



Content is now available on  
**dtnpf.com**

Find all the content and more from *Progressive Farmer* at  
<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/magazine>

# Progressive FARMER



## A NEW MISSION

*Farmer Veteran Coalition assists service members who find purpose and comfort in farming.*

**READER INSIGHTS:**  
OUR EXCLUSIVE SURVEY  
ON TRACTOR SATISFACTION

LONG-TERM REED PLANTING  
HELPS RESTORE RIVERBANKS

GRAIN SORGHUM POPULARITY  
OFFERS PROFIT POTENTIAL



## What if one of your crops **had hundreds of buyers?**

What if you could sell to those buyers instantly? And what if you knew you already agreed on quality and price? What if that meant you could put all your focus on your growing practices? Now, what if together we questioned the entire agriculture system?

**Learn more about Indigo Marketplace™ at [indigoag.com/whatif](https://indigoag.com/whatif)**



# FEATURES

## JUNE 2020

VOL. 135 / NO. 7

*Serving Our Readers Since 1886*



### ABOUT THE COVER

*Seeing Afghanistan farming practices during his service as a Marine inspired Aaron White to return to the farm.*

*Photos by Jim Patricio*

# 16

### COVER STORY A NEW MISSION

Farmer Veteran Coalition assists service members who find purpose and comfort in a career in farming.

### 20 READER INSIGHTS RATE YOUR BIG IRON

Reader Insights survey reveals what farmers really think of their tractors.

### 44 YOUR LIFE COVERED IN KINDNESS

A farm family's experience with illness offers inspiration for a new business venture.



20



32



44



46

# DEPARTMENTS

## FIRST LOOK

- 6 TAXLINK  
TOOLS FROM THE PAST
- 7 WHAT'S TRENDING
- 8 WEATHERLINK
- 9 BUSINESSLINK
- 10 INSIDE THE MARKET
- 11 BLOGS: OUR RURAL ROOTS

## YOUR LAND

- 12 CONSERVATION  
*Reeds to the Rescue*
- 14 LANDWATCH  
*Recent Farmland Sales*

## YOUR FARM

- 16 COVER STORY  
*A New Mission*
- 20 READER INSIGHTS  
*Rate Your Big Iron*
- 24 GROWING MARKET  
*Sorghum Soars*
- 28 FAMILY BUSINESS MATTERS  
*Your Next Financial Leader*
- 29 ASK THE MECHANIC  
*Steve's Back and Forth*

- 31 CROPLINK  
*Handy Bt Trait Helper*
- 32 CATTLELINK  
*Weigh the Options*
- 34 CATTLELINK  
*FACTS Not Fear*
- 36 ASK THE VET  
*Delivery Issues Set Up Calf for Problems*
- 38 TECHNOLOGY  
*Autonomy Goes Commercial*
- 40 AGRICULTURE  
CONFIDENCE INDEX  
*Pessimism Hits Historic Levels*

## YOUR LIFE

- 44 NEW VENTURES  
*Covered in Kindness*
- 46 RECIPES  
*Make Breakfast Special*
- 48 FARM SAFETY  
*Progressive Agriculture Safety Days*

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 WE'D LIKE TO MENTION
- 56 CORNERSTONES: OPINIONS

# Progressive FARMER

powered by **DTN**

EDITOR IN CHIEF Gregg Hillyer  
 ART DIRECTOR Brent Warren  
 MANAGING EDITOR Chris Hill  
 SENIOR EDITORS Dan Miller, Victoria G. Myers, Joel Reichenberger  
 CROPS EDITOR Matthew Wilde

### DTN CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

SENIOR AG METEOROLOGIST Bryce Anderson  
 TAX COLUMNIST Rod Mauszycki  
 AG POLICY EDITOR Chris Clayton  
 ENTOMOLOGIST Scott Williams  
 CROPS TECHNOLOGY EDITOR Pamela Smith  
 LEAD ANALYST Todd Hultman  
 FARM BUSINESS EDITOR Katie Delhinger

### CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS

EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST Steve Thompson  
 VETERINARIAN ADVISER Ken McMillan  
 FAMILY BUSINESS ADVISER Lance Woodbury

### MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER/EDIT-ADVERTISING Charles Long  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER/ADVERTISING Tony Green  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER/EDITORIAL Barry Falkner  
 SENIOR COPY EDITOR Tara Trenary  
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Jennifer Richburg

### ADVERTISING / CIRCULATION

PUBLISHER Matt Herman  
 DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ADVERTISING Sheri Seger  
 REGIONAL ADVERTISING OFFICES  
 CHICAGO Sheri Seger (402) 301-7310  
 Steve Mellenkamp (312) 485-0032  
 DETROIT Susan Hunyor (313) 600-0039  
 LUBBOCK Doug Marnell (806) 790-0456  
 MINNEAPOLIS Matt Herman (612) 812-5833  
 OMAHA Wade Critser (402) 980-3417  
 MARKETPLACE SECTION Averi Whitfield (402) 619-8168  
 DIRECTOR MEDIA OPERATIONS Allen Vaughan  
 MANAGER AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT/  
 MEDIA OPERATIONS Jackie Cairnes  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER/DIGITAL ADVERTISING Patti Dunaway  
 CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Veronica Denson  
 MANAGER MARKETING SERVICES Bill Buchanan  
 BUSINESS ANALYST Pam Passen  
 ADVERTISING SUPPORT MANAGER Becky Granzow

### DTN CORPORATION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Steve Matthesen  
 SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT-AGRICULTURE John R. Teeple  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF/DTN Greg Horstmeier  
 GLOBAL PORTFOLIO MARKETING LEADER-AGRICULTURE  
 Andy Miller

### EDITORIAL OFFICES

2204 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209  
 (205) 414-4700, (205) 414-4746 (fax)

### CUSTOMER SERVICES

P.O. Box 5010, Harlan, IA 51593-0510; 1-800-292-2340  
[www.dtnpf.com/marketing/custserv](http://www.dtnpf.com/marketing/custserv)

### MAILING LIST

We make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable firms.  
 If you would prefer that we not include your name, please call or write us.

## PRINTED IN THE USA

The Progressive Farmer, (ISSN 0033-0760), serving families who have a vital and shared interest in American agriculture and country living, is published monthly in January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, December, and twice in February and November. "Copyright 2020. DTN/The Progressive Farmer. All rights reserved." The Progressive Farmer® is a trademark registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Additional trademarks are Country Voices®, Pork Profit®, We'd Like To Mention®, Countryplace®, Country Place®, The Rural Sportsman®, Cornerstones™, FarmLife™. Periodicals postage paid at Birmingham, AL, and at additional mailing offices (USPS 447-300). General Editorial Office, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209. Subscription rates in the U.S.: \$58.00 for three years, \$44.00 for two years, \$26.00 for one year. Outside the U.S.: \$33 per year. Single copy \$5.95.

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40732015 GST #R123076255 RT0001

TO CORRECT YOUR ADDRESS: Attach mailing address label from cover, along with your new address, including zip code. Send to The Progressive Farmer, P.O. Box 5010, Harlan, IA 51593-0510. Give six weeks' notice.

POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 707.4.12.5); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: The Progressive Farmer, P.O. Box 5010, Harlan, IA 51593-0510.

SUBSCRIBERS: If the Post Office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years.

MAILING LIST: We make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable firms. If you would prefer that we not include your name, please call or write us.

# SALFORD

## THE INDEPENDENTS YOU NEED.

**INDEPENDENT SERIES**  
I-1100, I-1200, I-2100, I-2200, I-4100, I-4200

**EARLY ORDER  
PROGRAM  
ON NOW**

**0% FINANCING**  
6 Months

Terms and conditions apply.  
See dealer for details or visit  
[salfordgroup.com/financing](http://salfordgroup.com/financing).

**WET OR DRY**  
Prep damp soil for improved germination and emergence. Fracture dry soil to reduce wear and fuel use while seeding.

**SUPERIOR FINISH**  
Manage ruts and heavy fall residue. I-Series help level fields for faster, smoother seeding, spraying and harvesting.

**GET MORE DONE WITH EACH PASS**  
Add Salford SwitchBlade Shanks for application or Salford's 56 Series herbicide applicators.



For more than 40 years, Salford has been dedicated to engineering and manufacturing innovations that bring durability, versatility and precision to our neighbors' farms—near and far. When every acre counts, your soil has to be as productive as possible—and we're here to help you make that happen.



@salfordgroup

See our full line of products and find your local dealer at [salfordgroup.com](http://salfordgroup.com)  
Osceola, Iowa • Cornelia, Georgia • 1-866-442-1293

# Lessons From a Pandemic



**Gregg Hillyer**  
Editor In Chief

► Write Gregg Hillyer, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209, or email [gregg.hillyer@dtm.com](mailto:gregg.hillyer@dtm.com).

## Americans are anxious to return to

normalcy after the coronavirus shut down the economy and our way of life. What the new normal looks like is still being determined.

There are no clear answers to our many questions as we weigh our personal health with our fiscal health. For agriculture, the pandemic has exposed several vulnerabilities. Solutions will require thoughtful dialogue not only within the industry but with all levels of government. Putting financial aid packages aside, here is a sample of challenges the coronavirus has brought to the forefront:

**1 Fix kinks in the food supply chain.** Last month's column praised the resiliency of the ag industry and its partners for keeping food on grocery shelves. Since then, we've seen numerous meat/poultry processing plants idled or operating at reduced capacity as thousands of workers tested positive for COVID-19. The disruption has left producers without anywhere to sell their livestock and likely will lead to temporary meat shortages in grocery stores. Meanwhile, dairy farmers and fruit/vegetable producers have seen demand from institutions plummet with the closing of restaurants, hotels and schools. As a result, some producers have had little choice but to euthanize animals, smash eggs, dump milk or plow crops under, leading to devastating revenue losses.

Supply isn't the issue. But, the nation's food chain is built around a highly integrated, sophisticated, synchronized just-in-time system.

The pandemic has shown how one weak link can break down the entire chain.

President Donald Trump used the Defense Production Act to deem packing plants as critical infrastructure for the nation to protect the food supply. But, such action brings little confidence to employees who don't want to return to work because of concerns for their health and safety from COVID-19.

The United Food and Commercial Workers union has called for implementing a uniform set of national standards to safeguard workers with proper protection

equipment, coronavirus testing and the slowing of processing lines so proper social-distancing measures can be implemented.

On the retail side, the president and CEO of Albertsons food stores put it best when describing the challenges created by the coronavirus: "When you operate in a just-in-time [environment] and have a tight supply chain, it doesn't allow you to accommodate for situations like this [a pandemic]," Vivek Sankaran stressed in a recent podcast hosted by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "We should all reflect as an industry and think about how to build redundancy as we go forward."

**2 Close the digital divide.** The coronavirus has reemphasized how essential reliable broadband is to our everyday lives and well-being. According to a 2019 report from the Federal Communications Commission, 39% of rural areas lack broadband access (25 megabits per second) compared to only 4% of urban areas. The president and Congress have raised the prospect of an infrastructure bill to create thousands of jobs but have so far failed to reach an agreement. Any legislation should include enough funding to connect all of rural America to the rest of the world.

**3 Boost medical resources.** The struggles of the rural health-care system are well-known: the lack of access to doctors and other medical professionals, longer travel times to receive care, hospital closures. Stress levels are on the rise, yet more than 60% of rural Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health professionals. The coronavirus has only compounded existing problems.

Certainly, these are daunting challenges with no easy answers. All require big ideas. The ag industry should take the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to drive strong and innovative action to find plausible solutions. ///



GREGG HILLYER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

# IF IT MOVES WE POWER IT



Whether you're plowing, tilling, or driving a commercial vehicle, chances are we'll have the perfect battery for whatever you need.



## KNOW HOW



12-volt heavy-duty power turns over the toughest engines

Convenient carrying handle provides ease of transportation and installation



Individual vent caps that make watering easier

6-volt heavy-duty, maintenance accessible design



Anchor-locked elements that resist damaging effects of vibration

Reinforced inside and out with commercial-grade durability



# CARES Act Tax Changes



**Rod Mauszycki**

*DTN Tax Columnist Rod Mauszycki, J.D., MBT, is a tax principal with CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen) in Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

► Read Rod's "Ask the Taxman" column at **ABOUT.DTNPF.COM/TAX**.

► You may email Rod at **taxman@dtm.com**.

**These are strange times. Back in** January, many of our agribusiness subindustries were poised to have a good year. We reached a trade agreement with China. Milk and cattle prices were strong. There was optimism that agribusiness was slowly climbing out of its long recession.

Fast-forward four months. Commodity prices are depressed. Ethanol plants are reducing production (and subsequently decreasing demand for corn). Schools and restaurants are closed. Agricultural supply chains are shifting. And, there are concerns about the ability to get farm labor and maintain their safety.

The Paycheck Protection Program loan program ran out of funds, but it's expected to receive an additional infusion. There is still a lack of information on Schedule F farmers and generally how the forgiveness calculations will work. Additionally, USDA announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that should provide relief for farmers and ranchers.

With the focus on nontax issues, I wanted to review a few of the tax provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

► The \$1,200 stimulus payment to individuals (and \$500 per child) is subject to adjusted gross income limitations. This is NOT taxable income.

► The Required Minimum Distribution rules are suspended for 2020.

► For 2020, the 10% early withdrawal penalty has been waived for coronavirus-related distributions up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement accounts. The distributions will be reported ratably as ordinary income over three years starting in 2020 (unless the taxpayer elects to treat the entire amount as income in 2020). You may recontribute funds to any eligible retirement plan within three years to avoid tax altogether.

► In regard to cash charitable contributions, 100% of cash contributions can be deducted against gross income (corporations can now deduct 25% rather than 10%).

► For larger farms (gross receipts over \$26 million), the limitation on business interest has been increased from 30 to 50% for 2019 and 2020. There are some other provisions concerning business interest that may benefit larger farm operations.

► Net operating losses generated from 2018 through 2020 can offset 100% of taxable income rather than 80% and can be carried back five years. This is an opportunity to amend 2018 and 2019 returns to potentially get refunds. There are also tax-planning opportunities in regard to the 2020 tax year.

► Excess business loss limitation has been repealed for years beginning before Jan. 1, 2021. If during the 2018 or 2019 tax years individuals had more than \$250,000 single or \$500,000 married filing joint in business losses, they should review their tax situation and possibly amend returns.

► Under certain circumstances, 1031 exchange timelines may be adjusted. If you entered into a 2013 exchange prior to April 1, there may be additional time to identify property or complete the transaction. As 1031 exchanges are complicated, consult your CPA or adviser for additional information. ///

## TOOLS FROM THE PAST

### QUESTION:

*All tied up in knots? Not when you use this item. What is it?*



### ANSWER:

*This metal tool was used in conjunction with a rope machine. It kept the three strands of twine separate until they were twisted together to make rope.*

## INTRODUCING A NEW PODCAST



Sarah Mock

DTN/*Progressive Farmer* has launched a new weekly podcast. Field Posts is your connection to what's happening in agriculture. Join host Sarah Mock as she interviews ag industry leaders as well as DTN/*Progressive Farmer* editors on a wide range of topics, from farm policy and crop production to finances, technology and more. You'll have a front-row seat to the latest news and information. Visit <https://fieldposts.buzzsprout.com>.

## FARMERS ON TWITTER

🐦 We can take our finger off the panic button now. #covid19life #buzzcut @WestForkFarm



🐦 The wife and kids have been home all day everyday since the quarantine thing started and the house is the dirtiest it's ever been. Would it be a bad idea to say something? Guess I'll get the vacuum out. If you never hear from me again you'll know I said something. @cobo\_82

🐦 This reminds me of high school, I just filled up for \$1.50 a gallon, and every girl I see is social distancing from me. @dfaber84

## BLOGS &amp; COLUMNS



## ASK THE TAXMAN

Rod Mauszycki  
DTN Tax Columnist

➤ [taxman@dtn.com](mailto:taxman@dtn.com)



## MINDING AG'S BUSINESS

Katie Dehlinger  
DTN Farm Business Editor

➤ @KatieD\_DTN



## AG POLICY BLOG

Chris Clayton  
DTN Ag Policy Editor

➤ @ChrisClaytonDTN



UPCOMING WEBINARS To register, visit [www.dtn.com/events](http://www.dtn.com/events).

**June 11, 2020 WASDE Report:** DTN lead analyst Todd Hultman provides insights and analysis on the world agricultural supply and demand estimates and what the numbers mean for commodity prices.

## FIND US ONLINE

For customer service, please visit [www.dtnpf.com/marketing/custserv](http://www.dtnpf.com/marketing/custserv), or call 800-292-2340.



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



[fieldposts.buzzsprout.com](http://fieldposts.buzzsprout.com)



[youtube.com/pfmagvideos](http://youtube.com/pfmagvideos)



[twitter.com/dtnpf](http://twitter.com/dtnpf)



[facebook.com/dtnprogressivefarmer](http://facebook.com/dtnprogressivefarmer)



[linkedin.com/TheProgressiveFarmerMagazine](http://linkedin.com/TheProgressiveFarmerMagazine)

# Trends Rule This Summer



**Bryce Anderson**  
DTN Senior Ag Meteorologist

► Read Bryce's weather blog at [ABOUT.DTNPF.COM/WEATHER](http://ABOUT.DTNPF.COM/WEATHER).

► You may email Bryce at [bryce.anderson@dtn.com](mailto:bryce.anderson@dtn.com), or call 402-399-6419.

The terms “nonthreatening” or “benign” usually do not fit in a weather forecast discussion. Nonetheless, for most—not all, but most—crop areas, those terms apply to the 2020 summer forecast. The summer pattern offers temperature and precipitation combinations that point to generally large crop prospects.

Consistent trends appear to be running the show. One of the big trends is a central-U.S. temperature pattern that has not been very hot in the past few years. The last year central-U.S. summer temperatures were hot was back in 2012. The past eight years have seen a trend of above-normal precipitation in the Midwest.

What's more, the Pacific Ocean shows no sign of being a big influence source this year. Equator-region ocean temperatures and barometric pressure readings point to a “La Nada”—neutral—in the Pacific. That leaves the trends in charge.

Here are the regional forecast details.

## MIDWEST

Near- to above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation highlight the forecast. Ample soil moisture going into summer and the extensive crop vegetation serve as low-level moisture sources to act like a thermostat and keep temperatures from getting into stressful categories.

## DELTA

Temperatures are forecast to be above normal with precipitation near to above normal. The strength of the summer Bermuda high in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico will be closely watched.

## SOUTHEAST

Above-normal temperatures and near- to above-normal precipitation are featured in the forecast. We have seen occurrences of flash drought develop in late summer in the past few years; this prospect will bear watching.

## GULF COAST

The forecast highlights above-normal temperatures and near- to above-normal

precipitation. As with the Delta and Southeast, the influence of the summer Bermuda high will be a key item.

## MID-ATLANTIC AND NORTHEAST

Widespread above-normal temperatures are forecast. Precipitation shows an above-normal tendency in the Mid-Atlantic region and near to above normal in the Northeast. Northern New England has generally seasonal precipitation prospects.

## NORTHERN PLAINS

A warm and dry pattern—above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation—is indicated for the western half of the region. The eastern half has near-normal temperatures and normal to above-normal precipitation.

## CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PLAINS

As with the Northern Plains, the western sector has above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation indicated. Irrigation demand will likely be higher. Dryland crop yields may underperform because of a lack of moisture.

## SOUTHWEST

Above-normal temperatures and mostly near-normal precipitation are forecast. The region enters the summer in need of moisture. The late-season monsoon will be needed to offer dryness easing.

## FAR WEST

The summer trends have a warm to hot and dry trend—above-normal temperatures and near- to below-normal precipitation—indicated. Drought is likely to be in effect through the season.

## NORTHWEST

The region looks to be in the center of an above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation pattern. This suggests drought conditions either developing or continuing. ///

# Pandemic Turns Urban Benefits to Hazards

**One of my best friends always knew** she was destined to live in New York City, the mecca of magazines. But, after a decade of living there, she's struggling to envision herself fulfilling major life goals such as starting a family while living in an expensive shoe box.

She moved to her parents' home in February to ride out the COVID-19 pandemic and doesn't know when, or if, she'll go back. I think it's safe to say my friend is far from alone in rethinking her location choices.

The very things that make urban centers attractive to young people—jobs, food and entertainment—are now cast in the dangerous light of contagion. As more employers experiment with remote work, living in the city may no longer be a necessity of the job.

Kansas farmer Bill Roenbaugh wonders

if this pandemic will slow the flow of young people leaving rural America. "We are demonstrating that we can do business successfully through the internet and remotely. I wonder if this won't stop the decline, at least, in people moving off the farm," he says.

Succession planning is a perennial problem, and Roenbaugh says half of his peers don't have anyone willing to take over the business. Location is a common challenge when hiring.

"I wonder if this event will change our society just a tiny bit, just enough that people look at the farm and say, 'You know what? It's kind of nice being out here,'" Roenbaugh says. "I don't know how many of those will come back or how fast they'll come back. Maybe this will be a turning point where we get to keep more kids on the farm." ///



**Katie Dehlinger**  
*DTN Farm Business Editor*

➤ Read Katie's business blog at **ABOUT.DTNPF.COM/BUSINESS.**

➤ You may email Katie at **katie.dehlinger@dtn.com**, or visit **@KatieD\_DTN** on Twitter.

## Your Barn. Your Way.

Sand Creek Post & Beam has a barn design for everyone. From simple, rustic barns to barn homes, we're here to turn your dream into reality. Discover the warmth and ambiance of post and beam construction today!



**888-489-1680**

sandcreekpostandbeam.com



# Rice: the Coronavirus-Proof Grain?



**Todd Hultman**  
DTN Lead Analyst

► Read Todd's blog at **ABOUT.DTNPF.COM/ MARKETS**.

► You may email Todd at **todd.hultman@dtn.com**, or call 402-255-8489.

**As you have probably heard by now**, year-to-date ag price performance has been a depressing topic in 2020 thanks to the disruptive influence of COVID-19 on markets. As of mid-April, spot futures prices of corn and soybeans were down 17 and 12% respectively. Spot cotton prices were down 23%, Class III milk prices were down 35%, cattle were down 31% and hogs were down 39%.

The expensive toll of COVID-19 and efforts to slow the spread of the disease have become so pervasive, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently estimated world gross domestic product (GDP) would contract 3% in 2020 and U.S. GDP would be down 5.9%. If the IMF's estimate is true, it will be the sharpest decline in U.S. GDP since 1946.

Amid the bearish wreckage, two U.S. grain prices are holding up relatively well. Spot KC wheat prices are roughly even in the first three and a half months of 2020, and spot prices of rough rice are up 9%. In the case of rice, world demand is expected to maintain trend-line growth in 2020–21.

## NO RESPECT

For years, wheat and rice have been the Rodney Dangerfields of crop choices, as low

levels of demand growth relative to corn and soybeans have often meant less-profitable prices for producers. Over the past 30 years, world demand for soybeans increased 232%, and corn demand increased 140%, while demand for rice and wheat was up 43% and 36%, respectively.

The catch in 2020 is that corn and soybean demand is dependent on rising incomes and the expansion of meat production. In contrast, demand for the two basic staples are largely functions of population growth, a statistic that COVID-19 won't significantly change.

This year's rice prices are also being helped by drought in Thailand and an export ban in Vietnam, two factors reported in USDA's April issue of "Grain: World Markets and Trade" ([bit.ly/2Y8qLYG](https://bit.ly/2Y8qLYG)). In mid-April, old-crop rice prices at \$14.50 per cwt are near their highest level in five years.

In late February, USDA estimated U.S. rice plantings at 2.85 million acres in 2020, a 12% increase if true. U.S. ending stocks of rice are expected to increase from 30 million cwt in 2019–20 to 49 million cwt in 2020–21, a larger surplus that suggests an average farm price of \$12 per cwt in 2020–21.

## OVERALL DEMAND

For the world, the International Grains Council expects record demand of 501 million metric tons (mmt) in 2020–21. Ending rice stock among the top five rice exporters are expected to increase from 42 mmt to 46 mmt.

With a U.S. planting of only 3 million acres, we can't expect rice to take the bearish burden off of corn or soybean prices in 2020, but it's nice to know there is at least one U.S. crop some farmers can grow that shouldn't have prices ruined by COVID-19 in 2020. ///



MSU AG COMMUNICATIONS/LINDA BREAZEALE

## When the World Stood Still

BY Katie Pratt

**How many times have we begged for time? Time to breathe. Time to sit. Time to reflect.** Pre-COVID-19, I said a prayer for time every morning. God doesn't always answer prayers in ways we expect.

Our family went from running at the speed of sound to a screeching halt this spring. The first time I heard "social distance," I chuckled naively. We are lifelong country "kids." Self-isolation is not new. We have miles of countryside to explore and a business ruled by Mother Nature. She takes orders from no one.

But, these blessings—natural social distance and essential business—did not insulate us from the coronavirus ripple effect. Like dominoes, we started falling



GETTY IMAGES

in sequence, which I can only hope means at some point, we will all stand back up.

In our household, I often find myself playing the role of Pollyanna in the face of the unknown. I turned our family

calendar—a large chalkboard hung by the back door—into a thankful board. On it are written the things for which we are grateful. Someone adds to the list each day, and every time we walk in the door, we can review what truly matters to our family.

The empty calendar meant we ate dinner together every single night, which was not our norm. We decluttered, explored hobbies and started genuinely enjoying each other's company. We planted corn, cleaned the cattle lot and mapped out a new garden ... together. We found ourselves breathing, sitting, praying and reflecting, together. These are all things we used to do once in a great while, but none were habits.

Experts say forming a habit can take as few as 21 days and as long as two months. Could it be new habits formed when the world stilled? Time will tell.



Katie Pratt learns new habits, writes, tweets, farms and "likes" agriculture from north-central Illinois. Find her blog at [theillinoisfarmgirl.com](http://theillinoisfarmgirl.com) and follow her on Twitter [@KatiePratt4](https://twitter.com/KatiePratt4).

## The Day I Almost Got Skunked

BY Tiffany Dowell Lashmet

**Like many people across the United States, home became my office during COVID-19 quarantine.** With two preschool-aged children underfoot, chaos is a given, even in the best of times.

I'm an agricultural law specialist by day, and I have worked hard to build a good reputation for myself and try to always act professionally in work settings. I never dreamed a pandemic could turn into pandemonium.

It all started when the kids and the dog were playing in the yard as I was preparing for a Zoom video call with the professors in my department. I glanced out the window just to be sure everyone was still safe and saw a huge skunk.

Being a woman of action, I rushed out to usher two wet children and a muddy dog into the house. Then, I opened our gun safe intending to take care of this varmint. I soon came to the realization I was not clear which shells fit the shotgun.

My husband was at work, so I called our neighbor for help. Naturally, the skunk was nowhere to be found, but at least the neighbor made sure I was suitably armed in case my little friend came back.

I started the Zoom call as though nothing had happened. Ping! A text from my neighbor let me know the skunk was once again in my front yard.

So, there I was on a video call with many of the top agricultural economists in the country, grabbing my shotgun like Annie Oakley and running across the screen to do away with this skunk once and for all. Do not mess with a woman on a mission.



GETTY IMAGES

In the end, my gentleman of a neighbor took care of skunk disposal, and I finished my call. But, I kept waiting for a video of me from that Zoom meeting to appear as one of those embarrassing Internet memes—that would really stink.



When Tiffany Dowell Lashmet isn't chasing wild animals, she balances farm, farm children and a career in ag law from the Texas Panhandle. Follow her blog at [littlehousebiglifetx.wordpress.com](http://littlehousebiglifetx.wordpress.com), on Instagram at [@littlehousebiglifeblog](https://www.instagram.com/littlehousebiglifeblog) and on Twitter [@TiffDowell](https://twitter.com/TiffDowell).

# Reeds to the Rescue

*A single variety planted 40 years ago restores riverbank and stops erosion.*

**B**y 1983, Chuck Grimes was extremely frustrated with the Cimarron River's steady erosion of a 240-acre pasture on his cattle, hay and grass seed operation, near Hennessey, in central Oklahoma.

He came to battle the river erosion at the water's edge with an unlikely ally: Shoreline common reed.

"We'd watched as our riverbank land disappeared downstream every year since the early 1970s," Grimes says, recalling how, until that time, most riparian flood-control efforts on the Cimarron and the nearby Canadian and Arkansas River basins consisted of piling old car bodies on the channel-side banks of the streams.

"The unsightly automotive carcasses weren't very effective and caused eddy currents of floodwaters, which actually increased erosion around the junk. I was desperate to try something different," he explains.

Three years after the initial planting, Grimes says he was convinced the reed stand was well-established and it appeared the riverbank was beginning to silt in, giving him hope he might someday see his side of the riverbank pushing back into the channel.

## BATTLE WON

Today, along the half-mile riverbank that had been sloughing off ultimately

*Aggressive growth from underground rhizomes and fibrous root systems resist water erosion once the common reed is established. These shoots are the advancing growth that holds back the river and pushes it away from Grimes' pastureland.*

to find its way to Keystone Reservoir, downstream near Tulsa, Grimes proudly looks at the 50- to 100-foot ribbon of reclaimed land adjoining his pasture. Over 37 years, the reed held and multiplied, trapping enough silt during each flood to rebuild the riverbank and push the Cimarron's channel further into the center of the riverbed.

Across the recently formed "delta," one now finds emergent tree saplings and other succession plants that are reclaiming what once was an unprotected sandy river bottom mantle soil so common along the northern banks of western Oklahoma's flatland rivers. At the inland edge of the new land, only a slight terracelike step of soil near native plum thickets belies where the river ran 40 years ago.

Grimes, a range-management agronomist by training with a stint as a range conservationist for the era's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), was aware of many plant materials available for riparian erosion control near waterways, ponds and upstream flood-control lakes. That knowledge, and the need to buffer the Cimarron along his pastures, led him to get starts of Shoreline common reed from the SCS Plant Materials Center in 1980 and multiply them for use on his own fragile property.

By 1983, he was ready for a counterattack on the river, and as the weather warmed that

*A half a lifetime has passed since Chuck Grimes planted a water-erosion control barrier of Shoreline common reed along his pasture.*



spring, he was wading along the water's edge—burlap sack full of common reed rhizomes in tow—and the riverbank, digging holes and planting shoots. For several weeks and nearly half a mile, he worked planting around 3,000 shoots just above the Cimarron's normal summer waterline. Then, he waited.

"It took a year to see I had a successful planting and actually another year to really convince myself I was making progress," Grimes explains. "Since then, I've sold thousands of shoots to landowners around the country for erosion control, and I tell them, 'The first year, you're going to think I lied to you,'" he chuckles.

### HOLDS AGAINST THE FLOOD

"The common reed rhizomes root quickly and propagate themselves from the rhizomes as well as by stolons that form along the surface of the soil from the shoots that sprout. Once established, it just doesn't wash away," he explains.

NRCS officials say Shoreline common reed was originally collected in 1970 along a Texas railroad right-of-way and seems to be adapted across much of the southern and southwestern U.S.

Grimes says unlike cattails and other similar plants, Shoreline common reed does not invade standing water, so it makes an excellent riparian planting where one desires it to stop at water's edge.

"You can expect an established stand to grow 3 to 5 feet tall by midspring and up to 12 feet tall by season's end," he explains. "The roots don't water-kill like

growing points—at 1-foot intervals along the affected shoreline next to the waterline.

"Using my own rhizomes, many times I double up and plant two in the same hole just to ensure I get a good stand and don't have to replant," he explains.

Grimes digs rhizomes in late winter to early spring, depending on demand, and sells them for \$1 each up to 10,000 per lot. He uses an ancient Servis terrace-building tool which upends the roots with a one-bottom moldboard plow and follows up with a vertical auger that lifts the roots from the turned furrow and deposits them along the row for ease of gathering.

"Beyond 10,000, we drop the price significantly, but there is a lot of labor required to dig the 4- to 7-inch rhizomes and hand-cut, sort and bag them, so it takes a big order to qualify for the discount (usually about 65 cents per rhizome)," he says.

Nearly 13 acres of Grimes' current operation is devoted to common reed rhizome production.



*Chuck Grimes stands on solid ground where, 36 years ago, the main channel of the Cimarron River ran. Behind him, a half-mile of Shoreline common reed holds the river back during floods.*

### FENCE OUT THE CATTLE

While he's watched "made land" redevelop along the southern edge of his sandy mantle-soil pasture over the years, Grimes has not been eager to expand his grazing into the thriving stand of Shoreline common reed.

"One of the drawbacks of Shoreline common reed is cattle really enjoy tromping through it and eating it, so we keep it fenced," he explains. "Because it's tall, it acts as a windbreak to cut down on wind erosion near the sand hills that dot the pasture. And, it provides a good, somewhat sheltered area for wintertime feeding cubes

and minerals.

Such a place has a value of its own as Grimes works to return the light soils of the pasture to a developing native tallgrass species stand for the Longhorn-based composite cow herd he's developing.

—Chuck Grimes

"Ultimately, I want a herd that thrives on warm-season grasses in the summer and can survive on standing forage in the winter," he explains. "And, if the river keeps bringing me more land to protect that pasture, it all works together." ///

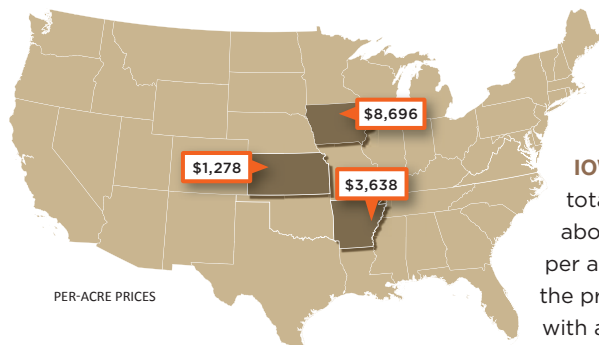
*"The common reed rhizomes root quickly and propagate themselves ... Once established, it just doesn't wash away."*

bermudagrass, but they form a network right where the water is most likely to erode."

As a longtime supplier of the reed for erosion control under the name of Grasslander, Grimes recommends planting a rhizome—containing at least two to three



# Recent Farmland Sales



Ag; cole.fields@gmail.com; 318-512-5325  
[www.brokersouthag.com](http://www.brokersouthag.com)

**IOWA, Wright County.** Land totaling 115 acres sold for about \$1 million, or \$8,696 per acre. Tillage portion of the property was 113.5 acres, with a CSR2 of 85.1. This was a leaseback sale, where investor-

buyer allows previous operator to continue to farm the land. **Contact:** John Kirkpatrick, MWA Auctions and Real Estate; john@mwallc.com; 515-532-2878

[www.murraywiseassociates.com](http://www.murraywiseassociates.com)

**KANSAS, Gove, Sheridan and Trego Counties.** A 2,830-acre property with large tracts and excellent cropland

sold at auction for \$3.6 million, including bases in wheat, corn and grain sorghum. One-third of the 2020 wheat crop went to the buyer. Grasslands and roads made up 594 of the total acreage. The property sold in 13 tracts, with average per-acre tract prices ranging from \$850 to \$1,800. Average per-acre price across the entire property was \$1,278. **Contact:** Neal Mann, Farm and Ranch Realty Inc.; info@frmail.com; 800-247-7863  
[www.farmandranchrealty.com](http://www.farmandranchrealty.com)

*These sales figures are provided by the sources and may not be exact because of rounding.*

**ARKANSAS, Cross County.** A 180-acre farm with 151 tillable acres sold for \$654,840, or \$3,638 per acre. The majority of the property was precision-leveled, and all of the land was irrigated. Soil types were mixed, as is the crop history. An investor bought the property and rented it back to a local farmer. **Contact:** Cole Fields, BrokerSouth

Submit recent land sales to  
[landwatch@dtm.com](mailto:landwatch@dtm.com).

Find current listings at  
[about.dtnpf.com/landwatch](http://about.dtnpf.com/landwatch).

## Land Market Waits To Tally Impacts From Disruptions

It will take time for the agricultural land market to feel the full impact of adverse economic conditions that came along with the COVID-19 pandemic. Things were off to a positive start in the first quarter; however, as some land values reports noted, the continued attractiveness of farmland was already bolstering prices.

### REALTORS LAND INSTITUTE IOWA

The Iowa Chapter reported a small statewide increase in farmland values of 0.1%, based on a survey through the last quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. During that time, the state's southeast district saw the largest increase in value, at 1.8%. Factors supporting farmland values included low interest rates, a tight supply of quality farms on the market, above-average yields in many areas and MFP (Market Facilitation Program) payments. Potential negatives included trade uncertainty and low commodity prices.

### SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL FARM MANAGERS AND RURAL APPRAISERS ILLINOIS

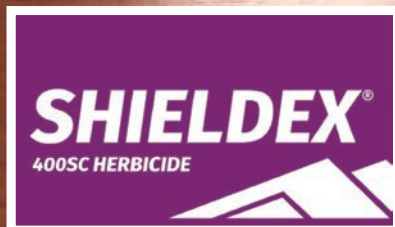
Farmland values in Illinois were holding stable ending the first quarter of 2020. David Klein, vice president of First Mid Ag Services, reported "little deviation from a year ago" in farmland values. While land considered "excellent" in terms of productivity was reported to show no change at an average per-acre price of \$10,500, decreases ranged from

1% for good-quality land to 3% for average-quality land to 2% for fair-quality land. "Individual micromarkets of strength and weakness do exist, and this can create opportunities for sellers and buyers. You will notice variations within regions and different local markets for similar-quality land. Location continues to be an important variable," Klein says. Several trends were noted in the report: 58% of Illinois land was being sold to settle estates; 59% of buyers were farmers; more farms were being sold private treaty; net cash returns are in the 2 to 3% range, below traditional levels of 3.5 to 4%; sales of land for development are down; institutional investors were still demanding land.

### NEBRASKA FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET SURVEY

Looking at year-over-year numbers, the University of Nebraska's (UNL) early survey showed a 3% increase in ag land values, taking average per-acre price statewide to \$2,650. Grazing and hayland were up 2 to 5%, with major cow/calf areas up between 6 and 8%. Jim Jansen, agricultural economist with UNL, says a final report on this survey is scheduled for June release. At press time, he notes tighter margins on corn, soybeans and livestock were a concern moving into the second quarter. Even with the low cost of borrowing, he says market values could recede one to three years out based on what happens in the current economy and agricultural markets.

