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#### ON THE COVER

James Musil painted this iconic Wisconsin red barn. Visit jimmusil.com/links to see more of his work. Cover crop grazing reduces feed costs while providing soil health benefits.

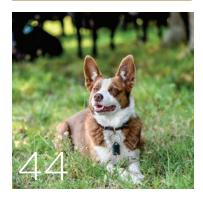
40

PROGRESSIVE FARMER / DECEMBER 2024 /// DTNPF.COM 1



- 14 COVER STORY Why Land Values Last
- 20 AMERICA'S BEST SHOPS Ready To Expand
- 24 GENERATION NEXT Farming From Scratch
- **30** FAMILY BUSINESS MATTERS How To Cope With Succession Anxiety Disorder
- 34 HANDY DEVICES Easy-To-Build Ideas Make Your Work Easier
- 36 ASK THE MECHANIC Big Bang Theory
- 38 ASK THE VET Injectable Wormer Protocol
- 40 CATTLELINK Cattle Utilize Benefits Of Cover Crops
- 44 PHARM DOG Stand by Me
- 48 RECIPES Heavenly Holiday Treats





#### **IN EVERY ISSUE**

- 4 WE'D LIKE TO MENTION
- 6 FIRST LOOK
- 18 LANDWATCH
- 52 CORNERSTONES: CHILDREN



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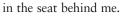
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### **A Higher Perspective**

here are days when you just need to clear your head and get away from all the distractions, if only for a few hours. My dad used to drive his Dodge pickup around the countryside, checking the condition of his crops and those of our neighbors. Seeing the rows of corn sway in the summer breeze would help ease his mind, melting away the tensions of everyday life on the Cottonwood Dairy Farm.

I had been feeling restless and uncertain recently, and on a crisp, sunny fall afternoon, I found myself in the open cockpit of a 1942 Stearman Navy N2S4, a biplane used as a military trainer in World War II. I was harnessed securely in the front seat, with my capable pilot Douglas Watanabe at the controls



The 220-hp Continental engine roared to life, hurling us down the runway. Lifting gently off the ground, the aircraft quickly climbed to an altitude of some 1,700 feet, cruising at 100 mph. Below, I could see the hustle and bustle of the sprawling city connected by ribbons of concrete roadways full of vehicles of every description speeding to their next destinations.

The urban landscape soon gave way to open country. To

my left was the meandering Mississippi River, providing a serene backdrop to harvested fields as far as the eyes could see. Neatly laid out farmsteads dotted the landscape like carefully assembled Lego blocks rising from the ground.

My mind began to drift, wondering about the families that worked the land below. The sacrifices, financial investment, hard work and hours required to operate a farm business-and the passion that drives farmers day after day.

My thoughts were interrupted as the plane made a 360-degree turn to start our way back to the airport. We soon descended in preparation for our final approach, the aircraft gliding effortlessly until the wheels touched down on the grass runway. As we climbed out of the cockpit and jumped off the wing, I felt a sense of calm. Sometimes, you need a higher perspective to keep your feet firmly on the ground. ///

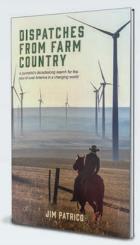
#### > A GREAT READ

Many of you likely remember seeing Jim Patrico's byline and photo credit on the pages of Progressive Farmer during his 20 years at the magazine. Jim is an award-winning writer and photographer who covered the ag equipment industry, crafting together insightful stories with engaging images of the people he interviewed.

Over a 40-year career, Jim had a front-row seat observing and reporting on some of the evolutionary forces, people and events that were transforming American agriculture and rural America. He shares many of his observations in his new book, "Dispatches From Farm Country:

A journalist's decadeslong search for the soul of rural America in a changing world."

The published work is deeply personal for Jim. "My goal with the book is to explain to urban and rural readersand to myself—the incredible changes we've seen in rural America over the last four decades. I met



some remarkable people. I want to share their stories, because they are key to understanding the nation as a whole."

It's a fascinating read, with stories about farmers and ranchers that are instructive. emotional and some just plain fun. You won't be disappointed adding Jim's book to your mustread list. The paperback version goes on sale Dec. 3, but it is now on preorder at Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes and Noble, Bookshop and other outlets. The eBook version is already available from some of these vendors.

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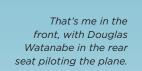
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#### FIRST LOOK **TAXLINK**

### Tax Strategies for Crop And Property Loss

**If you live in the Southeast, what a year it's** been. I've had several clients who lost their entire crop because of weather. They also lost their buildings and equipment. Let's look at involuntary conversion and how it impacts farms.

Reg. 1.165-6(c) states that the loss of a prospective crop through frost, storm, flood or fire does not give rise to a casualty loss deduction. A cash-basis farmer would not have basis in the prospective crop to claim a loss. However, a farmer using the inventory method may be able to claim a deduction through a cost of goods sold.

Luckily, most farmers have crop insurance to compensate for the loss of a crop. Most farmers also have liability insurance to compensate for the loss of personal property like a shed, a silo or equipment.

An involuntary conversion falls under IRC 1033, which says no gain or loss is recognized when property is involuntarily converted into similar property or property related in service or use. In the case of crops, the damaged crops are not converted, and insurance proceeds are subject to tax.

In the case of property, the farmer can either recognize the gain or purchase property similar or related in service or use. The farmer also has the option to elect to defer the gain to the extent the amount realized is invested in replacement property. If deferral is elected, the property must be replaced within two years from the end of the tax year in which any part of the gain on conversion is realized. The farmer may extend the replacement period by filing an extension.

There are special rules for replacement property regarding involuntary conversions. Replacement property can't be acquired from a related party. If you are an individual, the related party prohibition applies if there is a realized gain of more than \$100,000.

If multiple assets were destroyed in the same event, the farmer can defer gain on some assets and not others. It's an asset-byasset election.

Replacement property must be similar in use to the property involuntarily



converted. This standard is stricter than like-kind replacement property under Section 1031. Similar in use refers to the farmer's relationship to the property. The physical characteristics and end use of the converted property and replacement property must be closely similar. For example, a dairy farmer likely could not treat the dairy facility as similar in use to a beef cattle feedlot. To expand on the difference, 1031 uses a like-kind test. Under like-kind, the dairy facility (1245 asset) and feedlot (1245 asset) would qualify for a tax-free exchange.

Because the rules and terminology can be tricky, consult a tax accountant prior to purchasing replacement property. ///

**TOOLS FROM** 

THE PAST

This item was a necessity for a fried chicken Sunday dinner. What is it?



#### Answer:

This is a chicken guillotine or decapitator. The sharp blade made quick work of the job at hand before cleaning the bird for the frying pan.



#### **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@dtn.com

#### **WHAT'S TRENDING** a DTNPF.COM





> A recent episode with DTN Livestock Analyst ShayLe Stewart explores market moves cattle producers are considering as 2024 winds down.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Dec. 5-6: DTN Ag Summit: Our annual event will take place each day from 9 to 11 a.m. Central Time. Presentations will cover ag policy and potential tax implications as the result of the election, farmland values, winter/spring weather forecasts and perspective on the grain and cattle markets. Visit https://dtn. link/DTNAgSummit2024 for all the details and to register.

Dec. 10: WASDE Report: Find commentary from DTN Lead Analyst Rhett Montgomery on what the end-of-the-year world supply and demand numbers mean for commodity markets as 2025 unfolds. Visit www.dtn.com/events to register.

#### **BLOGS & COLUMNS**







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THE FUTURE O

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## FIRST LOOK



#### Rhett Montgomery Lead Analyst Read Rhett's blog at ABOUT. DTNPF.COM/ MARKETS

> You may email Rhett at rhett. montgomery@ dtn.com

### Introducing DTN/*Progressive Farmer*'s New Lead Analyst, Rhett Montgomery

#### In 2012, during central Nebraska's worst

drought in a decade, I recall driving with my dad in the pasture when, through the pickup's radio static, we heard the daily market recap. At that point, to my untrained ear, it sounded like gibberish. A long, breathless string of months and prices. My dad explained that the significant month and number to him was the December Live Cattle price. I couldn't understand why, in early August, we were concerned with a December price. For the next 20 minutes, my dad gave me my first of what would turn out to be many lectures on the fundamentals of futures markets.

I went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), where I was lucky enough to study under great professors in the department of agricultural economics. My passion for commodity markets deepened and flourished as I took every course offered related to commodity markets and farm marketing.

Following my graduation from UNL, I began my career as a grain merchandiser in central Nebraska. This role allowed me to remain involved with futures markets on a day-to-day basis while also remaining close to the farm gate. Over the next six years, I traded cash corn, soybeans and wheat throughout the Western Corn Belt and learned countless invaluable lessons regarding basis, futures and freight spreads, logistics, etc. However, in late 2023, I found myself longing for more time to deepen my analysis of the markets with the ultimate goal of providing producers with solid information and advice on how to better manage price risk.

I decided to shift gears and joined a central-Nebraska brokerage/advisory firm, but as it is with the markets, sometimes life brings unexpected turns. In the spring of 2024, my wife, Andie, was accepted to the University of Oklahoma to pursue her Ph.D. in history, an opportunity that was simply too good for us to pass up. So, in summer 2024, we bid our goodbyes to our home state and headed south. While I was excited for the new opportunities, I was equally anxious. I was unsure how, from Oklahoma, I would be able to continue working in ag futures, especially with most of



Rhett Montgomery, his wife, Andie, and their two dogs, Lenny (left) and Townes (right), on their wedding day in June 2024.

my training to that point being on the grain side of the business. Needless to say, I was over the moon at the opportunity to join DTN/Progressive Farmer as an analyst to work remotely, allowing me to stay within a field that is my passion and in which I truly feel I belong.

When it comes to markets and risk management, my philosophy is fairly simple. Here are some key things I've learned through my career thus far.

**1. Hope is not a marketing plan.** Be sure to set sales target goals and review regularly. Don't be afraid to forward contract, and avoid delayed pricing contracts at the elevator during fall.

2. Know the seasonal price tendencies, which increases your probability of selling in the upper ranges of price. Factor this into your marketing plan.

