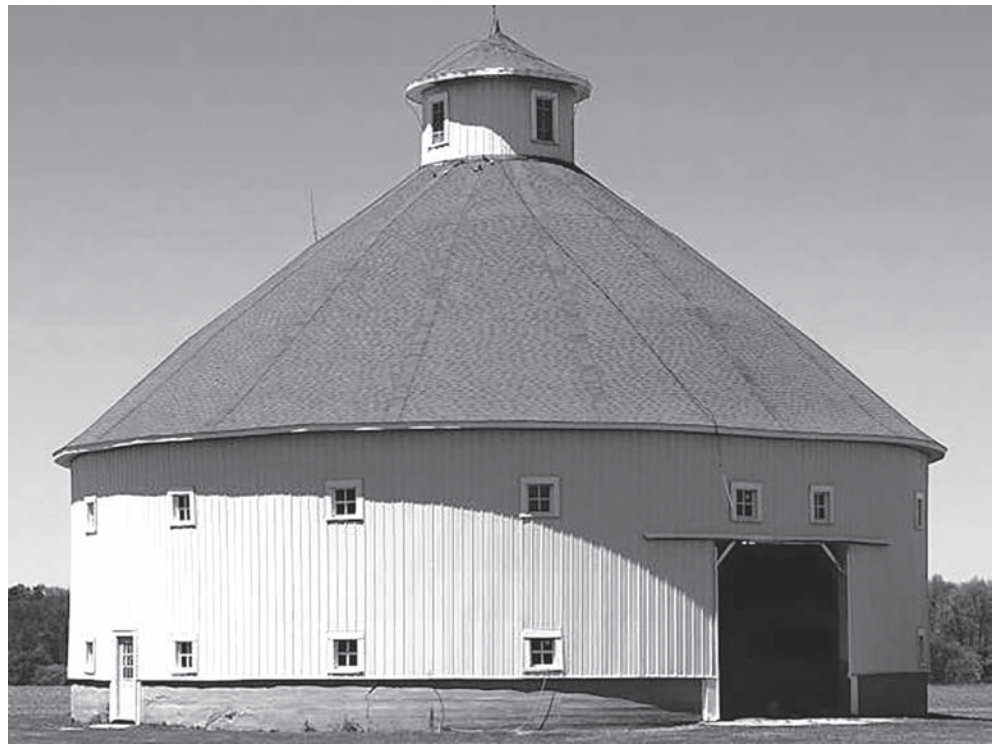
Round barns are an endangered species. Several are disappearing each year. They cost too much to repair and the big modern farm tractors and machinery won't fit through the doors. The neglected barns are succumbing to wind, weather and fire and many are being torn down.

Old round barns that do survive the wrecking ball have been turned into other purposes, such as theaters, restaurants, museums, club houses, antique shops and more.

Although no longer being built, the round and polygonal barns are of special interest and beauty. Many groups are working to preserve as many barns, both square and round, as possible. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Successful Farming magazine established the Barn Again! program. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana conducts regional workshops to help spread the word that old barns can have a new and useful life, both on the farm and off.



Above: The James Bruce round barn is in Freeport, Ill. It was built in 1914. (photo submitted)



Above: From Delaware County, Ind., is this 80-foot-by-75-foot round barn that was built in 1908. (photo submitted)

## Forestry camp for middle school students offered in West Tennessee

NASHVILLE - The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) is offering a free two-day forestry camp for middle school students in West Tennessee on April 1-2, 2026.

"One way to inspire young people to become the future caretakers of our state's forests is to provide immersive experiences to explore the world of forestry," State Forester Heather Slayton said. "Forestry camps are designed to spark interest in the trees, forests, water, wildlife and industry that are key to our lives but often taken for granted."

The camp includes visits to a working sawmill, a state forest, a timber harvest operation and a forest research site, giving students a firsthand look at Tennessee's ecosystems and forest industry.

Hands-on activities include exploring fire management using real tools

and equipment, a stream study focused on water quality and aquatic invertebrates, and a tree-planting exercise designed to teach students about types of forest regeneration.

The Wolf River Forestry Camp, led by TDF with the support of the Tennessee Forestry Association, will be at Wolf River State Forest and Ames Plantation, 4275 Buford Ellington Road, Grand Junction. There is no cost to attend and lunch is provided. Students from public, private and homeschool programs are welcome. School excuse notes are available upon request.

Download the application at <https://www.tnforestry.com/camps> and email completed forms to [forestry.camps@tn.gov](mailto:forestry.camps@tn.gov) by March 11. Contact Megan Carpenter at [forestry.camps@tn.gov](mailto:forestry.camps@tn.gov) with any questions.

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Antique Tractors	410	Goats	270	Rabbits	320
Augers	390	Grain Bins & Drying Equip.	480	Ratites	400
Buildings	50	Grinder-Mixers	550	Real Estate For Sale	160
Building Materials	200	Harvest Equipment	310	Real Estate Wanted	150
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Cars	60	Hay Equipment	530	Seed Handling Equip.	370
Cattle	210	Help Wanted	30	Services	180
Combines & Pickers-Headers	490	Horses	290	Sheep	260
Custom Work	120	Industrial Equipment	100	Skid Steer Loaders	420
Dairy Equipment	330	Irrigation	430	Swine	250
Dogs-Cats	280	Lawn & Garden	460	Tillage (Plows, Discs, Etc.)	510
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**Beware of text & phone solicitors. Don't be a victim.**

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

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

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

A scammer will often try to pressure you into making a quick decision and to pay up front.  
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SE Indiana F.A.R.M. Club's Swap Meet/Flea Market, Saturday, April 11, 8AM till 1PM. Ripley County Fairgrounds, Osgood Indiana. Admission \$5 per adult to "Browse & Buy" or "Set-up and Sell". Information at farmclubonline.com or 812-584-5153 F.A.R.M. Club's Antique Machinery Show is June 25-27.

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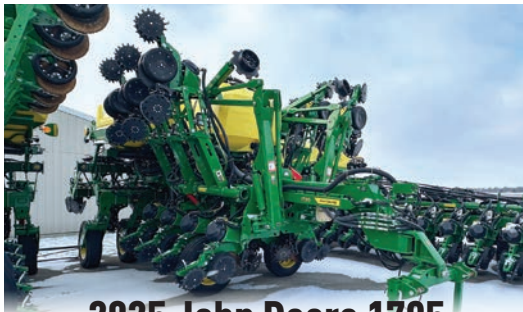
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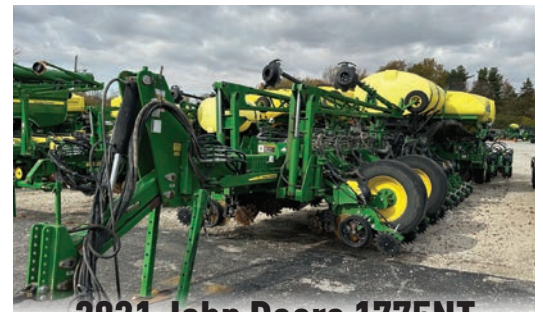
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## Kentucky farmer turns one-time tobacco plot into gourd patch

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

FALMOUTH, Ky. – Debbie Bowles' farm in Falmouth once thrived with beef cattle, hay and tobacco. But after Debbie and her husband took the Tobacco Buyout roughly 20 years ago, there was a void on the farm. What was once filled with big leafy tobacco leaves had become a vacant lot.



Above: Bottle gourds make great bird houses. (photo submitted)

Bowles and her family raised cattle, hay and tobacco for decades. During this time, Bowles was an elementary and junior high teacher while raising her children. Time for her was a precious commodity, but the absence of tobacco made life around the farm a tad easier.

A few years after the departure of tobacco, Bowles attended a craft show with one of her friends and spotted a crafted gourd. Suddenly, the creative light bulb went off in her head. Bowles got busy and planted gourds. Hundreds of gourds.

"My husband and I share the love of growing things, and I found the passion for crafting the gourds (and) we started growing them," she said. "To this day we raise many varieties of gourds, from mini to large African wine kettles."

Bowles buys seeds that are pure, meaning those that have not been cross-pollinated.

"This way I know what the outcome will be," she said. "We have grown several different types of seeds in a relatively small area, so our plants are likely to cross-pollinate. Most seed vendors grow in separate fields or cover the blossoms to prevent this from happening."

The growing process starts from seed in the couple's small greenhouse in early spring. Growing continues in the greenhouse until after the first freeze. Gourds typically take 75 to 130 days to reach maturity, de-



Above: Deborah Bowles, of Pendleton County, Ky., found a replacement for the tobacco she once grew on her farm. Decorating gourds has become her new passion. (photo submitted)

pending on the variety and growing conditions.

"Gourd vines must die before harvesting," she said. "If the gourds are picked before they completely mature, they will rot before completely drying and hardening. I usually wait until the vines have withered or until after the first freeze. Gourds can remain in the field while drying, but it's best to bring them into a well-ventilated area off the ground, such as on pallets. We then have to patiently wait for nature to dry them, which can take anywhere from a month

for the smallest mini to more than a year for large varieties."

Once the gourds get to the dried, hardened state the cleaning and crafting can begin.

"The cleaning stage is my least pleasant part of the process," she said. "There's work cleaning the seeds and the dermis layers. Over the years I've collected many tools to help with this stage of cleaning."

Bowles never attended art class-

(Kentucky gourds continued page 2B)



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# Kentucky gourds

FROM PAGE 1B

es, nor did anyone teach her how to adorn gourds. With dried gourds she's created lamps, vases, bowls, birdhouses and more.

"They can be painted, stained, carved, engraved with a woodburning tool, and embellished in numerous ways," Bowles said. "Perhaps my biggest seller are my wreaths, but they take a long time to craft as each wreath utilizes a lot of small gourds. I am self-taught with little to no formal training and I'm still trying to find my own style for creating unique pieces."

She had thoughts of expanding her gourd acreage, but she said that might be a bit overwhelming.

"I only utilize a half-acre for growing my gourds" she said. "There are probably 50 varieties of gourds and I've grown about 20 of those varieties. There's a lot you can do with gourds. I prefer to carve them, but I've used ink dye, leather dye or just

paint them."

As it is with any hobby, there's pros and cons to what she's doing.

"Insects during the growing process can be a problem, but so too are rodents," she said. "Rodents are a huge problem when storing dried gourds. They love to chew through the outer shell to get to the seeds. This, of course, ruins the outer shell and prevents them from being used for crafting."

According to Bowles, too little rain and the gourds don't develop a needed thick shell. Too much rain at the end of the growing season will result in gourds taking on too much water, making them harder to dry and more likely to rot.

"Once dried and hardened, gourds last infinitely," Bowles said. "I have a large stock of gourds. I only plant a few plants of each variety each year now. If I'm running low on one variety of gourd, I'll plant more of those. There are likely 50 varieties of gourds and I grow 20 different varieties. I do have favorites, like basketball, cannonball, copper canyon, canteen and melon just to name a few, as well as several types of minis."

Bowles attends and sells her creations at two major craft shows each

year: Art in the Garden in Augusta, Ky. (first Saturday in June) and the Wool Festival in Falmouth (first weekend in October).

"The gourd continues to fascinate me from the time the seed germinates until it becomes a piece of art," she said.



Above: Woodburning and carving by Bowles led to this elaborate bowl. (photo submitted)



Above: Under the protection of its large leaves, a bottle gourd takes shape in Bowles' garden. (photo submitted)



Above: These long gourds under Bowles' trellis are withered and ready for harvest. (photo submitted)



Above: Bowles created this wreath using bottle gourds and pear gourds. Creating wreaths are her favorite creation, she said. (photo submitted)



Above: Bowles created this 'fruit bowl' using miniature gourds that resemble edible fruit. (photo submitted)

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# US ethanol industry produced record 16.4 billion gallons in 2025

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**  
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. ethanol industry produced a record 16.4 billion gallons in 2025.

According to the Renewable Fuels Association's newly-released analysis, ethanol grew as exports surged and domestic consumption stayed strong.

In 2025, the industry directly supported 79,000 U.S. jobs, along with an additional 237,000 indirect and induced jobs across all sectors of the economy, the report said. The industry created \$28 billion in household income, contributed \$50 billion to the nation's gross domestic product, and generated nearly \$10 billion in tax revenues at the federal, state and local levels.

The report also calculated that the industry spent \$24 billion on 5.5 billion bushels of corn and grain sorghum alone, as the industry continued to support America's farming communities, according to officials.

"As this analysis shows, American-made ethanol remains an important part of the nation's economy, supporting good-paying jobs, many in rural areas, while providing consumers with cleaner, lower-cost fuel options," said Geoff Cooper, RFA president and CEO.

"At a time when American farmers are facing the worst financial conditions in nearly 50 years, the ethanol industry continued to serve as a crucial economic driver in agricultural communities across the country," he added.

In 2025, construction or expansion of plants to provide an additional 275 million gallons of annual ethanol production was also ongoing during the year, or underway at the end of the year, according to the report.

The report said "the industry's economic and other benefits can grow further, if mid-level blends such as E15 are allowed to be sold year-round, export markets continue to be opened, and new uses, such as in marine and aviation fuel, are developed."

Alan Dunn, Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) president and a fifth-generation Michigantown, Ind., corn and soybean farmer, told Farm World, the ICGA works closely with partners such as the RFA to boost production and demand for ethanol.

"ICGA applauds the Renewable Fu-

els Association's recently released report on the contributions of the ethanol industry to the U.S. economy in 2025," he said. "Indiana's growth in the ethanol sector aligns with the findings in the report."

He said Indiana's 15 biorefineries produce an estimated 1.4 billion gallons of ethanol each year. In 2025, 42 percent of Indiana's corn crop went into those biorefineries to make ethanol, adding that the value of Indiana corn exported through ethanol is \$217.8 million.

"Creating consumer demand for ethanol is another crucial task," he said. "There are 288 fuel stations in Indiana that offer E85, and 93 stations offer E15."

In 2025, three Indiana ethanol biorefineries have announced expansions, and plants across the state are pursuing carbon-capture projects, Dunn added. "The cumulative effect of this growth will be increased corn basis prices in these regions. ICGA will continue to advocate for state and federal policies to support the growth of the ethanol sector."

Mark Mueller, Iowa Corn Growers Association president and fourth-generation Waverly, Iowa, farmer, told Farm World, "The RFA report reveals that the ethanol industry supported 315,000 full-time jobs and processed 5.5 billion bushels of corn in 2025, reinforcing its status as a vital economic engine for Iowa farmers."

"Iowa corn growers continue to produce a record-breaking corn crop, while ethanol demand has remained stagnant for a decade, highlighting

the urgent need for expanded E15 access and ultra-low carbon technologies," he said. "To sustain our rural communities, we must unlock these new growth opportunities to ensure this critical market keeps pace with our record production."

In fact, on March 3, as U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright prepared for a White House meeting to discuss high gas prices, Iowa's corn growers and renewable fuel leaders offered what they called a "no-brainer" solution for immediate relief: nationwide, year-round access to E15.

"As the conflict with Iran has sent oil prices skyrocketing, year-round access to E15 offers immediate relief," Iowa Corn Growers Association and Iowa Renewable Fuels Association officials said in a March 3 joint statement to Wright and the U.S. Department of Energy. "On average, E15 saves drivers \$0.25 per gallon at the pump, compared to standard E10 (which is a low-level blend composed of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline).

