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Senator Rand Paul introduces Hemp Safety Enforcement Act

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois' once-promising hemp industry is currently in a state of flux as growers anticipate new federal laws, including a ban on some products. Growers in other states are also worried.

"The State of Illinois operates under a hemp plan approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and we are awaiting further guidance. Until that time we do not have any new information or developments to share," said Lori Harlan, a spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, on April 29.

The controversy swirls around federal regulation of intoxicating hemp, or hemp with a THC content of above 0.3 percent. Industrial hemp production was legalized in the U.S. and in Illinois in 2018, with the industry largely expected to produce items like industrial textiles and non-intoxicating CBD products. However, a legal "gray area" allowed hemp to be used in the production of unregulated, intoxicating and synthetic THC (the active ingredient in cannabis) products, creating pushback from the recreational pot industry, which the IDOA oversees. For the past three years, legislation to more strictly regulate the industry has failed in the Illinois General Assembly, pitting the state's legalized cannabis industry against its industrial hemp growers, according to Capital News Illinois.

"This regulatory gray area has created a loophole that put Illinois consumers of all ages, but particularly children, in danger while an underground market flourished — the exact opposite of what Illinois has done by regulating our cannabis industry,"

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said in a December 2024 news release.

By the end of 2025 at least 32 states, including Illinois, had passed legislation to tighten hemp regulations, or in the case of California, ban intoxicating hemp altogether. In November 2025, Congress passed a federal law banning the sale of intoxicating cannabinoids such as Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC effective November 2026.

On April 20, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced the Hemp Safety Enforcement Act, aimed at protecting the hemp industry from the pending federal ban. Paul's bill, which is supported by the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, is co-sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Joni Ernst (R-IA). According to Paul, the hemp sector faces "extinction" because of a provision buried in the 2026 agricultural appropriations bill that effectively bans most hemp products nationwide.

"Half the states have already set up their own smart rules, THC limits, age restrictions, and safety standards that let hemp farmers grow, manufacturers innovate, and consumers stay safe," said Paul. "Washington shouldn't wipe out those efforts or destroy jobs and access to products that help our veterans, our elderly, and families across the country. This bill gives states the freedom to regulate hemp responsibly while keeping dangerous synthetics off the market and ensuring products can move freely between states."

Jonathan Miller, General Counsel for U.S. Hemp Roundtable, added, "The U.S. Hemp Roundtable, indeed the entire domestic hemp industry, is deeply grateful to Senators Rand Paul and Amy Klobuchar for their introduction of legislation that would provide for the continued sale of valued hemp products in states with regulatory programs, despite the impending federal ban. This legislation would provide invaluable protection for farmers, small businesses, and consumers who rely on these products for their health and wellness. Senators Paul and Klobuchar continue to demonstrate their steadfast support for this promising agricultural industry."

The 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to establish a national regulatory framework for hemp production in

(See Hemp on page 2)



Above: Werling Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center of Decatur, Ind., recently held an animal yoga class. Yoga participants were able to hold poses with rabbits, dwarf Nigerian goats, opossums, box turtles, skunk, and even a red fox. Photo by Leondia Walchle

March cattle feedlot placements are the second lowest since 1996

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**
Iowa Correspondent

HULL, Iowa — For Craig Moss, Iowa Cattlemen's Association president and fifth-generation Hull cattle producer, the recent decline in feedlot placements came as no surprise, given the historically-low U.S. cow herd.

"With fewer calves available, placement numbers are naturally impacted," he told Farm World. "Despite producers' desires to grow their herds, this trend underscores broader challenges facing our industry that must be addressed to ensure long-term stability and growth."

Moss, who operates a 1,000-head feedlot and also grows corn, soybeans, oats, rye and forage sorghum, said limited access to pasture, affordability of inputs, and availability of capital are all placing pressure on producers' ability to expand or even maintain herd size.

"At the same time, the industry must prioritize creating opportunities for young and beginning farmers to enter our industry, and succeed in cattle production," said Moss, whose two sons, McCoy and Merritt, are now the sixth-generation to help run the northwest Iowa farm, along with his wife, Hayley — the very farm that his great, great-grandfather bought in 1907.

"Continued work to address these factors is crucial to rebuilding the cow herd, and strengthening the entire beef supply chain," he added.

According to the USDA's April 17 report, cattle feedlot placements during March totaled 1.71 million head, marking a 7 percent decrease from 2025, and representing the second-lowest March placements since

the data series began in 1996. Net placements reached 1.66 million head during the month, the report added.

During March, the report said, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000 head; 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head; 700-799 pounds were 435,000 head; 800-899 pounds were 474,000 head; 900-999 pounds were 170,000 head; and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head.

The report said marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.63 million head, 6 percent below 2025. March marketings also represented the second lowest figure for the month since the series began in 1996.


Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm World the primary factor contributing to the decline in the quantity of cattle placed on feed in March 2026 is due to the small cattle herd that results in smaller calf crops.

"If drought was not persistent across a large portion of cattle-producing regions, then the quantity of cattle placed on feed would have likely been even lower," he said. "However, the drought situation will continue to result in cattle producers moving heifers off the farm and into feedlots. It doesn't really matter how high cattle prices move if environmental conditions result in reduced forage and feed production."


He said what stood out the most in this report was the quantity of cattle marketed totaled 1.6 million head, which was in line with pre-report es-

(See Cattle on page 2)

In this Farm World:



Old World Garden Farm is blooming bright in Ohio.....
Page 1B



Callery Pear trees taking over some landscapes pushing out native trees..... Page 10





Above: Craig Moss, Iowa Cattlemen's Association president and fifth-generation Hull, Iowa, cattle producer, told Farm World limited access to pasture, affordability of inputs, and availability of capital are all placing pressure on producers' ability to expand or even maintain herd size. (courtesy of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association)

Cattle

FROM PAGE 1

timates and slaughter estimate data: "What should set the headline of this information is when a month with extremely low placements results in a month where placements still exceed marketings. It may be a strong statement to say cattle are backing up in this price environment, but the data points in that direction."

He said if drought continues to persist, there will not be much information to suggest cattle herd re-

building: "In fact, the market may see more cattle placed on feed than expected as a large percentage of heifers continue to make their way into the feeding system. Thus, the July 1 Cattle Inventory Report will likely continue to reveal what is actually happening in cattle production."

"My expectation is more heifers on feed than we would have expected on Jan. 1, and an expectation for a smaller calf crop in 2026," he said. "I know the calf crop in 2026 should not be impacted much by what has happened the past few months, but I still think there will be an impact."

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Hemp

FROM PAGE 1

the United States. USDA published a hemp final rule on January 19, 2021, which provided the regulations for the production of hemp in the United States. The regulations became effective on March 22, 2021.

Following cultivation approval, hemp products containing cannabinoids were sold across the United States, often in bright, colorful packages some felt were marketed towards youth. On November 12, 2025, Congress and President Trump enacted a full-year FY2026 Agriculture appropriations act containing a provision that reimposes federal controls over certain hemp products.

As part of the new federal control, growers will be required to test all cultivated hemp plants for THC content. Recently, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service announced

they would delay until December 31, 2026, the enforcement of a requirement that all hemp must be tested by a Drug Enforcement Agency-registered laboratory.

The new federal definition of hemp explicitly includes industrial hemp, according to a summary of the hemp rule shared on Congress.gov. This leaves industrial hemp caught up in many of the same conversations around laws prohibiting intoxicating hemp products on the market.

"The ban represents a dramatic reversal from the federal policy established by the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, which treated hemp as a legal agricultural commodity so long as Delta-9 THC remained below 0.3 percent," according to the Illinois Municipal League. "From that 2018 law emerged a widespread hemp-derived cannabinoid market, including products with Delta-8 THC, tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA) or other previously unregulated psychoactive cannabinoids."

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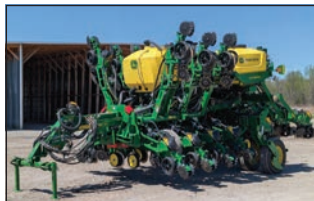
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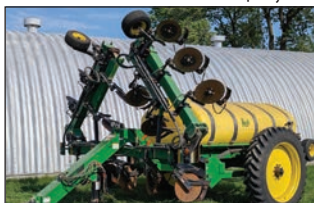
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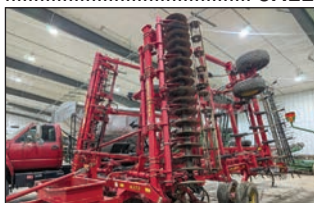
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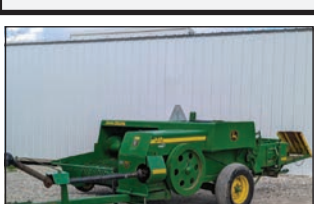
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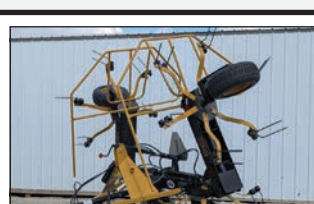
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Global corn stocks and beef herds tighten; milk cows up

The International Grains Council has revised its world carryout numbers. More interest is starting to fall on the world corn inventory that the IGC is predicting at 292 million metric tons. This was a 2 mmt reduction from the prior estimate, and also 2 mmt less than what the USDA is using in global balance sheets. While still an adequate corn supply, this is well below the 315 mmt from just two years ago.

