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## Panel examines effects of Iran war at the farm gate

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

URBANA, Ill. – A March 26 panel webinar presented by University of Illinois agricultural economists Nick Paulson and Gary Schnitkey examined how the ongoing conflict in Iran is impacting global agriculture.

The farmdoc daily webinar was joined by industry experts who broke down the recent spikes in fertilizer and fuel prices. They discussed the immediate effects of the conflict on the 2026 crop year, the critical differences between this market shock and the 2022 Russia-Ukraine conflict, and what decreased input affordability means for farmer profitability heading into 2027.

“Since Operation Epic Fury began on February 28, we have all seen increased energy and fuel costs, along with the cost of fertilizers urea and ammonia, and phosphates and sulfur,” due to military restrictions on the key shipping channel Strait of Hormuz, Paulson began. “(The Middle East) is an area that is actually dependent on a lot of agricultural imports. That creates distinctions when we might want to compare how this international conflict might impact agricultural markets relative to what we saw as part of the Russia-Ukraine conflict that broke out in February of 2022.”

Citing data from the most recent Illinois Production Cost report and daily Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) grain market reports as of March 20, Paulson noted that anhydrous ammonia was selling for \$998.33 per ton in the state, an increase of \$155 or 18.4 percent since Feb. 20, or one month, prior. According to Bloomberg/Green Markets, anhydrous prices had increased by

around 15 percent, or \$102, between Feb. 27 and March 25 across the Corn Belt.

“Nitrogen prices were inching up prior to the (Iran) conflict,” Schnitkey said. “We’re fortunately not at the \$1,200 (per ton) level like with the previous (Ukraine) conflict. We were also seeing rising prices before the conflict with Russia and Ukraine happened.”

Urea originating from the Middle East rose to \$822.50 per ton between Feb. 20-March 20 in Illinois, according to U of I’s data. This represents an increase of \$241.50 per ton, or 41.6 percent, since the onset of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

“This is (from) Illinois Production Cost data that is bi-weekly,” Paulson explained. “If we compare that to the more current and daily data that comes from the Bloomberg terminal, it’s about a 38 percent increase in U.S. Corn Belt urea prices (and) a 51 percent increase in the Middle East from Feb. 27-March 25. Relative price increases are bigger in the Middle East but sizable increases are also impacting us in the Midwest.”

American production capacity for nitrogen – estimated at 19 to 20 million metric tons per year, enough to provide over 80 percent of domestic demand – is likely keeping urea prices from exploding here compared to prices in the Middle East, Schnitkey added.

“It seems the bids coming in from our retailers in the southern part of the state were a little higher. The northern half – say I-72 north into northern Illinois – were pretty static. We’re seeing a lot of movement in the south and some real steady runs in the mid to north-central part of the state,” said panelist Jim Raftis, ag market reporter for the IDOA. “Going back into the data for the last 15 years it seems like all of a sudden southern Illinois, or downstate Illinois spikes, and the rest of Illinois sort of follows that.

“Back in ‘08 we had a big nitrogen (price) spike, and on Oct. 21 we were about at the same level we are right now, \$850 to \$1,200 for anhydrous ammonia. That next week we were at \$1,400-\$1,600, but then it fell back. Oct. 21, 2021, same deal, so this is not necessarily a phenomenon – though it is shocking how quickly it is happening now.”

Some retailers who bid on bulk fer-



**Above:** This photo was taken in the 1950s. It shows the barn on the farm of Park Ammerman in Wayne County, Ind. The barn was built in 1936. It was very modern for its day with individual stalls for work horses, a concrete area for milk stanchions and inside and outside water faucets. Doors on both sides allowed wagons to be pulled in full and once emptied driven out the other side. Park’s grandson Bob and other family members inherited the farm and restored the barn, including putting the Ammerman name back (which had been lost during an early re-roofing project). Family members still live on the property. Photo courtesy of Bob Ammerman

## Area students represent FFA at National Ag Day in Washington

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**  
Iowa Correspondent

LEBANON, Ind. – For Lebanon, Ind., native Lauren Argotte, her first introduction to agriculture started with her eighth-grade agriculture course.

“I’m proud to call Lebanon, Ind., home,” she told Farm World. “I don’t come from a traditional agriculture background with livestock or being raised on a farm. My eighth-grade agricultural educator, Lindsey Bradway, does an amazing job making sure everyone feels welcomed, and a part of agriculture. Ever since, I fell in love with the National FFA Organization, and the agriculture industry.”

Argotte was one of four National FFA members who represented the voice of agricultural youth during National Ag Day, March 24, at the USDA Whitten Patio (8:30 a.m. to noon), and the Kennedy Caucus Room for the Taste of Ag Reception (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.), in Washington, D.C. Events included a live stream of USDA activities, and student panel discussions.

She joined Chloe Zittergruen (Keswick, Iowa), Cameron Addington (Cannon Falls, Minn.) and Kolton Stolba (Willow Springs, Mo.), all SpeakAg Pioneers, which promote agricultural advocacy and literacy to FFA members and the public by hosting workshops, creating social media content, and attending important events such as National Ag Day.

Officials said National Ag Day is a time when producers, agricultur-

al associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture. This year’s event theme, “Together We Grow,” honored 250 years of agricultural progress since the United States was established.



Currently, Argotte is taking a gap year of service to serve as the Indiana FFA state secretary: “In May of 2025, I graduated from Lebanon High School, and ran for state office in June 2025,” she said. “From there, we take a gap year before starting college to travel the state, visiting FFA chapters and supporters of FFA. We also host leadership conferences, facilitate workshops, and more throughout our year of service.”

She added, “I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent National FFA and its members at National Ag Day. The National FFA Organization has truly become a home throughout the years – a place to grow, with supportive people and amazing experiences shared by so many members. FFA has truly helped me find my voice, while showing me the impact it has on so many members.”

Argotte said being selected as a representative means advocating for agriculture now and for the future of agriculture, as well as the future of the National FFA Organization: “We are voices for the current members within our organization, but also for those who will put on the FFA jacket in the future. We had the opportuni-

( See Effects of war on page 2)

(See FFA on page 2)

<b>In this Farm World:</b>	
 <b>Crash Course Village helps first responders during ag related events . . . . . Page 1B</b>	 <b>Three Sisters Park in Illinois needs volunteers to keep tradition alive . . . . . Page 12B</b>



## FFA

FROM PAGE 1

ty to meet with legislators, supporters, and alumni of FFA, and it is so evident the love and tradition within the organization."

Through every conversation, she said, it's clear how much FFA changes lives, and that people truly understand it is making an impact every single day: "Throughout the conversations we were able to have, we shared stories of the impact FFA and

## Effects of war

FROM PAGE 1

tilizer purchases in late February prior to the start of the Iran conflict found their bids nullified and subjected to new and higher pricing, Raftis acknowledged.

A new analysis by farmdoc predicts that Illinois anhydrous fertilizer prices will top out at over \$900 per ton in May, according to Paulson. "Even if the conflict ends in the next couple of days, these higher prices tend to be persistent and we should be expecting higher prices heading into the fall pricing period for the 2027 crop," Paulson said, basing his remarks on market reaction in the two years following the start of the Ukraine conflict. "There is a pretty good chance we will see premiums above (\$860 per ton)."

A continuation of current fertilizer pricing into the fall would render the 2027 production of corn, in particular, "a bit more difficult," Schnitkey added.

Twenty eight percent-variety liquid nitrogen (UAN 28) had risen by 8.5 percent to \$489 per ton from Feb. 20 to March 20, according to the Illinois Cost Production Report, an increase of \$53.82. DAP fertilizers, at \$840.75 per ton, increased by 1.5 percent, or \$12.31. An increase of 3.9 percent was also noted in the price of MAP fertilizers, to an average \$892.50 per ton in Illinois, and potash, which increased by 2.3 percent to \$500.18 per ton, the report found.

"We've seen fertilizer prices in general creeping back up since February of 2025 on most products that are tracked, but maybe a heightened increase since the start of the conflict at the end of February," Paulson said, summarizing the relatively modest price increases in fertilizers not generally originating from the Middle East compared with anhydrous ammonia.

Perhaps carrying more wide-ranging implications than fertilizer prices, the panel turned their attention

agriculture have had not only on our lives, but also on the lives of members we've met, and how FFA chapters have thrived through the support of their communities."

After her year of service within Indiana FFA, Argotte said she plans to attend Purdue University, pursuing a major similar to agricultural education, agricultural economics, or agribusiness; afterward, she hopes to have a career in agricultural advocacy, literacy or outreach.

"Every 'yes' I've given throughout my time in FFA has led me to the place I am today," she said. "I've had

to out-of-control oil and diesel fuel prices that are also driving up farmers' input costs.

"Though diesel fuel is not a huge component in cost budgets, the longer high fuel prices stick around, the higher the costs of all inputs moving forward," said Paulson, citing a diesel fuel price increase of 34.7 percent to \$4.23 per gallon between Feb. 20 and March 20 in Illinois. "I would expect this number to increase closer to \$5 per gallon in that next production report."

While many farmers may have already purchased their 2026 nitrogen fertilizers at last year's rates, all farmers and farm families will be affected by rising fuel and energy costs due to the war, Schnitkey added.

Chuck Spencer, executive director of government relations for GROW-MARK and the FS Cooperatives, said that the situation is unusual in that "anything" the president says related to the Iran conflict directly affects energy markets, causing volatility in both the stock market and direct consumer costs. "We are seeing in our system that we can get spring 2026 fertilizer to where it is needed," said Spencer, a former policy adviser for the Illinois Farm Bureau. "I am not saying (farmers) are comfortable with the price."

Gretchen Kuck, Washington, D.C., economist for the National Corn Growers Association, said the NCGA had been monitoring fertilizer prices with growing concern since late last year. A September 2025 survey of members indicated that 40 percent were already planning to cut back on fertilizer applications during the 2026 growing season. "We've had elevated prices since 2020 (and) we're heading into our fourth year of projected negative net returns for corn growers, which makes it really hard on cash flow with these high production costs," she said.

Slides from the March 26 farmdoc webinar, "Fertilizer and Fuel Risks as a Result of the Iran Conflict," can be viewed at <https://farmdoc.illinois.edu/webinars>

'yeses' that have challenged me to grow and pushed me to get outside my comfort zone. Each of you has a unique story that is worth telling. You have unique experiences and memories, and no one besides yourself has lived in your shoes. By sharing your story, you can make a difference, and inspire someone around you."

Zittergruen said Keswick is a small rural community that has really shaped who she is today. "While I didn't grow up living directly on a farm, agriculture has always been a big part of my life," she told Farm World, "My grandparents operate a row crop farm where they grow corn and soybeans, and I spent time around their operation growing up."

Zittergruen said being raised in a small community also meant being involved in many different activities and building strong connections with the people around her: "I graduated from Tri-County High School in 2024, where I was actively involved in a variety of organizations, especially the National FFA Organization, which played a huge role in developing my leadership and passion for agriculture."

Currently, she is the Iowa FFA state president, and a sophomore at Iowa State University, studying agricultural communications: "Through my coursework and experiences, I am continuing to build on my background in agriculture, while developing the skills needed to advocate for

and tell the story of the industry I care so deeply about."

She said getting to speak as a student panelist on National Ag Day and engage with leaders at the national level showed her how important it is for young people to be involved in conversations about agriculture's future: "It reinforced that our voices matter, not just in our communities, but on a national stage."

She said her career plans are centered around working in agriculture through advocacy and public relations: "I want to build a career where I can work directly with farmers and producers, helping share their stories, and connecting consumers to where their food comes from. Agriculture is an industry that impacts everyone, and I'm passionate about being a voice that helps bridge the gap between producers and the public."

She added, "My advice to prospective FFA members is simple: do it anyway. Do it when you're nervous, when you're unsure, and when you feel like you might not be ready."

Like Argotte, she said some of the most impactful opportunities in her life have come from stepping outside of her comfort zone, and saying yes before she felt fully prepared: "FFA is full of opportunities that will challenge you, grow you, and open doors you didn't even know existed, but only if you're willing to take that first step."



**Above:** Pictured left to right: Lauren Argotte (Lebanon, Ind.), Kolton Stolba (Willow Springs, Mo.), Cameron Addington (Cannon Falls, Minn.) and Chloe Zittergruen (Keswick, Iowa), represented National FFA on National Ag Day, March 24 in Washington, D.C. (submitted by Chloe Zittergruen)

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**Above:** Talawanda High School senior Wyatt French, shown here working on his family farm, was injured in a head-on collision in Butler County, Ohio, in late February. (photo submitted)



**Above:** FFA students at Talawanda High School drove tractors of all makes and models to school in support of their injured classmate. (photo submitted)

## FFA members honor injured student by driving tractors to school

By **DOUG GRAVES**  
Ohio Correspondent

OXFORD, Ohio – Drive Your Tractor to School Day is a cherished tradition celebrated by many schools, particularly during National FFA Week. This event allows FFA members to drive their tractors to school, showcasing their agricultural pride and education.

At Talawanda High School in Butler County, Ohio, the week had a little more meaning for the students this year. Wyatt French, a senior and FFA member at the school, was seriously hurt in a head-on collision on Feb. 27.

That day, Butler County Sheriff's Office Road Patrol deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Millville-Oxford and Booth Road in Reily

Township for a reported injury crash. Wet roads are said to have played a part in the accident.

Upon arrival, deputies determined that the Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team (S.T.A.R.T.) was needed to respond and conduct a comprehensive investigation. It was determined that French's pickup truck traveled left of center and collided head-on with a semi-tractor

trailer.

French was transported by medical helicopter to University of Cincinnati Medical Center for treatment.

In response to the accident, and through the Drive Your Tractor to School Day, the students at Talawanda drove their tractors wearing green in honor of French. Green represented French's favorite tractor, the Oliver.

"Knowing that Wyatt loves and drives an Oliver tractor and that it's green, the kids dressed to support Wyatt," said Talawanda High School principal Scott Davies. "Any sort of accident or tragedy is completely unexpected, and this community at large has done a great job of rallying around Wyatt and his family. We've received calls from across the country from people who are praying for his recovery. The family has asked for privacy in addition to thoughts and prayers for his continued healing."

Before the bell rang and classes began, numerous tractors driven by Talawanda students began pulling into the school parking lot. Honoring French that day were tractors of all kinds: John Deere, Case, Massey Ferguson, New Holland, Mahindra, and, of course, several Oliver tractors.

"Our FFA chapter is a close-knit bunch and Wyatt has built so many relationships with the junior and senior class," Davies said. "He's loved by many."

"The Drive Your Tractor to School Day emphasizes agricultural pride for sure. It does in this community," said Ryan Bennett, whose stepson shares FFA classes with French. "It connects students to their rural heritage, and this school is embedded in a rural setting. Beyond fun, it serves as a visual reminder of the importance of agriculture in society and helps younger students learn about farm life and machinery. FFA helps bring people together."

"The FFA chapter at Talawanda High School is a close-knit group and it has galvanized the Oxford area. Upon learning about Wyatt's tragic accident, the student body at Talawanda, as well as the area surrounding Oxford, united to show support of Wyatt."

The Butler Tech FFA Chapter at Talawanda High School has 185 members and 183 students enrolled in agricultural education, making it one of the largest student organizations at the school.

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# Happy ending for owner of stolen truck and trailer containing sheep

By Stan Maddux  
Indiana Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS - Someone drove off with a truck and trailer containing sheep belonging to a farmer attending the recent Midwest Elite Sheep and Goat Sale in Indianapolis.

Several hours later, the man - with help from a social media post - found his 2025 Ford F-250 and trailer containing his four sheep, all alive and well.

Neal Ehler said he was more relieved to find the sheep healthy since they're part of his breeding stock and costly to replace given the quality of their genes and sex.

"I guess you could say relieved. Very happy," is how Ehler described his reaction to finding the stolen truck and trailer containing his female sheep.

He said there was no damage to the truck, but whoever stole it left the cab a mess.

"They had kind of trashed the inside, threw some stuff around. Other than that, it was fine," he said.

Ehler and his fiancée, Maddie Schroeder, made the eight-hour trip from their home in Iowa to the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the two-day sale that began March 27.

He purchased one of the sheep in his trailer during the sale and picked up the three other sheep he allowed 4-H and FFA members to show during the event.

After the final day of the sale, he returned to his room at a Holiday Inn Express about 15 minutes from the fairgrounds and parked his truck and trailer across the street in the parking lot of another business.

The next morning, Ehler said he walked out of his hotel room to get ready for the drive home when he discovered his truck and the trailer attached to it were gone. He called several towing companies thinking one of them had given the hook to the truck and trailer since they were parked outside another business.

But, Ehler said none of the companies had towed the truck and trailer, so he called the police and filed a report. He also posted details about the theft on his Facebook page, hoping to generate leads on the location of his property.

In addition, Ehler said he notified Ford Motor Co., which was able to track the vehicle to an area just south of Indianapolis where he found it parked on a side street.

A friend who raises livestock and went to the sale messaged him on Facebook a short time later about a trailer closely resembling his being in the parking lot of a hotel near the Indianapolis International Airport.

He made the 30-minute trip from where he was staying to find it was, indeed, his trailer with the animals still inside.

Ehler said the truck had flat tire sometime after the theft because it had a spare tire on it when found.

He later drove back to his 40-acre farm where he keeps about 60 head of sheep.

"We got them home and everybody seems to be doing good," he said.

Ehler said he breeds his sheep by purchasing semen from males with the genetics he's looking for and having a technician inject the fluid to impregnate the animals. He sells the animals to other breeders and members of 4-H and FFA looking for sheep to show in various competitions.

Ehler said he helped his father raise sheep as a child and bought the farm less than a year ago.

# Indiana Pork sponsors Ivy Tech, Central Nine Career Center culinary programs

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The Indiana Pork Producers Association is sponsoring hands-on meat fabrication labs at Ivy Tech Community College and Central Nine Career Center that officials said are helping students build practical skills, while exploring careers in culinary arts, food production and the pork industry.

In these labs, culinary students learn how to properly break down pork cuts, and understand how different cuts can be used in the kitchen and in their student-run food services, called Courses Restaurant, officials added.

Jeanette Merritt, Indiana Pork director of communications, told Farm World the hands-on experience strengthens students' technical abilities, while also building appreciation for the versatility and value of pork in professional food preparation.

"Indiana Pork has had a long-standing partnership with Ivy Tech Culinary Center," she said. "Through this partnership, we are able to supply pigs for the meat fabrication classes to gain hands-on butchery skills."

Merritt said she is able to speak to the students, educating them about pork production and to talk them through proper cooking techniques: "The students are always incredibly receptive, and have amazing questions about pork."

In addition, Indiana Pork sponsors sausage-making labs at Central Nine Career Center, which partners with Ivy Tech, providing high school students with the opportunity to learn the science and technique behind

sausage production.

Merritt said the opportunity with Central Nine Career Center is new and part of an effort to promote work-based learning with culinary students: "Indiana Pork has made great strides with educating students going into careers in pork production, but we also have to focus on training that next generation of chefs, line cooks and restaurant owners."

"Career centers are perfect for those efforts as high school students spend half of their day in culinary training," she added. "During the sausage-making lab at Central Nine, every student told me they intended to have a career in the culinary industry."

