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## Kip Tom brings lessons from the farm to his job at the U.N.

BY RACHEL LANE  
DC Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lessons learned on an Indiana farm are being applied to global agriculture as former farm boy Kip Tom has settled into his role as the US Ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO.

Last April, Tom was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for his role. Since then, he has traveled around the world, but been able to return to his family's farm only twice, once around the holidays and the second time shortly after he gave the keynote address at the USDA Agriculture Forum in Washington, DC.

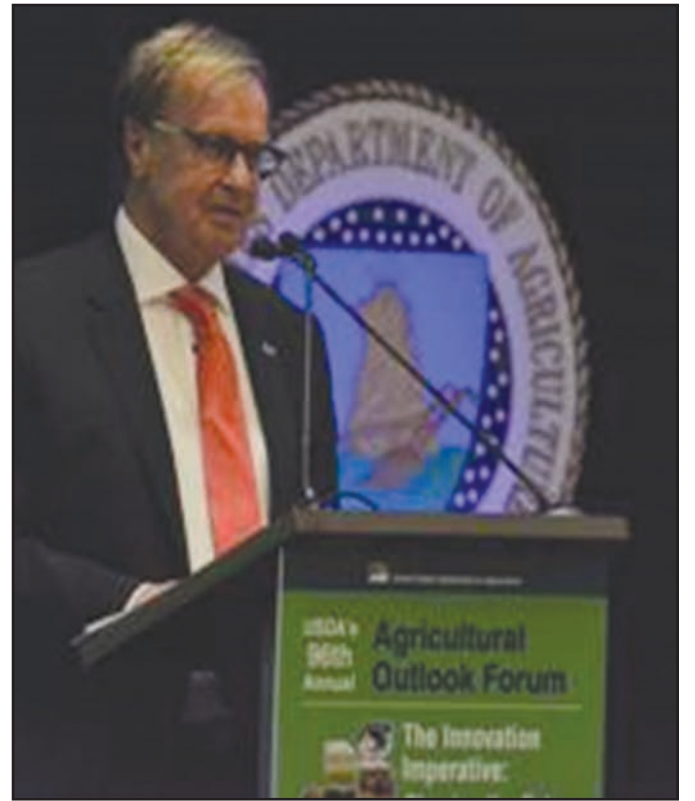
His parents, still on the farm, asked him to please bring home the speaker poster announcing his presentation and Tom carried it around for several hours as he prepared to leave the forum.

He spoke during dinner Thursday about one of the things that surprised him most in his role — the difference between the United States and other countries in embracing new technology and innovations in agriculture.

"We're so quick to embrace technology and innovation changes here in the United States but it's not the same everywhere else. I think I underestimated the challenges we would face there with some of these other member states," Tom said.

He works with different U.S. agencies in Rome: the State Department, the USDA, USTR, the Treasury, and others. As a team, he tries to make sure the U.S. position on issues is protected and that U.S. tax dollars are used

( Kip Tom continued on page 3)



Above: Ambassador Kip Tom, spoke about the importance and challenges of embracing innovation in agriculture on a global scale. He works with the UN FAO and 193 other countries to try to make the world food secure. He spoke during the USDA Agriculture Forum in February, shortly before he returned to his family farm in Indiana for the second time since he accepted his position last April.



Above: Mike and Anita Smith's alpacas are not fans of the snow; they would rather stay inside. The expression on the face of this one seems to sum up its feelings for winter. Photo by Leondia Walchle

## More farmers convert to organic in 2019

BY JORDAN STRICKLER  
Kentucky Corespondent

Washington, D.C. — While 2019 saw declining numbers in most operations across the nation, a new study by Mercaris found the opposite was true for organic farms. According to the market data service, the number of U.S. farmers growing organic produce harvested nearly 3.3 million acres of certified organic field crops, driven by 14 percent more organic field crop operations.

"Despite what can be fairly described as the most difficult growing season in more than a decade, 2019 was a remarkable year for organic production," said Ryan Koory, Director of Economics at Mercaris. "While growth in the organic industry was anticipated,

the 14 percent year-over-year (y/y) expansion in certified organic field crop operations well exceeded expectations. Overall acreage expansion did prove to be limited by weather throughout the growing season. That said, the addition of new organic growers suggests that 2020 could see organic production reach new record highs."

According to the report, final numbers beat previous estimates for every region of the U.S. The study concluded that 1.1 million acres of organic hay and alfalfa were harvested over 2019, up 8 percent y/y with 11 percent more certified organic operations; 13 percent more certified organic operations harvested organic corn over 2019, offsetting a significant decline in the number of acres harvested per operation; certified organic operations harvesting organic soybean reached

2,835, up 11 percent y/y; and harvested organic wheat acres, mostly driven by expansion in the High Plains region, grew 16 percent.

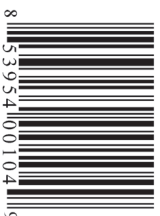
The demand for organic crops has exploded over the past several years. In 2013, U.S. organic food sales totaled approximately \$31 billion, and by 2018, that number had risen to \$48 billion. The most recent USDA Organic Survey, published in 2017, showed 14,217 organic farms in the U.S. in 2016 which was a 56 percent increase from 2011. American farms and ranches sold nearly \$7.6 billion in certified organic goods in 2016, which



was more than double the \$3.5 billion in sales in 2011.

"The demand for organic products has steadily increased over the last decade," said Josh England, market

( Organic continued on page 9 )



INDIANA TEENS WIN IN NATIONAL  
'MAKE IT WITH WOOL'  
COMPETITION - PAGE 1B



### IN THIS FARM WORLD:

- Field Work podcast returns for Season 2
- U.S Grains Council touted ethanol at India Auto Expo ..... Page 23A

# CornPro Trailers to be headed up by David Frette

**BY ERIC C. RODENBERG**  
Indiana Coorespondent

ELNORA, Ind. - Indiana-based manufacturing firm CornPro Trailers has announced that David Frette of southern Indiana will be taking over complete ownership of the 35-year-

**Below:** Also developed by CornPro, a southern Indiana manufacturing firm, is a new galvanized-dipped trailer that is available for 2020.

old CornPro, buying out his brother's, Gerry Frette, 50 percent interest in the company.

"Basically, the story is that, for no other reason, my father agreed to buy out his brother's interest in the company solely because Gerry wanted to retire," Brian Frette, vice president

**(CornPro continued on page 4)**



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# Kip Tom

FROM PAGE 1

appropriately. He thinks his team is up to the challenge of encouraging others to accept technology and innovation.

As a boy, he had no idea what the United Nations was. He always expected to stay on the farm and he still refers to himself as a farmer. He plans to return to the farm when he retires from his position, and rejoin his community.

“When that time comes, I’ll hope back on the tractor. When my time to retire comes along, I’ll come to the end of the field, idle it back and I’ll walk away, but right now I’ve got a job to do,” he said.

His time on the farm helps him sympathize with the small farmers around the world. He knows what it is like to worry about having enough food to feed the family for a year and the importance of moving forward with technology. When he started to take over some of the operations on the farm, he knew the family had to do something different from what the neighbors were doing, to stand out and get better yields. Not all of the choices he made worked, but he embraced different technologies as they became available.

“I knew farming wasn’t just about driving a tractor and putting seed in the ground. It was about management abilities. It was about understanding the science in what we do... the business behind what we do. It was investing in new technologies and getting the busi-

ness to scale to try to bring in other family members,” he said. “I was taking risks, I was investing money. It was tripping up at times and learning from those times we faced failure.”

He transformed his seventh-generation farm into one of the largest commodity businesses in the Midwest. The business owns over 25,000 acres in the United States and in Argentina.

His parents were the primary influence on his life, teaching him the dedication and discipline needed, he says 4H and FFA played a part, too, teaching him leadership skills and what was possible.

Now, the global agriculture community is facing the same challenges around the world — how to feed more people while protecting the environment. The challenges each country faces differ, but technology can help address each issue. The same basic issue might have very different solutions based on where the problems are located.

“I’m proud of the work we do. We’ve made a great impact,” Tom said.

He said he remembers the farm, his family and his neighbors when he’s making decisions that impact the world. Traveling around Africa, he sees desperate looks on the faces of children, adults, entire families and he wants to make a difference in their lives.

The biggest obstacle he faces are other countries that don’t want to advance technology and don’t want to teach new methods to people who are desperate.

“I can look at them and I can picture what a steep curve they have to try to

change their lives. I know what it’s like to go out, till a field, plant a seed, take the risk, hope and pray the weather is in your favor, that you get a crop and you have enough — in the United States — to sustain your business but in ... (developing worlds), do I have enough for my family to eat for the next year,” Tom said. “I understand that. I understand that well.”

He applies his perspective to his decisions and does what he can to help the people around the world by bringing up the science to support the technologies.

Tom said if the small farmers don’t have enough to feed their families, they lose hope. If they lose hope, they migrate to places where they see a brighter future for their families.

GMO crops have been around for 25 years and been used to create about 32 trillion meals. There is no sign of a negative reaction to human health, while there are obvious benefits to the environment, nature and to humans. Tom said a Turkish company used soybeans from an EU field that didn’t use GMO herbicide. As a result, a toxic weed was mixed into the supply when it was harvested and 18 people in Uganda died as a result.

“People think because they read a paragraph on something or they hear the phrase that all the sudden it’s bad because someone says it’s bad,” he said, but 150 Nobel laureates have supported GMOs.

GMOs - or biotech, as Tom called them - allows farmers to use less chem-

istry, leaving a small carbon footprint.

“We know that GMO crops can lower, on an agriculture bases, carbon footprint 12-17 percent. That’s pretty substantial,” he said. Workers and the environment are exposed to fewer chemicals.

“The GMOs have really been a benefit but a lot of people don’t believe the science,” he said.

And gene-editing crops has the potential to add more benefit, if the world will accept them.

Instead, countries want farmers to use the same methods his grandfather used - and stopped using - 125 years ago.

He uses the example of medicine when talking to some other ambassadors. If they needed medical treatment for cancer or a heart problem, they wouldn’t go to a doctor using the same methods used 125 years ago.

“Let’s look at food production in the same light because we need to have those same opportunities if we’re truly going to have a positive impact on the environment, nature, and productivity,” he said.

