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## Kentucky officials ask DOJ to investigate meatpackers

By Jordan Strickler  
Kentucky Correspondent

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Two of Kentucky's top officials have requested that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate possible anti-competitive practices in the beef packing sector.

Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Attorney General Daniel Cameron sent a joint letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr to look into the matter. They noted that despite steady consumer demand for beef, the prices paid to the Bluegrass State's cattle producers have declined. They said that as a result of the possible market manipulation, Kentucky consumers are paying more for beef while the state's 38,000 cattle producers are making less.

"As Kentucky and the nation move toward reopening the economy in a quick and responsible manner, consumers and farmers deserve to know if there is a scheme to threaten market competition in the beef industry," Quarles said. "Our beef cattle producers have seen 30 and 40 percent price drops since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, even while the price of

(Meatpackers continued on page 4)



Above: Bird watchers in the Midwest have been eagerly watching their bird feeders for sightings of the Baltimore oriole as it makes its way north. Photo by Leondia Walchle

## AFT releases study on non-operator landowners

By Doug Graves  
Ohio Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Roughly 40 percent of farmland in the United States is rented and nearly one-third of that land is owned by women. To this day, no one has a handle on how much of these rented lands are integrated into farmer conservation practices and that has those at the American Farmland Trust (AFT) highly concerned.

AFT, the organization behind the national movements "No Farms No Food" and the "Women for the Land Initiative," recently released a report on non-operator landowners to clear up misconceptions and identify opportunities to advance conservation on agricultural lands owned by those who do not farm it.

Spearheading this effort was Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, AFT Women for the Land director. "In our report we focused on individually or partnership owned lands, not institutions or trusts," she said. "The emphasis we heard from renters is what drove this effort, and many of them told us that the landowners only care about the bottom line and they really don't care about the land, just the income they get from renting it."

The report comes after fact sheets were released late last year providing state-specific outcomes and strate-



Above: Sarah Delbecq, a sixth-generation farmer in Indiana, and her husband Benoit, are among farmers who adopt conservation practices on their land. However, many non-operator landowners are not attuned to such conservation methods. Many land renters are conservation-minded and need only connect these thoughts with landowners. (photo submitted)

ardship of the land. What's more, she said, farm leases are typically verbal and only run for one year, making certain kinds of conservation investments risky.

McNally wants to provide pathways to engage landowners to rent their land and to scale up regenerative practices for improved conservation and farm productivity outcomes. "AFT's survey found that landowners with a farming background have more of a connection to the land that

is being farmed," she said. "Some landowners are often not aware of available conservation programs and are unsure about broaching the topic with their farmers, particularly if they lack farm knowledge and experience, which we found is more common when the landowner is a woman."

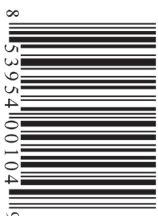
The communications gap is more about misconception and lack of knowledge than reluctance to implement conservation, McNally noted.

"We learned that we have an opportunity to better communicate with landowners and farmers via separate programming as well as by bringing them together to achieve mutually agreed upon conservation goals for the land, which can be facilitated by written leases that have longer terms and are supported by available government funds and collaborative investment for the long-term good of the land."

Three surprising things were learned from this work, she said.

First, the gender of the non-operating landowner makes little difference. As many men as women indicated a strong desire to steward and protect the land. Second, many respondents do not have a succession plan for the land, leaving uncertainty about what will happen to the land in the future. Third, non-operating landowners are supportive of their renters taking conservation-oriented action on the land and are willing to support them in various ways.

AFT is headquartered in Washington D.C. It was founded in 1980 to save America's farms and ranches by creating a conservation agriculture movement. The organization's primary goals are to protect agricultural land, promote environmentally sound farming practices and keep farmers on the land. Contact AFT at info@farmland.org or call 202-331-7300.



**OHIOAN FINDS SUCCESS WITH FEED  
BUSINESS HE STARTED THROUGH FFA  
- PAGE 1B**



### IN THIS FARM WORLD:

- Farm equipment sales expected to bounce back in 2021. . . . . Page 2
- Rural roads, bridges show deficiencies, high fatality rates . . . . . Page 2B



# Farm equipment sales are expected to bounce back in 2021

By Michele F. Mihaljevich  
Indiana Correspondent

MILWAUKEE, Wis. - Farm equipment sales are expected to be down in 2020 but could bounce back next year, according to the director of market intelligence for the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).

Benjamin Duyck cited a forecast from Oxford Economics that looked at how sales would play out under several scenarios, including the coronavirus pandemic, a global trade war or a global recession. In each case, sales were projected to be up in 2021, though the amount of improvement varied.

"The agricultural equipment industry is taking a hit in 2020 but there's a possibility for a rapid rebound, though new models will have to show that," he noted. "Predicting something like the COVID-19 pandemic is like staring into a deep, deep fog. All we can really do is adapt and remain flexible."

Sales through April declined from the same period in 2019 in all but one category, AEM said. Two-wheel-drive tractors under 40 hp were up 0.6 percent; 40-100 hp dropped 2.9

percent and 100 hp or more fell 3.8 percent. Four-wheel-drive tractors were down 7.1 percent and self-propelled combines declined 10.7 percent, the organization said.

Duyck and officials with USDA, Farm Credit Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation participated in a May 12 webinar from AEM on the impact of the coronavirus on the agricultural industry.

In February, USDA projected a \$3.1 billion - to \$96.7 billion - bump in net farm income this year, Duyck said. "This outlook was from February. Since that time, hog, cattle and dairy prices have all plunged. We've engaged in the COVID-19 pandemic, ethanol returns fell into the red and soybean and corn future prices have declined significantly. U.S. jobless claims have soared to record highs."

A forecast released in mid-April by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), based at the University of Missouri, estimated net farm income in 2020 would be down to \$86 billion.

AEM surveyed its member companies last month about their perceptions of the impact of COVID-19 on the industry, Duyck said. Almost all

of those surveyed felt there was a very negative impact on the overall economy. If the pandemic lasts another three-six months, 38 percent thought they could resume normal operations within 90 days. Fifty percent said they could do so within a year after the pandemic. Members understand the situation and look to reopen and get back to normal when they can do so safely, he added.

The International Monetary Fund has lowered its growth estimates for global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a result of the pandemic, said Robert Johansson, USDA chief economist. Previously, the organization had projected growth in the 3-4 percent range this year, but more recently, estimated a decline of about 3 percent, he said.

"GDP growth is very important to U.S. agriculture," Johansson explained. "It provides a bellwether for the export potential in the upcoming year. We expect our export potential will be likely truncated in 2020."

FAPRI has estimated the impact of COVID-19 on farm cash receipts for various agricultural sectors in 2020, he said. The institute estimated \$9.6 billion less in cattle receipts; \$4.7 billion less for corn; \$4.1 billion less

for poultry, \$4 billion less for dairy; \$2.2 billion less for hogs; and \$2.1 billion less for soybeans.

"This was several weeks ago and I think we've seen some more severe economic impacts since this time," Johansson stated.

The primary job for the farm credit system is to find that best possible outcome for the customers, said Todd Van Hoose, president and CEO of the Farm Credit Council. The agricultural industry came into the pandemic already weakened, he pointed out.

"This struggle comes on top of another struggle," Van Hoose said. "We've had a number of years of low commodity prices. We've had a number of years of trade disruptions. We've had some of the worst weather disasters, one on top of the other, this country's ever seen."

Agriculture was already in the eighth year of an economic downturn before the pandemic, said John Newton, chief economist for the America Farm Bureau Federation. Since 2012, net cash income was down 29 percent. In the years following World War II, income fell 30 percent. Income dropped 45 percent over eight years beginning in 1973.

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(A) 2003 Case IH MXM130  
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(A) 2018 Versatile 265  
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(A) 1998 Versatile 9282  
230 HP, 4464 Hrs.  
\$42,500



(G) 2012 JD 9510RT  
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LTM, 1468/1010 Hrs.  
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(G) 2012 MF 9520  
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- (A) 2012 MF 8650, FWA, 270 HP, 1828Hrs. . . . . \$ 99,500
- (A) 2014 MF 7622, FWA, 215 HP, 32 MPH, 2100 Hrs. . . . . \$ 95,000
- (G) 2013 MF 7624, FWA, 235 HP, 32 MPH, 1990 Hrs. . . . . \$ 95,000
- (A) 2017 MF 7715, FWA, 145 HP, Dyna6, 769 Hrs. . . . . \$ 87,500
- (G) 2012 JD 8360R, FWA, 360 HP, ILS, IVT, 3558 Hrs. . . . . \$ 159,500
- (A) 2011 JD 8310RT, Tracks, 310 HP, 1565 Hrs. . . . . \$ 155,000
- (G) 2010 JD 8345RT, Tracks, 345 HP, 2895 Hrs. . . . . \$ 129,500
- (G) 2002 JD 7810, FWA, 175 HP, 5255 Hrs. . . . . \$ 59,500
- (A) 2017 NH TS6.120, FWA, 119 HP, Loader, 457 Hrs. . . . . \$ 67,500
- (A) 1998 NH Versatile 9682, 4WD, 360 HP, 4565 Hrs. . . . . \$ 55,000

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- (A) 2016 MF 9545, LTM, 807/560 Hrs. . . . . \$ 245,000
- (A) 2014 MF 9560, LTM, 1517/990 Hrs. . . . . \$ 159,500
- (A) 2013 MF 9560, LTM, 1558/1055 Hrs. . . . . \$ 145,000
- (A) 2013 MF 9540, LTM, 1339/936 Hrs. . . . . \$ 145,000
- (G) 2013 MF 9520, LTM, 705/467 Hrs. . . . . \$ 135,000
- (A) 2008 MF 9690, LTM, 1825/1229 Hrs. . . . . \$ 85,000
- (A) 2004 MF 9690, LTM, 3321/2188 Hrs. . . . . \$ 55,000
- (G) 2016 Gleaner S97, LTM, 925/605 Hrs. . . . . \$ 229,500
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# Farmers urged to look ahead, consider 2021 decisions

By Tim Alexander  
Illinois Correspondent

URBANA, Ill. - A live poll showed that 65 percent of the 250 farmers attending a recent University of Illinois farmdoc webinar expected to incur income losses in 2020-2021. A discussion on what factors will influence farm income and how to minimize income losses was led by farmdoc team member Gary Schnitkey, who advised farmers to start considering their 2021 planting decisions today.

"First, our 2019 returns (estimates) have been lowered due to lower prices. We've lowered those estimates 20 to 30 cents for corn and soybeans," he began. "Corn is now sitting at about \$3.55 (per acre) and soybeans at \$8.55. This will vary from farm to farm depending on how much was marketed."

U of I economists are confident that farmers will receive some funds from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which should soon open for enrollment for producers who suffered eligible losses in row crops, livestock or specialty crops. So confident, in fact, that Schnitkey is including a \$100 per acre input from the program in his projected farm income outlook.

"We are associating \$20 of that for

the 2019 crop and \$80 for the 2020 crop," he said. "Even given that, we are looking at lower overall returns from 2019 to 2020. Corn in particular will be going down, while soybeans will come up a bit maybe because we are putting about the same amount of CFAP money into soybeans as we are corn. If you average those together, corn and soybeans look worse in 2020 than they did in 2019, even with the \$100 in support."

Schnitkey's projections for 2021 are based on slightly higher prices for corn and soybeans, with no additional CFAP or Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments to farmers. Without such support, very low returns are again in the cards, he predicted. "We again take a step down. We see corn coming down \$50 and soybeans more than that. Again, we are taking away the \$80 in CFAP payments into 2021. That raises some issues, the big one being cash rents for 2021."

The farmdoc team advises caution in trying to set 2021 cash rents, considering the wide number of variables that could affect farm income. "I would advise evaluating price prospects at the end of the summer, when we'll know what the futures market will be saying about what 2021 will be looking like. If they are

suggesting low \$3 corn and low \$8 soybeans for cash prices in 2021, either lower cash rent or use a variable cash rent," Schnitkey said.

"That sounds like a broken record from us," he noted. "But depending on how long the tails from COVID-19 are, 2021 could be a poor year. If you look at 2018, 2019 and 2020, the MFP and CFAP are big parts of what have been making our economics work. Looking forward to 2021, be cautious of setting cash rents."

Schnitkey included crop rotation decisions in his advice for farmers looking ahead to 2021: "Are we looking at a continuation of \$3 corn and low \$8 soybeans into 2021? That is a real possibility. Right now, if you've got any acres left, consider planting soybeans on them. Soybeans have taken less of a hit than corn. Also consider the PPP and EIDL loan programs from the SBA; if you haven't

made an application you should think about it. And by all means, conserve any working capital that you've got."

In addition, producers should adjust their 2020 crop marketing goals to the new, coronavirus-era lower price scenario, he said. "We think we are looking at lower prices - and we are - but they could be worse. With a bumper crop, or above trend yields, we can have below \$3 corn and below \$8 soybeans. Hedging some of those now or continuing the hedging selling process is probably a prudent risk management move. And again, there is a danger point for setting cash rents for 2021."

Also contributing to the May 15 webinar were farmdoc team members Nick Paulson and Jonathan Coppess. Paulson commented that

(Farmers continued on page 7)

## Meatpackers

FROM FRONT PAGE

beef products at the grocery store has increased."

In the letter, Quarles and Cameron asked the DOJ to use the department's investigatory resources to conduct an in-depth study of the current economic realities within the cattle industry to determine if the practices by the meat processors are anti-competitive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to disruptions at meat processing plants and created shortages nationwide. With four beef processors controlling 80 percent of the American market, such disruptions further exacerbate pre-existing disparities between the price of live cattle and the wholesale price of beef. With Kentucky's cattle industry making up the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River, the two said that these practices are putting intense pressure on the state. According to the University of Kentucky, the state also has the eighth-largest herd population nationally with approximately 1 million beef cows over 7 million acres of pasture land.

"We have about four packers that control 80 percent of the market," Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association executive vice president, told the Associated Press. "What this letter and call for an investigation is about is having the Department of Justice investigate these packers and ensure that their practices are transparent and fair and these farmers get what their product is worth and that these four major packers aren't colluding to fix prices."