Julie Scholl, Ivy Tech Community College executive director of marketing and communications, told Farm World the meat fabrication lab includes sausage-making equipment used as part of both the meat fabrication course and the garde manger course within the college's program.

According to Ivy Tech's School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, the garde manger class helps students develop skills in producing a variety of hot-served cold food products. Students prepare items appropriate for buffet presentation, including decorative pieces such as tallow, which is a rendered, purified form of animal fat, most commonly derived from beef or mutton; and ice sculptures.

Scholl said, "Indiana Pork does not sponsor the lab space or any certificates associated with the program. They do provide general financial support to the program, but that support is not tied to a specific room, course, or credential."

"Additionally, the lab and related

coursework are not offered as stand-alone or one-time classes," she added. "Students must be enrolled in the program and complete the required prerequisites before taking these courses."

During these labs, Merritt said students gain experience grinding, seasoning and cooking pork, while learning about food safety and product development.

Through partnerships with educational institutions like Ivy Tech and Central Nine Career Center, she said Indiana Pork continues to support workforce development, while introducing students to the many ways pork plays a role in the food industry system.

"These programs give students a chance to connect classroom learning with real-world food production skills," she said. "By supporting these labs, we're helping students see the many career opportunities that exist within agriculture, culinary arts, and food processing."

For more information about Indiana Pork and its educational outreach programs, visit: [www.indianapork.org](http://www.indianapork.org). For more information about Ivy Tech Community College's School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs, visit: [www.ivytech.edu](http://www.ivytech.edu) under Academic Programs and scroll down to Culinary Arts/Hospitality Administration & Events.



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# USDA says more soybean acreage, less corn and wheat in 2026

For the 2026 U.S. planting season, farmers are expected to seed 95.3 million to corn, 3.45 million fewer than last year and about a million more than trade expected. Soybean plantings are estimated at 84.7 million, which would be a 4 percent increase from 2025. Total U.S. wheat acreage is estimated at 43.8 million, down 3 percent from last year. If correct, this would be the fewest U.S. wheat acres since record keeping began in 1919.

The quarterly stocks data was mixed for trade. The U.S. corn inventory on March 1st totaled 9.02 billion bu, an 11 percent increase from last year. Of this, 5.43 bbu was held on-farm, a 21 percent increase from last year. Off-farm stocks were down 2 percent at 3.59 bbu. Second quarter corn disappearance totaled 4.28 bbu, up from 3.93 bbu last year.

Soybean stocks on March 1st totaled 2.1 bbu, a 10 percent increase from March 2025. On-farm soybean stocks were up 3 percent at 900 million bu while off-farm stocks were 16 percent higher at 1.2 bbu. Soybean consumption in the 2nd quarter totaled 1.18 bbu, 1 percent less than a year ago.

The U.S. wheat stocks on March 1st were 1.3 bbu, a year-to-year increase of 5 percent. On-farm wheat stocks totaled 298 mbu, a decrease

of 3 percent. Off-farm stocks were 1 bbu, an 8 percent increase on the year. Wheat consumption last quarter was up 12 percent from last year at 377 mbu.

The March cattle on feed report was a little surprising for trade. The March 1st U.S. cattle inventory in lots greater than 1,000 head totaled 11.5 million, nearly equal to a year ago. February marketings were as expected at 1.52 million head, 7 percent fewer than last year. February placements were 4 percent greater than last February, which was immediately questioned by trade.

The doubt came from the low cattle numbers in the U.S. and tight replacement inventory to buy from. The February 2025 placement number was much lower than expected though, so even with lighter placements this year, the total is still higher. A less surprising number will likely be seen for March.

The USDA also reported a U.S. dairy herd of 9.62 million head on March 1st, 210,000 more than a year ago.

China's hog market remains under economic stress. Hog values in China have fallen 10 percent in the past week with losses seen in six consecutive sessions. One reason for this is China's hog feeders continue to downsize their herds to return profitability to the industry. China's government had previously ordered this culling, but is now strictly enforcing it. At the same time Chinese pork demand has fallen ever since the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations. Pork values have declined to a point where government buying mecha-



MARKET ANALYSIS  
By Karl Setzer

nisms have been triggered which should start to support values. This will likely reduce China's pork imports at the same time.

The latest monthly cold storage report showed U.S. red meat inventories continue to decline. The United States' beef inventory on February 28th was 413.34 million pounds, 3 percent less than the end of January and 5 percent less than the end of February 2025. Pork stocks were nearly steady from January and down 5 percent from last year at 403.5 million pounds. The U.S. pork belly supply was 44.9 million pounds, a 5 percent increase from January, but a year-to-year decline of 8 percent. Total U.S. red meat stocks at the end of February were down 2 percent for the month and 5 percent for the year.

The March 1st quarterly hog and pig report came in mostly as expected. The total number of hogs in the U.S. totaled 74.3 million on March 1st, 100 percent of last year. A 1 percent increase had been expected to the herd size. March 1st breeding hogs numbered 5.89 million, 1 percent fewer than last March. Market hogs were up 1 percent year to year with 68.4 million. These numbers indicate little relief for tightening US pork supplies.

Rising energy costs are becoming a major concern for the U.S. economy. Since the start of the Iran war the average U.S. gasoline retail cost has increased \$1.02 a gallon. Retail diesel has increased by \$1.75 a gallon at the same time. These are a result of crude rallying 47 percent on the NYMEX market and Brent crude

spiking 53 percent following the start of the war. Not only are these costs directly impacting consumers, but we are now seeing fuel surcharges that are being added to product costs. These rising energy costs are the main reason global inflation has jumped from 2.8 percent in December to a current 4 percent.

It is no surprise that China's soybean imports to start 2026 heavily favored Brazil over the United States. During January and February, China imported 6.56 mmt of soybeans from Brazil, an increase of 83 percent from last year. China imported just 1.49 mmt of soybeans from the U.S. over this period, an 84 percent decline from a year ago. This was prior to China taking delivery of its delayed start to U.S. soybean purchases though, which will improve the spread as the year progresses.

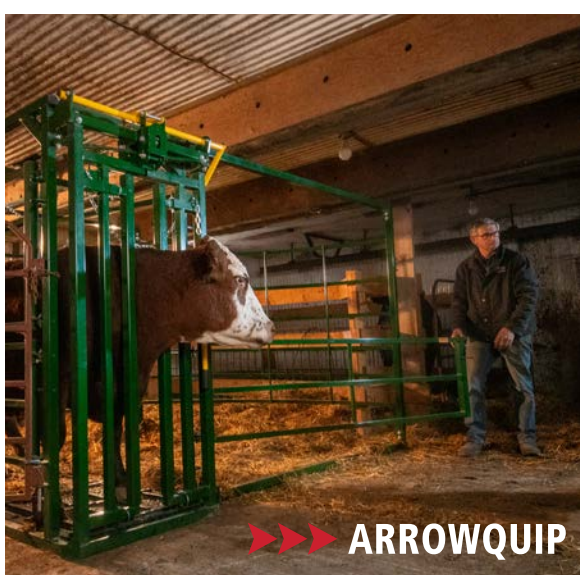
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**Above:** Keith Fowler, of Weakley County, Tenn., works on a farm that's been in his family since 1894. He tends to corn, wheat and soybeans on 6,000 acres. (photo submitted)

## Tennessee, Kentucky among top states with family-owned farms

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

WEAKLEY, Tenn. - Despite a forecast saying Tennessee might lose several million acres of farmland in the coming decades, farmers in the state say family-owned farms aren't in jeopardy anytime soon.

Ben Moore, of Dresden, Tenn., grows soybeans, corn and wheat, and raises cattle and hogs on a 4,000-acre family farm that goes back 100 years. Moore works alongside his wife, sons, nephew and three employees, plus his parents are still active.

"In this country, we're losing farmers," Moore said. "Even in cases where the land is still productive, we don't have as many farmers. The cost and work required to farm these days is more than people can comprehend."

While Moore doesn't use any formal land preservation efforts, he hopes to instill the importance of farmland preservation in future generations.

"I educate my kids on the importance of the land and that we should never sell our farmland," he said. "We're very conscious of the good farmland we have, and any time we build a structure - a house, barn or grain bin - we build it in a place we're not currently farming. We try to optimize all the land we've got because they're not making any more of it."

The latest USDA Census of Agriculture found that most American farms are still run by families. Nearly 95 percent of U.S. farms are family-owned. Tennessee and Kentucky rank two-three among states with the most family-owned farms, both behind West Virginia.

Recent USDA data reveals Tennessee had 61,507 family-owned farms (97.5 percent) that generate \$5,075,324,965 in sales. Kentucky ranks third with 67,170 family-owned farms (96.8 percent) with sales of \$7,789,990,735.

USDA's data calculated the share of farms in each state that meet the USDA's definition of a family farm (where most of the business is owned by the principal operator and their relatives) and examined the market value of agricultural products sold.

The United States is currently home to about 2 million farms, a stark contrast to more than 6 million in the 1930s.

In Weakley County, Keith and Linda Fowler tend to corn, soybeans and wheat on their soon-to-be verified century farm dating back to 1894. Keith works with his son and three employees farming about 6,000 acres.

The area around Martin, Tenn., hasn't been impacted by development as strongly as high-growth areas like Nashville, but change is happening, nonetheless.

When it comes to rising land prices,

Fowler empathizes with young Tennessee farmers trying to break into the industry but understands the landowner's point of view.

"It's easier to divide money than it is to divide land, especially if there are multiple heirs," he said. "The money you can generate selling it to a solar company or developer is so much more than you get farming - it pales in comparison. A lot of people like to keep land open, but whoever owns it should have the right to do with it whatever is best for them."

Fowler's personal strategy for ensuring his land remains a farm is through intentional decision-making.

"As a family, we're estate planning to make sure we can pass down the land without having to sell the land to pay taxes," he said. "We're trying to make the business profitable and up to date to keep the farm together so that it can remain as a farm for generations to come."

The pluses of family-owned farms are many. The role of these farms stands as a testament to the intrinsic economic benefits these farms bring to the table. Beyond the fields and barns, these farms play a pivotal role in supporting local economies, fostering self-sufficiency and contributing to the broader economic ecosystem, according to members of the Greene County Historical Society.

Family-owned farms exemplify the spirit of self-reliance, often producing a variety of crops and livestock that cater to their community's needs. This model not only ensures a diversified product base but also fosters a sense of self-sufficiency. By operating on a scale that allows for personal oversight and decision-making, family farmers can respond quickly to market demands and consumer preferences.

Job creation is another key economic advantage of family farms. Despite being smaller in size, these farms provide numerous employment opportunities for local residents. From seasonal harvests to year-round farm management, the labor required to sustain a family farm contributes to reducing unemployment rates in rural areas.

The economic footprint of family farms extends beyond their immediate operations. By participating in local farmers' markets, cooperatives, and community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, these farms become economic engines for their regions.

In regions where family farms are a significant presence, the rural economy thrives. For instance, in the Midwest, family dairy farms support local creameries and cheese producers, which in turn supply nearby restaurants and grocery stores. This local supply chain reduces transportation costs and environmental impacts while increasing the freshness and quality of the products available to customers.



**Above:** Miller Moore, son of Ben Moore, works on his family farm in Dresden, Tenn. His is one of 61,507 family-owned farms in the state. (Nathan Lambrecht photo)

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# MARKETS

## Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 3/30/2026 - Final

	AUCTION		
	This Week	Last Reported 3/23/2026	Last Year
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	1,125	1,330	1,240
<b>Feeder Cattle:</b>	902(80.2%)	1,217(91.5%)	1,082(87.3%)
<b>Slaughter Cattle:</b>	182(16.2%)	112(8.4%)	150(12.1%)
<b>Replacement Cattle:</b>	41(3.6%)	1(0.1%)	8(0.6%)

Special Note: Beef Calf: 1000.00 per/head

Compared to last Monday the feeder market was stronger in spots with a good quality offering. Feeder steers 350 lbs and under were sharply higher with strong demand, while the 400-600 lbs steers were steady to 3.00 higher with a good supply and good demand. Feeder heifers followed a similar path with the light weight heifers 350 lbs and under sharply higher, while the 450-650 lbs heifers mostly steady to 3.00 higher with a good supply and good demand. Slaughter cows were 2.00 to 3.00 lower with a good supply and slaughter bulls were steady to 2.00 lower with good demand. Supply included: 80% Feeder Cattle (38% Steers, 42% Heifers, 20% Bulls); 16% Slaughter Cattle (85% Cows, 15% Bulls); 4% Replacement Cattle (38% Stock Cows, 28% Bred Cows, 6% Bred Heifers, 28% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 43%.

Groups of 20 Head or More.

STEERS	HEIFERS
69 Hd Black/BWF 639 lbs 464.00	86 Hd Black/FEWRED 613 lbs 420.50

### FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	280	280	595.00	595.00	
4	275-290	285	635.00-645.00	640.07 Fancy	
2	325-340	333	585.00-620.00	602.89	
2	300	300	680.00	680.00 Fancy	
3	305-312	310	740.00-750.00	746.72 Thin Fleshed	
2	385	385	520.00-550.00	535.00	
4	365-383	379	585.00-595.00	587.41 Fancy	
12	351-382	362	680.00-710.00	694.62 Thin Fleshed	
1	405	405	510.00	510.00	
8	435-438	438	565.00-587.50	567.80 Fancy	
2	420	420	600.00	600.00 Thin Fleshed	
20	453-497	473	547.50-565.00	551.83 Fancy	
3	486	486	575.00	575.00 Thin Fleshed	
16	500-548	523	477.50-500.00	491.56	
23	503-542	514	512.50-542.50	532.34 Value Added	
11	550-585	572	452.00-477.50	461.52	
16	550-580	571	485.00-512.00	504.21 Value Added	
21	616-646	637	422.50-440.00	431.64	
80	633-639	638	447.00-464.00	463.07 Value Added	
8	650-690	668	385.00-400.00	396.10	
20	650-655	655	422.50-440.00	436.42 Value Added	
12	717-740	732	375.00-391.00	387.46	
12	757-796	790	373.00-379.00	373.96	
6	811-830	817	338.00-344.00	340.03	
2	850-895	873	325.00-343.00	333.77	
1	935	935	329.00	329.00	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1365	365	500.00	500.00		
1	470	470	440.00	440.00	
4	518	518	445.00	445.00	
7	578-592	582	420.00-429.00	426.38	
2	660	660	350.00	350.00	
1	745	745	350.00	350.00	
1	830	830	311.00	311.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	195	500.00	500.00		
2	192	635.00	635.00 Thin Fleshed		
1	214	585.00	585.00		
1	285	532.50	532.50		
3	280-295	287	590.00-600.00	594.97 Fancy	
5	260-286	281	650.00-665.00	652.78 Thin Fleshed	
4	310-340	318	527.50-535.00	532.99	
7	315-340	326	545.00-565.00	555.65 Fancy	
5	315-342	332	590.00-630.00	601.84 Thin Fleshed	
7	350-375	361	485.00-515.00	503.17	
10	365-386	381	537.50-565.00	556.89 Fancy	
8	355-367	361	575.00-590.00	582.58 Thin Fleshed	
10	400-440	423	465.00-487.50	479.73	
12	400-435	417	495.00-517.50	507.31 Fancy	
11	452-480	467	430.00-462.50	449.19	
27	460-497	474	470.00-497.50	491.44 Fancy	
11	505-540	521	410.00-430.00	418.61	
13	510-545	521	445.00-456.00	451.18 Value Added	
8	565-592	579	395.00-410.00	402.08	
20	557-572	565	423.00-453.00	442.79 Value Added	
4	610-645	636	360.00-373.00	363.88	
94	603-645	613	394.00-420.50	418.38 Value Added	
17	652-697	673	342.50-370.00	356.09	
10	721-742	734	320.00-339.00	331.53	
4	750-775	762	310.00-317.50	312.15	
4	800-837	819	313.00-331.00	321.80	
2	855	855	311.00	311.00	
1	955	955	235.00	235.00	

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	275	477.50	477.50		
2	310-320	315	450.00-467.50	458.89	
1	350	465.00	465.00		
3	420-445	430	427.50-432.50	429.99	
7	460-495	481	392.50-420.00	414.87	
4	530-545	539	377.00-400.00	387.21	
1	595	595	375.00	375.00	
1	625	625	347.50	347.50	
2	682	682	314.00	314.00	
2	742	742	280.00	280.00	
1	790	790	250.00	250.00	
1	875	875	265.00	265.00	
1	955	955	189.00	189.00	

HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	550-575	563	337.50-360.00	348.50	
3	658	658	322.50	322.50	

BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	170	680.00	680.00		

2	205	205	620.00	620.00	
1	230	230	700.00	700.00 Fancy	
2	280-290	285	585.00-610.00	597.72	
2	275-290	283	675.00-680.00	677.57 Fancy	
1	270	270	790.00	790.00 Thin Fleshed	
5	308-315	309	610.00-645.00	617.13	
4	315-327	321	725.00	725.00 Fancy	
2	315	315	785.00	785.00 Thin Fleshed	
3	355	355	580.00-585.00	583.33	
10	352-392	376	615.00-650.00	635.33 Fancy	
1	365	365	697.50	697.50 Thin Fleshed	
6	405-445	421	500.00-535.00	515.45	
10	405-448	428	569.00-595.00	585.16 Fancy	
2	435	435	650.00	650.00 Thin Fleshed	
11	455-492	479	495.00-520.00	509.14	
11	465-495	476	527.50-555.00	543.35 Fancy	
9	520-540	530	465.00-502.50	490.40	
10	505-543	529	517.50-542.50	526.74 Fancy	
6	565-585	577	427.00-447.50	433.41	
7	550-575	563	455.00-462.50	458.56 Fancy	
1	555	555	482.50	482.50 Thin Fleshed	
19	600-645	619	404.00-427.50	414.00	
1	650	650	415.00	415.00	
2	735-740	738	347.50-353.00	350.26	
1	770	770	345.00	345.00	
5	810-845	824	320.00-327.00	324.13	
1	960	960	284.00	284.00	
1	1025	1025	235.00	235.00	
1	1110	1110	227.50	227.50	

BULLS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	255-295	275	530.00	530.00	
5	350-380	365	497.50-530.00	509.56	
2	402	402	450.00	450.00	
3	470	470	467.50-472.00	470.50	
4	510-547	530	435.00-450.00	439.25	
1	570	570	420.00	420.00	
1	680	680	361.00	361.00	
2	725	725	310.00-317.50	313.75	
1	790	790	300.00	300.00	
1	845	845	288.00	288.00	
1	930	930	240.00	240.00	

BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	310	310	450.00	450.00	
1	390	390	450.00	450.00	
2	405-435	420	400.00	400.00	
1	535	535	385.00	385.00	

BULLS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	775	775	307.50	307.50	

### SLAUGHTER CATTLE

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
21	1235-1570	1428	168.00-179.00	173.86		Average
18	1265-1855	1498	180.00-207.00	187.52		High

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
19	950-1400	1251	160.00-179.00	173.41		Average
16	1055-1560	1194	180.00-196.00	186.02		High

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
15	805-1360	1044	142.00-159.00	151.91		Average
11	900-1245	1072	161.00-177.00	168.71		High
3	760-985	857	115.00-132.00	125.78		Low
2	775-795	785	75.00-95.00	84.87		Very Low

BULLS - 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
3	1725-2140	1945	227.00-233.00	229.79		High

BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
8	1315-1705	1484	190.00-201.00	197.83		Average
6	1325-2205	1727	212.00-224.00	217.82		High
1	1070	1070	175.00	175.00		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
2-4	O	5	725-935	843	220.00-285.00	251.33	
2-8	O	7	945-1145	1079	169.00-225.00	195.53	

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4	T2	1	1020	1020	3400.00	3400.00	
>5	T1	1	995	995	2500.00	2500.00	
>5	T2	2	1020-1115	1068	3000.00-3450.00	3235.01	
>5	T3	1	970	970	2900.00	2900.00	
>8	T2	2	1065-1300	1183	2350.00-2500.00	2432.45	

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4	T3	1	1001	1001	2800.00	2800.00	
>8	T3	1	1250	1250	2000.00	2000.00	</

# MARKETS

## Weekly National Sheep Summary

For Week Ending Friday, March 27, 2026

Weekly Trends: Compared to last week slaughter lambs steady to instances of 5.00 higher. Slaughter ewes sold with higher undertones. All sheep sold per hundred weight (CWT) unless otherwise specified.