**3. Risk management is as much about avoiding the low as it is about hitting the high.** The goal should be doing what it takes to operate another year. Learn from mistakes, and don't dwell on bad trades.

**4. Futures are a zero-sum game.** For every winner, there is a loser. Know where the big money (funds) is positioned, and always consider both sides to any trade.

I look forward to delving deeper into these topics more in the coming months and, hopefully, years in this new role. And, I thank Editor-In-Chief Greg Horstmeier and newly retired Lead Analyst Todd Hultman for their vote of confidence in myself. I look forward to serving you all. ///

### FIRST LOOK BUSINESSLINK

### The Future of Farmland Is Data-Driven

Would you pay \$17,000 per acre for land that had been in a

Conservation Reserve Program contract for 40 years? No?

You probably don't live next door.

In this instance, two farmers got into a bidding war over land south of Williamsburg, Iowa, where very little land has come up for public sale in recent years.

But, was it worth that much? Several new, data-driven products could help answer that question by pairing county assessors' office records with soil maps, satellite imagery and other data in searchable platforms. Most platforms can pull together lists of comparable sales, and some offer interested buyers help contacting landowners.

"The farmland market is really opaque, and that lack of transparency creates less-than-ideal outcomes," says Carter Malloy, CEO of AcreTrader, a company that allows investors to buy shares of a farming operation. It also runs Acres, one of the data-driven, land-research applications.

Malloy grew up on a farm in Arkansas. He says it's always bothered him that his father could only estimate his assets within a wide range while others can know their financial position to the penny.

After working in investing early in his career, Malloy was astounded by how much information was available to inform equity purchases and how difficult similar information was to find for farmland.

"In terms of technological revolutions on the farm, this one may be a little more subdued" than the horse-drawn plow or modern seed genetics, but it's already helped his father and other farmers, too, understand that value of what they own, he says.

Howard Halderman, CEO of Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management Services, says platforms like Acres, AcreValue and Land id also save appraisers significant amounts of time by creating a central hub for all the required information instead of having to physically visit multiple offices to obtain paperwork.

In some cases, appraisals can be completed in 24 hours instead of a week to 10 days.

"Overall, better data makes the land market more efficient. The speed we can bring properties to market is quicker. It's easier to borrow money and speeds up how fast lenders can react," he says. ///

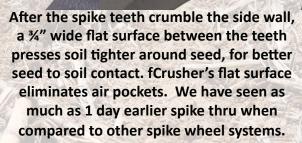
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#### **OUR RURAL ROOTS**

#### The Gift of a Story

BY Katie Pratt

#### Storytelling, often seen as a pastime, is a necessary

human activity. This year, we laid my great-uncle to rest and buried the last of a generation. In doing so, storytelling took on a certain urgency, lest we forget our familial foundation, constructed of factual—yet colorful recollections of the past.

Tucked in a wooden chest in my parents' living room is the photographic history of my grandma's side of the family. One Sunday, my son and I were rummaging through the lineage, searching specifically for who owned the original farm and for how long.

Photos, handwritten notes and printed pages from **ancestry.com** led us to exploring plat books and asking neighbors to share their personal farm history.

We learned that we truly do come from generations of



full-time farmers, the first arriving to the Midwest from Massachusetts in the 1850s. Census documents from the 1860s list my ancestors as farmers. Parcels of land at one time owned by my

great-great-grandfather and his brothers can still be found listed as "King Bros." We followed the farm's ownership through the generations, proving—so we thought—the family's centurylong ownership of the home farm.

Our investigation also took us into our country's history. We noted dates pertinent to the Civil War and westward expansion, when some brothers headed to Kansas and Nebraska.

During the Great Depression, the family lost ownership of the farm briefly. Taxes came due, and hard times arrived. Fortunately, the farm went to the bank for just six months.

The ancestorial stories my grandma had shared married well to the faded, sepia-toned photographs we pulled from the chest. I told her stories and some of my own that day. And, my son listened intently, storing each memory like a gift for another generation. ///



Katie Pratt writes and shares her stories from a north-central Illinois farm. Find her writing blog at **theillinoisfarmgirl.com** 

#### Strength in the New Year

BY Tiffany Dowell Lashmet

#### As we gear up for the New Year, the talk of resolutions

is in the air. For many people, this includes a goal related to losing weight. As someone who has worried about my weight my whole life, I understand. I would be embarrassed to admit the amount of energy I have put into this particular obsession. I can think back and remember specific instances where adults made comments related to their own weight or the weight of another person, and I believe that is where my own issues likely arose.

Since having a daughter eight years ago, I've really been cognizant of what I've said related to weight. I am careful not to comment on my weight or dieting in front of her. I've told other people not to comment on weight in front of her. I am careful to talk about how we want to be healthy and



strong versus thin. I've really wondered if this effort has been fruitful, or if I've been wasting my time and energy.

One day this fall, my daughter went to cheerleading camp. She was most excited about the stunting, where girls work together to lift the "flier" into the air. When I picked her up from camp, she started her first sentence with, "Mom, I'm at the bottom of the stunt ... "

I cringed about what might be coming next. Would she be upset? Would she be concerned she was not the smallest girl being lifted into the air? Did someone say something negative to her?

She continued, " ... because I am the strongest. That is probably from showing sheep and cattle, and helping haul hay and carry feedbags."

I got tears in my eyes realizing how she saw herself: strong, tough, powerful. It was a great reminder that how we talk about ourselves and others matters. Here's to the strong girls we are being and raising in 2025. ///



Tiffany Dowell Lashmet juggles family, farming, writing, livestock and a career in ag law from the Texas Panhandle. Follow her blog at **alwaysafarmkid.com**, on Instagram **alwaysafarmkid** and on X **@TiffDowell** 



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<sup>2</sup> 2022 Stratus Ag Research. Grower survey. BRAND FOCUS 360 Soybean Fungicides – Midwest. Syndicated research.

#### FIRST LOOK WEATHERLINK



John Baranick Ag Meteorologist

#### Read John's blog at ABOUT.DTNPF. COM/WEATHER

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### Weak La Niña in the Driver's Seat For Winter

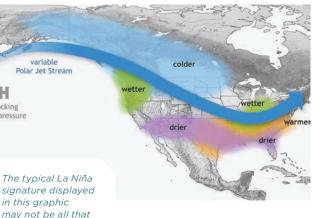
You're bound to hear all sorts of predictions about the winter season, and some of them are н going to seem at odds with each blocking high pressure other. The interesting part of this winter season is that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation will not have the same sort of stamp on the weather pattern this year that it had in the previous four. After three straight winters of moderate La Niñas followed by a super El Niño, this year, we're closer to normal, though solidly on the cool side. A weak La Niña is in the driver's seat for the winter pattern. But, there are other items to consider, as well. One interesting thing to note: Over the last 20 to 30 years, above-normal Octobers have generally led to above-normal winters. We certainly had a warm October this year that, at points, felt like an extension of the summer. Could that also be in play for this winter? And, what about how the polar vortex will develop? Does the fact of solar maximum play a part?

So, will the typical La Niña pattern of a cold north and warm, dry south manifest? Or, will we have a lot more variability? Wherever you look and whatever information you ingest about this winter, it will probably have some merit. While I will make some claims below for your region, the confidence on how this winter season will play out is the lowest we've had in a while. The only regions that have higher confidence are west of the Rockies.

#### Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon and Washington):

The pattern started to get a lot more active at the end of fall, and that active pattern is expected to continue through the winter. Heavy mountain snows and below-normal temperatures are in the forecast for the bulk of the winter season, especially for the second half.

**Southwest:** An average fall season is likely to become a much quieter winter. La Niñas have a strong tendency to be warmer and drier than normal. Though winter is the season



may become more prevalent later in the season. (NOAA GRAPHIC) revealent later in the

that sees the most precipitation, this one could be lacking. Lower mountain snowfall and building drought are likely.

**Northern Plains:** The fall seemed to be twofaced this year, with early fall conditions feeling like an extension of a warm and dry summer with some better precipitation later in the season. Drought had been picking up, but it's more sporadic in this region than others. La Niña tends to promote a stronger jet stream in the region and more clipper systems that have little precipitation but large swings in temperatures. But, when frequent enough, that lends to above-normal snowfall, which is forecast for this season, even if precipitation is near normal.

**Central and Southern Plains:** Very dry conditions during the first two-thirds of fall have set up an overall drought scenario for the region for this winter. And, while the precipitation picked up in late October and November, that will be the concern this year with La Niña set to keep the region both warmer and drier than normal overall. Expect a couple of bigger storms during the winter that could bring down a burst of colder air, especially later in the season, which could mean a significant snow and ice storm or two.

**Coastal Texas and Louisiana:** Through the end of October, the region mostly dodged the tropical moisture, but that left the region dry and in drought, as well. Winter conditions during La Niña tend to be very warm and dry, and the drought is likely to continue and expand. We could see a big polar vortex disruption

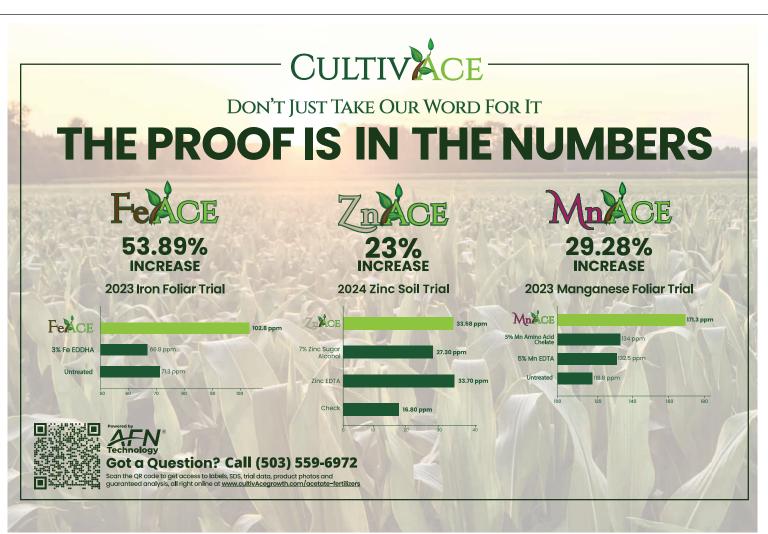
bring significantly below-normal temperatures late in the season, but the confidence on that is low.