"During peak travel seasons, those savings have even reached \$1 per gallon in certain regions," the statement said. "Nationwide adoption would reduce consumer spending on motor fuel by \$20.6 billion annually, putting an average of \$168 back into the pockets of every American household each year."

"We urge the White House to make nationwide E15 step one on their plan to combat high fuel prices," the statement added. "As a homegrown fuel solution, E15 will benefit consumers, provide stronger markets for farmers, and cost the U.S. government nothing."

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# APHIS awards \$100 million for 58 projects in the fight against HPAI

By Michele F. Mihaljevich  
Indiana Correspondent

ARLINGTON, Va. - The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has awarded \$100 million for 58 projects designed to help in the fight against the bird flu.

The objective of the funding is to "explore pathways toward vaccine development, therapeutics and other innovative strategies, all with the goal of finding new tools for dealing with this old problem," explained Chelsey Shivley, DVM, with APHIS veterinary services.

Since the current highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) event began at a Dubois County, Ind., commercial turkey operation in February 2022, more than 204 million commercial and backyard birds have been impacted nationwide, APHIS said. The ongoing event is the largest animal health emergency in the nation's history, according to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health.

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins has announced a five-prong approach to fighting HPAI, including boosting biosecurity and speeding repopulation, Shivley said. In March 2025, Rollins announced the HPAI Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge, which offered funding for innovative projects aimed at combating HPAI.

"The funding opportunity was intentionally broad as this is truly a grand challenge," Shivley noted. "APHIS has invested \$100 million to support high value and high impact projects that explore vaccines, therapeutics, research and other strategies to combat avian influenza, lower egg prices and protect the U.S. poultry industry."

She spoke Feb. 19 during the USDA's 102nd Agricultural Outlook Forum in Arlington.

APHIS worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies in developing the list of recipients, Shivley said. Those

recipients included vaccine manufacturers, universities, producer organizations, small businesses and research partners.

The priorities for APHIS included developing novel vaccines and therapeutics, and to conduct research to further understand HPAI in poultry and improve response strategies, Shivley said. No HPAI vaccine has been authorized for use at this time except on a case by case basis, she added.

APHIS received 417 proposals totaling more than \$793 million in funding requests, Shivley said. The agency chose to fund \$32 million toward novel vaccines (17 projects), \$26 million toward novel therapeutics (14 projects) and \$42 million toward response strategies (27 projects).

The 58 projects have been fully implemented, she said.

For novel vaccine projects, "we really wanted to make sure that we were looking at safe, potent and efficacious (vaccines) across multiple avian species and that these vaccines would be effective against circulating clades," Shivley said.

A clade is a group of organisms which evolved from a common ancestor.

For novel therapeutics, she said they were looking at products that could help prevent, control or eliminate the virus.

Improved response strategies include such things as environmental surveillance, she said. Other projects looked at transmission of the virus, improved diagnostics and expanded testing.

Since the current outbreak began, nearly 31 million birds - commercial and backyard flocks - had been impacted at press time by HPAI in Iowa, according to APHIS. Ohio had more than 25 million birds impacted; Indiana, over 9.9 million; Michigan, about 7.6 million; Tennessee, about 456,000; Kentucky, more than 287,000; and Illinois, about 235,000.

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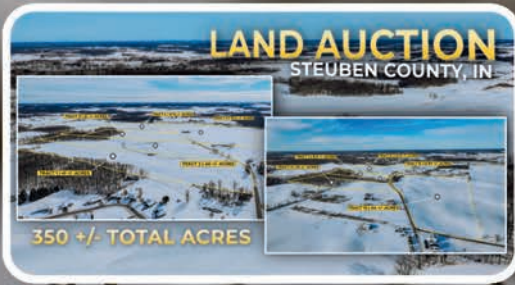
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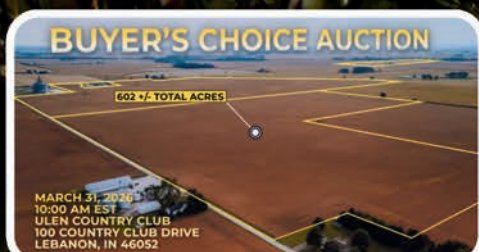


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Seller: SELLER: W and M Waddell Family Farm, LLC; A and S Waddell Family Farms, LLC; Mary Lou Grover, and Martha Delores Miller

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## Increase in dairy cow inventory leads to raising 2025 milk estimates

The ongoing war with Iran continues its ripple effect around the globe. The shut-down of the Strait of Hormuz has trickled down to every gas station in America as crude oil prices shot higher, even topping \$100 per barrel.

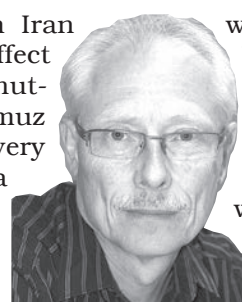
HighGround Dairy points out that about 20-25 percent of the world's seaborne oil trade moves through this waterway and the region produces about 30 percent of global fertilizer, which is also not moving. "With Northern Hemisphere planting almost underway, prices have moved higher, crimping already tight margins for U.S. crop farmers," HGD warned.

The March 10 Daily Dairy Report stated, "While the war in Iran could alter trade routes and the volumes of U.S. crops used for biofuel production, it's too soon to forecast the direction or scale of the impact. USDA will wait until next month to tweak those assessments."

The Agriculture Department raised its 2026 milk production estimate in this week's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate report, as increases to the dairy cow inventory more than offset slower growth in output per cow.

2026 production and marketings were projected at 234.7 and 233.7 billion pounds, up 200 million pounds on both from a month ago. If realized, both would be up 3 billion pounds or 1.3 percent from 2025.

Imports were raised on a fat basis on additional imports of butter but they



**MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY**  
By Lee Mielke

were unchanged on a skim-solids basis. Exports were raised on a fat basis due to higher shipments of butter and cheese, as well as on a skim-solids basis due to higher shipments of cheese and whey products.

Based on recent price strength, 2026 cheese, butter, and nonfat dry milk (NDM) price forecasts were raised, while the whey price forecast was lowered. The Class III milk price forecast was unchanged with higher cheese prices offsetting lower whey prices. The 2026 Class III average remained at \$16.65 per hundredweight (cwt.), down from \$18.01 in 2025 and \$18.89 in 2024.

The Class IV price forecast was raised due to the stronger butter and NDM price outlook. The Class IV average was raised to \$17.15, up \$1.45 from a month ago, and compares to \$17.38 in 2025 and \$20.75 in 2024.

The USDA's slaughter data showed 58,300 cows sent to slaughter the week ending Feb. 21, down 1,800 from the previous week, but 6,700 head or 13 percent more than a year ago. Year-to-date 460,000 cows had been culled, up 32,400 or 7.6 percent from a year ago.

Checking CME dairy prices: block Cheddar cheese hit \$1.63 per pound Monday, highest price since Nov. 11, 2025, but it dropped 8 cents Tuesday and 4 cents Wednesday, then inched back up a quarter-cent Thursday to \$1.5125, 18 cents below a year ago. It finished last Friday at \$1.6175.

The barrels dropped 5.75 cents Wednesday to \$1.5125 and held there

(Mielke continued on page 11B)

**IBEP**

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Background Photo of 1964 John Deere 4020 Follmer Re-Power Tractor Sells the 28th!

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**NOBLE COUNTY, IN**  
 3739 US 6, Wawaka, IN 46794  
**FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH • 10AM**



**TRACTORS • BULLDOZER**  
 • 1993 CIH 7110 Magnum tractor • 1982 IH 5288 tractor • 1983 Case 2290 tractor • 1968 Case Comfort King 730 tractor • 1965 Case 730 tractor • Case 450 bulldozer

**TILLAGE**  
 • 18' Salford 570 vertical till • 20' Brillion X-Series cultipacker • 18' CIH 3900 disc • 18' Deutz-Allis 1250 field cultivator • Glencoe Soil Saver 9 shank disc chisel • White 445 9 shank disc chisel • JD 22-01 3pt single shank ripper

**PLANTING**  
 • 2013 Kinze 3000 6 row 30" planter • 1000 gallon stainless nurse trailer

**COMBINE • HEADS • HEAD CARTS • WAGONS**  
 • 1993 CIH 1644 Axial-Flow combine • 2008 Drago 6 row 30" corn head • 18' homemade head cart • 15' CIH 1020 grain table • 18' Killbros head cart • (4) Unverferth 325 gravity wagons

**FARM MISC**  
 • WestGo rock picker • 12' rock rake • Grimmer Schmidt 175 portable air compressor • 7'x14' flat rack wagon

**Inspection Date: Fri, April 3rd • 9am - 12 Noon**  
**SELLER(S): Mike Piggott & Bill Piggott**  
**AUCTION MANAGER: Eric Ott, 260-413-0787** AU11600071, AC63001504

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**SHORT NOTICE** **SHORT NOTICE**

## - WELLSTON, OH - LARGE DOWNSIZING AUCTION

Tractors - Skid Loader - Mini Excavator - Vehicles - Trailers  
 Hay Equipment - Attachments - Lawn Mowers - HH - Tools  
**Saturday, March 28th @ 9:30 a.m.**

**LOCATION: 2251 Honeysuckle Ln, Wellston, OH 45692**  
**Directions: From Rt. 32 take 327 N for 1/2 mile, turn right onto Tom Corwin Rd & immediate left onto Honeysuckle Ln to auction on right**



**TRACTORS - SKID LOADER  
 MINI EXCAVATOR**

- 96 MF 8110 Tractor w/Cab w/Heat & AC, 4WD, Dyno Shift, 3 remotes, like new tires, 540 PTO, 5850 Hrs, Solid Machine! SN-MEAD52814J1215276
- (11) MF Weights, 45KG
- '17 JD 5075M Tractor w/3400 hrs., 3 Remotes, 540 PTO, Great Tires, 2WD - Excellent Condition (SN-11LV5075MEJJ101421)
- '19 MF 2607 Tractor w/911X QA Loader & Bucket, 4WD, 3 Pt., 2 Remotes, 1400 Hrs., 1 Owner, NICE! (SN-MEAD5281YJ1215276)
- 255 MF Tractor, 3pt., 540 PTO, 3400 Hrs., Excellent Condition (SN-98329062)
- 1230 MF Tractor, 2142 Hrs., 4WD, Diesel, Nice! (SN-E-33606)
- JD 455 Tractor w/Yanmar Diesel, 60" Deck, 1179 hrs., NICE!
- Yardman Garden Tractor w/snow plow, Hydrostatic, Hydraulic Lift
- Bobcat T190 Skid Loader w/open cab & rebuilt engine, 3,000 hrs, Quick Attach - Solid
- 2017 Wacker Neuson EZ38 Mini Excavator w/ 24" Bucket, 1,998 hrs., Hydraulic thumb, Manuel quick tach, Cab leveling, Heat and Ac., Excellent working condition, No leaks!
- Prentice 210D knuckle boom on trailer w/ 5.9 Cummins Engine, joystick controls

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Extra 18" tooth & 36" Smooth Buckets for Mini Excavator, Like New
- 72" Wolverine Skid Loader Attachment Brush Hog
- 72" Skid Loader Bucket
- 65" Skid Loader Tooth Bucket
- 48" Pallet Forks, Nice!
- Pallet Forks
- 3 Prong Bale Spears, Quick Attach
- 1 Prong Bale Spears, Quick Attach
- 3pt. 7' Box Blade, Nice!
- 3pt. Bale Spear
- 3pt. Landscape Rake

**HAY EQUIPMENT**

- NH BR 740 Round Baler w/Monitor, 4x5, Silage Special, Net Wrap (SN-33391)
- NH 565 Small Square Baler (SN-924093)
- Minos 554-C 4 Star Teddar, 19ft, Hydraulic Fold, Nice! (SN-22220-0019)
- Morra 4 Star Teddar, 18ft. (SN-6158)
- 2 Star Teddar

- Kuhn SR110 V Rake, 10 Wheel
- JD 670 Roll-A-Bar Rake
- '19 NH Mow Max 9ft. Duradisc 109M 3pt. Disc Mower
- Bush Hog 3 pt Disc Mower, 7ft
- 6ft 3pt. Grader Blade
- Woods 10' Pull Type Bush Hog - Needs Work

**MISC. EQUIPMENT**

- Woods 15ft Batwing Brushhog
- Rhino 5ft Brushhog w/ new blades
- County Line 5ft 3pt. Bushhog (SN-060472)
- 8ft 3pt. Brushhog
- McCurdy Gravity Wagon
- 16ft Flat Wagon
- 12ft Flat Wagon
- 2 Bottom Plow
- 3pt. Field Sprayer w/30' booms
- 24 Blade 8ft 3pt. Disk
- (2) 7,000 lb Axles

**TRAILERS**

- '19 Moritz 14ft Dump Trailer w/scissor dump, aluminum hide-a-way ramps, 14,000 GVW, 1 Owner
- '17 PJ Utility Trailer w/heavy duty ramps, 10,000 GVW, 1 Owner
- Top Hat 24ft Equipment Trailer w/ramps, 14,000 GVWR, Excellent
- '14 Moritz 10ft Dump Trailer, 10,000 lb GVWR, Solid
- 5x8 Utility Trailer w/ramps, Like New!
- 5x8 Utility Trailer w/fold down ramps
- '78 Gooseneck 22ft Cattle Trailer, New wheel bearings, brakes, tires, wires & lights

**MOWERS - LAWN & GARDEN SHOP RELATED**

- JD Z915B ZTrack Zerturn w/368 hrs., 48" Deck, Excellent Condition!
- Kubota ZD28 Zero Turn, Diesel, 72" Deck
- Kubota ZG23 Zero Turn w/Bagger, 54" Deck, 884 Hrs.
- Kubota ZD21 Zero Turn Diesel, 60" Deck, Runs, Parts Machine
- Lickity Splitter 30" Log Splitter, On wheels, (SN-4450) - Works Good
- Ariens 24" 2 Stage Snowblower - Like New!
- Stihl MS441 Chainsaw w/25" Bar - Excellent!
- Stihl MS290 Chainsaw w/18" Bar - Great Condition!
- Stihl 130 String Trimmer w/split shaft
- Stihl 110 String Trimmer w/split shaft
- Stihl BR340 Backpack Blower

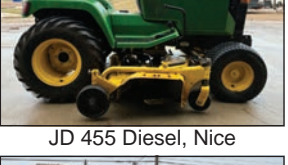
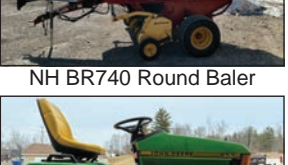
- Billygoat Self Propelled Leaf Vacuum
- Lawn Boy 21" Walk Mower
- Hitachi 10" Sliding Miter Saw
- Craftsman Table Saw - Nice
- Craftsman Radial Arm Saw
- Craftsman 12" Bandsaw, needs motor, 80-1/2" blades

**VEHICLES**

- '07 Chevy Tahoe LT, 185,000 miles, 4wd, bench seats, 8 passenger
- '05 Dodge Caravan, 178,000 miles
- '06 Chevy 2500 HD, 230,000 miles, Extended Cab, 8ft Bed, Gooseneck Hitch
- '06 Chevy 2500 LT Duramax, 286,000 miles, leather interior with heated seats, 6.6. Liter Diesel Duramax LBZ, Stock
- '07 Honda Oddesey, 270,000 miles
- '02 Hyundai Accent, 5 Speed, 130,000 miles


**MISC.**

- Sheep round pen & chutes - Good condition
- Sheep spin&trim chute w/digital scales - Good condition
- 6' Sheep Bale Feeder - Excellent
- Bale Saver 9' round bale feeder, heavy duty
- Tarter 9' feed trough
- Cider Press w/Shredder, Hyd./Gas Powered
- (34) 6" Fiberglass Fence Posts, 10' +/-
- 300 Gal. Fuel Tank w/Pump - Nice!
- 250 Gal. Overhead Gravity Flow Fuel Tank
- 300 Gal. Fuel Tank on skids
- 24' Fiberglass Extension Ladder
- 32' Aluminum Extension Ladder
- 24' Aluminum Walk Plank
- 20' Aluminum Walk Plank
- 250gal. Tote
- 1,000 gal. Poly Water Tank
- 175+/- Dry Stack retaining wall blocks
- Insulated Hunting Blind on trailer
- Large Insulated Hunting Blind
- Tree stands
- Misc Hunting Gear
- Pit Boss BBQ Grill
- Ping Pong Table
- Early Hand Crank Sorghum Grinder
- Work Bench
- Round Oak 48"H Pot Belly Stove
- Multiple wagons with shop and household smalls.