**TOUGH WEEDS STILL  
GIVING YOU THAT  
NAGGING FEELING?**



**Introducing a powerful  
new weapon against weed  
pressure in corn.**

SHIELDDEX® 400 SC contains new HPPD inhibitor herbicide technology that has proven effective in over 400 University trials. And it's safe for use on all types of corn\*. So, don't stress over problem weeds. Try new SHIELDDEX.

**SHIELDDEX HERBICIDE IS SOLD  
EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH HELENA  
AGRI-ENTERPRISES AND TENKOZ  
MEMBER COMPANIES.**

Always read and follow label directions. SHIELDDEX is an invention and registered trademark of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd., and is manufactured and developed by ISK Biosciences Corporation.  
© 2019 Summit Agro USA, LLC. All rights reserved

\*SHIELDDEX 400SC has not been tested on all inbred lines for tolerance. Contact your seed corn supplier for specific usage recommendations.

The logo for Summit Agro USA features a stylized mountain range icon above the text "SummitAgro" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "USA" in a smaller font to the right.

# A NEW MISSION

*Farmer Veteran Coalition assists service members who find purpose and comfort in a career in farming.*



**T**he story haunted Michael O’Gorman. “[I] got blown up by an IED.” The soldier had served in Iraq and was recuperating from his wounds, relearning to walk and talk in a treatment facility in Southern California. Despite his injuries, he mentioned to O’Gorman that his mind never wandered far from the small blueberry farm he grew up on in northern Florida.

“He told me he had visceral memories of the farm: the sound of the birds, the feel of the breeze on his face and how it felt to sit on a tractor,” O’Gorman recalls. “He wanted to go back to the farm.”

O’Gorman, the successful, large-scale organic farm manager came across a study that a sizable number of veterans come from rural areas and desire to return to their communities. Many want to make a go at farming but have no farm background or the skills, training and resources to succeed.

O’Gorman met with nine area farmers to talk about how they could create jobs on their own farms for returning veterans. Joining them were three mothers who lost sons in Afghanistan and Iraq to discuss creating an organization that would support veterans interested in agriculture, veterans such as the soldier from the Florida blueberry farm.

## A HELPING HAND

That meeting eventually led to the creation of the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC).



SUSANNA FROHMAN

O’Gorman explains that veterans see an undeniable similarity between military

and farming—long hours, working with their hands and managing risk while being outdoors, protecting living things and seeing “missions” through to completion. In addition, farming is particularly appealing to those with post-traumatic stress disorder, as working the land provides a holistic approach to healing from war.

“Originally, I thought I could help a dozen interested veterans learn how to grow vegetables, but the first meeting led to other meetings and phone calls, and interest just grew,” he says. “No one was helping veterans on this level, and about 370,000 farmers today are also veterans,” he says. “Our initial research found more than 40,000 groups serving vets, but none of them were involved in agriculture.”

Since its founding in 2008, FVC boasts 18,000 members in all 50 states and U.S. territories. It has provided \$2.5 million in grants to farmers since 2011. Last year, a national annual conference drew 500 attendees to Austin, Texas. Other services include a database of apprenticeship opportunities and connecting veterans to other educational resources and ag supplier discounts.

“Agriculture faces a lot of concerns today, and one of them is human capital,” O’Gorman points out. “Farmers are aging, and these young veterans are the best of the best. They have put their lives on the line and love the opportunity production ag offers them. They have character and determination, and are becoming the new generation of farmers. We want them to stay with that lifelong path.”

*Aaron White sees similarities between farming and the military: working outdoors and making decisions.*

JIM PATRICO

*“Veterans are searching for a new purpose, or mission, when they return to the U.S.”*

—FVC founder Michael O’Gorman



**Following are stories of FVC members finding solace and success in farming.**

**TICKET OUT IS TICKET BACK**

Aaron White grew up on a 300-acre farm near Boxholm, Iowa, where his stepfather raised crops and cattle, sheep, hogs and goats. “I joined the Marines out of high school as my ticket out of Iowa to see the world,” he says. “What I learned is that once I was away from the farm, I couldn’t wait to get back.”

White was in boot camp in California when 9/11 happened. He became a machine gunner and was sent to Bahrain to protect U.S. ships. His second deployment was to Afghanistan.

“I saw a lot of cool things overseas but also some really bad things,” he says. “While I was there, I really got the itch to farm as I watched the Afghan people farm so simplistically. I felt empathy for them and gratitude for what we have in the U.S. It was very eye-opening for me.”

After leaving the Marines in 2005, White attended Simpson College, played football and majored in elementary education. He met his wife, Dana, at school and started teaching in Wyoming. After two years and a baby, they returned to Carlisle, Iowa. White helped his father-in-law, Joe Dunn, farm while teaching fifth grade. In 2011, Dunn introduced him to an older couple who had pasture for rent. White subsequently bought eight cow/calf pairs and today has 25 pairs and 440 acres.

“I am still teaching, and we now have four children. I am working toward farming full-time. It is baby steps and slow progress, but I have learned so much,” White says.

Through an FVC grant, White purchased some farm equipment and a bull for his herd. He also won a tractor through the Kubota “Geared to Give,” a partnership program with FVC to provide financial and equipment support to farming veterans. He continues to trade labor for use of his father-in-law’s equipment. White is optimistic that with the older generation retiring, more opportunities will come up to farm additional acres.

“There are a lot of similarities between the military and farming,” White explains. “You spend 98% of your time outdoors, have to make decisions and complete missions. The difference is that in the military, sometimes you see immediate results, and sometimes you don’t. In farming, you see results every year that help you to make better decisions. I have a sense of pride serving the country both ways, but nothing makes me as proud as helping feed the country.”

**CITY KID REALIZES FARM DREAM**

Bryan Cleveland witnessed firsthand the complications having a parent deployed can have on children. As a high

school U.S. and world history teacher near Fort Riley, Kansas, he gained an appreciation for what students had to manage.

“I had not considered entering the military until the war in Iraq started in 2003 during my first year of teaching. At the time, I was married and had a daughter,” Cleveland says. “I felt a tremendous respect for those students and a sense of guilt I had not entered the military after 9/11. I felt I needed to contribute to our nation’s fight against global terrorism.”

Cleveland approached a Marine recruiter in 2004 and left for Officer Candidate School that fall. He became a logistics officer, serving in Afghanistan in 2008 and 2010.

“As a logistics officer for 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, I had the amazing opportunity as the primary logistics planner for two large-scale operations,” he says. “Supporting those Marines in our fight against the Taliban was a once-in-a-lifetime chance I will forever feel grateful to have received.”

Cleveland grew up a city kid with farm connections. His grandpa farmed near Concordia, Kansas, and his dad, Mike, tried to farm for a short time in the 1980s. He moved into ag sales as a result of the farm financial crisis, but Cleveland still spent time on the farm when he could.

His grandfather retired in 1992 and rented out his 1,000 acres. In 2008, Cleveland’s dad took over the farm. “I was on active duty until 2013,” he explains. “In 2014, I approached my dad about becoming part of the operation. He gave me the opportunity to fulfill that dream by agreeing to make me a partner.”

With a wife and now three children, Cleveland moved back to Kansas in 2015 to farm and teach at St. John’s Military School. When the school closed a few years later, Cleveland began farming full-time. Since 2015, the Clevelands have added another 560 acres, growing corn, >

*Bryan Cleveland moved back to Kansas to partner with his father to operate the family’s farm operation.*

JOEL REICHENBERGER



soybeans, wheat and milo. This year, Cleveland will add 500 acres that he will farm on his own.

“My dad is an awesome mentor,” he says. “I want to be prepared to take over seamlessly when he retires, so I am taking college classes and reading everything I can so I will be ready.”

Cleveland sees parallels between farming and logistics. “You have to be prepared for challenges and do detailed planning. Things don’t always work out like they are supposed to, so you have to be able to handle adversity and be efficient.

“I am under my dad’s wing as the fifth generation on our farm,” he adds. “In 2020, it will be our family’s 150th year of farming. I can’t imagine doing anything else. I am living my dream.”

## TWO PATHWAYS

Spence Pennington is a people person but admits he enjoys farming areas where there are no people within 10 miles. The full-time Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel is also a full-time farmer. He appreciates how the solace of the farm offsets the stress of telecommuting and managing dozens of people. And, it’s certainly more appealing than the stress of being deployed.

“Farming is in my blood and has eased that stress, but considering where commodity and input prices have been, the farm brings a whole new kind of pressure,” he explains.

Pennington grew up on a 7,000-acre farm in one of the poorest counties in the country, Willacy County, on the southern tip of Texas. His family has a long military history, instilling in him the need to serve his country. In addition to his father and other local veterans, one of his biggest influences was his paternal grandmother, a World War II Army nurse who received the Bronze Star for her actions in the Pacific, and stories about his mother’s great uncle, General George Gordon Meade, who was at the Battle of Gettysburg.

He signed on with Texas A&M’s Corps of Cadets and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). His goal was to become a military pilot, but he was denied because he’s color blind.

Instead, Pennington became an aircraft maintenance officer. “I managed the health and readiness of the aircraft fleet and lead mechanics,” he says. He served on both U.S. coasts, in Germany and Japan, and had two deployments to Iraq, as well as Africa, South Asia and Australia.

“I have seen the world, but when there was an opening to return to the farm, I did,” he adds.

In 2014, Pennington accepted an incentive to leave active duty as the federal government downsized services. Coincidentally, there was an opportunity to buy out a retiring farmer and his equipment. Today, the Pennington family raises 15,000 acres of cotton, grain sorghum,



*Spence Pennington splits his time working fields on his Texas farm and serving in the Air Force Reserve.*

EDDIE SEAL

sugar cane, corn, sesame seed and Brangus cattle near Raymondville, Texas. The operation includes his parents, brother and sister, and 14 employees.

Pennington and his wife, Emily, a flight nurse still serving in the military reserve and a nurse practitioner at a region hospital, have two daughters.

While he commutes between two jobs, Pennington notes managing both has made him a planner, risk-taker and people and processes leader. Farming taught him about maintaining equipment and instilled a work ethic; the military taught supply chain and process management, and technical skills he uses daily in agriculture.

Pennington has been an FVC member for two years and is doing his part to assist fellow vets transition to civilian life. He employs one veteran who also comes from a farming background. Thanks to training, the 25-year employee has become their farm’s go-to precision-farming equipment operator. Pennington hopes to hire more veterans in the future.

“I read that the U.S. population is made up of 1% veterans and 1% farmers. I count myself fortunate to be in that elite group that covers both. When I was deployed, there were people who wanted you there and people who didn’t. I lost airplanes and people. There were successes and failures. But, you get back on the horse and go at it again, because people depend on you every day. You’re not allowed to quit.”

Neither will the FVC and its mission to help veterans make farming a career. ///

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Farmer Veteran Coalition offers training, specialized equipment, scholarships, business planning and ongoing one-on-one support, and encourages use of its Homegrown by Heroes brand. Visit <https://farmvetco.org>.




# TAKE ROTATE SOA ACTION

EVERY STEP COUNTS

Every small step you take is a giant leap in the fight against herbicide-resistant weeds. So when you spray, use multiple herbicide sites of action — because every step counts.

Download the handy Take Action app or the Herbicide Classification Chart at [IWillTakeAction.com](http://IWillTakeAction.com)



Brought to you by the soy checkoff. 

©2020 United Soybean Board [59787-14/20]. Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC. Apple and App Store are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

# RATE YOUR BIG IRON

*Our Reader Insights survey reveals what farmers really think of their tractors.*



*Farmers listen to farmers when they make equipment-buying decisions. Progressive Farmer's new Reader Insights Award gives life to that wisdom. This Reader Insights survey on tractors is the first of several equipment surveys in 2020. The program will culminate in an awards ceremony recognizing the best of the best in several categories during the DTN Ag Summit, Dec. 7-9 in Chicago.*

## The inaugural Progressive Farmer Reader Insights

survey of owner satisfaction with farming equipment revealed that while most owners have no regret about the tractors they have purchased, nearly half are not completely satisfied. The survey also found that farmer-dealer relationships are crucial in buying decisions.

This first Reader Insights survey focuses on tractors. Additional equipment surveys will be conducted over subsequent months in collaboration with SOCAL Approach Marketing and Consulting Group. The project will measure growers' experiences and satisfaction with

their equipment lines. Tractor owners supplied detailed information on 7,085 tractors in this survey. Nearly 2,000 surveys were returned.

"This is the first, grassroots survey of its kind, and Reader Insights is providing critical information about owner satisfaction with their tractors. In short, farmers are supplying information that will benefit other farmers," says Gregg Hillyer, editor in chief of *Progressive Farmer*.

Data were collected by horsepower range—1,404 large tractors (236 hp and above), 3,405 medium (100 to 235 hp) and 2,276 small (less than 100 hp).

**7,085**  
TOTAL TRACTOR  
EVALUATIONS

On a scale of 1 to 5 (one the lowest, five the highest) 55% of farmers said they were likely (rating of 5) to purchase that same tractor if they were to make that decision again. More than half of farmers were likely to purchase another tractor built by that manufacturer, as well as purchase another type of machinery sold by that brand. About 20% of respondents gave their tractor, its brand and the brand's overall equipment portfolio a 4. An additional 20% of respondents gave their tractor, that brand and the brand's overall equipment portfolio a rating of 1, 2 or 3.

"This is interesting because for as expensive as these items are, we still have a large percentage of all tractors receiving a less-than-totally-satisfied response," says George Owens, Principal Consultant at SOCAL. "In theory, this gives an opportunity for brands to potentially [take away] sales from other brands."

**THE DEALER FACTOR**

"I like this survey," says Stuart Sanderson, of Henderson Farms, Madison, Alabama. He has purchased tractors from Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, in addition to his own TriGreen Equipment John Deere dealership, with 21 locations throughout the Southeast. "I hope the dealers would have reason to use this survey to [improve] their own database and marketing approach."

Farmers who answered the survey say dealer relationships, parts supply and support are critical in purchasing decisions. "Dealer support has as much to do with satisfaction as tractor performance," says one farmer who completed the survey.

Nearly three-quarters of all tractors are purchased in part because of the dealer, the Reader Insights survey found.

Stephen Lohr, Rockingham, Virginia, has Kubota, New Holland and AGCO dealers all within 30 minutes of his farm. But, he shops his local John Deere dealership, James River Equipment. "For me, the dealer relationship is 50% of the purchase," he says. And service. "I think Deere has one of the best parts systems out there."

However, Lohr doesn't hesitate to match a tractor's capabilities with need. He purchased a Kubota 5800 HST because it was a better fit for his poultry houses.

Forty percent of respondents say a good relationship with their dealer is very important, 35% somewhat important, 15% neither important nor unimportant, 3% somewhat unimportant, 8% not important at all.

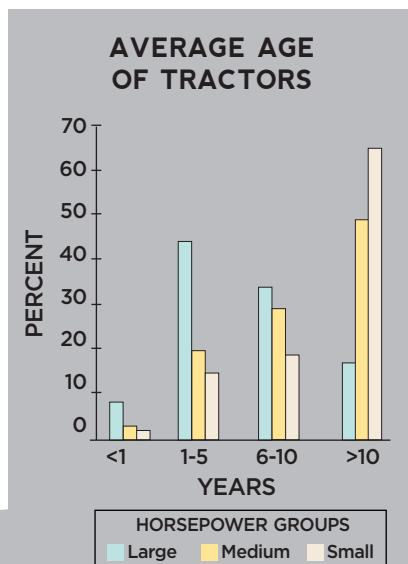
Kevin Ruyle farms 5,000 acres with family outside of Oxford, Kansas. He needs technology support. >



BRENT WARREN

*"I hope the dealers would have reason to use this to [improve] their own database and marketing approach."*

-Stuart Sanderson





“Too many (technology) classes end up being sales pitches,” he says. “I need classes on technology for rookies, virtual classes or YouTube classes that walk you through the systems. If I can see it done, I can do it.”

Fifty-two percent of respondents gave their tractors a 5 rating for overall satisfaction. Another 34% received a 4 rating, and about 14% received a 1, 2 or 3 rating. “This shows there are opportunities for brands to gain market share,” SOCAL’s Owens says.

Respondents to this survey tend to hold onto their tractors, with the possible exception of large tractor owners. Most large tractor owners say their tractors are 1 to 10 years old. Medium-sized owners say their tractors range in age from 6 years to more than 10

years. Small-tractor owners have maintained their units for more than 10 years.

Ruyle manages his south-central Kansas soils with no-till. “We don’t need big power tractors. But,

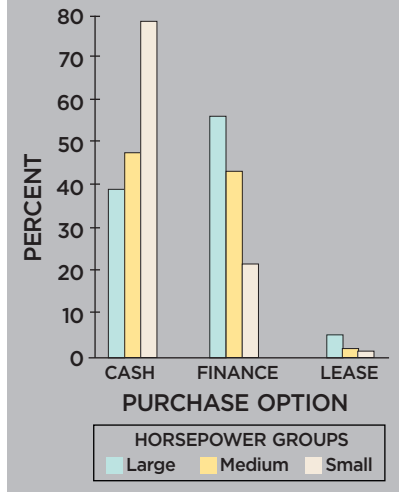
we do look for horsepower, comfort and resale.” Thirty-four percent of owners rated cab comfort as a 5 (11% gave their cabs a 1 or 2). Only 33% of tractors received a 5 for their capability to do expected work (8% received a 1 or 2).

The Reader Insights tractor survey often mentioned technology and its repair. One-fifth of the tractors evaluated received a 5 rating for their advanced technologies (32% gave tractor technology a 1 or 2).

Just 23% received a 5 for warranty coverage (about 19% received a 1 or 2 rating). “Tractors with technology seem to have higher maintenance costs,” one owner says.

Owens finds these reliability responses interesting. “There is huge variability that shows while tractor owners do appreciate many components and facets of their tractors, they certainly don’t appreciate everything about them—namely advanced features possibly due to usability or durability concerns.” ///

**BREAKDOWN ON HOW A TRACTOR WAS PURCHASED**



**IMPORTANCE OF DEALERS IN MAKING PURCHASE DECISIONS**

- 40%** very important
- 35%** somewhat important
- 15%** neither important nor unimportant
- 3%** somewhat unimportant
- 8%** not important at all

NUMBERS MAY NOT ADD UP TO 100 BECAUSE OF ROUNDING.



JIM PATRICO

*“We don’t need big power tractors [because we are no-till]. But, we do look for horsepower, comfort and resale.”*

—Kevin Ruyle



**SURVEYS ARE IN THE FIELD**

The next two Reader Insights machinery surveys are now on their way to select readers of *Progressive Farmer*. Reader Insights is a first-of-its-kind survey series designed to give voice to your opinions about your farming equipment. If you receive a survey, we encourage you to complete it.