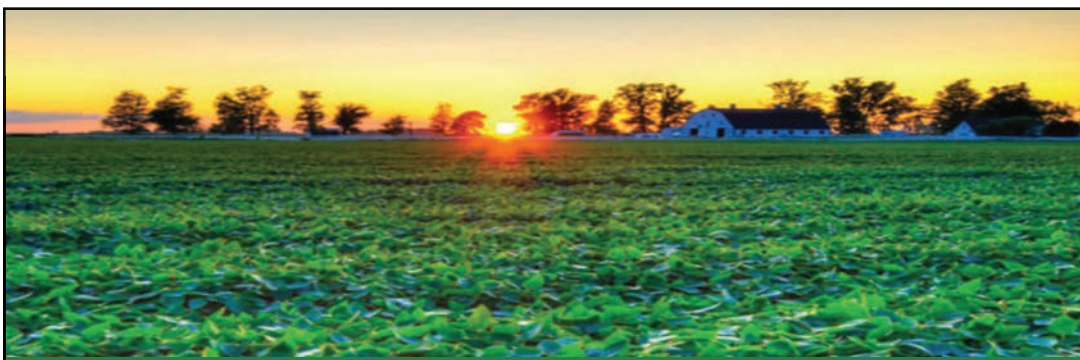
Not believing the science is also a problem within the US, Tom said. People are challenging innovations and the science needs to feed the US population.

Farmers need to stay aware of domestic and global issues - and keep paying taxes that help fund the FAO and support the small farmers in developing countries, Tom said. To be fully funded, the FAO needs \$11 billion, but they only have about \$8 billion - about 20 percent of comes from the US. Someone, somewhere is probably hungry until the full needs assessment is met.

“I think it’s time for Americans, if you’re in agriculture and food, or (a different industry), to understand that ... we’re very fortunate to have the things we do,” he said. “At the same time, those freedoms, those liberties are always at risk by others around the world that have a different view of how we should manage.”

American farmers can continue to innovate and work to feed the world, he said.

“Try to find solutions that contribute to a developed country, but can also, possibly contribute to a developing country,” he said.



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# CornPro

FROM PAGE 2

of sales and marketing, said. Gerry is in his mid-70s, according to Frette.

CornPro Trailers has a 35-year history of manufacturing tough, built to last livestock, horse, flatbed, dump and utility trailers. The business was started in 1983 by Jeff Cornelius. David and Gerry Frette bought the business in 2005.

The company employs about 50 workers at its Elnora, Ind., plant, approximately 20 miles north of the town Washington in Daviess County. It operates from an 85,000-square-foot manufacturing facility.

David Frette, a Certified Public Accountant, oversees much of the fiscal responsibilities of the company, rather than being involved in day-to-day operations. Those duties are assumed by his sons, Kevin Frette, vice president of manufacturing and

operations, and Brian in marketing and sales.

"After several years of working together, we are excited for what retirement holds for Gerry in his next endeavors, but also looking forward to moving our company in new directions. David Frette, now president of CornPro, said. "We're thrilled to be able to keep the ownership in the family, jobs local and continue to serve our dealers and faithful customers with the same American quality in manufacturing they're used to, plus add new products and options."

Otherwise, it's business as usual, according to Brian Frette. "We'll look to continue developing new product lines, in addition to advancing our new branding strategy," he said.

The company has made great strides over the last several years to enhance their product offerings, including a new steel deck car hauler and galvanized-dipped trailers in 2020.

Contact: www.cornpro.com

**Below:** CornPro, a 35-year-old firm with a reputation for building quality utility trailers, introduces the steel deck car hauler to their product line for 2020.



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# National Appaloosa Horse Show coming to Indianapolis in 2021

BY ERIC C. RODENBERG  
Indiana Coorespondent



**Above:** The Appaloosa horse is a distinctive, beautifully marked animal, strong on endurance and intelligence. Midwest residents will get a chance in 2021, and the following two years, to see the top horses in the country at the National Appaloosa Horse Show & Youth World Championship show scheduled each year on July 5-17 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Midwest, the East Coast, including Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire, and it's really quite a trek for all those members hauling their horses from Maine and New England down to Texas each year. I would say about 30 percent of our membership is located within a 500-mile radius of Indianapolis.

"Also, many of our members are NASCAR fans and they may want to come early for the race. We were able to secure dates which avoid a direct conflict with NASCAR's popular Brickyard 400. This ensures that our members will be able to find affordable and convenient hotel accommodations during the entire run of the show."

(Appaloosa continued on page 15)

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The Indiana State Fairgrounds locked up the National Appaloosa Horse Show & Youth World Championship for three years, beginning in 2021.

The show dates for each year will follow completion of NASCAR's Brickyard 400 auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. As a special side note, the 2022 National Show, one of America's oldest and most prestigious horse shows, will mark the organization's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Indianapolis.

The organization has more than 10,000 members in all 50 states and members throughout 32 foreign countries.

"We chose Indianapolis, not only because it's more centrally located, but the Indiana State Fairgrounds is a first-class facility," Ken Johnson, president of The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC), told *Farm World*.

During the past eight years, the event has been held in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Quite frankly, we just suffered from 'Fort Worth Fatigue,'" Johnson said. "Not to put down Fort Worth; they have a beautiful facility; we had some great shows there and the Fort Worth people were very accommodating. But I think our membership wanted to see a different city."

"We have members throughout the



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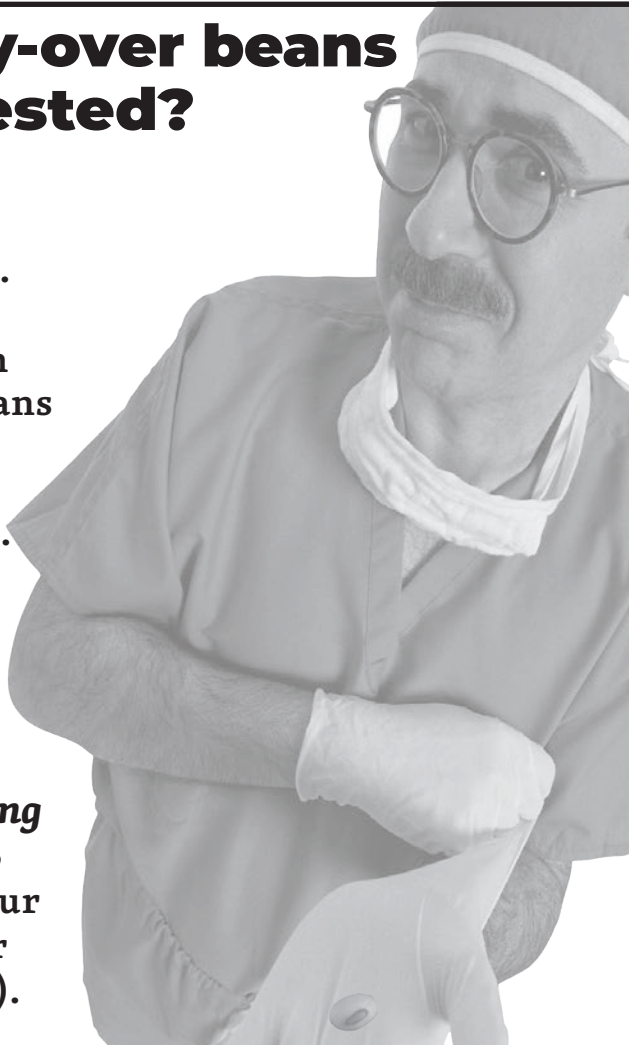
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# VIEWS AND OPINIONS

## The long and short of it



FARM AND FOOD FILE  
By Alan Guebert

If you're a farmer or rancher, you might be in for a bad day when you open your Monday morning email and five of the six headlines sent by an ag news service read:

"USDA declares Brazilian beef safe, lifts [U.S. import] ban;"

"GAO launches investigation into Trump aid to farmers;"

"China could purchase much less U.S. farm product than thought, new USDA estimate suggests;"

"As Trump heads to India, a trade deal appears elusive;" and

"In all-caps tweet, Trump vows new farm bailouts as China purchases appear weaker than promised."

Those Monday, Feb. 24 headlines were, in fact, an iceberg that global markets might have steered around if the really big event of the previous weekend, the spread of China's coronavirus, had not ballooned.

By mid-morning that day, market bears had taken 16.5-cent per bushel out of May soybean futures and five cents out of May corn futures. May wheat was clipped for 17 cents and both cattle and hog futures dropped nearly \$3 per hundredweight.

Those cuts, however, were skinned knees compared to the slashing the Dow Jones Industrial Average took that day; it dropped 1,036 points, or 3.6 percent, just its third 1,000-point drop in history. It took another hit the next day, down another 879 points.

Interestingly, after the first day, farm commodities failed to follow the Dow down. Turnaround Tuesday, an event so common it has its own name with traders, brought some stability—no change in corn, hog, and wheat futures and a tiny nickel up in beans. Cattle, though, took another \$2 whack.

One explanation for the market diversion points out the difference between the two markets: the Dow was near a record high and was due a correction while most ag futures were stuck where they've been for more than a year—in the mud—and can't fall much lower.

A more apt but socially unacceptable explanation is that the quickly spreading coronavirus will, sooner or later, fade. In fact, on the same day the Dow was getting its second bloody nose, China announced a "plunge in new infections" of the disease there.

If accurate, that likely means stocks and equities might regain much, if not all, of their losses because the underlying fundamentals that took the Dow to record highs earlier this year—a slow, but growing world economy, a U.S. government spending binge, an American election year—remain in place to prime the retracement pump.

By contrast, the echoes of the ag-related headlines that Monday morning will be heard by farmers and ranchers for weeks and months to come.

For example, resumption of Brazilian beef imports is more bad news for a market already weighed down by three millstones: falling prices, rising domestic cattle numbers, and record beef production in 2020.