The Buenos Aires Grain Exchange updated its Argentine crop estimates mixed numbers. BAGE is predicting a corn crop of 61 mmt, up from their prior 57 mmt estimate. BAGE claims more acres were planted to corn than first thought. They now have total acreage at 20 million, up 741,000 from initial predictions. The Argentine corn crop is 25 percent harvested, giving analysts better crop data. BAGE has the Argentine soybean harvest at 6 percent complete and left crop size unchanged at 48.5 mmt.

In addition to the BAGE update the Rosario Grain Exchange put the Argentine corn crop at 67 mmt, claiming weather has been favorable for crop development. The USDA is using crops of 52 mmt on corn and 48.5 mmt for Argentine crops in global balance sheets.

The Strait of Hormuz remains closed, and regardless of what we see for cease-fires, until this is fully open it will mean little for the energy market. Sources claim it will take at least six months to remove mines from the waters, and some reports indicate it will take a year for repairs to damaged infrastructure. Until these changes are made energy from the region is at a standstill. This is the reason for economists to say it will take at least a year for energy values to improve. Unfortunately, this means input costs will also remain elevated, mainly for fertilizer products.

One factor that is impacting global production is rising input costs. Even with calming tensions in the Persian Gulf, global fertilizer values remain above the level where farmers can afford them. Several countries have stated this, and now Argentina joins the list. Argentine officials claim fertilizer values are at a point where they are impacting planting decisions, specifically on winter wheat. Argentina typically begins planting its winter wheat crop around May 1st, and many farmers report they still do not have input coverage.

A similar impact is being seen in Australia. Australian farmers are not only facing high-priced fertilizer, but elevated diesel costs as well. Diesel fuel supplies are also a worry ahead of Australia's planting season. Sources in Australia claim high costs of production will cut wheat acres to 9.1 million this year, a 14 percent reduction from last year. Australian farmers are opting for lower input intensive canola, with plantings forecast to increase 16 percent to 4.9 million.

China's March soybeans were well

below trade expectations. Total imports were 4 mmt with trade expecting 6.5 mmt. What trade was more interested in was where the soybeans originated from. China imported 1.85 mmt of US soybeans in March, a 24 percent decline from March 2025. Brazil supplied fewer soybeans to China at 1.4 mmt, but this was a 47.4 percent increase from last year. The quality issues that suspended Brazil loadings was the primary cause of the lower import total.

China has been an active wheat importer this year as the country tries to replace its domestic crop losses. China was subjected to flooding rains on last year's wheat crop impacting not only yield but crop quality. Much of China's wheat crop was termed unusable, pushing the country to make imports for both immediate needs and for blending. In the month of March China imported 490,000 mt of wheat, 160 percent of the volume in March 2025. Year-to-date imports total 1.71 mmt, a 495 percent increase from last year. China is also importing large volumes of sorghum and corn to help cover feed needs.

China has released its long range balance sheet estimates. Chinese of-



MARKET ANALYSIS
By Karl Setzer

officials claim the country will be producing 733 mmt of grain domestically by the year 2030. This is expected to increase another 20 mmt by 2035. This compares to China's record domestic production of 715 mmt in 2025. Thoughts are this will cut China's imports from 140.5 mmt this year to just 115 mmt by 2035. Soybean imports are expected to fall to just 82.5 mmt, a 26 percent decline from 2025. China is also forecasting a 3.9 percent decline in beef imports and an 8.2 percent decline to pork imports.

While the U.S. has seen its beef herd contract to record low numbers, the U.S. dairy herd is headed in the opposite direction. The end of March US dairy herd totaled 9.18 million cows. This was an addition of 8,000 head from February and 188,000 head more than March 2025. Fewer dairy animals are being culled which is also impacting U.S. beef stocks. The decline in dairy slaughter is also a main reason carcass weights are rising as beef breeds are naturally heavier than dairy.

The March cold storage data came in with few surprises. The U.S. frozen beef supply on March 31, 2026, totaled

410.52 million pounds, 2 percent less than the end of February and 3 percent below March 2025. Frozen pork stocks totaled 411.28 million pounds, 2 percent more than the end of February and a nearly steady total from a year ago. Frozen pork bellies totaled 47.29 million pounds, a 5 percent increase from February but a 13 percent decline from a year ago. Total red meat stocks were slightly lower from February and 2 percent less than last year.

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How northeast Ohio is rewriting the rules of value-added agriculture

By Mike Tanchevski
Ohio Correspondent

WOOSTER, Ohio – Traditionally, farmers send crops or livestock to market, get paid, and move on. But farmers in northeast Ohio are recapturing more of the supply chain. They're turning to value-added products – turning milk into artisanal cheese and berries into jam – to earn more revenue from their products.

To teach and support farmers in this endeavor, the USDA established several Agriculture Innovation Centers (AICs) through its Agriculture Innovation Center Program.

Established in 2024, the Northeast Ohio Agriculture Innovation Center (NEO-AIC) is located at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. The center has provided one-on-one, tailored technical assistance to more than 100 northeast Ohio producers. Its services include business planning, food safety and regulatory compliance, branding and marketing, and access to capital. NEO-AIC is one of eight USDA-supported Agriculture Innovation Centers nationwide and is the only center focused on integrating quality of life into program

planning.

Dr. Shoshanah Inwood, a rural sociologist and program director for Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, explained how the NEO-AIC focuses on quality of life.

"We're interested in how your production and marketing system works with your family's needs," Inwood said. "Are you taking care of young children? Are you taking care of elderly members of your family? What are your own health needs? How do we better align the family and the farm so that people are really able to do what they love, but also reduce their stress levels?"

According to Inwood, farmers in northeast Ohio are incredibly innovative and entrepreneurial. However, integrating value-added products can be great for the bottom line in the long run, but it can be a lot of work to set up. That's where NEO-AIC can help.

"The NEO-AIC helps busy farmers by removing barriers, making the process from concept to market more efficient," Inwood said. "We are focused on workforce development and workforce retention in the agricultural sector using an economic

development approach that contributes to the regional economy by simultaneously centering both farm profitability and quality of life."

Northeast Ohio has the state's highest concentration of small- to mid-sized farms. The region also has many women and Amish farmers. Unlike the western half of the state, which is dominated by row crop farms, this area is more diversified. It focuses on specialty crops, poultry and dairy. Because of this diversity, farmers face a disconnected support system when trying to follow rules and regulations for value-added production.

"The internet has tons of information, but it's almost too much," Inwood said. "For a farmer, navigating the maze of branding guidelines, direct-to-consumer regulations, and safety standards can be a full-time job in itself."

The NEO-AIC was created to provide a "one-on-one" bridge across that gap. The center's approach is different from traditional extension services. They utilize an 11-member team that follows a medical model of support.

"We meet twice a month, and we go through the different clients that

we're working with," Inwood said. "Each person on our team has specialized but complementary knowledge."

The team includes Peggy Kirk Hall, an agricultural law specialist who navigates the regulatory landscape, and Nicole Arnold, a food safety expert who ensures on-farm practices meet state and national guidelines.

By reviewing cases as a board, the center ensures that if a farmer has a question about a Value-Added Producer Grant or a specific regulatory hurdle from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the team can provide a holistic answer. "This 'high-touch' relationship means farmers don't have to call regulators themselves – a task many producers find daunting," Inwood said.

A significant portion of the NEO-AIC's service area – including Holmes, Coshocton and Ashland counties – is home to a dense Amish and Plain community population. To serve them effectively, the center has done something unprecedented: they hired an Amish liaison.

"We very intentionally tried to translate all the different materials... to be culturally accessible for the Plain community," Inwood said. This includes a monthly column in The Budget newspaper, a publication based in Sugarcreek, Ohio, with over 50,000 subscribers worldwide. "This outreach has been so effective that the center now receives inquiries from Plain farmers across North and South America," she said.

The center is also creating marketing opportunities for the region's value-added product. One major project involves the Akron-Canton Airport, where the NEO-AIC is an official wellness partner.

The center is working with a local farmer to organize northeast Ohio products for the airport's concessions. Each product will feature a QR code, allowing travelers to read the story of the farm while waiting for their flight. Additionally, the airport plans to host pop-up farmers markets for its 1,200 employees.

The demand for these services has been tremendous. Originally funded to help 50 farmers over three years, the center has already worked with over 100 farmers in just 18 months.

However, the future of the center faces a hurdle: the USDA grants that launched the AIC are currently being phased out. To remain sustainable, the center is looking at alternative models, including fee-for-service structures, integrating into the Agricultural Technical Institute curriculum at OSU, and philanthropic investments.

