



**Spring Ag Mag
top story:
Precision agriculture
in an era of tight
profit margins ...
page 2**

**Unique approach
to conservation
unveiled**

**One Watershed One Plan unites
four watersheds in fulfilling
27 priority issues. — Page 8**

**Can you have a
burger without
eating the cow?**

Know the difference between
lab-cultured protein and real meat
before heading to the store. — Page 5

**Project exploration
expands through
activity kits**

Local 4-H'ers learn more about
agronomy, assemble projects and exhibit
their knowledge at county fairs. — Page 6

February 28, 2019, ISSUE

A production of the Rock County Star Herald and featured advertisers.

Precision agriculture in an era of tight profit margins ...

Invest in technology, or wait for better times and cheaper options?

By Lori Sorenson
Precision technology and unlimited field data are welcome additions to farm operations making it easier to track inputs and yields and ultimately to save money.
But in an era of \$3.50 corn, farmers — and their bankers — may hesitate to invest in new technology unless it saves them money in their operations.
The Star Herald posed some questions to Brett Hood, precision farming specialist for Jaycox Implement, Luverne.

Farmers with guidance usually say that they are less fatigued at the end of the day. They can focus on what the implement is doing rather than driving in a straight line. This maximizes the coverage of their equipment with minimal overlap. Overlap means wasted time and resources.

Q. What’s been the best technology investment farmers have been able to utilize in recent years that’s made a big difference in their bottom line?

A. Flow and application control has been (and still is) the best return on investment for farmers and easiest to calculate savings.
This is especially true when going from traditional or manual application to a high-accuracy, automatic application.
A large portion of our customers use some form of application control either on their

planter, sprayer or nutrition applicator.
Lately, we’ve seen a growing number of customers move toward strip-till operations, which require application control and high-accuracy guidance.
Q. Have we been able to quantify savings in order to convince farmers to invest? And are most of our farmers in Rock County utilizing this technology?
A. Guidance is not as easy to put a dollar value on. Farmers with guidance usually say that they are less fatigued at

the end of the day. They can focus on what the implement is doing rather than driving in a straight line.
This maximizes the coverage of their equipment with minimal overlap. Overlap means wasted time and resources.
Savings realized by reducing overlap alone:
•Equipment/Inputs: 235 hp tractor, 30’ planter w/ fertilizer, farming 500 acres of corn
•Total Savings w/ free Satellite correction: \$2,900/year
•Total Savings with Case IH’s Advanced Farming Systems Real-Time Kinematics plus (highest accuracy): \$4,800 per year
Savings realized with Rate and Section Control on the same planter:
•Same equipment and inputs above
•Payback on seed savings and yield improvement easily reach \$4,000 per year additional savings on AFS RTK+
The total return on investment then, is \$8,800 per year (with high accuracy guidance and rate/section control).



T & S TRUCK REPAIR

- COMPLETE TRUCK AND TRAILER REPAIR
- MN DOT INSPECTIONS/FEDERAL INSPECTIONS
- PROFESSIONAL - FRIENDLY SERVICE AT A GREAT RATE
- SERVICE TRUCK FOR ON-SITE NEEDS
- OPEN MON-FRI 8A.M. - 5P.M.

T & S TRUCK REPAIR... FOR ALL YOUR TRUCK AND TRAILER NEEDS!



STEVE VANDERBRINK
OWNER / MECHANIC

**265 S. 3RD ST
LISMORE, MN
507-472-8253**



TRAVIS LUETTEL
OWNER / MECHANIC

Electrical Problems are OUR Business!

Aside from the obvious hazards, if you don't know what you're doing, you could end up causing a bigger, more costly electrical problem. Expert help is here to safely and efficiently repair and install any electrical work. Trust our licensed electricians.



Let the guys with experience work for you.
Call us for all your residential, commercial and farm wiring needs!
Quality Service Since 1927!

McClure Electric

121 N. Cedar, Luverne, MN | 507-283-4716
Alan M. Aanenson, owner

~~No new equipment this year.~~

Do.

Every year I would have to stop to fix something—planting, harvesting, it didn't matter. My equipment was wearing out, and I didn't know what to do. Then I called Minnwest Bank. They understand farming, and they helped me get the new equipment I need to run my operation.

Don't let DON'T grind you to a halt. DO.



MINNWEST BANK
Doers Welcome™ MEMBER FDIC

[» minnwestbank.com/agri-business-loans](http://minnwestbank.com/agri-business-loans)



Truthfully, our customers have seen returns on investments on their precision equipment investments in as little as three years.

Q. What's new today - or coming soon - that will be the next big time and input saver for farmers?

A. For the future, the big push right now is telematics and automation. Telematics captures a grower's data in real time and uploads it to some sort of server for storage.

The grower can then access this data remotely and/or allow agronomists, dealership technicians, etc. access this information for data analysis.

CaseIH is investing heavily in telematics right now is soon announcing a new tractor and monitor that completely tailored around this technology.

What sets them apart from "the other guys" is their commitment to data privacy. No one is allowed access the grower's data without the expressed consent of that grower.

Telematics will give the dealership a way to technical problems or remotely access a grower's monitor to help them find something in real-time.

We'll be able to do this without interrupting fieldwork or making costly service calls to the field.



THE NEWEST

Rural Water

introducing

bubly

sparkling water

strawberrybubly

bubly

limebubly

bubly

grapefruitbubly

bubly

orangebubly

bubly

blackberrymbubly

bubly

peachbubly

bubly

strawberry, cherry, lime, mango, grapefruit, apple, orange, lemon, blackberry, raspberry, peach, cranberry

Today's farmers feed the world, we quench the world's thirst.

PIPESTONE PEPSI

1809 Forman Drive, Pipestone, MN 56164

Winter's to-do list starts with research, ends with plan for next year

By Michael Walgrave, technician, Rock County Land Management Office

As the arctic-vortex blasts Rock County, farmers begin their year in the office. Winter is the time of year to reflect and learn from the past. Winter is the time of year to research, network and plan for the next year.

Here is what some successful farmers do when the ground is frozen:

Visit the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District and Land Management Office

The Rock SWCD is a good source of local information, keeps farmers out of trouble with other government agencies, and helps point farmers in the right direction for finding conservation and agri-business solutions.

The Rock County SWCD promotes best management practices and facilitates conservation projects such as waterways and sediment control basins.

The Rock SWCD also develops soil health programs, assists

feedlot owners with permitting and compliance, and has native grass seeding, wetland restoration and tree-planting programs.

Visit the new USDA building to talk to the NRCS and FSA

The mission of the USDA is to help farmers and their rural community.

The USDA has agri-solutions (and perhaps cost-share money) to help make a multitude of agriculture projects successful.

Plan R&D test plots

A “research and development” plan is part of a farmer’s overall agri-business plan. Some farmers this year will be setting aside a few acres to test out cover crops and conservation tilling.

Other farmers see economic potential growing hemp, flax, grapes, organic corn, etc., and will plant test-plots to gain experience before committing large amounts of acres to new ideas.

Put marginally profitable land into conservation programs

The size of a business is not as important as the profitability of a business. Transitioning acres that lose money consistently to a conservation program will not only benefit the farm’s bottom line, but will also contribute the overall health of the local ecosystem.

Check with the NRCS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Minnesota DNR, and non-profits such as Pheasants Forever to find out what programs and funds are available.

Create and review windbreak plans

A thick windbreak is one of the best defenses against both the arctic-vortex and the scorch of the summer sun. Trees can help save both heating and cooling costs. Trees protect the farm critters; animals not stressed by temperature extremes gain more weight. To order trees, contact the Rock County SWCD in early winter for April delivery.

Review and revise business plans

A written and revised business plan is an important exercise for business owners and is never truly finished. A business plan evolves with the business environment and helps communicate the where, what, when, and why of an organization. Reviewing a business plan yearly, as a habit, can reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a farm operation.

business exit strategy

This kind of planning can be some of the most difficult, so it deserves consideration over many years.

By having a well-defined and written vision of what happens after retirement, there is more likelihood an operator will wrap up a career on a high note and live a more productive retirement life.

Continue lifelong education

Attend agriculture conferences, conventions and classes to learn about industry trends, new farm equipment and ways to increase farm profitability.

These events are great for networking, asking questions directly to experts and for rejuvenating your farm-community pride.

YouTube.com research

Videos on YouTube.com can help you quickly become familiar with any subject.

New piece of equipment is broken? YouTube. New crop? YouTube. How to use a drone for precision agriculture? YouTube. YouTube is the “information super-library.”

Get some rest

Winter is the time to regroup and recuperate. It is the time of year to reflect on an operation outside of the hectic growing season. Winter is the time of year to dream big and plan a better business.

Review retirement goals and Luv the ag life!

VERSTEEG EXCAVATION

Snow Removal | Trucking
Tree Removal | Grain Hauling
Excavation/Demolition
Conservation Work

CHAD VERSTEEG
507-227-2522
1432 150th Ave. Luverne, MN 56156



MEAT BUNDLES

Pork Bundle	Beef Bundle	Grill Bundle	Happy Camper Bundle
\$76 ⁹⁵	\$99 ⁹⁵	\$79 ⁹⁵	\$38 ⁹⁵
5 lbs. Pork Chops 5 lbs. Ground Pork 5 lbs. Pork Roast 5 lbs. Bratwurst 5 lbs. Bacon	5 lbs. Boneless Beef Roast 5 lbs. Boneless Sirloin 5 lbs. 85% Lean Ground Beef (1# packages) 5 lbs. Round Steak 5 lbs. Ground Beef Patties	5 lbs. Boneless Beef Sirloin 5 lbs. Ground Beef Patties 5 lbs. Pork Chops 5 lbs. Bratwurst	2 lbs. Bacon 1 lb. Bratwurst 1 lb. Boneless Sirloin 2 lbs. Ground Beef Patties 1 lb. Hickory-Smoked Wieners 1 lb. Pepperoni Beef Sticks

Please call ahead for your order!

Ellsworth Locker



Brian & Kathy Chapa
Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
24 Hour Emergency Service
Phone 967-2544 • Ellsworth, MN
Home 967-2537



Meats & Sausages



YEAR OF THE GATOR '19



YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER OF CHOICE.

With 37 stores from the Rocky Mountains to the Midwest Plains, C & B Operations has the parts, tools, equipment and services to meet you and your needs.

LUVERNE, MN EDGERTON, MN WORTHINGTON, MN

VISIT US ONLINE AT DEEREQUIPMENT.COM

Can you have a burger without eating the cow?

Cattle producers urge consumers to know the difference between lab-cultured protein and real meat

By Lori Sorenson

Farmers — especially livestock producers — are increasingly involved with media messaging and marketing for the products they grow and sell. The latest challenge on that front is lab-cultured protein that’s being promoted as meat. “Protein grown in a lab is not meat,” said Rock County cattle producer Jay Bakken. “Consumers need to be aware that there is no substitute for sustainably, safely and wholesomely raised real beef.”