# Intrepid Edge<sup>®</sup>

INSECTICIDE

**Fast & lasting control. That's the power of &.**

For fast knockdown and lasting residual control of soybean pests, count on Intrepid Edge<sup>®</sup> insecticide. Two modes of action deliver proven results against looper, corn earworm and more. The difference is clear to see. [IntrepidEdge.com](http://IntrepidEdge.com)



# Sorghum Soars

*Growers' interest rises along with the crop's demand and profit potential.*

**The chance for profitable return is better for grain sorghum than most crops in 2020, driving a surge in acres seeded.**

Sorghum acres are projected to jump 11% this year, to 5.82 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) "Prospective Plantings" Report. The crop is grown for livestock, human consumption and industry uses, but grain demand drives prices and acres.

Plantings could surpass projections. Exports and revenue potential are strong for grain sorghum despite the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic that's stifled other commodity prices. Sorghum also is usually cheaper to raise than other crops given the current economic climate.

"It's [sorghum] one of the bright spots in agriculture," says J. Mark Welch, Texas A&M University Extension grain economist and market specialist.

The coronavirus slowed world economies and put downward pressure on most commodity prices. Corn,

soybean and cotton futures are all trading well below the cost of production for most producers because of weak ethanol and export demand.

Sorghum is bucking the trend.

The U.S. has export commitments of 122.9

million bushels as of April 20. That's only 62.1 million bushels shy of USDA's projection for the entire 2019–20 marketing year, which ends Aug. 31.

"We are well on our way to meeting this target with China as a key driver once again," says John Duff, National Sorghum Producers (NSP) executive vice president.

As of April 20, China committed to buy 68.2 million bushels during the current marketing year. Duff believes many of the 30.3 million bushels now destined for "unknown destinations" will go to China, as well.

NSP chairman Dan Atkisson, who farms near Stockton, Kansas, believes it's a signal for better times ahead.

"It adds optimism for the industry," he says.

China, historically the largest U.S. sorghum customer, quit buying the grain during the trade war between the two countries. That changed after the Phase 1 trade agreement earlier this year. The U.S. is one of the few countries with sorghum to sell, and China uses it to feed livestock, particularly ducks, and to make alcohol called baijiu.

When U.S. sorghum exports skyrocketed in 2015–17, China bought about 80% of the nation's production, Atkisson explains. China purchased a record 354.3 million bushels in 2015.

Typically, sorghum sells for about 20 cents less per bushel than corn, Welch calculates. Atkisson recalls export premiums over corn of 40 cents per bushel in Kansas and \$1.50 per bushel at the Port of Houston when exports were flowing during that same time.

"That's huge," Atkisson adds, noting those premiums could return this year. "As we get the export market back, and producers get more of the premium, acres will go up."

*Profit potential is promising for grain sorghum in 2020 compared to other crops.*  
JIM PATRICO



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS

## PRICE POSITIVITY

Sorghum for export traded at near-parity to corn in February but commanded a 13% premium by the beginning of April, according to NSP.

New-crop basis gains in late March at interior country elevators of 20 to 40 cents per bushel were common, the organization reports.

“These sales and basis improvements are encouraging, and if this pace continues, it will lead to potential for significant profitability gains,” NSP CEO Tim Lust said in a press release.

The recent market upswing reported occurred after USDA acreage surveys were sent to farmers, Lust continues. “With these factors in mind, both domestic and international demand will continue to drive sorghum acres.”

So will risk mitigation. Sorghum typically costs much less to plant than other competing crops with depressed values.

Kansas State University estimates for the 2020 crop season show growers in the state can expect planting corn will cost about \$40 to \$60 per acre more.

Sorghum can still produce well—70 to 100 bushels per acre or better—in low rainfall and marginal soil areas.

“Grain sorghum handles heat and dry environments better than corn, and if the price prospects look better, things are lining up to support the increase in acres in the ‘Prospective Plantings’ Report and possibly more,” Welch says.

## ACREAGE AND INCOME POTENTIAL

DTN lead analyst Todd Hultman agrees acreage could exceed government projections because of profit



potential and low cotton prices since the two crops compete for acres. That could eventually turn bearish for sorghum prices.

Still, he agrees sorghum is one of the few bright spots in the commodities market. Exports are up 83% in the current marketing year compared to a year ago, and sales commitments are three times higher than a year ago thanks to China.

USDA forecasts this year’s average sorghum farm price at \$3.25 per bushel. At that price times the average government yield estimate of 73 bushels per acre, sorghum revenue would average nearly \$244 per acre. That’s substantially better than the \$194 per acre the USDA says it costs per acre to produce, Hultman explains.

“The positive margin is no small matter in today’s tough grain market environment,” he says.

Since no futures or options markets exist for sorghum, Hultman implores farmers to pay close attention to contracts offered at their local elevators. Depending on location and confidence in raising a crop in 2020, he says producers may want to consider forward-pricing a part of this year’s sorghum production.

## CHECKING OFF DEMAND

Craig Poore, chairman of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program and Alton, Kansas, farmer, says sorghum growth and use is booming. He’s optimistic prices will exceed USDA forecasts.

For years, the checkoff—an assessment of 0.6% of the net market value of grain sorghum and 0.35% of the net market value of sorghum forage, silage, hay, haylage and billets—invested resources to increase demand here and abroad. Aquaculture, food and beverage use, and livestock feed projects have or will help drive demand in the future, Poore surmises.

“I see sorghum being a product that will take off in both acres and use,” he continues. “As trade continues to get going, things should start rolling [pricewise] again.” ///

► Follow Matthew Wilde on Twitter @progressivwilde.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

► National Sorghum Producers: [www.sorghumgrowers.com](http://www.sorghumgrowers.com)

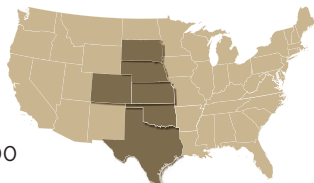
► United Sorghum Checkoff Program:

[www.sorghumcheckoff.com](http://www.sorghumcheckoff.com)

### Top Sorghum-Producing States

Acreage projections per the 2020 USDA  
“Prospective Plantings” Report

1. Kansas, 2.8 million
2. Texas, 1.8 million
3. Colorado, 410,000
4. Oklahoma, 340,000
5. South Dakota, 270,000
6. Nebraska, 200,000



# A focus on continual growth with help from innovation & education

For Minnesota grains producers **Jeff and Roxi Thompson**, marriage and farming go hand-in-hand. Their partnership spans four decades, fueled by love, family, learning, and hard work with a continual focus on growth.

"People have asked me 'how do you stay in business with your husband for so long?'" said Roxi Thompson. "The key is that we don't share any strengths; we also don't share any weaknesses either."

Roxi and Jeff Thompson have been married — and farming together — for 40 years. They've raised three kids on their farm near the southeastern Minnesota town of Harmony. In years past, they've also raised cattle and hogs.

Today, the grandparents of four focus their operations completely on grains. With help from their son, Tom, who leads production and agronomy as part of their management team, they produce corn and soybeans. They also grow certified rye seed, both for their own use as a cover crop and for sale.

And they aren't slowing down anytime soon. According to Roxi, she and Jeff are looking to double their operations over the next two years. That's a goal they're planning to achieve with help from DTN solutions and insights.

## Together since the beginning

The Thompsons have been DTN customers almost as long as they've been married — since the company first opened for business in 1984. They were early adopters of the original satellite-delivered service, which provided them then much-needed futures information for their livestock operations. It also delivered important ag news and weather information.

They still have the service, along with MyDTN, which Roxi accesses on her smartphone. Jeff sticks to his tried-and-true delivery method. She's trying to get him to come around to using a smartphone as she can see the benefits of having so much information at his fingertips while he's out working fields.

To help them further improve the timing and efficiency of their operations, the couple added a DTN Ag Weather Station a few years ago. It gathers and delivers critical weather and agronomy insights right from their fields. According to Roxi, it's been especially helpful in determining their ideal spray windows. By providing more localized and accurate wind

"I like that DTN is always innovating. They ask their customers 'What can we do? How can we help you.' We really appreciate that we have input into their development."

Roxi Thompson





speed and direction information, it helps them get the most out of their applications while reducing their drift risks.

They're also considering adding automated DTN Smart Traps, which will help them catch pest issues sooner, saving them time and yield.

"I like that DTN is always innovating. They ask their customers 'What can we do? How can we help you.' We really appreciate that we have input into their development," explained Roxi.

### **An annual date**

Another important resource that the Thompsons rely on is the annual DTN Ag Summit, which is held in Chicago. They've attended 12 of the last 13 events, missing only the year that Jeff had surgery and needed to stay close to home.

"I like to learn. I figure the moment I stop learning, I cease to exist," explained Jeff Thompson. "There are a lot of 'take homes' that we bring back with us and implement. There's also a lot of people there that we've gotten to know for years, too."

"It's the connections throughout the industry with other producers that's meaningful," added Roxi. "The networking is equally as important as the content."

For Roxi, she appreciates the uniqueness of DTN Ag Summit in that it focuses a lot on the business side of agriculture.

"It's helped me develop a lot as our chief financial officer," she said. "I really appreciate being able to learn from experts that wouldn't be available to me in my hometown."

"It's the people and the relationships that we've built through DTN that have helped us grow our business over the years," said Jeff. "And it's not just the DTN employees that make the difference, it's also the other farmers we meet at Ag Summit, too."

### **The DTN difference**

To learn more about their solutions and Ag Summit, please visit [www.dtn.com/june-pf](http://www.dtn.com/june-pf). ■

# Your Next Financial Leader

*Don't overlook this key management position.*



Write Lance Woodbury at Family Business Matters, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209, or email lance.woodbury@kcoe.com.

## Succession planning in the family business

often focuses on the operational leader—the person directing outside activities or making decisions about logistics, labor, planting or harvesting. The theory is that when something happens to the leader, without an immediate takeover by a competent replacement, the business will struggle with indecision and suffer from mistakes.

While the operational leader undoubtedly plays a key role, an often overlooked person is the one who does the bookkeeping, pays employees and vendors, balances financial accounts and prepares information for the tax plan. The person who knows where the money is—and can keep the money flowing—is just as important as the person calling the shots in the field or pasture. In some cases, that person may be more important than the leader in the field. Following are the reasons why.

## UNIQUE FINANCIAL DYNAMICS

Most farming and ranching operations conduct very similar activities. The timing and tactics of how you farm may vary slightly, but generally speaking, the fieldwork, application of inputs, planting, agronomic analysis and harvesting in a given region are functions that are relatively similar to those around you.

The multitude of competitive renters, farm managers, custom farmers, agronomy consultants and even crop marketing services suggests many functions can be outsourced. And, while it may not produce the exact results you want, engaging the right people can get you through a period of time in the absence of an operational successor.

But, the financial profile of each farm or ranch can vary widely from neighbor to neighbor. Debt levels and equity growth, farm expenses, equipment and infrastructure investments, personal living costs, savings strategies, off-farm investments, support of children or charities, and tax strategies are all unique to your business. And, the person who knows the most about all of those dynamics is the person who enters or reviews your financial transactions. They know where the money goes and are exceptionally important to your organization.



JOEL REICHENBERGER

## LOW MARGIN MANAGEMENT

In times when financial margins are extremely thin, the person in your business who understands where every dollar goes is critical to your survival. That person has the insight to guide your decision-making around purchases of inputs and sales of product.

On today's farm and ranch, financial decisions happen every day, but without a good finance and accounting succession plan, getting someone else up to speed on your books will take time. The absence of good financial information for farm decisions is like flying an airplane through bad weather without instruments—risky and quite possibly fatal.

## TIMELINE IN A CRISIS

The COVID-19 pandemic, state lockdowns and the ensuing financial programs offered by the government came about relatively quickly. As of this writing, many farms that applied for the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program benefited from quick action in filling out and submitting the application, which required calculations of payroll expenses.

In some cases, your competitive advantage and ability to move quickly may be determined by the organization of, and access to, your business information, along with a deep knowledge of the financial structure and intricacies of your business. While you hunt for the details without the help of your finance manager, you may miss out on substantial business opportunities. ///

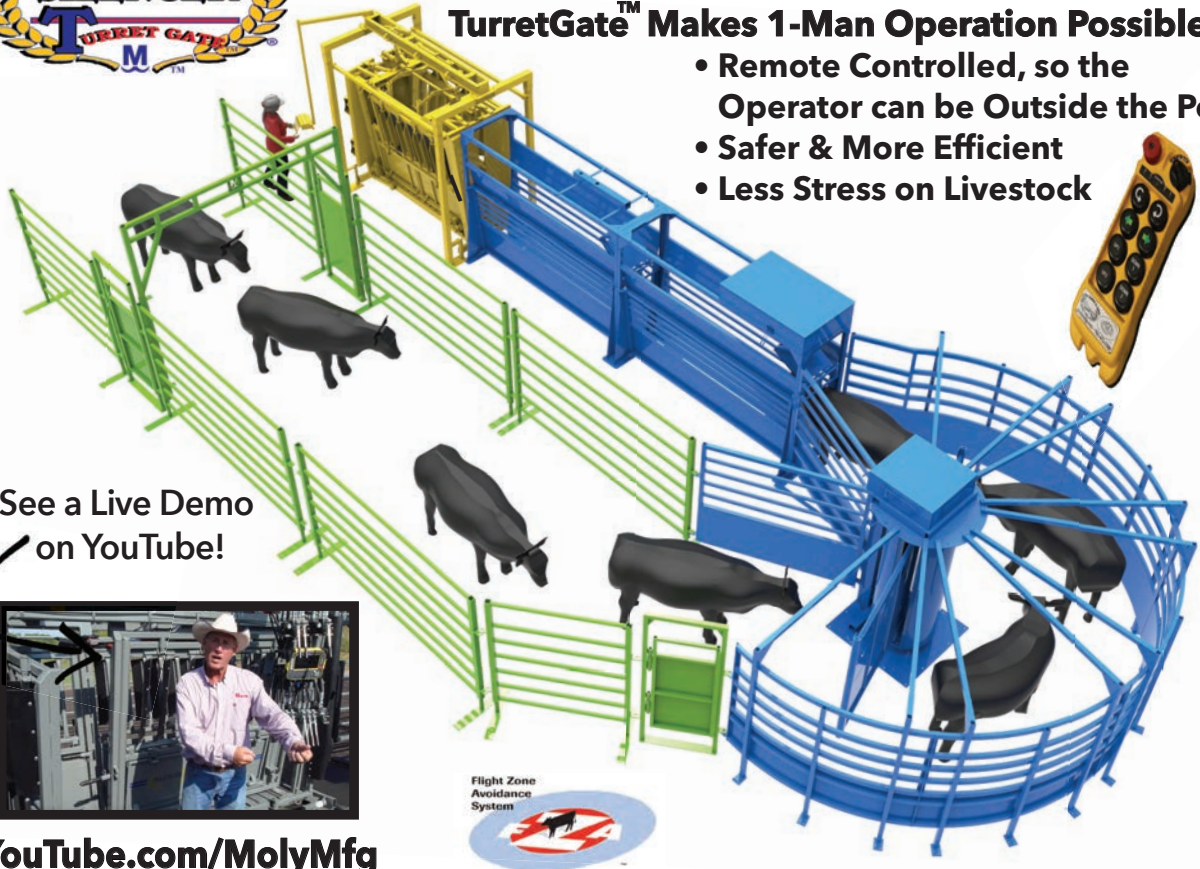
# Moly Manufacturing



**It is 100% Safer to be Outside than Inside!**

**TurretGate™ Makes 1-Man Operation Possible!**

- Remote Controlled, so the Operator can be Outside the Pen
- Safer & More Efficient
- Less Stress on Livestock



See a Live Demo  
on YouTube!



[YouTube.com/MolyMfg](https://www.youtube.com/MolyMfg)


*The Industry Standard in livestock Handling Equipment.*

- The ONLY Product that Hydraulically Swings & Shuttles to Continue the Positive Forward Flow of Animals
- Remote Controlled for Safer, Easier Operation with Less Manpower
- No Manual Gate Pushing Back into Oncoming Cattle
- Can be Galvanized for All-Seasons Usage
- Go Portable with a Hydraulic Carrier
- Built to Order - 100s of Configurations to fit your operation!



(785) 472-3388 • [www.molymfg.com](http://www.molymfg.com) • [facebook.com/MolyMFG](https://facebook.com/MolyMFG)





Our deeply rooted strength comes from nearly 40,000 engaged members who support each other and our way of life.

Your membership creates opportunities to increase corn demand for new uses, trade, livestock, and ethanol. Your investment empowers us to be a stronger voice in Washington and project a positive image of corn farming to consumers.

If you grow corn, you need to be a member.  
Join today and make our root system even stronger.

[www.JoinCornGrowers.com](http://www.JoinCornGrowers.com)



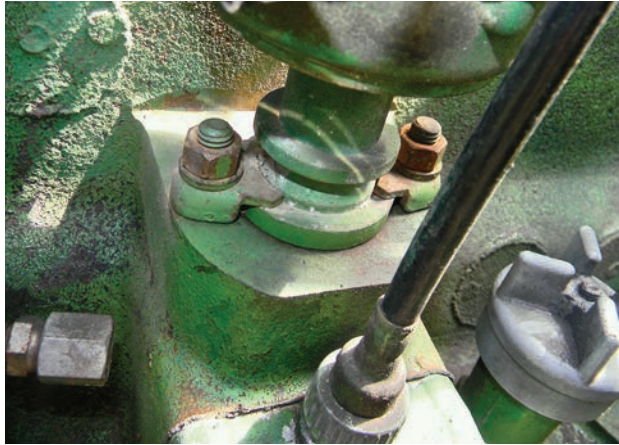
NATIONAL  
CORN GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION

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

## Steve's Back and Forth



Write Steve Thompson at Ask The Mechanic, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209, or email [mechanic@progressivefarmer.com](mailto:mechanic@progressivefarmer.com).



PHOTOS: STEVE THOMPSON

### HAMMER WORKS

**STEVE:** David Mitchell, from Byron, Michigan, has a problem with his old tractor that is still common today. See if you can diagnose the problem with David's tractor as his story unfolds:

*"I have a 1953 Massey-Harris 33, serial number 33GIRF2568. When I purchased this tractor five years ago, it had a motor knock. The knock was gradually getting worse. I had a mechanic take the pan off. The mechanic found that it had been overhauled, and the front main bearing halves were upside down, so the oil hole did not line up with the hole in the block. After a period of time, the tractor started missing and running very rough. I thought it was a carburetor problem. I decided to look at the ignition possibilities. I used a small hammer and tapped the underside of the distributor. To my surprise, the tractor smoothed out and ran correctly. But, after 10 minutes, the tractor started missing again. Again, I tapped the underside of the distributor, and again it stopped missing. This continued to happen, sometimes after only a minute of running. I decided to remove the distributor and check the points, condenser and weights on the timing advance—nothing wrong. After reinstalling the distributor, the tractor acted the same way. The tractor to this day continues to repeat this frustrating problem. Can you help me pinpoint the problem?"*

**STEVE:** It's that old ground problem. The distributor must be grounded, and the distributor on most tractors does not have a separate ground wire and must ground back to the engine block—usually with the help of the hold-down clips (see photo above). As we have all learned, if it is doing something crazy, it's probably a ground problem. I repeat what Pappy Thompson has always said, "Electricity won't leave unless it can come home."

### COLOR MATCH

**STEVE:** Warren Guidry, from Rayne, Louisiana, has a common problem when replacing the ignition switch on an older tractor. When the number of posts on the replacement switch is different, the colors of the factory wires are different, the harness doesn't match the switch, and the replacement switch posts are not marked (see photo below). Here is Warren's story.