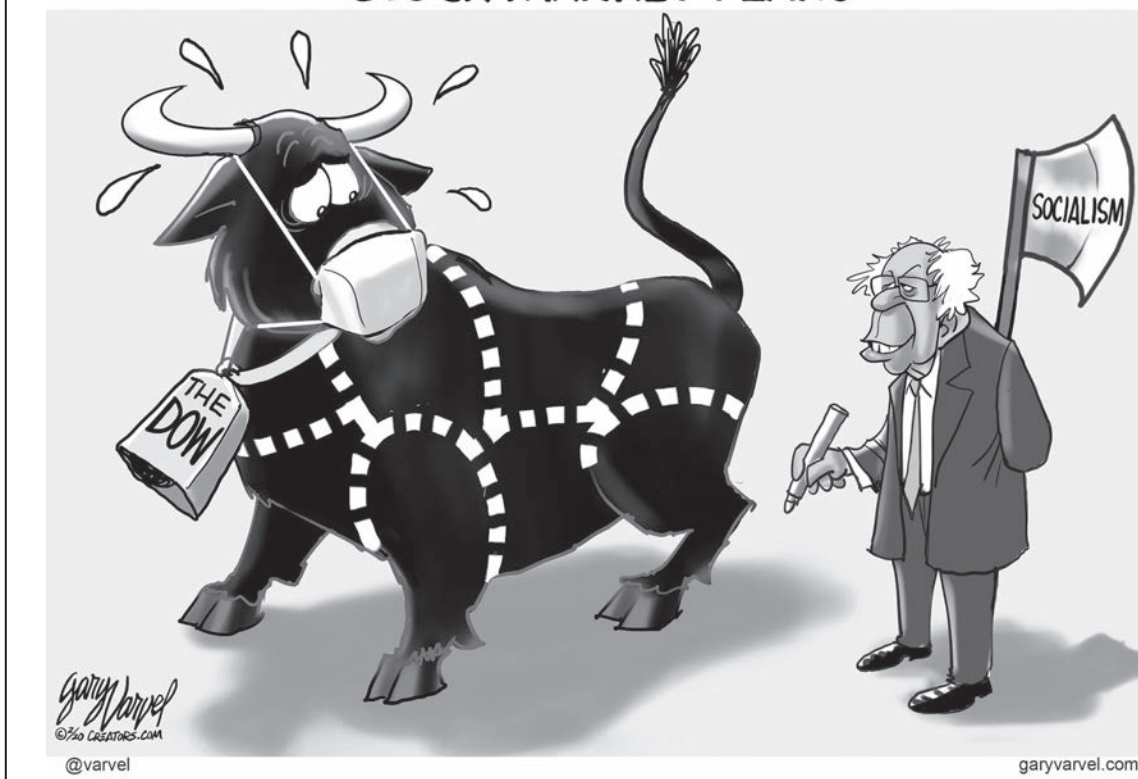
Also, any government inquiry into the legality of the Administration's unallocated \$28 billion in "Market Facilitation Payments" is not good news after the President, just last week, promised a third round of the subsidies in 2020 if markets continue to tread water.

Moreover, who thinks it's a good sign that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief economist just forecast that Chinese purchases of U.S. ag goods would hit \$14 billion this marketing year, not the "get-bigger-tractors," \$40 to \$50 billion prediction of the White House in January?

And, of course, the U.S. farm markets aren't going to get any price boost at all from the Administration's recent admission that it failed to get even a short-term trade deal with India.

(Farm and Food continued on page 8)

## STOCK MARKET FEARS



## Speak up and let people know farmers are givers not takers

There is an old adage that goes, "a hungry man has one problem, and a well-fed man has many." This is true in our American culture. Consumers walk into a grocery store and can choose from 50 different breakfast cereals, 30 different laundry detergents, and an entire row of salty snacks. The produce department is filled with a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, no matter what the calendar says. The milk and meat cases are always full. Yet most people do not understand how this food gets delivered to their store and what it takes to produce it. Thus, when there are headlines announcing billions of tax dollars going to farmers for disaster aid, crop insurance, or Market Facilitation Payments, they see agriculture as takers and not as givers.

However, recent research from the USDA reveals a different story. According to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, the average American spends 5 percent of their disposable income on food. Compare this to France where the average French person spends 13 percent of their disposable income on food. According to Perdue, when you multiply this by the population of the U.S., farmers give consumers \$840 billion. These are dollars that, if it were not for our food and fiber production system, they would have to spend on food.

Looking at it this way, the \$40 billion spent on a wide variety of farm support

programs looks like a pretty good deal. Yet that is not how it gets spun by the uninformed mainstream media or activist groups. The result is farmers are viewed as takers of handouts rather than the significant contributors they are.

This is only one aspect of the contribution agriculture makes. There also are the economic activity generated on the local and state levels, and the exports that are one of the few areas in which the U.S. has a positive balance of trade. Let's face it, however, most people outside of agriculture just don't care.

Perdue, speaking to over 4,000 farmers at Commodity Classic last week in San Antonio, made an impassioned plea for farmers to start speaking up. In his well-cultivated, good ole boy Georgia accent, he challenged those in attendance to start talking about the many positive contributions farmers make every day. He indicated this would be a major talking point and focus of USDA in 2020.

It has been a while since we have seen this kind of focus from the USDA — not since the days of John Block and Earl Butz. Yes, other Ag Secretaries have been advocates for agriculture, but not to this extent. However, Perdue pointed out, he is just one voice. While his megaphone is larger than most of us have, each of

(Hoosier Ag Today continued on page 8)



HOOSIER AG TODAY  
By Gary Truitt

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# Maple syrup festival fun and educational

BY DEBORAH BEHREND  
Indiana Coorespondent

SALEM, Ind. - February and early March are prime time to collect maple sap to make syrup. And LM Sugarbush LLC opens its gates to the general public to entertain with various activities and teach visitors how the sweet stuff is made.

While visitors are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the working festival grounds, they also can wait for an employee to lead tours on the hour and explain the process and answer questions during the two weekends of the festival.

Tour guide Logan Hurst said he has worked on the farm for 18 years and has done a little of everything.

The best days for sap collection are when the temperature is above freezing during the day and below freezing at night prior to bud formation on the trees. Hurst explained that once the trees start to bud, they can't use the sap.

"As the tree is getting ready to bud, the sap starts moving the nutrients the tree will need," he said.

Although he was unsure how many years the trees can be tapped, they start the process when the tree is about 30 years old. Each tree can sustain multiple taps, depending on the diameter of the tree.

Rather than placing a bucket on each tap, they are connected by tubes that carry the sap to a collection tank. As production ceases each spring, workers go back and flush the lines with apple cider vinegar. They also plug the taps.

The sap itself is thin, almost like water, and Hurst said it is potable and tastes like water with a hint of maple.

"Because the freeze-thaw cycles are a little unpredictable in southern Indiana, we tapped the trees a little late this year on Feb. 15. But we've collected about 6,000 to 7,000 gallons of sap, which is about where we usually are this time of year," Hurst said.

The holding tanks are then drained into larger tanks of more than 1,000 gallons for transport to the "sugar house." There, the sap is fed into the reverse osmosis machine to remove about 60 percent of the water before it's fed into



**Above:** Robert Blackman, one of the co-owners of LM Sugarbush LLC measures the density of finished maple syrup with a hydrometer during the farm's Maple Syrup Festival on Feb. 29.

the evaporator. At that point, the sap has gone from about two percent sugar to 10 percent.

The process can be completed without reverse osmosis, but Hurst explained that removing most of the water before the sap is heated reduces the time it takes and the use of firewood for the evaporator.

A 700-gallon tank holds the sap between the reverse osmosis process and the evaporator. The first area of the evaporator heats the sap. The sap then leaves the hooded pan and enters a flat pan to complete the last stage of the boiling process.

The finished syrup is drawn off the flat pan at a temperature just seven degrees above the boiling point of water (212 degrees Fahrenheit). Along with a specific temperature, the syrup is also tested for a specific density with a hydrometer.

The final stop in the process involves heating the syrup again to 180 degrees before it's bottled.

LM Sugarbush LLC is a 140-acre family farm. Established in 1981 as Leane and Michael's Sugarbush, the operation is

**(Maple Syrup continued on page 14)**

**Below:** Logan Hurst discusses the sap-collecting process in the midst of a young (30-year-old) grove of maple trees at LM Sugarbush LLC's Maple Syrup Festival on Feb. 29.



# Farm and Food

FROM PAGE 6

That's the long and short of it, as my father often said. It wasn't a comment on what side of the market he was on; it was an honest recognition of where he stood when facing tough choices.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at [www.farmandfoodfile.com](http://www.farmandfoodfile.com).

# Hoosier Ag

FROM PAGE 6


us still has an obligation to speak up and to paint a positive picture of our industry. Let's face it, most of the messages people hear about agriculture are negative, not positive.

While issues like GMOs and Antibiotics get a lot of attention, the root issue is food safety for most consumers. If they know their food is safe, how it is produced is not a top of mind issue compared to grocery store receipt. Food security and abundance are also not issues for most, though not all, consumers. People expect their food retailers to always have full shelves, except the night before a forecast winter storm. Telling consumers how all this is made possible by a profitable and free-market agriculture sector will help them understand that farmers are givers and not takers.

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## Organic

FROM PAGE 1

manager for the Lexington, Ky Farmers Market. "People seek out organics for several reasons ranging from the perceived health benefits, to traceability, to environmental purposes. There are also more organic farmers because of programs to encourage value added agriculture and certified/inspected ag practices such as the USDA's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic programs. Small scale organic ag has also gotten mechanical easier with improving research from academic institutions. Finally organic typically allows for farmers to collect a premium price on the their product so that they can spend less time and energy making the same income, or better yet using the same time and energy but making an increased profit."

In the USDA study, California had by far the most certified organic farms in 2016, with 2,713. Its nearly 1.1 million acres of organic farms represented 21 percent of all U.S. certified organic land. The states with the second- and third-highest number of farms were Wisconsin (1,276 farms) and New York (1,059). Since 2011, Alabama, South Carolina and Missouri all saw increases of more than 200 percent.

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# No markets this week

The USDA did not update its market website in time for this week's issue of Farm World. We regret this inconvenience. The Markets are a service we pull in from a specific USDA site and if it is not updated we do not have a way to get the markets in a useable form.

Many of you have asked about the Lexington Livestock Market. It has not been on the markets we have downloaded for a few weeks. We are looking into the issue.

# Life too busy? Ask a 1-year-old for some advice

Proverbs 1:5 "A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel . . ."

Adulthood complicates life. Sometimes it takes a one-year-old to help you reset your priorities. When you listen carefully you'll find life becomes more enjoyable.

It was another busy week, which as usual pushed me to the brink of exhaustion.

Then Ruby stepped into the picture! After a nine-month wait, Luke took Brianna to the hospital. One-year-old Ruby came to Nana's house to await the arrival of baby sister. And I stepped out of my busy life and back into time. Déjà vu took over as I relived the days of caring for a toddler. I had forgotten about the uncomplicated moments of small but essential things. Somehow all the busyness had sapped my joy. It took a one-year-old to slow my dash for accomplishment enough to rediscover the delight of the simple life. In just a few days I was reminded of several important lessons.

### 1. Live in the moment.

So often I sacrifice pleasure to the god of accomplishment. The afternoon was waning and dinner needed preparation. But Ruby heard Apache outside barking. She didn't care that dinner hour was approaching. She wanted to see the "Arf Arf." So reluctantly I set aside the preparations, picked her up, and together we stood watching the doggy's antics. It wasn't until later I realized the joy of suspending needful tasks to "be in the moment." We ate dinner just a little later, but I felt peaceful and nobody starved.

### 2. Dip every nugget into the sauce more than once.

I have a habit of eating fast. I gulp in order to get on to the next thing. Ruby isn't like that. While visiting a favorite restaurant she savored every bite, dipping each chicken finger into the sauce multiple times. Long after I finished, Ruby was still dipping



VERSES FROM MAMA  
By Sandra Sheridan

and enjoying. The slow pace gave more time for relaxing and observing. What was the rush anyway?