**Midwest:** Outside of some help from Hurricane Helene at the end of September, the first two months of fall were extremely dry, and drought set in or expanded across the entire region. The pattern got wetter for the first half of November, but drought will still be a major threat over the winter. Luckily for those in the east, La Niña tends to favor increased precipitation, which could reduce or eliminate drought there by spring, even if lake-effect snows are not as potent as usual. Temperatures are expected to be above normal early in the season with threats of big-time cold for the second half, particularly in February and possibly into spring.

**Delta/Lower Mississippi Valley:** Hurricane Helene helped northern areas of the region hold off on drought for much of the fall, though southern areas did not partake in it, and drought expanded there. La Niña tends to favor the northern half of the region with near- or even above-normal precipitation, though areas near the Gulf are typically drier than normal. If the pattern holds, we could see drought expanding across the south. The region would also be at risk of a cold burst late in the winter season.

**Mid-Atlantic and Northeast:** Help from tropical features led to overall decent precipitation over the fall, though some areas near the coast still ended up with drought increasing. Winter brings the likelihood of more clipper-like storms instead of big coastal ones. That typically leads to lower precipitation totals, and we could see drought expand in the region. Although clippers like to bring in cold air at times, we are forecasting lower-than-normal lake-effect snowfall and above-normal temperatures.

**Southeast:** If not for Hurricane Helene in late September, the region would likely have the most extensive and deepest drought in the country. An upper-level ridge is expected to be more common than not over the area this winter, leading to mostly warmer conditions and near- or belownormal precipitation. We will probably see this ridge challenged at times. That could mean a couple of big storms, though, especially late in the season if a polar vortex pattern occurs. ///



### YOUR LAND

By Katie Dehlinger, @KatieD\_DTN Illustration By Jim Musil

### Why Land Values Last

#### Investment withstands the test of time.

Nathan Roux might be able to afford farmland if he wins the lottery.

"At that point, I don't know if I'd want to work that hard," he says.

The Army veteran didn't grow up on a farm, but he's fallen in love with the fieldwork through his career overseeing corn and soybean research plots for FIRST, a farmer-led organization that runs independent seed trials and publishes public results.

"Even if I had the itch—like I really wanted to own my own ground and raise a crop—it's unattainable unless you've grown up with it in the family or you have millions and millions of dollars or just incredible financial backing," he contends. "The ground—I'm not even going to talk about the machinery—the ground is just so expensive to buy. It will not pencil out."

It's not just people like Roux who are priced out. He says a 4,000-acre farmer he admires for his business acumen was repeatedly outbid by an investment firm that partnered with a different grower.

"If he can't afford it, I can't help but wonder if we've priced land so that only the biggest can afford to buy," he says.

#### > COOLING DOWN?

The ferocity of Illinois' post-COVID farmland market is waning. According to the Chicago Federal Reserve, land values in that state climbed just 3% from July 2023 to 2024, the smallest year-over-year increase since 2020. In Iowa, farmland values declined 3% during the year.

Across the Corn Belt, economists are calling for farmland values to hold steady or make small adjustments in either direction. Farmers, the largest group of buyers, are taking a cautious approach to capital expenditures after another year of tough commodity prices and lower incomes, says Howard Halderman, the thirdgeneration president of Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management, based in Wabash, Indiana.

"Investors provide price insulation in downturns," he says, since they see softening prices as buying opportunities. Land values have mostly grown in a slow, steady manner since the 1930s. There have been a few periods of price spikes but only 10 or so years when prices declined, including the 1980s farm crisis. "It's a very steady asset."

#### **> STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS**

The financial structure of the farmland market is completely different than in the 1980s, and that makes it increasingly appealing to a wide array of investors, says Bruce

array of investors, says Bruce
Sherrick, director of the TIAA
Center for Farmland Research
at the University of Illinois.
Federally subsidized, revenueprotection crop insurance
didn't exist.

For Howard, Robert and Joe Halderman (left to right), farm real estate and management is a family business. NICOLE A. HOWARD PHOTOGRAPHY





> Banks no longer offer 40-year amortized loans covering 80% of the assets' costs with a 15% interest rate.

▶ 70% of U.S. farmland is owned outright, limiting the odds of foreclosures flooding the market.

► The federal funds rate is between 4.75 and 5% compared to 1980's peak range of 19 to 20%.

Sherrick says he doesn't mean to imply that interest rate changes aren't painful or that it's easy to borrow. "I'm just saying a systemically transmissible crisis is not going to be what triggers a drop in farmland values," he says.

#### > POSITIVE DRIVERS

Sherrick says there are more positive drivers of farmland values than negative ones, especially viewed from a longterm perspective. "I used to talk about income, interest and inflation," he explains. "Now, I have to talk about energy and trade, too."

While interest rates are higher than a few years ago, he expects them to remain close to historical averages.

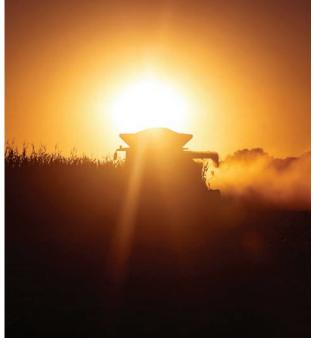
Farm incomes are down starkly from 2022's peaks, but USDA estimates that overall net farm income for 2024 will be in line with the 20-year average. "Income prospects long term are very good," Sherrick says. Population growth in Africa and India are expected to drive food demand as population and incomes grow, generating both more mouths to feed and higher demand for meat and feedgrains.

"You can't change where you grow food on the planet, because the soil is fixed. The water is fixed. What you can do is move it from where we grow it to where it's consumed," he says. That's why Sherrick thinks the largest risk to U.S. farmland values would be a disruption in global trade that hits export demand growth in the long term.

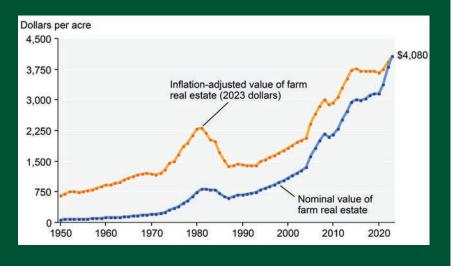
Halderman says land values in the Eastern Corn Belt are getting a lift from not only solar and wind energy, but also carbon storage leases. A recent Purdue University study found that if two identical parcels sold in the same year, the one closer to solar generation is expected to sell at a 1.4% premium for every mile closer it is to the facility. For highly productive ground, that premium goes up to 1.8% per mile, an indication that "utility-scale solar facilities place a stronger price pressure on more valuable land."

#### > INVESTMENT APPEAL

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and the Mormon church may be some of the nation's largest landowners, but they hardly reflect the pool of farmland investors. The most common investors are local, wealthy individuals that want to add an inflation hedge to their portfolios, Halderman says.



### Average U.S. farm real estate value, nominal and real (inflation adjusted), 1950–2023



SOURCES: USDA, ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE, QUICKSTATS

The Illinois teachers' pension fund was one of the first groups of investors to buy farmland as an asset class. Now, a variety of large investment groups are active buyers, although Halderman says different investors have different goals.

Generally, investors are looking for returns and typically target properties with income potential of 3 to 4% or more, Halderman says. At present, cash rents compared to many Corn Belt land values put the cap rate around 2.5%.

Farmland's reliable appreciation also makes it a safer option than most other investments. Unlike equities, the supply of land is fixed, and how much comes on the market at any time is determined primarily by nonmarket factors, such as estate transitions.

"Here's the greatest punchline: Farmland as an investment has outperformed equities over the long run and provides better inflation protection," Sherrick says. "If you don't need current income, farmland can be more tax efficient, as well, with more of the returns from appreciation. I think that is why some people think farmland looks expensive. It's because it is priced how it should be priced."

#### > OWNERS VS. OPERATORS?

A trend Sherrick has seen more of in recent years is farmers selling land to investors and renting it back with a long-term lease. The sale enables farmers to put capital to use in other areas of the business, like expansion or equipment, while maintaining their acreage base. Roux says he can't begrudge anyone for wanting to get top dollar for their land, but he wonders if far-away investors care about the land the same way a farmer would. "If land is going for \$20,000 an acre, it doesn't help the next guy get into farming," he says.

Sherrick argues that's where public policy intersects with the markets, and right now, the market operates on the assumption that the world needs more food. Commercial corn and soybean production have grown so large that not just anyone can start in farming and be competitive, just like not everyone can start a shoe factory and compete with Nike.