For now, the center continues to provide vital tools like their Resource Map, a digital guide to 219 regional resources – including commercial kitchens, auctions and Small Business Administration offices – designed to remove the barriers between a farmer's raw product and a consumer's table.

NEO-AIC has had a significant impact on farmers in the region in its brief existence.

"Every client reported satisfaction with the services received and said they would recommend the center to others," Inwood said. "Eighty percent of participants reported a stronger understanding of what it takes to start or expand a value-added agriculture business. Seventy percent said they felt more confident making business decisions as a result of their engagement." 0

				
2004 Gehl DL10L-44, EROPS w/Heat, Missing Upper Door, JD Dsl. 4 Spd., PS, 10K Capacity, 44' Reach, Foam Filled Tires, 48" Forks, Work Rdy... \$24,500	2015 Sunflower 5056-45 Field Cultivator, 45' VG 9" Sweeps, 3 Bar Spike, Drag w/Baskets, Shank Protectors, Very Nice... \$37,500	2008 Case IH ADX 2230, Cart Fill Auger, Stored Inside, Good Condition... \$5,450	McFarlane 45' Drag Cart, 8 Bar, Hyd. Fold, Good Spikes... \$4,950	2013 Case IH Magnum 290, CAH, PS, 3 Pt., PTO, 3330 Hrs., Very Nice, 1 Owner Tractor, Has Been Deleted... \$122,500
				
2014 CASE IH 1255 24-30 Bulk Fill, Clean Sweeps, 20/20 Gen 2 Monitor, Cable Drives w/ Elec. Shutoffs, Insecticide, Completely Rebuilt, Field Ready, Local Farmer... \$49,500	2020 EZ-LOAD 4B, 4 Box Tender, Tandem Axle, Lo-Pro, Honda Engine, Good Condition... \$11,500	DMI 50' Crumbler, Very Good Condition, Hydraulic Fold... \$6,450	2005 JD 1790, 16/32 No-Till Bulk Fill, 20/20 Mon., Yetter Twister Closing Wheels, Press Wheels, Pneumatic Down Pressure, CCS Seed Delivery, Vac, Metering Markers, Good Cond., Field Rdy... \$32,500	1981 Allis-Chalmers 7020, 6636 Hrs., CAH, Power Director, 3 Pt PTO, 18.4x38, Stadium Lights, Original Seat... \$12,500
				
NH 565 Small Square Baler, 540PTO, Rear Bale Chute, Good Cond., Field Ready... \$6,750	2012 Case IH Tigermate 200, 50' 5-Bar Harrow, New Sweeps, Paint Slightly Faded, No Welds, Work Ready... \$24,500	2016 Landoll 7832-35, High Speed Disc, 3 Section Single Fold Frame, 24" Fronts, 21.5" Rears, Wing Gauge Wheels, Drawbar Hitch, Steel Spring Roller On Rear, Field Ready... \$57,500	2012 New Holland 195, Tandem Axle, Double Beater, Slop Gate, Double Chain, Needs TLC But Works Good... \$10,500	Case 870 Diesel, WF, 3 Pt. PTO, Runs and Drives, All Original... \$5,450
				
Easiload 3 Box Tender, Tandem Axle, Honda Engine, Good Cond... \$9,500	2008 JD 2310 33'9" Soil Finisher, VG, Blades & Sweeps, 3 Bar Spike w/Rolling Basket, Field Ready... \$29,500	Gehl 175 Manure Spreader, Single Axle, Slop Gate, Single Beater, 540 PTO... \$4,250	John Deere 750 10' No-Till Drill, 7.5" Spacing, Draw Bar Pull, Good Condition... \$12,500	2024 John Deere FC20R, 20' Batwing, Like New, 1000 PTO, Stump Jumpers, Work Ready... \$29,500
				
2011 JD 9330 5956 Mi., CAH, PS, PTO, 4 Rem., 480/50 Michelin Tires w/Duals, Very Nice, 2 Owner Tractor... \$128,500	2015 H&S 3127 Manure Spreader, 540PTO, 270 Bu., Slop Gate, Like New, Only Done 5 Loads of Saw Dust, No Manure... \$16,500	CIH 5500 Drill, 30' Wide, 15" Spring, Front Fold, Fold Control Box, Press Wheels, Markers, Requires 3 Set of Remotes, Nice Original, Field Ready... \$7,450	2016 John Deere 8345RT CAH, IVT, 3 Pt., 4 Remotes, New 18" Tracks, Very Nice... \$99,500	2008 John Deere 1790, 12/23, Bulk Fill, No Till, Coulters, Pneumatic Down Pressure, Rear Fill Auger, Very Nice, Farmer Retirement... \$38,500



Smith Machinery

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QUALITY USED EQUIPMENT OF ALL TYPES

MARKETS

Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY

Livestock Weighted Average Report for
4/27/2026 - Final

	AUCTION		
	This Week	Last Reported 4/20/2026	Last Year
Total Receipts:	944	1,148	1,375
Feeder Cattle:	808(85.6%)	1,031(89.8%)	1,153(83.9%)
Slaughter Cattle:	125(13.2%)	105(9.1%)	210(15.3%)
Replacement Cattle:	11(1.2%)	12(1.0%)	12(0.9%)

Compared to last Monday the feeder market was lower with an average quality offering. Feeder steers 400 lbs and under were sharply lower, while the 500-650 lbs steers were 3.00 to 6.00 lower with a good supply and moderate demand. Feeder heifers 300-600 lbs were 6.00 to 8.00 lower or greater in spots with a good supply and moderate demand. Yearling steers and heifers appeared firm with a lite test, while the slaughter cows and bulls were mostly steady with a good supply and good demand. Supply included: 86% Feeder Cattle (27% Steers, 48% Heifers, 25% Bulls, 0% Beef/Dairy Steers); 13% Slaughter Cattle (1% Heifers, 90% Cows, 7% Bulls, 2% Beef/Dairy Steers); 1% Replacement Cattle (44% Stock Cows, 38% Bred Cows, 13% Bred Heifers, 6% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 23%.

Groups of 20 Head or More.

STEERS	HEIFERS
28 Hd 60% Black/XBRED 659 lbs 394.00	87 Hd Black/BWF 578 lbs 438.50

FEEDER CATTLE

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	325-330	327	577.50-585.00	580.03
4	355-378	372	520.00-530.00	527.62
12	402-441	433	500.00-530.00	505.07
1	405	405	550.00	550.00 Fancy
7	460-492	473	470.00-512.50	497.78
16	500-545	511	460.00-485.00	470.50
7	507	507	520.00	520.00 Value Added
24	562-590	578	445.00-470.00	459.21
3	610-625	620	412.00-412.50	412.16
10	615-645	627	430.00-432.50	430.26 Value Added
34	659-695	663	385.00-403.00	394.01
2	672	672	425.00	425.00 Value Added
1	720	720	367.50	367.50
3	760-767	765	349.00-370.00	355.96
2	760-765	763	379.00-389.00	383.98 Value Added
1	835	835	350.00	350.00
4	865	865	354.00	354.00
3	900-925	917	313.00-343.00	322.82

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	245	245	500.00	500.00
1	345	345	515.00	515.00
5	405-410	406	465.00-485.00	474.50
2	470	470	455.00	455.00
8	521-542	534	410.00-430.00	417.32
11	562-592	578	422.50-432.50	426.12
2	600-625	613	367.50-372.50	369.95
9	731	731	300.00	300.00
3	793	793	325.00	325.00
1	870	870	317.50	317.50
1	1060	1060	270.00	270.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	430	430	402.50	402.50
4	453-490	462	362.50-370.00	364.49

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	500-522	515	205.00-237.50	215.52

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	200	200	550.00	550.00
5	248	248	570.00	570.00 Fancy
2	270-285	278	530.00-540.00	534.86
3	257-280	265	570.00-620.00	602.37 Fancy
3	330-335	332	505.00-530.00	513.42
6	322	322	565.00	565.00 Fancy
11	350-390	370	482.50-502.50	493.31
19	355-385	374	507.50-515.00	509.95 Fancy
25	400-447	429	442.50-477.50	464.51
2	415-425	420	485.00	485.00 Fancy
34	451-497	478	410.00-437.50	425.58
4	457-465	461	452.50-455.00	453.74 Fancy
26	510-541	525	390.00-415.00	404.14
15	505-527	519	420.00-428.00	423.31 Value Added
10	555-595	571	370.00-387.50	376.31
97	572-590	578	410.00-438.50	435.81 Value Added
9	600-640	622	365.00-390.00	381.38
9	660-678	673	370.00-385.00	380.04
8	700-740	722	328.00-343.00	333.69
2	755-770	763	347.50-350.00	348.74
1	865	865	340.00	340.00
3	935	935	325.00	325.00
1	980	980	295.00	295.00
1	1070	1070	290.00	290.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	260	260	495.00	495.00
1	345	345	480.00	480.00
3	380-395	390	452.50-457.50	455.03
7	420-440	431	422.50-435.00	430.31
8	473-495	485	392.50-405.00	401.86
8	500-542	517	380.00-382.00	380.25
2	555-565	560	355.00-360.00	357.52
4	600-640	618	330.00-350.00	341.90
1	775	775	315.00	315.00
1	835	835	300.00	300.00
1	895	895	307.50	307.50
1	900	900	285.00	285.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	335	335	400.00	400.00
3	360-372	368	380.00-390.00	383.26