### 3. Sing along even when you can't keep the tune.

Why do adults become so self-conscious? We don't want to mess up, so we often shut down. In doing so, we lose opportunities for fun. While driving,

Abigail and I spontaneously started singing. Suddenly from the back seat we heard Ruby singing along. She had no idea of the words or tune, but didn't want to be left out. Her sweet voice brought huge smiles to our faces.

And Ruby wasn't yet finished teaching this Nana important life lessons. Check back next time for several other life lessons from our precocious Ruby Mae.

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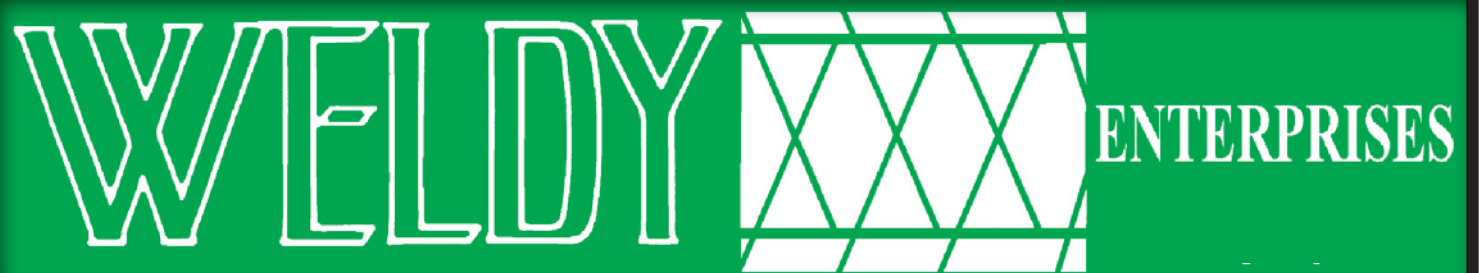
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# Setzer

FROM PAGE 11

provide economic relief to smaller refiners, but many in the renewable fuel industry feel they are being abused and want them repealed.

Doubt is rising over the estimates we have seen on US corn acreage estimates for this coming year. Some of these have reached 95 million, roughly 5 million more than the US planted last year. While not impossible, the US will have to see near perfect weather conditions for corn acres to reach this level. Not only will spring weather be a factor on planting, but on the ability

for farmers to harvest remaining acres across the Corn Belt. This is especially the case for North Dakota, where an estimated 51 percent of the state's corn is still in fields.

This commentary is the sole opinion of Karl Setzer, Senior Commodity Risk Analyst for AgriVisor, LLC. This is intended for informational purposes only and not to be used for specific trading recommendations. The information used to generate this commentary is gathered from a variety of sources believed to be accurate. If you have any questions or would like additional market information, feel free to send an e-mail to ksetzer@agrivisor.com.

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Information

## Reynold's Spring Ag Expo



**Above:** Attendance was great during the Feb. 25 Reynold's Spring Ag Expo held at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds-Exhibition Center in Noblesville, Ind. The event also featured a number of vendors. Farm World, Hoosier Ag Today and The Indiana Equipment and Technology Expo sponsored the day's activities. Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today moderated the Ag Panel Discussion shown here. John Deere equipment was featured both inside and outside the event facility and several seminars were offered.

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# Buy out of Dean Foods by Dairy Farmers of America

**BY STAN MADDUX**  
Indiana Corespondent

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Dairy Farmers of America is offering \$425 million in U.S. bankruptcy court for much of the Dean Foods operation.

The transaction pending final approval would seem like a good fit considering the high standing of each group in the industry and their working relationship before and during bankruptcy proceedings. Many DFA members are suppliers to Dean Foods. DFA headquartered in Kansas City Kan. is the largest dairy cooperative in the U.S. with 14,500 member owners in 48 states.

"As Dean is the largest dairy processor in the country and a significant customer of DFA, it is important to ensure continued secure markets for our members' milk and minimal disruption to the U.S. dairy industry," said Rick Smith, DFA's chief executive.

According to DFA, the deal would include the purchase of 44 facilities owned by Dean Foods and their associated direct store delivery system along with certain corporate and other assets and functions.

The offer comes as no surprise with a buyout from DFA speculated in early reports about the financial struggles of Dean Foods, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November.

One hope of the proposed takeover is to better compete with changes in the supply chain from Walmart in 2018 opening its own milk-processing plant near Fort Wayne, Ind.

Walmart eliminating the middle man to provide milk to its grocery customers was cited as a major reason for the downfall of Dean Foods along with the rising cost of raw milk, reduced milk consumption and competition from non-dairy beverages.

"We have had a relationship with DFA over the past 20-years, and we are confident in their ability to succeed in the current market and

serve our customers with the same commitment to quality and service our customers have come to expect," said Eric Beringause, the Dean Foods chief executive. The impact on small and mid-sized suppliers of Dean Foods remains to be seen.

Some producers are concerned they could be eliminated from the supply chain if DFA emerges from the bankruptcy proceedings closing plants now owned by Dean Foods to scale back operating costs. They're also worried about finding other supply chains given the move by Walmart and other major retailers in recent years to get milk from strictly larger producers.

Monica Massey, executive vice-president and chief of staff at DFA, told Bloomberg news DFA has been closely watching Dean Foods since the company began revealing signs of financial distress to try and minimize the impact to DFA and its members.

Doug Leman, executive director of Indiana Dairy Producers, said he

understands change in any industry isn't easy and only time will tell the outcome if the proposed DFA takeover goes through. His outlook, though, is more hopeful. "Any time you have a viable company purchasing a non-viable company it's probably a positive for the industry."

"The most positive thing I've heard is they're looking to preserve some local markets for producers. I'm glad somebody is taking over the plants," Leman said. He also believes any small or mid-size producers negatively impacted will find other supply chains.

He said processors like Dean Foods left behind from giant retailers going directly to major producers have to get their milk from other sources and milk offered in larger venues like Walmart can help drive up demand. "The companies supplying Walmart left other suppliers and those suppliers need to get their milk from some place. It's going to open another plant for the others."

## Appaloosa

FROM PAGE 5

The Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center annually hosts more than 400 meetings, shows, sports and agricultural events, including the Indiana State Fair, according to Indiana State Fair Commission Executive Director Cindy Hoye.

"Our team first started knocking on the door of this high profile, national

show in the summer of 2018," Hoye said. Ultimately, our modern facilities, customer service-centered staff and rich history of presenting iconic, national events, made us an ideal venue for hosting the show."

Johnson said the ApHC has an option to continue beyond the three-year contract. "We have that option to renew," he said. "And if we have great shows and strong attendance, I see no reason for not extending that contract."

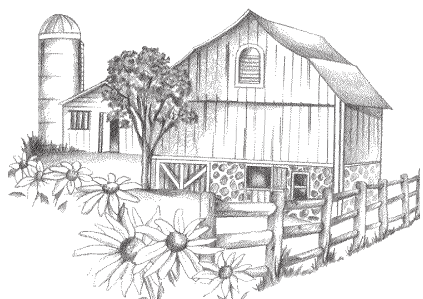
The National Appaloosa Horse Show began in 1948 and was first held in Lewiston, Idaho. Over the years, it has moved to several different venues across the country, from Colorado to Mississippi, Johnson said. Last year, the show drew participants from 40 states, in addition to Canada, Mexico, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

The ApHC was established in 1938 with a mission of preserving promoting and enhancing the Appaloosa breed. The ApHC has since registered nearly

700,000 Appaloosas, characterized for their distinctive color, intelligence and even temperament. Appaloosas can be found in nearly every discipline including show, racing and endurance riding, as well as serving as reliable family horses. The international breed registry is headquartered in Moscow, Idaho, the heart of the Palouse region - the Appaloosa breed's namesake and point of origin.

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# U.S. Grains Council touted ethanol at India Auto Expo

The exhibition area at the India Auto Expo, India's largest auto show held every two years, covers an area equal to 15 football fields. Stationed amid vehicle unveilings and booths representing 40 different vehicle manufacturers, the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) and U.S. industry partners invited attendees to learn about the economic, environmental and health benefits of increased ethanol use. Roughly 600,000 individuals — including Indian consumers, fuel industry stakeholders and government officials — attended the auto show.

The Society for the Indian Automobile Association (SIAM) invited the Council to attend the show in February. Jim Zook, executive director of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, and Greg Krissek, CEO of Kansas Corn, joined with USGC staff and consultants to represent the U.S. farmer and ethanol production perspectives.

"The Council's participation in the Auto Show was very successful and allowed us to place ethanol at the highest level of importance to both Indian consumers and industry as well as government officials," said Alejandra Danielson Castillo, USGC regional director for South Asia. "This marked the first engagement requested by an Indian stakeholder in our in-country ethanol market development effort and allowed us to show the U.S. industry members in attendance our strategy at work."

India is currently the third largest buyer of U.S. ethanol in the 2019/2020 marketing year (September 2019-December 2019) at 48.8 million gallons (17.3 million bushels in corn equivalent). However, those imports were only for industrial uses. As a producer of ethanol, India's national biofuels policy does not allow ethanol imports for fuel use. The Council is working with Indian industry to address the economic benefits of having a robust fuel ethanol industry policy, including the potential for imports to help the country meet its E10 mandate.

The USGC booth worked to dispel some myths about ethanol use, emphasizing how ethanol has cleaner combustion properties, reduces particulate matter emissions, reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions, does not impact food security and provides cost savings.

"I was very impressed with the booth layout, with the traffic that came through and all the questions being asked of the participants," Zook said. "A very educational booth allowed us to answer a lot of questions for the people attending the show."

The biggest draw to the booth, however, was a mock U.S. fuel pump that provided a clear demonstration of the price difference between ethanol and non-ethanol blended gasoline, including significant cost savings for consumers. The Indian Minister of Road Transport and Highway came to the booth to specifically look at the pump and pricing options.

"The mock gas pump stimulated conversation among event attendees," Danielson Castillo said. "Allowing full market access to the fuel market, all Indian motorists could have access to at least E10 in their pumps, capturing all of the economic, environmental and health benefits."

While in country, Krissek also spoke on an alternative fuels panel during the Global Electrification Mobility Summit, which ran concurrently to the expo.

The Council will continue to build upon these partnerships in India and engage with stakeholders, like the ones involved with the Auto Expo, who can work with the Indian government as policy changes are discussed.

"The Council — in responding to the invitation to be at the auto show — was well-placed to discuss ethanol and its compatibility with Indian vehicles," Krissek said. "It's an exciting time to meet with stakeholders so that when trade opportunities are available, the U.S. ethanol industry will be well-positioned to further develop these partnerships."