While he waits to win the lottery, Roux is OK that it's not his name on the side of the semitrucks hauling grain to the elevator. He gets plenty of rubberneckers looking at his three-row Gleaner combine

used to harvest plots. "I like getting out in the field and talking to my growers. It's like I'm farming vicariously through them," he says. ///

Nathan Roux (left) harvests a research plot on John Adcock's farm, in Forsyth, Illinois. BETTY HAYNES







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#### YOUR LAND 📏 LANDWATCH

### **Recent Farmland Sales**



**COLORADO**, Bent and Prowers Counties. A portfolio of 6,673 acres divided into 20 tracts and six allotments of water rights sold at hybrid auction for \$14.68 million, or an average of \$2,200 per acre. The farm contains nearly 4,725 Farm Service Agency (FSA) cropland acres, of which 2,553 are certified organic, and 3,761 are irrigated. The sale also included more than 1,500 acres of pasture. Per-acre purchase prices ranged from \$661 per acre for a five-track combination of pasture, grass and dryland ground to \$6,281 per acre for a 143-acre field with 129 acres under irrigation. **Contact:** Jess Nighswonger, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Co.; auctions@ schraderauction.com, 303-362-3285 www.schraderauction.com

**INDIANA, Grant County.** Six tracts of farmland encompassing 242 acres sold in online auction to a single buyer for \$2.45 million, or \$10,124 per acre. Of the total acreage, 150 acres are tillable, 86.5 acres are wooded and 2 acres contain a homesite. The property also contains several barns and outbuildings. **Contact:** Rick Johnloz, Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management; rickj@ halderman.com, 260-827-8181 www.halderman.com **IOWA, Benton County.** A 147-acre property sold in two tracts for \$2.22 million, or about \$15,102 per acre. The farm sold in two tracts, the smallest of which was previously in CRP. The larger tract, at 109 acres, also included about 30 acres of CRP, the contract on which has also been terminated. The farm has an average CSR2 score of 87. **Contact:** Nick Skinner, Iowa Land Co.; info@ iowalandcompany.com, 515-650-0974 www.iowalandcompany.com

KANSAS. Chevenne County. A farm with 1,120 acres sold at auction for \$1.92 million, or \$1,714 per acre. The land was divided into three tracts. The first was a 160-acre quarter section of Class II farmland with a history of wheat production. It sold for \$3,000 per acre. The second parcel was a full section, or 640 acres, of grass with good fences and water access. It sold for \$1,450 per acre. The last tract was a 320-acre half section directly across the street that has 66 tillable acres currently planted to feed. It sold for \$1,600. Contact: Cory Busse, Farm and Ranch Realty Inc.; frr@frrmail. com, 719-342-2997 www.farmandranchrealty.com

#### KENTUCKY, Daviess and Hancock

**Counties.** Two parcels of land totaling 1,005.5 acres sold at auction for \$6,891,625, or \$6,854 per acre. The land sold in 20 tracts ranging from 1.85 to 253.42 acres. A portion of the acres had been previously surface-mined and reclaimed with the balance in wooded land. Improvements included a three-bedroom brick home and farm buildings. **Contact:** Amy Whistle, Kurtz Auction and Realty Co.; amy@kurtzauction.com, 800-264-1204 www.kurtzauction.com

**SOUTH DAKOTA, Brookings County.** An irrigated 150-acre farm just 2.5 miles outside of Brookings sold at auction for \$2.2 million, or \$14,667 per acre. The field is adjacent to a Syngenta Seed complex and has been the site of countless seed research, testing and show plots, in addition to being close to ethanol and grain markets. The current lease expires Dec. 1, 2024. **Contact:** Chuck Sutton, Sutton Auctioneers and Land Brokers; office@suttonauction.com, 605-336-6315 www.suttonauction.com

WISCONSIN, Grant County. A 78-acre property sold in sealed bid auction for \$820,000, or \$10,513 per acre. The property offers something for everyone. There are nearly 54 acres of cropland with a Productivity Index of 76.6, as well as 20 acres of dense timber suited for hunting. Its location—10 minutes from Dubuque, Iowa—also makes it appealing to someone looking to buy land for a home. **Contact:** Adam Crist, Peoples Co.; adam.crist@ peoplescompany.com, 608-482-1229 www.peoplescompany.com

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

> Submit recent land sales to landwatch@dtn.com

Find previous Landwatch listings at www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/ web/ag/magazine/your-land



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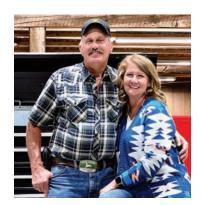
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t's a shop Tom and Tina Favero built in 2019 to bring everything home, to consolidate maintenance and storage, to serve as headquarters and, on a second floor, to create a craft and meeting room.

The Faveros operate a third-generation farm around Ogden, Utah, 45 minutes north of Salt Lake City irrigated grass hay and alfalfa, with wheat as a rotation.



Tom and Tina Favero built a 4,000-square-foot shop outside of Ogden, Utah. They dressed it up with a timber frame entryway.

The couple once operated a produce operation—sweet corn, squash, watermelon and pumpkins sold to supermarket warehouses but no more.

Their homeplace is within sight of the Wasatch Mountains and within earshot of the F-35 and F-16 fighters flying in and out of nearby Hill Air Force Base.

"This is a nice place to work," Tom says sitting inside his shop, hot outside but comfortable in here. "I can get some

relief to get away from the rest of the farm at night, to get out of the heat and mosquitoes."

The Faveros' 40- x 100-foot building is deep enough for semis. It was designed with expansion in mind (if building prices ever come down, Tom says). The south wall of the building includes a 20-foot-wide by 14-foottall area framed with steel I beams. With the panels removed, the opening will connect the existing building with any future new structure. The south end of the shop is now dedicated for pallet racking and storage.

"We needed this storage," Tina says. "We were out of room. I really like the way it turned out. I like the rustic look, the way it's laid out."

#### >>>Honor Farm Legacy

This shop features bits of family heritage. "We knew that we wanted to incorporate some of the materials that we had saved from the original buildings on the



property. Once we started, it evolved into a fun, creative project," Tina explains. A large section of the interior wall at the north end of the building and the upstairs craft room are finished with rusty tin, barnwood and a scattering of old farm tools. "We incorporated an old manger board from the dairy barn once on this land at the top of the stairs (to the craft room)," she says.





Tom built his shop with a steeper-than-normal 3/12 pitch on the roof instead of a 1/12 pitch more common in the area. "I like the steeper look, and I didn't want it to look like a metal building," he says. "It gave us more room for the loft, craft room, too."

The concrete was a monolithic pour. The footings,

The Favero shop includes a bench on wheels for meetings and work. The workbench has a steel top. The overhead doors include windows, adding natural light to the shop. Tina also has enclosed storage spaces upstairs. pillars and floor were all laid down with a single pour. The floor is sealed.

The shop is fully insulated, lined with ¾-inch paintedwhite plywood, equipped with three heaters and central air (upstairs). Lighting is supplied by high-bay LED lights inside. LED lighting outside illuminates the gravel apron around the front and side of the building.



Tom and Tina Favero's shop consolidated several work areas and can expand when new spaces are needed.



The heating system was installed with the future in mind. The furnaces require ½-inch pipe for gas. Instead, Tom plumbed them with 1½-inch pipe all the way to the back, south end of the shop. "We have plenty of volume if we decide to put in more heaters and need more gas down the way [in a future expansion]," he says.

#### >>> Strategic Doors

Two overhead doors give entrance to the shop. One is 16 feet wide; the second is 24 feet wide. The doors are 14 feet tall, and there is 16 feet to the eve. A bank of high windows in the doors brings natural light into the shop. The shop also has two all-important service doors. The main service doors are set off with a nicely designed timber-framed entry.

"The doors give us access to about any direction in the building, sideways, forward, backwards," Tom says.

Space between the overhead doors is home to a 5-hp, 60-gallon, two-stage Quincy compressor sitting on a sound-absorbing rubber pad and a waist-high rolling toolbox. Tom plumbed the compressor area with two air lines. One has ¾-inch pipe and 50 feet of hose to operate tools such as a ½-inch impact wrench. The other line is ½ inch, 50 feet of hose to run bigger air tools, such as a 1-inch impact gun. Tom brought a 220-volt line there for welding, too. >



The Favero shop incorporates materials from older buildings, including tin, timbers and wooden tools. Opposite the tin wall and window is Tina's second-floor craft room.

#### >>>Hobby Room

The upstairs craft room features a large island and countertop for a sewing machine and workspace. A pair of closets offer plenty of storage. "The hobby room allows me to get everything out from under my bed. It gives me space to do leather work and other projects," Tina says. "I was busy up there during COVID making masks and doing other projects."

Floor space under the craft room is lined with storage cabinets mounted above steel countertops. A pair of



rolling, high-top worktables (with drawers and hog wire lower shelves) are space for meetings or to serve as rolling work surfaces. A large rolling

toolbox holds tools for work done in the middle floor spaces. A bathroom (right) boasts an authentic, rolling barn door. Inside is a toilet and sink, cabinets, washer and dryer, table and tankless water heater.



Any changes he might make?

Tom can see now that it would have been better to make the shop a few feet deeper. "Forty feet fit the area we had because there was an open irrigation ditch outside," he says. "And, we built the building before we filled in the ditch. We should have piped the irrigation ditch and got it out of the way. I would have built this 50 feet wide instead of 40." ///

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# **Farming From Scratch**

### *Grower shares lessons learned building his operation from the ground up.*

hen it came to choosing a career, you might say Travis Dixon found himself torn between "rock" and a "heart place."

The northeast-Missouri native grew up on a farm, but there wasn't a spot for him in the family operation when he graduated high school in the early 2000s. Higher education propelled him into geology and mining engineering. His occupation took him to mines and quarries across the country before he eventually took a position overseeing five quarries in north Missouri. Yet, for all his success, something was missing.

"It never felt like 'home,' you know? I never felt like my heart was into it," he says of his quarry career. "I'd be in Idaho to work at a mine, but I'd be eyeballing

every farm I drove by, asking myself what I needed to do so that I could farm. I needed something more fulfilling than just making money. Farming was where my heart was and the setting where I really wanted to raise my kids."

#### > HOGS AND HOPE

With the support of his wife, Bethany, a registered nurse, Dixon left behind his six-figure quarry job and embarked on a foray into farming. While he had his sights set on raising row crops, he needed to get a foot in the door and

establish some operating capital. A friend at church suggested raising pigs.

"We lost our butt in the '90s on hogs, so at first, I couldn't imagine going into that," he recalls. "My friend assured me it was different today. Now, I joke that guys raise cattle because they like cattle, but guys raise hogs when they need money."

The Dixons built a 7,340-head wean-to-finish production facility on property near Travis' boyhood hometown of Laddonia, Missouri, and began raising hogs on contract in 2012. He also started doing custom work locally, including anhydrous application for a local ag retailer.

"I was doing upward of 7,000 acres of that a year," he says. "Every piece of equipment I bought, I asked myself, 'How is it going to make me money?' For example, when

Travis Dixon

I bought a skid steer, I started cleaning up brush and tree lines for folks. Anything to turn a dollar."

In 2017, Travis' 98-year-old grandfather, who the Dixons had been living with and taking care of for two years, passed away. The young couple was presented with an opportunity to purchase the small farmstead—lock, stock and barrel.