*"The ignition switch on my old Case 275 has died. I found a replacement switch, but the terminal identification markers are not the same as the OEM switch. Everything is different about the replacement switch. I know that making a wrong connection can do some pretty serious damage to components. Can you help me with getting the new switch wired correctly?"*

**STEVE:** This is a simple task with a test light. On this tractor, you will need at least an off, on, heat and start post. One wire to the switch is hot all the time. With the test light, locate the wire going to the switch that is hot all the time. This post is usually marked with a B (battery) or I (intensity). If it is not marked, you will need to find it. When you find that post, with the key off, no other post should be hot. Next, turn the key to "on." With the light, find the post that is hot with the key on but no light when the key is off. This post is for the gauges and possibly the light switch, and a tractor with an electric solenoid for the injector pump. Install the wire on this post that turns on these functions. Then, we need to find the heat position for the glow plugs. Turn the switch to the heat position, and find the hot post. Put the wire (usually larger) on this post. You can put the test light on the nut on top of a glow plug to check for voltage. This function is usually spring-loaded. Finally, turn the key to start, and find the hot post that is hot only on start. This wire will activate the starter only in start with all safety switches (including PTO and neutral start switch) closed. Note: The "on" post will also be hot in start. Sometimes, it is easier to find a used switch from a dismantling facility (junkyard). You can find dismantled machines on [tractorhouse.com](http://tractorhouse.com). Scroll down to dismantled machines. All the machines dismantled will appear. Call and get a switch shipped. It will fit and also keep your old tractor original. ///





# ZERO EXCUSES

The premium fungicide  
for the selective  
soybean grower who  
doesn't compromise.

**Revytek™**  
Fungicide

**BASF**  
We create chemistry

Always read and follow label directions.  
Revytek is a trademark of BASF. © 2020 BASF Corporation.  
All rights reserved.



Follow the latest from Pamela Smith, Crops Technology Editor, by visiting the Production Blogs at [dtnpf.com](http://dtnpf.com) or following her on Twitter: @PamSmithDTN.



PAMELA SMITH

## Handy Bt Trait Helper

### The Handy Bt Trait Table

remains the standard for negotiating the maze of Bt field corn traits.

Now in its 18th year, the free online reference lists all trait trade names, Bt events, protein(s) expressed, targeted insects and herbicide traits.

Find it at [bit.ly/3awAgn7](http://bit.ly/3awAgn7).

The publication highlights insect and Bt combinations with documented field failures and confirmed resistance or cross-resistance. The statements are based on published lab assays and/or field research to alert farmers and consultants to potential management problems, to help with seed selection and to encourage field scouting.

What's important to remember is the table is a national publication, and resistance may be widespread, regional or limited to a few fields. Local seed representatives and Extension personnel can help sort what resistance pressures are present in your area.

New this year is a version for U.S. sweet corn found at [bit.ly/2KuA2Ct](http://bit.ly/2KuA2Ct). Canadian field corn farmers can find a trait table at [bit.ly/3bzCEel](http://bit.ly/3bzCEel).

## Grain Sorghum Gets Herbicide Tolerance

### Tanner Antonick admits there

hasn't been a lot of head-turning innovation in grain sorghum since the first hybrid was introduced in 1956. Here comes igrowth, the first commercially available herbicide-tolerant technology in sorghum.

Antonick, the central U.S. account manager for Alta Seeds, says igrowth provides tolerance to the imidazolinone herbicide family. The non-GMO trait eliminates potential market access restrictions.

Registration is expected in 2020 with seed availability slated for the 2021 growing season. Antonick says the initial launch will have four grain sorghum hybrids with early to medium maturity to fit most soil types. Approximately 20 hybrids are in the igrowth pipeline, including forage sorghum, with adaptability to primary sorghum growing regions.

The new technology provides both preemergence and postemergence options, adding flexibility to a weed-control program. Imidazolinone tackles sorghum's biggest weed problems—shattercane and johnsongrass. Antonick contends igrowth's strong activity on grassy weeds will encourage growers to take another look at including grain sorghum in crop rotations.

The igrowth technology will include a stewardship program to help maintain the viability of the technology. ///

—Gregg Hillyer contributed to this column.

# NOT ONE OF THE CROWD

**Revytek™**  
Fungicide

**BASF**

We create chemistry

Always read and follow label directions.

Revytek is a trademark of BASF. © 2020 BASF Corporation.

All rights reserved.



# Weigh the Options

*Early weaning can be the right fit for a lot of reasons, just don't overlook its challenges.*

**E**conomics in 2020 will be a definite driver in just how attractive early weaning may be to cow/calf producers across the country. But, it's the uniqueness of individual cow/calf operations that will ultimately determine where and when the practice really adds up.

That's exactly the way it should be, too, says Jason Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist at Amarillo. Early weaning, he notes, is a situationally dependent management strategy meant to influence, or inflict, positive change on a cow herd. The bottom-line goal should be to use early weaning as a way to make the cow herd more economical to manage.

In the beef industry, early weaning traditionally means taking a calf off its dam anywhere from 90 to 150 days of age. The practice ramps up management requirements, because not only is a producer caring for the cow and her nutritional requirements, he is adding those of the calf to his list of responsibilities. Early-weaned calves need a significant amount of protein and energy, more than those that are conventionally weaned. It's important to compare the costs of these more nutritionally dense feeds and supplements when evaluating whether the practice makes sense.

Early weaning can bring some unexpected payoffs. "We saw increased marbling development by nearly 10% and improved feed efficiency by about 5%," Smith says. "If you are looking to retain ownership or feed out your own calves, this is something to consider. But, there are a lot of variables to factor in when considering early weaning, and this is just one of them."

## LIMITED FORAGES

Probably one of the most common scenarios where early weaning comes into play is when forages are limited, often as a result of drought.

"Because the nutritional demands of lactation are so high, our expectation is if we wean that calf early and dry the cow off during a portion of her lactation

curve, we can decrease her nutritional requirements and maintain her at an acceptable body condition. This is important when feed resources are limited," Smith says.

He adds: "When we've retrospectively applied economics to research data, it generally only made sense to early-wean across the entire cow herd in one out of every five years."

In Nebraska, Jim Jansen says producers historically consider early weaning if a female is not in the best shape, and they need to get a calf off of her to cull her. A more pressing concern now may be the availability of feedstuffs because of drought or feed supplies.

Shortages of distiller byproduct, for example, were beginning to be a concern at press time. That could impact supplemental protein markets, notes Jansen, University of Nebraska agricultural Extension economist. "In this part of the world, we use cube, cake or byproducts to supplement during certain times of the year. We may find the market shifting to soy or alfalfa rations to maintain female body condition. That would have to be considered as we evaluate early weaning."

## FIRST-CALF HEIFERS

Early weaning is often most economically viable in select situations, including first-calf heifers, second-calf

cows and mature cows with low body condition. Holding these females at a body condition above a 4 minimizes failed breedings. Smith says this is because first- and second-calf females have higher nutritional requirements on an equal-bodyweight basis compared to mature cows.

Management goals, however, need to be considered. A producer growing replacements and relying on conception-based selection pressure to build a cow herd well-suited to the environment would find this counter to that strategy. If, on the other hand, a producer is marketing replacements, the aim is a bred heifer. She's not being culled or kept to fit any particular program.



## EARLY-WEANED CALF HEALTH

While a lot of considerations focus on the female when an early-weaning decision is made, there are important factors on the calf side of the equation.

Management of early-weaned calves can be challenging. Texas' Smith says in his experience, the health of these early-weaned calves will depend on the overall health of the herd.

"Where there is a strong herd-health program, generally there is not going to be an issue with early-weaned calves. A comprehensive, preventative program is key. Vaccinations, deworming, all normal preventative health practices are very important. If we are doing what we need to from the cow standpoint independent of how we wean, health on those calves will generally be good."

Smith adds they have observed some situations where aggressive feeding of early-weaned calves to promote a high rate of gain or growth can lead to higher incidences of bloat, acidosis or founder. "It all comes down to feeding management," he stresses. "If you're overly aggressive or not as timely or consistent with feed delivery as you need to be, there can be issues."

In some cases, overfeeding leads to calves becoming founder, ruining their feet. It's a risk that also exists with creep-feeding, he notes.

"There is a risk of causing hoof conformation issues and laminitis. We've also seen that when we push cattle to mature earlier, they don't always reach their genetic potential for frame size and carcass weight. They get fat and finished before they reach that point," he says. An additional backgrounding or growing phase prior to finishing can offset this.

Lastly, Smith notes implants can be a valuable component of early-weaning programs if the producer markets through a program that allows it.

"It makes a lot of sense to implant early-weaned calves if we are managing them to achieve higher levels of growth and performance than we would have seen on the cow," he explains. "We'd also expect a greater response out of an implant. It's important to know the label and use it in accordance with its approval. Depending on management strategies, a calf early-weaned into a drylot may not necessarily be the same as a finishing calf when it comes to approved uses of a certain implant product." ///

THIS FLAG.  
OUR NATION.  
YOUR FARM.

We stand for all of it.



AGAMERICA<sup>®</sup>  
LENDING

AGAMERICA.COM 855.735.5561

AgAmerica Lending LLC is a licensed mortgage lender. NMLS ID#372267





# FACTS Not Fear

*Veterinarians want people to know the truth about COVID-19 and animals.*

**P**anicked decisions are almost always bad decisions. Reports from parts of China in February, when COVID-19 cases were on the rise, revealed mass killings of pets because of fears they might be able to infect people with the virus. The killings can only be characterized as brutal. They were also unnecessary.

In the U.S., the same type of rumors spread over social media sites, initially fueled by reports a tiger at the Bronx Zoo in New York tested positive for COVID-19. Putting aside emotion, what do the facts say about the danger animals, whether livestock or pets, pose to people in terms of spreading COVID-19? A good place to go for answers is the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

John Howe, a veterinarian out of Minnesota and current president of the AVMA, says throughout the pandemic, there was a lot of misinformation in the media. He believes it's important to separate fact from fear and starts by noting there are more than 200 different coronaviruses.

"Cattle, for example, have a specific coronavirus; horses have their own; swine have theirs; dogs and cats have theirs. They are all different," Howe explains. "These viruses don't cross immunity. When you vaccinate against one, it doesn't confer immunity against another. So, it does you no good, for example, to vaccinate a pig with a cat coronavirus, because the two are totally different."

## DESPERATE MEASURES

Howe says during the peak of the virus, some misinformed people thought they could use an animal vaccine to gain immunity to COVID-19. Not only does this not work, but it can cause serious reactions.

Another strange idea making the rounds was that ivermectin might be effective against COVID-19. Ivermectin is an antiparasitic and the active ingredient found in heartworm medications for animals. This is another poor, misinformed idea that is dangerous.

Howe explains: "This comes out of some research that showed ivermectin, at 50 times the normal dose you'd use in practice, was found to have some antiviral activity. It is true we give ivermectin to animals, and we also give it to humans in some cases. But, at the dose rate it would have to be given to have antiviral activity, it would result in severe central nervous system toxicity, and it would kill the brain."

Howe says the fact that ideas such as these were making the rounds in the media raises fears someone



could be so misinformed, and so desperate, that they might pursue such dangerous courses.

## SPREAD BETWEEN SPECIES

Can COVID-19 be transmitted from domestic animals or livestock to people? At press time, Howe said there was no evidence to indicate this was the case, but researchers were tracking the situation closely.

"Based on what we know, there were two dogs in China and one cat that tested a mild positive. They had no clinical signs. They later tested negative. Those tests, it's important to note, were PCR [polymerase chain reaction] tests, which can detect even a part of a viral particle. That could have been licked up off the floor. Just finding a part of a virus particle doesn't mean the animal was sick with it."

Addressing the case of the tiger at the Bronx Zoo, Howe says the zookeeper was shedding the virus and coming into contact with the tiger. This might indicate COVID-19 could be passed from people to big cats. That is not the same as a house cat.

"You can't equate large, wild cats with domestic cats," he says. "African lions, for example, can get canine distemper, and domestic cats can't. There are lots of differences. So, we don't need to jump to conclusions."

## LIVESTOCK HANDLING

The AVMA issued recommendations early in the pandemic for livestock producers, as well as for veterinarians, in terms of handling animals and working with clients. Those still hold true, Howe says.

"First, with regards to livestock producers, I'm saying just use common sense. Be cautious if you are sick, and if you can avoid working livestock at this time, do so," he says.

“Wash your hands before and after working or handling animals,” Howe adds. “The virus is introduced intranasally. So, if you’re sick, try to stay away, and if you can wear a mask, do so. If there is someone else available to do the job while you’re sick, let them.”

AVMA guidelines for veterinarians, in terms of working with clients and their animals, include the use of screening questions prior to treatment. People should expect to be asked whether anyone on the farm or ranch is showing symptoms of illness. If not, the veterinarian will bring minimum staff to perform the job and will keep 6 feet apart from people for biosecurity.

“Livestock producers are very familiar with biosecurity and its importance,” Howe notes. “Swine producers, for example, know it’s shower-in and shower-out, foot baths, scrubbing boots before and after visits, etc. We are well-equipped in the livestock industry to deal with this. In a lot of ways, it’s normal biosecurity.”

**VETERINARIAN CHALLENGES**

Veterinarians have had a number of serious business challenges connected to COVID-19. Howe says many clinics had shortages of personal protection equipment

after donating supplies to area health-care workers. And, at clinics where small animals are treated, he notes visitors likely saw differences in protocol.

“Many veterinarians put off nonessential things like vaccinations, and in some cases, staff came to cars so owners didn’t have to come into the clinic. There were a lot of safeguards in place to protect people and veterinarians and their staffs.”

COVID-19 continues to take an economic toll on veterinary clinics. Many were forced to lay off help, Howe explains, and they were down to bare essentials. Many employees lost jobs, a step Howe says was detrimental to veterinary medicine and will continue to create challenges in the future.

On the farm, Howe concludes livestock producers shouldn’t be overly worried when it comes to the virus.

“Be mindful of distancing, wash your hands and just use a little common sense,” he says, adding, “don’t kiss your horse.” ///

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

➤ AVMA COVID-19 Resources: [avma.org/coronavirus](http://avma.org/coronavirus)

**NEW! MINERAL FEEDERS**  
**AmeriAg** AS TOUGH AS YOUR LIVESTOCK  
 Saves Mineral, Saves Money

**INCECTICIDE STRIPS**

- Bull & Spill Proof
- Weather Proof
- Ex Large Capacity
- Portable
- Calf Friendly
- Economical

**NEW QUAD FEEDER**  
 See in Action at [ameriag.com](http://ameriag.com)  
**650 LB CAPACITY**

U.S. Patent # 9,380,761 # 9,918,451 Canadian Patent # 2752991 and other U.S. & International Patents Pending

**Made in the U.S.A.** [WWW.AMERIAG.COM](http://WWW.AMERIAG.COM)  
 1-877-551-4916

**Cobett**  
 Farmer-designed Waterers

- Low/no traffic - OK
- No heat - OK
- No concrete - OK
- Open drinking area
- Bull-tough
- Buried system
- Easy plumbing access
- Bison, cattle, horses, sheep

**Made in USA since 1997**

**See Cobett at**

**Sandhills Ranch Expo Bassett, NE • June 17 & 18**  
**Oklahoma City Farm Show Oklahoma City, OK • June 18 - 20**  
**Four State Farm Show Pittsburg, KS • July 24 - 26**  
**Cattle U and Trade Show Dodge City, KS • July 29 & 30**

[www.cobett.com](http://www.cobett.com) • 888-699-4722





JIM PATRICO

## Delivery Issues Set Up Calf for Problems

*I am trying to save a calf. He will not suck a nipple, so we feed him with a tube two times a day. He is 21 days old. He does not stand up straight on his front legs and seems to have no control over them. They just fold under him. His back legs seem fine. What can we do for him?*

**Dr. McMillan:** This is a case where I would advise getting your herd veterinarian involved early to fully evaluate the situation. My first concern is whether what is going on with his front legs could be related to the feeding problem. Without seeing him, I suspect he may have contracted tendons and possibly nerve damage.

Contracted tendons can occur when a large, developing calf's legs don't have room to move and stay flexed in the last weeks of gestation. Large calves are also more likely to have difficulty being born. Both the amount of pressure and the length of time that pressure exists on those legs can damage nerves in the calf's legs, which can lead to paralysis. Those nerves can also be damaged if the calf had to be pulled, especially if OB chains and a calf jack are used improperly, or a vehicle or tractor was used to pull the calf. Prolonged labor and a difficult birth can even lead to brain damage, which is another possible reason a calf may be slow to get up and begin nursing.

If contracted tendons are the problem, those are typically treated with splints applied to the legs to gradually, gently stretch tendons and straighten legs. This can be successful if done properly; but if done incorrectly, it can cut off circulation and make things worse.

Most normal calves quickly adapt to a bottle. My approach to get them nursing is to back them into a corner, put some milk on the nipple, hold the head up with one hand and put a finger in the calf's mouth to see if it will suck. Then, I slip the nipple into its mouth. You may need to squeeze the nipple or gently close the



Write Dr. Ken McMillan at Ask The Vet, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209, or email [vet@progressivefarmer.com](mailto:vet@progressivefarmer.com).

calf's mouth onto it to get some milk to come out. New nipples can be stiff, so it's not a bad idea to keep an old nipple around to start a calf with. If you don't have one, warming a new nipple can help soften it. Also try enlarging the hole in the nipple to increase milk flow. You might even try a smaller lamb nipple. Switch back to a normal nipple once he starts nursing well.

The biggest concern with a bottle-raised calf is getting milk into its respiratory tract. That can lead to aspiration pneumonia. The risk is higher with calves that don't quickly take to a bottle.

Lastly, you can always try a bucket. Some calves just do better on a bucket than a bottle. They are all individuals, so be patient and keep trying until you find something that works.

*I have a young cow on her second calf. She has an ugly udder and two overly large teats. The calf is doing fine but won't nurse those teats. I have tried to milk them out without much success. If I insert a small metal tube to drain the milk, will it damage the udder?*

**Dr. McMillan:** This cow has a condition commonly called "balloon teats." Teat and udder quality is a top reason for culling cows. The Beef Improvement Federation has a scoring system to help you make those culling decisions (see [beef.unl.edu/learning/udder\\_score.shtml](http://beef.unl.edu/learning/udder_score.shtml)).

A cow's udder is an amazing structure. At the end of the teat is a complex structure called the "street canal," a one-way valve that releases milk to the calf but keeps infectious organisms out. A large metal teat needle, as you describe, can introduce infectious organisms into the teat and udder. It can also temporarily or permanently damage the street canal, making the udder vulnerable to infections.

On a few exceptional occasions when I could not milk out a teat, I have used a much smaller, single-use sterile plastic cannula to drain it. In some of these cases, the calf has been able to begin nursing the teat afterward. It's important to note that this condition will recur with the next calf. It significantly reduces milk production and weaning weights, and there is a chance the calf doesn't receive adequate colostrum. I advise you sell this cow and cast a questioning eye to her dam and sire. ///

Please contact your veterinarian with questions pertaining to the health of your herd. Every operation is unique, and the information in this column does not pertain to all situations. This is not intended as medical advice but is purely for informational purposes.