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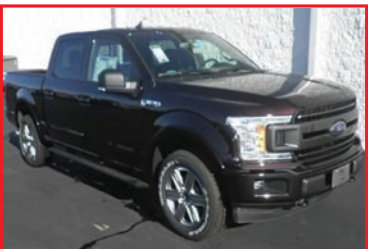
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## Indiana teens win in national 'Make It With Wool' competition

BY EMMA HOPKINS-O'BRIEN  
Indiana Correspondent

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Two Indiana teens won top honors in the national Make It With Wool (MIWW) competition held during the American Sheep Industry (ASI) Convention in January.

Indiana was well-represented in this year's national MIWW competition by Madeline Douglas, 16, of Flat Rock, who took first in the junior 13-16 age division, and Olivia Lexie of Marshall who placed in the top 10 of the 17-24 age division. Robyn Heine, who has been Indiana's MIWW director for five years, says that ultimately, the competition celebrates

**Below:** ISA board member Stan Poe (left), Junior winner Madeline Douglas (middle) and ISA Executive Director Bob Benson (right) pose at the 2020 ASI Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.



the beauty of wool.

"People usually come into MIWW out of an interest in wool and they've been crocheting or knitting or sewing with wool," Heine said. "There is an ease in sewing when working with wool—it lays flat when you sew it, it's easy to iron, it feeds nicely through the machine, it's just nice to work with, even if you are making something complex like gathers or a button hole. It also drapes very nicely on a person. I think that's why it's great to work with for young kids or inexperienced sewers."

An Indiana Sheep Association- (ISA) supported competition at the state level, MIWW is a program in which competitors create sewn items and clothing using only wool or high wool-blended fabrics. Much like the sewing project young people may take in 4-H, several ages and categories exist in MIWW in which participants are judged on their construction of the projects as well as "wearability," judged during a fashion review in which participants model the items. Winners of the state competition then compete at the national level.

Though it may be more obscure than the 4-H sewing project, MIWW participants feel just as satisfied completing their wool projects and showing them off in competition. Some contestants even enter their 4-H projects made with wool into the MIWW competition. Additionally, MIWW affords contestants the opportunity to knit, crochet or felt their projects, allowing for more diversity in their projects.

"I like working with wool and the

challenges it brings because of its authenticity," Douglas said. "I love my dark gray coat that I can wear to formal events and take with me to college."

Douglas became involved with the competition at the encouragement of her cousin, who won the state competition a few years ago. In addition to winning her division, Douglas also received a special honor for her use of mohair—fiber produced by angora goats—in her coat.

"My outfit is a three-piece ensemble," Douglas explained. "I made a mohair duffle coat with toggles, button closures, and a separating zipper. My top is made from wool jersey knit and has a side-gathered detail. The skirt is made from fabric I won last year at the Indiana MIWW competition."

Heine, who has been sewing with wool since she was about 12, said traditional coats and scarves are a project option to participate in MIWW, but more and more she sees a very diverse set of clothing in the competition.

"We've had summer outfits—shorts made from light-weight wool fabric," she said. "If you look into the different types of wools, you will find light jersey wools that can be made into short-sleeve shirts, I've even seen formal wear such as long gowns. I've seen wool mixed with denim to make it look like jeans, which can be fun, giving a little more stretch to it."

Knitting, weaving, felting and crocheting with wool yarn adds a whole new set of diversity to what is possible within the confines of the competition,



**Above:** Madeline Douglas and Olivia Lexie South were named in the top 10 in the junior and senior divisions at the National MIWW competition.

especially in categories such as wearable accessories and—new this year—home décor.

"I would say that's the beauty of wool, because it can be used in so many versatile ways—in ways that people haven't thought of," Heine said.

Entries for this year's MIWW competition in Indiana are due July 1. The contest itself is set for August 9 in the Indiana Arts Building at the Indiana State Fair. For more information, check out the MIWW website, [www.makeitwithwool.com](http://www.makeitwithwool.com), or visit the Indiana Make it With Wool Facebook page, the Indiana Sheep Association website [www.indianasheep.com](http://www.indianasheep.com), or the Make It with Wool Contest website: [www.makeitwithwool.com](http://www.makeitwithwool.com).



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# Field Work podcast returns for season two

ST. PAUL, Minn. — *Field Work* will return next month with a second season dedicated to new discussions about agriculture, sustainability and the experiences of those on farming's front lines.

Season Two launches March 11 with weekly episodes dropping on Wednesdays. In this season of *Field Work*, co-hosts Mitchell Hora and Zach Johnson will continue their conversations about cover crops, conservation tillage, and water management, while expanding into dairy farm sustainability, integrating livestock into a row crop operation, bioreactors, hemp farming and more.

Hora, an Iowa farmer and soil health consultant, and Johnson, a fifth-generation farmer from west central Minnesota — also recognized as YouTube's "Millennial Farmer" — will welcome in a number of guests from the agriculture industry to this season of *Field Work* and also bring in the voices of listeners who have submitted questions and comments since the wrap of the podcast's debut season.

Produced by American Public Media's The Water Main, *Field Work* was launched in the spring of 2019 to promote the voices and lived experiences of agriculture producers. With listeners in all 50 states and more than 350,000 downloads and YouTube views, the show's first season produced 15 episodes that dove into precision ag, the power of farm data, cover crops and more.

Perfect for listening in the car, in the tractor or at home, *Field Work* episodes can be found on all podcast platforms, and episodes are also available for listening on *Field Work's* YouTube channel. Learn more about the show at [fieldworktalk.org](http://fieldworktalk.org) and follow along for updates at [@fieldworktalk](https://twitter.com/fieldworktalk).

**Below:** Photo of Mitchell Hora (L) and Zach Johnson (R) in studio; courtesy of *Field Work*



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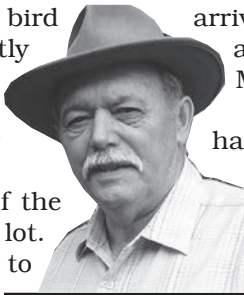
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# The buzzards are back and Indiana has a new birding trail

Some of our local bird aficionados have recently contacted me to let me know the buzzards are back. Yes they are, but actually they never really left.



**SPAULDING OUTDOORS**  
By Jack Spaulding

Our sanitation engineers of the sky are basically a slovenly lot. They are more than willing to let pickup trucks and cars do their hunting, and then simply dine on the roadside remains.

As for their migratory tendencies... they are in it for the least distance needed to get out in front of an Arctic blast. Buzzards are ill equipped to dine on frozen carcasses and will go just enough to the south to get into an area of frost free roadside freebies. The buzzards come and go like a tidal ebb and flow controlled by bouts of warm and freezing weather.

I've personally seen them several times over the winter. Mild days bring them winging overhead looking for nasty little tidbits along the roadside ditches. One of our readers, Wanda Moore of St. Paul, Indiana sent me an e-mail to let me know buzzards were in the area.

Our good neighbors to the East, those die-hard Ohio Buckeyes regal and celebrate annually on the prompt

arrival of their flock of buzzards at Hinckley on the 15th of March.

Hey all you Buckeyes hanging around Hinckley in such great anticipation... if you're looking for your buzzards, they're over here, lazing around Central Indiana plumping up on plastered 'possum, mangled raccoon and other roadside delicacies.

## New Indiana Birding Trail Features 35 DNR Sites

More than half of the sites on the new Indiana Birding Trail, which the Indiana Audubon Society (IAS) announced earlier this year, are operated by the DNR. Indiana's DNR worked with IAS and several regional partners to develop the trail, which provides a great resource for Hoosier birders and others who might visit the state for business, vacation or pleasure.

"Birds make great ambassadors, and our partnership in developing the trail with the Indiana Audubon Society, city and county parks, and regional tourism organizations is a great example of how we can all work together to introduce Hoosiers and out-of-state guests to Indiana's natural resources," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director of Indiana State Parks.

DNR sites range from the Lake Michigan shoreline of Indiana Dunes State Park, to the prairie at Prophetstown State Park, to the wetlands of Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, and to the wooded hills of Brown County State Park and Yellowwood State Forest.

The trail focuses on species to watch

for in each location, site amenities making travel easier, and birding ethics such as remaining on roads, paths and trails in order to limit bird and habitat disturbance. The website also features an interactive map for quick views of each location and a downloadable guidebook.

"Indiana birders know that the Hoosier state provides a wide range of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and discover the diversity in size, shapes, colors, patterns, habits and habitats of birds," Murphy said. "The Indiana Birding Trail showcases the best sites in the state to find a range of species."

Located within the Mississippi Flyway, Indiana's wetlands and forests provide resources for birds to fuel up during migration as they fly through the state. The lakefront of Lake Michigan gets massive spring migratory congregations as birds rest and prepared to fly over the lake.

Birding highlights along the trail also include the wide variety of year-round resident bird species, and species returning to Indiana each spring to find mates and raise their young before returning to their wintering grounds farther south.

Properties on the Indiana Birding Trail will be identified with a sign including the birding trail logo.

Printed copies of the Indiana Birding Trail guide are available at properties located on the trail. The downloadable guide and online resources are at [Indianabirdingtrail.com](http://Indianabirdingtrail.com). For other locations for wildlife viewing, see [dnr.IN.gov/3233.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/3233.htm).

## Help Build Fish Habitat at Patoka Lake

Volunteers can help DNR improve fish habitat at Patoka Lake during a habitat structure build day on March

14 from 1:30 to 3:30pm. Structures are needed because as reservoirs such as Patoka Lake age, the number and type of hiding places for fish decrease. The Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Program addresses the issue and works to build fish habitat where natural structure is lacking. Building structures out of wood pallets is one option to improve habitat complexity.

Volunteers should meet at Painter Creek Ramp, located on the northern part of the lake off of S.R. 145. For a map of Painter Creek Ramp, see [stateparks.IN.gov/files/patoka\\_trail.pdf](http://stateparks.IN.gov/files/patoka_trail.pdf).

Pallets and hardware will be provided. Volunteers should bring cordless drills, work gloves and protective eyewear, but bringing tools is not required to be able to attend. Staff and volunteers will work outside, so please dress accordingly; long pants and close-toed shoes are recommended. Bring snacks and plenty of drinking water. Volunteers are not required to stay for the entire time.

Register for the event by signing up as a volunteer with the Division of Fish & Wildlife. See [on.IN.gov/dfwvolunteer](http://on.IN.gov/dfwvolunteer) and follow instructions under "Sign up to Volunteer." Once you have a volunteer account, register for the event by clicking "current volunteer opportunities in CERVIS" under volunteer opportunities and selecting Patoka Lake Habitat Build.

The Patoka Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan is available on Indiana's Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Program webpage, see [wildlife.IN.gov/7665.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/7665.htm) for details.

'till next time, Jack

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

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# USDA's 5-year research plan

When we read that Agriculture's Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics Scott Hutchins had announced the release of a new 5-year blueprint that included Sustainable Ag Intensification, and Ag Climate Adaptation as two of the 5 program themes, we were interested.