"So, we bit off everything we could with our lender and then some," Dixon says. "Then, Dad's like, 'I feel like I need to retire,' so I took over what ground he had rented. That's how I started row-cropping with 487 acres."

#### > DRAG RACER MENTALITY

In 2023, Dixon sold the hog operation, and today, the 39-year-old farms roughly 1,700 acres spread over 40 miles around his home in Audrain County, Missouri, raising corn, soybeans and winter wheat. He equates the success he's achieved to the

> mentorship he's received both locally and through joining the Total Acre program, which connects him to a network of growers nationwide looking to improve their return on investment through operational efficiency as well as best practices.

> "I'm a firm believer that you need to put your agronomy in your own hands," he says. "The best thing you can see in the field is your shadow. Every field is different, so realizing that and figuring out how to make sure the crop gets the nutrition it needs when it needs it has

upped our game."

Pushing plant performance reminds Dixon of drag racing, one of his past hobbies.

"I love tinkering and seeing if what I did made something better," he says. "That's kind of what we're doing with these plants. We try things and see what happens, because if we don't think outside of the box, we're not going to stay competitive."

Such a mindset has led Dixon to adopt certain management practices on the farm. For instance, he sprays all fungicides and foliar fertilizers himself, applying them at night when air temperatures are cooler, evaporation is reduced and plants are more receptive.

"I'm not running them down, but the co-op isn't going to do that," he adds. "Having my own sprayer, I can source the products I want and apply them when I'm going to get the biggest yield bump."

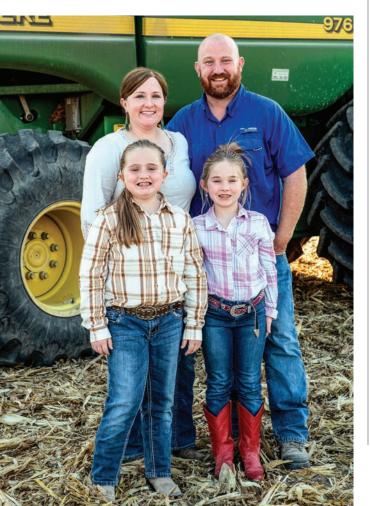
Efficiencies aren't just realized in the field. This year, Dixon erected new grain bins and a drying system using proceeds from the sale of his hog facility. Now, he can harvest corn at higher moisture, capturing "phantom" yield loss and allowing for more grainmarketing opportunities.

#### > LESSONS TOWARD A LEGACY

Dixon's approach certainly has paid dividends. His crops have improved across the board, with per-acre yields averaging 70 bushels in soybeans and 100 bushels in winter wheat. This year, he broke the 300-bushel threshold on at least one corn plot, something he was told was "impossible" on dryland clay soils.

Yet, there are other intangibles that have been key to Dixon's operation, lessons he says anyone who wants to build a farm should keep in mind.

> Remember your business goals. "Filter every decision by what is financially sound. What gets you closer to your goals?" he asks. "Keep your eyes off the equipment at the neighbor's place. If you As the parents of Kylie, 9, and Kinsley, 8, Travis and Bethany Dixon envision a future where the family farm supports multiple households, should their children choose to farm.





spend money on shiny new paint just because it's shiny, you'll soon be working just to make an iron payment." > Build your mentor team. "Find folks who you trust, and let them take you under their wings," Dixon says. "Find folks who are doing it right. Figure out what's making them successful. What are they doing differently?" **Know your limitations.** "Your bandwidth is only so wide, so admit when you're not the best at something and get the right people around you," he says. "I didn't know anything about grain marketing. Calls and puts and HTAs (hedge-to-arrive contracts) were all foreign to me, so I hired someone. It's way worth the money." > Abide by the golden rule. "When you do a business deal, make sure it's good for both parties, or it won't be sustainable," Dixon says. "Do the right thing for people, even if they're not doing the right thing for you. If you burn some bridges in this industry, you're done, because that gets back to the coffee shop, and your name is mud from then on."

> Work hard at working hard. "You need to be disciplined. Put your boots on and go to work," he says. "You've got to have stalwart perseverance. See things through. If I hadn't just absolutely been a bulldog, I wouldn't have made it."

> Protect your priorities. "Your kids—that's your legacy, so spend time with them. Get in the house and eat supper with the family," says Dixon, who has two daughters, Kylie, 9, and Kinsley, 8. "Take a Saturday off now and then. Make time to go to church on Sundays."

While he'd like to own more acres closer to home and rent fewer acres, Dixon says he isn't looking to expand his farming operation just now. He's focused instead on continuing to tinker, increasing yields and maximizing his return on investment.

"Right now, I'm building equity. I'm building my foundation," he says. "I don't want to get bigger just because having 10,000 acres would sound good down at the coffee shop. I'm not ready to become a farm manager just yet. I still like being the guy who's doing the actual farming." ///

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eather extremes have added another layer of risk for Corn Belt farmers as they plan their weed control strategies. Spring storms, for example, can delay field work, giving weeds a head start, while extended dry weather can adversely affect activation of preemergence and preplant residual



herbicides. Suddenly, your Plan A for weed control must switch to Plan B or even C, and along with it, your level of risk. Your risk level just got higher.

Fortunately, for the 2025 cropping season, Corteva Agriscience is helping overcome such weather risks by launching Resicore® REV herbicide. The herbicide-resistant weed management tool is a new formulation of Resicore herbicide and the three proven active ingredients and modes of action,

resulting in a wider application window, more crop safety and added tank-mix flexibility.

#### SPRING WEATHER CHALLENGES

"So many areas across the Corn Belt experienced heavy rains this past spring, which led to planting and application delays," says Joe Bolte, Corteva market development specialist for Missouri and Kansas. "This caused growers to pivot and change plans as they could not make preplant or preemergence herbicide applications due to wet fields."

Similarly, temperatures and heat units were higher than average, allowing weeds like waterhemp and Palmer amaranth to take off. This put tremendous pressure on making a timely postemergence application before weeds and corn growth size became too large.

In other areas, drier weather challenged preplant and preemergence residual herbicide activation, placing more risk on achieving a successful postemergence application.

On the bright side, growers who were fortunate to make timely preemergence herbicide applications with



residual saw good earlyseason weed control. When Mother Nature allows this Plan A to thrive, it often helps growers improve postemergence weed control on fewer and smaller weeds. Resicore REV herbicide provides added crop safety and can be tank mixed with several types of liquid fertilizers.

Bolte says research trials with Resicore REV herbicide in 2024 saw great success with this flexible management tool across multiple weather scenarios.

"Growers tell us that application flexibility is a huge benefit because they can't change the weather," Bolte says. "Having a residual-based corn herbicide product with a wide application window and crop safety like Resicore REV herbicide—from preplant to postemergence up to 24-inch corn—creates a tool that encompasses Plans A, B and C without the need to pivot to a different tool."

#### RESEARCH TRIAL RESULTS

In research plot trials, Bolte says growers were most excited about Resicore REV herbicide exhibiting the same excellent weed control as Resicore herbicide, with an expanded postemergence label and crop safety up to 24-inch corn thanks to encapsulated acetochlor in the product.

"Along with crop safety and excellent efficacy, research plots showed effective preplant and preemergence applications when tank-mixed with liquid fertilizers like UAN and ammonium thiosulfate," he says. "Growers like the fertility option to improve crop growth and yield while achieving up to eight weeks of residual weed control."

Bolte explains Resicore REV herbicide works across the Corn Belt to control the most difficult weeds such as waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, giant ragweed, common ragweed and marestail. The proven modes of action in clopyralid, mesotrione and encapsulated acetochlor control 75 tough broadleaf and grass weeds. It works in different agronomic scenarios, from conventional tillage to no-till, while labeled for use on both traited and non-traited corn.



Growers also find the program approach effective in reducing herbicide-resistant waterhemp, Palmer amaranth and other tough weeds. "We recommend optimizing corn yields by starting clean with a burndown application, followed by a preplant or preemergence and then a post spray," Bolte says. "Resicore REV herbicide has the flexibility to fit this program."

#### ONE PASS OR SPLIT APPLICATION

Resicore REV herbicide shows excellent weed control in corn as either a one-pass or a split application. Depending on soil type and rate, Bolte likes splitting the total rate of Resicore REV herbicide between a preemergence and postemergence application.

"By putting a half-rate down preplant or preemergence, we're activating residual control to buy time for an effective post application later. If wet weather delays either application, we can switch to Plan B and still rely on the power of Resicore REV herbicide," he says. "Be sure to consult the label for specific rates and restrictions when deciding your one-pass or split-application program."

As temperatures climb during postemergence application season, growers can be assured they can apply Resicore REV herbicide on corn up to 24 inches tall with excellent crop safety. This is a wider application window compared with Resicore herbicide, which must be applied before the corn reaches 11 inches in height. Also, Resicore Rev herbicide is formulated for increased crop safety with an encapsulated acetochlor. For 2025, Bolte recommends building a well-rounded weed control program that targets your most difficult herbicide-resistant weeds using a burndown, preemergence, and Resicore REV herbicide provides corn farmers a wide application window—from preplant to in-crop.

postemergence application, and non-herbicide management practices like tillage, crop rotation or cover crops.

"Resicore REV herbicide offers tremendous application flexibility along with residual control across various weather conditions," he says. "A preemergence and postemergence application helps reduce herbicide resistance, the weed seed bank and future weed control headaches."

For more details about Resicore REV herbicide, talk to your local retailer or Corteva representative. For immediate product information, technical bulletin, product label and a mixing and handling guide, visit the website for Resicore REV herbicide at www.corteva.us/ResicoreREV

Be sure to read and follow label directions.









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HERBICIDE

### How To Cope With Succession Anxiety Disorder

# **Succession is notoriously difficult. Figuring out how, and** when, to transition the ownership of farm and ranch assets takes having the knowledge of what you want to do, the right experts to help you do it and following through on your intentions. Furthermore, handing

the management of your business to the next generation takes confidence in their skills, clarity about your own future role and a willingness to let go.

In short, the transition is hard, and for many producers, a formal succession plan remains elusive and overwhelming. I call the angst surrounding the succession process "Succession Anxiety Disorder."