<b>Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-3</b>	<b>Slaughter Ewes: Good 2-3</b>
San Angelo: Woolled and shorn pkg 49 lbs 403.00; 50-59 lbs 390.00-402.00; 60-69 lbs 362.00-396.00; 80-89 lbs 368.00-386.00.	San Angelo: 140.00-185.00
New Holland: Woolled and shorn 40-49 lbs 390.00-445.00; 50-59 lbs 400.00-455.00; 60-69 lbs 375.00-430.00; 70-79 lbs 380.00-420.00; 80-89 lbs 365.00-415.00; 90-99 lbs 360.00-400.00; 100-109 lbs 370.00-390.00; 110-119 lbs 312.00-350.00.	New Holland: 130.00-195.00
Billings: No test.	Billings: No test.
Ft. Collins: Woolled and shorn 40-49 lbs 372.50-377.50; 50-59 lbs 340.00-380.00; 60-69 lbs 345.00-378.00; 70-79 lbs 362.50-370.00; 90-99 lbs 365.00-385.00; 110-119 lbs 325.00-370.00; 120-129 lbs 327.50-370.00.	Ft. Collins: 122.50-192.50
Kalona: Woolled and shorn 30-39 lbs 415.00-480.00; 40-49 lbs 385.00-460.00; 50-59 lbs 390.00-455.00; 60-69 lbs 380.00-430.00; 70-79 lbs 370.00-415.00; 80-89 lbs 370.00-410.00; 90-99 lbs 365.00-415.00.	Kalona: 105.00-175.00
Equity Coop: No test.	Sioux Falls: 125.00-155.00
Sioux Falls: 60-69 lbs 385.00-400.00; 70-79 lbs 360.00-395.00; 80-89 lbs 340.00-385.00; 100-109 lbs 285.00-330.00; 120-129 lbs 260.00-288.00; 130-139 lbs 260.00-286.00; 140-149 lbs 245.00-267.50; 150-179 lbs 225.00-255.00.	Buffalo, MO: No test.
Buffalo, MO: No test.	Missouri: 150.00-165.00
Missouri: Woolled and shorn pkg 60 lbs 375.00; 70-75 lbs 355.00.	
Arkansas: No test.	

<b>Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1:</b>	<b>Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2:</b>
San Angelo: No test.	San Angelo: No test.
Billings: No test.	Ft. Collins: No test.
Sioux Falls: No test.	Kalona: No test.
Buffalo, MO: No test.	Equity Coop: No test.
Equity Coop: No test.	Sioux Falls: Young to middle aged bred 151-181 lbs 320.00-385.00 per cwt.
Sioux Falls: 20-29 lbs 385.00-430.00; 30-39 lbs 370.00-445.00; 40-49 lbs 355.00-405.00.	Billings: No test.
Ft. Collins: No test.	Missouri: Young and exposed 205.00-265.00 per cwt.
Kalona: No test.	Arkansas: No test.
Equity Coop: No test.	Buffalo, MO: No test.
Arkansas: No test.	

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 40,000 compared to 39,000 last week and 46,000 last year.  
Source: USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News  
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[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)

## Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, April 2, 2026 - Final

Exchange	Commodity	FUTURE SETTLEMENTS						
		Closing Settlement Prices (¢/bu) as of 4/2/26						
CBOT	Corn	452.25 (May 26)	463.25 (Jul 26)	467.00 (Sep 26)	481.25 (Dec 26)	492.25 (Mar 27)	499.00 (May 27)	502.50 (Jul 27)
CBOT	Soybeans	1163.50 (May 26)	1180.00 (Jul 26)	1175.25 (Aug 26)	1153.75 (Sep 26)	1154.00 (Nov 26)	1163.75 (Jan 27)	1158.50 (Mar 27)
CBOT	Wheat	598.25 (May 26)	609.50 (Jul 26)	622.25 (Sep 26)	639.00 (Dec 26)	653.00 (Mar 27)	658.50 (May 27)	649.75 (Jul 27)
CBOT	White Oats	345.50 (May 26)	349.75 (Jul 26)	355.50 (Sep 26)	354.50 (Dec 26)	358.00 (Mar 27)	364.00 (May 27)	354.50 (Jul 27)
KCBT	Wheat	615.75 (May 26)	631.00 (Jul 26)	644.00 (Sep 26)	661.75 (Dec 26)	674.50 (Mar 27)	679.75 (May 27)	669.75 (Jul 27)
MGE	Wheat	646.75 (May 26)	660.50 (Jul 26)	676.50 (Sep 26)	690.75 (Dec 26)	701.00 (Mar 27)	703.00 (May 27)	704.25 (Jul 27)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	75.00K to 140.00K	UNCH	5.2725-5.9225	DN 0.0200	5.5975
Pennyrile	45.00Z	UNCH	5.2625	UNCH	5.2625

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Lower KY	145.00K	UNCH	5.9725	DN 0.0200	5.9725
Ohio River - Lower KY	50.00Z	UNCH	5.3125	UNCH	5.3125
Purchase	146.00K	DN 1.00	5.9825	DN 0.0300	5.9825
Purchase	20.00N to 45.00Z	4.8325-5.2625	DN 0.4300-UNCH	5.0475	

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	13.00K	UNCH	4.6525	DN 0.0200	4.6525
Purchase	-20.00U	UNCH	4.4700	DN 0.0025	4.4700
Green River	14.00K	UP 2.00	4.6625	UNCH	4.6625
Green River	-10.00Z	UNCH	4.7125	UNCH	4.7125
Pennyrile	-25.00K to 21.00K	UNCH	4.2725-4.7325	DN 0.0200	4.4158
Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -11.00Z	UNCH	4.5125-4.7025	UNCH	4.5942
Louisville	2.00K	UNCH	4.5425	DN 0.0200	4.5425
Louisville	2.00K	UNCH	4.5425	DN 0.0200	4.5425
Bluegrass	10.00K	UNCH	4.6225	DN 0.0200	4.6225
Bluegrass	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.5625	UNCH	4.5625

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	6.00K to 11.00K	DN 3.00-UNCH	4.5825-4.6325	DN 0.0500-DN 0.0200	4.6075
Ohio River - Upper KY	-45.00Z to -30.00Z	UNCH	4.3625-4.5125	UNCH	4.4375
Ohio River - Lower KY	15.00K to 23.00K	UNCH	4.6725-4.7525	DN 0.0200	4.7258
Ohio River - Lower KY	-34.00Z to -15.00Z	UNCH	4.4725-4.6625	UNCH	4.5620
Purchase	15.00K to 20.00K	UNCH	4.6725-4.7225	DN 0.0200	4.6892
Purchase	-12.00U to -20.00Z	UNCH	4.5500-4.6125	DN 0.0025-UNCH	4.5863

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	0.00K	UNCH	11.6350	DN 0.0500	11.6350
Purchase	-15.00X	UNCH	11.3900	DN 0.0150	11.3900
Green River	-25.00K	UNCH	11.3850	DN 0.0500	11.3850
Green River	-40.00X	UNCH	11.1400	DN 0.0150	11.1400
Pennyrile	-50.00K to 5.00K	UNCH-DN 2.00	11.1350-11.6850	DN 0.0500-DN 0.0700	11.2921
Pennyrile	-60.00X to -15.00X	UNCH	10.9400-11.3900	DN 0.0150	11.0614
Louisville	-69.00K	UNCH	10.9450	DN 0.0500	10.9450
Louisville	-69.00K	UNCH	10.9450	DN 0.0500	10.9450
Bluegrass	-40.00K	UNCH	11.2350	DN 0.0500	11.2350
Bluegrass	-75.00X	UNCH	10.7900	DN 0.0150	10.7900

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-11.00K to -7.00K	DN 3.00-UNCH	11.5250-11.5650	DN 0.0800-DN 0.0500	11.5450
Ohio River - Upper KY	-36.00X to -35.00X	UNCH	11.1800-11.1900	DN 0.0150	11.1850
Ohio River - Lower KY	-2.00K to 20.00K	UNCH-UP 4.00	11.6150-11.8350	DN 0.0500-DN 0.0100	11.7117
Ohio River - Lower KY	-32.00X to 15.00X	UNCH	11.2200-11.6900	DN 0.0150	11.4250
Purchase	-9.00K to 10.00K	DN 7.00-UNCH	11.5450-11.7350	DN 0.1200-DN 0.0500	11.6417
Purchase	-20.00X to -9.00X	UNCH	11.3400-11.4500	DN 0.0150	11.3875

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Pennyrile	-5.00K	UNCH	5.9325	UP 0.0075	5.9325
Pennyrile	-5.00N	UNCH	6.0450	UP 0.0075	6.0450

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Purchase	-10.00N	UNCH	5.9950	UP 0.0075	5.9950
Green River	-75.00N	UNCH	5.3450	UP 0.0075	5.3450
Pennyrile	-45.00K to -30.00K	UNCH	5.5325-5.6825	UP 0.0075	5.5925
Pennyrile	-60.00N to -9.00N	UNCH	5.4950-6.0050	UP 0.0075	5.6717
Louisville	-33.00K	UNCH	5.6525	UP 0.0075	5.6525
Louisville	-79.00N to -17.00N	UNCH	5.3050-5.9250	UP 0.0075	5.6150
Bluegrass	-55.00N	UNCH	5.5450	UP 0.0075	5.5450

Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional					
Region/Location	Basic (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
Ohio River - Upper KY	-28.00N	UNCH	5.8150	UP 0.0075	5.8150
Ohio River - Lower KY	-18.00N to -9.00N	UNCH	5.9150-6.0050	UP 0.0075	5.9710
Purchase	-15.00K to -5.00K	UNCH	5.8325-5.9325	UP 0.0075	5.8825
Purchase	-15.00N to -5.00N	UNCH	5.9450-6.0450	UP 0.0075	5.9950

Explanatory Notes: Price & Basis Values quoted are for Current Delivery, unless otherwise noted.  
CBOT/KCBT/MGE Trade month symbols: F January; G February; H March; J April; K May; M June; N July; Q August; U September; V October; X November; Z December. FOB: Freight On Board. CIF: Cost, Insurance, and Freight. T: Truck, R: Rail, B: Barge, T/R: Truck/Rail, R/B: Rail/Barge, T/R/B: Truck/Rail/Barge, OV: Ocean Vessel

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## Weekly Combined Regional Shell Egg Report

Report for: 03/22/2026 - 03/28/2026

National Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	142.00 - 169.00	158.38	-33.50	191.88	
Large	141.00 - 161.00	151.69	-39.00	190.69	
Medium	69.00 - 90.00	80.25	-23.25	103.50	

Midwest Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	142.00 - 151.00	146.50	-39.00	185.50	
Large	141.00 - 150.00	145.50	-39.00	184.50	
Medium	69.00 - 78.00	73.50	-23.00	96.50	

Delivered Store Door, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	149.00 - 157.00	153.00	-39.00	192.00	
Large	147.00 - 155.00	151.00	-39.00	190.00	
Medium	75.00 - 83.00	79.00	-23.00	102.00	

Paid to Producers - FOB, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Large	123.00 - 133.00	128.00	-39.00	167.00	
Medium	51.00 - 55.00	53.00	-23.00	76.00	
Small	43.00 - 49.00	46.00	-8.00	54.00	

Northeast Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	148.00 - 166.00	157.00	-33.00	190.00	
Large	142.00 - 156.00	149.00	-39.00	188.00	
Medium	72.00 - 85.00	78.50	-23.00	101.50	

South Central Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	160.50 - 169.00	164.75	-31.00	195.75	
Large	152.50 - 161.00	156.75	-39.00	195.75	
Medium	81.50 - 90.00	85.75	-23.00	108.75	

Southeast Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported (3/20/2026)	
Extra Large	161.50 - 169.00	165.25	-31.00	196.25	
Large	152.00 - 159.00	155.50	-39.00	194.50	
Medium	79.50 - 87.00	83.25	-24.00	107.25	

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

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News | General inquiries, please call: (202) 720-1990 or email: [mymarketnews@usda.gov](mailto:mymarketnews@usda.gov)  
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## Missouri Direct Hay Report

Direct Hay Weighted Average Report for week ending 4/3/2026

March weather ended just as chaotic as it began. Records were set for both highs and lows, but when all was said and done the month averaged just a bit more than 7 degrees above normal. The warm weather got a few planters rolling prior to the rains this week. Fertilizer has been spread over many fields which has come at a very high cost unless producers pre-bought this year. Many Alfalfa producers have had to spray for weevils once and some thinking a second application may be required before first cutting. With the early growth it won't be long before wrappers come out and some baleage is being made. Hay supplies are moderate, and demand is moderate to light. Hay prices are steady to weak for the more common quality hay, higher end hay remains fully steady. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory> or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at <https://feedstufffinder.org>

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

STRAW (Conventional)	
Wheat - (Ask/Per Bale)	
Small Square	4.00-7.00

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News  
<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/>  
<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2929>

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# Protein demand is rising thanks in part to MAHA aligned food system

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Will the resurgence in demand for protein-based diets persist if Republicans suffer political losses in midterms or if there is a change of party in the White House in 2028? These questions were posed during Agri-Pulse's recent Ag & Food Policy Summit in Washington, where Lydia Johnson, associate editor for Agri-Pulse, moderated a panel focusing on the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA)-led resurgence in the demand for proteins.

"Protein is more than a buzzword right now," said Johnson, setting the stage for a discussion of what a MAHA-aligned food system might look like in the future along with challenges to its continuation beyond the Trump administration. Getting started, Misty High of Cargill discussed changes in trends in "protein profiles," or the dietary habits of Americans based on surveys conducted by the company. She reported that in 2025, 51 percent of respondents indicated they would strive to increase their protein consumption in the coming year.

"What we're seeing is that 94 percent of people say protein is very important," said High.

Jeff Simmons of Elanco noted that he has seen a change in perception over proteins in the past three years, with consumers demanding more protein and new dietary guidelines issued by the United States Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) supporting the trend. Market share growth for proteins has increased not just due to population growth, Simmons said, but also directly due to consumer choice.

"Buckle up," he said. "This (market growth) is for real and is becoming really big."

Dairy is benefiting from increased sales, particularly in whole milk and eggs, which Danone's Ariel Dalton said is due in part to the MAHA movement. "At (food and beverage company) Danone we are consumer-led and science-backed, so we pay really close attention to what consumers are asking for, how nutrition needs are evolving and ultimately where the real demand in the marketplace exists," she said.

"I think GLP-1s (weight loss drugs)

are accelerating and shifting towards nutrient density per bite. As consumers and GLP-1 users are eating less they are prioritizing high proteins and fibers. As these consumers are spending less in some of these calorie-dense categories, ironically they are spending more in areas like fresh produce, eggs, yogurts — specifically Greek yogurt — and cottage cheese."

The MAHA movement presents "a real moment" for dairy and yogurts, according to Dalton. "As we think about the role that yogurt and dairy can play, it can serve as an accessible high-protein part of the diet," she said.

Emily Metz of the American Egg Board said the "pendulum has swung the other way" on egg prices in the last year, making them a more affordable protein option than during the height of the avian influenza outbreak of 2022, which sent egg prices soaring at retail for much of the ensuing two years. "We've seen prices come back down, and as a result we are really telling people now is the time to pick up another dozen eggs," Metz said. "We're looking at how to generate innovation in the egg space; how can we innovate in terms of convenience in

the way that dairy has. We're looking at how we can deliver eggs in different ways, in terms of portable packaging (and) smaller packaging."

As industry and commodity groups align their strategies with MAHA, the question of the staying power of the DHS-led Make America Healthy Again campaign was touched on by the panelists.

"Investment money is coming into this opportunity. Money is leaving other food segments and the innovation pipeline for protein, we can all agree, is like we've never seen," said Simmons.

Other drivers expected to maintain demand for high protein foods include a major food industry pivot towards protein-enhanced products that is expected to continue, an institutional shift in school lunch programs and other federal food purchasing and the GLT-1 weight loss phenomenon.

This panel discussion and the entirety of the 2026 Agri-Pulse Ag & Food Policy Summit has been archived for viewing at <https://agri-pulse.swoogo.com/2026-dc-summit> (free registration required).

# Tractor rollovers and machinery entanglement most common hazards

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's outlook to April 14 is calling for likely above normal temperatures and near normal to leaning above normal outlook

for precipitation. The official 30-day forecast, from the Climate Prediction Center, for April, updated March 31, is calling for normal to leaning above

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

normal outlook for temperature and leaning to likely above normal outlook for precipitation.

The MSU Enviroweather station at Deerfield recorded soil temperature at the 2-inch level for March 31 was 53.7°F, was 44.1°F on March 30, but 37.8°F on

March 29 and only 36.5°F on March 28.

Farmers working safely is important now that April and spring weather are here. At a March 13 class, Jennifer Clark Denson of MIOHSA listed the 10 most common hazards to farmers. Listed in order, these include tractor rollover, machinery entanglement, grain bin engulfment, confined spaces and an inability for self-rescue, chemical and pesticide exposure, respiratory hazards, heat

stress, livestock handling, falls from heights and electrical hazards. There is always a tripping hazard with extension cords left out and now is a good time to check fire extinguishers and first aid kits BEFORE they are needed.