# DTN<sup>°</sup>



# Ag Summit

## FARM STRONG

Strategies to build resilience



December 7-9  
Chicago, IL

Join us at the 2020 DTN Ag Summit December 7-9 at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park hotel. Challenging times demand that you re-evaluate your business plan and operations. This year's DTN Ag Summit will focus on ways you can build a more resilient business to farm strong. Don't miss agriculture's premier, producer-focused business conference. **Come hear fresh perspectives on subjects critical to your operation:**

- From COVID-19 to the fall elections, how will events of 2020 shape the future of agricultural markets, trade and macroeconomic trends
- U.S. and global weather patterns and their market implications for the 2021 growing season
- Technological trends transforming production agriculture, and which are ready for adoption and ROI today
- Near-term compliance and regulatory changes and how can you prepare for them

## Registration is now open!

Learn more **888.576.9881** or **[dtnagsummit.com](https://dtnagsummit.com)**

© 2020 DTN, LLC, all rights reserved. "DTN" and the degree symbol logo are trademarks of DTN, LLC.

Hosted by:

*Progressive*  
**FARMER**

# Autonomy Goes Commercial

*After decades of concepts and years of testing, limited autonomous solutions are becoming available to farmers.*

## By any reasonable measure, the path for

mainstream autonomous agriculture equipment will be a winding one. But, for a handful of companies, big ideas and carefully monitored tests have been giving way to a big step down that path—commercial availability.

Raven Applied Technology, for one, is leveraging a pair of purchases made last autumn into a big step in that direction. Those moves now have the company breaching the commercial barrier.

One of those acquisitions, DOT Technology, produced the Dot Power Platform, a diesel-powered autonomous machine that looks more like the lunar rover than a tractor. It's already available in select regions.

Smart Ag, an Ames, Iowa, startup, meanwhile had been focused on an aftermarket kit capable of turning a tractor autonomous for pulling a grain wagon from the combine to the truck. Raven plans to introduce that technology for sale ahead of this fall's harvest.

## COMMERCIAL DECISION

"I've been working on this since Day 1, so seeing it come from that, from nothing to now, where it's a product people can go out and buy, that's pretty exciting," says Colin Hurd, Smart Ag founder who stayed on with Raven after the deal.

Going commercial with a project isn't as direct a decision for cutting-edge ag companies as it may be for

After acquiring AutoCart developer Smart Ag late last year, Raven is prepared to commercially release the autonomous grain cart kit for this year's fall harvest.



Apple when it's deciding on rolling out the newest iPhone, where it's expected to have thousands in stores awaiting customers on launch day.

EarthSense, co-founded by Girish Chowdhary, an assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering at the University of Illinois, introduced its

autonomous ag robot, TerraSentia, in 2017.

The company made its first commercial sale a year later, sold 30 in 2019 and is producing 100 this year.

TerraSentia is a small, wheeled machine about the size of a French bulldog that rolls between corn rows and under the canopy using sensors to collect data on plant health.

That first machine in 2018 was a lot closer to a beta test model than the newest iPhone usually is.

"It's a huge responsibility when you sell a product, but there really isn't any other way," Chowdhary says. "We're walking in the valley of death in this market. We have to make our case on a shoestring budget. You have to get it out there and put it in the hands of people. So far, we've seen a huge amount of interest in our robots from farmers."

Now, the company is trying to ride that boost to both refine the product it has and introduce more.

"Customers are waiting for the weeding robots we're making," Chowdhary says. "We're trying to launch those for next year."

## LAUNCH TIMING

At Raven, the introduction of product is equally paced. DOT was introduced in western Canada with three implement options, a sprayer, a seeder and a spreader, with more planned to be ready in the next 18 months.

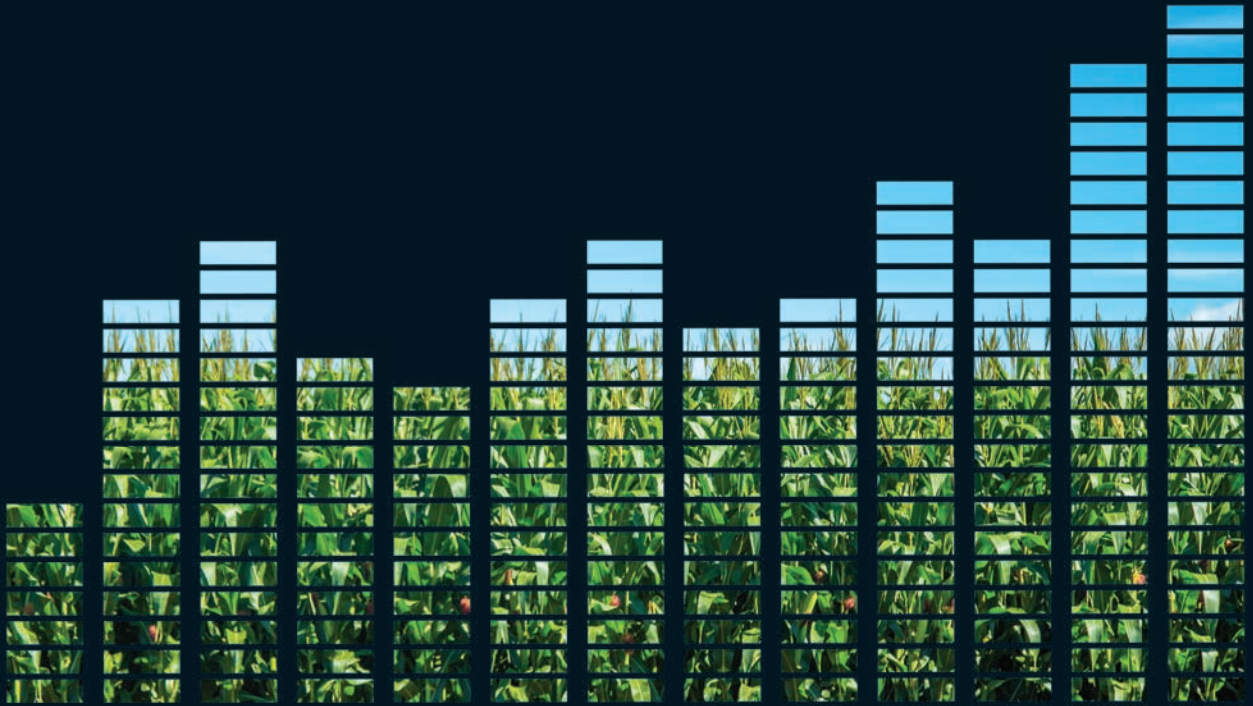
The company has built AutoCart dealers from coast to coast in the United States. It hopes to have more than 100 kits on farms this fall, selling them for \$55,000 with an additional \$3,000 annual subscription.

The equipment fits with John Deere 8R tractors, but there are plans to expand to other brands soon, too, and there's a hope to get the technology included as an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) option from the factory. That's only the start.

"Eventually, the farmer will be able to do other things, potentially spraying, tillage or planting," Hurd says.

That, of course, is all still in the realm of ideas, concepts and tests, like so much of autonomous ag machinery, with a few exceptions.

"We've stepped off the bank, and we're in the river now. We have products we're selling this year that we believe have compelling value proposition," says Wade Robey, executive director of Raven Autonomy. "We believe the tipping point has happened. This is going to go very rapidly." ///



# CRANK UP YOUR CONTROL.

## TAKE YOUR DISEASE CONTROL TO A NEW LEVEL WITH THE IDEAL PREMIX.

Topguard<sup>®</sup> EQ fungicide from FMC combines a strobilurin fungicide with FMC-patented flutriafol to protect your corn and soybean crops. This exclusive premix delivers preventative and curative control throughout the plant. A longer residual and multiple modes of action make it the soundest choice for disease control.

Topguard EQ fungicide is one of 40+ products eligible for the exclusive Agronomic Rewards, Performance Assurances and Product Financing with the FMC Freedom Pass program.

**Visit your FMC retailer or [FMCAGUS.COM/TOPGUARDEQ](https://www.fmc.com/topguard) to learn more.**



# Pessimism Hits Historic Levels

*Farmer outlooks take a downturn in the wake of global pandemic and weak commodity prices.*

**Attitudes on the farm have reached a bottom,** driven down by flat commodity prices and falling global economic conditions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DTN/*The Progressive Farmer* Agriculture Confidence Index is a pessimistic 67, a drop of 97 points from December 2019 and down 43 points from spring 2019.

The previous record index low was 71.9 in August 2016, as then-falling crop prices melded with a divisive presidential election.

The DTN/*The Progressive Farmer* Agriculture Confidence Index is conducted three times a year: early spring before planting, late summer just prior to harvest and just before the end of the year, during tax-preparation time. The telephone survey is conducted with at least 500 farmers who identify as being actively engaged in the farm operation.

The current index survey took place in early April, just as social distancing and other pandemic precautions were being implemented. Farmers responding to the telephone survey answered financial and income questions that compare the present to expectations of future conditions. A score is given to rate their “present situation” and their “future expectations.” Those numbers are combined to create the overall Agriculture Confidence Index.

Numbers above the baseline of 100 indicate optimism, and scores below 100 are considered pessimistic.

The current survey produced a current expectation score of 55, with a future expectations level of a still-pessimistic

73. The last time all three numbers—the overall index, current situation and future expectation—dipped below 100 was the previous record-low period of August 2016.

## NO SPRING ENTHUSIASM

It's significant these lows come during a spring survey, when future expectation levels especially tend to be higher. Levels in 2019, for example, were 110 for the overall index, 63 for current conditions yet 136 for future expectations.

Midwest farmers showed the most pessimism yet the most optimism for the future. Their future expectations score was a near-neutral 92, though that was offset by a dismal current conditions level of 38, the lowest score in index history. Southeastern farmers scored their present conditions at 89 and felt worse about the future, scoring a 56. Southwestern producers were similar, with a present score of 72 and a slightly lower future expectations level of 64. All those regional scores were well off the highly optimistic levels seen in the various regions just before the December 2019 holiday season.

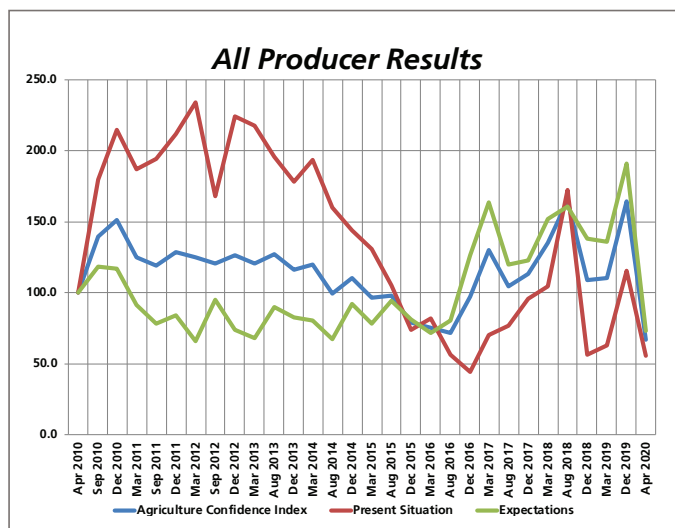
## AGRIBUSINESSES MORE OPTIMISTIC

In addition to the survey of farmers, DTN/*The Progressive Farmer* also conducts a similar query of at least 100 ag retailers for the index. The overall index for spring 2020 is 104, up slightly from the 100 of December 2019 and the 103 of a year ago. Agribusinesses rated current conditions a slightly pessimistic 85, with a future expectations level of 118. That latter number was also above December (100) and year-ago (107) levels, a sign that despite the issues of the pandemic, ag retailers don't expect huge drops in revenue for the coming crop year.

## SUPPORT FOR TRUMP CONTINUES

DTN/*The Progressive Farmer* also asked farmers about their political views, as well as their concerns around the pandemic. Depending on income level, between 96 and 98% of farmers surveyed said they planned to vote in the upcoming presidential election. About 90% said if the election was held this spring, they would vote for the current Trump administration. That's a significant 15-point increase from farmer responses in December 2019. Approximately 85% of farmers surveyed in April said they were satisfied with the administration's handling of the coronavirus issue.

When asked about their greatest pandemic concerns, some 45% said they were most concerned for the health of family and friends. A third of farmers said the overall economy was their greatest concern, while around 15% said they were most concerned about commodity prices. Farmers with incomes of \$100,000 to \$249,000 showed a higher level of concern for commodity prices; farmers with incomes of \$1 million and above were slightly more concerned with global economic issues. ///



Farmer confidence hits historic lows. DTN GRAPHIC

## Coverage of ag's hottest issues to the Nth degree.

Listen to our brand new Field Posts podcast, hosted by Sarah Mock and powered by Progressive Farmer, an independent industry thought leader for over 130 years. Field Posts provides a holistic view of common and hot-button issues to help you make the best decisions for your farm. Find it on all major podcast platforms.

**prosper in a dynamic world**

Progressive  
**FARMER**  
powered  
by **DTN**

Learn more

[www.about.dtnpf.com/field-posts](http://www.about.dtnpf.com/field-posts)

# field posts

### Meet your Field Posts podcast host Sarah Mock

Sarah Mock is an ag and rural issues writer and broadcaster. She grew up on a Wyoming farm and studied technology and international affairs at Georgetown University. Mock has spent her career working in both the public and private sectors throughout the United States and abroad. She was most recently the Washington Bureau Chief for RFD-TV. Follow her on Twitter: @sarah\_k\_mock.



# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (623)

**U.S. GENERAL** TOUGHER • STRONGER • MORE STABLE SERIES 2

**44" x 22" Double Bank Extra Deep Cabinet**

**\$449<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$499<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Snap-on KRA4813FPB0 \$2,735  
ITEM 64446, 64955, 64443, 64954, 64133, 64956

**Save \$2,285**



• 14,000 cu. in. of storage  
• 2600 lb. capacity  
• Heavy duty 5" casters - 2 fixed and 2 locking swivel

**YOUR CHOICE OF 6 COLORS**



**Use Online & In-Store**

10186905 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**NOW** GOOD THRU AUGUST 1

**SAVE 88%**

**Grant's** ★★★★★ (5,767)

**12" x 12" Microfiber Cleaning Cloths Pack of 4**

**WOW \$69<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$299~~

**LIMIT 3**

Compare to Profile AZC0AB \$5.99  
ITEM 63358, 63925/57162, 63363 shown

**Use Online & In-Store**

10200645 Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**20% OFF**

Use Online & In-Store

10181632

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discounts, coupons or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking, Sale Item, compressor, floor jacks, power cleaners, hoses, storage cabinets, chests or carts, Anvils, welders, Airmax, Atlas, Bostich, General Machine, Cobra, CoverPro, Daytona, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Icon, Jambler, Lynx, Pindar, Predator, Talledega, Viking, Veritas, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 8/1/20.

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (279)

**HARDY**

**Mechanics Gloves**

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$5<sup>99</sup>~~

AVAIL. IN SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL

Compare to Valeo 25521 \$14.99

**Save 66%**



**Use Online & In-Store**

10204602 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (3,386)

**PITTSBURGH**

**Click-Type Torque Wrenches**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$19<sup>99</sup>~~

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**

YOUR CHOICE

Compare to Husky H20TWA \$89.97

**Save 88%**

Item 239 shown

DRIVE	ITEM
1/4"	61277/63881/2696
3/8"	61276/63880/807
1/2"	62431/63882/239

**Use Online & In-Store**

10207241 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (5,010)

**Quantum**

**588 Lumen Tactical Flashlight**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$14<sup>99</sup>~~

5"

Compare to Streamlight ProTac 1L \$59.99  
ITEM 64799, 63934 shown

**Save 83%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10214126 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4,737)

**WARRIOR**

**29 Piece Titanium Drill Bit Set**

**\$10<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$18<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Dewalt DW1369 \$68.14  
ITEM 5889, 61637 shown

**Save 83%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10218817 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (795)

**PITTSBURGH**

**42" Off-Road Farm Jack**

**\$47<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$59<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Strongway 46204 \$69.99  
ITEM 60668, 6530 shown

**Save 31%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10225717 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (5,667)

**drillmaster**

**4-1/2" Angle Grinder**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$14<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Performax 2411-1 \$17.99  
ITEM 69645, 60625 shown

**Save 44%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10228197 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4,898)

**HaulMaster**

**4 Piece, 1" x 15 ft. Ratcheting Tie Downs**

**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$12<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Keeper 5505 \$22.80  
ITEM 90984, 63056/63057, 63150/56668, 63094 shown

**Save 69%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10229382 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (438)

**HaulMaster**

**3-Point Quick Hitch**

**\$79<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$109<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Double HH 10712 \$199.99  
ITEM 97214

**Save \$120**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10241843 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (5,063)

**PORTLAND**

**1750 psi Electric Pressure Washer**

**\$79<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$99<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Briggs & Stratton 20600 \$174.44  
ITEM 63255, 63254 shown

**Save \$94**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10250122 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (113)

**PREDATOR**

**3" Semi-Trash Gasoline Engine Water Pump (212 cc)**

**\$299<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$339<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Powerhorse 750124 \$399.99  
ITEM 56162, 63406 shown

**Save \$100**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10285549 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4,598)

**HaulMaster**

**18" Working Platform Step Stool**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$29<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Neocraft 60635 \$39.99  
ITEM 62515, 66911 shown

**Save 50%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10260900 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (554)

**HaulMaster**

**1 Ton Chain Hoist**

**\$44<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$59<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Global Industrial 241638 \$83.95  
ITEM 69338, 996 shown

**Save 46%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10263373 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4,150)

**BUNKER HILL SECURITY**

**Wireless Security Alert System**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$14<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to First Alert SFA600 \$32.99  
ITEM 61910, 62447, 63068 shown

**Save 69%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10270760 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (463)

**PITTSBURGH SERIES 2**

**#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA**

**Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Floor Jack**

**\$89<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$99<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Powerbuilt 647593 \$135.27  
ITEM 56621, 56622/56623, 56624 shown

**Save \$45**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10277797 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (4,477)

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS**

**6 AMP Variable Speed Reciprocating Saw**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$28<sup>99</sup>~~

Blade sold separately.

Compare to Porter-Cable PCE360 \$59.98  
ITEM 65570, 61884, 62370 shown

**Save 66%**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10285916 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**SUPER COUPON** ★★★★★ (1,737)

**COVERPRO**

**10 ft. x 17 ft. Portable Garage**

**\$169<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$199<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Shelter Logic 76377 \$290.75  
ITEM 62859, 63055, 62860 shown

**Save \$120**

**Use Online & In-Store**

10304482 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**HAULMASTER** (1,189)

**3/8" x 14 ft., Grade 43 Towing Chain**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$39<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Mibro 426920 \$64.99  
ITEM 40462 60658 97111 shown

Save 69%

Use Online & In-Store  
10309508 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PITTSBURGH** (339)

**4 Piece Adjustable Wrench Set** **LIFETIME WARRANTY**

**\$8<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$11<sup>99</sup>~~

6" 8" 10" 12"

Compare to Husky 99573 \$26.63  
ITEM 69427 60690/63715 903 shown

Use Online & In-Store  
10312377 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**EARTHQUAKE XT** (1,244)

**20v Lithium-Ion 1/2" Extreme Torque Impact Wrench Kits**

**YOUR CHOICE**

**\$229<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$269<sup>99</sup>~~

1200 TORQUE FT. LBS. BOLT BREAKAWAY

1/2" Anvil ITEM 63537/64195 63852 shown

2" Extended Anvil ITEM 64349

Compare to Snap-on CT850PDB, CT8185BK, CTCT720 \$724.85

Save \$494

Includes battery and charger.