Scientists began experimenting with lab-grown “meat” in 2013, starting with a base of fetal cow blood (“fetal bovine serum”), but because the process was expensive, researchers turned their attention to plant-based alternatives, such as mushrooms. The result is a collagen-based product that is cheaper to produce and is marketed as a “vegan” meat alternative. For this reason, cattle producers have objected to the use of “meat” in the product’s labeling and marketing. “Lab cultured proteins may gain a place in a small number of consumers’ diets in years to come, but the message we as beef producers want to get to our consumers is that there is no replacement for real beef,” said



Livestock at Blac-X Farm north of Beaver Creek enjoy their daily feedlot rations on a recent afternoon. Feedlot co-owner Jay Bakken is president of the Rock Nobles Cattlemen’s Association and said the national cattlemen’s organization is pressing for FDA and USDA regulation of labeling for lab proteins — not “lab-grown meat,” which would imply it’s meat. (Lori Sorenson photo)

Bakken. “We as a beef industry need to maintain our identity as the premier and preferred protein source for consumers.” Of particular concern, Bakken said, is that many traditional animal protein companies like Tyson and ADM are marketing products with lab-grown proteins, and some could hit supermarket shelves this year. Bakken is president of the Rock Nobles Cattlemen’s Association and said the national cattlemen’s organization is

Lab cultured proteins may gain a place in a small number of consumers' diets in years to come, but the message we as beef producers want to get to our consumers is that there is no replacement for real beef.

pressing for FDA and USDA regulation of labeling for the lab proteins — not “lab-grown meat,” which would imply it’s meat. Last fall the two organiza-

tions had a joint meeting to address the matter, and both the state and national Cattlemen’s Beef Associations have been following it closely. First, the group wants to en-

sure that only meat products from actual livestock are called “meat” and that lab-grown proteins have completely separate labeling. What matters to consumers is the content of the product label; that is what they will see at the grocery store, Bakken said. “I think the take-home message is that the beef producers in Rock County, the state of Minnesota and across the country are working every day to produce real beef that is wholesome, safe and healthy, all while doing so in a sustainable manner,” he said.

JENSEN MANAGEMENT SERVICE, INC.

- MANAGEMENT
- CONSULTANTS
- APPRAISALS
- REAL ESTATE
- PRIVATE TREATY & AUCTION

William (Bill) V. Weber, Broker & Certified General Real Property Appraiser

William (Bill) J. Korth, Salesperson, Licensed Real Proerpty Appraiser, Auctioneer, Personal Property Appraiser

Tamra (Tammy) Jo Makram, Salesperson

Paul A. Schutte, Certified General Real Property Appraiser



283-2391
111 N. Cedar St.
P.O. Box 836
Luverne, MN 56156
www.jmsi.net

Every day we help producers *just like you!*

Invest One Hour in Your Future

Your Partner and Resource for Good Marketing Decisions

- Develop livestock and crop marketing plans for producers, owners and investors.
- Help you prevent downside and unnecessary risk.
- Help you avoid walking the tight rope of market fluctuations by managing your risk.
- Utilize current technology to gather and share relevant information in a clear, easy-to-use format.

Schedule a one-hour consultation with Professional Ag Marketing today! Visit our website - professionalagmarketing.com - for current market prices and other valuable information.



904 S. Kniss Ave. | Luverne
507-449-2030
866-470-0757

Activity kits update project learning through 4-H

By Mavis Fodness

Five-gallon pails, black dirt and seeds are revitalizing how agronomy is introduced through the Minnesota 4-H program.

For almost 50 years project exploration was completed through hundreds of self-guided how-to manuals.

The manuals were meant to inspire learning in dozens of project areas and promote exhibits at the county fairs.

Today, however, many of the 1969 manuals need updates.

One update idea started in 2017 when the U of M Extension and the Minnesota Corn Growers Association developed agronomy kits for projects involving soil. The result doubled fair exhibits in 2018 at the five county fairs where the kits were piloted.

The successful pilots were in Cottonwood, Lyon, Renville, Stevens and Swift counties, according to Extension educator Brian McNeill.

"We've created some great excitement from our start-up kits from last year," he said. "We are getting back to some of our roots while providing youth with a 21st century experience."

Three kits involved crop production, gardening and soil



Photo courtesy of U of M Extension

Renville County 4-H'er Tate Sheehan plants seeds for an herb garden with a project kit that includes support materials and all the items necessary for a vegetable gardening exhibit at his county fair.

sciences using newly created support manuals and all the materials needed for the project included with the kits.

4-H'ers grew field corn in five-gallon pails, developed their own herb gardens and/or learned about plant development through a root viewer.

In the pilot counties, 110 youth registered for 350 agronomy kits. Completion increased exhibits at the county fairs by 69 percent.

This year the number of available kit options has doubled, with availability expanded to 4-H'ers in Rock County for a small fee.

Youth can also choose to grow soybeans, forages and potatoes in a bag.

McNeill said the pilot program found that the updated approach based on today's real world applications was key to regenerating interest in the soil sciences project.

In Minnesota less than a third

A&B PRESSURE WASHING, INC.

We clean all types of confinement buildings & large equipment.

Servicing a 50 miles radius of Luverne, MN

Established in 1991

543 150th Ave. • Luverne, MN 56156
Phone 507-283-4321
Cell 507-920-5910

BUYING & SELLING SOUTHWEST MN

The 507 Agency has interested parties that are looking at purchasing farm land in Southwest MN. Let us help you navigate through those important decisions of whether selling your existing land or purchasing additional acres for future expansion. With 15 years of selling farm land and 40 plus years in the ag field, let us put our experience to work for you.

FARMLAND FOR SALE

146.09 Acres, Westside Twp, Nobles Co.....	NEW LISTING
36.12 Acres, Leota Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
130 Acres, Graham Lakes Twp, Nobles Co.....	FOR SALE
297.54 Acres, Cameron Twp, Murray Co.....	SOLD
80 Acres, Little Rock Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
80 Acres, Olney Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
155.66 Acres, Lismore Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
75.64 Acres, Dewald Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
155.32 Acres, Little Rock Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD
71.19 Acres, Dewald Twp, Nobles Co.....	SOLD

ACREAGE SITES

1135 121ST St - Luverne.....	SOLD
13576 190th St - Adrian.....	NEW LISTING
21138 2902th St - Rushmore.....	UNDER CONTRACT

Weichert REALTORS®

The 507 Agency
507-483-2218
Independently owned and operated.

Alan Cox Broker 507-360-7500	Cindy Cox Broker Associate 507-360-0537	Kayla Cox Realtor® 507-360-3494
---	--	--

www.the507agency.com

Hamann Repair

Repairing all makes of tractors, skid loaders, combines and small engines.

For all your parts needs call 507-935-5422

Over 30 years experience

David Hamann, Luverne
Open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone 507-920-7119
repair@hamannrepair.com
www.hamannrepair.com

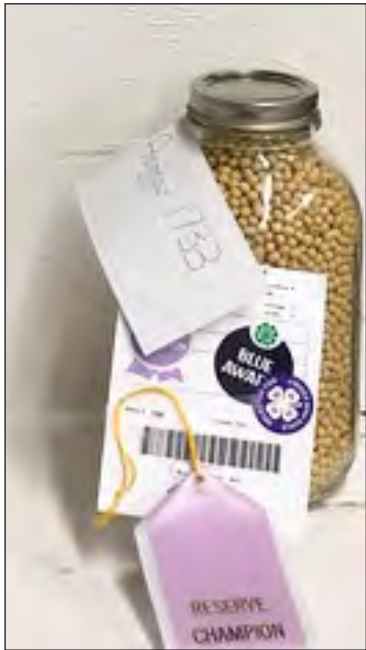


Photo courtesy of U of M Extension

Prior to the introduction to the agronomy kits at several county fairs last year, the most common small grains project was the display of corn and soybeans harvested from crop fields and displayed in quart jars.

4-H also plans agronomy day in March and brings back crop scouting competition

In the pilot counties, 110 youth registered for 350 agronomy kits. Completion increased exhibits at the county fairs by 69 percent. This year the number of available kit options doubled, with availability expanded to 4-H'ers in Rock County for a small fee.

of the 69,000 4-H'ers live on a farm or acreage.

"If kids don't have access to a field or yard, they can grow the plants on a window sill," he said.

Through the agronomy kits, youth are exposed to more agronomy areas than the familiar exhibits of stored grain grown in crop fields and displayed at the county fair in quart jars.

McNeill credits the corn industry partnership for the needed project updates.

"We are trying to blow some fresh air in that hasn't been around for a long time," he said. "This is really going to start other project updates."

In addition to the agronomy kits, corn professionals are partnering with Extension to offer a summer 4-H Crop Scouting Competition and a 4-H Agronomy Day.

The scouting competition brings back a previous 4-H judging team option. Tentatively the event is scheduled for late July in the southwest part of the state. The event is open to both 4-H and FFA teams.

A 4-H agronomy day is planned for Saturday, March 9, at Ridgewater College in Willmar. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. There is a fee to attend.

The event is for youth and parents and features a full day of agronomy topics. Keynote speaker is Millennial Farmer Zach Johnson.

The Willmar blogger promotes agriculture by sharing on-line day-to-day experiences from his fifth-generation family farm.

For more information about activity kits or upcoming events, contact McNeill at 320-589-1771 ext. 2131 or mcnei006@umn.edu.

Locally, contact Kelsey Mae-



schen at the Rock County Extension Office at 507-283-3102 or mlmaesch@umn.edu.



Photo courtesy of U of M Extension

One activity kit involved growing corn in five-gallon pails, showing 4-H'ers the various developmental stages. Some stalks reached 11 feet in height when exhibited at the local county fair.

The Bluestem
CASUAL • FRESH • LOCAL

Southwest Minnesota's favorite place for steaks, pasta & seasonal menu items.

For party planning, call 507-449-2583 or email us at bluestemparties@outlook.com

We have private rooms that accommodate up to 50 people!

WE CAN CATER LUNCH OR DINNER & WE CAN CUSTOMIZE ANY ORDER FROM 20-600 PEOPLE

Let us bring the party to you!

We offer customized catering packages to suit every occasion!

- Business Meetings
- Weddings • Graduations

FOR ALL YOUR CATERING NEEDS
CONTACT JESSIE AT
bluestemcatering@outlook.com

507-449-7608

Grand Prairie
EVENTS

Your local venue for

- Ag Meetings
- Business Meetings
- Weddings
- Family Gatherings

We have seating for 20-500 and 4 different room sizes to choose from.

507-283-9664 | www.grandprairieevents.org | info@grandprairieevents.org

Joe Schomacker
State Representative

Dedicated to a better future for Greater Minnesota families.

phone: 888-727-6307
email: repjoe.schomacker@house.mn
website: www.house.mn/22a

Prepared and paid for by the Schomacker Volunteer Committee
www.JoeForHouse.com

Let us help maximize your seeds potential

R&S Sales, Inc
Precision Planting

Brett Stegenga 507-920-7292 | Ryan Hoff 507-227-3299

One Watershed One Plan is unique approach to conservation

By Mavis Fodness

A regional approach to soil and water conservation is closer to implementation as a plan developed by the Missouri River Watershed One Watershed One Plan committee finishes its 60-day review period.