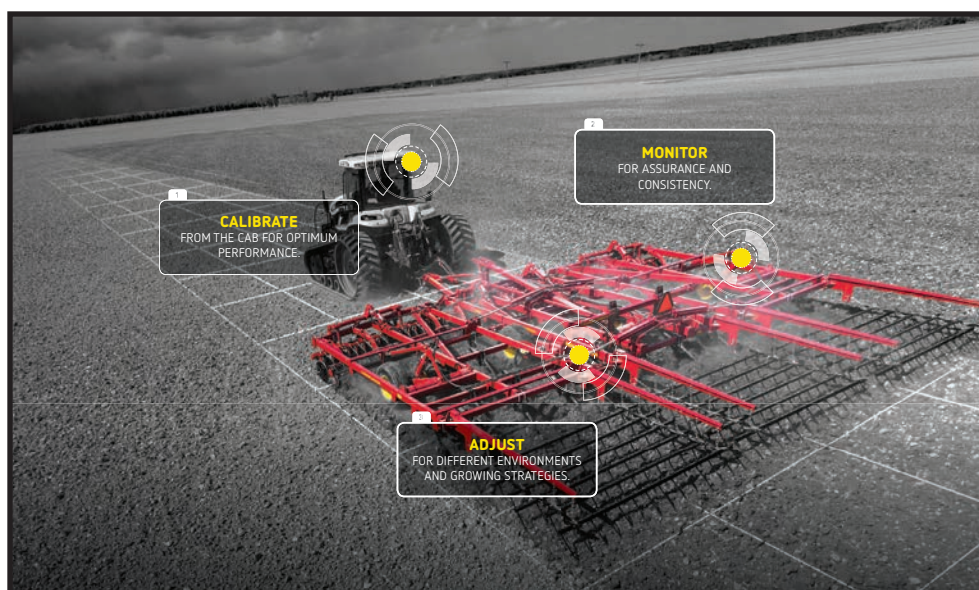
This is not the first time that meat processors have come under scrutiny for possible market-manipulation practices. In March, U.S. Senators called for investigations into record profits for beef processors such as Cargill and Tyson Foods after ranchers complained that surging meat prices due to coronavirus hoarding did not translate into higher cattle prices.

"Beef is flying off grocery shelves

but farmers are seeing prices go down," Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) wrote on Twitter at the time. "If packers are illegally manipulating markets during crisis, we need USDA & DOJ & CFTC (Commodity Futures Trading Commission) to investigate + help farmers. Four companies control 80 percent of market & they're taking advantage."

At the time of Grassley's tweet, processors' margins had risen to more than \$600 per head of cattle, according to HedgersEdge.com.

"Kentucky's cattle producers and consumers already face incredible economic challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," Cameron said. "(W)e must ensure that they are treated fairly in the marketplace and do not face additional hardship because of price fixing or other anti-competitive actions."



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# UK researchers outline good dairy practice

By Jordan Strickler  
Kentucky Correspondent

LEXINGTON, Ky. – COVID-19 has not been kind to the dairy industry. As restaurants and schools have closed, producers have been forced to dump millions of gallons of milk per day with the drop in demand. While Kentucky hasn't seen the losses that other parts of the country have, dairy scientists from the University of Kentucky have come up with guidance in the event that Kentucky farmers are asked to decrease production.

“As of yet, Kentucky producers haven't been asked to decrease the amount of milk they produce,” said Donna Amaral-Phillips, dairy scientist for the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “But with the current oversupply of milk associated with the closure of restaurants and other food outlets, Kentucky dairy farmers may need to start thinking about what they might do if they are asked to do that.”

Amaral-Phillips says that prioritizing the long-term health and performance of dairy cattle and their replacements will be difficult during this time. Many producers will need to make painful decisions about whether to stay in the business.

“It goes against the foundation we have built for feeding and managing dairy herds,” she said. “The results greatly impact on-farm cash flow even more than we've already seen in our state and in our industry.”

While difficult, producers can more easily navigate tough waters if they are prepared, she said. One important thing dairy farmers need to practice is how they will react through different scenarios. Those that can react the quickest to the changing environment have a better chance of succeeding. One of the most important things Amaral-Phillips said a producer can do is to identify the most profitable cows in the herd.

“Make a priority list for those cows that are least profitable,” she said. “Most likely, those cows will have several strikes against them such as higher somatic cell counts, numerous cases of clinical mastitis, breeding issues. Some of those cows may need to enter their second career as beef cattle sooner than you planned, but later when cull cow prices are reasonable, and markets and harvest facilities are open.”

Changing milking frequencies and

ways of feeding are other strategies. Producers could reduce from three milkings a day to two, especially for those cows in later lactation. Feeding calves whole milk instead of milk replacer and weaning them later is another viable option. Whole milk from a Holstein cow has about the same protein concentration as an accelerated milk replacer.

“The ‘old timers’ often made a statement that calves did better on whole milk than a 20:20 milk replacer,” Amaral-Phillips said. “Remember though, if you do feed whole milk, do it within an hour of harvest to reduce bacterial loads, preferably pasteurized.”

Another change farmers could implement is to dry cows off early and then place them in a separate group from the normal dry cows, and feed them a maintenance diet so they don't gain too much weight. She said producers can work with their nutritionist to develop a ration especially for this group so they get enough feed but not too much energy and protein. Amaral-Phillips emphasized that the diet still needs to contain the proper amounts of vitamins and minerals. This strategy will reduce feed costs and prevent future health issues.

One strategy she doesn't recommend is decreasing nutrient density across the herd in order to support a lower amount of milk production. “The problem with this is that early lactation cows are geared toward producing milk at the expense of their body reserves. Essentially, they will take care of their current lactation needs before they get pregnant, and that can make rebreeding more difficult, further impacting a producer's cash flow down the road.”

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# VIEWS AND OPINIONS

## Memorial Day 2020



FARM AND FOOD FILE  
By Alan Guebert

Every Memorial Day, my long-time friend David would honor both his family and fellow Vietnam War veterans with a visit to his hometown cemetery, an hour's drive west of St. Louis.

Once there, and with the help of his siblings and cousins, David would mow the grass in the family plot, scrub its granite and brass grave markers and place colorful, fist-sized peonies on the graves of those he knew and those he didn't know.

Rain or shine, whether he was living in Miami or Tokyo, David tried to spend every Memorial Day doing what he believed was his sacred duty:

remembering the dead and what they had sacrificed so he could stand that day, sweaty but free, in their collective, remembered presence.

David had sacrificed to be there, also. Two tours of duty in Vietnam as an aircraft carrier-based medic meant that he and his crewmates were always in danger whenever they helicoptered to rescue downed pilots on land or sea. The high-risk escapades also gave him a saucy, life-long swagger.

The war and its divisive effects on the United States never left him. In fact, he left the United States and lived in Japan for nearly 20 years because of it. Japan brought him peace, a family and a career as an international trade consultant fluent in Japanese just as U.S. business ties to Asia began to bloom.

Interestingly, the most lucrative, far-reaching American contacts he made were in the then exploding U.S.-Asia grain trade. Investment money and U.S. ag exports were flooding Japan and South Korea and were about to get a toehold in China and smooth, charming David was smack in the middle of it all.

He returned to America in the late 1980s when the grain giants expanded into ethanol, fructose, and several never-heard-of-before biotech processes - "bugs," they called them - to "engineer" new items like lysine, a livestock feed supplement, and citric acid, a food additive.

Then, in 1993, a bolt of lightning struck farm country: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced it was investigating Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) for allegedly fixing prices in some of its markets. Even more incredible, DOJ confirmed that its evidence included video and audio tapes made by an ADM insider, an executive named Mark Whitacre.

Whitacre had two weaknesses no corporate mole should possess: he couldn't stop talking and his best friend in the grain trade was David. Whatever Whitacre knew or learned, David soon would know or learn. And, soon thereafter, David's contacts at the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, and other outlets would know.

The ADM story, however, was unlike most tales of corporate wrongdoing. It was a multi-layered, multi-year saga of power and corruption that claimed the careers of both ADM executives who lived it and journalists who covered it because the truth was often hidden in a haystack of lies.

One of its biggest victims was David. He came to believe that the Justice Department had intentionally botched an even bigger case against ADM because of the company's legendary political connections. To him, it was 1968 all over again; the nation had betrayed its values - and him - and he slowly sank into a sea of bitterness and paranoia.

The last time my family visited him before his August 2015 death, I spotted a sawed-off, 12-gauge shotgun painted to match the living room wall it was leaning against, making it - in plain sight - all but invisible.

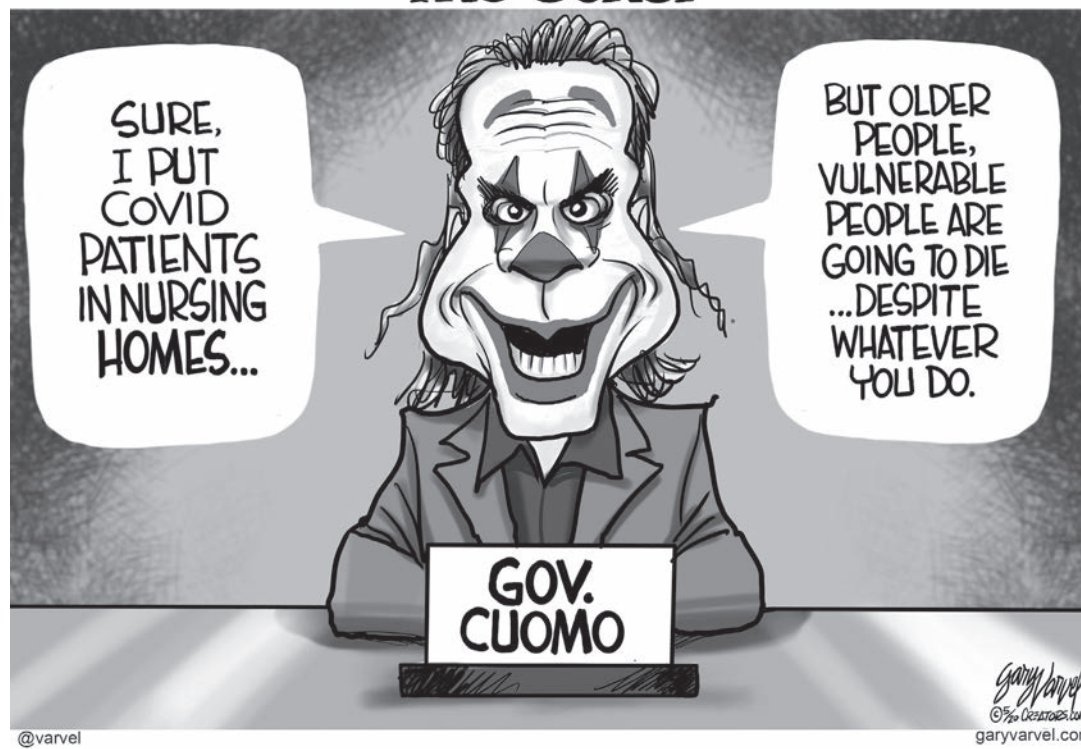
Why? I asked. "Because," he said, "you never know."

Maybe not, but I do know that when his fear and anger at individuals replaced his love and duty for his nation, this honorable lion became a gun-hiding mouse. It was a tragic unwinding; one that no one would wish on anyone or any friend.

Or any nation.

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## The Joker



## Agriculture's perfect storm

The normal economic characteristics of crop agriculture and the COVID-19 pandemic have combined to create what might be called a perfect storm for agriculture.

With weeks of sequestering in place, people have not driven to work, church or most anywhere else. Fewer miles result in lower gasoline consumption, which results in less ethanol needed to be blended into the gasoline supply, which means fewer bushels of corn are needed to produce the ethanol, resulting in higher year-ending stocks of corn and lower prices.

To add insult to injury, we are having a fairly normal crop planting season, so the good news for the 2020 crop means bad news for prices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread like wildfire in a significant number of packing plants in the United States, resulting in many being shut down for deep sanitation and the hope to break the spread of the virus among plant workers. Despite the president's invocation of the Defense Production Act and the designation of processing plants as essential infrastructure, it will take time to get all the plants back in production and even then, they may be operating at reduced line-speeds as they try to space workers 6 feet apart.

For farmers with hogs maturing weekly, the closure of plants means they are unable to move this week's hogs to market to make room for the next batch coming down the pipeline. With few alternate marketing options, farmers are talking about euthaniz-

ing hogs, even though that represents a significant cost to them. Without open processing plants, they feel they have no other option.

Once farmers begin to reduce the number of pigs in the pipeline, that means the lower utilization of corn and soybeans for feed, resulting again in additional carryover stocks and lower prices for those commodities.

The vertical integration of the poultry industry means that the integrator/processor owns the birds from hatch to dispatch. The closure of processing plants as a result of COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction in the amount of chicken that is available at retail outlets. That would suggest that not all chickens maturing in recent weeks have been slaughtered in the processing plants. Because those animals are owned by the integrators, we have not seen any stories about the fate of those birds, but one way or another they have to be cleared out to make way for the next batch.

With the closure or reduced seating capacity of restaurants, Western vegetable producers find themselves in a bind because some vegetable crops are produced primarily for the restaurant market. As a result, we read stories of farmers harvesting crops and leaving the product to rot because they have no market for that production as home demand for those crops does not fully replace restaurant demand.

In some areas of the country, farmers are

(Policy Pennings continued on page 7)

### POLICY PENNINGS

By DARYLL E. RAY  
AND HARWOOD D. SCHAFER

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- Gehl 2175 9' mower conditioner . . . . . \$2,000
- JD 640 bar rake w/front dolly wheel. . . . . \$1,500
- Kewanee 12' mulcher, solid wheels w/sprockets on front, crowfoot on rear . . . . . \$1,200
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- 3 pt. hitch, 10 shank chisel plow, spring shank . . . . . \$1,000



**Policy Pennings**

FROM PAGE 6

having to dump milk because the local processing plants have all the milk that they can handle.

In total, a wide range of farmers are having to hold storable commodities, dump milk and destroy animals and vegetables they have raised as a result of this perfect storm. For nearly every farmer, this represents another year of a downward trend in net farm income and for some it raises the question of whether they will have to abandon farming as an occupation.

While the general population is supportive of family farmers, nothing shocks them like stories of dumped milk, rotting vegetables and the slaughter of hogs. The question that we read over and over is "why can't they make those products available to the poor and newly unemployed who are having trouble putting food on the table?"

In future columns we will explore ways to address the public's concerns about destroyed food, but first a hint. The strategy that will work for vegetables is different from the one that will address the dairy and meat processing industries, though there is a common thread: money and the commitment of societal resources.

Dr. Harwood D. Schaffer: Adjunct Research Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, University of Tennessee and Director, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. Dr. Daryll E. Ray: Emeritus Professor, Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee and Retired Director, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. Email: hdschaffer@utk.edu and dray@utk.edu; http://www.agpolicy.org.