Earth Day is April 22, and this year's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet, meaning imperfect, collective action creates real environmen-

(Weekly Ag continued on page 13)

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'96 JD 8100, 6,100 hrs, MFWD, powershift, nice! . . . . . **\$84,900**



'97 JD 8100, 6,609 hrs, powershift, 18.4R46 axle duals, weights, super nice! . . . . . **\$87,900**



'83 JD 4850, 3,779 hrs, QH, PS, 18.4R42 duals, front & rear weights, 3 rem, 1,000 PTO, MFWD . . . . . **\$57,900**



'16 CIH Farmall 110A, 1,336 hrs., 2 rem, 540/1000 pto, 18.4-38's, 14.9-28's, fwd/rev shuttle, only used for mowing, NEW CIH L104 loader, euro coupler, 80" bucket. . . . **\$62,900**



'97 JD 7810, 4,952 hrs, 3 rem, 19spd powershift, 18.4-42's, axle duals, front fenders, one owner Iowa tractor. . . . . **\$104,900**



'02 JD 9650 STS, local trade, many updates, new drive tires, 1,923 hrs., new fuel injection pump, GPS ready, Countour Master, nice!!! . . . . . **\$44,900**



'82 JD 2940, 3,134 hrs, soundguard cab, 2 rem, 3pt, nice Indiana tractor! . . . . . **\$31,900**



'06 Int'l 9400, 635k mi., Cummins ISX, 408 hp, 10 spd, 2.64 ratio, alum whls, very nice pre-emissions truck! . . . **\$34,900**



'19 Intl. LT625, 574k miles, 400 hp, Cummins X15, 2.80 ration, Eaton auto, alum. whls., 158" WB, very nice! . **\$37,900**



'24 KUBOTA M6-131, only 296 hrs, 24 spd partial powershift, 2 rem, 1,000 PTO, like new! . . . . . **\$98,900**



'87 CIH 3394, 5,129 hrs, PS, 3 rem, MFWD, 3 pt., 1000 PTO, 12 ft. wts., 18.4-42 duals, new paint & graphics!! **\$46,900**



'82 IH 5488, partial PS, 20.8 axle duals, 4,825 hrs, local retired farmer owned, we sold 20 years ago, overhauled at that time, but not many hours since then . . . **\$38,900**



'13 CIH Magnum 315, 2,480 hrs, PS, QH, 480/80R50's, mfw, front / rear weights, AFS 700 Pro monitor & receiver, one owner, Nice! . . . **\$149,900**



'01 CIH MX240, 4,843 hrs, PS, 3 rem, mfw, 480/80R46 duals, 1000 PTO, very nice, excellent original paint, new pump & injectors, over \$18k in recent repairs . . . . . **\$87,900**



'11 CIH Magnum 315, 3,932 hrs, PS, QH, 5 rem, Hi capacity pump, front axle suspension, 480/80R50's, 380/80R38s, 1,000 PTO, buddy seat, auto track ready . . . **\$109,900**



'13 CIH Magnum 235, 534 actual hrs!!, one local owner, Pro 700 Guidance Ready . . . . . **\$159,900**



'95 CIH 7240, mfd, 4,357 hrs, Trimble guidance & Case screen, full weights, QH, 20.8-42 rears, axle duals, complete LED lights, automotive quality paint, excellent interior, local 2 owner, nicest one in the Midwest!! . . . . . **\$94,500**



'80 IH 986, factory original paint, flow control hydraulics, 540/1000 pto, 2 remotes, 18.4-34 axle duals, 4,216 hours. . . . . **\$27,900**



'83 IH 5288, local trade, 7,763 hrs, 3 rem, 18.4-42's, axle duals. . . . . **\$31,500**



'83 IH 5288, 2wd, very nice, axle duals, 18.4-42's, nice Indiana tractor. **\$31,900**



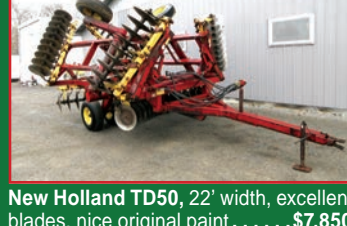
'97 JD 1750 Conservation, 6 row 30", piston pump, row cleaners, vacuum planter, monitor, low acres . . . . . **\$25,900**



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'25 Neville 36' alum hopper, 72" sides, electric tarp, alum wheels . . . . . **Call for Price!**



'25 Neville 34' alum hopper, 72" sides, electric tarp, alum wheels . . . . . **Call for Price**



'07 McFarlane RD4020RB, 20' reel disc, very clean, low acres, nice!!! . . . . . **\$31,900**



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'06 Int'l 7600, 312k miles, Cummins ISM, 410 hp, Allison auto, 6 spd, 4.33 ratio, pre-emission, air ride, clean & rust free!! . . . . . **\$34,900**



'13 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD LTZ, 4x4, leather seats, am/fm cd, tilt, cruise, power windows and locks, 6.0 liter gas, automatic, 189k, very clean, runs great!! . . . . . **\$16,500**



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## 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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# Weekly Ag

FROM PAGE 10

tal progress. Most farmers realize the environment is an important part of agriculture, as what is good for one thing is good for the other. And most farmers tend to live where they work, right on the farm. Earth Day 2026 highlights how community action worldwide supports environmental protections. Monroe County will celebrate Earth Day on April 25 from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monroe County Community College. First recognized in 1970, Earth Day serves as a reminder of everyone's responsibility to safeguard the environment, the land, water, soil and air. Some easy things that everyone can do includes reducing the use of single-use containers, particularly plastic, recycling many items through the Monroe County Health Department and re-use items.

"The Plant Doctor," also known as "The Tree Doctor," Dr. David Roberts, will be giving a presentation at the Monroe County Community College Whitman Center on April 9 from 6:45 to 8:15pm. Dr. Dave will share highlights of helping people and their trees in distress, including Oak Wilt, Dutch Elm Disease, Pine Decline, European Pear Rust, Beech Bark Disease, Arborvitae Decline and herbicide injury. The cost of participating, through MCCC Lifelong Learning, is \$35, payable to MCCC. Roberts retired from Michigan State University after more than 40 years but continues his passion for trees and landscapes through The Plant Doctor, LLC.

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# EPA approves temporary waiver for nationwide E15 sales

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On March 25 EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin approved a temporary emergency waiver for the sale of nationwide E15 which he said aims to prevent fuel supply disruptions, while providing Americans with lower-cost options at the pump.

The waivers for E15, which is gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol, will remain in effect from May 1 through May 20, the 20-day window being the maximum number of days allowed under the Clean Air Act for a waiver.

Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association in West Des Moines, told Farm World, "The legal framework for emergency waivers laid out in the Clean Air act is that the EPA has to determine there's a supply shortage emergency. If they do so, they then have legal authority under the Clean Air act to take steps to increase supplies. The Clean Air act allows them to do that 20-days maximum. But if they determine that the supply emergency continues, they can simply do consecutive 20-day waivers throughout the entire summer.

"In their statement, the EPA suggested that that was likely," he added.

The EPA said the emergency fuel waiver will temporarily waive the summer low volatility requirements and blending limitations for gasoline to provide additional flexibility to the fuel marketplace.

According to the EPA, low volatility requirements, often referred to as summertime gasoline standards, are regulations designed to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions that the agency said contribute to ground-level ozone (smog). These regulations limit the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of gasoline, which measures how easily fuel evaporates.

"This will increase fuel supply and provide a variety of gasoline fuel blends to choose from without changing environmental protections already in place," the EPA said in a March 25 media statement. "E15 is currently offered at over 3,000 gas stations nationwide, where it serves as a more affordable choice for Amer-

icans. Without this action, E15 gasoline cannot be used by roughly half of the country this summer."

Shaw said the E15 waiver is essential for both farmers and consumers: "At a time when fuel prices continue to rise, E15 offers greater domestic energy security and meaningful savings at the pump. Today, corn production is outpacing demand, and the waiver helps maintain current demand, and I want to emphasize maintain, not increase.

"This waiver is only a temporary measure," he said. "To truly grow demand and deliver long-term savings for consumers, fuel retailers want to know they can sell E15 all 12 months of the year, every year. Congress needs to take action and make year round E15 permanent."

While the emergency waiver will keep current E15 stations pumping the higher blend, he said there is a continued need for a permanent E15 fix to spur expanded ethanol demand: "President Trump has done what he can for consumers and E15, but the emergency waiver is a temporary solution. Only Congress can provide a permanent E15 fix, and it's about time for them to act."

He said new retailers won't offer E15 without the certainty they can sell the home-grown fuel all 12 months of the year: "Consumers deserve the lower-cost option of E15. Farmers need the added demand from more ethanol use. and our country needs every drop of ethanol possible as the current conflict in the Middle East hits home of the cost of dependence on countries that don't like us much. Congress must act quickly to pass year-round, nationwide E15."

Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president, agreed, saying in a March 25 media statement, "Biofuels play an important role in meeting America's energy needs and are a win-win for farmers and drivers. E15 gasoline saves consumers 10 to 30 cents per gallon at the pump, and creates markets for American-grown crops.

"Permanent sales of E15 blends would increase demand for corn by roughly 2.4 billion bushels a year," he added. "This is a bipartisan opportunity for Congress to work together to benefit America's families and rural communities."

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# Ask God to search your heart: a prayer that changes everything

Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."



VERSES FROM MAMA  
By Sandra Sheridan

Whether it's for business, personal needs or pleasure, we all use search engines regularly. They've become part of the warp and woof of everyday life. When we need information, we instinctively reach for our phones and consult Google, ChatGPT, or countless other tools for answers.

Yet there are some things we desperately need to know that no search engine can reveal - the deepest truths of our hearts. For those answers, we must go to another source. And who better to ask than our Creator?

The prophet Jeremiah wrote: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart . . ." (Jeremiah 17:9).

The psalmist understood this reality. He sensed that something was wrong beneath the surface and longed for healing. He wanted to understand his sinful nature and knew exactly where to go for help - the One who designed the human heart.

So, he prayed, "Search me, O God." He didn't hide or make excuses. Instead, he invited the most thorough examination possible. He asked God to examine his thoughts, the very thoughts shaping his beliefs and behaviors. He wanted clarity about any offensive way within him so that he could seek forgiveness and be redirected onto God's everlasting path.

We've all experienced the satisfac-

tion of finding answers online. But how often do we ask someone to search our hearts for wrong beliefs, distorted thinking, or out-of-control emotions?

That kind of searching feels invasive.

And yet, it is deeply freeing.

When we ask God to search our heart, He invites us into confession and restoration. As we allow Him to uncover the root issues in our lives, and humbly accept that we can't fix ourselves, He faithfully reveals specific areas of sin. Scripture promises that when we confess, He forgives us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

This is what the psalmist desired, and it remains available to us today.

I've come to value a daily rhythm of confession. Just as a morning shower cleanses my body, I sit before the Lord for spiritual cleansing. Each morning, I reflect on the previous day - what I handled well and where I failed. Through prayer and Scripture, God often brings awareness to lingering heart issues that still need attention.

Rather than shrinking back from those revelations, I've learned to acknowledge them honestly and ask for His help.

Why not try it? Ask the Lord to search your heart. He already knows what's there. Becoming aware of offensive ways is a gift, because awareness leads to confession, forgiveness, and a change in direction.

This practice helps us begin the day clean and spiritually prepared for what lies ahead.

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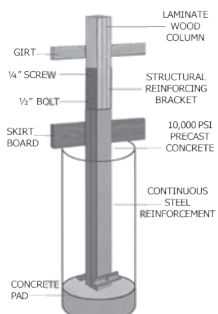
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## 'Lessons' learned working on Angus ranch aren't ones to remember later

My first job out of college was working on a purebred Angus ranch. I knew in advance there was no future in the job because the cattle were as popular as three-week-old sushi. The owner was either in denial or dumber than a branding iron, but he considered himself to be a brilliant businessman. He was insistent that he was going to teach me the fine art of dickerin'.

"Today I'm going to teach you how to buy something well below its true value," he said. "We're going to a farm that's been sold and the owner must get rid of everything on the place before the close of escrow. That means he'll be desperate to sell. We need a manure spreader for the ranch and he's got one that will suffice, so just watch how I negotiate the price."

We went to the farm sale, checked out the manure spreader and then my boss told the owner, "I'll not pay a penny more than \$250 for this worn out piece of junk."

At this point I tugged on his jacket to convey to him a very important message, but he rudely swatted me away. "Can't you see we're negotiating a deal

and you should just shut up and try to learn something."

The farmer didn't like the way my boss treated me so he said, "I want \$350."

My boss took the deal but when we left I showed my boss a sign on the barn that said, "Yippee, we sold the ranch so everything today is FREE!"

My next lesson came on the day of a local bull test sale in which my boss had entered six bulls. "Here's \$40," he said. "Buy anyone who looks at our bulls a lunch ticket for the barbecue."

That evening I handed him back his \$40 and said, "Here's your money back, no one looked."

"How much did our bulls sell for?" he asked.

"Well, uh, not a single one of them actually sold. I bought them back at well below slaughter value."

The last "lesson" my boss taught me was how to negotiate a private treaty sale. "There's a big bull buyer coming tomorrow and I won't be here so tell him he's getting first pick of the bulls

and you won't take a penny less than \$2,500. I've studied the sale averages of some of the better bull sales and that's what they're averaging. Remember, not a penny less than \$2,500."

It turned out that I'd known this "big bull buyer" for a while as Mr. D was from my county and was also in the citrus business.

Mr. D was a gentle old soul and a sincere, honest gentleman. We caught up on old times and then I showed him the bulls.

"How are they priced?" he asked politely.

"My boss said to tell you he wouldn't take a penny less than \$2,500 because you're getting first pick and that's what the better bulls are averaging." I stressed to my friend that it was my boss trying to gyp him, not me.

Mr. D smirked and said, "Considering the quality of the bulls, you tell your boss I couldn't pay more than \$1,000 apiece."

That evening I conveyed the mes-

sage to my boss that I didn't get any bulls sold and that Mr. D's top offer was a \$1,000. "Keeping in mind that you said not take a penny less than \$2,500 we couldn't come to an agreement on price."

My boss hit the roof. He was madder than a cow with sore teats and twin calves but he was not mad at Mr. D., he was mad at me. "You mean to tell me you let \$1,500 stand in the way of a trade?" he asked.

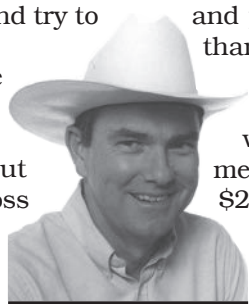
"Well, you being a master negotiator. I'm sure if you called him, you might be able to work something out," I said.

So, my boss called him and they came to terms. When Mr. D came to pick up the bulls I asked him what he paid.

"Nine hundred dollars apiece," said Mr. D, with a big smile on his face.

"But that's a hundred dollars less than you were willing to pay in the first place!"

"I realize that," said Mr. D. "You know Lee, some people ought to learn to quit while they're behind."



It's THE PITTS  
By Lee Pitts

## USDA launches 'Product of USA' campaign on National Ag Day

By DOUG SCHMITZ  
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins recently announced the official launch of a national public awareness campaign to inform meat, poultry and egg producers of the "Product of USA" voluntary labeling standard, which went into effect Jan. 1, and increases consumer understanding of what the label means, the agency said.

"Our great patriot ranchers and producers grow, raise, and harvest the world's safest, most affordable, and abundant food supply," Rollins said on National Ag Day, March 24 in Washington, D.C. "American consumers want to support America by buying American, and this label will strengthen our food supply chain through transparency, fairness, and trust."

"This new standard policy ensures producers who invest in a fully American supply chain can compete fair-

ly, and it gives consumers the confidence they deserve about the food they bring home," she added.

Under this standard, the USDA said the Product of USA label is reserved exclusively for meat, poultry and egg products from animals that were born, raised, harvested and processed in the United States.

The USDA said the standard, however, is voluntary, but companies using it must meet this transparent and verifiable requirement, which the USDA added, ends the prior practice that allowed imported products to carry the standard after minimal processing, and strengthens consumer confidence by aligning with what Americans expect and demand.

But unlike the Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL), which was largely repealed for beef and pork in 2015, the Product of USA label aims to prevent consumer deception by strengthening the rules for voluntary origin claims, rather than requiring them for all products, the

agency said.

Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm World, "Of course, MCOOL was deemed unlawful by the World Trade Organization due to other trade agreements with Mexico and Canada (NAFTA, USMCA). Thus, in 2024, an alternative was Product of the USA."

He said, "This does not require anyone to do anything; it simply makes it unlawful for an entity to label a product Product of the USA if it was not born, raised and harvested in the United States. Thus, it does not mandate something be done, but keeps an entity from using misleading labeling."

He added, "The Product of the USA will still have costs associated with traceability, but an individual company can decide if it is worth labeling this way, based on what consumers are willing to pay."

Philip Nelson, Illinois Farm Bureau president, told Farm World, "Il-

linois Farm Bureau appreciates the USDA's efforts to bring awareness to the voluntary Product of USA label, which consumers may soon see at the grocery stores.

"American families are increasingly interested in understanding where their food comes from, and this label will not only serve to provide more transparency regarding our food chain, but confidence that the meat, poultry and egg products they purchase were born, raised, harvested and processed in the United States."

Justin Tupper, U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) president, said, "We look forward to partnering with the USDA on this effort, and ensuring consumers across the country understand exactly what this label means. While the USCA will continue to push for mandatory labeling, this voluntary label will work to restore trust in labels that consumers rely on every day."

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## Crash Course Village, Montgomery County FB offer ag rescue training

By Celeste Baumgartner  
Ohio Correspondent

FARMERSVILLE, Ohio – Fire companies and first responders may not be called all that often to respond to farms, but when they are, the incidents are usually severe and sometimes fatal. For that reason, the Montgomery County Farm Bureau and Crash Course Village recently joined forces to offer essential agricultural rescue training.

Crash Course Village, in Kettering,



Above: The course was offered over two days. It covered large-animal, grain bin rescue, manure handling, heavy equipment incidents, and power-take off/auger entanglement.

is a new way to provide extrication and rescue training for fire and rescue personnel. It was formed as a 501(c) (3) Charity in 2013 to assist fire departments with continuing training.

“We train around technical rescue, which is rescue in a confined space, vehicle extrication, those kinds of things,” said Jared Buckley, director of growth and development and fire chief coach at Crash Course Village. “Outside of the fire service and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), you have rescues, and that is the area of focus that we put most of our time into. Agriculture is our new area.”

The course was offered over two days. It covered large animal and grain bin rescue, manure handling, heavy equipment incidents, and power take-off/auger entanglement. About 45 firefighters and EMS people attended. Because the course has certified instructors, participants were able to get their education credits along with the training.

The idea got started when Eric Hagemeyer participated in grain bin rescue training with Ohio State University in Montgomery County about a year ago. Hagemeyer is a farmer, a firefighter with the City of Kettering, and a trustee with Montgomery County Farm Bureau.

“Talking with farm bureau members, they wanted their first responders and firefighters where they live to be well-trained in farm and ag rescue, and there was me, with a fire service background,” Hagemeyer said.



Above: Crash Course Village is a new way to provide extrication and rescue training for fire and rescue personnel. It was formed in 2013 to assist fire departments with continuing training. Photos courtesy Eric Hagemeyer and Jared Buckley

Hagemeyer reached out to Christy Montoya, farm bureau organization director for Butler, Hamilton, Montgomery and Preble counties. They sat down with Buckley and began planning to see if they could make some kind of program work.

“It’s been a year in the making,” Montoya said. “We wanted to make it as real and as hands-on as possible. We recruited some people to help us find old farm equipment that could either be utilized during the program and scrapped after, or just an exam-

ple of what kind of equipment the firefighters may see as they approach an accident.”

They did manure pit rescue training in a classroom setting because they had no way to duplicate that, Montoya said. They talked about tractor turn-over using an old tractor and a mannequin.

“Then another one was, when you approach equipment, what should you

(Crash course continued on page 2B)




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# Crash Course

FROM PAGE 1B

be aware of?" Montoya said. "If you're approaching it for the first time, make sure that everything is off and that it's not connected to anything electrical or anything like that. Friday afternoon, we did a large animal rescue program."