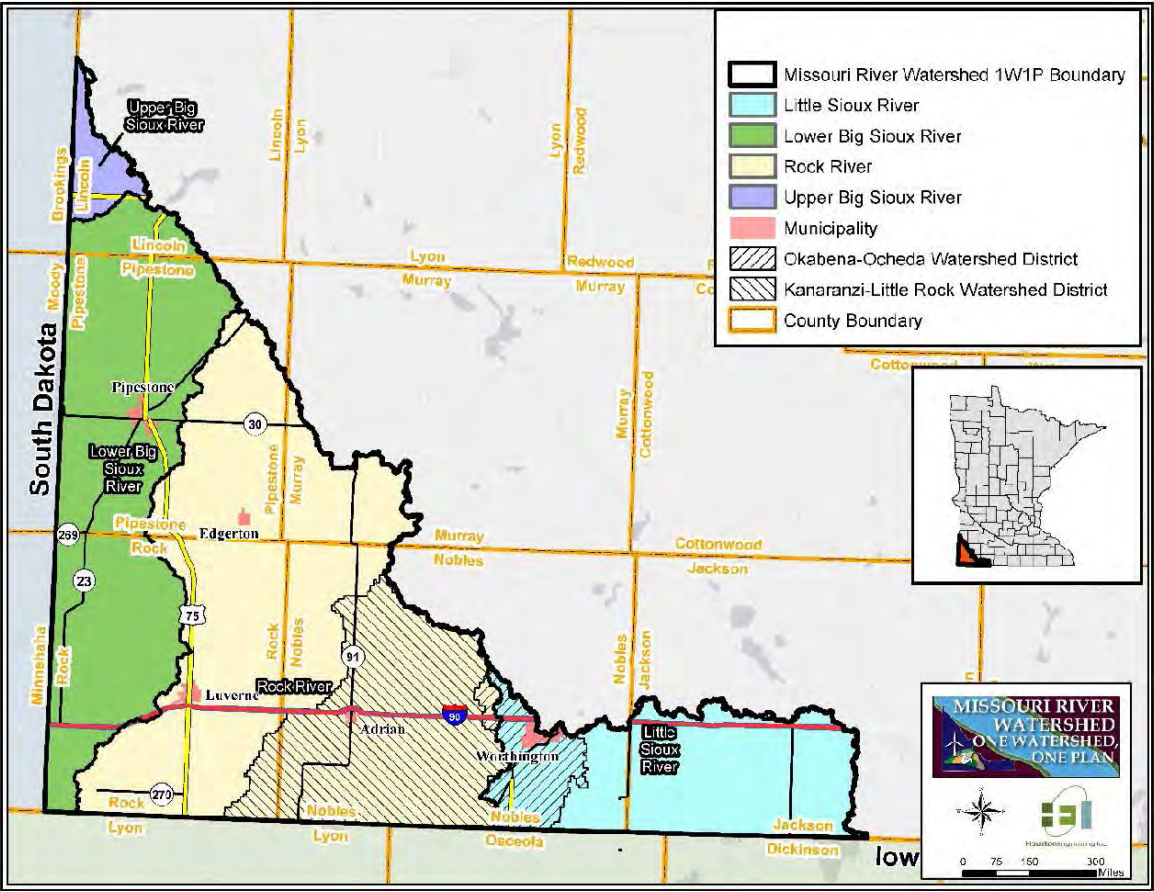
Review of the 166-page plan finished Monday and represents 17 months of work by representatives from six-counties, six soil and water conservation districts that comprise the Missouri River Watershed.

Doug Bos of the Rock County Land Management Office in Luverne co-chaired the 1W1P work group for the collaborative water plan.

He said the kick-off meetings conducted in Fall 2017 identified 65 priority issues within the watershed. Working with a consultant at twice-a-month meetings narrowed the plan to the current 27 priority issues.

“Issues that are not the highest priority are not lost,” Bos said. “They are still a part of the plan but they are not funded.”

By working as a watershed and not individual counties, the Missouri River Watershed and Rock County anticipate \$500,000 to \$800,000 directed bi-annually toward projects identified in the waterplan.



Map courtesy of the Missouri River Watershed 1W1P

Instead of four separate watersheds, the One Watershed One Plan includes each of the watersheds into one called the Missouri River Watershed, which includes all of Rock County.

Previously, the clean water funds were disbursed through competitive grants. Small counties like Rock County had to compete against metro counties that utilized grant writers.

The state now will recognize Rock County in a larger conservation plan.

“As a watershed, we treat the entire area and don’t stop at a county line,” Bos said.

Hydrologically, Missouri River Watershed’s uniqueness posed some planning issues.

A watershed is defined as an area of land where the water that drains into the same place — a river, stream or lake.

“Our watershed has four pour points,” Bos said about the four different areas where water drains.

The plan dealt with the uniqueness by dividing the pour points or watersheds into planning regions with each region sharing the same 27 priority issues.

Each issue was examined

Digital and HD Cable TV • High Speed Internet • Phone

**ALLIANCE**
COMMUNICATIONS™

wired differently

672 Third St., Garretson • 1-888-990-0991 • www.alliancecom.net

Dave Hup
Broker/Owner
507-920-5910
dave.landandhome@gmail.com

Billy Cowell
Realtor/Owner
605-254-5450
billy.landandhome@gmail.com

Dan Serie
Realtor
507-220-3594
dan.landandhome@gmail.com



Billy • Dave • Dan



RE/MAX

For all our listings visit
LuverneLandandHome.com

RE/MAX Land and Home
507-449-6111



130 S Kniss Ave • Luverne, MN
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

If you're in the market to purchase or build a home, we will locate or create the perfect match.



For all your Welding Needs
Before & after your busy season



Mert's
Machine & Repair

830 W. Hatting, Luverne
507-449-0479

Portable welding service available

Over 30 years experience in welding and machine industry



Luverne
BODY SHOP
AUTO GLASS

Kevin Aaker
kevin@luvernebodyshop.com

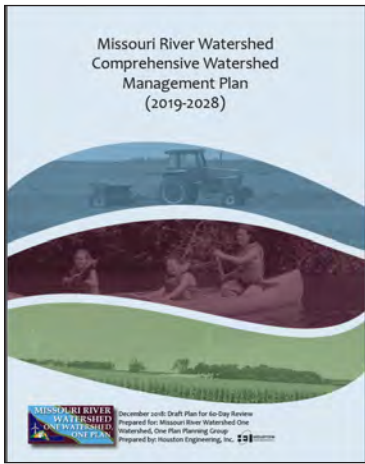
Andrew Hemme
andrew@luvernebodyshop.com

Auto Glass Repaired or Replaced?
Free pickup & delivery from home, farm or work site.

920 Commerce Rd • Luverne, MN
507-283-8711

Regional development of 1W1P began in Fall 2017

By working as a watershed and not individual counties, the Missouri River Watershed and Rock County anticipate \$500,000 to \$800,000 directed bi-annually toward projects identified in the waterplan.



and placed in one of five categories involving groundwater, surface waters, fish and wildlife habitat, local knowledge base and technical capacity and local development and land stewardship. Detailed short- and long-term goals were then determined for each issue along with ways to measure each goal. Short-term goals are planned during the 10-year lifespan of the current plan while long-term goals describe the desired future condition. Plans are reviewed every five years with appropriate amend-

ments completed if necessary, Bos said. The full plan is available on the Land Management Office website, www.rockswcd.org. The Missouri River Watershed encompasses portions of Rock, Pipestone, Nobles, Jackson, Lincoln and Murray counties and the watershed districts of Kanranzi-Little Rock and Okabena-Ocheda. The Rock River is the largest river in the watershed. After concerns raised during the comment period are addressed, Bos said the plan will be presented to each county

Resource Concern	Issue	Priority Tier
Groundwater		
Drinking Water	Elevated nitrate-nitrogen in ground water wells	A
	Elevated bacteria (i.e. <i>Escherichia coli</i> (<i>E. coli</i>) and fecal coliform) in ground water wells	B
	Land use changes where water enters aquifers, including Wellhead Protection Areas (WPAs) or Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs)	A
	Sustainable quantities of groundwater supplies for drinking water use with suitable water quality	A
Surface Waters		
Streams and Rivers	Elevated suspended solids (sediment) and phosphorus levels	A
	Elevated bacteria (i.e. <i>E. coli</i> and fecal coliform) levels	B
	Elevated nitrate-nitrogen levels	B
	Increased spread of aquatic invasive species	B
	Land use changes contributing to wind and overland runoff	A
	Streambank/riverbank erosion causing loss of bank sediment	A
Lakes	Elevated phosphorus concentrations in the water and increased risk of algal blooms	B
Surface Runoff	Land use changes leading to loss of vegetative cover and field residue	A
	Land use changes leading to loss of natural storage	A
Wetlands	Loss of functioning wetlands	A
Agricultural Drainage Systems	Presence, width, and quality of vegetated areas alongside ditches	B
Fish and Wildlife Habitat		
Aquatic Habitat for Fish, Macroinvertebrates and Aquatic Life	Habitat loss from bank erosion in creeks, streams, and rivers	A
	Aquatic and riparian habitat loss from development and intense drainage	B
Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife	Terrestrial habitat fragmentation and loss	B
Local Knowledge Base and Technical Capacity		
Landowner, Producer and Lake Shore Owner Engagement in Water Management	Lack of watershed-wide education and outreach on management and structural best management practices (BMPs) and their impact on farm profitability and the environment	B
Technology, Tools, Funding, and Existing Capabilities	Lack of understanding, agreement, and consensus about the hydrologic impacts of tile drainage and the benefits to producers	B
	Piecemeal approach and lack of long term and consistent funding for water management programs at the local level	A
Local Development and Land Stewardship		
Rural Land Stewardship	Decreased agricultural soil health	A
	Increased sheet, rill, and wind erosion	B
	Manure application and disposal	B
Riparian Stewardship	Undercut and unstable streambanks	B
	Livestock accessibility to streams and rivers	B
	Vegetated buffer along streams and rivers	B

The Missouri River Watershed One Watershed One Plan consists of five focus areas and targets 27 priority issues. The 10-year plans also details short- and long-term goals for each priority issue. Graphic courtesy of the Missouri River Watershed 1W1P

JAYCOX TRUCK & TRAILER SERVICE



LUVERNE, MN 507-449-6130

DOT INSPECTIONS SPECIAL

- Commercial Trucks
- Commercial Trailers
- Pickups
- Pickup Pulled Trailers

- Complete inspection of unit to ensure it meets all DOT Regulatory laws.
- Check tire pressures and fluid levels where applicable
- We will also let you know of any reliability or repair concerns that are identified during the inspection.

Please call and reserve an appointment today!

411 W. Gabrielson Ave. Luverne, MN
507-449-6130
JHINCTRUCK@IW.NET



SPECIALIZING IN SELLING FARM LAND

- Auctioneer
- Real Estate Salesperson
- Licensed Real Property Appraiser

Bill Korth

Auction Service

LICENSED AUCTIONEER

HOME: 507-283-4766
Cell: 507-227-4958
710 N. Oakley
Luverne, MN 56156



Loosbrock Electrical Construction, LLC

Scott Loosbrock, Owner

507-360-5418
scott@loosbrockelectric.com
www.loosbrockelectric.com





Licensed • Bonded
• Insured
Residential • Commercial
Industrial • Agriculture

Ag Commissioner Petersen responds to questions from Rock County

By Lori Sorenson

Thom Petersen, a horse farmer from Pine City, is Minnesota's new commissioner of agriculture under Gov. Tim Walz's administration.

"I am honored, humbled and excited for the opportunity to serve Minnesota's farmers and agriculture," Petersen said about his appointment.

"I look forward to working to address the diverse challenges Minnesota farmers face and promote opportunities available across the state to strengthen our agricultural economy."

The Rock County Star Herald reached out to Commissioner Petersen to request information about his position as it affects Rock County farmers.

Following are those questions (guided by staff at the Rock County Land Management Office) and the commissioner's responses to them.

Where do you stand on the new Groundwater Protection Rule?

The Groundwater Protection Rule is the first rule proposed under the 1989 Groundwater Protection Act, which gave the MDA rulemaking authority.

The rule builds on more than



two decades of MDA work under the Groundwater Protection Act, including the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, and the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Groundwater Protection Rule was thoroughly reviewed and vetted. Proposed drafts of the rule were presented at more than 25 separate public meetings, informational sessions and stakeholder meetings.

Rulemaking procedures require that, for any proposed rule

"I am honored, humbled, and excited for the opportunity to serve Minnesota's farmers and agriculture. I look forward to working to address the diverse challenges Minnesota farmers face and promote opportunities available across the state to strengthen our agricultural economy."