Use Online & In-Store  
10322939 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**HAULMASTER** (5,596)

**72" x 80" Moving Blanket**

**\$5<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$9<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Blue Hawk 77280 \$19.99  
ITEM 69505 62419 68537 shown

Save 70%

Use Online & In-Store  
10312653 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**CENTECH** (3,668)

**Automatic Battery Float Charger**

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$9<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Schumacher Electric SC1 \$30.41  
ITEM 69594 60953/64234 42232 shown

Save 83%

Use Online & In-Store  
10316542 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PITTSBURGH** (1,834)

**13 Piece, 1/2" Drive Deep Impact Socket Sets**

**YOUR CHOICE**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$24<sup>99</sup>~~

Item 69560 shown

TYPE	ITEM
SAE	67903/69280/69333/69560
Metric	67904/69279/69332/69561

Compare to Husky H205AE11PCSR \$55.51

Use Online & In-Store  
10324810 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**HAULMASTER** (426)

**Triple Ball Trailer Hitch**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$31<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Reese Towpower 101179799 \$59.99  
ITEM 64311 64286 shown

Save 66%

Use Online & In-Store  
10318299 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PREDATOR** (1,296)

**2000w Super Quiet Inverter Generator**

**\$479<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$799<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Honda EU2000i \$1,009  
ITEM 62523

Save \$529

Use Online & In-Store  
10329480 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**Solar Rope Light** (4,035)

**\$7<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$12<sup>49</sup>~~

Compare to Hampton Bay 84130 \$32.97  
ITEM 63941 62533/64625 68535 shown

Save 75%

Use Online & In-Store  
10337712 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**10" Pneumatic Tire** (4,412)

**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$6<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Farm & Ranch FH1055 \$8.09  
ITEM 69385 62380/62409 62898 30900 shown

Save 50%

Use Online & In-Store  
10345445 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**CENTRAL MACHINERY** (1,566)

**20 Ton Shop Press**

**\$149<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$189<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Strongway 46260 \$379.99  
ITEM 32879 60603 shown

Save \$230

Use Online & In-Store  
10348544 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE** (3,941)

**Pneumatic Adjustable Roller Seat**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$27<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Duralast TR6201C \$69.99  
ITEM 61160 63456 46319 shown

Save 71%

Use Online & In-Store  
10351095 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**BADLAND ZXR** (560)

**12,000 lb. Truck/SUV Winch with Remote Control and Auto Brake**

**\$299<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$389<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Warn 96820 \$720.99  
ITEM 64045 64046 63770 shown

Save \$421

Use Online & In-Store  
10353677 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PITTSBURGH** (3,524)

**130 Piece Tool Kit with Case** **SAE AND METRIC** **LIFETIME WARRANTY**

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$39<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Anvil A137HOS \$66.39  
ITEM 68998/63248 64080/64263 63091 shown

Save 54%

Use Online & In-Store  
10366918 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**HAULMASTER** (4,181)

**30" x 18" Hardwood Dolly**

**\$11<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$15<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Milwaukee 33700 \$19.97  
ITEM 38970/92486 39757/60496 62398 61897 shown

Save 39%

Use Online & In-Store  
10368451 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC** (924)

**6 Gallon, 150 Psi Oil-Free Air Compressor**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$119<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Flambeau 1409 \$19.99  
ITEM 64113

Save \$20

Use Online & In-Store  
10369619 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**Tactical Ammo/Utility Box** (638)

**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$7<sup>99</sup>~~

Tools sold separately.

Compare to Flambeau 27918 \$89.99  
ITEM 60343 67338 shown

Save 65%

Use Online & In-Store  
10370500 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE** (1,352)

**1500 lb. Capacity Vehicle Dollies 2 Piece Set**

**\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$54<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare to Roughneck 27918 \$89.99  
ITEM 60343 67338 shown

Save 55%

Use Online & In-Store  
10372800 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**Bauer** (894)

**5" Deep Cut Variable Speed Band Saw**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
~~\$134<sup>99</sup>~~

Blade sold separately.

Compare to Dewalt DWM120 \$269.96  
ITEM 64194 63763 63444 shown

Save \$169

Use Online & In-Store  
10377619 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 8/1/20\*

**1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com**

\*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 8/1/20.

All Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.





# Covered in Kindness

*A farm family's experience with illness offers inspiration.*

**S**outh Carolina's Woodard Farms has embarked on a value-added venture inspired by their child's dire illness, a hospital nurse's kindness and a mother's faith-inspired dream that their story—and part of their farm—be shared.

At the moment, the focus of that story (4-year-old Tobin Woodard) is racing across the farmyard along with his fraternal twin sister, Tyson, and their older brother, Tate, 7. All three are giggling and trying to run while wrapped in cotton throws made from a bit of the crop produced on the 4,000-acre family farm, in Darlington.

Tobin was a big reason his parents, Ty and Tracy Woodard, founded the company, Covered in Cotton, that has thus far manufactured several thousand throws. They sell them online and through a handful of retailers and wholesalers.

As important as those sales to the Woodards is the fact they have donated more than 290 of the throws to children's hospitals across the state in Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Florence. For each 10 throws they sell, they donate one. Each throw comes in a box with a handwritten note from Tracy or Ty, and the packaging shares some of their story.

## UNEXPECTED ILLNESS

Their story began in December 2015, when then-3-month-old twins, Tobin and Tyson, were staying with Tracy's parents in Lexington while the young couple attended a conference for Tracy's job at the time. Tracy

received a call from her mother that Tobin was running a fever but otherwise seemed fine.

Nonetheless, Tracy and Ty cut the conference short and returned to Lexington. Tobin had swiftly become lethargic and barely able to move. They rushed him to Prisma Health Children's Hospital, in Columbia.

Within an hour, they had a diagnosis. Tobin had bacterial meningitis, the most serious form of a disease that affects the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, and those protecting the central nervous system. It can be deadly, and half the patients afflicted suffer long-term effects. The disease is fought primarily with large doses of antibiotics.

Tobin spent 35 days in the hospital. Tracy essentially moved into his room. Her parents helped care for the other two children. Ty split his time between the hospital and home. The farming operation was still reeling from the catastrophic floods in the region during harvest in October. To say the time was stressful would be an understatement.

Then, it got worse.

The day before Christmas Eve, Tobin began to have seizures, which prompted another MRI. It showed Tobin needed brain surgery—right away—to relieve fluid pressure on the brain and to treat infection.

The surgery was more successful than anyone anticipated. "You would have never known he'd been

*The children of Ty and Tracy Woodard, twins Tobin and Tyson, and Tate, model the family's Covered in Cotton throws.*

through anything the next morning,” Tracy says. Still, they spent another 21 days in the hospital. Tobin received more rounds of antibiotics. His hair grew in, covering over two incision scars on his scalp. Tobin regained the ability to move his head. He rolled over for the first time in the hospital.

At one point prior to the surgery, a nurse who had taken care of Tobin in the pediatric intensive care unit brought a blanket to the family, one she had purchased herself. They were so touched that the blanket remained with them for the remainder of the hospital stay.

“It was incredible the people that loved on us that we never knew,” Tracy explains. She remembered the kindness of that blanket long after they left the hospital, and Tobin continued to thrive at home.

### STARTED WITH A VISION

Two years later, in a dream early in December, Tracy had a vision.

“I woke up and knew that we were supposed to make blankets or throws with our own cotton, what it was supposed to be called and what the logo would even look like,” says Tracy, adding that “the Lord was doing a lot in my life.”

She grabbed a notebook and wrote down everything. “I even dreamt about how the throws were to be tied into the story of our son. I took it to Ty and said, ‘This is what we’re supposed to do.’”

Even a career cotton farmer like Ty had no idea how to begin to make such a business happen. But, he also knew that Tracy, who didn’t grow up on a farm and had a graphic communications degree, had been striving to contribute, to make her mark, in the operation.

“OK, let’s do it,” he replied.

It took about 10 months of research, calls, meetings, designs and, yes, some money before the Woodards had the first batch of Covered in Cotton soft, natural-colored throws delivered to their farm.

The 1,674 throws arrived on six pallets. Ty and Tracy took the throws home to their house one pallet at a time to fulfill orders. “After we put the kids to bed, we then go to work packaging the throws and processing orders—most nights until midnight or after,” Tracy says.

### BUSINESS GROWS

Though the Woodards love telling their story through these products, their venture has become a legitimate income producer. Tracy now works full-time on the business with a second part-time employee. The operation has been moved to a warehouse downtown with hopes to build a permanent facility on the farm.

In addition to the original throws, they’ve added a baby blanket and hand towel collections. Last fall, the business was named *Garden and Gun* magazine’s



Made in the South 2019 Winner. Within 10 days of the announcement, all the throws in stock were sold out.

They’ve gotten this far with the help and support of Ty’s parents (Frankie and Connie) and Ty’s older brother, Wes. The three families run the farm together. Additionally, Wes and Ty operate the cattle herd as a separate business. Wes also has a hay enterprise. Covered in Cotton has become part of the farm to them, as well.

“I thought this was a good idea of theirs,” Wes says. “They are taking something we are already doing and taking it to the next level. I’m proud to be a part of growing cotton that’s going into these products.”

Covered in Cotton offers the farm a way to diversify while also connecting an all-too-distant public with what actually happens on the farm, Ty explains.

“This is a kind of coming together for others to see a bit of what we do,” he says. “They say the average farmer feeds 154 people, and now we can say we are covering them, too, with our farm-to-family products.”

As the sun begins to dip below the trees, we are a mile down the road from the main farm in a pecan orchard. The Woodard cow herd is grazing beneath the branches. The three children are excited to see the animals and thrilled that visitors want to do the same.

Eyes bright, son, Tobin, quietly takes it all in from the back of the pickup truck.

“When we came home from the hospital, we had been warned he would likely lose some or all of his hearing and vision,” Tracy says, “and that he may not progress developmentally past 3 months of age.”

Fortunately, none of that happened. “He’s 4 now and has perfect vision and hearing.” Then, in true Mom fashion, she adds: “He likes to act like he can’t hear sometimes, but yeah, he hears fine.”

Tobin smiles. Did he hear that? It’s hard to tell. He smiles a lot anyway. Clearly, cotton throws aren’t the only thing adding value to the farm. ///

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Covered in Cotton: [coveredincotton.com](http://coveredincotton.com)

# Make Breakfast Special

## CINNAMON SWIRL BREAD

This enriched bread is swirled with a decadent cinnamon-sugar filling—and makes for great French toast.

MAKES: 1 LOAF

TOTAL TIME: 4 HOURS

ACTIVE TIME: 40 MINUTES

### Bread:

1 cup whole milk, warmed

6 tablespoons butter, melted

1¼-ounce packet rapid-rise yeast

3½ cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

3 large eggs, room temperature, divided

½ cup sugar

### Filling:

2 tablespoons butter, softened

½ cup sugar

2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

1. In a medium bowl, combine milk, butter and yeast; stir and allow to sit at least 5 minutes. In another bowl, combine flour and salt.
2. Using the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, mix two eggs and sugar on medium-high speed (about 1 minute); add milk mixture to combine.
3. With mixer running, add flour mixture by the spoonful. When a shaggy dough forms, switch to the dough hook; knead 10 minutes at medium speed. Dough should be soft and sticky, but not overly tacky.
4. Grease a large bowl; add ball of dough. Cover bowl tightly with plastic wrap; set aside to rise (at least two hours or until doubled in size).
5. Turn dough out onto a clean, lightly floured work surface. Roll into a long rectangle (no wider than the pan).

6. Smear surface with softened butter. In a small bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle into an even layer over the butter-smearred dough.

7. Starting at the far end, roll dough tightly, keeping the cinnamon sugar contained. You can also use a bench scraper to help coax the dough into a roll. Pinch the seam to seal. Place in a greased loaf pan, cover with plastic wrap and allow to rise another hour.

8. Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk remaining egg in a small bowl; gently brush it over loaf.

9. Bake loaf on middle rack for 40 minutes.

10. Allow bread to cool on rack for at least one hour before slicing.

## BAKED EGGS

*A spiced tomato sauce pairs perfectly with the rich, runny egg yolks.*

SERVES: 4

TOTAL TIME: 30 MINUTES

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 teaspoon ground cumin

½ teaspoon paprika

½ teaspoon chili powder

1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced

2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced

2 (14.5-ounce) cans diced, fire-roasted tomatoes

1 teaspoon kosher salt

½ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

½ teaspoon sugar

6 large eggs

½ cup crumbled feta cheese

Fresh parsley

Warm, crusty bread for serving



1. Heat oil in a large, oven-proof skillet over medium-low heat; add cumin, paprika and chili powder, allowing oil to bloom the spices and bring out their flavors (about 30 seconds).

2. Add onion and garlic; cook until soft (about 10 minutes).

3. Add tomatoes (with juices); season with salt, pepper and sugar. Cover and simmer until tomatoes have cooked down and thickened (about 15 minutes).

4. Heat oven to 375°F. Using a spoon, make six indentations in the tomato sauce. Gently crack eggs into holes; season with salt and pepper.

5. Transfer skillet to the oven; bake until eggs are just set (about 8 to 10 minutes).

6. Garnish with feta cheese and fresh parsley; serve with warm bread.

Recipes and photos by Rachel Johnson  
[www.stupidgoodrachel.com](http://www.stupidgoodrachel.com)





# What Kind of Hearing Aids Do Doctors Use?

The same ones they recommend to their patients!

**Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology**

**Now Rechargeable!**

**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**

Reg: \$599.98  
**Only \$299<sup>99</sup>**

Each When You Buy a Pair – **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

Doctors love MDHearingAids® for the same reasons patients do. These FDA-registered, medical-grade hearing aids have the same high-tech features found in more expensive hearing aids at a fraction of the cost.

“MDHearingAids are better than expensive clinic hearing aids, which cost thousands more,” says retired physician Dr. Robert A.

“I have had five pairs of expensive hearing aids and MDHearingAids are just as good,” adds retired neurosurgeon Dr. Brian L.

**Doctors Are Tired of Watching Their Patients Waste Money on Over-Priced Clinic Hearing Aids**

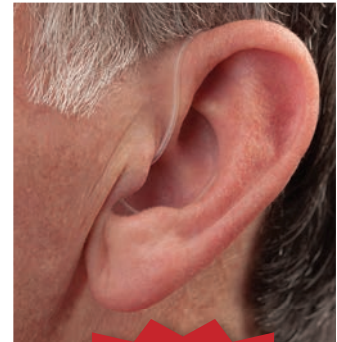
MDHearingAids are the best value on the market, says Dr. Clarke:

**NEVER CHANGE A BATTERY AGAIN**



*“I’m a physician, and I know how much people spend on health care. This product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional over-iced hearing aids. I will be recommending them to my hearing-impaired patients.”*

**Nearly invisible!**



**SAVE 90% COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL HEARING AIDS**

CRISP, CLEAR SOUND	STATE-OF-THE-ART FEATURES	NO AUDIOLOGIST NEEDED
MDHearingAids were created by a board-certified otolaryngologist frustrated that patients couldn't afford the high price of hearing aids. So, he did the only logical thing...he created a low-cost, feature-packed digital hearing aid that costs 90% less than a comparable hearing aid.	Behind-the-ear hearing aid with thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile. 3 programs for customized listening environments. Amplifies the critical frequencies of the human voice, without amplifying background sounds, so you can enjoy crisp, clear conversations.	Save time and money, cancel those audiologist appointments! Advanced hearing aid technology lets you easily program and adjust your MDHearingAid at home. Set-up is fast and easy, too, going from box to ear in just five minutes.

**Try it RISK FREE for 45 Days**

Try MDHearingAids risk-free with a 100% money-back guarantee for 45 days. Just call toll-free or visit the website shown below. Call now and get **free shipping**. Remember, **it's RECHARGEABLE!**

**SHOP AT HOME!**  
Skip the Clinic with Remote Care

**Call Toll-Free 1-800-857-6213**



Visit [www.MDVolt.com](http://www.MDVolt.com)  
Free Shipping with Offer Code KA63

**MDHearingAid®**  
The Doctor's Choice for Affordable Hearing Aids



# Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

Making a safer and healthier community starts with YOU.  
Apply TODAY to host a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in 2021!



## Hurry!

Applications to host a 2021 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® are due by July 15. Visit [www.progressiveag.org](http://www.progressiveag.org) to apply TODAY!



In 2019 alone, close to 500 adults were trained to serve as Progressive Agriculture Safety Day coordinators who are leading the crusade to build safer and healthier communities in the places they live, work and play. With the support of another 20,000 local volunteers serving in various roles, including planning committee members, presenters, group leaders and other on-site logistics, our program provided age-appropriate, hands-on safety education to nearly 80,000 youth participants between the ages of 4 and 13.

More than 121,000 hours of volunteer time was logged in 2019, which is valued at more than \$3 million in support. However, to our program, a volunteer's time is PRICELESS.



**SEND A KID TO SAFETY DAY**

To donate, text the word **SAFETYDAY** to **44321**.

## SUCCESS STORY



*"At the end of the day, we took a microphone and asked the kids what the favorite part of the Safety Day was. So many hands went up that we couldn't get to all the kids. They were so happy and so enthusiastic to go home and share what they learned. It was very heart-warming."*

*~Carrie Bergquist, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Coordinator in Crookston, Minnesota*

"State Farm® is proud to sponsor the 2020 Progressive Agriculture Safety Days," Ed Woods, Corporate Responsibility director at State Farm. "We have nearly 19,000 agents, many in rural communities. These agents are eager to lend their time and talents at the Safety Days in their communities, helping children to learn important safety lessons."

**Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there** to provide volunteer assistance at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. Local State Farm agents are looking forward to attending events and serving in a variety of volunteer roles including topic presenters, group leaders and other on-site logistics.

State Farm has a rich history of giving back to the communities where their agents and employees live and work. The company's values support building safer, stronger, and better educated communities. Aligning with the company's mission, State Farm supports social good efforts through:

- Auto and home safety programs and activities that help people manage the risks of everyday life.
- Disaster preparedness and recovery programs and services that help people recover from the unexpected.
- Education, economic empowerment and community development projects, programs and services that help people realize their dreams.

For more information, please visit [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com).

## State Farm



*Local State Farm insurance agent Lindsie Wisor assisted participants in building a first aid kit at a 2019 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, in Clearfield, Pennsylvania.*

## Find Us Online

Visit [progressiveag.org](http://progressiveag.org) or call us at 888-257-3529 for a complete list of all upcoming 2020 Progressive Agriculture Safety Days or to see how you can host a Safety Day during 2021.