In the last decade we have seen a number of weather-related events that affect agriculture and are consistent with what we would expect as a consequence of global climate change. Crops like corn are being grown further north than ever before. Farmers have faced a greater number of extreme weather events than ever before. Widespread wildfires are now an annual event in some parts of the country.

At the same time many farmers and farm groups have worked to keep global climate change on the back burner or even off the stove at all. They have done so either because they do not believe that humans are playing a significant role in climate change or more likely they are opposed to any regulations that might force them to change their agricultural production practices.

But the announcement that the 5-year blueprint included sections titled "Sustainable Ag Intensification" and "Ag Climate Adaptation" had us hopeful that the USDA was going to address up to one of the most serious issues facing farmers today: a period of rapid climate change that leaves farmers in one area subject to widespread flooding while others are suffering from high temperatures and the lack of water. And these events are occurring more often than in the past.

The wording of two of the sections should have given us a hint of what was to come: nothing about sustainable practices. Not once did the paper give any sense that research in ag sustainability or sustainable practices were given serious attention. There were no items that suggested that sustainable practices might play a role in reducing agriculture's contribution to global climate change.

We would have thought that agriculture's role in climate mitigation would have been mentioned alongside Ag Climate Adaptation. But we were wrong.

We have no doubt that many scientists working at USDA take climate change seriously and are working on the role that ag can play in mitigating global climate change. Likewise, we are sure that most of the scientists who are submitting grant proposals to the agencies under Hutchins believe that their research will make a difference in helping farmers make their operations more sustainable and contribute to climate mitigation.

What troubles us is that this administration's official stance of denying the role of humans in climate

## POLICY PENNINGS

BY DARYLL E. RAY  
AND HARWOOD D. SCHAFFER

change and the need of all of all US citizens to play a role in reducing the risk climate change poses, places conscientious scientists in a bind when they apply for USDA grants. Though the results of their research may play a significant role in mitigating climate change, they need to hide that fact when they write their grant proposals.

Given the recent dismissals of military and diplomatic officials by the White House we are concerned that scientists who acknowledge the impact of their research on climate change could see their consideration for future grants limited. That would not be in the interest of farmers who want to use the latest research to reduce or eliminate the impact of their agricultural operations on the climate. It would also not be in the best interest of our children, grandchildren and all future generations.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Farm World. Daryll E. Ray is the Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, and is the Director of UT's Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. Harwood D. Schaffer is a Research Assistant Professor at APAC. They can be contacted at dray@utk.edu and hdschaffer@utk.edu

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# Seed Genetics will screen 'Silo' March 7

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ohio — Seed Genetics Direct, a fast-growing corn and soybean seed company in Jeffersonville, Ohio, is sponsoring a free showing of "Silo", an independent film based on a real-life grain entrapment tragedy. The viewing will be held at 7 p.m. on March 7 at the Pike County Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Building, 311 Mill St.

The first film to focus on grain entrapment, "Silo" takes place in an American farm town when disaster strikes, trapping a teenager in a 50-foot-tall grain bin.

"Unfortunately, grain entrapment is a real and possible tragedy that agricultural communities face every day. 'Silo' shines a necessary light on a danger many don't know about," said Todd Jeffries, SGD vice president, who works with his father, Chris, to meet the needs of Eastern Corn Belt farmers. "We are a family business. We love agriculture because it's about relationships and helping each other. 'Silo' highlights how rural communities come together, and the deep relationships farmers and neighbors have with each other. It just made sense for us to be a part of showing the film."

Ethan Conn, soybean production lead for Seed Genetics, also serves as a volunteer firefighter with Jefferson Township Fire Department. As such, he has been trained on grain entrapment rescue and has even played the part of a victim in a training exercise.

"People may not know grain entrapment is really about pressure on the body that can suffocate a person—your head doesn't have to go under," said Conn. "When we trained for it, it was a very safe and controlled environment, but I could feel that pressure, as well as the pressure release when I was being rescued. It's something I will never forget."

Conn explained that part of the rescue equipment is a coffer dam, an airtight cylinder than surrounds a victim, relieves pressure and prevents grain from crushing a person. A shielded auger with a hand drill is then used to vacuum away the grain without hurting the victim.

"When we are working to rescue someone, we place milk crates across the grain. This provides rescuers something to step on and redistributes weight because I could be 10 feet away, but a trapped person will feel my steps because the pressure is so great. You can't just pull someone out, you could rip them in half. As a new farming season gears up, this is a good time to remind people of the dangers, and preventative measures, in agriculture."

Pike County Fairground doors will open at 6 p.m.; the movie will begin at 7 p.m. Free popcorn and water will be provided by Rural King. The movie, which is 70 minutes and recommended for children over the age of 10, is hosted by Wilber-Price Farm Solutions and Pike County Farm Bureau. Additional partners are Cargill, Houser and Son Farm Equipment, Jackson Ag Service LLC, Veach Trucking and the Pike County Agricultural Society.

Additional safety information will also be available at the "Silo" event.

Until then, remember Conn's words of advice, "As farmers, we have to inspect our grain for quality, but do it without putting your life at risk. A grain bin may look full, but there can be gaps and air pockets. Always work with someone when you have to enter a grain bin. Always have a safety tie-off. Never walk across the top."

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# Chet Atkins greatest guitarist of all genres

BITTERSWEET, Ky. - As I sat down to put these words together, I realized I have never written a column featuring the greatest country guitarist of all time Chet Atkins. Actually, when I say "country guitarist" I should say greatest guitarist of any genre.



RURAL ROUTE MUSIC  
Bluegrass Johnson

I can't remember the first time I heard this guitar master play, but I have never forgotten his style, and I can honestly say, there has never been another one like him.

Atkins brought a style to Nashville that actually transcended genres and brought pop lovers of the day to his country sound.

"Mr. Guitar" as he became known, got much of his inspiration from the great Merle Travis, from my home state. Travis was a singer, songwriter, but much of his fame came because of his own style of guitar picking. Atkins would take note and developed a thumb-finger style of picking that can only be called his own.

As a young musician I remember my dad telling me I should learn to play like Chet. Only problem is, nobody will ever pick like Chet. There are millions of aspiring guitar players whose dads probably told them the same thing.

Atkins actually began playing the ukulele as a child, before taking up the fiddle and finally on to the guitar. It was his endless practicing that would put him on the road to stardom. He began recording in the 1950s and performed into the 1990s before colon cancer took its toll. He passed away in

2001 but his legacy still lives on and his influence is still evident in so many great guitarists performing today.

Atkins was also a great producer and worked with so many great performers including Dolly Parton, Perry Como and Waylon Jennings, to name only a few.

In addition to his playing and producing, Atkins was also a design consultant for Gretsch Guitars which produced a line of Chet Atkins guitars. I had one but could never begin to play the way he did. Wish I had kept that guitar.

There are so many other things Atkins did in his career and was exceptional at all. And I won't even attempt to talk about all the awards he won during his career. But it is his style of playing that I will always remember. Thanks for all the great music, Mr. Guitar.

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# School bus fleet converting to propane

**BY STAN MADDUX**  
Indiana Coorespondent

MICHIGAN CITY — Co-ops are traditionally known for running grain elevators and supplying products like propane for use on farms.

One of the largest Co-ops in the Midwest is becoming a leading provider of cleaner burning propane to power engines on school buses. Co-Alliance, LLC just added Michigan City Area Schools in northwest Indiana to its growing base of customers replacing older diesel powered school buses with

models running on propane.

The firm already supplies propane for buses at neighboring Lake Central Schools and districts in other parts of the state. Their customer list could grow as other school districts consider making the switch to buses fueled by propane to reduce greenhouse emissions and save money on more costly diesel fuel.

"We have a lot of different locations and potential locations coming up," said Travis Nicholson, service and safety manager for the Avon, Indiana based company.

Co-Alliance is made up from partnerships with five longstanding community-based co-ops.

Nicholson said Co-Alliance is a relatively new provider of propane for school buses since technology for such mainstream use of the fuel just advanced to this stage in recent history. "It's really a new age product. We're really excited about it being in this territory."

**Left:** Michigan City Area Schools transportation director Sue Harrison (left) helped unveil five new school buses powered by propane on Monday. Three more should be here by summer.



**Above:** Michigan City Area Schools bus driver Michelle Nichols-Broad is filling up with propane as Travis Nicholson from Co-Alliance looks on. Five school buses running on propane hit the streets Monday afternoon.



The five school buses from Michigan City running on propane hit the streets for the first time February 24. Three more propane fueled buses should be here by summer. A \$206,699 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management helped offset the \$817,296 cost of the eight new buses.

Denise Willis, a 22-year MCAS bus driver said the propane models also get up to highway speed just as quickly and run much quieter. "I see a whole bunch of benefits. I don't see any real draw backs," she said.

A propane filling station at the MCAS transportation garage was provided at no cost by Co-Alliance. Bus drivers simply insert a nozzle and turn on the pump like they were at a gas station filling up their personal vehicles. The above ground tank holding 1,000 gallons of propane will be filled by Co-Alliance once a week. "It's basically a simple system. It's really safe," Nicholson said.

Sue Harrison, director of transportation for MCAS, said other advantages include not having to plug in the new buses during winter to keep the diesel fuel from gelling. She points out how the fuel tanks on the propane models by design are also much more puncture resistant. "The way they're slanted, if you were to have a rear-end collision it would cause the car to go under the tank and lift the bus up so you're not going to get that straight on force of a collision."

The district still has 50 diesel powered buses along with 10 relatively new gasoline fueled models. The plan is to phase out the remainder of diesel buses as they reach the end of their life spans. "In the long run, we're going to save money all the way around," Harrison said.