While contemplating this nownamed condition, I came across Chip Conley, an entrepreneur who works with people going through mid- and late-life transitions. Conley developed a set of 16 "Emotional Equations" (explained in his 2012 book of the same title), describing the cognitive processes our brains experience that create emotional

responses. I found two equations particularly relevant to the family business succession process.

**Disappointment = Expectations - Reality.** When things don't go well, when you are disappointed in the outcome of a situation, it is primarily due to the gap between what you expected to happen and what actually occurred.

Take the case of a younger family member returning to the farm. The senior generation suggests the younger generation member should return and that he or she will "end up" with the farm. The younger member is excited and eager to come home. In many cases, that is as far as the conversation goes. There is no discussion about the timeline of the transition, the parents' economic expectations for the change or how the financial terms will be settled with off-farm siblings. The younger generation is expected to simply trust that it will all work out. In the absence of a specific plan, the younger generation begins to develop assumptions around how the handoff should work. Later, their expectations meet the reality of the parents, who may have developed a very different idea, plan or set of assumptions. Worse, they may not even want to talk about the future or the details of their arrangement. They may not even have a plan. The result is a tremendous amount of disappointment and often conflict between the generations because of the gap in expectations by the younger generation and the reality of the parents' strategy.

**Anxiety = Uncertainty x Powerlessness.** In this equation, not knowing what the future holds is multiplied by

an inability to do anything about it. Conley suggests these two concepts should be multiplied, because the resulting anxiety is bigger than either uncertainty or powerlessness alone.

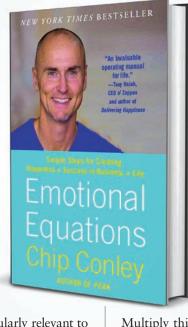
Family members who experience anxiety might develop severe conflicts with those with whom they work or live. They may shock the family with an addiction or mental breakdown, or initiate destructive behaviors toward themselves or others. These behaviors may, in part, stem from stress caused by uncertainty or mixed signals around how or when their transition into, or out of, ownership or management will occur. A lack of clarity or unrealistic expectations about what role they will play may also exist.

Multiply this uncertainty with an inability (real or perceived) to influence or control the transition timing, strategy or outcome. Young or old, they feel totally helpless, maybe even trapped in the family business as it stands today.

Taken together, Conley's two equations shed light on why succession may be difficult. The gap between expectations and reality in transitions, and the uncertainty and sense of powerlessness during the process foster anxiety in the family. If your family can recognize and discuss Succession Anxiety Disorder, you'll be better at alleviating the condition. ///



Email Lance Woodbury at lance.woodbury@pinionglobal.com



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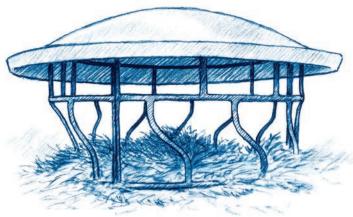
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Looking for a better way to feed the goats, Marion Harrell, Rockmart, Georgia, bolted an old (they are all old but keep on working) fiberglass satellite dish to the top of a hay ring. The dish keeps the hay dry and in the shade. To replenish the ring, Marion lifts the ring up on its side with the fork of the tractor. A new round bale is pushed inside with the spear mounted on the back of the tractor.



 LUCK OF THE HORSESHOE
 James Bechtold, Rock City, Illinois, found a simple way to keep his PTO shaft out of the dirt. He welded a horseshoe to a 6-inch piece of rod. He slides the rod through the hitch. The PTO shaft fits inside the horseshoe to keep it from getting misdirected or falling onto the ground when the implement is parked.

#### FROM THE TUB >

Ken Mueller, Syracuse, Nebraska, uses an old lick tub to create a handy container that he mounts on the back of his tractor. He drilled two holes in the bottom of the tub, aligning them with the tractor's drawbar. He mounted the tub to the drawbar using bolts long enough for two washers (one for each side) and for a nut and clip pin (see detail). He says it works great for holding net wrap or twine—and it's easy to remove when not needed.

**CASH FOR YOUR IDEAS:** Share with us your project ideas, and we'll pay you \$400 upon publication. To submit a Handy Device, please send a complete explanation of your idea and clear photographs or detailed drawings. We'd like to see a video, too, but that's optional. If you've published your idea on social media (X, Instagram, Facebook), send us the link. With each entry, include your name, address and telephone number. Send Handy Device entries to: **dan.miller@dtn.com**. Sorry, but we cannot acknowledge submissions or return photographs, drawings or documentation.

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<sup>1</sup> Summary of 2019-2022 RevX, field-scale demonstration trials. For location details, visit RevXFields.com. Veltyma fungicide applied at 7 fl oz/A to VT-R3 corn.

<sup>2</sup> 2019 BP-205-W Applied Research in Field Crop Pathology: Assessment of fungicides applied at VT/R1 for tar spot in corn in northwestern Indiana, 2019 (COR19-17.PPAC). https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-205-W.pdf.



### **BASF** We create chemistry



# **Big Bang Theory**

I have a 3020 John Deere diesel that blew a head gasket out of both sides of the engine between the head and the block while I was cranking it to start. The engine was overhauled five years ago, and it has been a jewel of a tractor its whole life. Do you have any idea why it just blew the head gasket with a big sound like a shotgun?

**Steve:** I have a good idea what caused it. This is a common occurrence when any liquid gets in a cylinder. Coolant can leak in the cylinder from a small leak in the head gasket, from diesel leaking in from a dripping injector or, the most common way, from rainwater creeping in from heavy rain entering through an open exhaust system.

Fluid can't be easily compressed, so the compression gets extremely high in the engine when the piston comes up on the power stroke, and the head gasket can't hold this extreme amount of pressure. The head gasket is the weakest link for holding in compression, but the good news is that it will usually blow before the extreme pressure bends a connecting rod. The before and after photos (right) of a blown 3020 head gasket show the power of the shotgun explosion you heard.





If you think none of the fluids I

mentioned entered the cylinder, and you have not exposed the engine to an excessive amount of starting fluid, then it might be a good idea to check the protrusion of the cylinder liner tops above the engine block with a dial indicator (where the head gasket seals compression) to engine specifications with your John Deere dealer. If it is out of specs, there are ways to correct it.

### Vent the Air

I have an old-school Lawn-Boy lawn mower. It's an older mower, and it has what is called a model D or F engine. It has a very simple bowl carburetor, but it has a crazy problem. It will run for about 10 seconds or so, then die like it is out of gas. I can open the bottom of the bowl, and it is full of gas. So, I start it, and it will run just long enough for me to get to the yard, and then it dies again.

I have taken the bottom of the carburetor off many, many times, and I find it full of fuel, but it will get me to the yard and die again. When I open the dump on the bottom of the carburetor, fuel will run out. I give up on this one, and I don't give up easily.



Have a mechanical problem you can't resolve? Email Steve Thompson at **mechanic@progressivefarmer.com** 

Please include your contact information and phone number.

**Steve:** I can help you with this problem, but it's a strange thing that is going on with your lawn mower. However, it can happen to a bowl-type carburetor on a gas tractor, and this problem has forced many good carburetors into the scrap barrel. Here is what is going on. Fuel will only enter your carburetor if it has a way of venting. It's much like when water is poured in a drink bottle. Very little water can be poured into the bottle until air blows out of the bottle, allowing room for the water. That air you see trying to get out when pouring water in is air that is venting, allowing room for the water. Anything full of air that can't vent will not take a liquid.

The same thing occurs when you fill your gas tank. If your gas tank does not have a vent hole, exiting venting air will push out fuel as the tank fills. This is what is going on with your lawnmower—your bowl can't vent, so your bowl will not fill.

The little vent hole in the top of the carburetor near the throttle butterfly is what vents the bowl. This little hole is plugged. So, your carburetor will only fill a little before it becomes "air locked." But, when you take off the top of the carb, it will be full of fuel, because when you break the gasket, it vents and fills up while you are dropping the bowl.

The same thing with your dump on the bottom. When you open it, the fuel will run out because it will vent while fuel is running out and keep running as long as you are venting the bowl with the dump. Unstop that tiny vent hole, and it will run. All bowl-type carburetors must vent to fill. ///

#### SAFETY TIP

#### FEAR THE BLADE

Many line trimmers have an option that allows for a variety of weed and saw blades to be installed on them. The weed and saw blades are awesome when

dealing with large weeds and small scrub brushes. However, the power needed to run these metal pieces can reach speeds of 10,000 rpm, or somewhere around 375 mph. They become very dangerous. Therefore, they demand special safety equipment for bodily



protection. Do not remove the protective shield as you see has been done on the trimmer in the photo (above). Always wear heavy leg safety equipment made to handle a blade if it bounces toward you, and wear professionally made goggles. These blades can attack you and throw small chunks of wood at you. Be careful with this one.







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#### YOUR FARM 〉 ASK THE VET

# **Injectable Wormer Protocol**

Email Dr. Ken McMillan at **vet@dtn.com** 





I was interested in using the injectable
 dewormer Valcor after you wrote about it a few months ago, but several people have told
 me that they have gotten some pretty large knots on the animals after using Valcor. Have you seen issues with this?

**DR. McMILLAN:** I have not had anyone report this to me, but it has not been used a lot in our area yet. I used it on about 40 of our yearlings last fall, and I did not see any issues. I will continue to recommend it, especially when resistant worms are suspected.

Now, I do use a new needle every time I give an injection. Dirty needles often lead to swelling or abscesses at the injection site and can spread diseases, especially anaplasmosis. Again, I will say: Needles are cheap, diseases are not.

The label for Valcor has some very different warnings and instructions from other injectable dewormers. It warns, "This product is likely to cause swelling at the injection site. Tissue damage at the injection site may also occur, including possible granulomas and necrosis. These reactions have resolved without treatment."

Additionally, it says to inject no more than 10 milliliters (ml) in one site. Since the dose is twice as much as other injectable dewormers, any animal over 550 pounds should have the dose split into two sites. It also says to use needles no larger than 18 gauge and to limit punctures to six times on the 100 ml bottle and

28 times on the 250 and 500 ml bottles. And, it's important to discard any unused product 45 days after the first puncture and when using a draw-off spike or a needle larger than 18 gauge.