On Saturday, the group learned about grain bin safety. They visited Leis Farm in Farmersville, which was the ideal location as they have all sizes and varieties of grain bins. The participants were able to go inside an empty grain bin.

Outside, they had a gravity wagon full of corn to simulate the grain in a grain bin, Montoya explained. The presenters used two different apparatuses to demonstrate how to rescue someone who was stuck inside.

"Then they were also able to go to the top of the largest grain bin," she said. "They talked about, if you had to rappel from the top of this grain bin to get to the farmer, and how you would go about that."

They took all five of those educational pieces and put them together in one training, which was all new. There is a need for this kind of training, Hage-

**Right:** The presenters found old farm equipment that could either be utilized during the program and scrapped after, or just an example of what kind of equipment the firefighters may see as they approach an accident.

meyer said.

"Where I live is a rural area, even though I work for a large city fire department," Hagemeyer said. "But rural fire departments are funded less. A lot of the personnel work regular jobs. They volunteer nights and weekends for the fire service. There is definitely a need for low-cost training."

This is only the beginning, Buckley said. They wanted to see how the training would go, and now, how do they fine-tune it to give the most impact to the firefighters and first responders?

"In the rural areas, because we know that funding is a challenge, we want to find ways that we can raise the funding, lower the cost, and possibly even scholarship the rural counties, the ones that actually serve the farm communities," Buckley said. "That is the direction we are going moving forward, and we're excited about the partnerships that are already reaching out."



**Above:** The Crash Course Village group visited Leis Farm, which was the ideal location as they have all sizes and varieties of grain bins. They talked about, if they had to rappel from the top of the largest grain bin to get to the farmer, how they would go about that.

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# Reader questions answered on BBSE, nutrition and vaccines

I love having readers of this column reach out to me with questions. I want to share a few with you.

One producer emailed and let me know he had never had a bull breeding soundness examination (BBSE) done before reading my March column. He always purchased yearling bulls that were tested before purchase, but he had never tested them later.

He took his two bulls to his herd health veterinarian to have a BBSE done and the doctor said one of the bull's sample had poor motility and

also failed on the microscopic examination of the morphology. The owner said that last year he had an 86 percent pregnancy rate in his 64-cow herd, down from his usual 95 percent. He initially blamed the poorer conception rate on the drought, but after the test, he wondered if the one bull went bad last summer.

Can you imagine what would have happened if he turned out these two bulls and the one got no cows pregnant? A 40-60 percent pregnancy rate would have been devastating.

The February article on nutrition prompted a few responses, and one was about mineral supplementation. The producer in question asked about various "blocks" he was offering to his cows. Without going into details, here is what I have learned from working with some excellent ruminant nutritionists.

- Cows do not possess nutritional wisdom except for one element. In other words, if a cow is deficient in some mineral like Selenium, she will not seek it out. I always tell people

## BEEF HERD HEALTH

BY W. MARK HILTON, DVM

that when our sons were young, we would ask them if they wanted Brussels sprouts or ice cream. They always picked ice cream. Maybe they needed Brussels sprouts, but their taste buds wanted ice cream. The only element where cows do have nutritional wisdom is sodium, which is half of the makeup of salt - Sodium chloride.

- Because cows "know" when they need sodium, we use salt to drive intake of the minerals and vitamins they need. Never feed salt and mineral separately. Always mix them so that the cow seeking salt will also consume the mineral. I love mineral feeders that are low to the ground with the flap over them to keep out the rain. Most of these have two-four compartments. Every compartment should contain the exact same salt-mineral mix. Do not give the cow a choice on what she consumes. She will pick something with salt or something that tastes good to her.

- Salt blocks or mineral blocks will not allow a cow to consume enough salt and/or mineral per day. Always use a loose salt-mineral mix.

- Trace mineral salt has a trace of minerals; not nearly enough to meet the cow's mineral requirements.

- We know from research that about 15 percent of cows eat very little to no mineral when it is offered free choice.

(Beef Herd continued on page 4B)

**Any Questions? call: 765-524-5463**



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## Beef Herd

FROM PAGE 3B

We don't have another option when cows are grazing, but we do have an option when we start feeding cows in the winter. Look at the directions on the bag. If it says that cows should eat 4oz/head/day and you have 50 cows, that is 200 ounces or 12.5 pounds/day for the group. Top-dress this onto whatever feed you are feeding in the bunk, and remove the free choice option.

Another email was concerning grass tetany. We are in the prime grass tetany season, and having your cows on a high magnesium (Hi-Mag) mineral during the spring grass flush is wise. The perfect storm for grass tetany is when temperatures fluctuate from cold to warm to cold. Of course, that would never happen here in the Midwest.

When it warms up, the plant grows quickly and absorbs potassium faster than magnesium. Nitrogen in the plant also increases and this reduces magnesium absorption.

Talk to your nutritionist or feed supplier to get the correct Hi-Mmag mineral for your cows and start feeding it about a month before grass turn-out.

Feeding distillers' grains with solubles (wet or dry DGS) or corn gluten feed is another way to add magnesium to your cow's diet. These are excellent feeds that also provide added energy and protein to a hay-based diet.

I had a question about vaccines recently. This call was from a producer who said her veterinarian was afraid to use modified-live vaccine (MLV) in her calves when they processed their spring-born calves in early June. The label on the vaccine states that it should not be given to calves nursing pregnant cows unless the cows were previously vaccinated with this vaccine. In her case, the cows were not previously vaccinated with this vaccine. I informed her that, since I am not her herd health veterinarian, I cannot recommend anything that differs from what the label says. I did ask her to have her veterinarian call me so I could learn more about the herd and the doctor's concerns. After a short conversation, the doctor was ready to discuss the pros and cons of using the MLV vaccine on her calves.

I am always happy to speak to your herd health veterinarian on questions like these.

I was recently at a beef conference, and one of the speakers was the winner of that region's National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) Environmental Stewardship Award. This producer was passionate about the beef business and showed pictures of their farm. He said that he wished he had "before" pictures from when they purchased the farm because it looks nothing like it did then. Pastures were overgrazed, and weeds were everywhere. He started reading all he could about Management-intensive Grazing and soil health. He said the smartest thing he ever did was to contact a forage and grazing expert to walk with him across the fields, and they made a plan to improve.

He took soil samples, applied the correct nutrients, frost-seeded red clover, and divided the single pasture into paddocks using electrified poly wire.

His farm now has more cows than ever, and they feed less hay than ever because the soil and grass provide so much more for the cows.

I remember when we bought a different farm when I was 10 years old. Many of the neighbors called it "the county dump" because people would

sneak up the back lane and dump their trash. The fields looked horrible, and the fences were in disrepair. I asked my father why we were going to buy such a poor farm. He responded that it was all he and Mom could afford and that they had three children available to help get it on track.

After many years, we did get it in shape, and to this day, my father will say one of the smartest things we ever did was to have our county extension educator come out and help us improve our pastures. Just like the winner of the NCBA Environmental Stewardship Contest, we soil tested, added nutrients, frost-seeded red clover, divided our pastures into smaller paddocks, and started rotational grazing. Adding more cows and feeding less hay were the benefits that made us money and saved us money. Please call your extension educator or NRCS office to help you improve your pastures. Wouldn't it be nice to have more cows in the coming years?

If you or your herd health veterinarian has questions, please contact me at MBCCBeefTeam@gmail.com

## America 250 Grant helps support Ag Museum's antique tractor, engine show

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Oscar L. Farris Agricultural Museum Association has been awarded a \$6,995 Tennessee America 250 Grant from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial. This Community Support Grant will help make possible an upcoming public event at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum on April 25.

The funding will be used to support the Tennessee Agricultural Museum's annual Spring Crank-Up: Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Show. This year's event will commemorate America's 250th anniversary, and the grant will enable the museum to feature exhibitors from across the state whose equipment and machinery represent diverse eras in Tennessee's agricultural history.

"We are honored to receive this grant as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary," Tennessee Agricultural Museum Director Elaura Guttormson, said. "It allows us to expand our Spring Crank-Up Tractor and Engine Show and bring Tennessee's agricul-

tural history to life for our community."

The Spring Crank-Up event welcomes exhibitors including Touch-a-Truck, food vendors and children's crafts. There is no cost to attend.

The second round of the Tennessee America 250 grant program was a highly competitive process. In total, the commission received 365 applications, totaling \$6,364,017 in requests. The commission has made full or partial awards for 194 grants across the state, representing 73 counties, for a total of \$2,267,058 awarded.

The State of Tennessee made funding available to the Tennessee State Museum to administer on behalf of the commission, with the majority of funding to be regranted to Tennessee communities to support statewide America 250 initiatives.

The Tennessee Agricultural Museum, operated by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, houses thousands of artifacts representing Tennessee's rural heritage and agricultural innovations.

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**DOZERS:** 2020 CAT D5, EROPS, 6-way blade, Trimble Earthworks GPS, 2,962hrs SN: ZDA00242; 2005 Deere 650J XLT, EROPS, 6-way blade, 4,003hrs, SN: T0650JX101256; 2003 Deere 750C LT, OROPS, 6-way blade, Topcon 3D GPS, 5,965hrs  
**ROLLERS:** 2018 CAT CP56, 84" Sheepsfoot Compactor, OROPS, front blade, 954hrs, SN: P5600408; Bomag BW213 PDH-2, 84" Smooth Drum, OROPS, 3,183hrs, SN:1094002001765.  
**WHEEL LOADER:** 2018 CAT 930M, EROPS, quick coupler, aux. hydro, bucket & forks, 4,409hrs, SN: KTG03775.  
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Sterling L9500 Semi-Truck, day cab, Eaton-Fuller trans, 354,672 miles; 1986 Mack Water Truck, day cab, steel tank; 2005 Ford F-250 pickup, 5.4L gas, automatic trans, 9' steel flatbed, 129,433 miles  
**TRAILERS:** 22003 East Aluminum Dump, 4 axle, tarp, 86K GVWR; 2017 Felling FT-20-2LP 25' Tag, 20' deck, 5' dovetail, steel ramps, oil bath axles, electric brakes, 25,900lbs GVWR; 2011 Trail King 26' Tag, 21' deck, 5' dovetail, steel ramps, air brakes, 20K GVWR; 1995 Rogers Lowboy; Tandem axle 1000 gallon fuel trailer  
**LANDSCAPING:** 2017 Finn T120-39 Hydro Seeder, Yanmar diesel, 189hrs; 2018 Finn B70 Straw Blower, Yanmar diesel, 33hrs  
**EXCAVATOR ATTACHMENTS:** CAL 3200 ram hoe; (5) CAT tooth buckets; (2) CAT ditch buckets; (2) WB buckets; Leading Edge ripper; compaction wheel, plate compactor  
**SUPPORT EQUIPMENT:** Sullair 185 air compressor, JD diesel; MultiQuip Whisperweld, Kubota diesel, 5,733hrs; MultiQuip Mortar mixer; MultiQuip MTX, jumping-jack compactor, (2) MultiQuip Vibrating Plate Compactor; Stihl FS800 cutoff saws; (2) bedding boxes; (7) trench boxes; (2) manhole trench boxes; box spreaders; several road plates; water line tapping machine; pipe threader; Topcon pipe laser; manhole circulation fan; several construction signs & reflective roll up signs; Fernco's; brass water line fittings; sewer line

fittings; Cherne sewer test bags & equipment; sewer pipe; culvert pipe, and more.

**INSPECTION:**  
Mon, April 13th • 12pm-5pm & Thurs, April 16th • 9am-5pm.

**PICKUP/LOADOUT:** Equipment can be removed auction day until 5pm, Saturday, April 18th 9am-12pm, Monday, April 20th 12pm-4pm, Thursday, April 23rd 8am-5pm & by appointment only after April 22nd.

**BUYER'S PREMIUM:** If bidding in-person or on RES.bid, a 5% Buyer's Premium will be applied to each purchase. If bidding through Equipment Facts or Proxibid, a 7% Buyer's Premium will be applied to each purchase.

**PAYMENT TERMS:** All invoices must now be paid by Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:00 PM. We accept cash, check, wire transfer, and credit card (up to \$3,000). All items must be paid in full before removal.

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# Despite green grass, it's important not to graze too soon

It's that time of year again. The grass has been growing and turning the fields green, and livestock are beginning to show more interest in it than their hay. I think it's safe to say most of us, if not all, are more than ready to be done feeding hay. In many areas, spring weather is running just a little bit ahead of normal - not dramatically, but enough to get our attention.

What's a little different this year is how variable the weather has been. We've had some warmer-than-normal stretches followed by temperatures dropping back close to freezing. That kind of back-and-forth can be hard on plants. Many people have already seen it with flowers that pushed early and then got burned back and some forage species have experienced the same thing. Conditions can vary quite a bit from one farm to the next and even from field to field, so it is important to base management decisions on what you are seeing on your farm.

In some areas, forages are ahead of schedule, and in some cases quite a bit. They have been able to start collecting solar energy earlier, but those temperature swings and a couple of freezes have taken a toll. That stress may cause some plants to move toward reproductive stages earlier than normal.

Early growth may look good from a distance, but some of it has already been stressed. Add moisture conditions that are running anywhere from average to slightly on the dry side and it's a combination that should give us pause. There is green grass, and both you and the livestock are eager to utilize it, but there is value in waiting.

Early spring growth is not driven by photosynthesis initially. That first flush comes from energy reserves stored in the roots and lower portions of the plant. In other words, the plant is living off its

savings account. If we graze it too early, we're withdrawing from that account before the plant has had a chance to rebuild it, and that affects not just today's growth but the entire grazing season. It takes grass to grow grass.

Those first few inches of growth are rebuilding the plant's "solar panel" and restoring root reserves. Removing that growth too soon, especially in a spring that may lean a little dry, can slow production right when it is most needed. Plants that start the season weak tend to stay that way, especially if moisture tightens later.

If some of that early growth begins to push toward seedhead sooner than expected, it is usually a sign of stress. In those situations, light top grazing while keeping livestock moving can help maintain vegetative growth, and it may mean clipping a little earlier than normal.

Differences between pastures become more apparent each spring, largely based on how they were managed the previous year. Fields grazed hard last fall, especially before dormancy, are often slower to respond, while those with adequate residual tend to grow more quickly and uniformly. It is not uncommon to see neighboring fields look completely different this time of year based solely on how they were managed the previous fall. Areas used for winter feeding may show both improved fertility and heavier use, and well-managed stockpiled fields often provide a good balance of residual and new growth.

One of the most useful things you can do this time of year is to walk your pastures regularly, ideally once a week. Walking each paddock provides a clearer understanding of conditions than observing from a distance. You begin to recognize which fields are progressing and which still need time, helping

## GRAZING BITES

BY VICTOR SHELTON,  
RETIRED NRCS AGRONOMIST/  
GRAZING SPECIALIST

you make better grazing decisions. Over time, those weekly walks begin to build familiarity, and you start to recognize changes sooner rather than later.

Walking also helps identify uneven grazing, changes in species and early weed issues. This time of year, you don't want to miss noticing plants like poison hemlock. It often appears along edges or disturbed areas and can be harmful to you and your animals, even in small amounts. Identifying and addressing it early reduces risk to livestock, and you can control it before it goes to seed.

A good target for initiating grazing is when cool-season grasses reach approximately eight-to-10 inches of height. Removing roughly the top third while keeping livestock moving works well. Keeping livestock moving early not only protects the plants but also helps maintain more uniform grazing across the pasture. Early in the season, avoid staying on a paddock more than a couple of days and do not graze regrowth before full recovery.

If you have already started grazing,

focus on not taking too much too soon. Early growth is still limited, and plants are still rebuilding. Fields with residual dry matter from the previous season are often the best starting points. That material helps buffer grazing pressure, protect the soil and balance the lushness of new growth. Fields grazed heavily last fall will require additional recovery time.

This approach is not complicated, but it does require discipline. Starting too early often leads to grazing regrowth prematurely, which is where the greatest damage occurs. Waiting a little longer allows forage to get ahead, providing more flexibility, better recovery and greater total production throughout the season. A little patience now can make a noticeable difference in both forage quality and total production later.

Although this spring may appear early, it has not necessarily created conditions that justify early grazing, especially if moisture becomes limiting. Allowing forage additional time to develop will benefit both plant health and seasonal productivity.

Keep on grazing.

Reminders & Opportunities

Pasture Ecology - June 24, 2026, Examine complex relationships between livestock, forages, and soil. SIPAC - 11371 Purdue Farm Rd., Dubois, Ind.




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## 2nd Annual Steinke Tractor Spring Consignment Sale

SAT., APRIL 11, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

707 S Barron Street, EATON, OH 45320

**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.

### STEINKE TRACTOR SALES SPRING AUCTION EARLY CONSIGNMENTS:

**TRACTORS:** JD 4640 FWA, JD 5055E 2WD / Open, JD 4010, JD 2010.  
**PLANTERS:** JD 1750 6-row (loaded), Tye 15' No-Till Drill.  
**COMBINES:** JD 7720 w/Both Heads.  
**HAY EQUIPMENT:** NH BR7060 Round Baler, NH BC5070 Square Baler, JD 348 Square Baler, Claas Roll-it 66 Round Baler, (New) Bush Hog 3717 17' Tedder, NH 477 Haybine, Bale Conveyor (4), Hay Baron Round Bale Trailers (2), Hay wagons, Running Gears.  
**LIVESTOCK:** NI Manure Spreader (2), Better Bilt Manure Tank, 8-4x4 Round Bales (more available), Portable Loading Chute, 6 - Bundles Of Round Treated Fence Posts.  
**SKID LOADERS:** Grapple Bucket (2).  
**MISC EQUIPMENT:** Aerator, Arena Drag, Grader Blade, Brush Hog (2), Deforester, Finish Mower, Sprayer, 3-Pt. Seeder, 3-Pt Spreader, Bale Spears, 3-Pt Forklift, 3-Pt Post-Hole Digger, Mini-Scoop On Tracks, Portable Chicken Coupe, Mini Storage Barns, Log Chains.  
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 Call Steinke Tractor 937-456-4271,  
 Gene Steiner - 513-616-4086 or  
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**Auction Pick-up: April 13th-April 15th 9am-4:30pm CDT** "Shipping is available"

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## HUDSONVILLE SPRING 2026 AUCTION LIVE & ONLINE BIDDING SATURDAY, APRIL 18, AT 10:00 AM EST HUDSONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS 5235 40TH AVE, HUDSONVILLE, MI

Multi Ring auction selling construction equipment, farm equipment and miscellaneous items.

We start accepting equipment from 8-5 on Monday, April 13

We stop taking small items on Thursday, April 16.

We will still accept heavy equipment on Friday, April 17 until 3:00 pm.



Auction Contact: Chuck Ranney – Auction Manager  
Phone: 616-560-0839 • Email: chuck@1800lastbid.com

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## JACK & JUNE LINK LIVE ON-SITE FARM AUCTION w/simulcast bidding SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH @ 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 3755 Squires Rd., CONKLIN, MI 49403 (Muskegon Co.)