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**AUCTIONEERS NOTE - All are invited to join us for this HUGE downsizing auction! There's something here for everyone! There are a lot of nice clean items that are offered for sale onsite only! Plan to attend and bring a friend. Sellers & Auction Company are not responsible for accidents. Food stand will be onsite for a local church fundraiser. Auction terms: Pay in full day of sale via cash, good check, or CC w/3% convenience fee. We look forward to seeing you there! -Thank You!**

# DALLAS HACKER ESTATE AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st 2026 AT 10:00 AM

1130 S. Josephine St., MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151

JOSEPHINE ST IS LOCATED OFF BYPASS 39. SALE SITE IS ON THE RIGHT. WATCH FOR SIGNS. LOADING WILL BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SALE AND MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 FOR QUESTIONS, CALL TONY HACKER AT (765) 346-9472

### FARM & INDUSTRIAL

JD 5400 w/520 LDR, 2WD  
AC WD TRACTOR, RESTORED  
AC WD TRACTOR  
AC WD (IN PARTS)  
1992 CASE 580 SUPER K BACKHOE, EXT-A-HOE FORKLIFT, GAS  
1956 AC HD-6 DOZER w/WINCH  
AC FPL50 FORKLIFT, PROPANE  
WOODS 1050 BACKHOE, 3 PT  
(4) 10" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
14" BACKHOE BUCKET  
(2) 12" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
(4) 16" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
(2) 24" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
(4) 36" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
48" BACKHOE BUCKETS  
MISC BACKHOE BUCKETS  
FORKS  
CHISEL, 3 PT  
KING CUTTER DISK, 3 PT, 6' DISK, 10'  
(2) AC 2X PLOW  
(2) POTATO PLOWS  
UNIFARM CD240 DISC MOWER  
BADGER HAY WAGON  
JD 3 PT ROTARY MOWER  
3 PT ROTARY MOWER, 7'  
AC WD REAR WHEELS, 14.9"x28"  
BOX BLADE  
AC BLADE, SNAP COUPLER, 6'  
MISC 3 PT BLADES  
AC DOZER PARTS  
(4) JD SUITCASE WEIGHTS  
WHEEL WEIGHTS  
(2) JD WEIGHT BOX  
KUBOTA WEIGHT BOX

### VEHICLES & TRAILERS

1997 IHC 4700 w/15' BED, DSL, AUTO, 265000 MI  
1997 CHEVY 2500 w/UTILITY BED, 4WD, GAS  
1973 GMC 6500 TANDEM DUMP TRUCK w/427 V8 ENGINE  
1973 CHEVY C60 w/BED & HOIST, 75806 MI  
1971 CHEVY C60 FLATBED w/WINCH, 366 ENGINE  
GMC DUMP TRUCK (SALVAGE)  
DUMP TRUCK (SALVAGE)  
CHEVY 60 (SALVAGE)  
1994 PINTLE HITCH TRAILER, 12-TON, 20'  
PINTLE HITCH TRI-AXLE TRAILER  
LANDSCAPE TRAILER, 16'  
SINGLE AXLE TRAILER, 12'  
TILT SNOWMOBILE TRAILER, 10'  
LAWN TRAILER, 8'  
LANDSCAPE TRAILER, 8'  
(8) SEMI STORAGE BOX TRAILERS  
(25+) 20' CONTAINERS  
MULTIPLE TRUCK TOOLBOXES  
REESE 5TH WHEEL HITCH  
METAL CAR PORT

### LAWN & GARDEN

CLUB CAR GOLF CART w/STEREO, 2-SEATER, LIFTED, GAS  
CLUB CAR GOLF CART, ELECTRIC  
YAMAHA GOLF CART, GAS  
YAMAHA GOLF CART, ELECTRIC  
GO CART  
COUNTRY CLIPPER JAZEE ZTR w/NEW MOTOR, 48"  
CRAFTSMAN 1136 RIDER  
SNAPPER w/REAR ENGINE  
HUFFY CAPRICE RIDING MOWER  
PUSH MOWER  
LEAF BLOWER  
(3) ROTOTILLER, WB  
WHEELBARROWS  
WEED EATERS  
LAWN FURNITURE  
BICYCLES  
GARDEN TOOLS

### SHOP EQUIPMENT & MISC.

NORTH AMERICAN DRILL PRESS, 30-TON  
STIHL D28AV WOOD BOSS  
DAVID WHITE AEL-950 ROTARY LASER  
CONCRETE MIXER  
100-GAL FUEL TANK w/PUMP, ALUMINUM  
STIHL T5400 SAW  
(2) ELECTRIC WINCHES  
HANDYMAN JACKS  
LADDER  
CHAINS & BINDERS  
CHAINS  
CUTTING TORCH  
AIR COMPRESSOR  
AUGER BITS  
QUICK HITCH  
WORKBENCH  
HORSE TROUGHS  
HORSE BUGGY  
FARM GATES  
STEEL BARRELS  
(2) METAL CULVERT PIPE, 8'x10'  
(3) CULVERT PIPE, 36", 10'  
(3) 4'x8' CONCRETE PIPE  
CONCRETE CULVERT PIPE, 30"  
PVC PIPE  
(10) LARGE CONCRETE BLOCKS  
CONCRETE BLOCKS  
SCRAP IRON  
FLAT STEEL  
LUMBER  
USED TIRES  
STEEL T-POSTS  
TELEPHONE POLES  
TARPS

DALLAS COLLECTED EQUIPMENT, PARTS, & MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR MANY YEARS. THERE ARE CONTAINERS FULL OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS & LARGE AMOUNTS OF SCRAP THAT IS NOT LISTED.

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SEE OUR WEBSITE AT TEDEVERETT.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

# ANDREAS FARMS RETIREMENT AUCTION

Location: 446 Ragersville Rd SW, SUGARCREEK OH 44681

Directions: From Sugarcreek Ohio & OH 39, take OH-39 west 2.4 miles, turning south onto Ragersville Rd SW 2.3 miles to farm on right hand side. Signs posted

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2026 - 9:00 AM

ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

PREVIEW DATE: FRIDAY MARCH 13TH FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Tractors, Combine, Heads, Header Carts, Sprayer, Skid Steers, Attachments: '20 Fendt 1038 G2 Tractor (1,682 Hrs); '21 Fendt 828 S4 Vario Tractor (1490hrs - 802 hrs on Updated Engine); 2022 Claas Axion 820 Tractor (264hrs); '15 Lexion 740TT Combine (2,832.22 Engine Hours); '20 Claas Convio 1080 Flex Draper Head; '10 Geringhoff North Star NS1200/FB Corn Head, 12 row, 30" rows; 3 - header carts; '13 RoGator RG1100 Self Propelled Sprayer (3,740.02hrs); extra set of tires & rims for RG1100; '15 Gehl 220 Skid Loader; '07 Gehl 5640 Skid Loader; Case 430 Skid Loader; 3 - manure tire scrapers; Mast hay forks;

John Deere Displays & GPS: JD G5 Plus Display; JD 2630 Display; 2 - JD Starfire 6000 GPS's; Semis, Dump Truck, Pickup, Service Truck, Grain Trailers, Livestock Trailer, Equipment Trailers, Grain Cart: '17 Freightliner 120 Cascadia Semi, 502,641 miles; '15 International PRO Star Semi, 621,461 miles; '95 Kenworth T600 Semi, 450,862 miles; '00 International 2574 Dump truck w/ 20" Scott silage bed, 311,600 miles; '10 Dodge Ram 5500 Service truck complete w/ Jomac bed & all equipment, 97,960 Miles; '20 Dodge Ram 2500 HD Hemi Pickup Truck, 4WD, 87,000 miles; '11 East 36' dump semi trailer; '08 TrailStar 36' dump trailer; '92 Barrett Aluminum 16' Livestock trailer; '99 Eager Beaver 15' equipment trailer; '81 Shiloh 24' Gooseneck flatbed trailer; J & M 875 Grain cart

Planting & Tillage Equipment: '23 JD 1775NT corn planter, 12 row, 30" rows; '11 JD 1990 Air seeder, 30' w/ 10" spacing; Homemade Seed tender completely outfitted w/SS tank, 13' auger, & more; '22 Unverferth 3755XL Seed Runner, LIKE NEW; Parker 2600 seed wagon; Clymer Clark trailer w/1000-gallon poly tank; Homemade Round Double Poly Tank Trailer, 2 - 800 gallon poly tanks;

Tillage & Miscellaneous Equipment, Mowers: Great Plains 2400TM TURBO MAX 24' Vertical till; '14 Kuhn Krause 8000-20-3019 20FT Excelerator vertical till; 3pt. DMI 2500 5 bottom deep hook ripper; Keenan Klassik 200 feed mixer wagon w/ digital scales; Hagedorn Extravert 5440 Hydraulic Push manure spreader; Stoltzfus 24' Hay feeder wagon; '25 Bush Hog 12820 Mower (Like New); 3pt. Massey Ferguson DM287 disk mower, 9'; Titan Cattle Chute; 3pt. Rhino 6-way Hydraulic 10ft blade;

NEW Brock Grain Bin: BRAND NEW Brock 44,829 bushel grain bin, never assembled, ready for pickup; JD Gators, Ferris Mower: '14 JD 825i 4x4 Gator; JD 625XUV 4x4 Gator; Ferris IS3100Z Series Zero Turn mower;

Parts, Equipment Accessories: Rogator parts, Misc truck and tractor parts, combine parts, Truck Mirrors, Filters, 16" auto tire changer, hydraulic fittings, oil and grease, air brake chambers, seals, joints, stud wedges, tractor part manuals, 4" manure hose and fitting, mudflaps, box of misc. hydraulic hose, 1990 drill air seeder parts, 1775 disc openers and precision planting parts, 1775 box of parts w/24 new gauge wheels, RAM bed cover, FIMCO ATV Sprayer with wand, MW180 transfer pump, ATV fert spreader, 110 Dayton water pump, tire plugs, antifreeze, gas cans, hydraulic & motor oil with air pumps, bulk hydraulic oil (est. 135 gal), 15W40 (est 150 gal), Briggs pump

Shop Tools & Miscellaneous: Snap-On 3/4" Drive Air Impact, IR Air Impact 1/2" Drive, Snap-On QD4R600A Torque Wrench, Central Pneumatic Earthquake 1" Drive Air Impact, Air Drills, Hobart 1601 110/220 Stick Welder, Lincoln Arc Welder w/ LN-7 wire feed, PCM-521 plasma cutter 220, OA torch w/ cart and regulators, welding wire, welding table with vice, Dewalt Drivers, Dewalt Drills, Dewalt Grinders,

Dewalt Chop saws, skilsaw, 3/8 drill, shop vacs, Dayton 220 air compressor, paint, soldering iron, O-rings, E-clips, drop nozzles, Bluepoint Allen wrench set, metric large wrench set, standard wrenches, tap and die sets, socket sets, 2 sets of WAHL clippers, Bunsen burner, Snap-On mechanic creeper, 2 large Industrial fans, cleaning equipment, concrete mixer, generator, box traps, feed tubs, tarps, misc. chains, Matco MB1560 toolbox, Kobalt truck toolbox, JD toolbox, bottle jacks, grease gun, metal shelving, bolt bins with bolts, 1 1/2" to 3" banjo fittings and hoses, bolt bin with 1/4" to 7/8", 3/4" to 6", misc bolt bin with bolts, metric bolt bin M6 to M20, 20 to 120, misc screwdrivers and pliers. 3/8 stainless cable partial role, file cabinets, lockers, ladders, hose reel, floor washer, pressure washer, Craftsman 16gal pump vac, tape measure, hand spreader seeder, iPad mounts, Motorola 2-way radio, Red Aarow Tow Bar Mfg. Press, sprayer jack stand, oil dispenser with pump, cribbing rack with cribbing, hydraulic jacks, extension cords, misc gates, 3 sections of headlock, spare tires.

Miscellaneous: Two Horton Crossbows - 1 is 35th anniversary still in box, JD 20 pedal tractor, JD toys, coolers

Terms: No buyer's premium for onsite buyers. Payment in full auction day. Cash, Check, Wire Transfer, or Credit Card up to \$5,000, 5% fee applies if paying with Credit Card. Online terms apply for online bidding & includes a 5% buyer's premium. All items sell "As Is" & Absolute to the highest bidder.

Auctioneer Note: Andreas Farms is a multi-generational farming operation and a long-standing staple of the Sugarcreek area. After many successful years, the family is entering retirement and offering their entire equipment lineup to the highest bidder. Having transitioned from a full-scale dairy facility into grain farming approximately eight years ago, the balance of their well-maintained fleet will now be sold. Andreas Farms is widely known for innovative excellence and a rigorous maintenance program. We invite you to join us for this excellent auction featuring high-quality equipment that has received the very best of care.

Lunch Stand: Serving Breakfast & Lunch throughout the day. Auction by order of: Andreas Farms, Inc.



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# GROW YOUR BUSINESS

with

FarmWorld



# 34th Annual SPRING AUCTION

BID LIVE OR ONLINE

FRIDAY MARCH 27TH, 2026 at 9am EST

Seller: Various Consignors • 6531 S. SR 13, Pendleton, IN 46064

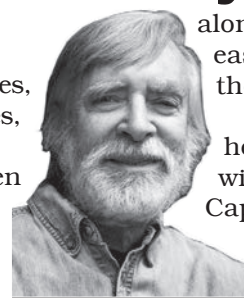
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NOW 4 RINGS!

# March 20 is spring equinox and typically wettest day of the week

As if to yield ends one's life?  
As if one is forever encased,  
ice settled upon one's branches,  
a rigid coating sealing all pores,  
blocking all doors.  
Are the trees afraid when  
spring startles?  
They can't imagine leafing,  
sunk in the comfort winter  
finally granted,  
frost-clothed.  
One has to fool them forward  
Lure by light filtered oddly  
and disguised in cold winds,  
But then, don't even the trees  
surrender? - Barbara Valdez



**POOR WILL'S ALMANACK**  
By Bill Felker

along the horizon starting in the east, then turning to the north, then all the way due west  
If you scan the horizon an hour or so before sunrise, you will see the wandering stars of Capricorn in the southeast. In the south, find Sagittarius, and then Scorpius (easily identified by the red star, Antares, in its center). West of Scorpius is the boxy Libra. West of Libra is Virgo, marked by Spica, the brightest of the western stars.