Progressive Agriculture Safety Days are sponsored in part by the following:

5-Star Sponsors

**BUNGE** *Nutrien*<sup>™</sup>

 **TC Energy** 

4-Star Sponsors

  
**JOHN DEERE**

 **FARM CREDIT**  
*Lending support to rural America<sup>®</sup>*

 **ENBRIDGE**

  
Helping the world thrive

*State Farm*  


 **CORTEVA**<sup>™</sup>  
agriscience

**POLARIS**<sup>®</sup>  
Think Outside



We make it our business to be like a good neighbor, helping to build safer, stronger and better educated communities across the United States. State Farm<sup>®</sup> is proud to support the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days.

State Farm, Bloomington, IL

 **State Farm**<sup>®</sup>



The Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) is proud to be recognized as a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity. Additionally, PAF has a 3-star rating with Charity Navigator and was awarded a Gold Seal of Transparency with GuideStar. All donations are tax-deductible.

©2020 Progressive Agriculture Foundation

# INVEST IN FARMLAND



With over 95 years experience in farm and land sales, trust United Country to help match you with your ideal property.

**Farming & Hunting** #32111-87817 | \$420,000



117± Acres • Timber/Cleared Land • Wildlife Abound • Road Frontage • Stokes, NC

**Tillable Acreage** #16058-18160 | \$682,500



105± Acres • Level Topography • 2 Building Lots • 4 Adjoining Tracts • Portland, TN

**Irrigated Ground** #15038-17307 | \$15,000,000



1,935± Acres • Livestock Ready • Exclusive Water Rights • Tillable & Productive • Morrowville, KS

**Contact Us Today | 800.999.1020 ext 110 | UCFarmland.com**

# Progressive FARMER

## MARKETPLACE Buyers Guide

Over 410,000 subscribers receive these ads!

**Request a quote today!**

Contact Averi Whitfield

402-619-8168

Averi.Whitfield@dtm.com

# America's Original Field and Brush Mower!



**CLEAR 8' TALL GRASS & WEEDS** with 26", 30", or 34" cut!

**CHEW THROUGH BRUSH** including saplings up to 3" thick!

**POWER & PRECISION** with engines up to 20 HP and power steering for fingertip control.

Towable and PTO models too!

1B127X © 2020

**FREE SHIPPING  
6 MONTH TRIAL**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY  
Go online or call for details.

Go Online or Call for FREE Info Kit!



**DRfieldbrush.com**

TOLL FREE **888-212-3023**

\*Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.



Bale Bonnet  
**Slip-Ons**  
**Bale Bonnet**  
Complete Round Bale Cover Systems  
www.sliponsbalebonnets.com  
**SAVE HAY!  
STOP WASTE**  
800-231-4242  
Bags  
Sleeves  
Bonnets  
& Film  
Cynthiana, OH The Experienced Livestock People

## END GREASING FRUSTRATION

ORDER ONLINE  
OR CALL



**GREASE GOES IN,  
NOT ON, THE MACHINE**

LOCKNLUBE.COM | 603.795.2298

## CAPITAL GAINS TAXES ELIMINATED

### CAPITAL GAINS

tax legally eliminated, on the sale of Real Estate, Stocks, C-Corps, S-Corps, Livestock, Family Businesses, and even if selling to family members without having to do a 1031 exchange.

We have the capability of converting taxable income to **TAX FREE**, lifetime income.

### INHERITANCE TAXES ELIMINATED

Maintain 100% control of your current assets. Magnify the value of your estate for your heirs **TAX FREE**.

**Hoffman Associates  
754-755-1212**

## CRABGRASS SEED

- HIGH SUMMER FORAGE QUALITY •
- GOOD PASTURE, HAY & BALE SILAGE •
- USE AS: PURE STAND, MIXTURES, COVER CROP & DOUBLECROPPING •

### FOUR VARIETIES:

"QUICK-N-BIG®",

"QUICK-N-BIG SPREADER®"

"DAL'S-BIG RIVER®"

"RED RIVER"

For Producers & Seed Dealers  
We Ship Any Order,  
or Buyer Picks Up

R.L., PATSY, & DILLON  
DALRYMPLE FARMS  
24275 East 910 Road  
Thomas, Oklahoma 73669

PHONE & TEXT: 580-670-0043

FAX: 580-661-3997

EMAIL: rlandpat@cableone.net  
WEB: www.redrivercrabgrass.com

- FREE MGT BOOKLET AVAILABLE -





# PLUG & PLAY LED LIGHTS

www.TigerLights.com

844-456-4600



**TL970**  
LED Headlight for  
Bobcat Skid Steers



**Lumens:** 5,000  
**Price:** \$140 ea.



**TL8970**  
LED Headlight for  
Ford Genesis  
Tractors & Versatile  
Tractors



**Lumens:** 8,200  
**Price:** \$225 ea.



**TL5680**  
LED Headlights for  
575 Combines, 20  
Series, and 30  
Series Tractors



**Lumens:** 5,200  
**Price:** \$125 ea.



**TL6110**  
LED Headlight for  
Case/IH STX & MX  
Tractors



**Lumens:** 5,300  
**Price:** \$180 ea.



**TL5100**  
LED Headlight for  
John Deere  
Compact Tractors



**Lumens:** 3,500  
**Price:** \$95 ea.

**ASK US ABOUT OUR KITS**  
**OUR LIGHTS HAVE A  
LIMITED LIFETIME  
WARRANTY**



**TL8060**  
LED Work Lights for  
John Deere R Series  
Tractors & S Series  
Combine



**Lumens:** 3,000  
**Price:** \$95 ea.



**TL2388kit**  
LED Headlight Kit  
for Case/IH  
Combines. 6 LED  
Lights in Kit



**Lumens:** 21,000  
**Price:** \$570 ea.



**TL9000**  
LED Headlight &  
Side Row Finder for  
John Deere  
Combines



**Lumens:** 3,500  
**Price:** \$99 ea.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US FOR INFORMATION ON NEW PRODUCTS

For Advertising Information, contact Averil Whitfield, 402-619-8168 or Averil.Whitfield@dtm.com

**fantini**  
the best harvest since 1968



**Fantini Corn & Sunflower Headers**



**Best Warranty in The Industry!!**

4 Year warranty on transmission components

2 Year warranty on general components



Available with Auto  
Height and Row Sense.

Special Financing Available.

Owned and Operated by  
Hamilton Systems, Inc. – Fantini.

Fantini headers are built stronger than our competitors for longer working life, higher acreages and higher performance. They stand up to the harshest field conditions yet, if damaged, are easy to repair, reducing downtime and speeding up your harvest.

15526 90<sup>th</sup> St NE, Drayton, ND 58225 701-454-3875 fantini-na.com

# Kill Weeds for Less Than a Dollar Per Acre Grassworks Weed Wiper™



Tow Behind Units, Up To 15'



Farm Tested Farmer Approved

**No Drip and No Drift**  
Can be applied in windy conditions

## KILL

- Pigweed
- Thistles
- Foxtail
- Other Noxious Weeds
- Johnsongrass
- Smutgrass

**SAVE your desirable crop**  
The Rotating Weed Wiper That Works!



Tractor Mounts Units, 6' Up To 50'

**Saving Labor, Fuel & Chemicals= More Profit & Excellent Results**

**One Pass - Up to 15 MPH - Less Than \$1/Acre**

### Farmer Tested

"I was extremely impressed... Results were far better than I expected on my 1,800 acre farm in the Ozarks using the 30' fl ex model. This weed control system saved me LOTS of money on chemicals with NO damage to my legume-based pastures and hayfi elds." -- SW Missouri Farmer

### Farmer Approved

**KILL WEEDS SAVE LEGUMES**



**GrassWorks Manufacturing, LLC**

**888-80-WIPER 479-790-1091**  
**www.weedproblems.com**

**Farm Tested.....Farmer Approved Mfg. in USA**

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

*Hornbeck, et al. v. Orscheln Farm and Home, LLC, et al.,*  
Case Number 18-00941-cv-W-BP (W.D. Mo.).

**READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT.**

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit that alleges the following "303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products"—CITGO-manufactured MileMaster 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid; CITGO-manufactured H-K 303 Tractor Transmission Hydraulic Fluid; Orscheln Premium 303 Tractor Hydraulic & Transmission Fluid; and/or CITGO-manufactured SuperTech 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil—did not meet the equipment manufacturer specifications stated on the label. The Defendants deny they did anything wrong and state further that the labels were truthful and adequate. The Court has not decided who is right. Instead, the parties agreed to a proposed settlement to avoid the expense and risks of continuing the lawsuit.

You are Settlement Class Member if you have purchased, not for resale, one of the following products sold in the United States during the stated Class Period:

Product	Size	Start Class Period	End Class Period
MileMaster 303	3/2 gal.	Jan. 23, 2017	Present
MileMaster 303	5 gal.	May 25, 2013	Present
MileMaster 303	55 gal.	May 25, 2013	Present
H-K 303	3/2 gal.	May 25, 2013	April 30, 2016
H-K 303	5 gal.	May 25, 2013	March 21, 2019
Orscheln 303	5 gal.	Sept. 3, 2014	Aug. 16, 2017
SuperTech 303	5 gal.	Feb. 17, 2016	Feb. 10, 2018

The settlement establishes a \$18,825,000.00 "Class Settlement Fund" that will be paid to Settlement Class Members as: (1) cash awards of up to 100% of the purchase price paid for the 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products and (2) reimbursement for the costs of any repairs, parts, and specific equipment damage that a Settlement Class Member claims resulted from, in whole or in part, the use of the 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products during the Class Period. You may need to submit a Claim Form to receive your award, which can be obtained at [www.303settlement.com](http://www.303settlement.com) or by calling 866-742-4955. The deadline to submit a Claim Form is August 31, 2020. Class Counsel will seek an incentive payment of \$5,000.00 for each of the Class Representatives. Class Counsel will ask that the Court award up to \$5,900,000.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses. This amount will not be paid from the Class Settlement Fund.

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you must exclude yourself from it by August 31, 2020. If you do not exclude yourself, you will not be able to sue Defendants for any claim relating to the lawsuit. If you remain a Settlement Class Member, you may object to the settlement by August 31, 2020. The Court will hold a hearing on October 13, 2020 to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees and expenses. This date may be moved, canceled, or otherwise modified; see [www.303settlement.com](http://www.303settlement.com) for more information. This notice only summarizes the proposed settlement. For additional information, including the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, please see [www.303settlement.com](http://www.303settlement.com) or call 866-742-4955.

A Federal Court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.



MAKE SURE YOUR NEXT  
INPUT PASS ISN'T A FAIL



**ADVANCED RATE CONTROLLER FOR ISOBUS**

The Micro-Trak advanced DUAL ISOMOD rate controller easily connects to your in-cab ISO terminal to deliver the highest level of precision, power and flexibility. For best in class performance, check out our full line of products at [micro-trak.com](http://micro-trak.com).



For Advertising Information, contact Averil Whitfield, 402-619-8168 or [Averil.Whitfield@dtm.com](mailto:Averil.Whitfield@dtm.com)

**COMPARE PLAIN VALUES...FEATURES, QUALITY & PRICE.  
IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION WITH TODAY'S MARKET CONDITIONS!**



MODEL 1020 - \$32,860



MODEL 870 - \$29,200

E-Z Trail's "Corner Auger" Grain Carts are available in 1020, 870, & 550 bushel sizes, & in your color choice of Green, Red or Blue. Give E-Z Trail a chance to save yourself \$\$ bringing in the harvest.



Offering a 3-year gearbox warranty. The 18" dia. corner auger is 14' long for good height /reach. (550 has 14" dia.)

"Little Brother" Model 550 is the latest addition to E-Z Trail's corner-auger Grain Cart lineup. It combines some larger cart features with smaller cart operation flexibility & lower cost.



MODEL 550 - \$17,300



CAT 3 CAST BALL HITCH



Optional: Roll Tarp, Hyd. Drive Kit, Adjust. Spout



Factory Prices (w/Roll Tarp)

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6



PHONE 217/543-3471 • P.O. BOX 168 • ARTHUR, IL 61911

800-677-2802

[www.e-ztrail.com](http://www.e-ztrail.com)

# When you need it done right, do it with DR®.

## RENEW Your Driveway with a DR® Power Grader!



**SAVE MONEY!** Loosen and redistribute existing material, instead of purchasing new gravel or stone.

**CARBIDE TEETH** last 10X longer than steel on ordinary box scrapers.

**TOW BEHIND YOUR ATV OR UTILITY TRACTOR,** filling in pot-holes & ruts.

48" and 60" models available!



ALSO GREAT FOR HORSE RINGS, BALL FIELDS, AND PARKING AREAS!

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

1B128A © 2020

## Trim and Mow the EASY Way with a DR® Trimmer Mower!



The ORIGINAL Trimmer on Wheels!

5X THE POWER of a hand-held trimmer without the back strain!

**THICKEST, LONGEST-LASTING** cord (up to 255 mil) takes seconds to change!

**10 MODELS** including Self-Propelled, Tow-Behind (for ATV) and PTO!

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

1B128C © 2020

## Make Stumps Disappear with a DR® Stump Grinder!



**CARBIDE-TIPPED TEETH** take 360 "bites" per second, reducing stumps to sawdust in minutes!

**FASTER, SAFER, AND EASIER** than digging, burning, or using chemicals.

**TOWABLE** with your riding mower or ATV.



Self-Propelled Model Available!

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

1B128B © 2020

**FREE SHIPPING** | **6 MONTH TRIAL** | **EASY FINANCING**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY. GO ONLINE OR CALL FOR DETAILS.

Go Online or Call for FREE Info Kit!

TOLL FREE **888-212-3023**

\*Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.



MARKETPLACE

Over 410,000 Subscribers Receive These Ads!



# FARM TOURS

## BRAZIL



See Soybean Harvesting & Planting. Talk with Farmers about logistics and operational costs. View Corn & Cotton in various stages and see cattle. Tour Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest agricultural state. Visit a sugarcane ethanol plant and one of the world's largest soybean farms with 150,000+ planted acres. Explore the Rainforest on an Amazon River Cruise & experience the world's largest waterfall - Iguassu Falls

January & February, 2021

## AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND



Experience the mystery of Ayers Rock in the Outback & the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef & Rainforest in the North. Hold a Koala, photograph Kangaroos in the wild, & view the Blue Mountains. Sydney Opera House Tour & Harbor Cruise. See fertile farming areas in Australia & New Zealand with visits to Grain & Cotton Farms, a Dairy, and a sheepdog and sheep shearing demonstration. New Zealand's rugged and picturesque scenery is always a crowd favorite!

February & March, 2021

## HAWAII Island Cruise Tour



Explore 5 ports on 4 islands and only unpack once! 3 days by land & 7 days cruising. Visit a pineapple farm growing 300 acres of the famous Maui Gold variety, and farms to interact with farmers who grow coffee, macadamia nuts, spices, & corn. Learn about Hawaiian culture at the Bishop Museum & see Volcanoes National Park. Visit Pearl Harbor to honor & remember the events of Dec 7, 1941. A great winter getaway!

Winter, 2021

## ARGENTINA CHILE - PERU



Explore fascinating Machu Picchu & visit a table grape and asparagus farm in Peru. Experience beautiful Santiago, Valparaiso and Vina del Mar in Chile. Tour a corn seed production facility & enjoy a vineyard tour & wine tasting. See the world's largest cattle auction in Buenos Aires, travel to the pampas to meet Gauchos (cowboys) at a cattle farm & inspect their corn, soybean & sunflower fields before they host us for a BBQ. See Penguins in the wild!

January, 2021

## CUBA



Travel back in time to the fun & mysterious country of Cuba. This visit will help you interact with and support locals and experience their friendly hospitality first hand. Visit a commercial tobacco farm, a large vegetable farm, enjoy the famous Tropicana, cruise a classic convertible, and much more! Dine at great restaurants and see the country before it changes!

February, 2021

## SOUTH AFRICA



Travel from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Visit Pretoria, Plettenbergbay, Cape of Good Hope & more! Tour corn & wheat farms as well as a cow/calf operation. Experience Africa's incredible scenery and diverse wildlife in safety & comfort on Six Big Game Drives and with top notch accommodations!

Winter, 2021

"I am sincere about providing a great tour experience. We take you beyond the typical attractions to provide a complete cultural experience. Historic city sites, scenic country villages and real working farms. An unforgettable opportunity to converse with people like yourself from countries around the world."

- Larry Rupiper

Call for Free Brochures

1-888-414-4177

Find More Tours on our Website!

[www.Rupipertours.com](http://www.Rupipertours.com)



FOITZ STUDIO; SAVANNAH LIVESTOCK FAT SHOW; APRIL 1934



*“Public opinion is no more than this: what people think that other people think.”*

–Alfred Austin

# Opinions

Therefore I said, Harken to me; I also will shew mine opinion.

**JOB 32:10 (KJV)**

Those who never retract their opinions love themselves more than they love truth.

**JOSEPH JOUBERT**

Inquire not what are the opinions of any one; but inquire what is truth.

**JOHN CALVIN**

Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance.

**PLATO**

An opinion which excites no opposition at all is not worth having!

**MARIE CORELLI**

He who has no opinion of his own, but depends upon the opinion and taste of others, is a slave.

**FRIEDRICH GOTTLIEB KLOPSTOCK**

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

**ROMANS 14:1 (KJV)**

Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice.

**STEVE JOBS**

The rule is perfect: in all matters of opinion our adversaries are insane.

**MARK TWAIN**

Don't let your opinion sway your judgment.

**SAMUEL GOLDWYN**

People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character.

**RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

The man who never alters his opinion is like standing water, and breeds reptiles of the mind.

**WILLIAM BLAKE**

You are not entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to your informed opinion. No one is entitled to be ignorant.

**HARLAN ELLISON**

Opinion has caused more trouble on this little earth than plagues or earthquakes.

**VOLTAIRE**

There are as many opinions as there are people.

**TERENCE**

It is not truth, but opinion that can travel the world without a passport.

**WALTER RALEIGH**

The opinion which other people have of you is their problem not yours.

**ELISABETH KÜBLER-ROSS**

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them.

**THOMAS MANN**

The greatest deception which men incur proceeds from their opinions.

**LEONARDO DA VINCI**



We see our neighbors  
going above and beyond  
for each other.



Let's see what we  
can do together.

There's nothing ordinary about the challenges we're facing right now. But there's nothing ordinary about the places we call home, or the people we share them with. Our bankers are ready to work with you on strategies and solutions that make sense for you and your business. Because going above and beyond is something we do for our customers every day.

[bremer.com](https://www.bremer.com)

**BREMER**  
BANK



**STORE NOW**  **PROFIT LATER**



*The largest family-owned grain storage, drying, and handling company in the world.*

*Providing feed, fuel and fiber for the world is a tough job.*

**MAKING A PROFIT IS EVEN TOUGHER**

- Grain Bins
- Grain Dryers
- Grain Handling
- Fans & Heaters
- Material Handling
- Steel Buildings

**Our Innovation. Your Profit.**

- The leader in farm bins
- 22 grain bin patents
- Offering more value in every bin



Find your local Sukup Dealer:  
[www.sukup.com/Dealer-Locator](http://www.sukup.com/Dealer-Locator)



**SAFETY MATTERS TO US!**



**DANGER!** Never Enter Bin unless all power is locked out and another person is present.



Use a safety harness and follow all applicable safety regulations. **Flowing Grain May Trap and Suffocate.** Crusted grain may collapse.



**Keep Away From Moving Parts.** Augers are dangerous! Keep all shields in place.