According to Propane.com, there are more than 15,000 school buses running on propane in 840 districts nationwide. More than 1,500 of those buses in over 100 districts are in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

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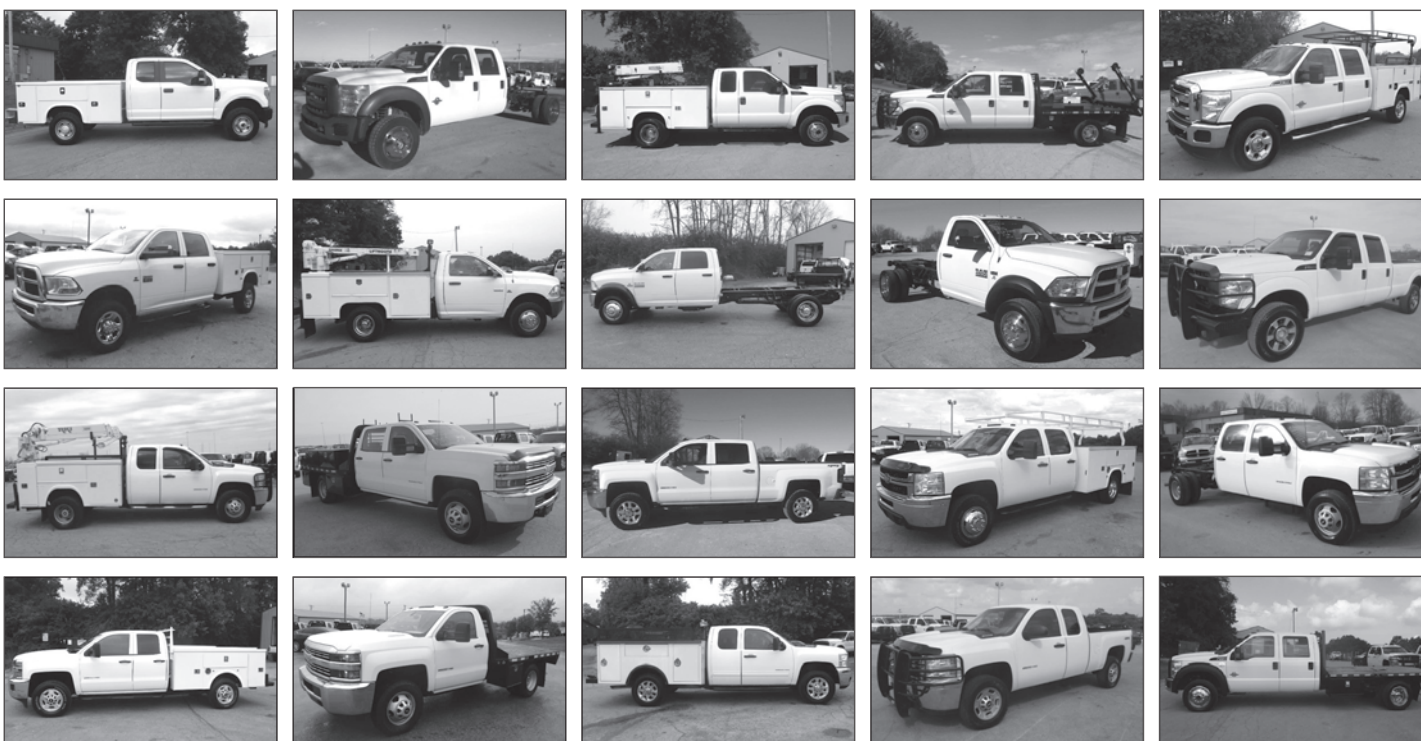
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# Illinois youth wins AG Day Essay Contest

**BY TIM ALEXANDER**  
Illinois Correspondent

LORRAINE, Ill. — An Illinois youth with an agricultural and scouting background has taken top honors in the written division of the 2020 Ag Day Essay Contest, sponsored by the Agricultural Council of America (ACA). Eli Mittermeyer, 17, of Lorraine, Ill., will receive a \$1,000 prize and travel to Washington, D.C., for recognition by the National Press Club in March.

The theme of the 2020 Ag Day contest was Food Brings Everyone to the Table. Mittermeyer's essay compels readers to consider the agricultural supply chain that provides the food on their dinner tables. He pays skillful tribute to the farmers that harvest the food, the technologies used to produce it, the numerous agricultural providers and suppliers that farmers rely on, and the legislators that set guidelines for production, processing and transportation of agricultural products.

"I wanted to communicate how much effort goes into one single meal," said Mittermeyer, an Eagle Scout with BSA Troop 32 who was raised in a farming family. "This is out of view for most people."

Mittermeyer's prize winning essay begins with a simple plea:

"Pass the mashed potatoes, please." When that heaping dish of fluffy goodness comes your way, you might think to thank the person passing it to you, or the person who prepared them. However, rarely does one consider all the people that brought that food your way."

From there, Mittermeyer expands upon farmers' ability to adapt to expanding technologies while minimizing environmental impacts and increasing food production:

"The farmers and ranchers who produce our food must work with countless agricultural providers and suppliers to provide solutions and technology that producers need to meet the challenges of feeding a growing global population. They also contribute to the significant impact agriculture has on our U.S. GDP, and the combination of agricultural, food, and related industries contributed over \$1 trillion to our GDP in 2017.

"These providers and suppliers also employ vast quantities of talented individuals such as scientists, engineers, and innumerable manufacturers to utilize the farmer's product. Their areas of expertise vary greatly, from drone technology to chemistry, hydrology, and beyond. Their talents help minimize agriculture's environmental impacts, and address the ever present challenges of feeding a global population. Due to this, the agriculture industry and its employees also join our farmers and producers at our table as our invisible guests."

Mittermeyer continued his essay with a nod to the broad impact government regulation can have on farming:

"We may not have intended to invite our legislators and government officials to our dinner table, but they also have a seat because of their impacts on our producers and our food supply. They are responsible for determining federal and state rules and regulations that affect everything from the environment to transportation. They develop our critically important trade policies with other countries, and establish our crop insurance rules and farm subsidy programs. These guests at the table can dramatically impact U.S. agriculture and its producers."

Mittermeyer told Farm World he considered winning the top essay prize to be a great honor, adding that he hopes anyone else who reads his essay can learn from it. He was inspired to create the essay due to his family's agricultural

background and the three years he spent with his high school's FFA program. Mittermeyer added that he was looking forward to his trip to the nation's capital, where he will read his prize-winning essay aloud for members of the National Press Club.

"I don't consider that to be a commitment, but a reward," he said.

Mittermeyer currently studies mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana. "I would like to get involved in robotics and automation," he noted. "I want to see automated manufacturing completed faster, more efficiently and more safely for the people involved."

The contest also named two "merit" winners-- Britt Bowesox of Iowa and Kaya Dorogi of Massachusetts-- who received \$100 and will have their essays featured in the Ag Day Blog. In addition, Samantha Geroges of Texas was selected as the national video essay winner and will receive a \$1,000 prize.



**Above:** Eli Mittermeyer will receive a \$1,000 prize and travel to Washington, D.C., for recognition by the National Press Club in March



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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.

**MAR 4 GREENFIELD, INDIANA: ELANCO US, INC. — SCHRADER REAL ESTATE & AUCTION CO., INC..** Real estate.. 11 am

**MAR 4 MONTGOMERY, INDIANA: ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION — SOUTHERN INDIANA AUCTION.** Horses, carriages, machinery, antiques.. 8 am

**MAR 4 RUMSEY, KENTUCKY: HAROLD WEST RETIREMENT — BIG IRON AUCTION.** Online unreserved auction, farm equipment.. no time given

**MAR 5 PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS: RYAN GEHRIG — SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS.** Real estate.. 4 pm

**MAR 5 DECATUR, INDIANA: 2 DAY AUCTION — KRUECKEBERT AUCTIONEERS.** Complete liquidation of truck service center, heavy trucks and equipment.. 10 am EST

**MAR 5 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO: STEWART FARMS, LLC — HARVEY PLUS AUCTION CO..** Farm equipment.. 10:30 am

**MAR 6 HOOPESTON, ILLINOIS: RETIREMENT AUCTION — MATT SULLIVAN.** Real estate.. 10am

**MAR 6 PARIS, ILLINOIS: LAND AUCTION — MOSS AUCTION TEAM.** 435 acres in 5 tracts.. 10 am Central

**MAR 6 DANSVILLE, MICHIGAN: GARNER FARMS — SCHRADER REAL ESTATE & AUCTION CO., INC..** Farm equipment.. 10 am SEE AD ON PAGE 20B

**MAR 7 MASCOUHAH, ILLINOIS: OLD TIME FARM AUCTION — MARK KRAUSZ AUCTION SERVICE.** Vehicles, Gators, tractors, tools, antiques and more.. 10 am

**MAR 7 BOONVILLE, INDIANA: CONSIGNMENT — DIMMETT AUCTION SERVICE & REALTY.** Farm equipment.. 9 am

**MAR 7 FOUNTAIN CITY, INDIANA: CONSIGNMENT — JONAS STOLTZFUS, JR. AUCTIONEER.** Equipment, horses, mules.. 9 am

**MAR 7 GREENSBURG, INDIANA: CONSIGNMENT AUCTION — OWENS AUCTION SERVICE.** Farm and construction equipment.. 9:30 am SEE AD ON PAGE 17B

**MAR 7 MONROVIA, INDIANA: CONSIGNMENT — HCATMA.** Antique and modern tractors and equipment, cars, trucks, trailers, tools.. 9 am SEE AD ON PAGE 17B

(Calendar continued on page 18B)

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# Wheat growers set to host annual meeting

BY KEVIN WALKER  
Michigan Correspondent

LANSING, Mich. - The Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) will hold its 8th annual winter grower meeting this month.

This popular one day meeting will be held March 18 from 8:15am to 3:30pm at the Eagle Eye Golf Course and Banquet Center in Bath Township, just north of Michigan State University(MSU). According to MWP Executive Director Jody Pollok-Newsom, this event has drawn several hundred attendees in the past.

"It's a free event," Pollok-Newsom said last week as she wound up her attendance at the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas. "We just want people to preregister, so we have enough handouts, food and seats. In the past we've had 300 people attend; we can cover that, but we just need to know who's coming."

Two main topics will be covered at

the annual meeting: The weather, and what growers can expect in the way of new wheat varieties coming through the pipeline, Pollok-Newsom added.

"The last growing season was so tough weather-wise, but we wanted to look forward," she said. "Weather expert Mark Torregrossa will talk about what we can look forward to this spring and help farmers do a little extra planning."

Torregrossa is a weather expert who currently works for the Mlive news organization. Torregrossa has also worked in the Saginaw, Mich., area as a television weather reporter.

The keynote speaker this year will be Citizens Elevator's Vice President of Grain Angie Setzer. Setzer manages five elevator locations as well as the on-farm program for Citizens Elevator, and is a nationally known markets commentator for publications such as *AgDay*, *U.S. Farm Report*, *Market to Market* and the Weather Channel. Setzer's weekly Cash is King column appears in *Pro Farmer*; the column focuses on the cash grains market and ways producers can take advantage of developing opportunities. Setzer will talk about how growers can improve their marketing strategies.

MSU wheat breeder Eric Olson will also be on hand; his presentation will be mainly about new wheat varieties MSU is developing.

"I'll be talking about some traits growers should look for to increase yield, avoid diseases like Fusarium head blight, and increase overall

quality, which includes resistance to preharvest sprouting," Olson said. "I would include baking and milling quality in the overall quality category. What traits should you consider when choosing a specific variety?"

Olson said he would include a discussion of non-MSU developed commercial varieties as well as those developed by MSU. Some companies also acquire licenses from to sell MSU developed wheat varieties commercially, Olson said.

The National Association of Wheat Growers' Josh Tonsager will also be on hand to talk about the national wheat scene.