— Thom Petersen
Ag Commissioner

We have and will continue to develop and promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nitrogen fertilizer application and support research.

This often happens in collaboration with our partners at the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the University of Minnesota Extension, and through the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC), a farmer-led program to advance soil fertility research, technology development and education.

We provide technical assistance programs to help farmers make appropriate decisions about the timing and rates of nitrogen fertilizer application.

Where do you stand on the buffer rule?

The MDA does not have oversight of or enforce the buffer law, but we do want to help farmers become compliant.

We're seeing 90 to 99 percent compliance depending on which part of the state you are in and how the law pertains to the waterways on your property. We can help farmers understand what alternative practices they may be able to implement and still be compliant

affecting farmers, one formal hearing before an administrative law judge must be held in rural Minnesota.

We held five formal hearings around the state before an administrative law judge in July 2018 and received more than 3,000 written and oral comments. Throughout the process, public input influenced changes to the proposed rule.

On Nov. 29 the chief administrative law judge issued an order approving the rule but also noted in the order that the MDA may not proceed with adoption

of the rule until after the next legislative session because the House and Senate Agriculture Committees invoked Minnesota Statute 14.126.

I respect and welcome the Senate looking at the rule this session.

When the rule is implemented, the fall restriction on farmers' ability to apply nitrogen fertilizer will not go into effect until the fall of 2020.

How will MDA help crop farmers reduce the influence of nitrogen in sensitive groundwater areas?

W-2's QUALITY MEATS



Quality Fresh Meats
Luverne, MN
507-449-0039
Worthington - 507-376-4001

Cut & Ground
Fresh Daily
Steaks • Chops
Roast
Hamburger

We also carry
Beef Jerky • Cheese
Sliced Meats • Chicken

STORE HOURS: STOP IN & SEE US!

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 7:00 am - 5:30 pm • SATURDAY | 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
SUNDAY | Closed

We keep building,
so you can too



For all your Machinery &
Livestock Building Projects



Build New?
Remodeling?
Expanding?

No job is too
small or too
large



102 E. Maple St.
Luverne, MN
(507) 283-9151

Rock County Rural
Water District

- Water delivered to your home and your Livestock under pressure.
- Treated and tested safe daily.
- Your water now and for your future.

Rock County Rural Water
507-283-8886



Quality
On Tap!
Our Commitment Our Profession

Commisioner addresses buffer rule, manure application

under the law.

For example, the MDA’s Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is considered an alternative practice, and by enrolling in this voluntary program and becoming certified, your farm will be in compliance.

What will MDA do to oversee commercial application of manure?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency enforces laws regulating manure application and storage.

The MDA Commercial Animal Waste Technician (CAWT) program provides education training and licensing for companies, site managers and applicators that manage or apply manure as a fertilizer. We work to improve our training manuals, develop curriculum, and online certification training. New and updated educational materials help to ensure that manure is safely handled and properly applied.

Additionally, we provide technical assistance to farmers when evaluating manure fertilizer applications on their own fields.

In conjunction with the National Weather Service, the MDA launched the Minnesota

Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast (RRAF) system in 2018. It’s an online tool designed to help farmers and commercial applicators determine the best time to apply manure.

The notification system takes into account soil moisture content, forecast precipitation and temperatures, snow accumulation and melt to predict the likelihood of daily, next day and 72-hour runoff events.

Farmers and commercial applicators use an interactive map to locate their field and find the forecasted risk.

They sign up to receive a text message providing them with weather forecast information on a county-by-county basis.

How will MDA assist farmers with conservation needs such as cover crops?

We collaborate extensively at the local level, by working with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Board of Soil and Water Resources, and U of M Extension to inform farmers of new conservation practices, which can include cover crops.

Enrollees in our voluntary Ag Water Quality Certification Program learn about the conservation options available to comply with the certification

requirements. We also promote our low interest loan programs for farmers who have losses due to devastating weather events or disasters.

As a longtime representative of a general farm organization, I have been on farms of all types and sizes in every corner of the state.

Over the years, farmers have reminded me time and time again that maintaining good water quality on their farms is imperative to their success. They drink the water from the wells on the farms they live on.

As Minnesota’s new ag commissioner, I would expect them to continue to remind me of this as I work to lead the MDA in carrying out its mission to “... enhance Minnesotans’ quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment and the strength of our agricultural economy.”

Petersen most recently served as director of government relations for Minnesota Farmers Union since 2002 and has a range of experience in state and federal farm policy. Including the U of

Buffer compliance in Rock County reaches 97 percent

By Mavis Fodness

More than 95 percent of Rock County landowners are meeting water quality standards under the state’s buffer law.

Three percent or 25 parcels remain non-compliant to the statute passed in 2016. About 20 Rock County landowners are subject to monetary fines.

Rock County Land Management Office officials assisted landowners and/or renters to bring 815 out of 840 parcels affected by the buffer law.

Eighty-six percent or 720 parcels are in compliance with 95 parcels or 11 percent have signed compliance waivers indicating a compliance plan is in place but hasn’t been implemented.

The law required landowners to plant up to 50-feet of perennial vegetation between cropland and identified lakes, rivers and streams.

In some instances alternative farm practices that offer the equivalent water quality benefits as a vegetative buffer were allowed as compliances to the law.

LMO officials continue to reach out to landowners in violation of the buffer law. As of February, LMO won’t be issuing any fines.

M Extension Citizens Advisory Committee, Farmers Legal Action Group, Citizens Utility Board, Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, Minnesota State Organic Task Force, Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition and the Minnesota Fair Plan.

For All Your Swine Confinement and Building Needs



SKATTUM CONFINEMENT & SUPERIOR BUILDINGS, LLC



Commercial, Agriculture and Residential Building Supplies

• Firm Estimates • Material Packages Available



Call for more information at (507) 283-9713

East of Luverne off County Road 9

1686 101st St. Luverne, MN 56156

Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 5:00 PM
Friday: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

www.skattumconfinement.com

LIKE US ON facebook

@SkattumConfinement

Sturdevant's

AUTO PARTS

Bob Boleman
Store Manager

We are more than just auto parts...
Carrying a full line of



A regional leader in automotive parts and accessories,
with over a million parts available...
Sturdevant's HAS IT!

207 S Kniss • Luverne, MN
507-283-2371
877-559-7467
Fax: 507-283-9199

Real Estate Retrievers

Rewards you with RESULTS



Deb Aanenson
Broker Associate/Realtor/Office Manager
507-920-9921



Gene Aanenson
Realtor®
507-920-9920



Keith Elbers
Realtor®
507-920-6131



Jen Rolfs
Realtor®
507-227-2985

Real Estate Retrievers

ALL STATE TEAM
SERVING THE TRI-STATE AREA

Matt Larson, Broker

www.RealEstateRetrievers.com

Free market analysis of your home!

Luverne Office
507-283-4216

Hills Office
507-962-3433



Elbers Auction Service
"Quality Auctions Since 1988"

Keith Elbers, AUCTIONEER/REAL ESTATE SALES
Lic #67-62
www.ElbersAuction.com

Protect your way of life, economic risk with crop insurance

By Barbara Anderson
Cattnach Insurance Agency Inc.

Razor-thin margins, weather and trade wars all impact a farmer's bottom line. The average person reads about these topics and has a vague understanding of the economic impact on our nation's agricultural industry.

You can't control the weather, crop prices or trade wars, but you can control the economic risk with crop insurance.

Crop insurance has protected our nation's farmers for generations. We now have exciting new enhancements that can supplement that coverage. Some you may be familiar with, and others may be new to you.

There is an option for every producer. A trusted agent can guide you through the maze of options available for 2019, some of which are outlined below.

Revenue Protection Plus (RPP)
*New and improved for 2019

This plan will guarantee coverage above and beyond what is offered by multi-peril crop insurance coverage.

RPP does not require a revenue or a bushel loss on the federal crop insurance policy to trigger a payout on the RPP endorsement. You can choose optional coverage even if you have enterprise units on the crop insurance policy, or choose enterprise on the RPP to save additional premium. Maximize the coverage or choose a lower amount to fit your needs.

The maximum coverage level triggers a loss at 95 percent or higher if the harvest price drops. RPP is priced to sell and will not disappoint when compared to other plans on the market.

Added Price Option (APO)

This plan is a more conservative approach that allows you to increase the price paid for your bushels in the case of a crop insurance bushel loss.

APO has been a popular choice among farmers for many years because it is easy to understand and has worked well in recent years with the low commodity prices.

Replant Option (RO)

Replant Option is an extremely popular endorsement, which increases payment in the event of a replant. The minimum acre requirement of 20 acres or 20 percent does not apply to this endorsement and it allows a replant payment even if planting is done prior to the initial planting date for crop insurance.

Hail insurance

Hail insurance has been less prevalent in recent years; however, it can be devastating, especially to

a soybean crop. In the event of hail damage, none of the supplemental coverage options pay out as well, based on the cost of investment, as hail insurance.

Hail coverage often includes protection for storage of harvested grain, vandalism and fire perils. Wind, green snap, lodging and loss of production can be endorsed onto the hail policy to provide added protection. The HPP (production hail) and companion plans are also excellent options.

The experienced agents at Cattnach Insurance Agency are prepared to help you navigate the complicated options so you can make the decision that is best for you.

A good agent who has your best interests in mind never pushes you to make a decision you are not comfortable with. We have all of the options and resources you need and are ready to help.

Maybe you're considering city life — take a look at — Riverview Estates by Den Herder Construction —



The fourth Riverview Estates home will be completed summer 2019 - for sale now!

DEN HERDER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Jim Den Herder & Cal Den Herder

P.O. Box 522 • Luverne, MN 56156-0522 • denherderconstruction@gmail.com

507-920-8916 or 507-920-8917

**The CROP of Den Herder Construction
country-built homes continues to grow**



How to beat the high cost of crop production

Utilizing manure in your crop production is not only good for the soil but can greatly improve your bottom line

By Doug Bos,
Assistant Land Management
Office Director

If you raise livestock or have access to manure from a neighbor, you can save a considerable amount of money by taking full credit for manure application.

Manure from hog finishing barns has been increasing in nutrient values over the past years due to ration changes and better watering systems.

Some of the manure samples that have been submitted have 70 or more pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 gallons of manure.

Using 80 percent nitrogen availability, you would only need 2,500 gallons per acre to apply 140 pounds of nitrogen for a corn/soybean rotation.

Those same 2,500 gallons could also supply 50 pounds of phosphorus and 100 pounds of potash if the manure averaged 20 pounds of phosphorus and 40 pounds of potash per 1,000 gallons.

Cattle solid manure samples can vary greatly but average values have been approximately 15-10-15, with liquid cattle manure reaching as high as 70-40-50 nutrient value per 1,000 gallons. Manure also has an intrinsic value, an added benefit that is not available from using commercial fertilizer.

University tests have shown higher yields on fields with manure applied versus

fields with the same analysis of commercial fertilizer applied.

Many factors may contribute to this effect, but it is felt that manure increases organic matter, improves soil structure, increases water-holding capacity and aids the microbial action of the soil.

How to do it right

Fully utilizing manure isn't rocket science but does take some planning and additional management. Four important factors to take into consideration are as follows:

- 1. **Sample your manure** — you need to know what nutrient value is produced by your operation or neighbors. Storage, handling, watering systems and rations all affect nutrient values. An average taken from multiple-year samples provides the best results
- 2. **Sample your soil** — Put your manure where it is needed the most. Soils already high in

There are also many creative ways being utilized by farmers to purchase or trade manure such as trading services like application or trading for harvest of bedding material.

phosphorous will not benefit from repeated applications of manure.