**Farmers**

FROM PAGE 4

events beyond farmers' control - the intangibles - have had a vast influence on farm economics from 2018 through today. "Trade wars beginning in 2018, flooding in 2019 and the COVID pandemic in 2020 have provided one whammy after the other," he explained. "Can we continue to rely on these kinds of ad-hoc, as-needed support programs? They are much harder to plan around than what we see in crop insurance and commodity title programs."

How and when USDA will distribute the \$16 billion allocated to agricultural producers under the CFAP has still not been announced by the agency, Coppess noted. "We are in a realm of uncertainty about what the USDA is going to do and how it is going to fit into farmers' budgets," he said.

**YOU'LL FIND IT HERE!**





# MARKETS

## Kentucky Daily Grain Elevators Bids

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Bids as of 4:00 EST, cash prices by elevators/mills to producers:

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN				
	Bids	Change	Basis	Change
Purchase	3.1775-3.2775	DN 1.75	OptN to 10N	UNCH
Green River	3.3275	DN 1.75	15N	UNCH
Pennyriple	3.2275-3.2975	DN 1.75	5N to 12N	UNCH
Louisville	3.3375-3.4775	DN 2.75-DN 1.75	16N to 30N	DN 1-UNCH
Bluegrass	3.2775	DN 1.75	10N	UNCH
US NO 2 WHITE CORN				
Pennyriple	NA	NA		
US NO 1 YELLOW SOYBEANS				
Purchase	8.3500	DN 11.75	OptN	UNCH
Green River	8.4000	DN 11.75	5N	UNCH
Pennyriple	8.2000-8.3500	DN 11.75	-15N to OptN	UNCH
Louisville	7.9800	DN 9.75	-37N	UP 2
Bluegrass	8.1000	DN 11.75	-25N	UNCH
US NO 2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT				
Purchase	NA	NA	NA	NA
Green River	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pennyriple	5.0600-5.2600	UP 2.25	-10N to 10N	UNCH
(Milling Qlty)	5.4100	UP 2.25	25N	UNCH
Louisville	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bluegrass	NA	NA	NA	NA
US NO 2 MILO EXTRA HEAVY				
Purchase	NA	NA	NA	NA
Louisville	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pennyriple	NA	NA	NA	NA
US NO 2 FEED BARLEY				
Pennyriple	NA	NA		


### Opening Contract Prices for Contract delivery

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN				
	Bids	Change	Basis	Change
Purchase	3.1300	DN 1-DN 1.25	-10U	UP 10-UNCH
Green River	3.1500	DN 1	-18Z	UNCH
Pennyriple	3.0800-3.1800	DN 1	-25Z to -15Z	UNCH
Louisville	3.1400	DN 5	-19Z	DN 4
Bluegrass	3.0800	DN 1	-25Z	UNCH
US NO 2 WHITE CORN				
Pennyriple	NA	NA		
US NO 1 YELLOW SOYBEANS				
Purchase	8.3550	DN 8.5	-10X	UNCH
Green River	8.2550	DN 8.5	-20X	UNCH
Pennyriple	8.0550-8.2050	DN 8.5	-40X to -25X	UNCH
Louisville	7.8550	DN 7.5	-60X	UP 1
Bluegrass	7.9550	DN 8.5	-50X	UNCH
US NO 2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT				
Purchase	5.2100	UP 2.25	5N	UNCH
Green River	5.2400	UP 2.25	8N	UNCH
Pennyriple	5.0600-5.3100	UP 2.25	-10N to 15N	UNCH
(Milling Qlty)	5.4600	UP 2.25	30N	UNCH
Louisville	4.7400-5.3300	UP 3.25-UP 2.25	-42N to 17N	UP 1-UNCH
Bluegrass	5.0100	UP 2.25	-15N	UNCH
US NO 2 MILO EXTRA HEAVY				
Purchase	NA	NA	NA	NA
Louisville	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pennyriple	NA	NA	NA	NA
US NO 2 FEED BARLEY				
Pennyriple	NA	NA		

Purchase-Inland elevators west of Tennessee River  
 Green River-Inland elevators near the Green River  
 Pennyriple-Southwest KY East of Tennessee River, west of I-65  
 Louisville-Elevators near the Louisville area  
 Bluegrass-Central Kentucky/Lexington area

Source: USDA-KY Dept of Ag Market News Service, Frankfort, KY  
 Jodee Inman 502-782-4138  
[www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV\\_GR110.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV_GR110.txt)  
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<b>Market Report 5/19* 538 Total Head Sold</b>		

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## Kentucky Barge Report

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Spot bids to producers at selected barge loading terminals on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Kentucky and Barkley Lakes.

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN				
	Bids	Change	Basis	Change
Purchase	3.3275-3.3975	DN 2.75-DN 3.75	15N to 22N	DN 1-DN 2
Lower Ohio	3.3375-3.4175	DN 1.75-DN 2.75	16N to 24N	UNCH-DN 1
Upper Ohio	3.3275-3.3375	DN 5.75	15N to 16N	DN 4
US NO 2 WHITE CORN				
Purchase	4.1700-4.4200	DN 3		
Lower Ohio	3.9200	DN 3		
US NO 1 YELLOW SOYBEANS				
Purchase	8.4900-8.5400	DN 11.75	14N to 19N	UNCH
Lower Ohio	8.5500-8.6200	DN 12.75-DN 11.7	20N to 27N	DN 1-UNCH
Upper Ohio	8.4800-8.5000	DN 9.75-DN 12.75	13N to 15N	UP 2-DN 1
US NO 2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT				
Purchase	5.3400	UP 2.25	18N	UNCH
Lower Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA
Upper Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA
US NO 2 SORGHUM 58 LB BU				
Lower Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA
Purchase	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Opening Contract Prices for Contract delivery

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN				
	Bids	Change	Basis	Change
Purchase	3.1800-3.2100	DN 1.25	-5U to -2U	UNCH
Lower Ohio	3.1300-3.1900	DN 3.25-DN 1	-10U to -14Z	DN 2-UNCH
Upper Ohio	3.1400-3.1600	DN 1-DN 3	-19Z to -17Z	UNCH-DN 2
US NO 2 WHITE CORN				
Purchase	3.5700-3.6200	DN 2		
Lower Ohio	3.5700	N 2		
US NO 1 YELLOW SOYBEANS				
Purchase	8.3750-8.5350	DN 8.5-DN 7.5	-8X to 8X	UNCH-UP 1
Lower Ohio	8.4450-8.4850	DN 8.5	-1X to 3X	UNCH
Upper Ohio	8.3550-8.3750	DN 7.5-DN 8.5	-10X to -8X	UP 1-UNCH
US NO 2 SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT				
Purchase	5.2800-5.3300	UP 2.25	12N to 17N	UNCH
Lower Ohio	5.3200-5.3400	UP 2.25	16N to 18N	UNCH
Upper Ohio	5.2400-5.3600	UP 2.25	8N to 20N	UNCH
US NO 2 SORGHUM 58 LB BU				
Lower Ohio	3.0800	DN 1	-25Z	UNCH
Purchase	NA	NA	NA	NA

Purchase-Ledbetter and west; including Lake terminals  
 Lower Ohio-Louisville to Ledbetter  
 Upper Ohio-Cincinnati to Louisville

Source: USDA-KY Dept of Ag Market News Service, Frankfort, KY  
 Jodee Inman 502-782-4138  
[www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV\\_GR111.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV_GR111.txt)  
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# Livestock supply chain improving for Michigan producers

By Kevin Walker  
Michigan Correspondent

OKEMOS, Mich. – Things seemed to have calmed down a little over the past few weeks for cattle and hog farmers in Michigan after worries that beef and pork plants might close or slow down to the point where ranchers would have to euthanize their herds.

Farmers have not had to do that in Michigan, although it has happened in some other places in the country. According to cattle feeder Dave Girton, things have been getting better recently. “Up until last week, we’d been out of the market for six weeks,” said Girton, who feeds cattle near the southwest Michigan town of White Pigeon. “The cattle we had we’d ratcheted back the rations just to keep them going.

“I feel more comfortable, but there’s a lot of questions going forward,” he added. “There’s still a backlog of cattle. I was very pleased with what we got a week ago. We got a \$1.15 a pound, actually better than what we got just before all this started. Things have definitely been picking up.”

He explained that typically prices for beef peak at around this time, but this year prices for his cattle may have peaked in January. The beef packing plant in Plainwell, Mich., was shutdown April 16-17 due to a lack of employees showing up for work, according to local news reports. There were 86 cases of COVID-19 and one death of a worker at the plant as of April 27. Today the

plant is up and running, with some new safeguards having been put in place by JBS, the plant’s owner.

“The good news is we now have all the beef packing plants operating in the U.S., at least all the major ones,” said George Quackenbush, executive director of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. “I think it’s going to take some weeks yet to get up to full capacity, but there are some encouraging signs. We’ve seen live cattle prices increase, which is good for farmers. Box beef prices have plateaued, which is a good sign, also. The anxiety level is down, but there’s a backlog of market ready cattle across the country and here in Michigan farmers are continuing to feed these cattle. As an industry we’re

going to have to work through this. The demand for beef is strong.”

Restaurants in Ohio have opened, and restaurants in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula have also begun to reopen, he said.

“Coronavirus has taught us a lesson in how to be prepared for things like this,” Quackenbush said. “We were not prepared as a culture to handle this pandemic. The alarm was essential to get the country prepared to handle this, to minimize the loss of livestock. We saw what happened with chickens and, to some extent, hogs.”

Mary Kelpinski, Michigan Pork Producers Association CEO, said last week the most recent information

she has is there are no closed pork packing plants in the United States. On average they are operating at 79 percent capacity, she said, while the pork plant in Michigan, owned by Clemens Food Group, continues to run at 100 percent. Pressure on the pork plant in Coldwater, Mich., has eased as pork producers from Pennsylvania have been sending fewer hogs to the plant.

Clemens Food Group in Coldwater has been waiving the usual hog weight requirement, given that farmers have had no choice but to hold onto their hogs and continue feeding them as they wait to bring them to market.

“Things are looking up,” Kelpinski said. “We’ve been planning for the worst and so far the worst hasn’t happened.”

## Sangamon County Fair canceled; Festival planned for October

By Cindy Ladage  
Illinois Correspondent

NEW BERLIN, Ill. – Sangamon County Fair officials have decided to cancel the June fair due to COVID-19, but will reschedule a smaller venue in October with a Fall Festival. “It was a tough decision,” said Nathan Smith, president of the fair. “We have 21 directors and that is a process in itself, but this was an easy sell. It was best for our vendors and best for the fairgoers.”

By having a smaller Fall Festival in October, the fair board felt it could provide a venue that would still fit the bill for the local community by pushing the venue back as far as possible. “We felt there was a need to have that small town feel and the County Fair/Fall Festival offered on October 2nd and 3rd was a way to do that in 2020. Granted, it will be an abbreviated fair,” he added.

The smaller fair won’t have all the

bells and whistles of the usual county fair with the big name entertainment and livestock. “We will have ag exhibits and local entertainment,” Smith said. “There will be carnival rides and the Village of New Berlin is excited. It is a huge boost for the Village. If this is a success we may continue this from here on out along with the usual June fair.”

The Sangamon County website lists the events to be offered during the Fall Festival. Included are the Swear Carnival, Canines in the Clouds show (Friday), a Mike Brown Production’s Demolition Derby (Saturday night), food vendors, talent show and general fair entries. Robert “Chick” Fritz Inc. will be featuring local entertainment in the Miller Pavilion consisting of The Longmeyer Band and Off The Wall playing Friday. Saturday will begin with Folsom Prison Five, a Johnny Cash Tribute Band, followed by Kapital Sound and Lick Creek Band. “We wish

to salvage some aspect of a fair for Sangamon County and the surrounding communities,” the website said. “Moving to a two-day event with a fair atmosphere this October will allow us to provide a safe, family fun environment for all to enjoy.”

Smith had an inkling of what might be coming down the pike. That plan consisted of moving entertainment from the 2020 fair to June 2021 and putting in motion the Fall Fair. Residents are expecting something to provide a bit of normalcy to their summer or fall, he said. On the downside, Smith said, “We may have to cancel our Queen contest.”

If there is an upside for fair cancellations, Smith said, “We can use summer to update facilities that need work. So we can take the opportunity to do a little maintenance and make facilities and grounds better for 2021.” For more information, log onto <http://www.sangonfair.com/>.

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# INFB awards 13 scholarships to students pursuing careers in agriculture

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - Indiana Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Foundation recently awarded 13 scholarships to incoming or current college students pursuing careers in agriculture.

The scholarships include the Marion Stackhouse Memorial Scholarship, two Collegiate Farm Bureau Scholarships and 10 Carolyn Hegel Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship money can be applied to tuition, housing, books or other educational expenses.

Melanie Hasler, Bartholomew County, is the recipient of this year's Marion Stackhouse Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is named after the former INFB president, who served from 1976 to 1987. Winners of this scholarship must be INFB members pursuing studies in agriculture. Hasler will be attending Purdue in the fall, majoring in agriculture communication.

In addition, two \$1,000 scholarships are offered to members of any of the

four Farm Bureau collegiate chapters. This year, Purdue students Emily Dougherty and Brooke Lueking received the collegiate Farm Bureau scholarships. Dougherty, of Johnson County, and Lueking, of Sullivan County, are active Collegiate Farm Bureau of Purdue members.

Ten students, one per INFB district, received the \$1,000 Carolyn Hegel Memorial Scholarship awards. The winning students are (listed with their home county):

District 1 - Kirsten Lambert, LaPorte County - Ancilla College; District 2 - Maggie Johnson, Whitley County - Butler Community College, Kansas; District 3 - Blayne Vandever, White County - Purdue University; District 4 - Cassidy Colbert, Tipton County - Purdue University; District 5 - Ethan Shepherd, Boone County - Purdue University; District 6 - Kylie Schakel, Hamilton County - Lincoln Land Community College; District 7 - Hannah Walls, Greene

County - Purdue University; District 8 - Morgan Hauger, Fayette County - Purdue University; District 9 - Maria Turner, Posey County - Murray State University; District 10 - Hannah Walker, Washington County - Purdue University.

"Indiana Farm Bureau is happy to be able to support our state's youth in agriculture each year through scholarships like these," said Isabella Chism, INFB 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. "We

heard from many passionate students about their love for agriculture and their plans to pursue a career in the industry. I can't wait to see what great things these students contribute to Indiana agriculture!"