### Natural Calendar

When the mourning cloaks, the question marks, the tortoise shells and the white cabbage butterflies come out, catfish are getting ready to feed in the Little and Great Miami Rivers, and goldfinches are turning gold throughout the Valley. The great predawn chorus of birds begins near 6 a.m. Later in the day, flickers and pileated woodpeckers call. Winged ants will be flying then, and the first green-bottle flies. Garter snakes will lie out sunning.

When butterflies appear, spring picks up speed, the number of new plants increasing every day even though the air is cool. Hepatica, harbinger of spring, and twinleaf are pushing out. Toad trillium and Dutchman's britches are ready to open. The foliage of wild geranium, clover and columbine is growing. September's zigzag goldenrod is two inches long. Leaves of the golden Alexander are an inch across. Scarlet cup mushrooms swell in the dark.

(Poor Will continued on page 13)

Equinox occurs at 10:45 a.m. March 20. With equinox, the chances of highs in the 20s fall below 5 percent for the first time since the middle of December. Today is typically the wettest day of the week, with a 60 percent chance of precipitation and the most thunderstorms since autumn. The 21st is the driest, with just a 25 percent chance. The 21st also brings the most sun of any day in the third week of March: 70 percent of those days are clear to partly cloudy.

### The Stars in March's Third Quarter

By the middle of the month, all of winter's stars are clustered together now in the far west just a few hours after dark. They take the Milky Way with them and completely disappear by 3 a.m. By that time, however, the summer band of the Milky Way appears in the northeastern sky, along with Cygnus, the Northern Cross and Aquila. To see both the winter and summer sides of the Milky Way, you need to be out at midnight; then look

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

**1:00 PM EST – Little York, IN**  
**Online bidding with CCI.live**

- Genetic Lots
- Breds, Pairs & Opens
- Herd Bull Prospects
- Commercial Female

# SOUTHERN INDIANA

## ANGUS ASSOCIATION

### Annual Sale

Plan to attend March 28th!  
Great Angus Offering!

**For More Information,**  
contact sale manager:  
**Duane Stephens 812-887-1523**  
goldbucklecattle@gmail.com

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 • 1:00 PM EST • MILAN, IN**  
Selling 60 Simmental & SimAngus Bulls  
20 Simmental & Sim-Influence Pairs,  
15 Breds and Open Show Prospects

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**M107 - 4582922**  
Homo Black • Homo Polled  
WHF Point Proven x Ms CCF Jestress G107

**NG902A - 4582894**  
Black • Homozygous Polled  
WHF/JS Woodford x Quantum Leap x Firefly

**M4X - 4597907**  
Black • Homo Polled  
Black Ace Double Run x Ft. Knox x Sugar C4

**NG3 - 4597903**  
Homo Black • Homo Polled  
Black Ace Double Run x SO Remedy x Shainas Ledger

**M9A - 4597901**  
Homo Black • Homo Polled  
Mr SR Right Now x Private Stock x Emmy G930

**N320D - 4597922**  
Black • Homo Polled  
W/C Red Bird x HPF Right To Love B320

**M31 - 4512249**  
Red • Homo Polled  
LLSF Redstone x OMF/DK Josie 31J

**441 - 4562526**  
Homo Black • Homo Polled  
PLD Schooley Crown x Cowboy Cut

**N31R - 4635937**  
Homo Black • Polled  
Black Ace Double Run x DAF Dakota D13

**M38A - 4421233**  
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# Farmers urged to tell their stories to help public better understand agriculture

Let me first say, this is not a political article. I just listened to the State of the Union address on TV. I saw many things that made me proud to be an American.

**55 YEARS AND COUNTING FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT**  
BY BILL WHITMAN

(back in the day we received checks) from selling grain through the local elevator for soybeans that had hit \$11/bushel in the late 70s, I know beyond a shadow

I was especially proud, as a veteran, to see Medals of Honor given to two very deserving soldiers. I waited and waited for agriculture to come up, but alas, it did not. It brought me to the conclusion that much like we have had to do for the last 250 years, we will have no other choice but to speak for ourselves. And you know what? I think people will listen.

For all the failures of the American educational system, we have a population that understand facts. They understand the price of the groceries that are required to feed their families. They understand the price of gas at their local gas station. What they don't understand is how fragile the industry is that gives them these vital needs. They assume that it goes on all the time and they have gotten used to the rhetoric that they have heard literally all their lives, yet they never really understood.

I'm writing to enlist each of us to take advantage of every opportunity to talk about agriculture. No one knows your part of it better than you do. It's important, never more important than it is right now, today. People need to understand that the very industry that provides their first need to sustain life, food, is on the verge of collapse. While parts of government, through state run ag-assisted services, have started programs to meet the psychological needs of farmers and ranchers, I suggest the recognition is late. Some might recall that I have sounded the alarm about the number of suicides experienced by our farmers and ranchers across the country over the past three years.

What I have learned is whether these farmers are on the verge of bankruptcy or doing quite well, they "see" what is happening to our beloved American agriculture. The pressure becomes unbearable. As an American farmer, one who has loved this work since Charles Hann handed me my very first pay, and who still remembers receiving checks

of a doubt that just as our forefathers, we can survive. More than that, we can show that the American people can and must believe that though relatively quiet, we have provided the strength of the backbone this country has survived with since its inception 250 years ago. And the strength is far more valuable than money... it's their food. Used as trade value with other countries since the Marshall Plan to feed our own masses, of our own country, our innate strength of courage, work ethic and integrity has maintained our place as the most important stone in the foundation of our soon-to-be 250-year-old country.

Our biggest asset in dealing with this is simply defined. We have far more control than we realize. Think of the importance of just a small percentage of what we spend on inputs. What if we follow the Matt and Kelly Griggs operational business model and cut out the extra expenses and look strictly at profitability of our business rather than strive for more yields. Yields without increased profit only fill the pockets of the middleman. It demonstrates the exact problem with our economy... churning cash does not generate economic gain.

ROI (Return On Investment) has become a cliché. Now we must use it to our own advantage. Determine how ROI applies to our own businesses not our vendors. This will send a message to the economy it needs to hear. We're not a victim, we are survivors, and more than that, we are stronger than the country, the world for that matter understands. In articles to come, I will explain my further thoughts as to how we can turn our thinking from an industry under attack to a people that remain the strength of America. And don't forget, share your pride in being an American farmer or rancher.

Horse Sense: No one can do for you better than what you do for yourself!  
IndianaAg@bluemarble.net

# 2nd Annual Steinke Tractor Spring Consignment Sale

Saturday, April 11, 2026 @ 9:00 AM  
707 S Barron Street, EATON, OH 45320

**TRACTORS:** JD 4640 FWA, JD 5055E 2WD / Open, JD 5100E w/cab & loader, JD 4020, JD 2010, Kubota M111 w/cab & loader, Kubota L2530.

**HAY EQUIPMENT:** NH BR7060 Round Baler, NH BC5070 Square Baler, NH H7230 Discbine, NH Rake, NH Tedder, Accumulator, Bale conveyor (4), Hay Barron round Bale trailers (2), Hay wagons (3).

**LIVESTOCK:** Kuhn Knight 8124 manure spreader, Patz TMR Mixer.

**SKID LOADERS:** JD 333G (tracks), Grapple bucket (2).

**MISC EQUIPMENT:** Aerator, Arena drag, Grader blade, Brush Hog (2), Deforester, Finish mower, Sprayer, DR Trimmer, Toro zero turn lawn mower.

**TRAILERS:** 40' Deck over, 25' Deck over, Military trailer, Landscape trailer,

**ATV/UTV:** Polaris RTV, Scout RTV w/feeder.

**Auctioneer's Note:** The 2nd Annual Steinke Tractor Spring Consignment Auction will be held at Steinke Tractor, in Eaton, Ohio and will include live simulcast bidding for those who cannot attend in person. The online bidding will take place at [harmeyerauction.hibid.com](http://harmeyerauction.hibid.com). Contact us today to consign your items! Visit [www.harmeyerauction.net](http://www.harmeyerauction.net) for complete details & updates on inventory often.

Currently Accepting Good Quality Consignments!

Accepting Consignments March 1st-April 7th

Monday thru Friday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

\*No consignments accepted after April 7th\*

**NOTE:** \*Absolutely No Household Goods \* No smalls \* Ag Tires considered \* Items accepted at the discretion of the sale committee.

For information or to consign:

Call Steinke Tractor - 937-456-4271,  
Gene Steiner - 513-616-4086 or Harmeyer  
Auction & Appraisal Co.  
765-561-1671

\*Auction day announcements take precedence over printed material.\*

[www.harmeyerauction.net](http://www.harmeyerauction.net)  
**Harmeyer**  
AUCTION & APPRAISAL CO.

LIVE ON-SITE WITH ONLINE BIDDING

## The Robert "Bob" Schultz Estate FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 @ 9:00 AM EST

9454 Vreeland Rd., YPSILANTI, MI 48198



**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** 2024 Michigan Master Farmer Bob Schultz farmed for over 60 years in SE Michigan raising produce and row crops. Bob was well-known for his land stewardship and his love of farming. Due to his passing, the family has commissioned Brad Neuhart Auctioneers to sell tractors, combines, trucks, farm equipment and TONS of parts and general farm merchandise at public auction. This is a live, on-site auction at the Schultz Farm in Ypsilanti, MI. Live online bidding will be available for much of the large equipment. The auction will begin at 9:00 AM eastern with tools, parts and other smalls. We will start on the equipment (with online bidding) at 10:30 AM eastern. Do not miss this HISTORIC auction event!!! We will host an inspection at the farm on Wednesday 3/25/26 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Bring a friend - WE WILL BE RUNNING TWO AUCTION RINGS DAY OF SALE! Auction parking on-site (weather permitting), watch for signs.

**TRACTORS:** Case 2394 - 7700 Hrs., 3 pt. 2 Rem.; Case 4490 - 3400 Hrs., 3 pt., 1k PTO, 4 Rem., New Rubber, Rblt. Trans; Case 4490 - 8800 Hrs., 600 Hrs. on OH, 3 pt., 3 Rem., Duals; Case 1370 - 5200 Hrs., 3 pt., 2 Rem. Updated 504; Case 1470 - 4400 Hrs., 3 pt., 2 Rem., Updated 504; Case 1030 D - 4600 Hrs., 3 pt., 2 Rem., Case 1030 D - 3 pt., 23.1x30 Rubber; Case 930 D - Standard, Chem Farm Tanks; Case 730 D - 3 pt. Pwr. Adj. Wheels; IH SM; IH SH w/3 pt.; Case 400; IH 3514 Backhoe. **TRUCKS:** 1988 International Paystar 5000 - Tandem, Hoist, Cummins 400, 13 spd., 18' Thumb Equip. Box w/Tarp, Hitch; 1981 International S2275 - Tandem, Hoist, 290 Cummins, 10 spd., 18' Thumb Equip. Box w/ New Tarp, Hitch, 2-Way Gate, OH 3/25; 1969 Chevy C-50 - 350 gas, 4/2 spd., Hoist, 16' Thumb Equip. Box; 1967 International R190 - Tandem, Hoist, 18' Thumb Equip. Box; 1971 Chevy C-50 16' Alum. Side Box Truck; 1984 Autocar Semi Tractor w/Wet Kit - 400 Cummins, 13 spd.; 1966 International R190 Fire Truck; 1984 Chevy Scottsdale 20 - 350ci, Auto, ONLY 98k ORIG. MILES; 1992 Chevrolet C2500 - Diesel; 1987 Chevy 1/2 Ton 6.5L Diesel - (Parts Truck);

**TRAILERS:** Trailco Pup Trailer - 18' Thumb Equip. Box w/Hoist and Tarp (Went Behind Either Big Truck); 1,000 Gallon Diesel Fuel Trailer w/Pump; 20' Flat Deck Tandem Trailer; Flat Semi Trailer;

**COMBINES/HEADS:** CIH 1666 - 2wd, Spreader, Ag Leader In-Command 800, Bin Ext.; IH 1460 - 2wd, Spreader; CIH 1063 Corn Head w/Stalk Stompers; CIH 963 Corn Head w/Stalk Stompers; CIH 1020 20' Grain Table; CIH 1020 15' Grain Table; 6R Down Corn Reel; IH 403 Combine.

**FARM EQUIPMENT:** CIH 3950 22' Disk; Land Pride RCR3515 Batwing Rotary Mower; CIH 3900 22' Disk; IH 19' Field Cult.; Brillion 22' Folding Packer; Brillion 14' Packer; 9 Shank Annhydrous Applicator; 1000 Gal. Annhydrous Tank on Gear; CIH Cyclo 800 12R30 Planter w/Fill Auger; IH Cyclo 800 8R30 Planter w/Fill Auger; IH Cyclo 500 12R15 Bean Planter w/800 Row Units; CIH Cyclo 900 15R 8" Bean Planter; IH 5100 Drill; Century 800 Gal. Sprayer w/40' Boom; Hiniker 40' 3 pt. Sprayer Boom; IH 710 5b On-Land Plow w/Auto Reset; IH 2R PTO Corn Binder w/Carrier - NICE; (3) IH 1R Corn Binders; Krause 4800 7 Shank Disk Ripper; JD 40' 8" Auger; Vacuator Grain Vac; Brillion 3 pt. 8R Cultivator; JD 400 Rotary Hoe; JD 400 bu. Grain Cart; 14.9x38 Duals; Winco 45/25 KW PTO Generator; Pr. 300 Gal. Chem Farm Tanks; (2) HEAVY-DUTY 21' Extruded Steel Bed Wagons on Gehl Gears; 14' & (2) 16' Steel Bed Wagons; MORE.

**PRODUCE & IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT:** Custom IH Sweet Corn Planter; (2) Rainflo 345 Plastic Layers; Melon Washer & Turntable; (3) Waterwinches 1/4 & 1/2 Mile; (4) Large Irrigation Pumps; THOUSANDS OF FEET OF 6" and 4" ALUMINUM IRRIGATION PIPE; Alum. Irrigation Pipe Fittings; Roll of NEW 4" Irrig. Rubber Hose; (2) NICE Covered Produce Stand Sales Wagons; PALLETS of NEW Burlap Sacks; Homemade Highboy Sprayer.

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:** WAGON LOADS OF NOS and GOOD USED CASE, IH and CASE IH Parts!!!!; AC 4k Lb. Forklift; Kubota ZD21 60" Diesel ZERO Turn; Shop Tools & Equipment - BOLT BINS - LOADED, Torches, Lincoln Welder, Jacks, Toolboxes, Greaser; Air Compressor & MORE; TONS of LUMBER; NEW and Used Implement & Truck Rims/Tires; Weights; VINTAGE PIONEER SEED SIGNS!! Steel Wheel Running Gear and MUCH, MUCH MORE.