3. **Know your application rate** for liquid and solid manure — *Liquid manure:* Using a flow meter to apply liquid manure will provide more accurate application and allow you to apply less per acre.

The hog manure mentioned earlier can be applied at 2,500 gallons per acre versus the common rate of 3,500 gallons per acre. This rate reduction could save you \$11,500 per year for manure from one 2,400 head finishing building.

Solid manure: Calibrate your spreader. Manure spreaders and different sources of manure can vary the application rate of solid manure greatly. Rock County SWCD/Land Management Office has portable scales and will come to your farm to calibrate your solid manure spreaders.

4. **Make a plan and use it** — Keep records of application and

plan for next year. Manure will provide nutrients the second year after application.

With manure application there are also additional responsibilities.

If the manure is generated from a feedlot with 300 animal units or more, you need to keep records of where you applied it and maintain a manure management plan.

A manure management plan basically covers the four management practices listed earlier and addresses sensitive areas. Two added benefits to keeping a manure management plan are verification of correct application and saving money by using less commercial fertilizer.

There are many options to obtaining manure for supplying nutrients for your crop even if you do not have livestock or have crop ground too far from your feedlot to make hauling feasible.

Many farmers are already trading with other producers to obtain manure on their distant farms.

There are also many creative ways being utilized by farmers to purchase or trade manure such as trading services like application or trading for harvest of bedding material.

Input costs versus low crop prices have made crop production a high stakes profession.

Utilizing manure in your crop production is not only good for the soil but can greatly improve your bottom line.

Your hopes. Your dreams.
YOUR LEGACY.

Agriculture isn't just a market we serve. It's what we're founded on. It's who we are. Our mission goes far beyond farm loans and insurance offerings. We are passionate about the hopes and dreams of rural America and are always evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve to build for the future. Let's get started today.

#CHAMPIONRURAL



Pat Barnett, Financial Officer
(507) 360-0506
pat.barnett@compeer.com



COMPEER.COM | (844) 426-6733



Compeer Financial, ACA is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender and Equal Opportunity Provider. ©2018 All rights reserved.

State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation accepting applications

Deadlines are March 4 for Century Farms and March 1 for Sesquicentennial Farms

Century Farms

Minnesota families who have owned their farms for 100 years or more are invited to apply for the 2019 Century Farm Program. Produced by the Minnesota State Fair in conjunction with the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Century Farm Program was created to promote agriculture and honor historic family farms in the state. More than 10,500 Minnesota farms have been honored since the program began in 1976.

A family farm is recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met:

- The farm must be at least 100 years old according to authentic land records.

- The farm must be in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required).

- The farm must be at least 50 acres in size and currently be involved in agricultural pro-

duction.

A commemorative certificate signed by State Fair Board of Managers President Paul Merkins, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap and Governor Tim Walz will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm status.

Applications are available online at mnstatefair.org/about-the-fair/awards-and-recognition/; at fbmn.org; by calling the State Fair at 651-288-4400; or at statewide county extension and county Farm Bureau offices. The submission deadline is Monday, March 4. Recipients will be announced in May. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Information on the Century Farm Program will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2019 Minnesota State Fair. A Century Farm database is also available at fbmn.org.

Sesquicentennial Farms

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. Since the Sesquicentennial Farm program began in 2008, over 225 farms have been recognized. The Sesquicentennial Farm program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications:

- The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2019) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. **Please do not send originals or copies of records.**

- Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

- Continuous residence on

farm is not required, but ownership must be continuous.

- The farm should consist of 50 or more acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Peterson and Governor Tim Walz will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition.

Applications are available by writing Sesquicentennial Farms, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164; emailing info@fbmn.org; or calling 651-768-2100. Applications are also available online at fbmn.org/farm-recognition. Deadline for application is March 1. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Sesqui-

centennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of June.

To see a list of previously recognized Sesquicentennial Farms in Minnesota, visit fbmn.org/pages/farm-recognition.

Minnesota Farm Bureau - Farmers, Families, Food - is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children.

A busy year for farm interests at the State Capitol

By State Representative Joe Schomacker

The 2019 session is setting up to be an interesting year for agriculture, both in and out of our House Agriculture Committee.

One of the most important things we have to do as a legislature is conforming our income tax system with changes implemented by the federal government. As people are beginning to work on their income taxes, they'll soon recognize why we need to make sure Minnesota's tax system lines up with the federal system.

Of interest to farmers, there is state tax conformity with Federal Section 179 - accelerated depreciation. A federal law raised the cap to \$1 million, but at the state level the cap is \$25,000. Most of our ag groups are asking for full or partial conformity with Federal Section 179, so there is work to be done in this area.

Health care remains another pivotal issue at the Capitol, as rising health care costs and delv-

A top priority for both Republicans and Democrats alike would be providing more resources for mental health services to farm families and ag business operators. Currently, \$113,000 is appropriated annually through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and MnSCU.

ing access continue to plague rural Minnesotans. Last session we approved new agricultural cooperative health plans, which allow organizations with member owners to provide health insurance to their members. Thousands of rural families enrolled as farmer health insurance options were scarce and most everyone faced unaffordable health care options. We'll be

looking to build and expand on innovative ideas such as these in hopes of lowering the cost of health care for farm families.

A top priority for both Republicans and Democrats alike would be providing more resources for mental health services to farm families and ag business operators. Currently, \$113,000 is appropriated annually through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and MnSCU.

The farm advocate services offered by MDA offer a broad range of help, advice and support

provided by volunteers and part-time staff located throughout the state. Requests for farm advocate support can be made at any time the operation is going through significant events, such as beginning farmer resources, formation or dissolution of a partnership, asset liquidation, natural disaster or livestock disease, and mediation. It's a good program and more support is critical.

In addition there will be a push for continued property tax relief for farmers by maintaining and expanding on the current 40-percent school capital improvement credit; support for adequate funding for road and bridge infrastructure in Greater Minnesota; continued or additional funding for production agriculture research at the University of Minnesota; and compensation for ag land enrolled in buffers in the form of state aid or tax credits — not by shifting the burden to other properties.

As always, I value your input on any legislative topic — agriculture or otherwise. You can contact me by phone at 651-296-5505 or by email at rep.joe.schomacker@house.mn. I look forward to hearing from you.



Nicely done, beef.

You've proven that meat substitutes are just that.

Substitutes.

BEEF.

IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.®

Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers



MOVING ON TO OR OFF THE FARM?

WE CAN HELP.

FARMS, ACREAGES, LAND, RESIDENTIAL

all on our website

www.cragoe.com



Gene Cragoe, broker, Lic. in MN & SD • Renee Guy, realtor
203 East Main, Luverne • 507-283-2647 • E-mail: info@cragoe.com



LAND O'LAKES, INC.

Co-op Member Program

Value discounts up to \$11,000

New 2019 Chevrolet Silverados



DeBoer

EDGERTON

507-442-4341

CHEVROLET SILVERADO

www.deboerchev.com

Cultivate farm youth safety

Cultivatesafety.org offers numerous resources to reduce risk and help youth work day-to-day safely on the farm

More youth are injured working in agriculture than all other industries combined. Resources found at www.cultivatesafety.org can help reduce these risks.

Marsha Salzwedel, M.S. Youth Agricultural Safety Specialist at Marshfield, Wisconsin's National Farm Medicine Center, says farm youth are exposed to a wealth of hazardous equipment and circumstances every day where they live, work and play.

"Tractors, skid steers, animals and ATVs are most often involved in on-farm youth injuries," Salzwedel says. "Those elements are so common to the family's day-to-day life we lose sight of hazards they pose."

Tractors always have been and continue to be the cause of most farm youth injuries and fatalities. Another common factor

related to youth injuries is poor visibility for operators of large farm equipment.

"With a big round bale on the spear of a skid steer, you're not able to see what's right around you on the ground," Salzwedel says. "That's true of many large pieces of equipment on today's farm sites."

Risk is great when youth ride in a tractor or on any farm equipment. There are many documented incidents of children falling out of a cab or off equipment and being injured or killed. Whether parents, grandparents or hired workers, equipment operators are distracted by the presence of a child in a cab or on equipment.

"In spite of these facts, we know at least 40 percent of farm families allow children as extra riders on tractors, combines and ATVs," Salzwedel says.

Recommendations found at www.cultivatesafety.org can assist parents with safety practices.

The website, produced by the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), offers safety information for parents and youth, with a wealth of additional safety resources for youth and adults.

For example, children ages 10 and younger should be kept off worksites anytime someone's operating tractors, combines or other farm equipment. Ideally, small children should be in an enclosed area — fenced yard, etc. — if they're outside when equipment is used or animals are present.

"If children or teens want to help with work being done, guidelines at cultivatesafety.org can help assess their ability and

readiness for performing specific jobs," Salzwedel said.

The website addresses everything from simple tasks such as properly dressing and preparing for a job requiring a lot of bending to cleaning grain bins or service alleys and safely climbing.

Farm youth — and sometimes parents — have the impression that a farm background gives youth a competitive edge in a job.

"Kids love hearing parents say they're smarter, faster and stronger than peers," Salzwedel says. "But they're still young and have a lot to learn about staying safe when working at farm jobs."

A natural tendency for all youth is taking risks or acting impulsively. Teen boys are especially susceptible to this behavior. "On the farm, that tendency can have deadly consequences," Salzwedel said.

Youth may become highly excited when allowed to operate major equipment like a tractor or combine. In their bliss, it's easy to make mistakes that quickly lead to serious injury.

"Enthusiasm for helping and taking charge of something can override or obscure a young person's judgment," Salzwedel says. "If they're already taking on something beyond their physical or developmental ability, many things can quickly go wrong, putting them in grave danger."

Training youth for specific tasks and working with them numerous times to ensure they're ready to accomplish it on their own is a safe way to approach a major new undertaking.

"Even if they seem to be doing the job okay, don't hesitate to check on them periodically," Salzwedel says. "Taking a proactive approach to safety is always the best practice."



HENNING CONSTRUCTION

- Gravel Sale and Hauling •
- Demolition •
- Site Preparation •

from **Road Construction**
to **Soil Conservation**

FREE Estimates

Adrian, MN • Luverne, MN

If you want it done right, call 507-483-2486 or 920-7209

LET'S MAKE A PLAN

Operating Loans | Real Estate Loans
Line of Credit | Equipment & Livestock Loans



First
Farmers
& Merchants
NATIONAL BANK

Stop in and talk with our Ag lending team!



RYAN WYNIA CRIS OELTJENBRUNS MIKE DEBATES



303 East Main Street | Luverne | 507-283-4463 | www.ffmbank.com



Customized crop insurance provides more coverage with variable options

By Shirley Top Kozlowski Insurance

Farmers have long appreciated the benefits of tailored crop insurance private products, and one such product is RAMP — Revenue Accelerator Max Protection.

Introduced in 2017 by Farmers Mutual Hail, it's similar multi-peril crop insurance (MPCI) protection against price decline, excess moisture, cold, disease, insects, drought and hail.

RAMP, however, provides farmers more coverage than MPCI can offer.

RAMP protects up to 95 percent of farmers' actual production history. RAMP premium collected in our agency for 2018 was \$707,560 and RAMP losses paid were \$1,361,902, equivalent to 400,560 bushel of corn at \$3.40, a 192 percent loss ratio.

RAMP indemnities, \$1,361,902 paid for 86 percent of the total insured's combined MPCI and RAMP premiums.

Different levels of RAMP coverage are available. RAMP can pay losses above a farmer's current MPCI coverage level up to 95 percent of yields. Payment is in addition to MPCI payment.