Many county farm bureaus also offer annual scholarships for students in their area. To learn more, go to [www.infb.org](http://www.infb.org) and visit the Grants and Scholarships page under the Resources tab.

## OBITUARY

**Donald (Don) Dean Washburn  
1944-2020**

Donald (Don) Dean Washburn, 75, of Kentland, was born in Remington Oct. 30, 1944, to the late Ralph and Ruby Washburn. He passed away peacefully on May 16, 2020, after a yearlong battle with the return of his esophageal cancer. A graduate of Remington High School, Don received a Bachelor of Animal Science Animal Husbandry, a Master's degree in Agriculture Education, and 20 years later a Masters degree in Guidance Counseling, all from Purdue University. He was a member of AKL Fraternity. He taught at South Newton High School where he met the love of his life, Judy Merchant Washburn. They recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Don was very involved with Brook United Methodist Church, where he loved to serve in all capacities especially serving the community at Norm & Company dinners as well as Thursday night dinners, where he was known for his wonderful desserts. Preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Shirley Ramey, and brothers-in-law Neil Ramey, Wayne Siebenthal and Jim Alberts, niece Jill Alberts and many very special friends. Survived by wife Judy, his three daughters, Colli Washburn (Matt Cord), Corri Stichnoth (Justin), Cailyn Smith (Brad); three grandchildren, Laurel, Zeke and Makai Smith; sisters Carolyn Siebenthal, Norma Alberts and Tanya Washburn; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bob and Cheryl Merchant, along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews as well as the many friends he considered family. He was passionate about raising cattle and getting other people excited about cattle. Don loved making memories with his family especially through annual family vacations. He was so passionate about making others feel loved, welcomed, encouraged and special. He found it an honor and a privilege to connect with everyone he met. Don led us by example. He was a prayer warrior. He was patient and he was kind. He wanted to share all that is good with anyone around him. If someone was feeling less than, he would build them up and make them more. Nothing would please him more than to see us all live lives of faith, love, hope, humility and service. Memorials may be made to the Brook United Methodist Church, South Newton FFA or the American Shorthorn Foundation. Memorial donations may be sent to Stitz-Clapper Funeral Home, 214 E. Washington St., Kentland, IN 47951.

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# NCBA webinar focused on fed-cattle health issues

**BY EMMA HOPKINS-O'BRIEN**  
Indiana Correspondent

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) recently held a webinar focusing on health issues in mid-to-late fed cattle, including recent trends and studies in pulmonary hypertension (PH) and bovine respiratory disease (BRD).

High pulmonary arterial pressure or PH, puts cattle in a state of hypoxia, a condition in which areas of the body

are not receiving an adequate amount of oxygen. This can cause sudden death in mid-to-late fed cattle, as well as swelling of the brisket and distorted heart structure. PH has at times been attributed to cattle being fed in high-altitude areas, referred to as high altitude disease or high mountain disease. However, cattle in normal and moderate altitudes have been suffering from PH as well, in which case it is often referred to as feedlot heart disease.

During the webinar, Milt Thomas,

professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University, shared conclusions from his research on PH in fed cattle. He said a symptom of PH — brisket disease or a swollen brisket — has been acknowledged for a century, but only recently has it been studied in fed cattle.

"I wish I had a solution for it; we don't at this time," Thomas said. "But there are 15 geneticists and many others working on it."

Thomas and his team received a grant in 2018 from USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study heritability of PH, and believe 25 percent of the condition can be attributed to genetics. This leaves 75 percent of PH up to management technique and environment. Thomas said his research suggests high PAP is an indicator in all cases of hypoxia-induced PH, but the exact cause differs between High Altitude Disease and Feedlot Heart Disease.

"High Altitude Disease has the fatal consequence of right ventricle heart failure, while Feedlot Heart Disease involves right and left cardiac ventricle heart failure," Thomas said. "We have a lot to learn about mid-to-late feeding mortalities in finishing cattle."

Mariah Johnson, who recently became the senior director of beef sustainability research at NCBA, presented next on her research in which she partnered with the Noble Research Institute among other institutions to research Bovine Respiratory Disease. Like the other two issues, it is a condition shrouded in unknown factors.

Johnson said in the past few years, anecdotal observations have been made of increased incidence of BRD in fed cattle. This potentially fatal respiratory condition has been studied by Johnson and her colleagues with the welcome cooperation of some of the largest cattle feeders in the nation. In Johnson's studies, data was collected from cattle that had been fed for 45 days or more.

"I think the most frustrating part is that, from a management perspective, we've been doing good work selecting for high average daily gain, improved feed efficiency and carcass quality,

but now we're getting this issue that's going to discourage that feed yard from purchasing that animal," Johnson said. "And that's really hard to swallow when you've been doing everything right—have been doing the things that researchers have advised you to do. We really want to fix that issue."

Adding to that frustration is that BRD progresses rapidly—animals may appear normal in the morning and are very sick or dead by the afternoon. BRD does respond to antibiotics, but this can be a costly treatment for mid-to-late fed cattle, because their increased weight requires higher doses. Additionally, consumers and the non-ag public at large have recently been pushing for less and less antibiotic use in food animals.

"Death loss increased by 23.1 percent on average in mid-to-late fed cattle populations between 1999 and 2011," Johnson said. "So that data is even a little outdated, but I can tell you that number has not decreased. But there are a lot of great studies getting started right now and there are several of the largest feeders in the U.S. stepping up to the plate and willing to contribute data to be analyzed."

## Some Minnesota farmers get reprieve from foreclosures

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has signed a bill that stops farm foreclosures until Dec. 1 for farmers struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic who elect to take part in creditor mediation.

The state's Farmer-Lender Mediation Act requires any creditor foreclosing on agricultural debt of \$15,000 or more to provide the debtor a legal notice of their right to a neutral state mediator. The law normally provides for 90 days to reach agreement. The legislation that unanimously passed the House and Senate last week and was signed May 18 temporarily extends the deadline to 150 days or Dec. 1, whichever is later.

Rep. Todd Lippert, of Northfield, says his bill is meant to help farmers stay on the farm as they face packing plant and ethanol plant shutdowns, low milk prices and the need to euthanize hogs and poultry.

Paul Sobocinski, an organizer with the Land Stewardship Project who farms near Wabasso, says farmers need to be aware of their rights under the new law. He says it protects them from foreclosure through harvest time and buys time for the markets to recover and for federal aid to come to farmers.

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# American Coalition for Ethanol conference to combine with rescheduled workshop, expo

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) has announced its 33rd annual conference will be held in conjunction with the rescheduled International Fuel Ethanol Workshop (FEW) & Expo hosted by BBI International on Aug. 25 in Omaha, Neb. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the economic hardship it has brought to bear on the ethanol industry, ACE believes hosting this year's gathering in association with another industry event is in the best interest of its members. The conference theme of "Rising Up" embodies the resilience demonstrated by the ethanol industry in response to the pandemic and the grit to recover stronger than before. "ACE is looking forward to returning to Omaha and offering our conference attendees the opportunity to expand upon the content and connections they're able to obtain in one place through this year's partnership with BBI," said Brian Jennings, ACE CEO. "While 2020 may go down as a historic low point for the ethanol industry, ACE members are showing their grit and resilience by continuing to power the economic engine that is the ethanol industry. Join us in 'rising up' and moving forward August 25 in Omaha." "Combining our events is a natural fit," said John Nelson, vice president at BBI International. "Under the current circumstances, co-locating under one roof and helping ethanol producers maximize their attendance and travel seems to be the right thing to do." For over three decades, the ACE conference has focused on the people

of the ethanol industry and their priorities - a meeting where ethanol producers rub shoulders with retailers, policymakers, researchers and other industry members. This year's abbreviated event will consist of an afternoon of general sessions, including updates from ACE leadership, as well as insight on topics related to restoring and building ethanol demand. All ACE conference attendees are also encouraged to freely attend sessions at the FEW and Biodiesel Production Technology Summit. In an unprecedented move, event owner and operator BBI International is providing unlimited free passes for producers of ethanol and biomass-based diesel to attend the FEW. Registration details are available via the fuelethanolworkshop.com website. Stay tuned for more agenda details in the upcoming weeks. For more information about the ACE event, contact Shannon Gustafson at sgustafson@ethanol.org or visit ethanol.org/events/conference. *The American Coalition for Ethanol is powered by people who have built an innovative industry that sustainably delivers clean fuel and valuable food for a growing world. These farmers, ranchers, Main Street businesses, scientists, investors and renewable fuel producers work together to inform consumers and elected officials that in addition to helping keep gas prices low, creating jobs, improving the economy, displacing foreign oil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ethanol delivers a great deal of human good. Unite with ACE at www.ethanol.org and follow us on Twitter at @ACEethanol.*



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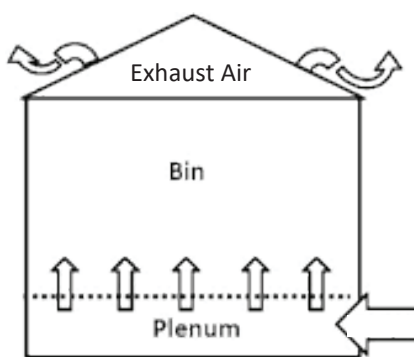
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# Jay Yeargin named Tennessee Farmer of the Year

By CELESTE BAUMGARTNER  
Ohio Correspondent

GREENFIELD, Tenn. — Jay Yeargin, 37, has been named the Tennessee Farmer of the Year for 2020 by the University of Tennessee (UT) Extension. He and his wife, Alice Ann, have close to 2,500 acres of crop, and they own about half of it.

"I graduated college (UT) in 2004 with a degree in agriculture, came home, and have been farming ever since," Yeargin said.

Yeargin bought his first farm in 2000. Currently, he and Alice Ann have a 60-head beef cattle operation and grow yellow corn, soybeans, and wheat. They produce about 700 round hay bales a year.

Ronnie and Janie Yeargin are Jay's parents. They farm together, but keep their accounts separate. Jay manages the operation, totaling about 4,500 acres of crop and about a 300 head cow/calf operation.

"At our farming operation, we utilize several different ways to market our crops," Yeargin explained in a statement from UT. "We are able to deliver our grain to the best market even if it isn't the closest because we own our trucks and have grain storage on the farm. Storage gives us more options and allows us to have full-time employees, so we can deliver grain all winter."

The farm is 100 percent no-till, Yeargin said. They have worked hard for several years building erosion control basins or structures, trying to put permanent solutions in place where they have erosion problems.

The couple is very involved in agriculture and their community.

Yeargin is the vice president of Tennessee Cattlemen's Assoc., and secretary of the Tennessee Soybean Assoc. He serves on the Wheatley County conservation district board of supervisors; he and Alice Ann are directors for the county Farm Bureau. Yeargin is a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenfield, and a lieutenant on the local volunteer fire department.

The award would not have been possible without Alice Ann, he said. She graduated from UT in 2005 with a degree in business administration and worked at a local bank until their son, Patrick, age 5, was born. Now she works part-time at the bank and part-time in the farm office. She has served as the president of the county Chamber of Commerce.

"Besides farming, we feel you should give back to your community," Yeargin said. "We feel like we're giving back. We were also the Tennessee Farm Bureau 2016 Young Farmer of the Year, and we were runner up in young farmer national competition. I gained a lot of my leadership opportunities through people I have met and been involved with through Farm Bureau."

Farmers from across the state were nominated for the 2020 Farmer of the Year award by their county Extension agents or by Extension area farm management specialists. Jeff Lannom, director of extension in Wheatley County, nominated Yeargin.

"It takes a unique individual or a husband-wife team to earn the award," he said. "Jay and Alice Ann are both very driven and energetic, family, and community-focused. I have worked with Jay since he was in 4-H. His passion is his family and farming, and he does a really good job at it."

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# New report shows federally funded ag research benefits U.S. economy for decades

By Doug Schmitz  
Iowa Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A recently released report by the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation illustrates how federally funded agricultural research generates economic benefits that extend for decades.

The report was released as Congress started working on federal spending for Fiscal Year 2021.

"Agricultural research is the gift that keeps on giving," said Thomas Grumbly, SoAR president. "Innovations developed today will feed our nation and the world for generations. But scientists need grants to cultivate those advances. Federally funded agricultural research has long been the bedrock for scientific enterprises. We need to keep researchers hard at work now more than ever."

Published by the National SoAR Foundation in partnership with the FedByScience communications initiative, the report's sponsors include the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Titled "Innovation to Profit: Retaking the Field," the report explores how federally funded research has strengthened the bottom line for farmers and ranchers by reducing costs and risks, increasing profits and laying the groundwork for new products and industries.

The report said research examples that have provided significant boosts to the agricultural sector include:

- USDA grants of \$2.5 million that supported research of blueberry genetic traits and breeding, and

helped Florida's blueberry industry grow from \$500,000 in production value in the 1980s to an estimated \$82 million annual value today.

- \$15.5 million of USDA support, focused on improving wheat and barley, generated varieties that now represent about 15 percent of the wheat and 4 percent of the barley harvested in the United States, with a production value today of \$1.8 billion and \$61 million, respectively.

- \$3.3 million provided by the USDA for a collaboration with Iowa State University and Kansas State University researchers that identified a genetic marker in pigs associated with resistance to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), a disease that costs the U.S. pork industry an estimated \$664 million annually, killing between 25 and 80 percent of a farmer's herd.

According to the report, in the 1940s, almost 40 percent of American research and development spending was focused on agriculture. Today, agriculture research accounts for 2 percent of federal research and development spending.

Innovations can take years to develop, the report explained. With so many current troubles, farmers need research investments now to stay afloat in the future.

The report said at the start of 2020, COVID-19 was not among the biggest worries for the agricultural sector. Instead, farmers and food producers were concerned about recovering from a tumultuous 2019, in which more than 20 million acres of U.S. farmland were destroyed by floods. Overall, 2019 was both the second wettest and second hottest year on record, generating 14 weather

disasters that caused more than \$1 billion in economic damages for the U.S. economy.

"The results for farmers were disastrous," the report said. "Family farm bankruptcies in 2019 were up 20 percent compared to 2018. The agricultural research funding drought is evident in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the USDA's flagship program for competitively awarded research grants."

The Initiative was launched in the 2008 Farm Bill, which authorized the program's funding level at \$700 million, the report said. Yet, budget politics every year prevent the program from hitting that level; its current fiscal year level is \$425 million. The report said the White House budget proposal for FY2021 would provide \$600 million, but Congress has yet to negotiate a final dollar amount.