So, I would say that swelling can certainly be expected but self-limiting in most cases. Proper technique is always important but may be more important with this product. I would love to hear the experiences of others who have used Valcor.

In several of your columns, you have discussed toxic plants as a threat to livestock. How do I know if I have toxic plants? I don't think we have ever had an issue, but I don't want to have one.

**DR. McMILLAN:** You probably have potentially toxic plants on your operation. Fortunately, animals are pretty smart and tend to avoid toxic plants as long as forage, hay and/or supplements are adequate.

Your veterinarian or Extension agent can be a great resource. Most Extension services will have pamphlets or websites with the most significant toxic plants in your area. But, technology can be a great tool. There are several apps for smartphones that can quickly and accurately identify plants and animals. Some are free, and others have a small annual fee. I use the PictureThis app for plants and find it not only useful but somewhat addictive. I am likely to open it at any time and use it to identify plants and flowers I see even away from the farm. ///

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. -0

These are only my thoughts and general guidelines. Please get with your veterinarian and together develop the best program for your herd.

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# **Cattle Utilize Benefits of Cover Crops**

#### Practice helps to extend grazing period to cut feed costs while improving soil productivity.

ntegrating livestock into crop production is a must on the Taylor Farm near Bouton, in central Iowa. By adding cover crops, father-and-son team Dan and Noah Taylor have increased cow numbers and have seen multiple benefits, including nearly year-round grazing and soilhealth enhancements.

"We are using livestock to add income to our crop ground, and when Noah wanted to return to the farm, we knew the cover crops were a big part of why we could have another family here," Dan Taylor points out. He says cover crops boosted

income—without too much added expense—because they were able to add more cattle thanks to a longer grazing period.

Dan Taylor says cover crops allow them to increase their herd size and income potential.



#### > A CAUTIOUS START

The Taylors began using cover crops in 2016. They started cautiously, aerial-seeding rye into corn and hoping it would grow and provide some feed for cows. Through the years, they have learned better practices, such as switching to a drill for planting cover crops to ensure greater success.

The Man March March of March o

From the beginning, they have used the cover crop cost-share program through Practical Farmers of Iowa. Dan says in 2024, the program pays \$10 or \$15 per acre, depending on documentation provided. An unlimited number of acres qualifies for each participant, and the program is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share program.

Grazing cover crops requires prior planning since Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate, stresses Iowa State University (ISU) Extension beef specialist Denise Schwab. Flexibility is key for successful grazing and may require an adjustment to planting timing, the species planted and the method of planting based on weather conditions. She recommends producers start small and expand acres once they know what works on their farm.

The Taylors started with two fields. Today, they use cover crops on 900 acres across their farm. They plant pearl millet or sorghum sudangrass right after oat harvest in July to get the forage well-established during the warm summer months. In the fall, even if the cover crop is standing, they interseed rye to increase forage availability into the spring.

"The key to the system is the flexibility based on forage availability and needs," Noah explains. "Not every year is the same. We have to look at cost of



seed and risk for each field. We will use millet in fields where cattle might need to graze during the freeze period to avoid prussic acid poisoning." Odds of prussic acid poisoning are greatest for a week to 10 days following a freeze. Once the plant is killed, cattle can safely graze the fields.



The cover crop/grazing system's flexibility is really what makes it work for the Taylors, including being able to harvest the actual cover crops for stored feed when there is extra growth. The sorghum sudangrass, for example, has been both round-baled and chopped for silage in late summer prior to grain harvest.

#### > FALL GRAZING

Corn stubble is grazed after corn harvest in September or October, and after rye is drilled. The fields will continue to be grazed as rye emerges through the winter months. "We did have to build some fence and be sure there was water in each pasture where the cows would be," Dan says. >





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Besides their cow herd, the Taylors feed out about 200 head of calves each year. In the fall, the feedlot cattle graze nearby fields and are fed a silage mix daily. Dan says the grazing enhances their diet, but the cattle will return to the feedlot for their normal ration.

The cow herd is the primary beneficiary of cover crop grazing. Following harvest, cows are turned into the cornstalks. Noah says if corn harvest extends into November, and time is short to plant the rye cover crop, they will switch from drilling to broadcast spreading. The fields where sorghum sudangrass is growing won't be grazed until after a killing freeze.



Noah Taylor moves the temporary fence to allow cows to graze a new strip of cover crops.

Temporary electric fence is set up, and cows are allowed to graze long strips of the field. The fence is moved about every four days throughout the winter months. Dan says the cows will graze the cover crop forage down to the ground. The root system stays in place, helping build soil organic matter levels.

ISU's Schwab recommends producers start grazing cover crops in the fall when the forage is only about 6 inches tall or as soon as the forage is rooted enough to prevent pulling out when grazed.

The Taylors feed corn silage to cows during the coldest Iowa winter months of January and February to maintain good body condition, when the cows' nutritional needs are high prior to calving. Dan says the cows quit eating the silage once the rye starts growing, and they start grazing again, usually in March. These fields are grazed during calving and up until it's time to plant corn and soybeans. Cows are then moved to nearby pasture.

#### > WILLING TO CHANGE

Noah says cover crop seeding rates can vary from year to year depending on cover crop production expectations. They usually plant sorghum sudangrass at 25 pounds per acre; rye is higher, at about 60 pounds per acre. When using something new in the cover crop mix, they rely on the seeding rate recommendations from an agronomic specialist. "If we know there will be a lot of foot traffic in a certain field, we will bump the seeding rate higher," he says. "We want to be able to graze the cover crops as long as possible."

Dan says it's important to stay economically competitive within their corn and soybean rotation when deciding what grazing crop to plant. "We have to find the right combination to make it work in our operation all around—for the grain crop and for the grazing crop."



Prior to planting corn and soybeans in May, the Taylors devise a plan to terminate the cover crops. Noah says Roundup is usually their herbicide of choice. Ideally, they spray fields to be planted to corn two weeks prior to planting. Fields planted to soybeans have more flexibility, but they usually terminate the cover crops after planting.

#### > COVER CROP BENEFITS

Schwab says cover crops benefit both the cattle operation and grain production. They are a proven tool to reduce feed costs while protecting soil, reduce erosion, improve water quality and enhance soil quality.

The biggest benefit the Taylors see for the cow herd is the longer grazing period and the need for less stored feed. Grazing cows also minimizes labor needs because less time is spent making and feeding stored feedstuffs.

They have also seen a boost in herd health from the cows calving on pasture or forage fields. "We have fewer input costs when it comes to calving and raising those calves, because they are healthier from the beginning," Noah adds. "Really, cover crops are a win all around for us."

Dan agrees. Cover crops add organic matter and provide other soil improvements, helping to improve crop yields. "I've told people, it is important to look at improvements over a long period of time. You won't see the improvements overnight," he says. "We have to attribute some of the increase in yields over the years to improved genetics, but taking care of the land is always beneficial." ///



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<sup>1</sup>This Xyway fungicide recommendation is made as permitted under FIFRA Sections 2(ee) for the suppression of tar spot on corn. This recommendation has not been submitted to or approved by the EPA. The 2(ee) expiration date is 03/01/2028.

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Story and Photos By **Becky Mills** 

**STAND BY** Herding dog provides a helping paw

and motivates a disabled cattleman.

ive years ago, Donald Adams' life changed forever. As he stood by the bale wagon, knife at ready to cut the net wrap, his son, Clayton Powell Adams, speared the last of five round bales. As the tractor lifted the bale into the wagon, it slipped off the hayforks and bounced, hitting Donald in the back of the neck.

"I knew it was bad," Adams recalls. The bale broke his neck at C5 and C6, paralyzing him from the neck down.

Surgery and difficult physical therapy loomed, with the outcome of walking again uncertain. A cattleman's thoughts are never far from his herd, but how would



Adams ever care for his cattle again? He didn't know it at the time, but a four-legged stranger would provide the answer.





#### > LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

Following the accident, Adams underwent surgery and spent a month in the intensive care unit at Doctors Hospital, in Augusta, Georgia. All he could manage was an occasional toe wiggle and weak arm wave.

His wife, Laura, says the neurosurgeon moved heaven and earth to get him a spot at the filled-to-capacity Shepherd Center, in Atlanta. After three grueling months of physical therapy, the now-70-year-old could feed himself and get around in an electric wheelchair.

Adams was scheduled to go to Shepherd's outpatient program when COVID hit. "We found out two days ahead of time he was being sent home," Laura says. "When we got there, he didn't even want to go in the house. All he wanted to do was go see his cows."

Using a sideboard to slide into the seat of the Ranger utility vehicle, Adams set eyes on his 150-cow Angus and Sim-Angus herd for the first time since the accident. "As long as I got a breath in me, I'm going to take care of the cows and the farm," he emphasizes.

Once the worst of COVID had passed, Adams went through two outpatient programs at Shepherd. He graduated from a wheelchair to a walker. But, as Laura says, "That's still not good for a cattle farmer."

Enter Kyle Haney, a field services coordinator for the Georgia AgrAbility program. The organization helps disabled farmers farm again. He began working with the couple to modify and/or acquire equipment to get Adams back in the pasture.

Haney's biggest accomplishment was telling the couple about PHARM Dog USA. "They supply dogs to disabled farmers to keep them going. Thank God they do," Adams says.

Skippy, a border collie/Catahoula hound/Australian shepherd cross, came into the PHARM Dog program



when she was donated by a neighbor of trainer Don McKay. The trainer told PHARM Dog founder Jackie Allenbrand that the little female had something special, and he continued to work with her on cattle-herding commands. Skippy helps Laura and Donald Adams with their cattle chores but, more importantly, has helped Donald continue to improve after a farm accident.

Allenbrand interviewed Laura to find out if she and her husband were suitable recipients of the then 2-year-old dog. "It was like adopting a child," Laura says of the process. >

### **PHARM Dog Brings Independence**

In 2005, while at a farm show, Jackie Allenbrand visited with a cattleman who had a partially amputated leg. Fortunately, he also had a border collie named Weasel who did a lot of the penning and sorting for him. "It inspired me," says the northwest Missouri farmer. As a result, Allenbrand formed PHARM Dog USA.