Another great feature of RAMP is that farmers can choose to cover crops on an optional unit basis even if you have enterprise MPCI coverage.

New for 2019 is RAMP FORWARD PLUS: If production falls below the 95 percent RAMP guarantee and the harvest price is higher than the spring price, RAMP FORWARD

PLUS will cover the bushels short of your RAMP FORWARD PLUS guarantee based on the new higher fall price.

The new RAMP FORWARD PLUS covers corn limit up to \$1 per bushel and covers soybeans limit up to \$3 per bushel.

RAMP FORWARD PLUS helps to eliminate some of the worries of forward marketing grain.

See the graphic above for examples of outcomes with different variables.

Farmers who purchased RAMP in 2017 and 2018 noticed clear benefits.

Losses were paid as a result of a cold wet spring, wet growing seasons, anthracnose stalk rot, wind cutting off the soybeans, hail, white mold in the soybeans, sudden death in soybeans and decline in prices. RAMP revenue protects low yields and/or low prices.

Farmers have purchased RAMP REVENUE coverage with less or no hail coverage because they are guaranteed 95 percent of their actual production history against decline in prices, excess moisture, cold, disease, insects drought and hail.

RAMP and RAMP FORWARD PLUS gives farmers the opportunity to forward market grain up to 95 percent of their actual production history, and it can be structured to fit the needs of any producer.

Farmers benefit from precision reporting

Another aspect that producers appreciate about Farmers Mutual Hail is precision reporting of acres and claims.

Farmers love using the precision equipment they have invested their money in to report acres and process claims.

Precision reporting of acres is convenient. You use the precision data you already captured for required crop insurance reporting. You will have the confidence that your field data is submitted accurately, consistently and completely.

Only a few pieces of documentation, including planting records, a yield map, and a calibration report, are needed to complete a claim using precision data.

Farmers are concerned that with frequent fog we've already seen, 2019 may once again be a wet year. Have you ever heard that 90 days after a fog it's supposed to storm, rain or precipitate?

I have seen a lot of changes in 32 years helping farmers with their multi-peril crop insurance, and I welcome change that allows farmers to customize their crop insurance needs.

Example of outcomes with different variables

EXAMPLE: 200 bu corn yield x .85 = 170 bushel guarantee x \$4 = \$680 multi-peril coverage

200 bu corn yield x .95 = 190 bushel guarantee x \$4 = \$760 = \$80 RAMP coverage

CLAIM INFORMATION:

MPCI coverage 85% revenue protection

APH: 200 bushel guarantee

RAMP coverage 85 – 95%

Spring Price corn: \$4.00 per bushel

RAMP Coverage per acre: \$80

Harvest Price: \$5 per bushel

In the fall 170 bu yield: \$80 payment from RAMP and \$20 from RAMP FORWARD PLUS = \$100 payment per acre



VanDerBrink Auctions LLC
Yvette VanDerBrink, Auctioneer

507-673-2517 or
605-201-7005
www.vanderbrinkauctions.com

Land • Estates
Collections

yvette@vanderbrinkauctions.com

Auctions of
All Kinds!



RIGGS TRUCKING
Magnolia, MN
Local / Long Distance • US / Canada



Complete Livestock Hauling
Specialized in Pig Transport

We repair & rebuild all brand of trailers

We are a parts & service facility for
Wilson Trailer Sales of Minnesota

Hunter & Stacy Riggs

1158 180th Avenue
Magnolia, MN 56158
507-283-2252

 Like Us On facebook

www.riggstrucking.com



THANK A FARMER

To those who work in acres, not in hours, we thank you. We are proud to protect many of our area farmers with quality farm insurance. Trust in Tomorrow.™ Contact your agent today.



Insurance Agency & Financial Services, Inc.

212 South Kniss, Luverne
(507) 283-3704 or (877) 631-3704
www.kozlowski-insurance.com
Pipestone 888-825-3366



GRINNELL
MUTUAL

"Trust in Tomorrow." and "Grinnell Mutual" are registered trademarks of Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. © Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, 2019.



Whether it's for the FARM or HOME
we have the material for your next project!

Quality Products • Affordable Pricing • Friendly Service

New Construction, Remodeling, Ag Buildings



Country Lumber

Phone 507-442-4821

Give us a Call,
and put our experience
to work for you!

We have been building ready built homes since 1976

Use trade history to prepare for what's ahead

By Rob Andringa
Professional Ag Marketing, Luverne

Most can agree that 2018 was a year full of its own unique challenges across most all of the ag complex. Weather, trade negotiations, diseases, yields, supplies, and relatively low margins across the board are just a few of the challenges the year had in store.

While each commodity had its own unique personality, every commodity seemed to share mutually in the effects of any type of 2018 event.

It certainly seems to have been a challenging year for ag, and as we face the year ahead, there remain a lot of unanswered questions.

You say goodbye and I say hello ...
Goodbye 2018 and hello 2019

2018 started with less than stellar expectations as most analysts estimated farm profits to be low for the year.

Farm income was estimated to decline approximately 12 percent from 2017, which puts income at 52 percent of the 2013 record high according to the USDA's estimates.

Prior to USDA's August 2018 Farm Income Forecast, net farm income was also projected in 2018 to be at the lowest level in more than a decade, worsening farm debt. While farm debt-to-asset ratio is rising to the highest it has been since 2009 indicating a declining overall health in farm economy.

Trade negotiations engulfed the news throughout 2018. To start the ball rolling, news spread of 11 countries signing a new Trans-Pacific Partnership in March and the U.S. had

USDA Supply & Demand											
Last update:				USDA	USDA	USDA	USDA	USDA	USDA	USDA	Estimate
11-Dec-18				USDA							Bullish
Soybeans	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	Nov 17-18	Dec 17-18	Nov 18-19	Dec 18-19	Scenario 19-20
Area (M Acres)											
Planted	75.0	77.2	76.8	83.3	82.7	83.4	90.1	90.1	89.1	89.1	82.0
Harvested	73.8	76.2	76.3	82.6	81.7	82.7	89.5	89.5	88.3	88.3	81.2
Yield	41.9	39.8	44.0	47.5	48.0	52.0	49.3	49.3	52.1	52.1	49.0
Beginning Stocks	215	169	141.0	92.0	191.0	197.0	302	302	438	438	955
Production	3,094	3,034	3,358	3,927	3,926	4,296	4,411	4,411	4,690	4,600	3,979
Imports	16	38	72	33	23	22	22	22	25	25	25
Supply, Total	3,325	3,239	3,570	4,052	4,140	4,515	4,734	4,734	5,063	5,063	4,959
Crushings	1,703	1,689	1,734	1,875	1,886	1,901	2,055	2,055	2,080	2,080	2,080
Exports	1,362	1,320	1,647	1,843	1,936	2,174	2,129	2,129	1,900	1,900	2,000
Seed	80	89	97	97	97	105	104	104	96	96	100
Residual	1	0	0	46	24	34	8	8	32	32	34
Use, Total	3,156	3,098	3,478	3,861	3,943	4,213	4,296	4,296	4,107	4,107	4,214
Ending Stocks	169	141	92	191	197	302	438	438	955	955	745
Stocks/Use Ratio	5.4%	4.6%	2.6%	4.9%	5.0%	7.2%	10.2%	10.2%	23.3%	23.3%	17.7%

withdrawn from the TPP in 2017.

June of 2018 marked a significant event when U.S. President Donald Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signing a joint statement of good intentions between the two countries. Trade tariff talks and additional tariffs began hitting the headlines in January progressing throughout the year.

This quickly led China into a response imposing retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, leaving the two countries negotiating a trade war.

At the same time U.S. was sparring with China, U.S., Canada, and Mexico formally agreed to terms of a new trade agreement (USMCA) on Oct.

1, leaving each country's legislature to ratify the agreement.

There really is no disputing 2018 was a year of fast-paced change sprinting right into 2019, chock-full of unanswered questions.

With only two years at the White House, Trump has certainly shifted the pace on negotiations; however, we know a 20-year-old trade situation cannot fix itself overnight.

One for me and two for you

China built its economic growth on low-cost exports of machinery and equipment. Massive government spending went into state-owned companies to fuel those exports.

China relies heavily on their export market and regained its position as the world's largest exporter in 2017, when it exported \$2.2 trillion of its production.

The EU briefly took the No. 1 spot in 2016 and now is second, exporting \$1.9 trillion. The United States is third, exporting \$1.6 trillion.

China leads the world in population at 18.5 percent consuming 28 percent of the world meat supply.

The Chinese produce nearly half of the world's pork and 11 percent of the world's beef production, while only producing 20 percent of the world's corn and 4 percent of the world's soy.

Supporting Local Farmers



Proudly supporting
FFA, 4-H, Rock County Pork
Producers, Rock-Nobles
Cattlemen Association,
Rock County Corn & Soybean
Growers and others.

Teals MARKET

205 E. Warren, Luverne, MN
507-283-4429 (all store)
www.tealsmarket.com • like us on 
Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

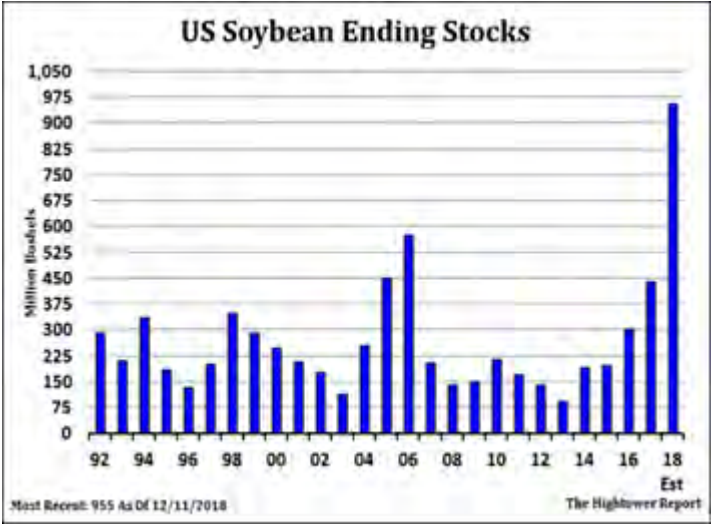
State Senator
Bill Weber
Senate District 22



Working to
Make
Minnesota
Better!

Wishing our farm
community a safe and
successful spring
planting season!

Paid for by Weber for State Senate Volunteer Committee
PO Box 584, Luverne, MN 56156



China relies on imports to feed both its people and livestock making them a valuable export destination to the world's top ag-producing countries.

The U.S. accounts for 36 percent of the world's corn produced while raising 34 percent of the world's soybeans.

In livestock the U.S. accounts for 10.5 percent of the hog production and 19.5 percent of the beef production.

However, while the U.S. is China's top trade partner, importing electronics, automotive parts, clothing, furniture, and synthetics at a trade imbalance of over \$344 billion dollars a year, the world's largest soybean buyer isn't buying even half of their needs from the U.S.

The U.S. ranks as the second-largest supplier of soybeans to China, ranking even lower in corn, pork, and beef, not so much of a give-and-take relationship.

China did not need to come to the U.S. for its needs and often chose not to purchase from its largest customer.

This leaves one of the primary questions in all of our minds as we move further into 2019: What results will be achieved in the trade dispute between the world's two largest economies?

Where do we go from here?

March 1 is the date of the 90-day ceasefire. While we can all agree that this negotiation is important, there are many other things affecting the market today as well.

African Swine Fever is something often discussed in the pork complex. How big of an impact will it have on China's current and long-term inventory? How long before it spreads beyond China's borders?

Soybean ending stocks, planting intentions, government shutdowns, profit margins, weather, crude oil, ethanol margins, interest rates, strength of U.S. dollar and RIN waivers are also items of importance. The future seems tense at best, but it can offer some opportunities along the way.