**DIRECTIONS:** 1 mile East of Ravenna on Harrisburg St. to Squires Rd. South 1/4 mile OR from Grand Rapids take I-96 West to the Fruit Ridge Exit # 26, North 12 miles to 15 Mile Road, West 7 miles to Squires Rd. then South 1/4 mile. OR from Big Rapids take US-131 South 35 miles to the Cedar Springs/M-46 West Exit # 104, West 10 miles to Fruit Ridge Ave., South 2 miles to 15 Mile Road, West 7 miles to Squires Rd. South 1/4 mile. Southeast corner of Muskegon Co.

After over 60 years of successful farming the Jack & June Link have decided to cut back on their farming operation & leased their crop acreage.



**TRACTORS:** 1975 IHC 1466 Turbo diesel w/rebuilt 1992 DT-466 CI roller cam truck engine #UO29157; 1959 Farmall 460 gas w/rebuilt 301 CI combine engine #13056 S-Y; 1960 IHC 460 Utility w/263 UI gas engine #7824 S-Y; 1937 Farmall F-12. **TRUCK:** 1980 International 1955 semi w/DT 466 diesel engine & mounted 300 bu. center dump gravity box; M&W Little Red Wagon 300 bu. **FARM EQUIPMENT:** Case IH 5100 Soybean Special 21-hole double disc grain drill w/packer wheels; IHC 510 17-hole single disc grain drill w/seed; Brillion 12' center bearing cultipacker; IHC 401 pull drag; IHC 456 Hilldrop Special 4rw 30' adjustable corn, bean & cucumber planter; IHC 470 18' winged manual folding wheel disc; IHC 45 18' Vibrashank winged manual folding field cultivator; John Deere 200 20' folding single rolling basket; Brillion 18' cultipacker w/pups; IHC 415 13' cultimulcher; DK 350 bu. gooseneck dual axle grain trailer w/NEW tires & roll top cover (stored inside); American Standard galvanized 120 bu. gravity box w/extension on 6-ton Gehl running gears (1 owner, stored inside); 3-axle gooseneck 200 bu. gravity trailer; SNOWCO 2-ton dual axle feed/fertilizer auger cart; Hardi 300 gal. field sprayer w/32' booms; JD 32' bale mover; IHC 401 pull drag; IHC 456 Hilldrop Special 4rw 30' adjustable corn, bean & cucumber planter; IHC fast hitch 2rw corn planter w/fertilizer boxes; IHC 2A 6' hay conditioner; IHC 2rw cultivator. **3PT EQUIPMENT:** Case IH 5600 9-shank chisel plow w/leveler; IHC 12' Vibrashank field cultivator; IHC 2-4rw cultivator; Bush Hog 7' heavy duty brush hog; Lely PTO 10 bu. seed or fertilizer spreader; heavy duty subsoiler; drainage ditch plow; hyd. tractor log splitter; hyd. drive post hole digger; 55 gal. spray tank; gooseneck hitch. **MISC. FROM AROUND THE FARM:** IHC tractor parts; IHC 544, 656, 666 or 686 front bolster; IHC Farmall 656 emblems; IHC 1066 differential lock kit & brake disc, covers & hyd. cylinder; Pair of Farmall H cast centers; Farmall H belly pump, belt pulley & shutters; Pair of 18.4 X 34" clamp on tractor duals; Pair of 14.9 X 28" tractor tires; Hydraulic cylinders; Spray water storage tank & hoses; Cow stations; Wagon load of farm misc.



**COLLECTIBLES & HOUSEHOLD:**  
Small collection of Farm toys; Household items; CI dutch oven; Christmas & fall decor; More items to be added.

INSPECTION: Friday, April 24, 3PM-5PM

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## Remembering Orion Samuelson, the 'Voice of Agriculture' for 60 years

Orion Samuelson died on March 16 at age 91. Through the years, he was often called the "Voice of Agriculture." He retired in 2000 after 60 years on WGN Chicago and This Week in Agribusiness TV with Max Armstrong.

Samuelson interviewed seven U.S. presidents, spoke at many FFA conventions, state and county fairs, and interviewed farmers and ranchers throughout the nation. Farmers and ranchers felt he told their side of the story and educated the public about agriculture.

We became friends in 1960, and I had a front seat watching him work. I've received many texts and emails commenting on his contributions to agriculture. Last week, a friend told me his grandfather had WGN turned on in the barn, kitchen, and on the tractor. He did not want to miss Samuelson's comments because he had "genuineness." I looked up the meaning of the word. "It is the quality of being authentic, honest, sensitive, free from pretense." That is a good description of Orion Samuelson.

### Steiger – then and now

My dealerships had the Steiger franchise, starting in the 80s.

Our shop mechanics rarely praised the equipment we sold. They just worked on it as part of their day. They did say that the Steiger tractors were accessible (easy to work on).

However, I still remember them commenting on how seldom we were called on by owners for service work. Once they were delivered new, we rarely saw them again. As I write this, I think of the word "reliability."

That strength didn't come about by accident. Steiger brothers Douglas and Maurice were large farmers that wanted a big four-wheel drive tractor that wouldn't break down. So, they built one in their barn in 1957. They used a lot of stock Euclid parts.

Their first one was powered by a 238 HP Detroit Diesel engine. This tractor

logged over 10,000 hours on their farm. It drew a lot of attention from neighbors who wanted one.

The brothers started building more tractors, and in 1969, a group of businessmen joined the brothers to build a plant in Fargo, N.D. Their reputation grew, and by 1976, retail sales had reached \$104 million in

**ALL ABOUT TRACTORS**  
BY PAUL WALLEM



Above: The Solinftec solar-powered sprayer

annual sales.

However, tough times were coming for all of agriculture. The 1980 grain embargo diminished grain exports. Interest rates climbed to a historic point, and farm income along with machinery sales dropped sharply.

Steiger agreed to be purchased by Tenneco and became part of Case IH,

which it still is today. The largest Case IH Steiger is now up to 699 horsepower and is still known for its reliability.

### Solinftec – autonomous platform

This Brazilian company has developed a solar-powered autonomous platform with cameras to obtain data about the field. It has the capacity to spray specific weeds it identifies within the crop. Additional other functions are planned for its future.

### Yanmar

Yanmar now offers model SM 475 with 74 horsepower. Lift capacity is 3,325 pounds. Power train warranty is 10 years. The tractor features a power shuttle transmission, independent PTO with electric/hydraulic control.

Paul Wallem was raised on an Illinois dairy farm. He spent 13 years with corporate International Harvester in domestic and foreign assignments. He resigned to own and operate two IH dealerships. He is the author of THE BREAKUP of IH & SUCCESSES & INDUSTRY FIRSTS of IH. See all his books on www.PaulWallem. Email your comments to [pwalle9@gmail.com](mailto:pwalle9@gmail.com).

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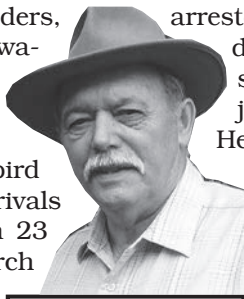


**Farm World**

# Time to get sugar water feeders ready as hummingbirds arrive

Clean your sugar water feeders, get them filled with four parts water and one part cane sugar, and get ready to greet this year's first hummingbirds.

According to Hummingbird Central, the first Indiana arrivals were in Greenwood on March 23 and at North Vernon on March 30. The annual hummingbird tracker can be accessed at <https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2026-map.htm>.



**SPAULDING OUTDOORS**  
By Jack Spaulding

arrested and charged with felony dealing of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, and reckless driving. He was transported and booked into the Vanderburgh County Jail.

The vehicle Murphy was driving was also identified as a suspect vehicle in a previous fleeing-law-enforcement incident in St. Louis.

## It's not just game law violations

A Missouri man was arrested on multiple drug-related charges in Vanderburgh County after an Indiana Conservation Officer conducted a traffic stop for excessive speeding. During the stop, more than 300 pills totaling 120 grams of methamphetamine were recovered.

On Feb. 27, a conservation officer stopped a vehicle traveling over 90 miles per hour and cutting off traffic near the intersection of U.S. 41 and Interstate 64. The odor of marijuana was detected coming from the vehicle, and the driver, 30-year-old Naithan Murphy, of St. Louis, Mo., did not possess a valid operator's license.

A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed marijuana, digital scales, and a loaded handgun. Murphy was

## Spring wildflower events

Experience the dazzle of spring ephemerals during wildflower hikes at the parks. Call the park office for more information and to sign up!

- McCormick's Creek State Park Wildflower Weekend, April 11-12
- Wildflowers at the Waterfalls at Cataract Falls SRA, April 12
- Clifty Falls State Park Wildflower Weekend, April 11-12
- Spring Mill State Park Wildflower Weekend, April 18-19
- Chain O'Lakes State Park Wildflower Wander, April 25

## Volunteer at the parks

This April, volunteer at the parks in celebration of National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We have group opportunities for the whole family to join

(Spaulding continued on page 13B)

# BOLTON FARMS LLC LIVE & ONLINE BIDDING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, AT 10:00 AM EST 22195 16TH STREET, CONKLIN, MI

Bolton Farms LLC, operated by Gene Bolton and Jack Bolton, is a respected third generation farming operation in Conklin Michigan. After decades of farming approximately 800 acres, the Boltons have decided to retire from farming due to health reasons and upcoming retirement plans.

**Auction Highlights:** John Deere 8310R, John Deere 8225R, John Deere 6150R, John Deere 5105M, John Deere 9400, (2) John Deere 9510 Combines, John Deere Disc, Landoll Chisel Plow, John Deere Planter, John Deere Grain Drill, Tillage Equipment, Wagons, Semi Trucks, Hay Equipment, Sprayer, Forage Wagons, Kicker Wagons, Manure Spreader, John Deere 925F and 920 Grain Heads, Kubota M6 141 Tractor, John Deere 850 Dozer, Agco RT 150 Tractor, Tile Machine, *Plus Much More*



Auction Contact: Chuck Ranney - Auction Manager

Phone: 616-560-0839

Email: [chuck@1800lastbid.com](mailto:chuck@1800lastbid.com)

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### CRIFE'S AUCTION SERVICE - Tipton, IN ONLINE ONLY SPRING EQUIPMENT AUCTION BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, April 2nd @ 10am SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, April 11th @ 6pm

PREVIEW DATES:  
Tuesday, April 7th - Thursday, April 9th - From 10am - 5pm

**TRACTORS:** FarmAll 560 Tractor, 1984 John Deere 4450 (540 & 1000 PTO, 3-pt, Front & Rear Wgts, 15-Speed Power Shift, 8788 hrs), 1949 John Deere Model A Gas, John Deere L w/Plow & Draw Bar, Ford Ferguson 9N, Oliver 77 Row-Crop Gas w/Mounted Sprayer, FarmAll Super MTA w/Hyd. Front End Loader, 1982 JD 4640 (Rear Wgts, 3 Hyd Remotes, 6940 hrs, Quad-Range Transmission).

**PLANTERS & DRILLS:** JD 7000 12-Row Planter (Liquid Fert, Insect, Bean & Corn Meters, 200 Monitor), JD 7000 Planter (Used for Food Plot & Truck Patch), 30' Case IH 5500 Grain Drill (Monitor & Markers).

**SPRAYERS & TANKS:** Bestway 1000-Gallon w/60' Booms & Raven 440 Monitor, 1000-Gallon Steel Tank on JD Gear w/Hyd. Hoist, 500-Gallon Sprayer on JD Gear, 1200-Gallon Stainless Tank on 1065 JD Gear (Honda 5.5hp Motor & Banjo Pump), Chem Farms Stainless Saddle Tanks w/Pump, Clark 1000-Gallon Nurse Tank w/Pump on Adj Gear, 3-pt 200-Gallon w/PTO Pump & 30' Booms, JD 963 Gear w/1000-Gallon Poly Tank (30-Gal Inductor).

**VEHICLES:** 2006 Hummer H3 4x4 (Leather, Sunroof, Power Windows & Seats, Vortec 3500, Gas, 242830 miles), 2006 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado (2-W/D, Vortec 5.3 Liter Gas, 218756 Miles), 1999 GMC C7500 7H1 Auger Truck (7.4 Liter Gas Motor, 17928 Miles), 2012 Int'l 4300M& SBA 4x2 Bucket Truck (2008 Altech Service Body w/50' Bucket, 44996 miles, Max Force Diesel Engine-Diagnosed as needing replaced-Excessive Blow-By), 2004 Ford F-350 Super Duty Crew Cab (V-8 FX4 4-WD, 6.0 Liter Diesel, Leather, Power Seats & Windows, Sunroof, Gooseneck Hitch, 6-3/4' Bed, 168705 miles).

**TRAILERS:** 2014 Sure-Trac 25+5 Gooseneck, 2013 Corn Pro UT-16L w/Ramps, 12'x81" Bolinger Trl., 2007 Cronkite 18'x80".

**TIRES:** 18.4-34 Firestone Clamp-On Duals, 2016 Like New Ford F-350 Toyo Tires (265-70R 19.5), Stock

5-Lug Michelin Tires & Wheels, 2004 Stock F-350 Firestone LT265 75R 16, 18.4-37 Firestone T-Rail Duals.

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT:** 25' DMI Tiger Mate II Fld. Cult., 25' McFarlane 8-Bar Pull-Type Harrow, 8' JD RW Disk, Brillion 10-Shank 3-pt Chisel Plow, 32' Brillion XL144 Packer (X-Fold Extendable Tongue, Scrapers, USED VERY LITTLE), County Line 3-pt Cultivator, 2 & 3-Bottom Plows, Oliver 545 Plow, 19' Allis-Chalmers 1200 Fld. Cult., McFarlane QT-111RB Quadra-Till 11-Shank Chisel.

**WAGONS & GRAIN HANDLING:** Hay Wagons, (2) JD 1075 Gears w/Midwest Steel Beds & M-10 Hyd. Hoists, Parker 300-bu Gravity Wagon, J&M 680-760 Gravity Wagon w/Brakes & Lights, Seed Wagon w/Sudenga Brush Auger (Hyd. Pump & Motor), Kongskilde SUC-1000 Grain Vac, (2) J&M 350-20 Gr. Wagons on JD 1075 Gears w/Lights.

**LIVESTOCK EQ:** Tilt-Tables for Goats/Sheep, Cattle Panels & Gates, Cattle Catch Chute, Wire Fence.

**MOWERS:** 7' Ford 14-92 3-pt. Sickle Bar Mower, JD MX-8 Pull-Type Rotary Cutter, JD 503 Rotary Cutter, New Holland 57 Hay Rake.

**LAWN & GARDEN:** 3' JD Snowblower, 5' Snapper Pro Snowblower, Grasshopper 721 w/66" Deck, Grasshopper 618 w/52" Deck, JD Z425 Mower w/54" Deck (459 hrs), Gravel Rascal.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Wolverine Skid Steer Plate, 8' 3-pt. Plow Blade, Dearborn Model 19-6 Slip Scoop, 12" & 32" Backhoe Buckets.

**MISC:** 275-Gallon Food Grade Totes, 55-Gallon Food Grade Metal Barrels, Bin Parts, PTO Shafts, IH Clam Shell Fender, Fuel Tanks, Fencing & Posts, JD Bicycle, JD Corn Sheller, Original JD Delivery Trailer, 3-pt Grader Blade, Bobcat Trench Compactor, 6-Way 7' Grouser Dozer Blade, New Idea PTO-Driven Manure Spreader, 5' Frontier AF10F Loader-Mount Blade (Fits JD 100 & 200-Series Loaders).

PICK-UP DATES: Monday, April 13th - Thursday, April 16th - From 10am - 5pm Or by Appointment Only.

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures, Terms, and to Register & Start Bidding: Click the Calendar Link @ [www.cripesauction.com](http://www.cripesauction.com) Absentee Bidding is Still Available.

PREVIEW - PICK UP & PAY @ Crife's Auction Service  
3247 E State Road 28, Tipton, IN - 765-675-6909

[www.cripesauction@yahoo.com](mailto:www.cripesauction@yahoo.com) - Wade Crife, Auctioneer #AU11000034.



## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**HUNTINGTON CO, IN: APRIL 16 (ONLINE) 51.72+/- Acres**

**1 Tract • Tillable Productive Farmland** Contact: Jason Johnloz: 260.273.9177 or Rick Johnloz: 260.827.8181

**RANDOLPH CO, IN: APRIL 21 (ONLINE) 30.4+/- Acres • 4 Tracts**  
**Tillable Cropland • Woods • Pasture • Home • Bank Barn**

Contact: Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592 or Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359

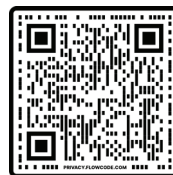
**DELAWARE CO, IN: APRIL 23 (ONLINE) 81.15+/- Acres**  
**3 Tracts • Productive Cropland • Near Muncie, IN**

Contact: Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592 or Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359

## PRIVATE SALES

**NEW! NEWTON CO, IN: 173.36+/- Acres • Tillable Farmland**  
**Pole Building** Contact: John Bechman: 765.404.0396

**CLINTON CO, IN: 53.43+/- Acres • Rural Estate Potential**  
**Productive Tillable Farmland • Wooded Acreage • Recreational**  
Contact: Sam Clark: 317.442.0251 or Jim Clark: 317.627.6928



VIEW UPCOMING AUCTIONS, PRIVATE SALES AND RECENT SALES RESULTS.

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH • 10 AM**  
 Real Estate Sells First!  
 405 S. River Road Ext, North Manchester, IN  
**BIDMETZGER.COM**

**ONLINE FARM & TOY ADVERTISING AUCTION!**  
 Tractors, Combines, Equipment • Seed Sacks • Advertising • Memorabilia & More!  
**April 11, 2026**  
 North Manchester, IN 46962  
 BidMetzger.com

**Silver Sunday**  
**ONLINE COIN, JEWELRY, SILVER & CURRENCY AUCTION**  
 • Silver Dollars • Carson City & Graded Coins • Tiffany & Co. • Pocket Watches • Silver Bars & Rounds & More!  
**APRIL 12, 2026**  
 North Manchester, IN BidMetzger.com

**LIVE & ONLINE LAND AUCTION**  
**230 ACRES**  
 Offered in 5 Tracts • Quality Cropland!  
**COLUMBIA & UNION TOWNSHIPS**  
**WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA**  
**APRIL 14, 2026 • 6:30 PM**  
 Auction Held At:  
**The Eagles Nest**  
 Columbia City, Indiana  
 More Information & Maps Available Online: **BidMetzger.com**

**METZGER ONLINE FIREARM & AMMO AUCTION!**  
 RIFLES • SHOTGUNS • PISTOLS • REVOLVERS • AMMUNITION • RELOADING SUPPLIES & MORE!  
**APRIL 15, 2026**  
 BidMetzger.com Auction Manager: JOHN BURNAU - 574-376-5340

**Online Real Estate Auction!**  
 Project Home with Detached Garage!  
**April 16th** 105 S. First Street, North Manchester, IN

**Online Real Estate Auction**  
 Partially Renovated Condo in Woodspoint  
**April 16th at 6:30 pm**  
 Property Address: 21 Woodspoint Circle, North Manchester, IN 46962  
 Open House: Sunday, April 12th from 2-2:30pm

**ONLINE CROPLAND AUCTION!**  
**42 ACRES**  
 Offered in 2 Tracts  
**CHESTER TOWNSHIP • WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA**  
**April 16, 2026 • 6 PM**  
 BidMetzger.com

**Local Contractor Excess Equipment ONLINE AUCTION!**  
 Excavator, Bulldozer • Skidsteer • Forklift • Flatbed Truck • Bus • Scissor Lift • Concrete & Shop Tools • Lighting & More!  
**April 16, 2026**  
 North Webster, IN  
 BidMetzger.com

**TD Wall Trailers Sales**  
 ~ New Location Inventory Reduction Online Auction!  
 • Camping Trailers • Motorcycles • Livestock Trailers • Chevy Truck • Yale Forklift • Generator • Tools & More!  
**April 21, 2026** Warren, IN

**LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION**  
**15+ TRACTORS**  
**THE DAVID SMITH COLLECTION**  
**TRACTOR COLLECTION INC.**  
 ALLIS-CHALMERS • JOHN DEERE • CASE OLIVER • MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE EQUIPMENT • TRAILERS ADVERTISING & MORE!  
**April 18, 2026 • 10:00 AM**  
 • 6060 N. 450 W. Rochester, IN  
**BidMetzger.com**

**Portside Marina**  
**ONLINE INVENTORY REDUCTION AUCTION**  
 Just in time for Summer!  
 • New & Used Inventory of Boats, Jet Skis, Tritoons, Side-by-Sides, Kayaks, Pontoons & Canoes!  
**April 22, 2026**  
 Culver's Portside Marina  
 Auction Manager, John Burnau: call/text 574-376-5340

**Auctioneers & Realtors...**

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- Tony Key, Logansport, IN 574-721-6966

# Three Sisters Park needs volunteers to continue farming traditions

By **TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

CHILLICOTHE, Ill. — More hands (and maybe some sturdy backs) are needed to help keep alive a decades-old spring planting tradition that has educated thousands of Illinois youth in the fundamentals of farming — 1918 style.