"Our nation's food and agricultural sectors rely on scientific breakthroughs," said Neil Dierks, CEO of the National Pork Producers Council. "In the pork industry, destructive diseases continue to emerge. We need scientists to provide cutting-edge solutions and forecast what will come up next. Agricultural research helps farmers keep us all well fed."

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said U.S. farmers are struggling and "many of them face the prospect of losing farms that have been in their families for generations. In order for



Above: With funding from USDA, scientists at Iowa State and Kansas State have discovered a genetic marker in pigs that is associated with resistance to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), which costs the U.S. pork industry an estimated \$664 million per year (photo courtesy of the SoAR Foundation).

farms to not only weather this storm today but be competitive in the global marketplace going forward, they need partners ready to invest in innovative thinking. The U.S. still holds the top spot for the most productive agricultural research system in the world, but public spending on domestic research and development has fallen over the last decade. We need to correct that so that agricultural research can continue to unlock ground-breaking solutions."

Joe Colletti, Iowa State senior associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said university officials are proud to see the good research work going on at the college recognized again this year in SoAR's national report. "Continued innovation and deployment here and at our partner universities depends on federal support, so we appreciate SoAR's role in highlighting our accomplishments and their value to Iowa's producers and agricultural industry."



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# Kentucky family grows vineyard into winery

SPOTTSVILLE, Ky. (AP) – While the Spottsville bridge may be that community's landmark, it's the Boucherie Vineyard & Winery that has been making its presence known since opening to the public in 2013, making it among the more than 50 wineries operating within the state.

With the winery situated atop a hill, the sprawling vineyard can be seen from U.S. 60.

Inspired by his trips to California's wine country, Johnny Boucherie planted his first acre of grapes in 2004 not knowing what would become of it. Boucherie said he attended viticulture classes and recruited the help of the University of Kentucky's agricultural experts before investing in the venture.

"In the seminars, they tell you that you either have to find or make your own market for grapes," he said. "So when I started, I said I'll go five years picking them and throwing them in the ditch if I have to. And then if I can't find a viable market, I'll build a winery."

It takes at least five years for wine grapes to become mature enough to start bottling. But Boucherie decided to age his grapes longer, giving him time to construct the winery that has turned into a family agribusiness with his wife, Martha Boucherie, and two daughters, Dedra Griffin, and Brandy Boucherie, each playing an important role.

The Boucheries, who are regular vendors of the Owensboro Regional Farmers' Market, grow six

varieties of wine grapes and two varieties of table grapes on slightly more than five acres.

"We named our wines after the variety of grape they're made out of," said Brandy Boucherie, who handles the business side of the winery. "And these varieties of grapes that we chose are ones that are proven to do well in Kentucky climate."

The Boucheries use a high-wire trellis system that grows the grapes about 6 feet off the ground while connecting them to create rows. The grapes are self-pollinating but it doesn't hurt to have honeybees helping in the pollination process.

Dedra Griffin, whose role is the ag side, said the current task is suckering or pulling off extra vines growing up and down the trunk. "I don't want it to make vines on the trunk because those grapes won't get harvested," she said. "The grapes would just get covered up with the other vines and won't actually ripen because of not getting enough sunlight."

As far as the growing season, it will take from now through the whole summer before this year's grape harvest can take place in September. Although there are grape harvesting machines, Johnny Boucherie said that because the vineyard was planted on a hillside the grapes must be handpicked – a crop that amounts to 12 or 13 tons each harvest.

"I didn't think there was anything on this earth that had as much handwork as tobacco but I found it and it's right out there," he said as he gestured

toward his vineyard.

As the family awaits the fall harvest, they continue to operate the winery. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, they were hosting wine tastings, weddings, birthday parties, small concerts, a 5K run and other events.

Currently, they're prohibited from offering onsite consumption and the social distancing requirements limit any large gatherings. "There are several things that we do that we've already missed this year," Johnny Boucherie said.

Griffin said another disappointment was the cancellation of Owensboro's International Bar-B-Q Festival that was supposed to take place in early May. "That's one of our big spring openers," she said. "We rented a booth for the past four years now."

The Boucheries can still sell their wines on site and the state did lift the delivery restriction. The Boucheries will deliver to Owensboro for a \$10 fee. The delivery fee, however, will be waived for a case of wine or more.

Despite the challenges, Johnny Boucherie said his goal is to leave behind a business that will sustain his family's future.

"Really, I was looking forward to something that even my grandkids might be able to survive off of if they had to," he said. "The bigger it gets, obviously the more headaches there are. But I still hope the kids will be able to survive."

## Soybean price weakness reflecting possible new tariffs

By Doug Schmitz  
Iowa Correspondent

URBANA, Ill. – Recent soybean price weakness is reflecting possible, new tariffs against China that emerged as retaliation against the Communist country's behavior regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), according to University of Illinois Agricultural Economist Todd Hubbs.

He said the backlash that has created calls for retribution could be a political winner in the U.S.

"A collapse of the Phase One trade deal looks politically feasible this year," he said. "If the U.S. and China rekindle the trade war, lower export totals, growth in ending stocks and limits on soybean price could potentially face producers."

"A growing blowback against China for behavior associated with the pandemic does not bode well for the promising trade deal signed in January," he added.

Since the signing of the Jan. 15 agreement, Hubbs said Chinese buying of soybeans disappointed many observers.

"The coronavirus outbreak and sourcing out of Brazil kept Chinese buying below expected levels," he said. "Soybean purchases by China picked up over the last two weeks (as of May 4) for both the current and next marketing years. Sales of almost 32 million bushels of soybeans gave the market support and some indication of purchases to come."

"Soybeans promise to be a large portion of buying by China in meeting their obligations, but a significant escalation in trade tensions places those purchases in doubt," he added. "Increased Chinese buying appears necessary to hit the export forecast set forth by the USDA in the most recent WASDE report."

According to the May 12 WASDE Report, the 2019/2020 ending stocks for U.S. soybeans are estimated at 580 million bushels, compared with trade expectations of 488 million bushels, and the USDA's April estimate of 480 million.

For the 2020/2021 marketing year, ending stocks for new-crop soybeans are estimated at 405 million bushels versus trade expectations of 430 million bushels, the WASDE report added.

Despite the USDA lowering marketing year exports by 50 million bushels to 1.775 billion bushels, Hubbs said exports still lag behind the required pace; as of April 23, soybean exports total near 1.27 billion bushels.

"Soybean exports need to equal close to 500 million bushels from May through August to reach the current projection," he said. "With a little over 17 weeks remaining in the marketing year, 27 million bushels per week are necessary to meet the USDA projection."

"Over the last five marketing years, soybean exports averaged 360 million bushels during those months," he added. "The largest total occurred the last marketing year at 528 million bushels, with almost 280 million of those exports credited to China."

On April 23, 195 million bushels of soybeans have been sold for export, but are still waiting to be shipped, he said.

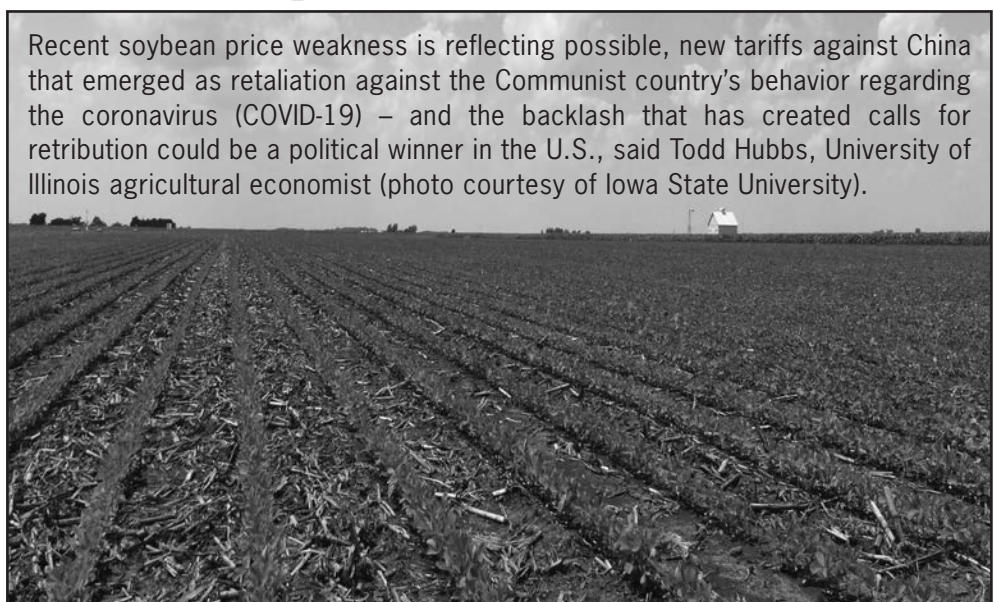
"This number sits well below the 473 million bushels of outstanding sales at the same time last year," he said. "Almost 17 percent of the outstanding sales total is booked for China, down from 59 percent a year ago. Chinese import projections sit at 3.27 billion bushels, up around 237 million bushels from the last marketing year."

In addition, reports of more instances of African swine fever in China indicate the disease is far from under control; however, soybean demand should continue to be strong, Hubbs said.

"A repeat of last year's export performance over the remainder of the marketing year seems unlikely, given the abundant Brazilian crop without substantial buying from China," he said. "Brazil's soybean crop looks set to come in near 4.55 billion bushels."

"The record level of production occurred, despite the size of the crop being revised down by 55 million bushels in the last WASDE report," he added. "A weak currency continues to benefit Brazilian exports."

He said the Brazilian real depreciated by almost 37 percent since the turn of the year, with domestic political turmoil promises sustaining currency weakness in Brazil over the near term.



Recent soybean price weakness is reflecting possible, new tariffs against China that emerged as retaliation against the Communist country's behavior regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) – and the backlash that has created calls for retribution could be a political winner in the U.S., said Todd Hubbs, University of Illinois agricultural economist (photo courtesy of Iowa State University).

"Brazil exported approximately 425 million bushels in March and is set to expand on that total in April, with potential exports coming in near 530 million bushels," he said. "A setback in trade relations between the U.S. and China may add more bushels to an already impressive total of Brazilian exports."

"China's behavior with regards to the coronavirus outbreak continues to generate a reaction against them both domestically and around the world," he added. "This backlash created calls for retribution that appear like a political winner in the U.S."

He said even if one agrees with this position, the impact on U.S. soybean exports should be considered.

"After the onset of the trade war in 2018, soybean exports fell almost 400 million bushels between the 2017-18 and 2018-19 marketing years, and pushed ending stocks above 900 million bushels," he said. "At present, this marketing year is on a similar export pace to the last."

"Unlike 2019, the potential for removing a substantial amount of soybean harvested acres seems remote this year," he added. "The March Prospective Planting report pegged soybean acres at 83.5 million. If this holds, harvested acres look to expand over 7.5 million acres from 2019 levels."

Moreover, he said weakness in corn prices may see even more soybean acres this year.

"In February, the USDA pegged 2020-21 exports at 2.05 billion

bushels based on increased buying out of China," he said. "If the past is any indication of future possibilities, a resumption of the trade war makes that forecast a remote proposition."

"A resumption of hostilities on the trade front could see an expansion of ending stocks this marketing year due to lower export levels," he added. "While soybean crush levels remain robust, weak exports for the remainder of the current marketing year could push ending stocks closer to 500 million bushels."

He said the implications for the 2020-21 marketing year are similar.

"This scenario limits the upside potential for soybean prices associated with the expanded export commitments promised under the Phase One trade deal," he said.

Mindy Mallory, Purdue University associate professor of agricultural economics, said the issues exposed relating to broad health, economic, and agricultural policy that have been brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic will take years to work through.

"For now, an awareness of potential short-term impacts can help navigate the next few weeks to months," she said. "Exports of soybeans and wheat especially could be impacted by two aspects of the crisis: case flare-ups during peak seasonal export times for major exporters, and geopolitical tensions sparked by the virus."

"As with everything related to the virus, the situation is changing daily, and impacts are extremely difficult to forecast," she added.



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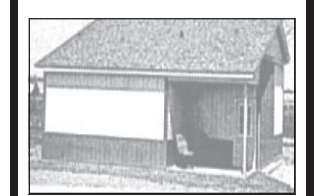
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**(4) 2011 KW T660**, CUM, ISX, 450HP, ULTRASHIFT TRANS, AIR RIDE SUSP, P/S, A/C, JAKE BRAKE, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS, 180WB, 11X22.5 ALUM BUDDS . . . . . **351,774 & 398,846 MI \$47,500 EA**  
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**(2) 2011 & (2) 2012 INTL 4400**, MFD OR 9 270HP OR 210HP ALLISON AUTOMATIC TRANS, AIR RIDE SUSP, P/S, A/C, 158WB, 11X22.5, 100,000 THRU 145,000 MILES . . . . . **2011 \$27,500 EA 2012 \$28,500 EA**



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## Ohioan finds success with feed business he started through FFA

By Celeste Baumgartner  
Ohio Correspondent

OXFORD, Ohio – In 2019, his junior year at Talawanda High School, Justin Beckner started his business, In Pursuit Show Feeds, as an FFA Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). In 2020 that business helped him place second in the Ohio FFA Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship competition.

Next year, Beckner, the son of Jason and Stephanie Beckner, will study business at Miami University with an emphasis on entrepreneurship to help him further his company.

Beckner was eager to join FFA in his freshman year. During his four years at Talawanda, he took full advantage of FFA opportunities, Kari Roberts said. Along with Mike Derringer, she was Beckner's advisor at the Talawanda High School/Butler Tech FFA.

"My freshman year, I was elected as Greenhand president," Beckner said. "I started early getting involved in the leadership aspects of FFA. In my sophomore year, I was a greenhouse manager. We put together an aquaponics system, and I headed up that effort. It was an amazing process to see the different ways of agriculture."

Beckner was the vice president of the FFA chapter his sophomore to junior year, Roberts said. During his junior to senior year, he was Ohio's

State Sentinel. Then he served as chapter president in 2019-20. He was also the 2020 winner of Ohio's FFA Extemporaneous Speaking contest.

"Justin had a great FFA experience, and he is on track to earn his American Degree," Roberts said. "I think he will apply for that, and his feed business is helping him achieve his goal. Justin has been an enormous help with the aquaponics system. I am going to miss him next year."