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	240	240	595.00	595.00
1	295	295	540.00	540.00
7	300-330	307	530.00-580.00	545.63
2	300-330	315	600.00-605.00	602.62 Fancy
7	358-390	365	525.00-565.00	532.90
18	400-435	419	500.00-535.00	509.57
1	420	420	570.00	570.00 Fancy
13	460-497	478	470.00-515.00	501.55
5	458	458	580.00	580.00 Fancy
23	500-540	524	450.00-477.50	461.65
6	503-527	511	522.50-532.50	525.94 Fancy
2	570-590	580	400.00	400.00
7	555-586	580	427.50-445.00	432.52 Fancy
8	617-645	631	395.00-415.00	402.01
7	610-645	625	422.50-450.00	432.11 Fancy
8	660-675	670	360.00-390.00	380.26
7	705-745	729	357.50-380.00	367.98
3	770-790	778	327.50-355.00	342.38
1	960	960	280.00	280.00
2	1025-1035	1030	252.50-255.00	253.74
1	1135	1135	250.00	250.00
1	1255	1255	210.00	210.00

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	207	207	500.00	500.00
2	330-340	335	515.00-520.00	517.46
9	362-395	375	480.00-492.50	486.59
8	405-447	431	460.00-490.00	481.94
3	460-487	478	430.00-432.50	430.80
8	525-545	533	417.50-440.00	431.25
2	555-575	565	375.00-385.00	379.91
1	620	620	375.00	375.00
1	690	690	332.50	332.50
2	865	865	302.50	302.50
2	1000-1035	1018	230.00-235.00	232.54

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	315	315	400.00	400.00
1	405	405	435.00	435.00
3	500-527	518	392.00-400.00	397.43

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	420	420	445.00	445.00

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

BEEF/DAIRY STEERS - Select and Choice 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1352	1352	195.00	195.00	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
1	1440	1440	192.00	192.00	Average

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
15	1320-1645	1445	168.00-181.00	174.47	Average
8	1320-1810	1539	183.00-193.00	186.53	High

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
20	1020-1505	1217	162.00-180.00	172.98	Average
12	1060-1540	1272	182.00-191.00	185.23	High
2	1230-1255	1243	153.00-155.00	154.01	Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
4	810-1145	963	135.00-150.00	143.93	Average
22	865-1330	1101	156.00-176.00	165.37	High
5	905-1105	968	110.00-127.50	117.78	Low
1	815	815	87.50	87.50	Very Low

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

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing
2	1520-1955	1738	198.00-205.00	201.06	Average
4	1900-2205	2103	210.00-228.00	221.32	High
1	1015	1015	185.00	185.00	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
2-8 O	7	755-1080	939	176.00-212.50	185.29

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

Age Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>5 T2	4	1135-1760	1409	2875.00-3250.00	3022.94
>5 T3	1	1190	1190	2800.00	2800.00

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

Age Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>5 T2	1	1160	1160	1700.00	1700.00

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

Age Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4 T2	2	1075-1310	1193	2800.00-3450.00	3092.98

COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ <150 lbs calf (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
>8 O	1	1245	1245	3300.00	3300.00

Please Note:

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

MARKETS

Kentucky Daily Grain Bids

Grain Report for Thursday, April 30, 2026 - Final

FUTURE SETTLEMENTS

Exchange	Commodity	Closing Settlement Prices (¢/Bu) as of 4/30/26						
CBOT	Corn	464.75 (May 26)	474.75 (Jul 26)	479.75 (Sep 26)	494.25 (Dec 26)	507.25 (Mar 27)	514.50 (May 27)	518.00 (Jul 27)
CBOT	Soybeans	1182.00 (May 26)	1195.50 (Jul 26)	1189.25 (Aug 26)	1167.75 (Sep 26)	1173.00 (Nov 26)	1184.75 (Jan 27)	1182.00 (Mar 27)
CBOT	Wheat	623.75 (May 26)	636.75 (Jul 26)	651.75 (Sep 26)	673.00 (Dec 26)	690.25 (Mar 27)	697.50 (May 27)	692.00 (Jul 27)
CBOT	White Oats	328.75 (May 26)	349.25 (Jul 26)	358.00 (Sep 26)	358.50 (Dec 26)	362.00 (Mar 27)	368.00 (May 27)	358.50 (Jul 27)
KCBT	Wheat	678.00 (May 26)	693.50 (Jul 26)	705.75 (Sep 26)	720.00 (Dec 26)	730.25 (Mar 27)	734.25 (May 27)	726.75 (Jul 27)
MGE	Wheat	694.75 (May 26)	705.75 (Jul 26)	722.50 (Sep 26)	737.25 (Dec 26)	748.00 (Mar 27)	746.00 (May 27)	740.00 (Jul 27)

US #2 WHITE CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	75.00N to 155.00K		5.4975-6.1975	UP 0.0825-DN 0.0175	5.8475
	Pennyrile	58.00Z	UNCH	5.5225	DN 0.0350	5.5225
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Lower KY	152.00N	UNCH	6.2675	DN 0.0300	6.2675
	Ohio River - Lower KY	60.00Z	UNCH	5.5425	DN 0.0350	5.5425
	Purchase	160.00K	UP 10.00	6.2475	UP 0.0825	6.2475
	Purchase	60.00Z	UNCH	5.5425	DN 0.0350	5.5425

US #2 YELLOW CORN (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	10.00N	UNCH	4.8475	DN 0.0300	4.8475
	Purchase	-20.00U	UNCH	4.5975	DN 0.0325	4.5975
	Green River	35.00K	UNCH	4.9975	DN 0.0175	4.9975
	Green River	-10.00Z	UNCH	4.8425	DN 0.0350	4.8425
	Pennyrile	-20.00N to 38.00K	4.5475-5.0275	UP 0.0825-DN 0.0375	4.6858	4.7258
	Pennyrile	-30.00Z to -10.00Z	UNCH	4.6425-4.8425	DN 0.0350-DN 0.0250	4.7258
	Louisville	-17.00K	UNCH	4.4775	DN 0.0175	4.4775
	Louisville	-17.00K	UNCH	4.4775	DN 0.0175	4.4775
	Bluegrass	10.00K	UNCH	4.7475	DN 0.0175	4.7475
	Bluegrass	-25.00Z	UNCH	4.6925	DN 0.0350	4.6925
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	26.00K to 28.00K	UNCH-UP 2.00	4.9075-4.9275	DN 0.0175-UP 0.0025	4.9175
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-30.00Z to -29.00Z	UNCH-UP 1.00	4.6425-4.6525	DN 0.0350-DN 0.0250	4.6475
	Ohio River - Lower KY	29.00K to 30.00N	DN 1.00-UNCH	4.9375-5.0475	DN 0.0275-DN 0.0300	5.0042
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-25.00Z to -13.00Z	UNCH	4.6925-4.8125	DN 0.0350	4.7395
	Purchase	24.00K to 25.00N	UNCH	DN 0.0175	4.9442	
	Purchase	-10.00U to -20.00Z	UNCH	4.6975-4.7425	DN 0.0325-DN 0.0350	4.7200

US #1 SOYBEANS (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	10.00N	UNCH	12.0550	DN 0.0150	12.0550
	Purchase	-15.00X	UNCH	11.5800	UP 0.0175	11.5800
	Green River	-20.00K	UNCH	11.6200	DN 0.0025	11.6200
	Green River	-40.00X	UNCH	11.3300	UP 0.0175	11.3300
	Pennyrile	-50.00N to 33.00K	11.4550-12.1500	UP 0.1325-DN 0.0225	11.6371	
	Pennyrile	-60.00X to -13.00X	UNCH	11.1300-11.6000	UP 0.0175	11.2614
	Louisville	-78.00K	UNCH	11.0400	DN 0.0025	11.0400
	Louisville	-78.00K	UNCH	11.0400	DN 0.0025	11.0400
	Bluegrass	-20.00K	UNCH	11.6200	DN 0.0025	11.6200
	Bluegrass	-75.00X	UNCH	10.9800	UP 0.0175	10.9800
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	18.00K to 22.00K	UP 3.00-UP 2.00	12.0000-12.0400	UP 0.0275-UP 0.0175	12.0200
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-36.00X to -35.00X	UNCH	11.3700-11.3800	UP 0.0175	11.3750
	Ohio River - Lower KY	30.00K to 45.00K	UNCH	12.1200-12.2700	DN 0.0025	12.1830
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-27.00X to 15.00X	UNCH	11.4600-11.8800	UP 0.0175	11.6425
	Purchase	20.00K to 29.00K	UNCH-DN 2.00	12.0200-12.1100	DN 0.0025-DN 0.0225	12.0617
	Purchase	-26.00X to -8.00X	UNCH	11.4700-11.6500	UP 0.0175	11.5700