Whether it is a herding dog to help on a livestock operation or a Labrador or Lab mix with service skills like opening gates or picking up tools, PHARM Dog places trained dogs with farmers who need them. Most of the dogs are strays from rescues and shelters, although they do take donated dogs. "You're giving a dog a purpose and a farmer a reason to keep going," Allenbrand explains.



"We're a small organization made up of farmers ourselves," she continues. "Our goal is to have a training center so we can house more dogs." She also hopes to acquire more sponsors for dog food and vet med supplies. "That means we can help more farmers."

#### YOUR LIFE 💙 PHARM DOG

In October 2022, McKay brought Skippy to the couple's Dearing, Georgia, farm. The trainer stayed for three days to teach them the same herding commands Skippy already knew. Laura created a document with the commands and diagrams.

"A little later, we ran into a few problems and called Don. It turns out, we were micromanaging her," Laura says with a laugh.

There's little doubt Skippy knows her job. Moving cattle is just the start. One task is watching the open gate while Donald or Laura goes in a pasture to feed the cattle. Although Donald can get in and out of the Ranger to open a gate, it takes an effort most people can't imagine.

Skippy keeps the cows from escaping, meaning Donald only has to get out twice, one time each to open and close the gate.

One of Skippy's most important jobs, however, is keeping the cows from crowding the couple. Laura recalls a day when Skippy and Donald were turning

the cows out on winter grazing, and 40 cows and their babies got to pushing on the gate. They were about to knock him over, likely causing a serious injury. Skippy, without command, ran around and pushed the cows back.

Laura Adams has taken on the role of cowhand since her husband suffered a debilitating accident.





"Now, the rule is when you pull up to the gate, Skippy gets out first, and the cows back up two steps," Laura says. "Every time I get out of the Ranger to feed, she protects me, too."

Thanks to assistance from the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Adams was able to get a hydraulic working chute and automated sweep tub. With Skippy to push the cattle into the chute and Adams sitting in one spot working the controls, the couple can process 20 to 30 animals by themselves. Laura says, "This was a game changer. We were paying people \$750 a trip to come to the farm and work our cows."

Adams relies on Skippy's keen eyes when he's checking cows. "Several times, I've missed a cow. She'll be in the shadows, and Skippy will find her," he says.

Skippy's efforts and the Adams' appreciation for her earned the cattle dog the title of the 2024 American Farm Bureau Federation Farm Dog of the Year.

Her most important accolade, however, comes from her normally stoic owner/partner. "I can't say what she means to me," Adams says. "I get emotional. We got back because we had Skippy to help us every day. She's a special little dog. I've had dogs all my life. Dalmatians. Weimaraners. They've all been great dogs. She's the queen." ///

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

AgrAbility www.agrability.org

Coastal Acres Farm www.coastalacresllc.com PHARM Dog USA www.pharmdog.org

Shepherd Center www.shepherd.org



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YOUR LIFE **> recipes** 



### **GINGERBREAD CAKE**

Rich molasses combines with warming spices in this deeply flavored holiday cake.

TOTAL TIME: 21/2 HOURS SERVES: 10-12

- 12 tablespoons unsalted butter 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups (12 ounces) dark unsulfured or blackstrap molasses 34 cup brown sugar <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup white sugar 3¼ cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon fine salt

2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons baking soda 2 teaspoons ground ginger <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon cinnamon 1 teaspoon vanilla 2 large eggs, beaten 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups whole milk Prepared cream cheese frosting, if desired

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Lightly butter or grease a 10-inch springform cake pan.

2. In a large, microwave-safe bowl, combine butter, molasses, brown sugar and white sugar. Cook in the microwave for 2 to 3 minutes or until sugar has dissolved and butter is melted. Allow to cool at least 10 minutes.

**3.** In a large bowl, combine flour, salt, baking soda, ginger and cinnamon; whisk well.

4. Add vanilla, eggs and milk to the sugar mixture; whisk well.

5. Slowly combine wet and dry ingredients, whisking well and making sure no lumps remain.

6. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake cake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool at least 30 minutes; run a knife around inside of pan to help edges release. 7. Remove cake from the pan; let it cool completely on a cooling rack before icing.

### EGGNOG ICE CREAM

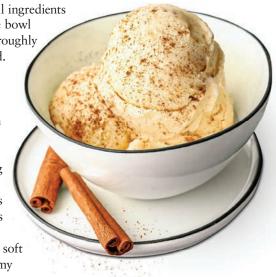
This sweet, thick and creamy frozen treat will fill your family with holiday delight.

TOTAL TIME: 21/2 HOURS MAKES: 4-6 SERVINGS

- 2 cups eggnog
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 (10-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk (cold)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon sea salt

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl until thoroughly combined. 2. Pour mixture into an ice cream maker; freeze according to the machine's directions (it should achieve a soft and creamy texture).

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**3.** Transfer ice cream to an airtight container. Cover ice cream with plastic wrap; place top on container to seal.

4. For best results, ice cream should rest in freezer for at least 2 hours or overnight. ///

> Recipes and Photos By **Rachel Johnson** On Instagram @racheltherecipe







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#### SUMMARY CLASS NOTICE | MANUFACTURER SETTLEMENT

If you purchased Super S Super Trac 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Super S 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, CAM2 Promax 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil, and/or CAM2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil between December 1, 2013, and the present, a Class Action Lawsuit and Settlement with the Manufacturer Defendants Could Affect Your Rights

#### READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT.

#### A federal court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that a \$31,900,000.00 class-action settlement (the "Proposed Manufacturer Settlement") has been reached with the two Manufacturer Defendants in a lawsuit regarding the sale and use of Super S Super Trac 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Super S 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, CAM2 Promax 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil, and/or CAM2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil ("303 THF Products"). The Proposed Manufacturer Settlement settles claims against Manufacturer Defendants Smitty's Supply, Inc. and CAM2 International, LLC (collectively referred to as "Manufacturer Defendants") that were or could have been asserted in a Multi-District Litigation ("MDL") lawsuit.

The Proposed Manufacturer Settlement may affect your rights. For comprehensive information about the lawsuit and settlement, including the longer notice of settlement ("Long Form Notice") and the Manufacturer Settlement Agreement, please visit www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com or call 877-979-7115. You may also access the Court docket in this case through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at www.mow.uscourts gov/ or by visiting the Office of the Clerk of Court, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, 400 E. 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106 between 900 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays. The MDL lawsuit is titled *In Re: Smitty's/CAM2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Marketing, Sales Practices, and Product Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2936, Case No. 4:20-MD-02936-SRB, pending before the Honorable Judge Stephen R. Bough in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Please do not telephone the Court or the Cour

In the MDL lawsuit, Plaintiffs alleged (1) that the Manufacturing Defendants' 303 THF Products did not meet the equipment manufacturers' specifications or provide the performance benefits listed on the product labels, (2) that the 303 THF Products were made with inappropriate ingredients, and (3) that use of the 303 THF Products in equipment caused damage to various parts of the equipment. Because of the ingredients contained in the 303 THF Products, Plaintiffs alleged that those 303 THF Products should not be used as tractor hydraulic fluid and that the fluid should be flushed from equipment systems if one can afford the cost of doing so.

The Manufacturer Defendants have denied the allegations and claims of wrongdoing. The Court has not decided who is right or made a final ruling on Plaintiffs' claims. Plaintiffs and the Manufacturer Defendants have agreed to the Proposed Manufacturer Settlement to avoid the risk and expense of further litigation.

You may be a member of the Manufacturer Settlement Class if you purchased the above-listed 303 THF Products from December 1, 2013, to the present. If you are a member of the Manufacturer Settlement Class, you will need to submit a Manufacturer Settlement Claim Form. Please visit www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com for a copy of the Claim Form or call 877-979-7115 to request that a Claim Form be mailed to you. The deadline to file your claim is March 1, 2025.

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Proposed Manufacturer Settlement, you must exclude yourself by March 1, 2025. If you do not exclude yourself, you will release any claims you may have against the Manufacturer Defendants, as more fully described in the Manufacturer Settlement Agreement. You may object to the Proposed Manufacturer Settlement by March 1, 2025. The Long Form Notice, available at www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com or upon request, explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will decide whether to approve the Proposed Manufacturer Settlement at the Final Fairness Hearing on March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve payment of attorneys' fees of no more than 40% of the Manufacturer Settlement Class Fund minus case expenses sought to be reimbursed, as well as Settlement expenses. Class Counsel will also ask the Court to award an incentive payment between \$3,000 and \$4,500 for each of the class representatives. The amounts awarded for attorneys' fees, expenses, and incentive awards come out of the Manufacturer Settlement Class Fund. This date for the hearing may change; see www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com.



BY ORDER OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT

# Winter Acreage Reporting Deadlines Are Near



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> Reporting Deadlines: December 15<sup>th</sup> January 15<sup>th</sup>

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3

"Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven."

> -Henry Ward Beecher



Children are our most valuable resource. HERBERT HOOVER

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. JOHN F. KENNEDY

The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family. MOTHER TERESA

Children have one kind of silliness, as you know, and grown-ups have another. C.S. LEWIS

Children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. NELSON MANDELA And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. EPHESIANS 6:4 (KJV)

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. FREDERICK DOUGLASS

My instinct is to protect my kids from pain. But adversity is often the thing that gives us character and backbone. **NICOLE KIDMAN** 

If we are to teach real peace in this world ... we shall have to begin with the children. MAHATMA GANDHI Having children is like living in a frat house. Nobody sleeps, everything is broken, and there's a lot of throwing up. **RAY ROMANO** 

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.

#### MARGARET MEAD

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up. PABLO PICASSO

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **PROVERBS 22:6 (KJV)**  Hugs can do great amounts of good, especially for children. DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

The best way to make children good is to make them happy. OSCAR WILDE

Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.

MARIA MONTESSORI

Even when freshly washed and relieved of all obvious confections, children tend to be sticky.

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