Beckner said the feed business "all started by somebody asking me if I wanted to sell a couple of bags of feed. I said, sure, why not? I went to my ag advisor, and he said, 'This would be a good opportunity to start something for yourself.' It has turned into something bigger than what I imagined, but I have enjoyed the entire learning process and being able to become a salesman myself."

Beckner visited a lawyer, registered his business name and trademark, and became a legitimate Ohio business with sales throughout Warren, Preble, Butler and Montgomery counties.

"I've done more business in the first four months of 2020 than I did entirely in 2019," he said. "I'm working to establish a website – that is exciting. I'm ready to rock and roll!"

But life is not all farming for Beckner. His church, Shandon



**Above:** In 2019, his junior year at Talawanda High School, Justin Beckner started a business, In Pursuit Show Feeds, as an FFA Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). He's done more business in the first four months of 2020 than he did in the entire year of 2019.

Congregational, has a children's program. He was going to present the Easter Sunday Children's Moment until COVID-19 canceled it. Beckner decided to do it online. He was pleased with how it turned out and with the excellent feedback he received.

He'd like to do another Children's Moment. In addition to attending college and continuing to promote his business, he plans to return to his FFA chapter as an alumnus to help coach some of the Career Development Events he was involved with.

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# Rural roads, bridges show deficiencies, high fatality rates

By Doug Schmitz  
Iowa Correspondent

America's rural roads and bridges are in need of repairs and modernization to support economic growth and improve traffic safety in the nation's Heartland, according to a new report released by TRIP, a national transportation non-profit research group.

"This report reinforces what many rural Americans already know - our country's rural infrastructure is crumbling," said Todd Van Hoose, president and CEO of the Farm Credit Council. "The competitiveness of our farmers and ranchers relies on an aging network of roads, bridges, waterways and railways that need an immediate infusion of investment dollars."

The report said addressing the nation's rural transportation challenges will require a significant increase in investment "since the tremendous decrease in vehicle travel that has occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to reduce state transportation revenues by at least 30 percent - approximately \$50 billion - over the next 18 months."

An analysis of the Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit, 23rd edition, submitted by the United States Department of Transportation to Congress in 2019, indicated the nation's annual \$28 billion investment by all levels of government in rural road, highway and bridge rehabilitation and enhancements should be increased by 28 percent, to approximately \$36 billion annually, to improve their condition, reliability, and safety.

However, the report said the U.S. faces a \$211 billion backlog in funding for needed repairs and improvements to the rural transportation system - especially now with increased rural transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report, titled Rural Connections: Challenges and Opportunities in

America's Heartland, evaluated the safety and condition of the nation's rural roads and bridges, and found the nation's rural transportation system is in need of immediate improvements to address deficient roads and bridges, high crash rates, and inadequate connectivity and capacity.

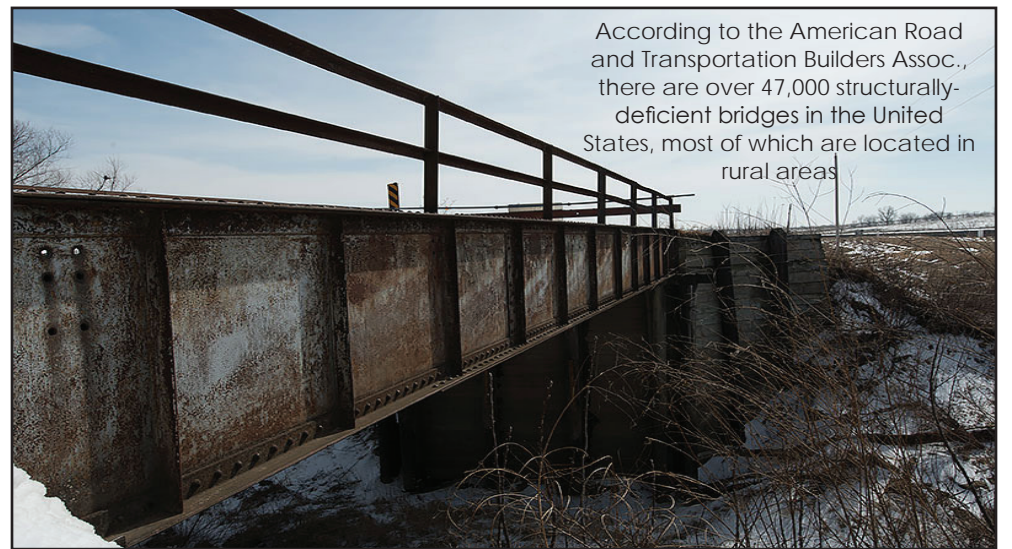
The report said, "The importance of the rural transportation system as the backbone of the nation's energy, food and fiber supply chain has been heightened during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Moreover, the report found the nation's rural roads and bridges have significant deficiencies: 13 percent of U.S. rural roads are rated in poor condition, while 21 percent are in mediocre condition.



While 16 percent of the nation's rural roads are in fair condition, and the remaining 50 percent are in good condition, eight percent of the nation's rural bridges are rated in poor/structurally deficient condition, meaning there is significant deterioration to the major components of the bridge, the report said.

In addition, poor/structurally deficient bridges are often posted for lower weight or closed to traffic, restricting or redirecting large vehicles, including

**(Rural Roads continued on page 3B)**



According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Assoc., there are over 47,000 structurally-deficient bridges in the United States, most of which are located in rural areas.

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## SALE CALENDAR

The Sale Calendar lists dates, nearest town or location, owner, auctioneer and type of sale. The page numbers refer to ads in this week's paper. Listings without page numbers either had ads in previous issues, or will have ads in a future issue of Farm World. Auction listings are only made available to those who have placed a paid ad in Farm World. Ads will only be published two times in the Sale Calendar: The week of the actual auction and the week prior if the auction ad is received in time to include in the Sale Calendar.

May 27 Springfield, Ohio: Farm Auction — Sherican & Assoc.. Western Clark Col, 84 acres in 5 tracts.. 4 pm

May 30 Marion, Indiana: Rescheduled Auction — Price-Leffler Auctioneers. Guns, ammo, personal property.. 10 am

Jun 4 Hamilton, Ohio: Wirtz Trucking & Rigging-Corp. — Myron Bowling Auctioneers. Website only, trucks, equipment.. 10 am ET

Jun 6 Yorkville, Illinois: The Estate of Mark Coffman — Brian DeBolt Auction Service. Real estate.. 10 am

Jun 6 Aurora, Indiana: Robet & Peggy Clinger — Owings Auction Service. Real estate and personal property.. 10 am

Jun 17 Sullivan, Indiana: Bryan & Beth Myers — Johnny Swalls Auction. Real estate.. 2 pm

Jun 20 Markleville, Indiana: Consignment — Jeff Boone Auctions. Farm machinery, other.. 9 am EST

Jun 25 Muncie, Indiana: Donald R. Johnson Estate — Schrader Real Estate & Auction Co., Inc.. Real estate.. 6 pm SEE AD ON PAGE 9B

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# Rural Roads

FROM PAGE 2B

agricultural equipment, commercial trucks, school buses, and emergency services vehicles.

What's more, 47 percent of rural bridges are rated fair, indicating a bridge's structural elements are sound, but minor deterioration has occurred to the bridge's deck, substructure or superstructure, the report said. (The remaining 45 percent of rural bridges

are rated in good condition.)

In fact, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Assoc., there are over 47,000 structurally-deficient bridges in the United States, most of which are located in rural areas.

The TRIP report also found traffic crashes and fatalities on rural non-Interstate roads are disproportionately high, occurring at a rate more than double that on all other roads.

In 2018, non-Interstate rural roads had a traffic fatality rate of two deaths for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel, compared to a fatality rate on all other roads of 0.88 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

The report said rural roads are more likely to have narrow lanes, limited shoulders, sharp curves, exposed hazards, pavement drop-offs, steep slopes, and limited clear zones along roadsides.

"You cannot stock grocery stores, resupply medical facilities and rebuild our economy on the backs of broken roads and aging bridges," said Stephen Sandherr, CEO of the Associated General Contractors of America.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said farmers and ranchers depend on rural roads, highways, and bridges to move

their products to market, "and so does the integrity of our food supply chain."

"Unfortunately, due primarily to lack of investment over several decades, America's infrastructure is in a dire state of rapid deterioration, and recent events show even more the importance of guaranteeing food arrives where it needs to be," he said.

"Investment in rural infrastructure going forward is paramount to ensure farmers and ranchers can continue to reliably supply the safe and wholesome food Americans need into the future," he added.

Dave Kearby, executive director of TRIP, said improving and modernizing the nation's rural transportation system will require addressing the significant reduction in state transportation revenues, including motor fuel taxes and tolls, as a result of a significant reduction in travel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said this also ensures the current federal surface transportation program, which expires Sept. 30, be reauthorized at funding levels that are adequate and reliable.

"The health of the nation's economy and the safety and quality of life in America's small communities and rural areas ride on our rural transportation



Above: America's rural roads and bridges are in need of repairs and modernization to support economic growth and improve traffic safety in the nation's Heartland, according to a new report released by TRIP, a national transportation non-profit research group (photos courtesy of Joseph L. Murphy, the Iowa Soybean Assoc.)

system," he said. "The nation's rural roads and bridges already faced a significant funding shortfall, and that will only be exacerbated by the looming reduction in state transportation revenues as a result of decreased vehicle travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The economic recovery from the pandemic could be hastened by significant investments in our nation's transportation system to support job creation, while making needed improvements to our roads and bridges that will serve our economy and enhance quality of life for all Americans for decades to come," he added.

Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition in Ankeny, Iowa, said, appropriately, a significant percentage of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been designed to provide quickly accessible resources to address sudden and unexpected needs.

"The goal, in short, has been to allocate immediate resources for immediate needs," he said. "Infrastructure investment, in contrast, is designed to allocate immediate resources in exchange for future benefit. The profitability of our nation's farmers, small businesses, manufacturers, and others can be significantly impeded or facilitated based on the condition of our multi-modal transportation system.

"In addition to the job-creating and maintaining the impact of constructing roads, bridges, locks, ports, and other infrastructure projects, having a well-maintained and capitalized transportation system is one of the best ways the federal government can advertise how "the United States is the best place to do business" - a message we will want to adamantly convey as we recover from these challenging times," he added.

Dennis Slater, president of the Assoc. of Equipment Manufacturers, said manufacturers depend on the roads, bridges, and highways in rural America to supply the equipment the economy relies on "and that infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and modernization."

"This is especially true today as our nation fights the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully looks to rebuild the economy in the weeks ahead," he said. "That's why we need our lawmakers to prioritize policies that support the movement of essential people and goods now more than ever."

Sandherr said, "Without new federal funding, we will miss this unique opportunity, with traffic at record lows, to repair our rural roads, protect countless construction jobs and restart our stalled economy."

That's why the Farm Credit Council has partnered with more than 250 national, state and local organizations through the Rebuild Rural Coalition, Van Hoose said.

"Previous funding opportunities have overlooked our rural infrastructure in the past," he said. "We must invest in the transportation network that drives the base of our economy. We must invest in all aspects of rural infrastructure - and we must do it before we lose our competitive advantage."

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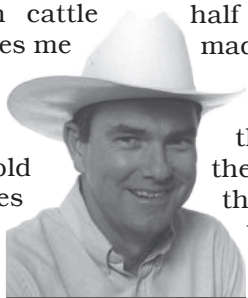
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# Clever Cows And Brainy Bovines

I admit I've never run cattle where it snows. If that makes me any less of a man in your eyes then so be it. But I have compensated for my deficiencies in extremely cold weather by ranching in places where it NEVER rained. Still, I was fascinated by a study I read about cows eating snow. Or do they drink it?



It's THE PITTS  
By Lee Pitts

It seems Don Adams of the Range Research Station in Miles City, Mont., identified all the cows in his study with electronic identification so that their coming and going from the water trough could be recorded. Don found that 65% of the cows came to water daily, some came every second or third day, while some never drank out of the water trough at all during the four month study. Don assumed that some cows were eating snow thereby saving themselves the long daily trek to the trough. Clearly these were intellectually remarkable cows.

My friend Skinner once told me about a set of Nevada calves that were consigned to his auction in Famoso, Calif., home to some of the most clever and cunning cows in America. Skinner took pride in the fill he could get on cattle but this set of calves refused to drink. He had the yard crew splashing in the water trough and the dumb calves still didn't get it. So Skinner got a backhoe and made an artificial river through the pen just so the calves wouldn't die from dehydration before he could collect a commission. Yes, those were some stupid cattle. As the old cowboy vet Ben Green would say, "They didn't have as much sense as a weak minded west Texas jackrabbit."

It did not surprise me that the calves came from Nevada because it's the home of the dumbest cows I've ever met in an alley. I don't know why this is so because Nevada is home to some of the smartest people I know. Perhaps their cows merely lack socialization skills from living out in the boonies so far away from civilization.

While Nevada is home to the dumbest cows, the highest IQ cows call Arizona home. There are cows and steers there that have evaded capture for 20 years. I've been on an Arizona gather where we pushed cattle down off steep slopes all day only to find at the end of the day, when our dogs were lost and our horses exhausted, that all the cows we thought we kicked off the mountains into the valleys, were laughing at us from the mountain tops. Yes ma'am, those were some brainy bovines!

Now that I've made the cows of Nevada mad, let's see if I can't get under the skin of some breed associations. In my opinion, I've found Brahmans are the smartest breed. I owned five Brahman bulls once and they were smarter than I was, which I admit, isn't saying much. I know it's a small sample size but if all Brahmans are as smart as those five, the breed goes to the head of the class. I swear, they knew what I was going to do before I did. They were gentle too.

As for the dumbest breed I'd go with Holsteins. In my experience they are dumber than sheep and have mush for brains. Most of my fence posts had more brains than a set of

half Holstein chucklehead cows I made the mistake of buying once who didn't even recognize their own offspring after they gave birth to it. I swear, they got an incredulous look on their face when they first saw their calf and then ran from it with their bag swinging to and fro. If it weren't for the fact that they are unexcelled in producing two of the most glorious feedstuffs on earth, milk and veal, I'd say the only other things they're good for is making cow pies, chewing their collective cud and fantasizing about getting bred by a real bull at least once in their pathetic lives. Still, I feel for them for as John Wayne once said, "Life's tough - it's even tougher when you're stupid."

• Note to residents of Nevada and Holstein dairymen... please send your angry letters to MENSA for Cows, Bullpucky, R.I. Please be advised, it's a very small organization and you may not hear back from them.