The full agenda is located at www.miwheat.org at the top of the What's Hot column on the left edge of the screen. Although most people opt to register online, Pollok-Newsom said she would take calls at (517) 625-9432 for those who prefer to register over the telephone. Vendors wanting to join the trade show should email Pollok-Newsom at jody@miwheat.org or call 1-888-943-2801.

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- 32.90± FSA Cropland Acres w/ 5.7 CRP Acres
- Recreational Land with Woods and Pond
- Abundant Wildlife - HUNTER'S PARADISE!
- Great Location! Only 2 miles to US 40 / I-70 Interchange at the IN/OH State Line
- Newer 2-Story "A-Frame" Home & Estate-Sized Building Site

PROPERTY LOCATION: 7905 US Highway 40, New Paris, OH 45347.  
AUCTION SITE: The Gathering Place at 501 Nation Ave. Eaton, OH.  
TRACT DESCRIPTION: PREBLE Co. Jefferson Twp. (Section 33).  
TRACT 1: 48.33± ACRES featuring mature woods, young planted hardwoods, abundant native grasses w/ 19± FSA cropland acres (5.7 acres of current CRP grassland with contract expiring 09/30/2020). This is a great combination property w/ a hard to duplicate setting. The farm is improved by a 2-story "A-Frame" home (ready for your upgrading & finishing) w/ 3-4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, & attached 2.5 car garage. The house is nestled near the rear of the property overlooking a wooded ravine loaded w/ wildlife. There are 2 small ponds on this property & multiple smaller outbuildings.  
Come examine all the possibilities this UNIQUE property has to offer.  
TRACT 2: 20.052± ACRES featuring a mature woods & open rolling land. Examine the possibility of building your dream home in the country here. This would also be a great tract for the outdoor enthusiast or hunter. 70'± of owned frontage along US 40 opening up to include 13.9± acres of FSA Cropland.

INSPECTION TIMES:  
11 AM - 12 NOON  
Thursday(s), March 5, 12 & 19

ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

OWNER: Jill E. Hittle, Trustee • AUCTION MANAGER: Andy Walther • 765-969-0401  
andy@schraderauction.com • ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

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Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.  
#AC63001504, #63198513759  
The auction will be offered in individual tracts, combinations of tracts, and as a whole.

Rush County | Center Township

# AUCTION

Property will sell with a bid of \$6,000 per acre.

## 100+/- Acres

April 1st • 6:30 p.m.

CARTHAGE VOL. FIRE DEPT.  
208 S. Main St., Carthage, IN 46115

Open House  
LOCATION 2400 W. 1000 N.  
Knightstown, IN 46148  
DATE March 19, 4:30 - 6 pm

Owner: Forgey Family Farms LLC

HALDERMAN Halderman-Harmeyer Russell Harmeyer: 765-570-8118  
REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT Real Estate Services 800.424.2324 | halderman.com

IN Anct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRRES IN Lic. #AC69200019, HLS# RDH-12484 (20)

BY ORDER OF COURT APPOINTED RECEIVER

## 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

13925 ENTERPRISE AVENUE in CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135

FRIDAY, MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM ET

Inspection: Day prior to auction from 9AM - 4PM

**LIVE AUCTION & WEBCAST**

(25+) Trucks - (2) SIMON TELELECT Digger Derricks on (2) INT'L 4900 DT 466 Trucks • (4) Boom Trucks • (6) S/A Dump Trucks • (3) Utility Trucks • (10) Stake Bed Trucks • Pickup Trucks • 2014 FORD Explorer XLT • FORD E-50 20-Passenger Shuttle Bus

(15+) Trailers - INTERSTATE, MORITZ, CLEVELAND & Other - Utility, Flatbed & Cargo

(3) CAT Mini-Excavators - New 2017 & 2014 • (11) Skid-Steers - New As 2018 • (3) Telehandlers • Backhoe • Roller Compactor • DITCH WITCH • 42' Boom Lift • Laser Screeds • Power Rake • Concrete Buggies • (10+) Power Trowels • Air Compressors • Generators • Forklift • Shipping Containers • Concrete Support Equipment • 2014 HONDA Rancher ATV

1,345 HOURS

516 HOURS

Buyer's Premium: 15% Onsite, 18% Online | Myron C. Bowling - 62197620939 | Myron Bowling Auctioneers, Inc. - 63198514949

MYRON BOWLING AUCTIONEERS, INC. 513/738-3311 | myronbowling.com

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## DALE BARNES EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 14th - 10:00 AM

3511 W 700 N, RIDGEVILLE, INDIANA 47380

1978 John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine  
Chaff spreader, Maurer hopper extensions - 3,433 engine hours  
John Deere 920 Grain Table w/after market fingers sitting on Unverferth cart  
John Deere 643 Low Tin Corn Head - good condition  
John Deere 4760 Front wheel assist, 4,628 hours, 18.4x42 duals at 40% fronts, 14.9x30 at 80%, power shift, 3 remotes, quick hitch, full rack of front weights  
John Deere 4440 18.4x38 duals at 80% quad range, 8 front weights, dual remotes, 6,163 hours - excellent condition  
Ford 5600 Diesel, dual power, canopy, dual remote  
John Deere 750 Grain Drill 15' markers, rear platform, front dolly wheel, 7 1/2" spacing  
John Deere 7000 6 row planter, row cleaners no-till coulters, insecticide, liquid fertilizer, markers  
1972 Chevy C60 427 gas, hoist, steel bed, single axle, dual tank, shows approx. 45k miles  
J&M 525 Grain Cart Turf tires w/tarp  
DMI TIGER-MATE 20' Field Cultivator walking tandem, 3 bar harrow, rear hydraulics  
J&M TF212 Torsion flex 24' double rolling basket - excellent condition

Other Items: Brillion 12' cultmulcher, Brillion 9 shank disc chisel w/leveler, IH 475 18' disc with excellent blades, hydraulic wings and rear hydraulics, Rotary hoe 15', 3 point grader blade 6', Unverferth rolling basket harrow 110 20' wide, J&M 250 bushel hopper wagon w/14' J&M hydraulic seed auger - extendable tongue, J&M 250 bushel wagon extendable tongues, homemade tarps, J&M 135 bushel wagon, John Deere flatbed wagon, Bush hog 256 rotary mower 6', 60 gallon skid mount sprayer w/wand, boom and electric pump, 3 pt. Grader blade 6', 500 gallon nurse tank, Diesel fuel tank - 500 gallon w/pump, Bush Hog 256 rotary mower 6', 60 gallon skid mount sprayer w/wand, boom and electric pump, 3 pt. Grader blade 6', 500 gallon nurse tank, Steel rack, T-posts, John Deere 111 no mower deck, Air compressor - needs new pressure switch, Hiniker 1120 20' field cultivator w/harrow, 8" 40' inline PTO auger, IH 700 5 bottom plow spring reset, Rotary parts bin, Bumper pull trailer w/100 gallon fuel tank mounted w/title, Bumper pull 5' wide 12' long tandem axle w/title, Stihl MS290 - 18" and 20" chain saws, acetylene torch w/out tanks, Miter saw, Misc. hand and electric tools, Salamander heaters, Router and table, Craftsman electric impact, Graphite, Come-along High lift jack and more!

Visit WagnerAuctioneering.com for more information and pictures!

Auction Preview:  
Friday, March 13th  
9 AM - 5 PM

United Country Real Estate | Wagner Auctioneering & Real Estate

Sarah Pugh (765) 625-1714 AU10900129  
Andrew Wagner (765) 748-4509 AU10200074  
Ed Shirey (765) 744-2864 AU10800097  
Jerrett Flesher (765) 716-8418 AU11600036  
Max Wagner AU01010753

IAA INDIANA ASSOCIATION NAA Auctioneers REALTOR





















# Soybean

FROM PAGE 19B

Anderson said, overall, the center is poised to assist farmers considering big picture operational decisions for short- and long-term profitability with a suite of research and decision-making tools. Moreover, ISA researchers help farmers take a programmatic approach to continuously improve their overall operations with an eye on maximizing economic returns.

He added this holistic approach to soybean research is about developing systems and practices that are more profitable, resilient and sustainable.

"We're excited about the future, and enabling farmers to thrive, despite the challenges and uncertainties that accompany every growing season," he said.

He added the center has already planned a lot of farmer group meetings.

"We want to gather them together and ask for their input," he said.

"We'll look at podcasts videos, and webinars."

He said the ISA hosts one to four interns during the summer and will invite them to apply to work in the center, focusing on their individual career interests in farming innovation.

"We partner very closely with Iowa State University," he said. "Internships will be with the Iowa Soybean Research Center, and Iowa Nutrient Research Center."

In addition, Anderson said the

center will leverage checkoff dollars with non-checkoff dollars.

"Our current funding is about a 2-to-1 ratio," he said. "We'd like to ramp that up to (a 5-to-1 ratio). We'll be pursuing grants at the federal level, and we'll be pursuing foundations (for additional support)."

"We work with and on behalf of farmers," he added. "The first focus is on Iowa soybean farmers. We listen to them and engage with them first and foremost. Engagement, outreach and communication will be critical."

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## MIDWESTERN MINIATURE HEREFORD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW AND SALE

March 21, 2020 | Show at Noon | Sale at 4:30PM




Cattle from across the country will convene, compete and many will be offered for sale. The Ohio Beef Expo provides outstanding educational and marketing opportunities for the cattle industry. Make plans to attend so that you are in front of the pack. Can't attend the sale? Log on to Breeders World to participate on line.


### STEINER AUCTIONS

Gene Steiner  
513-616-4086  
gsteiner61@gmail.com





*He Sells!*  
**DOUBLE R BAR PAYWEIGHT E173**  
Reg. 18751549 | Sire: Basin Payweight 1682 | Dam: SAV Abigale 6575 | MGS: SAV 8180 Traveler 004



*He Sells!*  
**DOUBLE R BAR PAYWEIGHT F128**  
Reg. 19037926 | Sire: Basin Payweight 1682 | Dam: SH Complete of 6108 | MGS: Summitcrest Complete 1P55



*He Sells!*  
**DOUBLE R BAR RAMPAGE E318**  
Reg. 18890583 | Sire: Quaker Hill Rampage 0A36 | Dam: RB Lady 7125-890-2170 | MGS: GAR Objective 7125



*He Sells!*  
**DOUBLE R BAR FIRESTORM 3PT1**  
Reg. 19212659 | Sire: Quaker Hill Firestorm 3PT1 | Dam: SH Lucy 7323 N747 | MGS: OCC Emblazon 854E



Sale Location:  
7180 Plymouth LaPorte Trail  
Plymouth, IN 46563

Bob Dragani  
(574) 453-1169

**9th Annual  
ANGUS BULL & FEMALE SALE**

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Features: Enduro 427 LHR, Tekapo Orchardgrass, Albion Perennial Ryegrass & Tuuka Timothy.

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