US #1 MILLING SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Pennyrile	-10.00K	UNCH	6.1375	DN 0.1850	6.1375
	Pennyrile	-5.00N	UNCH	6.3175	DN 0.1625	6.3175

US #2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT (BULK)

Country Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Purchase	-10.00N	UNCH	6.2675	DN 0.1625	6.2675
	Green River	-75.00N	UNCH	5.6175	DN 0.1625	5.6175
	Pennyrile	-50.00N to -30.00N	5.8675-6.0675	DN 0.0550	5.9375	
	Pennyrile	-65.00N to -4.00N	UNCH	5.7175-6.3275	DN 0.1625	5.9608
	Louisville	-12.00N	UNCH	6.2475	DN 0.1625	6.2475
	Louisville	-79.00N to -12.00N	UNCH-UP 4.00	5.5775-6.2475	DN 0.1625-DN 0.1225	5.9125
	Bluegrass	-55.00N	UNCH	5.8175	DN 0.1625	5.8175
Barge Loading Elevators - Conventional	Region/Location	Basis (¢/Bu)	Basis Change	Price (\$/Bu)	Price Change	Average
	Ohio River - Upper KY	-24.00N	UNCH	6.1275	DN 0.1625	6.1275
	Ohio River - Lower KY	-13.00N to -4.00N	UNCH	6.2375-6.3275	DN 0.1625	6.2995
	Purchase	-10.00K to -15.00N	DN 2.00-UNCH	6.1375-6.2175	DN 0.2050-DN 0.1625	6.1775
	Purchase	-13.00N to 4.00N	UNCH	6.2375-6.4075	DN 0.1625	6.3125

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, O/V: Ocean Vessel

USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

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Missouri Direct Hay Report

Direct Hay Weighted Average Report 5/1/2026

Heavy rains and some severe weather over the last couple of weeks here in Missouri. As of the latest drought monitor, near 83 percent of the state is drought free. The SE corner, especially the boothill area, still of the most concern. Farmers have made decent progress planting over the last two weeks, but many low areas did end up underwater and some replanting will have to occur. Hay has started with some wheat, rye and such being wrapped. Weather hasn't given enough consecutive days for much else but there is a touch of new crop alfalfa that has been baled. Thus far the market on new crop hay hasn't really been tested. High fuel cost doesn't really encourage for much trucking at this time either. Hay prices are steady. Demand is light and supplies are moderate. The Missouri Department of Agriculture has a hay directory at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/haydirectory> or visit the University of Missouri Extension feed stuff finder at <https://feedstufffinder.org>

HAY (Conventional)

Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Ton)		
Medium Square 3x3	250.00-300.00	
Alfalfa - Supreme (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	10.00-15.00	
Alfalfa - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)		
Medium Square 3x3	175.00-225.00	
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	150.00-175.00	
Alfalfa - Good (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	6.00-10.00	
Alfalfa - Fair (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	125.00-150.00	
Mixed Grass - Premium (Ask/Per Ton)		
Medium Square 3x3	150.00-200.00	
Mixed Grass - Good/Premium (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	100.00-150.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Ton)		
Large Round	50.00-100.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair/Good (Ask/Per Bale)		
Small Square	2.25-7.00	
Mixed Grass - Fair (Ask/Per Bale)		
Large Round	20.00-40.00	

STRAW (Conventional)

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

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

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Weekly Combined Regional Shell Egg Report

Report for: 04/19/2026 - 04/25/2026

National Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	49.00 - 78.00	66.88	0.00	66.88	
Large	48.00 - 70.00	60.19	0.00	60.19	
Medium	42.00 - 63.00	53.25	0.00	53.25	

Midwest Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	49.00 - 58.00	53.50	0.00	53.50	
Large	48.00 - 57.00	52.50	0.00	52.50	
Medium	42.00 - 51.00	46.50	0.00	46.50	

Delivered Store Door, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	56.00 - 64.00	60.00	0.00	60.00	
Large	54.00 - 62.00	58.00	0.00	58.00	
Medium	48.00 - 56.00	52.00	0.00	52.00	

Paid to Producers - FOB, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Large	30.00 - 40.00	35.00	0.00	35.00	
Medium	24.00 - 28.00	26.00	0.00	26.00	
Small	16.00 - 22.00	19.00	0.00	19.00	

Northeast Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	57.00 - 75.00	66.00	0.00	66.00	
Large	51.00 - 65.00	58.00	0.00	58.00	
Medium	45.00 - 58.00	51.50	0.00	51.50	

South Central Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	69.50 - 78.00	73.75	0.00	73.7	
Large	61.50 - 70.00	65.75	0.00	65.75	
Medium	54.50 - 63.00	58.75	0.00	58.75	

Southeast Shell Eggs - Caged					
Delivered Warehouse, White, Cents Per Dozen					
Class	Price Range	Average Price	Price Change	Last Reported	
Extra Large	70.50 - 78.00	74.25	0.00	74.25	
Large	61.00 - 68.00	64.50	0.00	64.50	
Medium	52.50 - 60.00	56.25	0.00	56.25	

Explanatory Notes: Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, white eggs in cartons.

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

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News
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Tornado ravaged dairy farm begins recovery with help from neighbors

By Stan Maddux
Indiana Correspondent

FENWICK, Mich. - A dairy farm in Michigan is getting a helping hand from its neighbors after a tornado damaged much of the area on April 14.

A couple of their cows were killed and some calves still remain missing.

"It was almost a complete wipe out," is how Amy McMillan described the damage to her parents' farm in Fenwick just north of Grand Rapids.

Bryan and Janet Hull are second generation owners of Hull's Dairy Farm, which had several barns and other outbuildings destroyed or heavily damaged by what the National Weather Service classified as an EF-1 tornado with winds of up to 110 mph.

The Hull's are still living in their house that seems to have escaped major structure damage.

McMillan said there were seven windows in the home broken out during the storm that produced hail the size of golf ball along with some roof damage

McMillan said she was notified about the destruction at the farm by her mother, who took shelter in the basement.

"I could hear by the tone of her voice that something was definitely wrong," she said.

Janet Hull later told WZZM-TV out of Grand Rapids the tornado sounded like a "train coming through."

The next morning, the family was surprised when more than 100 people from the community were outside ready to help.

McMillan said there were helpers on the roof of the house making repairs and on the ground cleaning up



Above: Barns and other outbuildings were destroyed or heavily damaged by a tornado at a family-owned dairy farm since 1963.

debris like numerous pieces of tin and broken boards laying all over.

At one point, McMillan said there were as many as a half dozen skid steers belonging to others helping with the clean-up.

A nearby milk producer also took in the more than 200 milking cows at the farm until it's back in operation while the rest of the 300 head of cattle there went to other farms in the area for temporary housing.

In addition, enclosed trailers were brought to the farm to use as temporary workshop space and to store tools.

"It was just unbelievable the amount of support that they received," she said.

Approximately 50 of the farm's cows escaped during the storm because a fence along the property line



Above: A family-owned dairy farm in Michigan suffered extensive damage from a tornado.

went down in the storm.

"They got pretty skittish and took off," she said.

She said it appears the cows didn't go very far, choosing to hang out in nearby fields until they were ready to come back. Some of the cows were walked back to the farm by neighbors

She said the plan is to reopen the dairy farm but it's too early to predict when that will happen.

"We're still trying to figure out some details and pretty much taking everything day by day," she said.

The Hull's took over the family farm started in 1963 about 25 years ago.

McMillan has set up an account at any Independent Bank branch location for people to donate financially to help with the cost of restoring the



Above: Community members helped repair some of the damage from a tornado at a Michigan dairy farm.

farm.

"There's a lot to do. I wouldn't wish this on anybody," she said.