SEE INFO & BID ONLINE AT:  
[www.bradneuhart.com](http://www.bradneuhart.com)

TERMS: Cash, wire transfer or acceptable check. ANY out-of-state check or check over \$3,000 MUST have a bank letter of guarantee (see website for example). 10% Buyer's Premium for online/phone bids. **NO BUYER'S PREMIUM for on-site buyers.** See website for full terms.

**(734) 439-7939**



# KIKO AUCTION

Jaloda Farm LLC Dispersal

(9) TRACTORS, JOHN DEERE & CASE, FULL LINE OF TILLAGE, PLANTING, HAY & DAIRY EQUIPMENT

LIVE ONSITE WITH ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

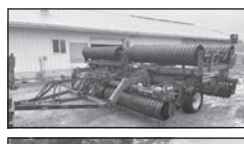
Absolute auction, all sells to the highest bidders.

Location: 45555 SR 303, WELLINGTON, OH 44090

Directions: Take SR 58 north of Wellington, OH or south of Oberlin, OH to SR 303 and just east to address. Watch for KIKO signs.

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 10:00 AM

Preview: Friday, April 3, 2026, 12:00-4:00 PM



**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Jaloda Farms have been in the area for 110 plus years. Having sold the dairy cattle in the fall of 2025, Jim & family are retiring from farming. The auction is a live auction with online bidding available through Proxibid & Equipment Facts. Hope to see you at the auction.

**SALE ORDER:** 10 AM start with small items. The catalog items to start at 10:45 AM. Full listing at [kikoauctions.com](http://kikoauctions.com)

**ONSITE TERMS:** Driver's license or State ID required to register for bidder number. Cash, Check, Debit Card, Visa, or MasterCard 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:** Visa, MasterCard, Wire Transfer and auctioneer approved check accepted. Wire transfers required on invoices over \$3,000. 7% 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: Jaloda Farm LLC, The Sheffield Family

Auctioneer/Realtor: Randall L. Kiko, 330.831.0174,  
[randallkiko@kikocompany.com](mailto:randallkiko@kikocompany.com)

KIKO Auctioneers | (330) 455-9357 | [www.kikoauctions.com](http://www.kikoauctions.com)

# East Allen County LAND AUCTION

**TRACT 1: 10.5± acres** of all tillable with over 100 feet of road frontage along Gar Creek Rd. The access winds around the existing buildings to the open tract in the back, offering a very private potential building site. The south property line is the lightly used Norfolk Southern railroad.

There is also an Electric Power line over the back of the tract, but no tower on the property.

**TRACT 2: 10± acres**, also all tillable with over 100 feet of road frontage. This tract offers a potential private estate site! Again, the south is bordered by the railroad and the electric lines.

**Monday, April 20 at 6:00pm**  
at Woodburn Community Center • Online Bidding Available

**20.5± acres**  
In 2 Tracts or the Combination  
**Quality Tillable Land**

**PURCHASE SEPARATELY OR COMBINE FOR 20.5± ACRES OF QUALITY TILLABLE FARMLAND OR LARGE ESTATE SITE!**

*Preview: Wednesday, April 8 • 4:00 – 7:00pm*  
Or call Auction Manager for walk-over permission!

- LOCATED IN THE 15,000 BLOCK OF GAR CREEK RD**
- Woodlan School District
  - Potential Building or Estate Sites
  - Easy Access to US 24, US 30 and I-469!
  - Immediate Possession

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**260-749-0445 • www.SchraderFortWayne.com**

## Mielke

FROM PAGE 6B

Thursday, 17.75 cents below a year ago, following a Friday finish at \$1.57.

Central region farm milk output is increasing, reports Dairy Market News, and demand for Class III milk was steady, though some plants were selling milk due to plant downtime. Class III prices at mid-week ranged \$5-under to flat Class. Cheesemakers were running busy schedules, though some were down for maintenance this week. Contacts say interest is strong from retail cheese customers, while food service demand remains down from a year ago. Export cheese demand is strong, but some contacts are concerned that rising shipping costs will negatively impact international interest.

Cheese manufacturers in the West are receiving plenty of milk and running heavy schedules. Class III spot milk demand is mostly moderate.

Spot cheese availability is mixed depending on producer contractual commitments and type. Stakeholders convey mozzarella loads are tighter.

Domestic demand varies from lighter to somewhat stronger. Sellers indicate retail sales are stronger than food service sales. Global disruptions have brought some delivery challenges, says DMN, but demand from international buyers is mostly steady.

After cash butter hit \$2.1375 per pound last Tuesday, it closed Friday at \$2.01, still 17 cents higher on the

week. It regained 0.75 cents Monday, hitting \$2.0175, but plunged 12.25 cents Tuesday and lost 4.25 cents Wednesday. It was unchanged Thursday, holding at \$1.8525, 49 cents below a year ago.

Central region milk output continues to grow, however there are reports that milk component levels are down slightly from last month. Cream production is strong and contacts say Class II processors continue to purchase significant volumes. Demand for cream from butter makers is steady and churns are running full schedules. Retail butter demand is strong, but food service sales remain down from last year. Butter produced in other countries is being sold at a premium to U.S. butter, contributing to continued strong export demand, according to DMN.

Strong milk production in the West is providing enough cream to fill contractual obligations to butter manufacturers but spot cream availability is somewhat tighter, says DMN. Some butter manufacturers were more reluctant to bring in spot loads at higher prices, which contributed to mixed demand. Butter producers continue to run strong production. Domestic demand varies from steady to stronger, while international demand remains strong however global disruptions are negatively impacting sales or deliveries in some cases, DMN warned.

Grade A nonfat dry milk was the shining star this week and climbed to a Thursday close at \$1.7650 per pound, up 8.50 cents on the week so far, highest CME price in four years, July 1, 2022. It closed Friday at \$1.68.

Dry whey was holding at last Friday's close of 64 cents per pound, until it gained a penny Thursday, and hit 65 cents per pound, 20 cents above a year ago.

**FarmWorld**  
The Midwest's Leading Weekly Ag Publication!

## ESTATE AUCTION

**Located at 5499 West County Road 700 South HOLTON, IN**

(7 Miles South of Versailles or 16 Miles North of Madison). Take US 421 to 700 South (Silver Memories Health Care) & then go ~3 Miles West to Auction Site (Follow Signs). For full listing & pictures, go to [#9334](http://www.auctionzip.com).

**SATURDAY MARCH 28TH, 2026**  
**Beginning at 10:00 (Indiana Time)**

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Partial Listing of Go to Auctionzip.com 9334 for Full List: Farm Equipment to be sold at 10:30, Knives to be sold at 11:00 (~2 Wagon Loads of Small Misc. Items).

**FARM EQUIPMENT, TRAILERS & MISC ITEMS:** J.D. 4230 Diesel Tractor w/ Like-New Rear Tires, 6 Front End Weights, 540/1000 PTO (S.N. 009182R); IHC 1566 Diesel Tractor, Duals, 9 Front Weights, 4 Rear Wheel Weights, Sm. 1000 PTO (S.N. 2650135U013903); J.D. 6620 Diesel Combine, Turbo, Diesel, Hydro, 2477 Hrs., (S.N.454321); J.D. 920 Platform & Cart; J.D. 643 High Tin Corn Head, New Gathering Chains, Stationary Head Cart; J.D. 7000 Planter, 6 Row Liquid, W/5 Row Splitter, Corn & Bean Boxes, Kinz & Bean Meters; IHC 496 Disc. 24', Hyd. Fold; Trailers: 1999 Corn Pro 25' Gooseneck Trailer, 18,000 lb., Dual Jacks, & 5' Dove Pocket Knives & Fishing Luers

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Cash or Check Payment w/ Valid I.D. & Not Responsible for Accidents, Lunch Served.

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM (BILL) SWINNEY**  
**ROGER HUFF AUCTIONEER, LLC & JANINE WALTER**  
**NAPOLEON 812-756-1239**  
**Auction License: AU01047063**

## AUCTION

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026 10 A.M.**

**LOCATION: 456 WILSON RUN RD., CHILlicothe, OHIO 45601**

*As agents for Ricky and Randy Thomas, we will offer the items described below at public auction.*

**Tractors; JD Combines; Farm Equipment**

International 3688 cab w/air 540/1000 PTO 4191 hours; Case International 3394 MFWD cab w/air, weights, 6038 hours; International 986 w/cab, second owner; Case 2670 MFWD; Case 2590 w/duals; John Deere 7720 Titan II combine with 2755 hours; John Deere 4420 combine with 3314 hours; John Deere 6 row corn head 30"; (2) John Deere 213 grain heads w/carts; John Deere 925 grain head; John Deere 444 corn head 4 row wide; RoGator 854 sprayer w/80' booms new back tires, new pump, 750 gal tank; Spray Coup 220 self propelled 60' boom gas engine; (2) 1,000 gal poly tanks; Kinze 11 row split row double frame 15" or 30"; John Deere 7000 6 row 30" no-till/conventional planter w/dry fertilizer and new augers; Kinze 440 grain cart; (3) gravity wagons; John Deere 1517 batwing cutter 15' 540 RPM; Unverferth 22' rolling harrow; Krouse 22' disc; Allis Chalmers cultivators 22'; John Deere 220 disc center fold 20'; chisel plow 11 shank; Miller Big 40 gas welder/generator on wheels; misc farm related items



**Terms: Cash or check with I.D. Not responsible for accidents.**

**OWNER: RICKY AND RANDY THOMAS**

**Auction Conducted By:**  
**BREWSTER REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION CO. LLC**  
Thomas G. Brewster - Auctioneer • Justin P. Brewster - Auctioneer  
Connor Smith - Auctioneer  
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## AUCTION

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 10 A.M.**

**LOCATION: 1102 COAL DOCK RD., WAVERLY, OHIO 45690**

*As agents for the Estate of Otto E Benner, we will offer the items described below at public auction.*

**Tractors; Combine; Farm Equipment; Trucks; Household**

New Holland T8030 cab, duals, weights 4972 hours; John Deere 8200 MFWD new tires, duals, 1000 RPM, weights, 8749 hours; John Deere 8440 with 7531 hours; John Deere 8430 with new complete front axle assembly that needs installed 8322 hours; Deutz 9150 4X4 tractor; Ford 7740 tractor- not running; John Deere 331G track skid steer loader; John Deere 9600 combine 6142 hours; John Deere 925 grain head; header cart; Kobelco 210 excavator; John Deere CX Gator; 2018 Dodge 3500 diesel 4X4 truck with 8' aluminum flatbed gooseneck hitch with 55,011 miles; 2015 International semi truck; 1997 Ford semi truck; 1995 International semi; East dump trailer; 1985 TI Brook aluminum frameless trailer; Hopper bottom grain trailer; 18' Gooseneck flatbed trailer; Great Plains Yield Pro 25' drill; Deutz corn planter; Mayrath 60' grain auger; Kill Brothers grain cart; Fertilizer spreader; (2) Chisel plows; (2) Cultivators; McFarlane reel disc 25'; International 470 22' disc; International 490 30' disc; Schaben Industries 90' boom pull type sprayer; 1650 gal tank, new tires, monitor; Woods 10' rotary cutter pull type; grapple bucket for skid steer loader; post hole digger for skid steer; (4) grain bin jacks; lagoon pump; 1250 gal ss milk tank; Hutchinson grain auger 62'; PTO generator; gas air compressor; gas pressure washer; Lincoln AC 225 welder; misc tools

**Household Items**

Oak table with 8 chairs; Hutch; (2) couches; Antique dresser; King size adjustable bed; double bed; buffet; love seat; home décor items and antiques



**Terms: Cash or check with I.D. Not responsible for accidents.**

**OWNER: ESTATE OF OTTO E BENNER, PCPC# E20251098**

**JANET BENNER—ADMINISTRATOR**

**DALE SEIF—ATTORNEY**

**Auction Conducted By:**  
**BREWSTER REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION CO. LLC**  
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# Book on Blood Countess debunks rumors about her life centuries later

"The Blood Countess: Murder, Betrayal, and the Making of a Monster" by Shelley Puhak c.2026, Bloomsbury, \$32.99, 293 pages



**THE BOOKWORM SEZ**  
Terri Schlichenmeyer

You saw it online, so it must be true.

It can't be just a rumor because you got it from a reliable source. Verification, bah! You trust the origin of this juicy story even it seems outlandish. Even if, as in the new book "The Blood Countess" by Shelley Puhak, the rumor's been wrong for centuries.

You've probably heard the story.

Supposedly, hundreds of years ago, a Hungarian Countess was somehow convinced that eternal beauty and longevity were hers if she bathed in the blood of virgins, so she sent emissaries across the land to fetch all the teenage girls they could find. When the Countess was caught, she was walled up in her castle forever.

Chilling story. But aside from the fact that Countess Elizabeth Bathory was a real person, it's almost all wrong, Puhak says.

Around the time of her birth, Bathory's family was powerful and connected, and owned much of an area that was renowned for its prosperity and culture. Elizabeth was raised in luxury and married well but in January 1603, her highly regarded husband, Francis Nadasy, died, leaving her with property, debt and three young children.

Though women enjoyed a surprising amount of clout then, patriarchy still ran strong. To ease her situation, Countess Bathory relied on influential men and religious leaders, but a festering Protestant-versus-Catholic atmosphere in Hungary affected things, politically. A strong-minded woman was looked upon with some amount of mistrust.

Still, Elizabeth survived - until a few years after she became a widow, and something went wrong.

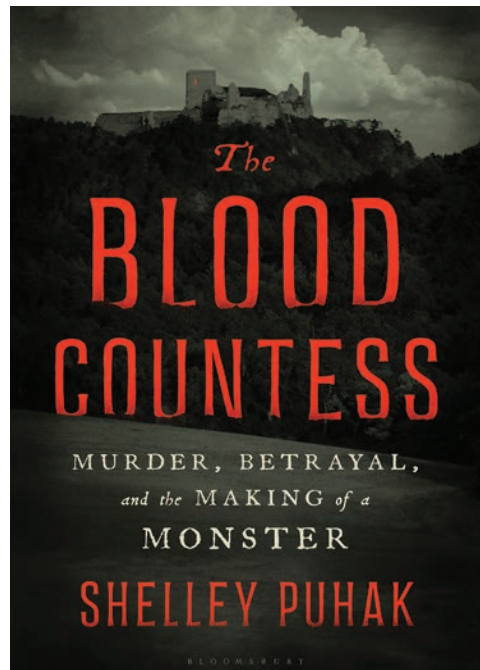
The countess, Puhak says, was apparently generally kind to her aides but there was a nasty disagreement with a housekeeper once. Maybe the sight of two injured servants led to rumors, or local priests were misquoted in saying Elizabeth was "carnifex," a

butcher. A biographer was wrong, or jealousy or patriarchy, or "the Devil," local commoners didn't care. They lived in fear and when things were at their worst, "they could not blame their emperor, Turks, or God, (but) they could not help but think of the countess..."

With a plethora of newly released fantasy-romantasy novels featuring castles, witches, and knights on shelves, Renaissance history seems to be having a moment now. This well-researched book fits in well.

Indeed, if you're in a feminist mindset, what you'll read in "The Blood Countess" won't come as a bit of a surprise. Puhak points out that Bathory's story offers some insight to today's news, revealing how Countess Elizabeth Bathory was a victim of patriarchy and politics - perhaps not completely an innocent one, but a victim nonetheless - and proving that history owes the countess a big apology. Be aware that there are a lot of players in this historical account, but there's legal intrigue in this story, murder, bloody battles, and just enough loose ends to keep readers enthralled.