While the outlook possibly appears less than desirable packed full with uncertainties, there are some positives as well.

Corn export inspections are running ahead of last year by approximately 60 percent, and 33 percent higher than USDA's estimate for the year. Corn stocks globally remain tight; however, lack of getting fall tillage completed along with input cost could keep corn from gaining

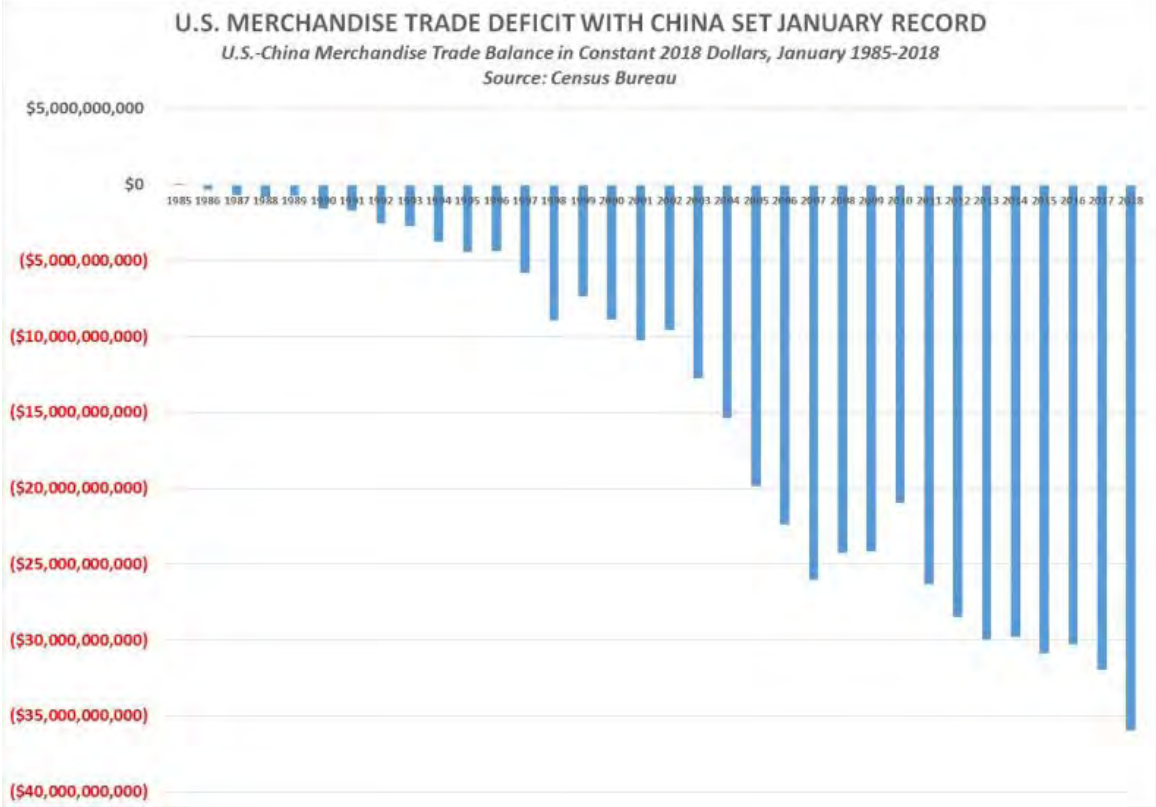
many acres.

Live cattle remain strong trading at the top end of their range, while beef demand remains strong both in the U.S. and globally.

Cutout values on beef so far for the year are running ahead of last year even considering the larger supply. While pork supplies remain strong and the industry is negotiating trade with some of our top customers, demand appears to be strong. Packer margins remain attractive keeping the supply moving.

The key in 2019 will be to prepare yourself to take action when opportunity presents itself. Mapping out input costs, break evens, goals and levels needed to be realistically profitable is essential preparation when opportunity knocks.

A not-so-distant example of being prepared to take an opportunity was the recent uptick in soybeans. At the exact same



time as news spread of China's desire to purchase some ag-related products (including soy) from the U.S., Brazil dry weather reports surfaced raising concern over yield potential.

Not only did futures climb during this time, but basis levels tightened, creating an opportunity to make some 2018 soybean sales.

Does China need soybeans? Will they purchase soybeans simply to appease the trade effort? Nevertheless if some appeasing takes place, U.S. soybeans would remain at an overbearing supply.

Use history to be prepared for what is ahead. As the British



economist John Maynard Keynes said, "The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones."

CHS®

- Yield Point Precision Ag • Crop Nutrients • Crop Protection • Propane
- Cenex Premium Fuels • Cenex Lubes & Grease • Multiple Top-Branded Seeds
- Full Service Feed • Full Service Grain • Finance Packages

Magnolia Ag Center **507-283-3700**

Luverne Main Office/Feed/Grain/Finance/Energy **507-283-4418**

Magnolia Grain **507-283-2431**

Kanaranzi Grain **507-283-8989**

Farming in tough times – helping ag professionals cope with challenges and change

By Lori Sorenson

With disappearing profit margins and mounting economic challenges, mental health is becoming a pressing issue in agriculture circles.

Psychologist Ted Matthews is encouraging farmers to see the big picture.

“Farming is cyclical; what we need to do is get through today, and get to tomorrow,” Matthews said. “Hang in there. It will change. ... What I think about is survival and finding ways to support each other.”

Matthews has been a rural health practitioner for more than 30 years and focuses on farmer mental health support.

In particular, he spends time educating the professionals on the “front lines” of farmer relationships — those who have regular contact with farmers and who may recognize a client in distress.

“You do not have to be a psychologist to help,” Matthews said. “Whether it be an ag lender, farm business, clergy or Extension — these folks need to be trained as advocates and mediators.”

As a mental health professional, Matthews said rural mental health has unique challenges because of the nature of the business and the nature of farmers in general.

For one thing, he said farmers for centuries haven’t had to com-

Coping with stress or crisis?

Please call these helpful resources

Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline 833-600-2670 x 1
Free, confidential, available 24/7. This call center is located in Minnesota. Calls are answered by trained staff and volunteers. If you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts — call. Sometimes it’s easier to talk to someone you don’t know.

Ted Matthews, rural mental health counselor - 320-266-2390
Ted Matthews works with farmers across the entire state. No cost; no paperwork. This service is available thanks to funds from the Minnesota State Legislature.

Source: University of Minnesota Extension

(Ted) Matthews, director of Minnesota Rural Mental Health, is the featured speaker at an educational meeting in Pipestone on Feb. 28.

municate because they’ve always been the sole owners and operators of their businesses.

Now, farm wives, family members and other partners have a role in the business, which requires communication.

“We have far greater needs to communicate and far less time,” Matthews said. “And farmer tend to isolate themselves.”

What this means, Matthews said, is that others around farmers need to be supportive and be alert to potential mental health crises.

“We need to look for specific signs that someone may be sliding into depression,” Matthews said.

• If they pull away and isolate themselves, it could be a sign of depression. For example, if they suddenly stop going to church.

• If they are not sleeping at night for days or weeks on end, that could also signal depression.

And Matthews said he and many other mental health organizations are working to educate farmers to recognize their own signs of mental or emotional distress.

“Are you sleep deprived? Do you suddenly not want to see people or go to church?” he said.

“Farmers have the belief that if it gets that bad, they’ll call a psychologist, but why let it get that bad? This is about your

health — your mental health. Why wouldn’t you want to be healthier?”

He said one of the easiest and most effective tools to support mental health is breathing exercises — deep breaths in and long breaths out.

“People say they don’t have time for mental health,” Matthews said. “I say, ‘What? You don’t have time to breathe?’”

Another important mental health tool is getting adequate rest, which tends to be difficult for farmers.

“During harvest they’ll go five days in a row with only four hours of sleep in a night,” Matthews said. “And they’ll be so exhausted they can hardly move.”

But even beyond busy seasons, Matthews said farmers innately resist rest.

“The dirtiest little four-letter word in farming is lazy,” he said. “Nobody wants to be seen as lazy, so even if they don’t have to keep working, they often do.”

He encourages family members, friends and colleagues of farmers to recognize signs of distress and be ready to offer support if needed.

More than anything, Matthews said when it comes to suicide, it’s not about being right.

“If you’re concerned, you might talk to a minister or a family member and express these concerns, but then we always think, ‘What if I’m wrong?’ And we fear the embarrassment of bringing up suicide when it’s not an issue,” Matthews said.

“What I tell everyone is ‘What if you’re right?’ If it’s about being embarrassed or saving a life, the cost of embarrassment is pretty miniscule.”

Matthews, director of Minnesota Rural Mental Health, is the featured speaker at an educational meeting will be held in Pipestone on Feb. 28.

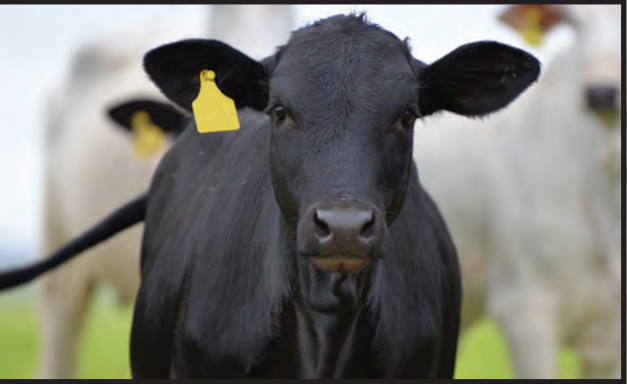
The event is for all area agricultural producers, professionals within the agriculture industry, and anyone who may find themselves faced with various challenges as a result of the economic state of agriculture.

It’s from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Pipestone County Emergency Management Building meeting room at 811 5th St. SE in Pipestone.

Call us for all your cattle needs



ROCK VETERINARY CLINIC, P.A.
1295 101 St., Luverne, MN • 507-283-9524



On a farm, you don’t work 9 to 5. Neither do we.



Let us help you cover all you’ve worked so hard to build.

THE ESTENSON COMPANY, INC.
Luverne MN • 507-283-2386
tknoll@iw.net

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

What are GMOs and why should I care?

When people refer to genetically modified organisms, GMOs, they are referring to crops developed through genetic engineering, a more precise method of plant breeding.

Genetic engineering, also referred to as biotechnology, allows plant breeders to take a desirable trait found in nature and transfer it from one plant or organism to the plant they want to improve, as well as make a change to an existing trait in a plant they are developing.

Some examples of desirable traits commonly transferred include resistance to insects and disease and tolerance to herbicides that allow farmers to better control weeds.



TOP 10 CONSUMER QUESTIONS ABOUT GMOS,
ANSWERED.

GMO Answers and the Council for Biotechnology Information conducted a nationwide survey to answer consumers' most pressing questions about genetically modified organisms (GMOs). We compiled the top 10 questions and reached out to scientists, farmers, economists and other experts to provide answers. The following are abbreviated expert responses.



1. Do GMOs cause cancer?

No. There is no evidence that GM food causes cancer.
Dr. Kevin Folta from the University of Florida states it simply.
"The short answer is no, there is absolutely zero reputable evidence that GMO foods cause cancer."



2. Are GMOs safe for human consumption?

Yes, the health and safety of GMOs have been validated by many independent scientists and organizations around the world.
In the spring of 2016, The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) researched this very same question and concluded that GMOs are safe. After reviewing all available research studies on health effects from GE crops, the study found "no substantiated evidence of a difference in risks to human health between current commercially available genetically engineered crops and conventionally bred crops." More than 20 scientists, researchers, agricultural and industry experts reviewed over 20 years of data since GMOs were introduced, including nearly 900 studies and publications, animal studies, allergenicity testing and North American and European health data.