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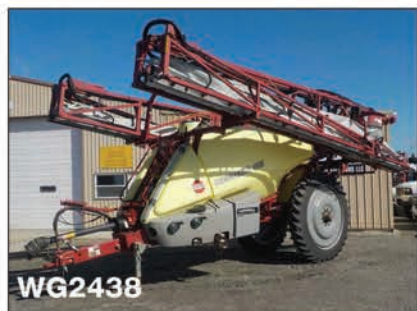
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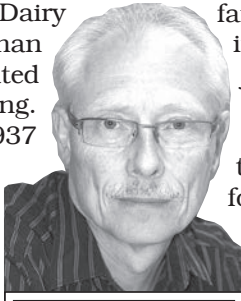
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# Celebrate Dairy Month by giving the family a dairy treat

I have written June Dairy Month columns for more than 30 years and always celebrated its background and meaning. It apparently started in 1937 when a grocery organization began to promote milk and dairy products at a time of year when milk was available in abundance.



**MIELKE MARKET WEEKLY**  
By Lee Mielke

I regularly pointed out how easy it is to assume that we will always have the milk, cheese, butter and ice cream that we all love and never be concerned about shortages. Then came 2020 and something called COVID-19, something that has changed America, the world, and everyone in it, forever. Is the unthinkable now possible? We've witnessed shortages of toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other items, and the latest is meat, but could it happen to dairy? What a difference a pandemic can make.

Plummeting milk prices will sadly mean the end of some of our dairy

farms but I believe the dairy industry will survive because, just as dairy farmers have been there for the consumers who know the value dairy products, those consumers will be there for dairy farmers as well.

Last year, I wrote that June was DAIRY month, not "fake milk month." I talked about consumers who think that a beverage which comes from a plant is healthier than one which comes from a cow, even though they're still called traditional dairy names.

I repeat my challenge this year to read the package label and know what's in these products to make them at least taste good, but also ask if they even approach the wholesome nutritional package that dairy offers, and do they have a carbon footprint that has actually shrunk like dairy's has.

Dairy still is facing challenges in a crowded beverage marketplace. Per-



capita fluid milk consumption in the United States is down by a quarter in the past 20 years, according to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). The number of U.S. dairy farms dropped 6.8 percent in 2018.

But the NMPF said, "A more accurate picture of the health of the dairy industry is much brighter than the doom and gloom conjured from selective use of data. No matter what critics may say, attempts to craft a 'death of dairy' narrative are mistaken. Looking more broadly than milk in a glass, per-capita dairy consumption has been on the rise since the 1970s, according to USDA data. Last year's level, 646 pounds per person, was the most popular year for dairy in the U.S. since 1962.

"Cheese per-capita consumption has tripled since 1971," the organization stated. "Butter is at its highest per-capita use since 1968. Contrast that with nose-diving sales of margarine, the longest-established 'plant-based' dairy alternative, which in 2010 was at its lowest per-capita consumption since 1942. After that, the federal government stopped tracking it altogether."

Fluid milk consumption may be down but even it is certainly not out, nor is the dairy industry. Mark Twain said it best when reacting to an erroneous news story: "The report of my death was an exaggeration."

Dairy is very much alive and on the rise. U.S. dairy farmers have supported us. We will support them. Give your family a dairy special treat this June Dairy Month.

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# Side items to enjoy with BBQ and other summer meats

May is National BBQ Month and Memorial Day weekend kicked off the official start of summer picnics and BBQ events. No matter what meat you choose to put on the grill, you need some sides to go with it. This week the menu includes a choice of macaroni salad, potato salad and baked beans.

I have never been a big fan of macaroni salad until I tasted this recipe. It is easy and tastes good.

## Macaroni Salad

Combine in a large bowl  
 2 cups raw macaroni cooked to package directions  
 1 cucumber peeled, cubed and deseeded  
 1 green pepper (can also use red for a splash of color) cut into small pieces  
 2 stalks of celery, diced



**COOK SIMPLY**  
 BY SUSAN MYKRANTZ

1 pimento chopped  
 2 hard cooked eggs chopped

## Dressing

Combine  
 1 cup mayonnaise  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon celery seed  
 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar  
 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard

Mix well and pour over macaroni, eggs and vegetables. Mix well and adjust

seasonings if needed.

## Picnic Bean Casserole

2 15 ounce cans of Pork and Beans  
 1 16 ounce can of kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
 1 15 ounce can of lima beans, drained and rinsed  
 1 medium onion chopped and cooked until tender  
 1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
 1/2 cup ketchup  
 6 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled  
 Combine the onion and bacon; cook until done. Combine with beans, brown sugar and ketchup in a greased 2 1/2 quart casserole. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Uncover and bake for 30 minutes longer.

I like the flavors in this potato salad and it is easy to make.

## Herbed Potato Salad

1 pound baby red potatoes, cooked  
 1/3 cup red onion, finely chopped  
 1 stalk of celery, finely chopped

## Dressing

Combine  
 1 teaspoon minced garlic  
 1 cup mayonnaise  
 1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1 lemon, juiced  
 1/2 cup fresh cilantro or dill, finely chopped  
 Salt and pepper to taste

Cook potatoes until tender. Drain, cool and cut into chunks. Combine potatoes, onion and celery in a large bowl. Add dressing and adjust seasonings if needed. Chill at least 1 hour or overnight to allow flavors to mix together. Serve and enjoy. Stay safe. Until next time, cook simply.

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1-21



# Raise a frosty mug to the growing of hops for craft breweries

By DOUG GRAVES  
Ohio Correspondent

XENIA, Ohio — Now is a great time to be a producer of barley and hops. Just ask any of the 300 craft breweries in Ohio.

In 2011, the Buckeye State was home to just 32 craft breweries, and at the time growing barley and hops was considered a risky venture. The worry was whether the demand for hops would be high enough. Then, many wondered about the success of so many craft breweries.

According to the Ohio Craft Brewers Association's latest economic impact report, the 300 breweries in Ohio produce 1.3 million barrels, which results in an economic impact of nearly \$1 billion annually.

One might not think of Ohio's agricultural industry when drinking a craft-brewed beer, but you should.

Four basic ingredients comprise beer making: grain (principally barley but also other grains such as corn, rye, wheat, rice and oats); hops (to bitter and add flavor); yeast (for fermentation); and water.

At Little Miami Farm in Greene County in Ohio, Jamie Arthur was already raising corn and soybean, but added hops because he had the space and wanted to specialize in another crop.

"We did a lot of research but didn't want to invest in a lot of time or money," Arthur said. "We visited a few breweries to see if they were interested in buying hops grown in Ohio, and we looked into the varieties they wanted."

Of the craft brews in this state, just five percent of the hops used are grown in Ohio. This has raised a lot of eyebrows over the years and producers are still looking to invest and cash in.

"Hops can be a challenging crop to

grow," Arthur said. "Just growing an acre of crops can cost between \$13,000 to \$15,000. One acre will produce about 1,000 plants. At maturity, or three years, you can harvest one pound of dry hops per plant."

According to the Ohio Hops Growers Guild, most growers start out with one acre. A few will attempt five-acre plots, but never larger on the first attempt.

In 2013, Matt Cunningham of Marysville, Ohio, experimented with 100 hop plants.

"We grow corn and soybean, and a little wheat," he said. "I was just looking to stay on the farm but do something else. I saw all these craft brewers popping up everywhere, so I started growing hops."

More than 100 years ago the crop was grown in Ohio, but moved out to the Pacific Northwest, where there weren't as many problems with insects or mildew. But the crop has made a comeback in Ohio, and there's room for more producers to accommodate the rise in new and established breweries.

"I wanted to start small and get my head wrapped around it," Cunningham said. "My third year was my first year for a full crop. The first challenge was that I couldn't use any of our farm equipment for the hops. It's a lot of hand work, like hand pruning, hand spraying and hand harvest. It's a lot of work."

Cunningham admits that disease is a challenge and spraying is a necessity.

"Some people cut the bines (a part of the hop plant) and take them to the harvesters," he said. "I pick by hand but to get any bigger, I'd have to get a harvester or take the bines to one. It takes a person 30 minutes per bine to harvest, and the harvester can do it in 30 seconds."

The Ohio Hops Growers Guild reports that 50 hop growers in the state tend to more than 100,000 hop plants, and the numbers are rising due to the extraordinary resurgence of locally-produced beers and their consumers.

Growing hops and barley may help farmers achieve the diversification needed in today's challenging agricultural business landscape. Rustic Brew Farm, located near



Above: A climbing hops plant is known as a bine, not a vine. (photo submitted)

Marysville, grows barley and converts the grain to malt in its malt house. A malt house is a structure where cereal grains are placed, water is added to induce sprouting, and then the sprouting is stopped by drying out the grain.

In addition, many craft breweries work with local livestock farmers to recycle their spent brewing grains as livestock feed or compost the spent grain to augment soils.

The Ohio Hops Growers Guild states that barley and other small cereal grains offer additional benefits beyond a brewed beverage. Collectively, these small grains can serve as cover crops in field rotations.

Rotating barley, planted in the fall and harvested early, helps future plantings of corn and soybeans because it improves soil quality. Adding a small cereal grain like barley into rotation also helps truncate weed life cycles. And small grains establish roots quickly, which improves soil infiltration.



Above: Greene County hops farmer Jamie Arthur grew traditional crops but ventured into growing hops simply because he had the space to grow them. (photo submitted)

Below: Hops harvest season is when the cones have had some time to dry out on the vine, usually August or September. (photo submitted)



## Brad Dora Guardianship Online Only Auction

May 19 thru May 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

Auction Preview: May 28th 4-6:00 p.m.

**Auctioneer's Note:** This is an online only auction for the Brad Dora Guardianship. This auction is full of nice, clean and usable items that you don't want to miss out on! An Auction Preview will be held May 28th from 4-6:00 p.m. and the auction will begin to close the 29th at 6:30 p.m. Pick up of won auction items will be June 1 & 2nd from 10-5:00 p.m. Visit [www.harmeyerauction.net](http://www.harmeyerauction.net) to bid on this auction packed full of great items that can be taken home and put right to use!

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row; Minn Moline 10 Shank Chisel Plow; Westfield MK-80-71' Swing Away Grain PTO Auger; Westfield TFX-80-41' Auger w/7.5 hp Electric; Killbros #375 Gravity Box & #1280 Gear; Killbros #375 Box & Farmers Pride Gear; (2) Univerferth #325 Gravity Boxes & G-13 Gears; 125 Bu Fert/Seed Box & Gear w/10' Hyd Auger; Pacer 2" 110 GPM (2hp 110V) Transfer Pump; Snyder 35 Gallon Chemical Mixer; Pr 200 Gallon Saddle Tanks; Blu-Jet 12 Row 3pt 28% Anhydrous Applicator; Yetter 1600 Gallon All-Wheel Steer Cart; **Grain Bins:** (2) 2,400 bu 16' Diameter w/Air Floors, Center Pits, 8" Augers, Stairs, Remove by Sept 1.

**Preview Date & Location:** Saturday, June 6 (9 am - 1 pm) at 1685 N. 550 E. Angola, IN. 46703 From Angola go north on #827 to 200 N, turn right (east) 6 mi to 550 N, turn right (south) to first farm on west side.

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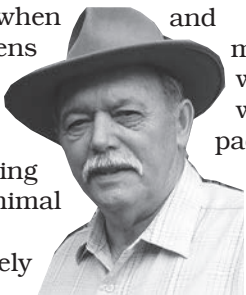
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# The Inside On The Outside; Keep Wildlife Wild

Now is the time of year when you may notice nests and dens occupied by young wildlife around your home. If you do, help keep wildlife wild by remembering the following if you encounter a young animal alone:



**SPAULDING OUTDOORS**  
By Jack Spaulding

- Adult animals rarely abandon their young. Parents often leave young unattended for long periods of time to gather food and may only return a few times a day. A nest or den without a parent present does not necessarily mean the young have been abandoned.

- Do not stay close by to see if a parent has come back to its young. An adult animal will not return if people or pets are close to the nest or den. Give the young space, and only check back periodically. If you can't tell if a parent has checked on a nest; place straw or grass over the nest, and return later to see if it has been disturbed.

- Young wildlife should not be handled. Human scent is unlikely to cause parents to abandon their young; however, handling young wildlife and disturbance of a nest may alert predators to the young animal's presence. Young may also carry disease or parasites they can transfer to people or pets, and are capable of biting or scratching.

Rescuing young wildlife is legal, but keeping them is not. Rescued wildlife must be given to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 24 hours. For a list of wildlife rehabilitators or more information on orphaned and injured wildlife, visit: [on.IN.gov/keepwildlifewild](http://on.IN.gov/keepwildlifewild).

### DNR Signing Up Paddler Spies

Quietly paddling and drifting down stream on Midwestern Rivers is a great way to observe wildlife. Knowing this, the Indiana DNR is asking kayak and canoe paddlers to report their wildlife observations while paddling Indiana waterways from June 1 to July 31.

Paddling is a great way to enjoy Indiana's natural beauty, observe wildlife, and connect with nature,

and DNR is hoping to collect more information about the wildlife frequenting Indiana's waterways. Hoosiers who paddle can collect information to help Indiana manage wildlife for future generations.

The Indiana Paddlecraft Wildlife Index compiles wildlife observations from people who use canoes, kayaks or other non-motorized paddle-craft around the Hoosier state.

Volunteer paddlers can help by signing up to complete paddling trip postcards documenting the wildlife they observe while on the water.

The collected information will allow wildlife managers to estimate changes in key wildlife populations over time. With paddlers' help, DNR may also gain insight into new locations where species live.

Kayak and canoe enthusiasts interested can learn more or sign up to volunteer by visiting [on.IN.gov/Paddlecraftindex](http://on.IN.gov/Paddlecraftindex).

### New Nature Preserve

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC), during its May 19 meeting, approved the creation of Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest Nature

Preserve in Greene County. The nature preserve protects 68 acres containing 1.6 miles of moderate trails, as well as upland forests, scenic ravines with large sandstone outcrops, intermittent creeks and several waterfalls.

In action regarding the Division of Fish & Wildlife, the NRC approved the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) response to a citizen petition to allow the 28-gauge and .410 shotguns for hunting wild turkeys, as well as No. 9 tungsten super shot. The DNR will now move forward with creating rule language that will be brought to the NRC at a future date for consideration for preliminary adoption.