Three Sisters Park located in Chillicothe (Peoria County), Ill., offers 5th through 7th grade students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the agricultural history of central Illinois every spring through its Spring Planting event, which will be held April 28-30. At a cost of \$5 per student (often absorbed by the schools), Three Sisters Park volunteers oversee interactive demonstrations in the areas of soil preparation, seed selection, and corn planting using century-old techniques including horse-drawn equipment.

As with many volunteer-led events and missions, the number of participants stepping up to lead the activities at Three Sisters' Spring Planting has been shrinking. Park manager Susan Bobbitt and volunteer coordinators are now actively seeking individuals or groups of people who don't mind getting their hands dirty to keep the event alive.

What can a volunteer expect? The park's website explains that six educational stations are set up to teach how early agrarians went about the planting process, with students encouraged to actively take part in each area to get a better understanding of the efforts and methods used more than a century ago. Visitors begin in the park's large pavilion learning what it was like to grow up on a farm in the early 1900s. Participants prepare germination tests and learn to read germination tests already in progress, and discover the difference between open-pollinated and hybrid seeds.

Next, visitors learn about draft horses and their importance on early Illinois farms. They see how draft horse teams were harnessed. The

school kids are then allowed to compete in a horse harnessing relay race using life-size "dummy" horses.

Real draft horses, provided by a local farmer, are used to show how the land was plowed and prepared for the planting. Students are given the opportunity to try their hand at plowing and driving the horses, and are also allowed to pull the plow themselves with a tow rope to demonstrate the power of the draft horses.

Corn planting techniques are demonstrated using horses, check wire, stakes and a planter. Students help load the seed corn into the antique planter and move the check wire. They also plant corn using manual seed planters.

Before learning to pick corn by hand, students learn how to quickly identify a good seed ear. As they pick the corn, they are encouraged to toss promising seed ears into a small seed box and toss the other ears in a moving horse-drawn wagon.

"This program was started by retired school teachers. We got involved in it and it's just something that I now love doing," volunteer Don Thompson told Farm World for a 2018 article. He was one of many retired Caterpillar workers, farmers and other professionals who, along with more than 90 financial contributors, keep the event afloat from year to year. "It takes close to \$10,000 to put this program on. Elevators, banks, restaurants — I just can't name all the great people and businesses that step up to help us out."

Local business and non-profit sponsors, including the Massey Collectors Association, help keep the event plowing forward, but more hands-on volunteers are needed to keep the event growing for future generations.

More information on Three Sisters Park and Spring Planting can be found at [www.threesisterspark.com](http://www.threesisterspark.com).



**Above:** At one of the learning stations of Three Sisters Park's annual Spring Planting event, students learn how to quickly identify a good seed ear. As they pick the corn, they will throw promising seed ears into a small seed box and toss the other ears in a moving horse-drawn wagon. More adult volunteers are sought to keep the event alive. (photo provided)

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**AUCTION**

**TUES. APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**4 PM - 6 PM ET**

**OPEN HOUSES:**  
Sunday, March 22  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
**AND**  
Wednesday, April 1  
4:00pm - 5:30pm

**PROPERTY LOCATION:** 6784 N 775 E, Union City, IN 47390  
in Jackson Township, Randolph County.

**Chris Peacock: 765.546.0592 | Lauren Peacock: 765.546.7359**

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1725 W. 2ND STREET, MARION, IN 46952  
West of downtown Marion, IN on SR 18 (2nd St. one way westbound) to 1725 W.; or west of the By Pass on SR 18 to 1725 W.

**TUE., APRIL, 14 - 10:00 A.M.**

**LOTS USABLE ITEMS OF TLC MANAGEMENT - MANAGEMENT OF SEVERAL CARE FACILITIES IN THE MIDWEST - 2013 FORD F-350 TRANSPORT VAN, HANDICAP LIFT, 94K MILES - 10 FT. BRADFORD BUILT TRUCK FLAT BED - 31 NICE REFRIGERATORS - 30 ELECTRIC RANGES INCLUDING FOUR FLAT TOPS, 10 APARTMENT SIZE ALL VERY NICE - KITCHEN EQUIPMENT - CABINETS - LIGHTING - ELECTRICAL - PLUMBING - TOOLS - GENERATORS - MEDICAL & THERAPY - BUILDING SUPPLIES - FIRE RATED SOLID 3 & 4 FOOT WIDE DOORS - LOTS OF LOBBY AND ROOM FURNITURE - 80 KW 100A KVA, 3 PHASE GENERAC STATIONARY GENERATOR - 60KW 3 PHASE GENERATOR w/454 CHEVY ENGINE LP - ONAN 12.5 KW SINGLE PHASE ON TRANSPORT TRAILER - LOTS OF INVALID EQUIPMENT INCLUDING WHEEL CHAIR MOVER AND HOISTS - LOTS OF 4 DRAWER FILING CABINETS - LOTS OF PHOTOS POSTED - WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!**  
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AU01016000

**JOHNSON ESTATE AUCTION**  
AUCTION SITE: 6280 Millers Chapel Rd. Hillsboro, Oh. 45133. APPROX. 1 MI. OFF SR 136.

**SAT. APRIL 18, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M. WAGON LOADS OF FARM ITEMS & COLLECTIBLES, 12:00 (NOON) CAR, TRUCKS, TRACTORS & EQUIP.**

**CAR, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, STORAGE CONTAINERS, 5 TRACTORS, EQUIPMENT, FUEL TANKS, SHOP, MISC., LIVESTOCK ITEMS, FURNITURE & COLLECTIBLES & MANY UNSEEN ITEMS. NOTE: This one is truly Historic. Russ spent his life farming the only way he knew and that was working hard. He spent many years in the sheep business showing successfully all over and actually paying for 2 farms with his winnings. Russ absolutely didn't believe in throwing anything away. This one gives a whole new definition to "Barn Finds".**  
Don't miss 4/18/26!  
Full details @ [hessauctionco.com](http://hessauctionco.com)  
**OWNER: Estate of Russell Henri Johnson, Mark Edenfield exec. Highland Co. Probate #20251189, James Schroeder, attorney for estate.**

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5243 S. ADAMS ST., MARION, IN  
Between Marion & Jonesboro on SR 15 (Adams St.)

2022 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Convertible 2 LT Rear Mounted 6.2L V-8 Engine, 8-Speed Dual Clutch Transmission Z51 Performance Package - This Beautiful Corvette Only Has 2831 One Owner Miles - Only Driven by Mr. Gray locally! VIN1G1YB3D43N5124908. Red w/ black trim! Also his 2005 Ford Explorer w/Eddie Bauer Package only 100K; 2023 Polaris Slingshot S, AutoDrive, Rockford Fosgate Audio & Speakers, 4800 Miles, Nice; John Deere 380X 54" Cut Lawn Tractor; Large Floor Model Sand Blaster; Tools; Modern & antique furniture; gold & silver costume jewelry; collectibles; lots of collectible silver coins & currency; 90 Barbie dolls new in boxes, many rare from the 1990s; Craftsman roller & chest tool boxes; power & hand tools; snow blower; lots of body shop tools & supplies; hundreds of other shop tools and miscellaneous items.

Hundreds of photos on [www.priceleffler.com](http://www.priceleffler.com)

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## PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH @ 10:00 AM

2200 INDIAN RIPPLE RD, XENIA, OH 45385

1989 Cadillac - 5.0 Liter Brougham  
90,634 miles One Owner, Good Shape

1980 Corvette

44,070 miles Great Shape - Like New, Hard Top Convertible with 2 Different Tops

AUTOMOTIVE, TOOLS & GARAGE ITEMS  
AMMUNITION & RELOADING SUPPLIES  
APPLIANCES & EQUIPMENT  
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NO CREDIT CARD FEES, NO BUYER PREMIUMS.

Concessions will be available. Not responsible for accidents.

Mike's Auction Service, 937-477-8201

Auctioneers: Mike R. Brown, Doug Middleton, Samantha Gilliland  
Licensed under the State of Ohio

## PUBLIC AUCTION BOB & VIRGINIA MARSHALL ESTATE SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH @ 10:00 AM

1359 E. HOOP RD., XENIA, OH 45385

2003 Chevrolet Silverado C10, +/- 164,000 Miles,  
4.8 Liter Vortec Gas Engine, 2 Wheel Drive 4 Speed Automatic

TRACTOR, MOWERS, BUSH HOG & GARDEN TOOLS  
BARN ITEMS & TOOLS - WEED EATERS & CHAIN SAWS  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE AND MORE

**THIS JUST SCRATCHES THE SURFACE  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

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Auctioneers: Mike R. Brown, Doug Middleton, Samantha Gilliland  
Licensed under the State of Ohio

Greene County Probate Case No. 49178E

DEBORAH L. MIDDLETON, EXECUTOR | JEFF FERGUSON, ATTORNEY

## Spaulding

FROM PAGE 10B

from weed wrangles to lakeside clean ups. Call the park office at the location for more information.

- Roadside and Park Cleanup at Lieder SRA (Cagles Mill Lake) - April 18
- Weed Wrangle at Raccoon SRA (Cecil M Harden Lake) - April 18
- Garlic Mustard Pull at Clifty Falls State Park - April 18
- Weed Wrangle at Pokagon State Park - April 18
- Earth Day Clean Up at Deam Lake State Recreation Area - April 22
- Weed Wrangle at Spring Mill State Park - April 25
- Earth Day Clean Up/Garlic Mustard Pull at Versailles State Park - April 25

### Shooting range at Wilbur Wright FWA to temporarily close

The shooting range at Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) will temporarily close from May 11 through Aug. 8 for planned facility improvements.

In preparation for the project, the shotgun range closed in March, but the rest of the range will remain open until May 11. The early closure of the shotgun range was necessary to prepare the site for upcoming construction.

Improvements include adding new shooting benches and accessible sidewalks, along with enhancing the dirt backstop.

For updates, please contact the Wil-

bur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area office at 765-529-9581.

### Body found of missing 11-year-old

Indiana Conservation Officers have recovered the body of the 11-year-old juvenile who went missing in the East Fork of the White River in Columbus on March 30.

At 10:42 a.m., conservation officer divers located and recovered the victim in 10 feet of water approximately 80 yards from where she was last seen.

On March 30 at approximately 6:39 p.m., first responders were called to Mill Race Park for a report of a juvenile who went underwater and did not resurface. It was determined the victim, an 11-year-old female, and some friends were on a sandbar in the river when she waded too far out and was caught in the river current.

Responders from Columbus Fire Department, Bartholomew County Sheriff Department and Indiana Conservation Officers searched the water with boats, sonar, and above and underwater drones until after dark. The search resumed in the morning.

'till next time,  
Jack

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

Spaulding's books, "The Best Of Spaulding Outdoors" and "The Coon Hunter And The Kid," are available from Amazon.com as a paperback or Kindle download



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## FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION Online Only Retirement Sale

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 • 6:00 PM

Location: 494 O-Drive South • Fulton, Michigan 49052 (Calhoun County)

— Open House Inspections —

Sunday, April 12th • 1 to 4 pm and Monday, April 20th • 3 to 6 pm

Pickup date: Thursday, April 23rd • 10 am to 6 pm

**TRACTORS:** 2005 John Deere 8320, 6959 hrs., 4 remotes, big PTO, front wts., 3 pt., quick hitch, duals w/nearly new inside Firestone deep tread 480Rx50" tires; John Deere 2955;

**COMBINE:** 1999 John Deere 9510 Maximizer, 30.5 x 32" tires, 3933/2628 hrs., Brown Box monitor, well-maintained machine;

**HEADS:** John Deere 922 flex grain table, selling with Pequea head cart; John Deere 693 corn head;

**PLANTER:** John Deere 1750 Conservation, 6 row 30", dry fert. w/cross auger, monitor, no-till coulters;

**DRILL:** IH 5100 21-hole double disc drill;

**EQUIPMENT:** Landoll model 6230 23' flex disc, excellent blades; John Deere model 714 9-shank disc chisel w/UM Buster Bar; Schulte model RS320 rock picker; John Deere model 200 22' basket roller; John Deere HX15 batwing chopper (one owner); Meridian Titan XT self-contained seed tender (like new); Hobb model 1400L ¼ mile hard hose irrigation traveler; Remlinger model RTC600 15' multiplant finisher; Port-O-Box 8-ton wood fertilizer tender w/Killbros 8-ton gear; John Deere cat. 2 quick hitch; (2) J&M 385 gravity wagons w/J&M 13-ton gears & roll tarps; (2) Killbros 350 gravity wagons w/20" sides & Killbros 10-ton gears w/12.5 L x 15" tires; (1) Killbros gravity wagon w/20" sides, Killbros 10-ton gear & 11L x15" tires; Farm Fans AB12 grain dryer, single phase, LP gas, 7,817 hrs.; 800 bu. wet bin; 8'x16' auger w/5 hp. elec. motor; Westfield 8'x56' PTO transport auger; Westfield 8'x46' PTO transport auger; Feterl 8'x55' PTO transport auger; Feterl 46'x6" transport auger w/5 hp elec. motor; Feterl 8'x28' PTO transport auger; Feterl grain cleaner; 2000 bu. 18' dia. grain bin to be removed; 24'x10' (Building over grain dryer) to be removed;

Terms: Cash, check or credit cards accepted. Not responsible for accidents or items after sold.

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**TRACTORS:** 2022 NEW HOLLAND TS 6-120 SERIES II, 4X4 LOADER TRACTOR, ONLY 620 HRS, 2006 NEW HOLLAND TS-115 MFWD LOADER TRACTOR, 1978 AC 8550 4X4 ARTICULATE TRACTOR, 3,733 HRS., 1977 AC 7580 4X4 ARTICULATE TRACTOR, 1978 CASE 1570 2WD DSL. TRACTOR 3982 HRS, 1976 WHITE 2-70 DSL. TRACTOR, 5,902 HRS, FARMALL H TRACTOR, **EURO HOOKUP ATTACHMENTS**  
**COMBINES & HEADS:** 1987 CASE/IH 1640 2WD DSL. AXIAL FLOW COMBINE, 1979 IH 1460 2WD DSL. AXIAL FLOW COMBINE  
**TRUCKS & BUCKET TRUCKS:** \*2005 GMC 3500 4X4 DUALY W/ 3 YD. DUMP BOX, 84K MILES, DURAMAX DSL., \*1981 CHEVY 60, \*1981 FORD 700 DSL, \*1990 CHEVY 3500 STAKE TRUCK, \*1980 IH 1854 S/A BUCKET TRUCK, \*MOM 1979 GMC 3500 1 TON 4X4 DUALY STAKE TRUCK, **ALUMINUM LIVESTOCK TRAILER:** \*2001 FEATHERLITE 6.7X16' T/A ALUMINUM

**LIVESTOCK TRAILER, BUMPER PULL, BACHHOE/TRENCHERS/TRAILERS:** NH/ FORD 575E 4X4 LOADER/BACKHOE, 5070 HRS, CAH, EXT-HOE, \*1988 CZ DUAL TANDEM 10 TON TAG TRAILER, CASE/DAVIS 70+4 GAS TRENCHER W/ VIBRATORY PLOW, CASE 360 GAS TRANCHER, CASE DH-5 DSL. 4X4 TRENCHER W/ VIBRATORY PLOW, CASE DH-5 4X4 DSL. TRENCHER W/ 48" VIBRATORY PLOW, **KINZE 2000 PLANTERS/JD 450 DRILL**  
**MANY LOTS OF TILLAGE & FARM MACHINERY**  
**HAY & FORAGE:** NH 450 UTILITY ROLL-BELT ROUND HAY BALER  
**RECREATION:** 1999 166SCX SEA NYMPH FISHING BOAT, MOM 1989 STARCRAFT 16' ALUMINUM FISHING BOAT, ARCTIC CAT 550 2 UP SNOWMOBILE, X-MARK LASER Z CT ZERO TURN MOWER, **SHOP & FARM ITEMS**



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# Dairy margins flat to slightly firmer in second half of March

The March Federal order benchmark Class III milk price is \$16.16 per hundredweight (cwt.), up \$1.22 from February, but \$2.46 below March 2025. It is the highest Class III price since November 2025. The three-month average stands at \$15.23, down from \$19.71 a year ago, and compares to \$15.86 in 2024. Wednesday's Class III futures settlements portend an April price at \$17.49; May, \$17.97; June, \$18.45; and July at \$18.80, with a peak at \$18.95 in September.

The March Class IV price is \$18.94, up \$2.65 from February, 73 cents above a year ago, and the highest Class IV price since February 2025. Its three-month average is \$16.26, down from \$19.61 a year ago, and \$19.78 in 2024.

Dairy margins were flat to slightly

firmer over the second half of March as feed costs were steady awaiting the key Prospective Plantings and Grain Stocks reports from USDA at the end of the month while milk prices firmed, according to the latest Margin Watch (MW) from Chicago-based Commodity and Ingredient Hedging LLC. "Milk futures are being supported by strong demand, particularly on the export front, which is preventing a build in dairy product stocks despite increased domestic milk production," the MW stated and details the February Milk Production and Cold Storage reports which I have detailed previously.