For the person who shudders at old mythology, or if you relish a dungeons-and-moats kind of tale, you'll want to read this. You saw it here: "The Blood Countess" is truly good.



## 2026 Annual Spring Collector Auction

# 2 Huge Days!

Accepting Consignments NOW through April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5 pm EDT

LOCATION: 72435 SR 15 • NEW PARIS, IN 46553

### Thursday & Friday April 9 & 10, 2026

Starting at 8:30 am EDT Daily

Featuring the Private Collections of Harlan Beer and Larry Polk

#### Day 1 Thursday, April 9

Ring #1 Tractor Parts  
Ring #2 Toys, Signs, Memorabilia, Collectibles, Literatures & Primitives

#### Day 2 Friday, April 10

Ring #1 Hundreds of Non-Running Tractors & Running Tractors Hit & Miss Motors and 150+ Highly Desirable Tractors  
Ring #2 Equipment, Implements, Pallets of Parts & Much More!!

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[Polkauctionlive.com](http://Polkauctionlive.com)

**BID ONLINE! ...OR BID LIVE!**

Call us to Consign **1.877.915.4440**

## SPRING FARM MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT SALE

Selling the following equipment for the late JOE SCHELLENBERGER from Freeland Park, IN, & additions at Scherer's Auction Facility, 3 miles east of OXFORD, INDIANA

at 7113 E 600 S; or, one mile east of Junction S.R. 352 & U.S. 52 on 600 S; or, 15 miles northwest of Lafayette, IN on U.S. 52 to 750 E & north one mile to 600 S & 1/4 mile west, on SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026, 10:00 A.M. EST

**- RESTORED TRACTORS (SELL AT 12:00 NOON) -**

1973 John Deere 6030 D, open station, syncro range, fenders, rear wheel weights, front weights, 20.8x38 tires, dual remotes, Turbo, quick coupler, 20.8x38 clamp-on duals, 7874 shown hours, SN 034584R

1972 John Deere 4320 D, open station, syncro range, fenders, rear wheel weights, front weights, 18.4x38 tires, duals remotes, quick coupler, 8463 hours shown, SN 018616R

1965 John Deere 4020 D, open station, power shift, fenders, rear wheel weights, front weights, 18.4x34 tires, dual remotes, quick coupler, 8919 hours shown, SN 114452R

1967 John Deere 3020 D, open station, syncro range, fenders, rear wheel weights, front weights, 420/85R34 tires, dual remotes, quick coupler, 8922 hours shown, SN 109341R

1965 John Deere 3020 D, open station, syncro range, fenders, rear wheel weights, front weights, 15.5x38 tires, dual remotes, quick coupler, 887 hours, SN074576R

1966 Oliver 1550, gas, fenders, front weights, 14.9x38 tires, dual hyd., 4959 hours shown, SN 169-178-504

1957 Oliver Super 88, gas, fenders, single remote, 14.9x38 tires, NF, 1748 hours shown, SN 49-704-801

1959 Farmall 560, D, WF, fast hitch, dual hyd., 15.5x38 tires, SN 18770

1956 Farmall 450, gas, NF, fan fenders, 15.5x38 tires, SN 1478

1953 Farmall 350, gas, NF, fan fenders, 12.4x38 tires, SN 12696S

1953 Farmall Super M, NF, fan fenders, power steering, 13.6x38 tires, SN 509316J

1953 Farmall Super H, NF, fan fenders, power steering, 12.4x38 tires, SN 14027J

1951 Farmall M, gas, fan fenders, NF, power steering, 13.6x38 tires, SN 25335X

1967 John Deere 4020, gas, WF, rear weights, quick coupler, syncro range, 16.9x34 tires, 8054 hours shown, SN 17151R. Sells with John Deere 158 loader, 84" material bucket

Pallet forks sells separate

Red Seal golf cart tractor with dump bed

1965 Ford Galaxie 500 automobile, convertible, automatic, V8, 123,660 miles

Honda 200 Fourtrax ATV

8"x30" PTO auger with electric motor

Woods Model 9180 15' batwing mower

6'x8' Snowmobile tilt trailer

300-gal. Fuel tank on running gear, 12-volt pump

4 Pedal tractors

Mustang pedal car

New Lincoln 225 welder

Handful of miscellaneous items

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Outstanding offering from the Schellenberger Estate; sells at 12:00 noon**

**- AREA FARMERS' EQUIPMENT -**

2010 John Deere Model 3520 compact tractor, hydro, MFWD with 300 CX quick-tach loader, 750 hours, SN 612614

1985 Ford 9000 semi tractor, 10-speed, wet kit, day cab

Homemade 28' implement trailer with ramps

U.S. Army Escort Wagon (1917-1919) World War I. Built Jan. 1917 by Piedmont Wagon Co., Hickory, NC. Nice

2012 GMC Sierra 1/2-ton pickup, 5.3L V8, regular cab, 4x4 trailer package, 109,000 miles

2 Farm King SA augers, 10"x60" & 10"x70'

John Deere 7000 6RN planter

Souix round bale feeder

Platform scales

3-pt. Post hole digger

3-1/2-hp Transfer pump

**CONSIGNMENTS WELCOMED**  
Items will be added to AuctionZip as they come in. #20042

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AU01017404

BILL DECKER  
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815-889-4213 - Res.  
AU01014341

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Cash or check with proper I.D. Everything sold as is; no warranty applies. Not responsible for accidents or property after sold. Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material.

LUNCH SERVED. AuctionZip.com #20042.

# Sheridan Dairy

## ONLINE Milking Herd Dispersal

3-25-26 | 12-1PM ET | Bad Axe, MI

# 99#

## ECM Avg

**Robotic | 160 Holsteins & 80 Jerseys Sell**

- \*230 Cows Robotic Avg 85# 4.5 3.4 SCC-120K
- \*100+ 1st & 2nd Lact | ★ Herd | Many Fresh
- \*Many Many 4 & 5 ★ Young Cows
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Clay Papoi 517-526-1917 Shaun Hyde 989-287-2660 Gabe Papoi 989-444-8275  
Dave Whelen 517-403-7219 Dave Bennett 989-286-7244 Joe Sparrow 270-670-4178

# Poor Will

FROM PAGE 9B

All the leaves and fungi and butterflies in the Ohio Valley are signs that sandhill cranes are migrating through the Rocky Mountains. The road to Savannah is green with leaves a third to half emerged. Wisteria is fragrant along the Georgia coast, and fields of rice show off their purple blossoms. In Alabama, it's time for redbud trees and pears to bloom. On the outskirts of New Orleans, winter cress is going to seed, and huge, squat yellow thistles grow beside the roads; in the French Quarter, azaleas

and camellias are wide open, and yellow day lilies and the crepe myrtles are flowering.

## In the Field and Garden

Start a journal listing the bloom dates for the spring bulbs in your garden or that you see flowering in the neighborhood. That way, you can tell the future flowering dates (more or less).

Frost-seed the pastures where the ground is still freezing and thawing on a regular basis. If you have fruit trees, complete your spraying with dormant oil before temperatures get warmer and buds break dormancy. Mites, scale, and aphid eggs will mature

quickly when the temperatures climb above 60 degrees. The insects will be more easily controlled by dormant oil spray the closer they are to hatching.

## Countdown to Spring

- One week until the blooming Middle Spring wildflowers in the woods
- Three weeks until American toads sing their mating songs in the night
- Four weeks until the Great Dandelion and Violet Bloom begins
- Five weeks until azaleas and snowball viburnums and dogwoods blossom
- Six weeks until iris and poppies and daisies come into flower

- Seven weeks until the beginning of clover bloom in yards and pastures
- Eight weeks until the first orange day lily flowers
- Nine weeks until roses bloom and thistles bud
- 10 weeks until the high tree canopy begins to shade the garden

## Almanack Literature

**The Precious Knife**  
By Lois Kilgore, Plymouth, Ohio  
This is a true story about my nephew, James, when he was about 8 or 9 years old.  
My sister, Ruth, and her family of seven children (of which James was the second kid) lived in Knott County, Ky.

I went down to visit them for a week. They had an outhouse in the back.

We were sitting and talking in the kitchen, snapping green beans for supper.

Then we heard one of the children screaming, "Help me, please! Help me, please!"

We ran outside to see what was happening. Well, we tracked the sound to the outhouse and found James down in it. He'd fallen in and couldn't get back out.

We got him out and asked, "What in the world were you doing down there?"

He said that he dropped his knife that his grandpa had given to him, and that no one was ever going to get that knife, not even the outhouse.

We laughed until we couldn't laugh any more.

I think about that every time I think of him. He got killed in 1992, and we put his knife with him.

\*\*\*

Follow the month of April in Bill Felker's Daybook for the Year, available from Amazon.

Look for updated info on [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com) or on our Benjamin Auction Service Facebook page.

**Luke Benjamin 708-738-3895**  
**Jake Benjamin 708-768-8993**  
**Todd Benjamin 630-330-1069**




**ANNUAL Spring Consignment AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH**  
*Lunch Available*

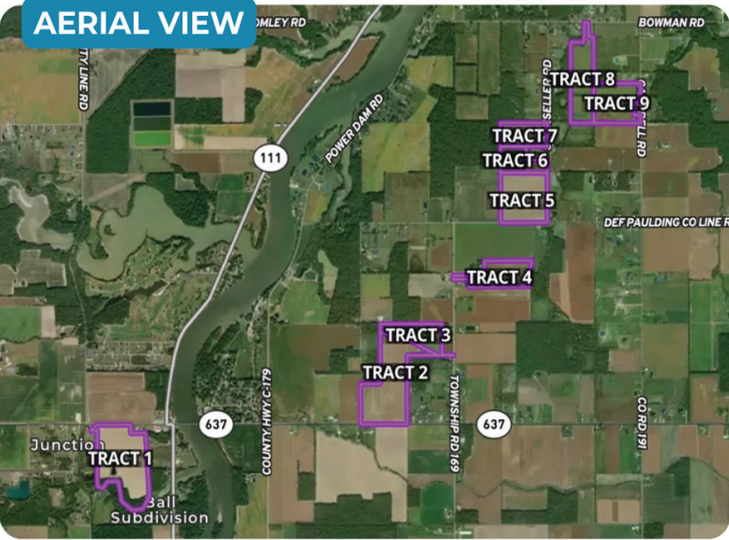
Questions Call:  
**Benjamin Auction Service**

**Farm Machinery Consignment Auction**  
**Saturday, April 11th, 2026**  
**@ 9:00 am**  
**Will County Fairgrounds**  
**710 S. West Street, Peotone**  
**Call now for early consignment advertising!**  
**Office: 708-258-3876**

# 300± ACRE LAND AUCTION



## PAULDING & DEFIANCE COUNTY



**AERIAL VIEW**

**AUGLAIZE & DEFIANCE TOWNSHIPS**  
[www.dyerealestate.com](http://www.dyerealestate.com)

**AUCTION DATE & TIME:**  
**April 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

**AUCTION LOCATION:**  
**OSU Extension Building - Paulding County Fairgrounds**  
503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879

**CONTACT:**  
**DEVIN DYE | THE LAND GUY**  
**419-303-5891**

OFFERED IN NINE TRACTS, INDIVIDUALLY, IN COMBINATION OR AS A WHOLE



**CONTACT**  
**DEVIN DYE**  
**THE LAND GUY**  
**419-303-5891**

# 395± ACRE LAND AUCTION

## HENRY COUNTY

**FLATROCK, MONROE, & RICHFIELD TOWNSHIPS**

**AUCTION DATE & TIME**  
March 26, 2026  
6:00 pm

**AUCTION LOCATION**  
Henry County Fairgrounds Event Center  
821 S. Perry St.  
Napoleon, OH 43545





ONLINE ONLY - JASPER COUNTY

**68.267± ACRES QUALITY FARMLAND**

Located Aprx:  
1500 N 350 W,  
Rensselaer, IN

**Open House**  
April 1st  
3-5 PM CT

- 66.24 FSA Tillable Acres
- 97% Tillable
- Tile Drained
- NCCPI 61.1
- Ample Road Frontage
- Bordering Oliver Ditch
- No 2026 Lease: Possession at Closing



**KRAFT REAL ESTATE SERVICES LLC**

Bidding Begins to Close:  
**April 16th @ 6 PM CT**

Online Only at:  
[Bid.KraftAuctions.com](http://Bid.KraftAuctions.com)

**Jonathan Kraft**  
(219) 973-9240  
**Kelsey Koomler**  
(219) 608-4341

ONLINE ONLY - STARKE COUNTY

**43.35± ACRES & BARN - No Reserve!**



4170 E 250 N  
Knox, IN

**Open House**  
April 1st  
12-2 PM CT

**SELLS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!**

- 37.81 Tillable Acres
- Pole Barn with Heated Shop
- Dual Road Frontage
- Light Industrial Zoning
- Flexible Land Use
- US 35 Highway Frontage

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**April 14th 6 PM CT**

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**Kelsey Koomler**  
(219) 608-4341

# Kevin McMath and his John Deere man cave

CLINTON, Ill. - While you can't really call Kevin McMath a John Deere collector only, it is the primary brand that he collects. This central Illinois farmer inherited the collecting gene from his father, Robert McMath. Kevin's dad passed in 2018, and Kevin said that Robert had enough collectibles, "I added this onto the shop."



**WRENCHING TALES**  
By Cindy Ladage

That was of an already very large shop, but this addition is a man cave/museum that also serves as Kevin's farm office, and as a receptacle for his collectibles as well as his fathers. In the office he has some cool farm toys, and one rare four-legged Deere John Deere paper weight. McMath said his dad found most of his collectibles at shows, adding, "Dad had a lot of this stuff."

The museum is filled with planter lids, seats and other collectibles. There are neat scales, planters and a beautiful Waterloo Boy picture as well. A very early John Deere calendar is framed and graces the wall. McMath blamed this purchase on Aumann Auctions Roger Johnson. "Roger made me buy that," McMath said.

One of the coolest items in the collection included an amazing John Deere wagon. "I was tearing down my landlords' shed they didn't even know it was there. I had the Amish redo it."

At the back wall, McMath has a very architectural grouping of Emerson Brantingham items with a Case Eagle on the world item centered in the display. Hanging from the ceiling is a John Deere combine that looks like it could go right into the field. The combination of old and new makes this setting interesting and captivates the visitor.

The farm toys are a mix of items that McMath has received for Christmas, NIB, new in-the-box items, and some from his childhood. He told a story. "I remember when I was a little kid and I wrote a letter to Santa asking for duals on a tractor, and Santa replied, 'You can't get duals on a tractor.'"

McMath took it upon himself to make it happen by gluing duals on a 1206 Farmall. "I don't know what I was doing with an International," he

joked. So, he started customizing early on. While many of the memorabilia items relate to his father, McMath said the farm toys have been his collecting bug. "I thought I needed them," he shared.

Most toys are 1/16th models and include wide front, narrow front and a variety of brands. While most toys are John Deere, there is a smattering of other brands like Allis Chalmers, and Farmall. There are wagons to accompany tractors and a thresher and even a Caterpillar grader. He has an amazing scratch-built picker that looks like an Ev Weber, but he is not sure.