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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid red; margin: 0;">GRAIN CARTS</p> <p>J&M 1122-20S GRAIN CART, TRACKS, TARP, LIGHTS BRENT 1082 GRAIN CART, TARP, SCALES, LIGHTS J&M 750 GRAIN CART, TARP, SCALES, LIGHTS UNVERFERTH 7000 GRAIN CART, TARP, LIGHTS J&M 385SD GRAVITY WAGON W/ 13 TON GEAR KONGSKILDE SUC1000 GRAIN VAC</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid red; margin: 0;">HEADS</p> <p>2018 MAC DON FD130 30FT DRAPER HEAD, JD HOOK-UP 2015 MAC DON FD75 30FT DRAPER, CNH SINGLE POINT HOOK-UP 2014 MAC DON FD75 35FT DRAPER, CNH SINGLE POINT HOOK-UP 2015 CASE IH 3020 35FT & 30FT GRAIN HEAD 2002 JD 920F GRAIN HEAD 2014 CIH 4406, KR, HD, HH, CNH SINGLE POINT 2013 CIH 3406, KR, HD, HH, CNH SINGLE POINT 2015 JD 608C, KR, HD, HH, RS 2007 JD 693, RR, HD, HH</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid red; margin: 0;">COMBINES</p> <p>2023 CIH 8250, RWA, TRACKS, AUTOMATION, GUIDANCE, 1018/754 HRS 2019 CIH 8250, 2WD, TRACKS, LT, RT, CHPPR, POWER TOP, GUIDANCE, 2279/1696 HRS 1998 JD 9510, RWA, LL, 3487/2512 HRS</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid red; margin: 0;">PLANTERS</p> <p>JD 1760 12R30 CORN PLANTER, VAC, LIQ FERT JD 1750 4R, DRY FERT JD 1530 15FT DRILL W/ CADDY BRILLION SL12 PULL-TYPE SEEDER</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid red; margin: 0;">CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>2022 BOBCAT E42 R2 SERIES, CAH, 2 SPD, HYD TUMB, 300 HRS 2019 DEERE 310L EP, CAH, 4WD, E-HOE, 2300 HRS 2022 BOBCAT T870, CAH, 2 SPD, HIGH-FLOW, 1400 HRS 2024 BOBCAT T64 R-SERIES, CAH, 2 SPD, 400 HRS</p>	

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Purdue researchers to examine early pregnancy loss in cattle

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**
Iowa Correspondent

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A new USDA-funded research project at Purdue University will examine early pregnancy loss in cattle, which often occurs before a pregnancy is even recognized, causing significant economic loss for cattle producers, according to researchers.

Supported by a four-year, \$650,000 New Investigator Award from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the research will focus on the earliest stage of pregnancy, when an embryo first communicates with the mother, researchers said.

Viju Pillai, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine assistant professor of anatomic pathology and project leader, said early embryonic loss is a major challenge in modern cattle systems.

The study will place special attention on proteins called trophoblast Kunitz domain proteins, which may play a key role in successful pregnancy, he said. Even though advances in genetics and production have improved milk and meat yield, reproductive efficiency has not kept pace.

He added the first few weeks of pregnancy are especially vulnerable, and failures during this window can lead to substantial economic losses for producers through missed breeding cycles, extended calving intervals, and reduced lifetime productivity.

"Pregnancy does not begin with a visible sign; it begins with a signal," he said in an April 10 media statement. "Within the first week, the em-

bryo must effectively 'introduce itself' to the mother. If that molecular dialogue falters, the pregnancy can quietly end before it truly begins."

To address this challenge, Pillai's Laboratory of Developmental and Stem Cell Biology is developing and deploying experimental models that recreate key features of early pregnancy outside the animal, creating this accessible window into events that are otherwise difficult to observe, researchers said.

Central to this work are these trophoblast cells, the specialized cells that build the placenta and serve as an essential interface between the embryo and the uterus, researchers said. By growing these cells under carefully controlled conditions that mimic the uterine environment, researchers added that they have established platforms in which trophoblast cells not only survive, but also differentiate into placenta-forming cell types that resemble those seen in early gestation.

Grant Dewell, Iowa State University associate professor of veterinary medicine and extension beef veterinarian, told Farm World the potential loss of early embryos can be quite high, with some estimates of 30 to 50 percent not resulting in pregnancy.

"As you can imagine, there are intricate details required for the cow's normal estrus cycle to stop and shift toward pregnancy maintenance that actually requires all three factors (bull, cow and embryo) to be in sync, plus there are environmental factors as well," he said. "To minimize problems, producers and veterinarians need to reduce stress prior to breeding season."

The estrus cycle is a recurring, hormone-driven reproductive cycle in female animals.

He added, "If the ovulated egg has had any insults prior, then even if it gets fertilized, the embryo may not be able to adequately release pregnancy-associated glycoproteins that signal for pregnancy to begin, and the cow's uterus has to be able to read the signals as well." According to Iowa State, glycoproteins are proteins that bond to carbohydrate units (sugars), often functioning in immune responses, cell signaling, and structural integrity.

Dewell said, however, well before the breeding season begins, the nutritional and health needs of the cows first need to be met to allow for pregnancy to be successful: "At the beginning of breeding season, we also add stress such as synchronization programs, changing diet at pasture turn out, and transportation stress. Recognizing ways to minimize these external stressors can help set the cow up to maintaining pregnancy from the beginning."

He added, "We don't know a lot about the bull's influence, but we do know that the sperm cell influences the pregnancy-associated glycoproteins as well, either from genetics or other factors such as the bull's nutritional and health status."

Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee professor of agricultural and resource economics, told Farm World, "Research from South Dakota State University says the early pregnancy loss percent is 20 to 30 percent. I guess one could say this, given that about 60 percent of a calf crop tends to be born in the first 21 to 28 days of a calving season."

"We know there can be several reasons an animal loses a pregnancy, including but not limited to, nutrition, stress (i.e., hauling, environmental factors), trauma or others," he said. "However, the economic implications of an animal experiencing early pregnancy are huge. It is widely established that the calves born earlier in the calving season will be heavier at weaning because they are older than other calves at the time of weaning."

He said most calves will gain about two pounds per day while nursing if nutrition is adequate to do that: "This means a female missing on one cycle could cost 42 pounds, and it is likely it will be more than that."

He said that 42 pounds at today's prices would result in calves that return \$100 to \$150 less than their heavier counterparts: "If the 20 to 30 percent number is correct, a producer with 50 cows could have 10 to 15 cows impacted, which would mean \$1,000 to \$2,500 less in revenue that year. The impact is much smaller when prices are lower."

Researchers said the long-term goal of the study is to identify practical solutions that help reduce reproductive loss and improve cattle production sustainability

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Callery pear trees taking over landscape, crowding out native species

By Celeste Baumgartner
Ohio Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio - They line roadways and fill fields with their showy white blossoms in early spring. But don't be taken in by their beauty. Callery pear trees are aggressively taking over the landscape in many places, crowding out native species. Plus, they can have thorns that will pop a tractor tire or injure livestock.

The Callery pear is an ornamental pear tree native to Asia, which has become an invasive plant. It was introduced to North America in the early 1900s to breed some disease resistance into fruiting pears, which were an agricultural crop but were highly susceptible to a disease called fire blight, said Tom Macy, forest health program manager with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

Fire blight is a bacterial disease, and Callery pear trees seem to show strong resistance to it. They were initially introduced to hybridize with the fruiting pear to develop some resistance to that disease.

"It was noted that it had some potentially nice ornamental traits, the spring flowering, and the compact form," Macy said. "It seemed tough, and can grow in a lot of difficult situations with poor soil. It was thought maybe this could be a nice urban tree, a yard tree, and so they were used for that purpose."

Unfortunately, that one variety didn't seem to produce fruit; it seemed that it wouldn't self-pollinate. Macy said. But, over time, other varieties of Callery pear were introduced. They could cross with each other and could produce viable fruit.

"So now we have Callery pears that produce lots of viable seeds," he explained. "Birds and other wildlife help to spread that seed around. In the meantime, we realized that, other than the fact that it is becoming invasive, it has some not-so-good traits for an ornamental tree. It has a dense branching structure that, with snow or ice storms, is susceptible to breakage."

Callery pear trees are behaving like a lot of other invasive, non-native plants, Macy said. They are spreading aggressively and forming almost a monoculture. They out-compete native plants and there is less diversity. Callery pear trees are less valuable for wildlife.

"So they're really aggressively spreading, colonizing, these kinds of disturbed areas near roadsides or abandoned fields, really outcompeting native vegetation," Macy said.

As of 2023, Callery pear trees were banned from sale or propagation within the State of Ohio. Unfortunately, Kentucky hasn't quite gotten there yet.

"Our Invasive Plant Council of Kentucky has worked hard every year to spread awareness of the issues of invasive plants," said Alexandra Blevins, forest health program coordinator with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. "Last year, we had a bill (banning the sale and propagation of Callery pear trees) that was passing through, but didn't quite make it. We are hoping that it will get pushed through in the near future and everyone can agree that we need to ban the sale of this major invasive species through the ornamental industry."

At the nursery, the plants will not necessarily be labeled Callery pear. Bradford Pear, Cleveland Select, Aristocrat and Chanticleer are all

popular varieties, Blevins said. Basically, any kind of flowering pear that is on the market will have the Callery pear rootstock.

"Say one neighbor has a Bradford pear, and the house next-door has one of those Aristocrat cultivars, those two different cultivars can cross-pollinate and the seed that they make that is going to be their rootstock, which is the Callery pear," Blevins said.

The trees do produce fruit, but the pears are tiny. They are not palatable to humans, but bird species will eat them, and that is how they spread, Blevins said. The birds eat those fruits, and get the seeds on the landscape. So Callery pear trees are taking up old, fallow farm fields.