Cash block Cheddar climbed to

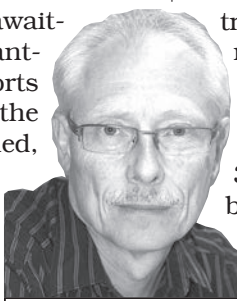
\$1.6725 per pound Thursday, as traders anticipated the afternoon's February Dairy Products report. That's up 9 cents on the week so far, highest CME price since Oct. 31, 2025, and 3.25 cents above a year ago. The barrels were trading Thursday at \$1.5925, 2.75 cents higher on the week, highest since Nov. 20, 2025, but 6.75 cents below a year ago.

Central region milk production is strong and Midwest contacts told Dairy Market News that output is trending higher. The increased milk and downtime at some plants in the region was causing more processors to offer loads below-Class prices which ranged \$7-under to \$2-under Class at mid-week.

Cheese production is steady to lighter, as some plants had downtime this week. Domestic cheese demand from retail and food service end users was unchanged.

Spring milk production is strong in the West and sufficiently meeting cheese manufacturer needs. Cheese output was steady. Cheese is not abundant and spot avails were somewhat dependent on variety. Some manufacturers report inventories are extremely limited, and production is anticipated to be focused on contractual commitments through second quarter. Domestic demand is steady. Export interest is steady to strong. Sellers report strong mozzarella demand from domestic and international

(Mielke continued on page 15B)



MIELKE MARKET  
WEEKLY  
By Lee Mielke

## Bear Creek Equipment AUCTION

**AUCTION LIVE ON SITE:**  
7750 DAYTON FARMERSVILLE RD.  
DAYTON, OHIO 45417



**TRACTORS, COMBINE, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, PLANTERS, TILLAGE EQUIP,  
GRAIN HANDLING EQUIP, HAY & LIVESTOCK EQUIP, CONSTRUCTION EQUIP, MISC.**

# FRIDAY, APRIL 17 • 10:00 A.M.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Equipment well taken care of, ready to go to the field. Kept under roof. Very good condition. For several years Bear Creek Farms ran a successful hay & livestock operation. Offering quality livestock & hay equipment to this sale.

### TRACTORS

- 2022 John Deere 8R 340 Signature Edition
- 2005 John Deere 7320
- 2003 John Deere 6603
- 2014 John Deere 8270R
- John Deere 5085M
- 1998 Case Steiger 9350 Articulating 4WD
- 1993 John Deere 4960
- Massey Ferguson w/Belly Mower
- Oliver 77 Tractor

### COMBINES, HEADERS, & CARTS

- 2003 John Deere 9650STS Combine
- John Deere 930F Grain Platform w/EZ Trail Header Cart
- John Deere 893 8-Row Cornhead w/EZ Trail Header Cart

### TRUCKS & TRAILERS, CONSTRUCTION

- East 48' Spray Trailer w/Tanks
- Sure-Trac 20+5 Gooseneck Trailer
- 2015 Mac 39' Dump Trailer
- 2016 Mac 39' Dump Trailer
- 2015 Featherlite 28' Gooseneck Livestock Trailer
- Lawrimore 20' Bumper Pull Trailer
- International Roillback 2.0
- 2009 Ford F250 Single Cab Pickup
- Old Dodge Power Wagon (parts only)
- Chevy W4500 Flatbed Truck
- Volvo EC330BLC Excavator, 7938 hrs.
- Komatsu D75S Dozer/Loader
- Komatsu WA380 Wheel Loader

TERMS: CASH, CHECK, CREDIT CARD

- 2021 Bobcat S76 Skid Steer w/Bucket
- Hyster 50 Propane Forklift
- 72" Blue Diamond Grapple for Skid Steer
- Bulldozer Rake/Brush Rake
- Forks for Wheel Loader
- 98" High Volume Skid Steer Bucket
- Kenco Barrier Wall Grabber
- Bobcat Post Hole Digger for Skid Steer
- 47" Skid Steer Forks
- Skid Steer Hay Spear

### PLANTING, SPRAYER & TILLAGE

- Kinze 3500 Planter
- Unverferth Seed Pro 210 Seed Tender
- Brillion SS10 3 pt Seeder
- John Deere 4730 Sprayer
- John Deere 1350-1450 6 Bottom Plow
- DMI 28' Tiger Mate II Field Cultivator
- 2013 Kuhn Krause 20' Excelsior 8000
- Unverferth 132 5-Shank Toolbar Subsoiler
- John Deere 310 12' Disk
- John Deere 510 5 Shank Disk Ripper
- John Deere 512 Disk Ripper
- Rome TACW16 11' Disk
- 15' Disk

### GRAIN HANDLING

- 2012 Killbros 1885 Grain Cart
- Mayrath 8x52 Sing Away Auger

### HAY/LIVESTOCK EQUIP. FERTILIZER & HAY

- NDE FS1200D Feed Mixer
- John Deere 560M Round Baler

### PREVIEW:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10 - 10 AM TO 3 PM  
AT THE FARM LOCATED AT  
7750 DAYTON FARMERSVILLE RD, DAYTON, OH**

- John Deere 348 Small Square Baler w/Thrower
- John Deere C350 Mower-Conditioner
- Vermeer R2300 Hay Rake
- Vermeer TE1710 Hay Tedder
- 1990 Kuhn GMD 66 HD 3pt Disc Mower
- 40' Hay Elevator
- Hay Wagons
- (2) Kicker Wagons
- Hay Wagon w/Side Rails & Stairs
- (65) 5x6 Net Wrapped Hay Bales
- (60) 5x6 Twine Wrapped Hay Bales
- 155 Small Square Bales of Hay
- (3) Farmer Boy Feed Bins w/Unload Auger
- Bulk Cattle Feeder
- Multiple Proboxes
- Cattle Pins & Chute Set Up
  - (9) 10' Panels
  - (6) Corral Gales 9'5"
  - (2) 5' Doors
  - (1) Man Door 2'6"
  - (4) 11' Panels
  - (1) 11' Panel w/5' Door
- Power River Portable Cattle Ramp
- Livestock Scales
- E-Z Cattle Chute
- TECO TPCW10P Cattle Squeeze Chute
- 28' Corral for Cattle, (9) 10' Panels
- New Holland 355 Grinder Mixer
- (10) Forever 20'x41" Steel Feed Bunks

- 3 pt. Spreader
- Pax Creep Feeder
- Kuhn Knight 8141 Dry Manure Spreader

### MOWERS

- John Deere CX15 Bush Hog
- 5' Bush Hog
- John Deere 120 Flail Shredder Mower
- John Deere RC 8 M Rotary Mower

### MISCELLANEOUS

- John Deere Starfire 3000 GPS Receiver
- Terex AL4060D Light Tower
- Specialty Lighting INC BTK64MH Light Tower
- Portable Light Tower
- Schaben 200 Gallon Skid Sprayer
- (2) Portable Air Compressors
- (5) Steel Shipping Containers
- John Deere Quick Hitch
- John Deere Front Suitcase Weights
- Pull Type Rock Picker
- Industrial Band Saw
- Industrial Table Saw
- Lighting 560 Industrial Wood Planer
- New VIS Road Simulator
- Lots of misc. items to include bolt bins, chains, binders & many other items too numerous to mention.

**For questions about equipment call  
Mark Wolfe 740-361-6739**

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# Mielke

FROM PAGE 14B

buyers, according to DMN.

Butter fell to \$1.7525 per pound Wednesday but regained 3.75 cents Thursday to close at \$1.79, 3.50 cents lower on the week, and 50.50 cents below a year ago.

Cream production is strong in the Central region. Some processors had planned downtime this weekend and were offering loads on the spot market. However, demand from Class II

and III processors have kept inventories tight and well balanced. Churning is active. Demand is strong for bulk butter and from retailers, while food service demand is steady, but remains somewhat light. Export interest was unchanged, says DMN.

Spring milk output and cream production continues strong in the West. Spot cream availability is tighter as interest from other manufacturers has increased. Cream prices continue to have upward momentum. Demand from butter makers is light to steady. Butter production is heavy and up from a year ago. Retail demand is steady to strong, food service

lighter to steady. Butter makers note strong bulk demand from domestic and international buyers, according to DMN.

Grade A nonfat dry milk remains strong and powered its way to \$1.9725 per pound Thursday, highest CME price in 12 years, April 8, 2014 to be exact, 5 cents higher on the week so far and 81.50 cents above a year ago.

National Milk says that nonfat dry milk's price rally is in part due to "An insatiable domestic demand for high protein dairy products like Greek yogurt and cottage cheese. Alongside cheese, these products have pulled skim milk out of the dryers, leading to a tighter supply of NFD. While dairy protein demand shows no signs of slowing, NFD's recent price rally places the US above EU and New Zealand powder prices, which may slow exports to Asia until prices converge."

Dry whey was trading Thursday at 68.75 cents per pound, down a quarter-cent on the week, but 19.75 cents above a year ago.

The March 30 Daily Dairy Report says "Rising cheese production has ensured that an abundant stream of raw whey is available for whey processors to use. However, manufacturers are persistently routing raw whey toward higher-value ingredients, limiting input availability for

low-protein products. And that is helping support the price of commodity dry whey.

"In 2025, total production of dry whey slipped to 831.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from the prior year," the DDR stated, "Marking the lowest annual output since 1982. At the same time, production of whey protein isolates (WPI) rose 11 percent in 2025. Growing demand, both here and abroad, has underpinned the push toward high-value whey ingredients. As consumers pursue healthier diets and with the expanding use of GLP-1 medications further encouraging protein consumption, demand for high-value whey ingredients, such as WPI and whey protein concentrates, has soared," according to the DDR.

Bottom line, the DDR concludes "Milk pricing formulas consider the dry whey price, and these values can provide critical support as each penny gain in the dry whey price adds about 6 cents to the Class III price. If dry whey production remains limited and prices remain supported, the relationship between whey prices and Class III prices will likely provide some welcome support to producer incomes over coming months."

The USDA's Prospective Plantings Report, issued Tuesday, showed corn at an estimated 95.3 million acres, down 3 percent or 3.45 million acres from last year. Planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 37 of the 48 estimating states, according to the report. Soybean plantings was estimated at 84.7 million acres, up 4 percent from a year ago. Planted acreage is up or unchanged in 20 of the 29 estimating states.

The accompanying Grain Stocks report showed March 1 corn stocks at 9.02 billion bushels, up 11 percent from March 1, 2025. Soybeans totaled 2.10 billion bushels, up 10 percent.

An increase in the All Milk Price, first rise since August 2025, offset higher feed prices to give the February feed price ratio a lift, ending four consecutive declines. The USDA's latest Ag Prices report has February at 2.17, up from 2.09 in January, but compares to 2.68 in Feb. 2025.

The All Milk Price hit \$18.30 per cwt., with a 4.46 percent butterfat test, up 80 cents from January's \$17.50 on a 4.48 percent test, but compares to \$23.60 a year ago which had a 4.43 percent test.

The national corn price averaged \$4.11 per bushel, up a penny from January but 47 cents below Feb. 2025. Soybeans averaged \$10.60 per bushel, up a dime from January, and 40 cents per bushel above a year ago. Alfalfa hay averaged \$159 per ton, down \$1 from January, and dead even with a year ago.

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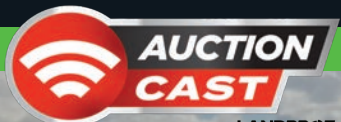
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## SAT. APRIL 18TH. 2026 @ 8:30AM



**EXCAVATORS:** 2022 Case CX75CSR-815hrs, Oriol quick coupler, Oriol hydr thumb, 36in bucket, backfill blade, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2018 CAT 313FL Hydraulic Excavator-4,276hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, hydr quick att; 1998 CAT 345BL Excavator-7,245hrs, aux hydr, 24in steel tracks, EROPS, heat/ac; 2017 SANY 365CLC-7,018hrs, EROPS, aux hydr, heat/ac, radio; 2019 Volvo ECR88D Hydraulic Excavator-1,689hrs, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, aux hydr, hydr thumb, grading blade; 2007 Caterpillar 345B Excavator Long Reach Boom (lightly used); **MINI EXCAVATORS:** 2022 Bobcat E50R2-295hrs, hydr thumb, aux hydr, blade, 24in bucket, boom swing, rubber tracks, manual quick coupler; 2015 CAT 303E CR-3,049hrs, aux hydr, blade, 12in tracks w/rubber pads, boom swing, OROPS, 2 spd; **WHEEL LOADERS:** 2021 KOMATSU WA380-8-5,778hrs, rock bucket, EROPS, heat/ac; 2019 KOMATSU WA320-8 WHEEL LOADER-15,195hrs showing, forks, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, backup camera; 2015 Kawasaki 95Z7B - 10,305 hrs, EROPS, heat, air, radio, SN#97J2-5015; **BACKHOES:** 2008 CATERPILLAR 420E IT BACKHOE-4,723hrs showing, outriggers, front aux hydr, quick att, 36in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; **COMPACTION EQUIPMENT:** 2015 CAT CS66B Roller-2,766 hrs, smooth drum, EROPS, heat, air; BENFORD 2010SD SMOOTH DRUM ROLLER-558hrs, Deutz engine, 55in drums, vibratory function; **MOTOR GRADER:** 2007 DEERE 672D MOTOR GRADER-13,314hrs showing, 12ft blade, ripper, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; **TRACTORS:** 2023 NEW HOLLAND WORKMASTER 120 MFWD TRACTOR-16hrs, 3 remotes, PTO, 3pt; 2023 NEW HOLLAND WORKMASTER 120 MFWD TRACTOR-12hrs, 3 remotes, PTO, 3pt; 2004 CHALLENGER MT765B TRACK TRACTOR-8,267hrs, 4 remotes, PTO, 24in tracks, cab, heat/ac, radio; 2024 BAD BOY 1022H TRACTOR-8hrs, loader, PTO, hydrostatic; **LIFTS, MATERIAL HANDLING & SUPPORT:** 2015 JLG G10-55A TELEHANDLER-7,951hrs, 10,000lb capacity, 55ft reach, front outriggers, frame leveling, foam filled tires; 2014 JLG G12-55A TELEHANDLER-5,953hrs, 12,000lb capacity, 55ft reach, front outriggers, hydraulic rotating forks, 3 steering modes, 48in forks, frame leveling, ROPS; 2013 MANITOU MLT845-120 TELEHANDLER-4,789hrs showing, 8,000lb capacity, 24ft reach, 4x4, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, aux hydraulics, Mercedes engine; 2015 SKYTRAK 8042 TELEHANDLER-5,563hrs, 8,000lb capacity, 42ft lift height, hydraulic tilt, frame leveling; 1995 CAT DP40 FORKLIFT-9,035hrs, 8,000lb capacity, 3 stage mast, 60in forks, OROPS; 2015 JLG 2646ES SCISSOR LIFT-475hrs, 26ft platform height, 1,000lb capacity, electric; 2015 JLG 2646ES SCISSOR LIFT-310hrs, extendable platform, 26ft height, 1,000lb capacity, electric; 1996 UNITED TRACTOR 2500BL WAREHOUSE CART-propane powered, rear cargo deck; **TRUCKS:** 2007 PETERBILT 379 SLEEPER-1,060,402 miles, Cat engine, 10spd, aluminum wheels, heat/ac, radio; 2004 PETERBILT 379 SLEEPER-1,501,655 miles, Cat engine, manual trans, aluminum wheels, heat/ac, radio; 2012 KENWORTH T660 SLEEPER-1,163,178 miles, Paccar engine, 10spd, mid roof sleeper, heat/ac, radio; 1998 INTERNATIONAL 9300 SLEEPER-over 2,000,000 miles, Cat 3406, 18spd, rebuilt engine/trans; 2015 VOLVO VNM64T200 DAYCAB-584,430 miles, Volvo engine, manual trans; 2008 INTERNATIONAL PROSTAR DAYCAB-724,052 miles, wet kit, 10spd; 1993 INTERNATIONAL 8200 DAYCAB-864,112 miles, Cummins engine; 1992 INTERNATIONAL 9400 DAYCAB-784,380 miles, Cummins engine; 1996 FORD LNT8000 VAC TRUCK-255,233 miles, Vector system; 2008 FORD F450 DUMP TRUCK-6.4 diesel, steel bed; 2002 CHEVROLET W5500 LANDSCAPE TRUCK-22ft bed; 2001 FREIGHTLINER FL60 MULCH/TRUCK-227,443 miles, conveyor system; **TRAILERS - HEAVY & COMMERCIAL:** 2020 WITZCO CHALLENGER NGB-50 LOWBOY TRAILER-50 ton, 52.5ft long x 8.5ft wide, 26ft well, 12.5ft rear deck, hydraulic detach, on-board engine, multiple outriggers, brand new hardwood decking, fully refinished & upgraded; 2011 GREAT DANE FLATBED TRAILER-48ft, aluminum floor, air ride, spread axle; 1993 TRANSCRAFT EAGLE W2 FLATBED TRAILER-45ft x 96in, aluminum, spread axle, toolbox; **SKIDSTEERS-TRACK:** 2020 CAT 299D3 TRACK SKID STEER-4,726hrs, 2spd, high flow, 18in rubber tracks, 84in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac; 2019 CAT 299D3XE-2,074hrs, high flow, hydr quick att, rear weights, rear camera, rubber tracks, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2020 CAT 289D3-2,320hrs, EROPS, hydr quick att, aux hydr, rubber tracks, heat/ac, radio; 2017 CAT 289D-3,190hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear camera, rubber tracks, heat/ac, radio; KUBOTA SVL90-2-4,672hrs, aux hydr, rubber tracks, bucket, EROPS, heat/ac; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,568hrs, NEW CAT CRATE ENGINE, 2spd, aux hydr, rubber tracks, 84in bucket, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,421hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, heat/ac, radio, rear camera, heated seat; 2023 CAT 259D3-3,098hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, hydr quick att, Cat bucket, rubber tracks, rear weights, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, heated seat; 2023 CAT 259D3 -2,828hrs, 2spd, hydr quick att, 74in bucket, rubber tracks, rear camera, rear weights, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, heated seat; 2023 CAT 259D3 -2,537hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, hydr quick att, Cat bucket, rubber tracks, rear camera, rear weights, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, heated seat; 2022 CAT 259D3 -3,157hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, hydr quick att, Cat 72in bucket, rubber tracks, rear weights, EROPS, heat/ac, radio, heated seat; 2017 CAT 259D -5,765hrs, aux hydr, heat/ac, radio; 2016 BOBCAT T650-1,899hrs, 84in bucket, rubber tracks, OROPS; 2023 DEERE 333G-1,747hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear camera, rubber tracks, 84in bucket, EROPS, heat/ac; 2023 DEERE 333G-1,140hrs, quick att, 2spd, aux hydr, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2021 DEERE 333G-2,397hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac; 2021 DEERE 333G-2,302hrs, 2spd, quick att, rubber tracks, 84in bucket, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac; 2020 DEERE 333G-2,755hrs, aux hydr, hydr quick att, rubber tracks, 82in bucket, EROPS, rear camera, heat/ac; 2019 DEERE 333G-1,738hrs, 2spd, aux hydr, rear weights, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2020 TAKEUCHI TL8R2-1,588hrs, high flow, rubber tracks, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2020 TAKEUCHI TL8R2-1,519hrs, high flow, rubber tracks, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 2020 TAKEUCHI TL8R2-1,186hrs, high flow, rubber tracks, rear camera, EROPS, heat/ac, radio; 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