John Deere wooden wheels of different sizes work as décor along with a very early John Deere corn planter. Then there are the fun items like the huge foam corn ear beside a very collectible John Deere straw hat. Everywhere you look there is something to see like the hay trolleys on the ceiling.

He also has a fun collection of acre counters used to keep track of acres and how much seed is planted. They were located on old drills. Beside the acre counters are wrenches even including an early Vanbrunt. On the fun side, there are a variety of John Deere marbles.

There is a neat John Deere seat, and any child would love the wooden barn made by Fred Wunchsh, his mom's dad. It sits high in a place of honor. Besides the farm items, McMath has an extensive native American collection of arrow heads and a couple stone axes that he and his father found on the farm. Most were found while in the tractor seat. "Driving along you would see them, then you would have to stop."

The ones that Robert found are written on. Kevin collects big items as well as small. In his even larger shed he stores his old trucks and tractors. Adding more fun on a Silver King, he has put a mannequin, Viola, that sits in the buddy seat behind the tractor driver. With a small movement, Viola is waving at the crowd during tractor drives.

(Wrenching continued on page 19B)



Above: Kevin McMath in his man cave.



Above: The old John Deere planter



Above: Kevin McMath with his Emerson Brantingham collection.



Above: One of Kevin McMath's acre counters.

**FarmWorld**  
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THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

PROPERTY LOCATION: Two miles north of Uniondale, IN along 100 W and near 800 N in Union Township, Wells County.

128.76+/- TOTAL ACRES | 3 TRACTS

**HALDERMAN** REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT  
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Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 | Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, HLS#JAJ-13211, Farm: Marquis/Freije

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST | 4 PM - 6 PM ET

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Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181 | Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177

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HLS#JAJ-13208  
Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, Farm: United Methodist Memorial Home

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Featured

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Home & Outdoor Overstock,  
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**ONLINE AUCTION #8**  
Rare Gold & Early U.S. Silver Coins ★  
1893 \$10 Liberty Gold • 1927 \$20 Saint-Gaudens • 1914 \$2.50 Indian  
Gold • Bust & Seated Liberty Silver & More  
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**Metzger**  
**SILVER SUNDAY**  
COIN & CURRENCY AUCTION!  
The Outstanding Marvin Davis Estate  
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APRIL 5, 2026  
NORTH MANCHESTER, IN  
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**ONLINE & LIVE LAND AUCTION**  
**147 ACRES**  
Offered in 4 Tracts  
Quality Cropland  
Wayne Township  
Fulton County, Indiana  
LIVE & ONLINE  
March 31, 2026 • 6:30 PM  
Auction Location:  
Grass Creek Fire Station  
Grass Creek, Indiana  
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Maps & Details Available Online

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# USDA launches the 'One Farmer, One File' initiative to streamline records

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**  
Iowa Correspondent

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - USDA Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins recently launched "One Farmer, One File," an initiative that would create a single, streamlined record that follows producers throughout their participation in USDA programs, the agency said.

Rollins made the announcement at the Commodity Classic Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in February. "Every single day at the USDA, our focus is on making life easier, more profitable and more rewarding for the American farmer. Our government for the people by the people should be modern, efficient, and respect taxpayer dollars," she said.

"This modernization of old, duplicative, wasteful systems has one goal in mind: improve our customer service so the people we serve are able to farm and feed America, and the

world," she added.

According to the agency, the USDA's Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency work with agricultural producers on a wide range of programs and services, from establishing a farm number to reporting acres planted, and from getting capital to recovering from disasters.

The goal of One Farmer, One File is to reduce the administrative burden for farmers, the USDA said. In addition, this effort will make program delivery more efficient, save time for USDA staff, and decrease spending on disparate information technology systems. The USDA added it began working on this system in 2025, and plans to greatly advance the effort in 2026, anticipating fully completing the project in 2028.

Dave Walton, American Soybean Association vice president and Wilton, Iowa, farmer, said, "Farmers rely on the

USDA's support and technical assistance more than ever, but we also know firsthand how time-consuming paperwork and duplicative reporting requirements can be. The efficiencies implemented through this initiative will help reduce that burden and save precious time that can be spent in the field."

Justin Robbins, a fourth-generation Scranton, Iowa, cattle producer, agreed. He told Farm World, "The new One Farmer, One File initiative is a step toward making USDA programs work better for farmers and cutting red tape. A single record across USDA programs means less paperwork, faster service, and more time for producers to focus on running their farms."

Gary Blair, National Association of Conservation Districts president, said, "When application processes are simpler and records are unified, farmers and ranchers can spend less time on paperwork and more time implementing conservation systems that protect

soil, water, air, and wildlife," he said. "One Farmer, One File is a practical improvement that will strengthen conservation delivery nationwide."

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, said, "Farmers and ranchers rely on the USDA for up-to-date resources to keep our businesses running, and our food supply secure. (The) announcement is welcome news to ensure farmers quickly receive the information and resources they need."

"At a time when farmers are facing a tough farm economy and rising pressures, we all count on the USDA to deliver the programs and support that will keep our farms moving forward," he added. "Farmers and ranchers need to make every dollar and every minute count on the farm, and having an easier system to navigate USDA programs will free up farmers for the work of growing our nation's food, fiber, and fuel."

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- 2004 NEW HOLLAND LB75C TRACTOR LOADER BACKHOE
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- 2003 JOHN DEERE 5420 TRACTOR W/ LOADER
- 2008 AGCO 5670 TRACTOR W/ LOADER
- 2007 NEW HOLLAND TN75A TRACTOR W/ LOADER
- 2007 JOHN DEERE 2305 TRACTOR W/ WOOD LOADER
- 2003 NEW HOLLAND LB110 TRACTOR LOADER BACKHOE
- 2001 NEW HOLLAND TC35D TRACTOR
- 1993 FORD/NEW HOLLAND 6640 TRACTOR
- 1971 FORD 5000 TRACTOR
- FARMALL SUPER C TRACTOR W/ WOODS BELLY MOWER
- MASSEY FERGUSON 35 TRACTOR
- CASE 580B TRACTOR W/ LOADER
- FORD 5000 TRACTOR W/ LOADER
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- 2016 NEW HOLLAND C232 TRACK SKID STEER
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- GLEANER M2 COMBINE
- GLEANER M COMBINE DIESEL- PARTS
- GLEANER R52 COMBINE - PARTS
- 2012 GLEANER 9250T-40 GRAIN HEAD
- 2014 GLEANER 9250T-35 GRAIN HEAD
- MULTIPLE GRAIN & CORN HEADS
- MULTIPLE HEADER CARTS

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## LARGE FARM MACHINERY AUCTION TUESDAY, MARCH 31st, 2026 @ 8:00 AM CST

THIS IS A LIST OF UPDATES TO LAST WEEK'S AD. FOR A FULL LISTING,  
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**TRACTORS:** JD 4020, 5000 hrs, frnt wts, 2 hyds, 540 pto, 3pt, qck htch, 9' sickle mwr, WFE, canopy; '79 Case 2590, 2WD, R134 a/c, 20.8-38 w/duals; Ford 3000, 5700 hrs, 540 pto, 3pt; JD 8450, 8700 hrs, 18.4-38 w/duals, 10 bolt, 3 hyds, qck cplr, lg 1000 pto; IH 966, 5300 hrs, frnt wts, 540/1000 pto, 2 hyds, 11.00-16 frnt & 18.4-38 rear, 100 hp, 6 cyl dsl eng.

**FRONT LDRS/BUCKETS/BLADES/FORKS:** Western 9' Snow Plow; Rhino 1540 Blade, 10', 3pt, tilt angle, tail whl, exc cond.

**COLLECTORS:** JD 4520, no cab, dual hyds.

**INDUSTRIAL:** Simon Manlift 40' Boom, Ford gas eng, runs & operates; Wabco 555 Road Grader, 8800 hrs, 2WD, cab, heat, Cummins dsl eng, 12' moldboard, runs & drives.

**MECHANIC SPECIALS:** IH 1566, runs good, needs T.A.

**WAGONS:** J&M 350, w/10 ton gear, brush seed auger, self-cont hyds, trails good; H&S 250 Wgn, 8 bolt whls.

**GRAIN AUGERS:** Mayrath 10"x30'.

**PLANTERS:** JD 7300, 12R-30", row clnrs, mrkrs, insect bxs.

**PLANTER & DRILL PARTS:** John Blue Grnd Drive Fert Pump; Kinze 16R Wave System, hyd vac pump, tubes, sensors, wire harness, monitor, no bxs; (12) Ytr Row Clnrs; John Blue Piston Pump; (16) Kinze 3000 Seed Bxs; (3) JD Air Compressors; (2) Sets of (12) Ytr Row Clnrs; (24) XP Gauge Whls; (10) Ytr Row Clnrs; (12) JD 1770 NTs; JD 1770 Trans; Kinze Vac Unit; JD 7200 Row Unit.

**APPLICATORS:** Remlinger 12R Strip-till Bar, w/MonTag dry fert tank; '87 GMC Top Kick Spread Truck, CAT 3208 eng, 5+2 trans, ss, 8T box, ss chain.

**VERTICAL TILLAGE TOOLS:** JD 2660, "Demco Unit", 32', 7.25" sp, 22" blds, 1vtr, dual hyd roll bsks, has less than 700 acres.

**ROCKFLEX DISKS:** White 273, 24', 9" sp, 20.5" blds, no welds.

**DISKS:** JD 630, 18', one ownr, always shedded, sharp.

**SOIL FINISHERS:** SF 6432, 27', new 9" knock-on swps, 7.5" sp, heavy duty built, tands on main & wings, 5 bar spike hrw; '10 JD 2210, 21', roll bsks, 3 bar spike drag, always shedded.

**RIPPERS:** JD 2100 Inline, 5x, 30" sp, pull type or 3pt.

*With much more to be added before the auction! We offer live onsite, absentee & phone in bidding at no charge. We also offer online bidding at EquipmentFacts w/a 3% buyer's premium. We sell w/3 trucks at a time, so bring a friend. UTV's & golf carts are welcome!*

**ROTARY HOES:** M&W 1930, 30', hyd fold, dirt deflect, 2 gauge whls, good spoons.

**PACKERS:** UM 30', dbl roll bsks w/twstd bars, tand whls; Brillion XXL-184, 38', x-fold, ext hitch, 20" duct whls, 11L-15SL w/duals.

**CRUMBLERS:** DMI 25', hyd fold, roll hrw; '11 JD 200, 25', lights, ext tongue, 14" bsks, sharp.

**CULTIMULCHERS:** CIH 415, 30', flat fold, solid rolls, scrprs.

**MOWERS:** JD 609, 6', 540 pto.

**SILAGE EQUIP:** CIH 8750, 7' pu hay head, pull-type, lg 1000 pto; '13 H&S 18' Wgn, tand axle; '04 H&S 16' Wgn, tand axle; Gehl 5300 Wgn, 16', tand axle; Badger 14' Wgn, very clean.

**FORAGE:** Several 4"x7', 5"x8', 6"x8', 7"x8' Red Pine Posts, CCA treated; OMC 281 Swather, 15', Ford gas eng, hydro, new cut bar & guards, w/trailer.

**HAY BALERS:** NH Super 68, square, works good, used in '25.

**FEED GRINDERS/MIXERS:** Gehl 55, runs good; NH 352, long unload, sheller, needs gear box for unload auger.

**VEGETABLE EQUIP:** Mechanical #94 Transplntr, 1R, plastic layer bedder.

**TRUCKS & TRAILERS:** '80 Transcraft 42' Trlr, w/3K gal ss tank; Trail King 40' Detach Trlr, low-boy, w/beaver tail & winch; Isuzu MPR Flatbed Trk, 2007 yr, duals, runs & drives; Tri-Axle Fltbd Trlr, w/hyd ramps, spare tire; GMC Sprdr Trk, New Leader bed, Detroit eng, 10 sp trans, wire for VRT w/Ag Ldr comp, 2WD; '97 GMC C7500 Grain Trk, 366 gas eng, 5+2 trans, 16' knapheide steel bed, 430 bu, disk brks.

**TIRES/RIMS/HUBS:** (2) IH 9 Bolt Dual Hubs; (2) 18.4-38, w/axle mnt whls; (2) 48x25-20; (2) 8 Bolt Hubs off IH 350.

**MISC EQUIP:** 2013 Unverferth 2750 Seed Tender, 285 Bu, "Seed Runner", 2 compartments, talc applicator, scales, bumper pull, nice! Western Pro Flo 2 Salt Sprdr, 1200 lb cap, 10 cf, belt fed; 1600 gal SS Tank; Winco 2500KW Generator, single phase, 540 pto; '76 1600 gal Nurse Tank on Trlr, Honda eng, flow max pump, works good; 22' Hyd-fold Harrowgator, lift cyl, good spikes; (2) IH Fenders off IH 350; (2) IH 986 Mirrors.