"If the farmer wanted to convert that field back to a farm field, or use it for conservation purposes, they're going to have to get rid of the Callery pears," Blevins said. "They have these wicked thorns on them so they can injure you or your equipment. I have heard horror stories of tractor tires getting punctured."

"It can cost big bucks to remove those invasives once they overtake an area," she explained. "They can cause damage on multiple levels, and these are the things we are up against every day. Consumers should be hyper-vigilant when looking for a new tree; don't buy any cultivars of flowering pears."

Callery pear trees can spread by seeds and roots underground. For small seedlings, mechanical control, just pulling them out, can work if you can get the root system, Macy said. Unfortunately, just cutting them down is not enough as they will sprout aggressively from the roots.

"A lot of times, herbicides are necessary to get control of them," Macy said. "Different methods and different herbicides can be effective. For smaller seedlings and saplings, foliar application of herbicides, like glyphosate, can be effective."

For larger trees, a cut-stump treatment will be necessary; you cut the tree down and treat the stump with herbicide to try to prevent root sprouting. These stumps readily sprout if the tree is cut down. That's the challenge. Chemical herbicides are necessary to successfully control them.

Added Blevins: "If you have them overtaking your landscape, look at the proper ways to remove them, whether mechanical or chemical. And, as with all invasives, follow-up is key."



Above: Callery pear trees line roadways and fill fields with their showy white blossoms in early spring. But this invasive is aggressively taking over the landscape in many places, crowding out native species.

Above: Callery pear trees have thorns that can puncture a tractor tire and injure livestock, making them difficult to remove from a field.

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Nuisance grass giant miscanthus shows promise as biomass crop

By **TIM ALEXANDER**
Illinois Correspondent

PEORIA, Ill. - Continuing research suggests that giant miscanthus (*Miscanthus x giganteus*), an ornamental, warm-season perennial grass that originates from southeast Asia, is showing promise as a commercial biomass crop. This is according to Emily Heaton, professor of regenerative agriculture at the University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences, who is rethinking miscanthus as a purpose-grown fiber. Along with a team at the U of I Biomass Innovation Hub, Heaton has been experimenting with miscanthus for many years to verify its multiple uses.



She came to Peoria on April 22 to speak to local farmers and business leaders about the potential for business opportunities around miscanthus and other multi-use crops during a meeting of AgTech Connect, which brings together central Illinois ag tech entrepreneurs, small business owners and industry.

"In the long term we've been trying to figure out the best way for farmers to harvest sunlight energy. Miscanthus came on our radar about 25 years ago because it has the most efficient C-4 photosynthesis pathway like corn and sugarcane, but it uses it to put on more biomass than any crop we can grow in central Illinois. It is one of the most productive crops known at temperate-cool latitudes like ours," Heaton said.

Research trials conducted around the state included on-farm trials that have continued for as many as 20 years. Farmers "like" miscanthus for several reasons, according to Heaton. At the top of the list: a single planting of giant miscanthus can be harvested for as many as 15 successive planting seasons, saving on input costs. It also improves soil health and builds soil carbon, while boosting soil water quality and storage. Because it can flourish on marginal land and survive periodic flooding and drought, Heaton suggests growers plant miscanthus

Above: Emily Heaton, professor of regenerative agriculture at the University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences, says farmers should consider giant miscanthus as a "purpose-grown fiber" and cash crop thanks to new opportunities for biomass.

in underperforming areas that may currently be seeded to corn and soybeans.

"What we've found is that it is consistently high yielding and requires consistently low inputs. You plant it once and there are very little fertilizer requirements, very little pesticide requirements. It doesn't need herbicides after establishment. You harvest it each year and we've found you can increasingly turn it into more and more product," Heaton said, adding that the University of Iowa has been planting miscanthus since 2013 for energy use in their power plant.

"We knew it was a great plant from an efficiency and environmental standpoint, but we didn't know how to sell it. At first, we focused on fuel, because there was a lot of

(Biomass Crop continued on page 13)

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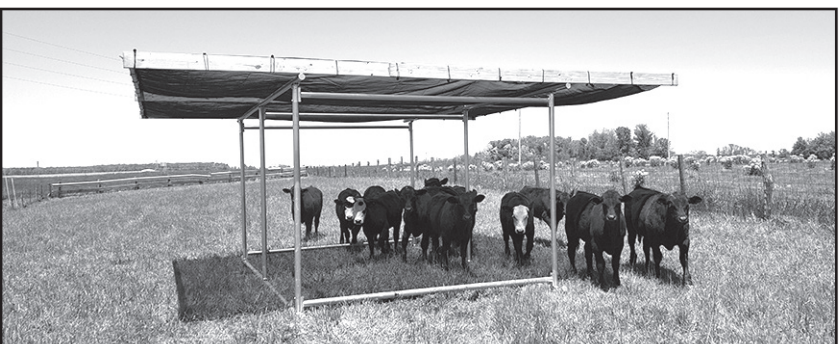
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Above: Construction panels, paper products, sustainable aviation fuel, pet food and livestock bedding are among the many uses for the giant miscanthus plant. Several commercial products using miscanthus were on display during a recent meeting of AgTech Connect in Peoria. (T. Alexander photos)

Biomass Crop

FROM PAGE 12

incentive for that. Those incentives have gone through ups and downs, but what hasn't gone away is that (miscanthus) can achieve consistent fiber compared to many others, so domestic manufacturing (and) bio-products have become increasingly valued and valuable in this country," she said.

In addition to its other favorable qualities, farmers also like miscanthus because of its consistent quality, long-term contracting opportunities and its versatility as a hunting habitat for pheasant, quail or deer. End users (customers) of miscanthus like the plant because of its consistency in supply and quality, flexible uses in the fuel, feed and product spheres, long-term contracting and the public demand for research and development for new biomass-based products, according to Heaton.

One such customer is Travis Hedrick, CEO of AGgrow Tech, a leader in giant miscanthus technology and production. The High Point, N.C., company boasts one of the largest miscanthus genetic germplasm libraries in the world, numerous plant patents and the first giant miscanthus seeded variety.

"There are different market opportunities for miscanthus, but the one that is kind of the bedrock of our company is livestock bedding for the poultry industry," said Hedrick, pointing out that poultry producers can grow their own crop for on-farm use and commercial sale. "There is a real opportunity right here in Peoria."

To take advantage of central Illinois' conducive climate and infrastructure-related advantages, Florida-based Boardwurks Biocomposites (www.boardwurks.com) is planning to construct a manufacturing facility for fiber-based building materials in the Peoria area. In addition to providing between 20 and 50 expected full-time jobs, the facility will offer contractual opportunities to local farmers willing to plant and cultivate at least 50 acres of perennial giant miscanthus, with technical expertise and assistance from Hedrick and AGgrow Tech.

To build the plant, for which a location has been tentatively secured, Peoria-area farmers would need to commit to growing at least 2,000 total acres of miscanthus, according to Boardwurks director of business developer Jean-Sebastian Gros, who came to Peoria to solicit support for the business plan from local farmers.

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EPA issues new diesel exhaust fluid systems guidance to cut costs

By **DOUG SCHMITZ**
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin on March 27 introduced new guidance for diesel exhaust fluid systems, which he said would cut costs and reduce system failures.

"Failing diesel exhaust fluid systems are not an East Coast or West Coast, or Heartland issue; it is a nationwide disaster," Zeldin said. "I have heard from truck drivers, farmers and many others complaining about diesel exhaust fluid systems, and pleading for a fix in all 50 states I visited during my first year as EPA administrator."

"Americans are justified in being fed up with failing diesel exhaust fluid system issues," he added. "The EPA understands this is a massive issue, and has been doing everything in our statutory power to address this. Today, we take another step in furthering our work by removing diesel exhaust fluid system sensors. Farmers and truckers should not be losing billions of dollars because of repair costs, or days lost on the job."

He said this update allows diesel equipment manufacturers to move away from traditional systems' quality sensors and instead use other technologies, such as nitrogen oxide sensors, which the EPA's preliminary review of manufacturer warranty data indicated are significantly less prone to generating the fault readings that have been causing most diesel exhaust fluid systems-related deratements.

According to the EPA, deratements are automatic, mandatory reductions in a diesel engine's power, torque, or speed triggered by emissions system failures, specifically in the diesel exhaust fluid system.

The EPA said these changes aim to reduce system failures, and improve the reliability of farm equipment. When the sensor fails or detects a problem, machines may enter derate mode, or

deratements, the EPA added.

The EPA said this new guidance will help save farmers \$4.4 billion a year in repairs and lost productivity, and produce a broader savings of \$13.79 billion to the U.S. economy. Since 2010, most diesel engines, including those used in agriculture, have relied on selective catalytic reduction systems, which inject diesel exhaust fluid into the exhaust stream to reduce emissions, and meet federal air quality standards, the EPA added.