The NRC approved a request from another citizen petition to amend the rule governing muzzleloaders used for deer hunting by removing the sentence limiting the definition of a muzzleloading gun to one capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including the powder and the bullet. The DNR will now move forward with creating rule language to be brought to the NRC at a future date for consideration for preliminary adoption.

Also regarding hunting with muzzleloaders, the NRC did not approve a citizen petition request to

add a primitive muzzleloader deer hunting season.

### Shooting Ranges Reopening

As of May 18, most DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife-owned shooting ranges have reopened. All facilities will be following COVID-19 social distancing and cleaning requirements. Restrictions will reduce the number of recreational shooters on the shooting ranges at a given time.

Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area's shooting range resumed normal operating hours the week of May 18. Shooters wishing to schedule an appointment should call 812-526-6552. All other FWA shooting ranges, except the one at Willow Slough FWA, reopened as of the week of May 18. Shooting range hours differ between ranges. Check open days and hours before visiting. Willow Slough FWA's range will remain closed until further notice. Shooting range hours and information can be found at [wildlife.IN.gov/3648.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/3648.htm).

'till next time,  
Jack

Readers can contact the author by writing to this publication, or e-mail at [jackspaulding@hughes.net](mailto:jackspaulding@hughes.net)

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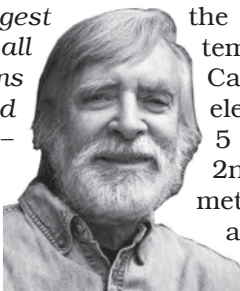
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# Temperatures rise one degree for every four days during June

*Before the roses and the longest day - When garden-walks and all the grassy floor With blossoms red and white of fallen May And chestnut - flowers are strewn - Matthew Arnold*



POOR WILL'S ALMANACK  
By Bill Felker

## The Second Week of Early Summer Astronomical Data and Lore

The Corn and Soybean Planting Moon, waxing into its second quarter on May 29 at 10:30 a.m., reaches perigee (its position closest to Earth) at 10:38 p.m. on June 2. Three days later, on June 5, it becomes completely full at 12:13 p.m. Rising in the middle of the day and setting in the middle of the night, this moon passes overhead at dusk, making that time the best time for angling and eating, especially as the cold fronts of May 29 and June 2 approach. This week's lunar position is perfect for last-minute summer planting.

Just before dawn, Venus rises in Taurus to be the brightest Morning Star. Jupiter comes up before midnight in Sagittarius and travels along the southern horizon. Saturn follows in Capricorn, also close to the horizon. Mars follows Saturn in Aquarius.

### Weather Trends

The cool fronts associated with early summer typically cross the Mississippi on or about June 2, 6, 10, 15, 23 and 29. Major storms are most likely to occur on the days between June 5-8, June 13-16 and June 24-28.

New moon on June 21 increases

the slight chance of freezing temperatures along the Canadian border and at higher elevations. Full moon on June 5 so close to perigee (on the 2nd) could cause unstable meteorological conditions and a surprise frost to the Middle Atlantic area.

Normal temperatures rise at the rate of one degree every four days this month throughout most of the United States. In the Lower Midwest, average highs move from the upper 70s on June 1 to the middle 80s by the beginning of July. Lows climb from the mid 50s into the lower 60s. The average temperature for the entire month is usually in the low 70s, up about ten degrees from May. A typical June temperature distribution looks like the following throughout the Lower Midwest: four days in the 90s, twelve days in the 80s, twelve days in the 70s, two days in the 60s, with a slight chance for one of those cooler days to be in the upper 50s.

## The Progress of the Year

The last part of May offers the best of Honeysuckle Blooming Season and Sweet William Season. It's Multiflora Rose Blooming Season, Privet Blooming Season, Yellow Poplar Blooming Season and Spiderwort Season.

Along the bikepaths, it's Blackberry Blooming Season and Black Raspberry Blooming Season and Wild Grape Flowering Season. It's Fledgling Robin Season in the yard, Young Groundhog Season in the fresh grass along the

highways.

Daddy longlegs are all over the undergrowth, partial to clustered snakeroot and its pollen. Wild strawberries wander though the purple ivy and the sticky catchweed. Wild iris blooms in the wetlands.

Deep Summer's wood nettle is past knee high by now. Wild lettuce, wingstem and dogbane have grown up hip high. Grasses along the river bank are waist high. Poison hemlock reaches chin high, angelica over your head.

Tadpoles become toads and frogs and finally move to land. Cricket song grows louder. Mosquitoes become peskier. Dragon flies appear along the river. The earliest fireflies come out to mate.

Fawn births peak as the wild roses fade. Elderberry bushes and panicked dogwoods reach full bloom. Bottle grass is fresh and sweet for chewing, and a few mulberries are ready to pick. Black walnuts, silver olives, and oaks become the other major sources of pollen.

## In the Field and Garden

Early cut flowers and garden greens should have been ready for your roadside stand before Memorial Day.

By this time of year, slugs are usually roaming the garden. Flies are bothering the livestock. Bean leaf beetles are common in the fields. Alfalfa weevil and leaf hopper infestations become more troublesome. White-marked tussock moths attack the elms; May beetles find the oaks; scurfy scale comes to the lindens.

Pickle planting typically ends throughout the Lower Midwest, and farmers are harvesting zucchini and squash. It's pruning time, after flowering, for forsythia, quince, mock orange and lilac. As warmer weather changes the growth patterns of bacteria around the farm, keep udders neatly clipped, and be sure to disinfect them before milking.

The new canopy of leaves is almost complete, reducing the danger of sunburn on goats, shorn sheep and unprotected picnickers.

## Almanack Classics Deserted in the Outhouse By Edith Koppes, Shelby, Ohio

It took my husband and I a number of years to find our niche in life, and so we moved from place to place quite a bit. One place we lived was in a cheap upstairs apartment, which had one water faucet in the kitchen. And, of course, there was no bathroom.

But there was an outhouse at the far side of our small yard behind a neighboring building. That building

was the village fire station, and every Saturday at twelve noon, the siren would sound the exact time.

Our three children were preschoolers, and the youngest one was just out of diapers and learning to be a "big boy." Big brother was a dependable "go-fer," so when little brother had to go potty, I sent big brother down to the outhouse with him, not paying attention to the time.

While they were out there, the fire siren began to sound out its earsplitting loud wail, and big brother quickly ran upstairs, forgetting little brother sitting there on the outhouse seat frozen with fright. When the siren died down, I heard the most desperate scream from the outhouse I have ever heard and realized little brother was still down there.

I immediately dropped what I was doing and ran down the stairs as fast as I could and across the yard to the outhouse to rescue my poor little son. As soon as he saw me, he slid down from the seat and flew into my arms, relieved to be safe and secure again.

To this day, loud noises bring back memories to him of that awful situation of being deserted in the outhouse.

Poor Will is running out of stories! Send yours to him at 316 South High, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387 or to poorwill@poorwillsalmanack.com. You'll receive \$5.00 payment if your story appears in this column.

## Answers To Last Week's Sckrambler

In order to estimate your Sckrambler IQ, award yourself 15 points for each word unscrambled, adding a 50-point bonus for getting all of them correct. If you find a typo, add another 15 points to your IQ.

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
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| SICHHARPDR  | HARPSICHORD |
| DELORPLXEUN | UNEXPLORED  |
| ARFSDBRUO   | SURFBOARD   |
| DAROBNGIS   | SIGNBOARD   |
| JORFD       | FJORD       |
| RRDAOE      | ROARED      |

## This Week's Rhyming Sckrambler

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**AUCTION LOCATION: Delaware County Fairgrounds - Heartland Hall Building, 1210 N. Wheeling Ave., Muncie, IN.**

**PROPERTY LOCATION: TRACTS 1-7:** From I-69 and SR 28/SR 35 interchange: Travel east on SR 28/35 approx. 3 miles to CR 600 West, turn left (north) & travel about 6 1/4 miles, passing through Gaston, to the farm. **TRACTS 8-10:** From I-69 and SR 28/SR 35 interchange: Travel east on SR 28/35 approx. 3 miles to CR 600 West, turn left (north) & travel about 6 miles, passing through Gaston, to CR 600 North, then turn right (east) & travel about 3/4 mile to the Eaton-Wheeling Pike (also Jonesboro Rd.), turn right (south) and travel approx. 1/2 mile to the farm on the right (south side).

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# Comfort food can soothe the soul

For weeks now our people who work in the medical field have been fighting the battle with COVID-19. My

**BARBWIRE**  
BY BARB LUMLEY

granddaughter is a nurse, working in the Emergency Room at a local hospital, where she has taken care of patients who are positive with the virus. I received a call from her a few days ago as she drove the hour home from work after her long shift. I could tell from her tone of voice that she was exhausted both physically and emotionally. The ER had been extremely busy, not only with virus patients but also numerous other health problems. She had cared for patients who could not speak English and, although there was an interpreter, it was hard for them to understand what was happening to them. A patient had begged her, "Please don't let me die, please don't let me die!" As I sat alone, being one of those older people who were "staying at home," how could I help her? I couldn't have her stop in so I could hold her close and give her a hug. I could only listen to her, hope to find the right words to say to make her feel better and tell her I loved her. The next day I felt like I needed to do something for her. Then an idea came to me. Comfort food! It is the hugs and kisses we can't give in person. Comfort food soothes the soul and makes people feel better. Comfort food can be different things to each person. After a long, hard day of farm work, so much done by hand, comfort food for my dad was a meal of fried ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, fresh corn from the garden, a slice of bread covered with apple butter and a big glass of cold milk. My dad never drank coffee or tea. The food not only nourished his hard-working body, it let

him relax, enjoy and put aside the problems for a while. For my husband, "Lum", all food was comfort food. As a child in a large family there wasn't always an abundance of food, so just being able to sit down and enjoy a full meal was comfort food for him. And he enjoyed it! His favorite comfort food was homemade bread, cinnamon rolls and black raspberry pie. In our many years of marriage he enjoyed a lot of it. Everyone has a different idea of what gives them comfort in times of stress. Usually comfort food is a carbohydrate or something that contains sugar. Foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza, French fries, donuts, cookies and more. There are many who in times of stress reach for chocolate! Although it is unusual, for some it can be fruit, a vegetable, or even just a cup of coffee or tea. For children who fall and skin their knees or receive "ouchies" in other ways, the comfort food is usually a cookie given with a hug and kiss. Comfort food can be anything that eases stress and makes a person feel better regardless of age. So what did I do? I made brownies for her and her family, put them in a container, left it in the mailbox, called her and told her to pick them up on her way home from work. I was hoping they would help her feel better and baking them for her made me feel better! So, if you cannot be on the front fighting the virus, send comfort food to someone who is or to an elderly person who is "staying at home" and all alone. If you don't know anyone to give to, leave something in a stranger's mailbox. Just think how surprised they will be and how it might change their day!

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**DAY # 2 = Wednesday, June 10 @ 10AM CST**  
**LIVE VIRTUAL ONLINE AUCTION** selling Signs, Clocks, Pedal Tractors, Original Case Eagle, Hit & Miss Motors, Corn Shellers & Primitives

**DAY # 3 = Thursday, June 11 @ 10AM CST**  
**LIVE VIRTUAL ONLINE AUCTION** selling All Pallets of Tractor Parts & Small Tractor Parts

**DAY # 4 = Friday, June 12 @ 10AM CST**  
**TIMED ONLINE AUCTION** selling Toys, Collectibles & Literature

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# Social Distancing and a Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother

Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."  
 Isolation really stinks! Who would have ever dreamed a year ago that we would be hunkered down in our houses avoiding contact with those we love? Today's proverb takes on new meaning in light of COVID-19. Wisdom for today says, "Those who meet with any of their companions may come to ruin . . . but thank the Lord there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."  
 We have all experienced times of



VERSES FROM MAMA  
By Sandra Sheridan

loneliness. Certain seasons of life lend themselves to disconnection and lack of close companionship. These past weeks have been one of those times. While it is a blessing to have social media, Zoom meetings, and FaceTime, nothing can really take the place of face-to-face physical interaction. But for the sake of protection we choose to discontinue any regular large meetings. It's helpful to slow the spread of germs, but it really stinks!  
 Yet no matter how bad this 2020 pandemic gets we never have to

be in complete and total isolation. There is a friend who can override the 6-9 foot rule. This friend sticks closer than a brother even when you need to quarantine from other family members. He is never affected by the coronavirus or any other results of sin, and He promises to never leave us or forsake us. This friend is Jesus.  
 In John 15 Jesus called His obedient disciples His friends and made known to them all He heard from His Father. And He still shares the secret of the Lord with those who fear Him while continually keeping His covenant of faithfulness. After all, He laid down His life for us so we can be sure He will not forsake us now.

Are you feeling alone and isolated? Then reach out to the best friend you will ever have. Listen to His secrets as He speaks through the Bible. Talk to Him in prayer while taking your daily walks. Memorize His words as you sit eating your meals. Stretch your hands upward as you praise Him for His constant faithfulness. Soon you will experience His gentle touch as He makes you aware of His very real presence.  
 Isolation really stinks! But maybe during this time of social distancing we will discover a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Maybe the coronavirus will reintroduce us to Jesus!

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 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$237,700</p> <p>(W) '17 JD 8295R, Stock #48532, 625 hrs, MFWD, PS, 5 rear remotes</p>	 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$229,500</p> <p>(B) '14 JD 8310RT, Stock #47863, 811 hrs, 18" tracks, power shift, leather cab, 5 SCV, HID lights, 22 ft wts, 60 GPM hyd pump</p>	 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$234,900</p> <p>(L) '12 JD 9560RT, Stock #48461, 2,708 hrs, 30" tracks, P/S, leather, PTO, 5 SCV, hi flow hyd</p>	 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$33,900</p> <p>(B) '15 Deere 326E, Stock #48384, 866 hrs, 14x17.5, cab, AC, foot controls, 2 spd, std hyd, quick tatch, air seat, rev fan</p>	 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$49,500</p> <p>(B) '14 Deere 333E, Stock #51121, 1812 hrs, cab, air seat, AC, 2 spd, ISO controls, power quick tatch, std hyd, keyless, pre-cleaner</p>	 <p style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">\$46,550</p> <p>(B) '17 Deere 35G, Stock #50460, 810 hrs, short arm, blade, cab, AC, thumb, quick attach, less buckets</p>					

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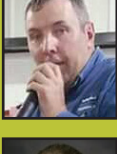
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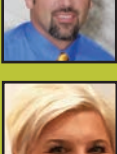
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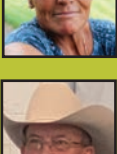
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