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**MOWERS-TOOLS:** Cub Cadet ZT Ultima ZT3 60" Mower, Snapper 61" ZT Mower; (2) Ariens GT18 lawn tractor/48" deck; (2) Ariens 48" snow blower; lawnmower jack; Cricket mini golf cart; AgriFab Mow-n-vac w/5 hp mower; DR Field & Brush mower w/Kawasaki 16 hp motor; log splitters; Snapper tiller w/5 hp Briggs; Work Horse & Country Way Sprayers; 4x6 yard trailer; Chevy Rims & Tires-P275/55R20-6 lug; Mac 1/2" impact; steel wagon wheels; Channellock wall mount utility 5 gal. vac; Witton 5" ATV vise; Yost 5.5 reversible vise; Bauer conditioning tool; Hercules dual action polisher; Stihl 170 chain saw; Greenworks 20v chain saw; Ryobi 8-1/4" mitre saw; B & D 10" table saw & Bandsaw; Tool shop double end grinder; tractor splitter stand; Miller Sidekick wire welder; tire changer; bead breaker; engine hoist; tractor cranks; Remington 45,000 BTU space heater; Alto Hot/Cold Pressure Washer; Spreader bar; Skid of cable; Pickup toolbox; Lasko step stool toolbox; spool wire rack fuel tank; NH tractor repair manuals; Reese hitches; 4" grinders; New JD tractor seat; fence stretchers; hand tools, wrenches & more!  
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Tractors: 1990 JD 4555, MFWD, 1997 JD 8300, MFWD; Kubota BX2680 w/LA344 loader 4wd/3 hrs; JD 5520 w/542 loader 2wd, 2 remotes; JD 4030 2wd quad range, 2 remotes/18.4x34 rears, 5314 hrs; JD 4320; JD 2630 w/Farmhand GL520 loader 2wd; JD 2030 gas, 1 remote, utility/swept back axle; JD 620 Tractor-Fenders/3 pt/PS; Minneapolis Moline GD Tractor-propane/WF/original; Oliver 770 Gas Tractor-3pt/PS/Flat fenders; Farmall H 9 speed transmission; Farmall 400 fast hitch, drawbar hitch, hour meter; Farmall H; Ford 2000 & 4000 gas, Ford 801; JD 1020 w/JD 37 loader gas, 12.4x28 rears; JD Model D, unstyled; AC 190 Gas; JD B, 1941 Oliver 60 row Crop tractor; Cockshutt 30; (2) Farmall F20s; Case SC & Case VC Tractors/not running; Farmall F20 parts tractor; Equipment: Case 580WL Backhoe Cab, 4wd, Extend-a-Hoe; Bobcat 943 Skidsteer; 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck 2wd, 67285 miles; 2003 Ford F250 6.0 Powerstroke pickup truck; 1989 Ford F250 4x4 pickup truck 7.3 diesel, automatic; 2006 Chevy 2500 Pickup V8 Gas, Auto, 7.5ft Meyer Snowplow, 54,785 miles, one owner; 1997 Kinze 640 Grain Cart; Parker 4500 Grain Cart; Enorossi Farm King Batrake (new) 10 wheel V-rake w/kicker; JD 494A 4 bar rake; NH 256 5-bar rake; NH 638 round baler; NH 269 square baler; Enorossi DM-6 Disc Mower; First Choice GS300/2 basket tedder; Pequa 646 bale wagon; IH 7ft sickle bar mower 2 pt hookup; IH & Ford sickle bar mowers; Unverferth wagon w/J&M seed auger; DMI 300 Center Dump Gravity Wagon; Brent 750 hopper wagon; Parker 7250 hopper wagon; Parker hopper wagon on Farmer Pride running gear; J & M hopper wagon on EZ Flow gear; J & M hopper wagon; Hay wagon 8x16 on JI CASE running gear; 14' Haywagon; (2) J & M 450 Center Dump Wagons 385x22.5 tires / 14-ton gear; DMI 2800 Nutri-Placer Sidedresser/11 knife, ground drive pump; King Kutter 3 pt 6 ft. tiller; DMI model 900 Ripper; International 3900 30' Disc; Krause 25' Finishing Tool; AGCO Glenco SS7200 7-shank disc chisel; IH 710 6-18 plow; IH 3 bottom plow, pull-type; IH 3 bottom plow 2 pt; (2) JD 2 bottom plows, pull-type; Bush Hog 16 ft. wing disc hydraulic fold harrow; IH 153 6-30 cultivator; JD rotary hoe 4 row, 3pt; King Kutter 3 pt. 6 ft. disc; Harogator; Dearborn mod 13F 3pt. 2-row cultivator; 1999 Kinze 3500 8/15 planter; JD 750 drill; JS 7000 planter 6 row, dry fertilizer, bean units only; JD 7000 planter 6 row; steel spiked closing wheels (16); home-made header cart 4-row wide; IH 7X18 drill grass seeder & fertilizer; GSI grain systems 8x60 swing away auger; Mayrath 8-65 swing away Auger; 8'x62' Swing Away Auger; NH 130 manure spreader poly floor single beater; King Kutter 7ft. rotary cutter 3 pt; Woods 7 ft. Rotary cutter 3 pt; Woods XT172 6 ft. rotary cutter 3 pt; Bush Hog rotary cutter pull-type, no front half of PTO; Bush Hog Model 306 rotary cutter 3 pt; Hyster 3 pt. Forklift 46" forks; Clark Forklift-Propane; BMB 3 pt. 7 ft. grader blade; ARPS 3pt 6ft grader blade Model AB200; 3 pt. carrier blue; 2 pt. carrier; 500 gal. fuel tank; wheel weights: IH, Cockshutt, Oliver; 18.4x34 JD rear tractor tires & rims; IH tractor drawbar hitch; (2) 2 pt. hitches; tractor to tractor hitch; 10 bundles of 7'x8' of treated wood posts & 10 bundles of treated wood fence posts-NEW; NEW Skid Steer Attachments; Tarter Cattlemaster Chute w/Palpation cage/auto headgate; cattle mineral feeders; Poly Feed Bunks; Metal stock tank; 8' Pickup Flatbed; woven wire fence/barbed wire & more!  
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**MARCH**

**23** 84.3± ACRES IN 5 TRACTS. Whitley County, IN. Quality Tillable Farmland • Possible Country Estate Sites • Hunting & Recreational • Farming Rights for 2026. Contact Arden Schrader 260-229-2442.

**26** 249.37± ACRES IN 4 TRACTS. Pike County, OH. Outstanding Hunting • Mature Timber • Existing Trail System & Pole Buildings • Secluded Settings • Tracts Ranging from 28.90± Acres to 135.17± Acres • County Water & Electric Available. Contact Tommy Brewster 740-357-0325.

**30** 79.5± ACRES IN 3 TRACTS. Calhoun County, MI. Productive Tillable Land • Woods • Potential Building Sites. Contact Ed Boyer 574-215-7653.

**APRIL**

**7** 262± ACRES IN 7 TRACTS. Whitley County, IN. Productive Tillable Farmland • Woods for Hunting • 2026 Farming Rights • 80% Blount and Pewamo Soils • Immediate Possession for Farming Purposes. Contact Kevin Jordan 800-451-2709 or Ritter Cox 260-609-3306.

**13** 169± ACRES IN 13 TRACTS. Allen County, IN. 5 Bedroom Home w/ 48 x 98 Morton Pole Barn on 10 Acres & Pond • 6 Acre Building Site w/ Pond • Multiple Small Acre Potential Country Building Sites • Approximately 140 Quality Tillable Acres • Approximately 16 Acres Woods for Hunting & Recreation. Contact Jerry Ehle 260-410-1996.

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**FARM EQUIPMENT & PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**MARCH**

**20** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Noble County, IN. Contact Phil Wolfe 260-248-1191.

**21** FARM EQUIPMENT. Van Wert County, OH. Contact Ritter Cox 260-609-3306.

**22** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Wells County, IN. Contact Mike Roy 260-437-5428.

**23** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Allen County, IN. Contact Jensen Jeffrey 260-273-5931.

**27** FARMEQUIPMENT. Fayette County, OH. Contact Nick Cummings 740-572-0756 or Andy Walther 765-969-0401.

**28** FARMEQUIPMENT. Lenawee County, MI. Contact Robert Mishler 260-336-9750 or Jon Shaw 517-945-3142.

**30** FARM EQUIPMENT. Cass County, MI. Contact Ed Boyer 574-215-7653 or Ted Boyer 574-215-8100.

**APRIL**

**2** FARMEQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT - VIRTUAL AND TIMED ONLINE. Various Locations. Contact Eric Ott 260-413-0787 or Robert Mishler 260-336-9750 or Mark Schroeder 260-564-0570.

**4** FARMEQUIPMENT. Noble County, IN. Contact Eric Ott 260-413-0787.

**6** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Huntington County, IN. Contact Jensen Jeffrey 260-273-5931.

**7** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Adams County, IN. Contact Jared Sipe 260-750-1553.

**8** FARM EQUIPMENT. Elkhart County, IN. Contact Lee Beer 574-518-9109.

**10** PERSONAL PROPERTY - TIMED ONLINE ONLY. Lake County, IN. Contact Phil Wolfe 260-248-1191.

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# EXTRA FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21 AT 10AM • Willshire, OH**

LOCATION: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC, 1257 US 33, Willshire, OH 45898  
At northwest edge of Willshire, Ohio, on US 33 or southeast approximately 8 miles from Decatur, IN or US 33.

- ANTIQUE TRACTORS • TRACTORS
- UTILITY TRACTORS • SKIDLOADERS
- FORKLIFTS • MANURE • LIVESTOCK
- HAY EQUIPMENT • HARVEST EQUIPMENT
- GRAIN CARTS • WAGONS & AUGERS
- COMBINES • HEADS & HEAD CARTS
- FERTILIZER & EQUIPMENT • TILLAGE
- PLANTERS & DRILLS • SEED TENDERS
- CONSTRUCTION • TILE EQUIPMENT
- TRUCKS & TRAILERS • UTVs & ATVs
- TIRES, DUALS & WEIGHTS
- LAWN MOWERS • ROTARY MOWERS
- MISC FARM EQUIPMENT
- TECHNOLOGY • TOYS

Various Owners Represented Watch For Website Updates

QUESTIONS?: Call Farmers Grain & AG, LLC • 419.495.2338 or  
Tim Kreider • 260.413.8008 SALE MANAGER: Ritter Cox • 260.609.3306



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# WECHTER FARM EQUIPMENT Dispersal Auction SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH | 10AM



**Auction will held on site located at 6308 Scott Rd, Tiro OH 44887.** From Tiro, take St Rt 39 North to St Rt 103 and go West toward N Auburn Rd. Watch for RES signs. **Tractors:** 1992 Case 7140 Magnum MFWD, C/H/A, 18F/4R powershift trans, large 1000 PTO, (3) remotes, hammer strap, axle duals, (18) suitcase weights, Ag Leader auto steer, Vanguard VM-2600 control, 4,100hrs, Serial Number: JJA0041894; 1992 Case 7140 Magnum MFWD, C/H/A, 18F/4R powershift trans, large 1000 PTO, (3) remotes, hammer strap, axle duals, (18) suitcase weights, 4,857hrs, Serial Number: JJA0040998; 1991 Case 7120 Magnum MFWD, C/H/A, 18F/4R powershift trans, 1000 & 540 PTO, 3pt w/ quick hitch, (4) remotes, (18) suitcase weights, 4,615hrs, Serial Number: JJA0033920; 1994 Case 5230 Magnum 2WD, open station, 16-speed trans w/ left hand reverser, 540 & 1000 PTO, 3pt, (2) remotes, 2,427hrs, Serial Number: JJF1033798, IH Farmall 560, diesel, needs work, Neighbor consignment: Farmall H, restored. **Combine, Heads & Wagons:** 1996 Case 2166, 2WD, Axle Flow, Ag Leader PF Advantage yield monitor, manual bin extensions, 3,861 engine/ 2,524 separator hours, SN:JJC018282; 1995 Case 1020 25' grain platform; Case 643 6Row 30" corn head; Unverferth HT-25 header cart; Unverferth HT-30 header cart, (2) Killbros 387 gravity wagon, 1396 running gear, lights, tarp, 385/65R22.5 tires; (2) Killbros 385, gravity wagon, 1396 running gear, lights, tarp, 385/65R22.5 tires, Unverferth 325 gravity wagon, lights, tarp, 385/85R22.5 tires. **Planting:** Great Plains 2N-2410 No-Till Drill, 24', 10" spacing, 2 section hydro fold, SN:GP-C1927; John Deere 1770 Conservation 12 Row planter, MaxEmerge Plus, Vacuum, (2) 225gal liquid fertilizer tanks, row markers, 2pt hookup, 30" spacing, Serial Number: H01770R675116; EZ-Trail 3400 tender wagon, 1074 running gear, hydraulic auger, Subura gas engine, tarp, lights. **Tillage:** Glenco 11-shank disc chisel, hydraulic disc, walking tandems; Case 4800 Vibra Shank 24' field cultivator, new shovels, 2-bar harrowator; Unverferth 220 24' double rolling basket, flat fold, adjustable tongue. **Truck & Other Equipment:** 2015 Chevy Silverado 2500, reg. cab, 4WD, 6.0L gas, transfer tanks, tool boxes, 41k miles; Case 1825 Skid Steer, OROPS, H-Pattern hand controls, 48" bucket, forks; diesel, showing 628 hours, SN: GCJ004984; Woods 214 14' batwing mower, manual fold; 2018 Mortiz livestock trailer, 7,000 GVWR, tandem axle, cut gate; **Tools & Shop Items:** (2) ProTemp diesel heaters; pressure washer, press wheels; chains; straps; hitches; oils; tillage equipment parts; etc. **Note:** Mark your calendars for a good clean auction with well-kept equipment. We will start with shop and small uncatalogued items at 10am with the major equipment selling at 10:30 AM. Online bidding is available for the equipment at www.RES.bid. **Preview:** Equipment will be available for inspection on Friday April 3rd from 12pm-4pm. **Load Out:** Items can be removed auction day until 3 pm and also Monday April 6th from 1pm-5pm. After Monday April 6th removal will be by appointment only. All items must be paid in full before removing them from the premises. **Buyer's Premium:** If bidding in-person, there is no Buyer's Premium. If bidding through RES.bid, a 5% Buyer's Premium will be applied to each purchase. If bidding through Equipment Facts, a 7% Buyer's Premium will be applied to each purchase. **Payment Terms:** All invoices must be paid by Wednesday, April 8th at 5:00 PM. We accept cash, check, wire transfer, and credit cards (Up to \$3,000). 5% Buyer's Premium waived if paid by cash or check. All items must be paid in full before removal.



ANDY WHITE - JAKE WHITE  
DREW TURNER - KALEB BADGER - DAVE CORNISH

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Above: Kevin McMath and his dad found several Native American artifacts on their farm.



Above: The barn that Kevin McMath's grandpa made.

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## Wrenching

FROM PAGE 14B

McMath also has conversion tractors along with John Deere models. There is a Massey 22, with a hand sticking out of the hood that is a conversation starter. There is also a very cool John Deere Model 40 combine, and a Massey corn picker model. "I bought it from a guy at Penfield. He said, 'I've got something you need.'"

After dickered with him, they settled on a prize, and he ended up with the Massey self-propelled corn picker, and a wagon that he retrieved from the other side of Indiana.

Creativity abounds in McMath's neck of the woods. His neighbor's wife created a fascinating man sitting atop a hay rake. It is a showstopper that I am sure has drivers rubber necking and stopping like we did to take pictures.

On top of all of this, McMath also purchased a one-of-a-kind Nieman conversion tractor at a farm sale that will be on display at Gathering of the Green this year. What a cool collection and a collector that enjoys what he collects and loves sharing his collection with others.



Above: "Viola" on Kevin McMath's Silver King.

# 2 AUCTIONS 1 DAY

## SPRING MIDWEST

### Construction & Ag Auction

APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> | 9 AM ET

**FREIJE & FREIJE AUCTIONEERS**

# MIDWEST

## Public Automobile Auction

APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> | 6 PM ET

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## HALL FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

Tractors \* Combine \* Grain Drill  
20325 Delaware Co. Line Rd., **MARYSVILLE, OH 43040**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 28th 2026, 11:00 AM**



**TRACTORS:** 1976 John Deere 4430 Diesel, Cab/Heat/Air, Quad Range Trans, 540/1000 PTO, 2 Hydro Outlets, 3 pt. Hitch, 18-4-38 Tires, 7,762 hrs., Vin. # 050853, has 9 Bolt Hubs/Duals (selling separate); 1966 John Deere 3020 Diesel, WF, 540/1000 PTO, 3 pt. Single Hydro Outlet, 15-5-38 Tires, Hrs. Unknown, Vin. #085200; Quick Hitch; 1964 John Deere 4020 Diesel, NF, 3 pt., New Tires, Hrs. Unknown, SN# 85550 Mounting Bracket & 6 JD Suitcase Weights.  
**COMBINE, HEADS, WAGONS & AUGERS:** 1985 John Deere 6620 Titan II 2WD, Auto Reverser, Chopper, 23L-28 Tires, 11.2-24 Rears, 3,330 hrs., SN#HO6620X615603 (Well Kept); John Deere 216 Grain Head; John Deere 443 Corn Head 4 Row/30"; 16' Header Cart; J&M 385 Gravity Bed, Roll Tarp w/J&M 13 Ton Gear-Cement Tires; J&M 350 Gravity Bed, Roll

**Owners: LARRY & JEAN HALL**  
**NOTE:** Due to Larry's retirement & advancing age they will longer be farming with this clean line of equipment. All items were used on small acreage & can be found in field ready condition. No smalls to sell, so be on time as this will be a quicker sale.

LIVE in person auction w/online bidding  
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# 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



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