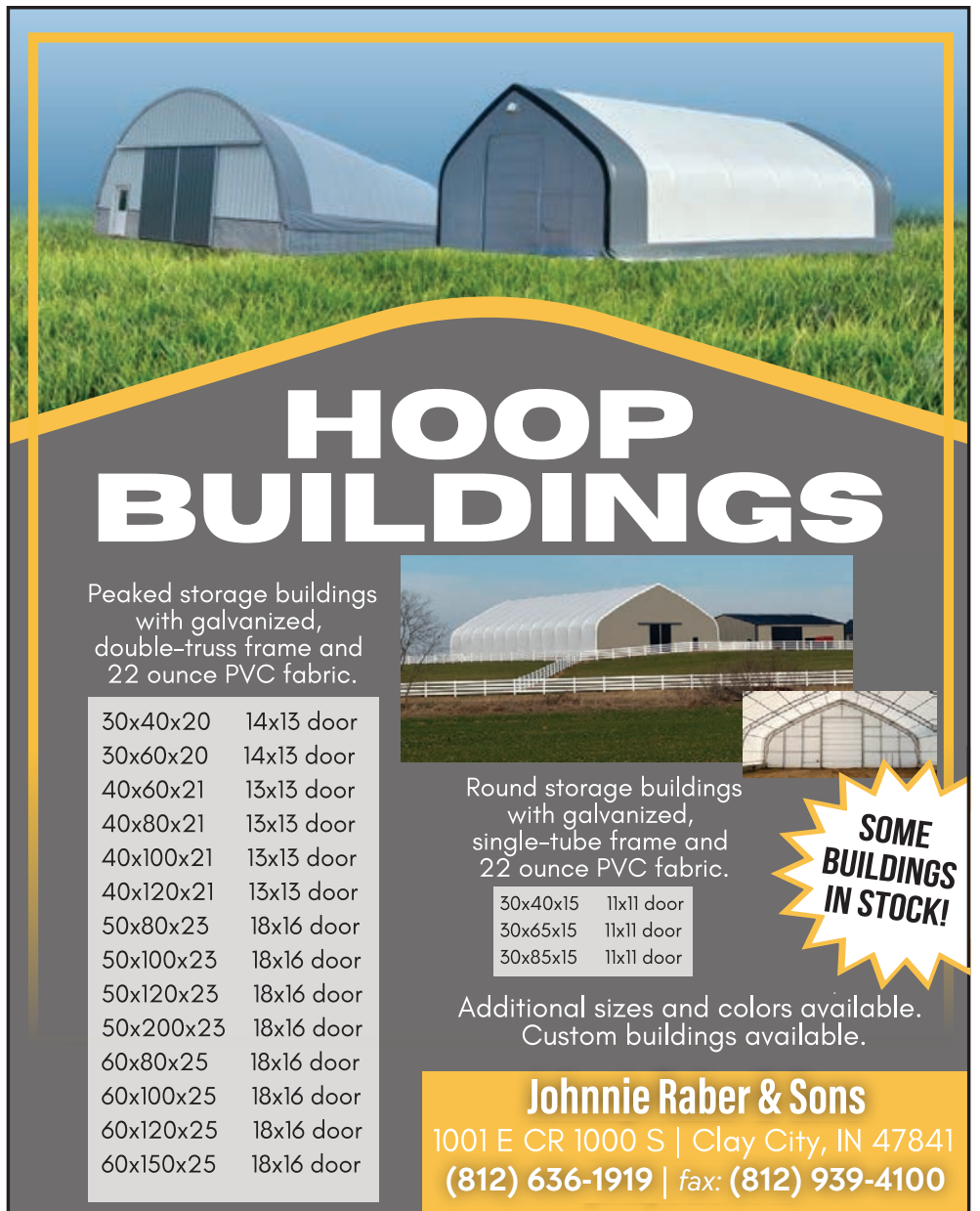
In August 2025, Zeldin issued guidance urging manufacturers to revise diesel exhaust fluid system software in existing vehicles and equipment to massively reverse deratements he said "burdened Americans across the country."

In February 2026, the EPA demanded critical data on diesel exhaust fluid system failures from the 14 manufacturers that account for over 80 percent of all products used in diesel exhaust fluid systems. The same month, the EPA said American farmers and operators have the "right to repair" their own equipment, including faulty diesel exhaust fluid systems.

While several farm organizations declined to comment, Courtney Briggs, American Farm Bureau Federation senior director of government affairs, told Farm World, "We're appreciative of the EPA acknowledging that diesel engine fluid system sensors often require costly repairs that slow farmers down during critical times of planting and harvest."

"We hope this is an important step toward eliminating unnecessary diesel engine fluid system requirements from agricultural equipment altogether," she said.

In the near future, the EPA said it will be issuing a new deregulatory proposal to completely remove all diesel exhaust fluid deratements for new vehicles and engines.



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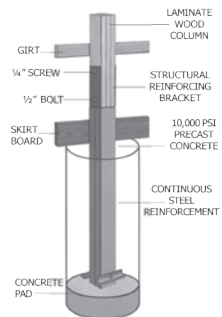
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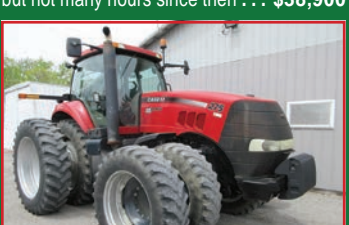
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'08 CIH Magnum 275, 4,188 hrs, PS, QH, 4 rem, 1,000 PTO, 480/80R46 rear / 380/85R34 fronts, nice Ohio tractor . . . \$114,900



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



'11 CIH Magnum 340, 3,862 hrs, (8) new tires, guidance ready, luxury cab, hi-flow pump, 4 rem, one owner \$154,900



'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

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New Holland T7.270, 3,600 hrs, powershift, front duals, local one owner, extra nice!!! \$89,500



'93 CIH 1644, axial flow, rock trap, chopper, shaft hookup, triple chaff spreaders, Dickey John loss monitor, 24.5-32 drives, 14.9-24 steers, 4,331 hrs, inspected & repaired annually \$29,500



94 CIH 1666, chopper, rock trap, yield monitor, 3,876 eng hrs, excellent machine! \$31,500



JD 1750, 8 row, 30" spacing, dry fert, Computrak 150 \$24,900



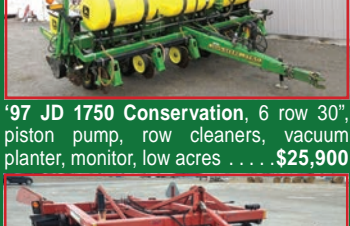
'12 J&M TF212, 24' working width, torsion flex, one owner. \$14,900



McFarlane IC5124 Incite, 24' width, 3 bar flex, rolling harrow. Call for Special Pricing!!



CIH 4200 combo mulch finisher, 28' width, 5 bar spike drag harrow, good shovels, very nice!! \$21,900



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



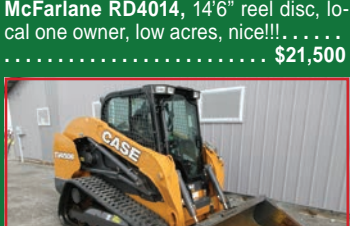
'07 McFarlane RD4020RB, 20' reel disc, very clean, low acres, nice!!! \$31,900



'09 Sunflower 6333-22, mulch finisher, one owner, 6 bar flex harrow, rear hitch & hydraulics, converter valve for 3 rem tractor \$24,900



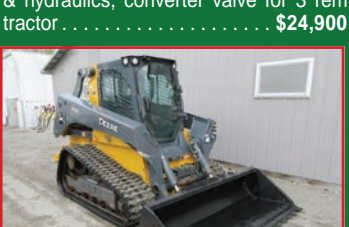
'21 CIH 335VT, disc, 25' width, 7.5" spacing, 20" front / 20.5" rear blades, hyd baskets, like new condition!!! \$64,900



(2) Case TV450B, track skid steers, '23&'24 models, 788 & 55 hrs . . . \$59,500 & \$74,900



'22 Great Plains HT1100-25, 25' width, one owner with small acreage, low usage, very little wear, always stored inside, very nice condition! \$74,900



'23 JD 333G, 1,275 hrs, 2 spd, high flow aux hyd, quick attach, rear camera . . . \$62,900



'08 Case CX50B, 2,760 hrs, 2 spd, 2 way blade, aux hyd, 24" bucket, rubber tracks. \$39,500



New Holland TD50, 22' width, excellent blades, nice original paint \$7,850



'94 JD 630, 26' working width, 7.5" spacing, newer 22" blades and bearings, rear hitch & hydraulics, Remlinger 3 bar flex harrow \$19,500



Brillion X-Series cultipacker, 21' working width, scrapers, lights, very low use, one owner \$23,900



'15 Case 586H, 2wd, 21' mast, 3,688 hrs, good machine!! \$41,900



'24 Case CX30C, 10 hrs, 12" tracks, 5' front blade, 18" bucket, leather seat, master disconnect. \$46,900

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