3. How much of our food in the U.S. is genetically modified?

While nearly all foods today have been genetically modified in some way over thousands of years through selective breeding, there are only 10 commercially available GM crops in the U.S.: alfalfa, apples, canola, corn (field and sweet), cotton, papaya, potatoes, soybeans, squash and sugar beets.
The majority of these crops, like alfalfa, field corn and soy are actually used for livestock feed. Other uses for these crops include common food ingredients, such as sugar, canola oil, cornstarch and soy lecithin. You may find only a few of these in your produce section: rainbow papaya, summer squash, sweet corn, potatoes and apples.
The GM AquAdvantage salmon is the first GM food animal to be approved by the FDA. The salmon was genetically modified to grow to market weight faster, utilize less feed and conserve wild fish populations.



4. Do GMOs have an impact on the environment?

GMOs and biotechnology are key assets in improving environmental sustainability in agriculture by allowing farmers to produce more crops, using less inputs. This can decrease agriculture's impact on habitats, while also conserving soil, water and energy. In agriculture, GMOs are one tool that allows farmers to take care of our land and environment while harvesting more and using fewer of these precious resources.
The use of GMOs in agriculture can: preserve biodiversity by sparing lands not intensely cultivated; increase productivity; reduce soil erosion; conserve water; and may lead to fewer pesticide applications.

For complete responses, please visit <https://gmoanswers.com/top-10-consumer-questions-about-gmos-answered-2016>



NOW OPEN

Specializing in
Residential
Commercial
Agricultural

Tim Gangestad
Owner, Viking Electric LLC
(507) 290-2595

Conquering all of your electrical needs!

The news, sports, opinions and events of Rock County as they happen.

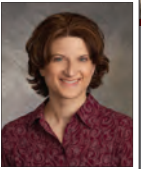
Star-Herald.com

Increase revenue coverage over and above your existing federal crop insurance Revenue Protection with a Revenue Price Policy (RPP) through an RCIS agent.

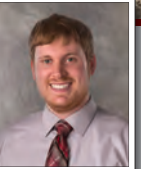




Steve Cattnach
steve@cattnach.com
AGENT



Barb Anderson
barb@cattnach.com
AGENT



Josh Teune
josh@cattnach.com
AGENT



South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN | 507-283-8383
E-mail: info@cattnach.com

RCIC is an equal opportunity provider. RCIS is a registered trademark of Rural Community Insurance Company. © 2019 Rural Community Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

More answers to Top 10 consumer questions about genetically modified organisms



5. Have long-term health studies been conducted on GMO crops?

Yes, many long-term health studies have been conducted on GMOs.² Aside from the fact that GMOs have a long and safe track record, GM crops are repeatedly and extensively tested for consumer and environmental safety, and those tests are reviewed in the U.S. by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and similar organizations internationally.

The European Commission states, "the main conclusion, after more than 130 research projects covering a period of more than 25 years of research and involving more than 500 independent research groups, is that biotechnology, in particular GMOs, are not per se more risky than, e.g., conventional plant breeding technologies."³



6. Do GMOs have an impact on allergies?

No. GMOs on the market today do not introduce any new allergens.

Lisa Katic, R.D., answered this question by explaining, "No commercially available crops contain allergens that have been created by genetically engineering a seed/plant. And the rigorous testing process ensures that will never happen." If a person is allergic to a non-GMO plant, like soy, for example, he or she will also be allergic to the plant's available GM counterpart.



7. If livestock eat genetically modified grain, will there be GMOs in my meat?

No. It has been estimated that over 70 percent of harvested GM crops are fed to food producing animals,⁴ making the world's livestock populations the largest consumers of the current generation of GM crops. **GMOs have never been detected in the milk, meat or eggs derived from animals fed GM feed.⁵**

According to Alison Van Eenennaam, Ph.D., extension specialist in animal genomics and biotechnology at the University of California, "Genetically engineered crops are digested by animals in the same way as conventional crops." The Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) compiled over 100 digestion and feeding studies⁶ examining the digestive fate of genetically engineered DNA and protein introduced into genetically engineered feed. Genetically engineered DNA, or the novel proteins encoded therein, have never been detected in the milk, meat or eggs derived from animals fed genetically engineered feedstuffs." Additionally, Allison Van Eenennaam said, "Evidence to date strongly suggests that feeding livestock with genetically engineered crops is equivalent to feeding unmodified feed sources in terms of nutrient composition, digestibility and feeding value."



8. Do GMOs have an impact on the price of food?

Yes. While the cost of food is impacted by various factors (the price of oil affects transportation costs; drought can affect yield and available supply; etc.), **GMOs play an important role in keeping food prices down.**

Dr. Stuart Smyth, assistant professor with the department of bioresource policy, business and economics at the University of Saskatchewan explains, "Typically, GM crops are the more efficient crops, and that means their price and costs as ingredients are less than non-GMOs."



9. Do seed companies have an influence on whether farmers grow GMOs?

No. Brian Scott, an Indiana farmer who grows corn and soybeans among other crops, answers this question simply, "I choose what seeds I plant every year. I'm not locked into buying seed from one company from one season to the next."



10. Do GMO crops have an impact on bees or butterflies?

The sudden and widespread disappearances of adult honey bees from hives, termed Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), became a national concern almost 10 years ago.⁷ Claims have been circulated that insect protected GM crops harm bees, but these assertions have been refuted by the mainstream scientific community.

If a variety of factors are impacting bee health, could GMOs be one of them? Bee Ambassador for Bayer Chris Sansone, who has more than 30 years of experience as a professor and extension specialist at Texas A&M University, points to several scientific studies indicating this is not the case.

He notes that "genetically modified plants and their impact on honey bees have been widely studied, and the results indicate that GM plants are not harmful to bees."

¹ Distinction Between Genetic Engineering and Conventional Plant Breeding Becoming Less Clear, Says New Report on GE Crops, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Retrieved from <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=23395>.

² Distinction Between Genetic Engineering and Conventional Plant Breeding Becoming Less Clear, Says New Report on GE Crops, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Retrieved from <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=23395>.

³ A Decade of EU-Funded GMO Research (2001-2010). Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/research/biosociety/pdf/a_decade_of_eu-funded_gmo_research.pdf.

⁴ Van Eenennaam, A. GMOs in animal agriculture: time to consider both costs and benefits in regulatory evaluations (2013). Retrieved from <https://jasbsci.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2049-1891-4-37>.

⁵ Van Eenennaam, A. Genetic Engineering and Animal Feed. Retrieved from <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8183.pdf>.

⁶ Van Eenennaam, A. Genetic Engineering and Animal Feed. Retrieved from <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8183.pdf>.

⁷ Report on the National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health. Retrieved from <http://www.usda.gov/documents/ReportHoneyBeeHealth.pdf>.



Ready Mix Concrete to meet any specifications

- State certified plant and materials
- Experienced drivers
- Prompt Delivery
- Quality controlled batching
- Competitive pricing

Profit from our Experience

Locally owned and operated



Distributor Amvic
Insulated Concrete Forms



Full line of Prinsco
drainage tubing & fittings



www.BuffaloRidgeConcrete.com

Adrian	507-483-2690
Edgerton	507-442-5441
Lamberton	507-752-7989
Luverne	507-283-8077
Marshall	507-532-3966
Pipestone	507-825-3239
Slayton	507-836-6102
Tyler	507-247-5575



ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITIES
WE UNDERSTAND FARMING

For over 100 years we have been financing farming operations and we have roots that run deep in the community.

AG SERVICES

- Competitive Rates
- Real Estate Loans
- Construction Loans
- Lines Of Credit
- Livestock Loans
- Crop Input Loans

SECURING YOUR FUTURE



SECURITY SAVINGS BANK

Member **FDIC**

Saturated buffers are a cost-effective method in removing nitrogen

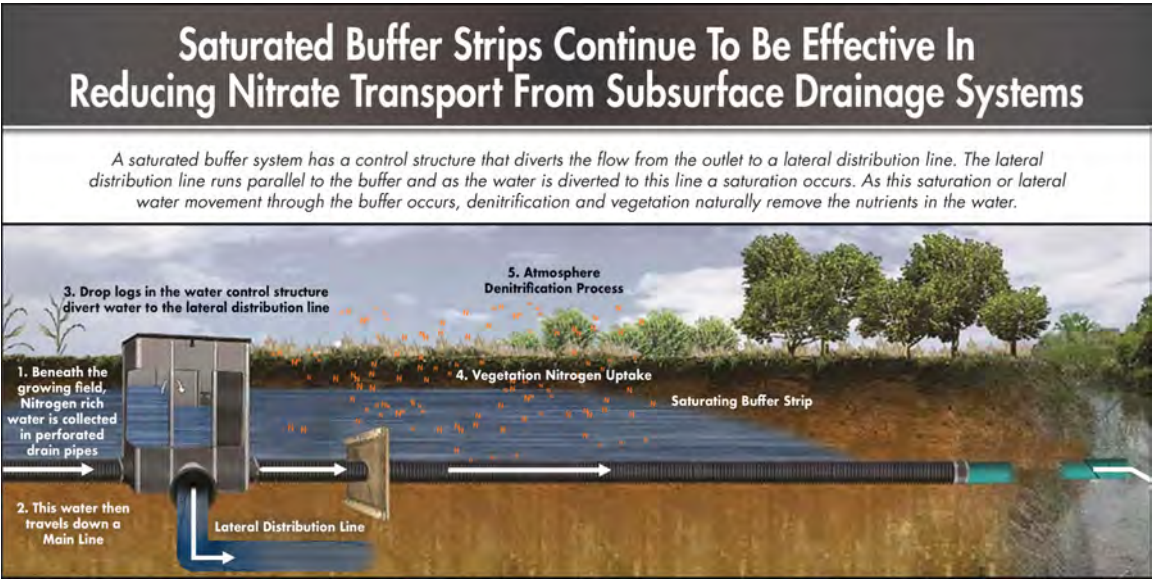
The Farm Services Agency and the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition collaborated to quantify the effectiveness of saturated buffers in reducing nutrient loading from tile drainage waters.

This demonstration builds on findings from 2012-15 and 2016-17 projects.

FSA has made significant investments through the Conservation Reserve Program at addressing nutrients, specifically nitrogen, reaching America's surface waters through the riparian buffer programs.

Riparian buffers have proven to be effective at removing nitrogen from surface flows, as well as shallow subsurface groundwater.

But in the tile-drained landscape of the Midwest, a significant



portion of the nitrogen lost from agricultural fields does not have the opportunity to interact with the carbon rich buffers.

The goal of a saturated buffer system is to hydrologically reconnect a subsurface drainage outlet with an edge-of-field buffer. This practice takes advantage of both the de-nitrification and plant nutrient uptake opportunities that are known to exist in buffers with perennial vegetation.

Drainage Management Coalition worked with FSA to monitor seven Midwest saturated buffer sites in Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota from October 2017 through August 2018.

The seven saturated buffers had an average nitrate-N concentration reduction ranging from 41 to 98 percent during the monitoring period. Nitrate load reductions ranged from 10 to 194 pounds.

The average cost of installation was \$3,584 for the seven monitored saturated buffers, and they have operated at an efficiency of \$1.22/pound of N removed over the 20 collective site years of monitoring.

With a median cost per pound N removed value of \$1.22,

Riparian buffers have proven to be effective at removing nitrogen from surface flows, as well as shallow subsurface ground water.

saturated buffers are one of the most cost-efficient nitrogen removal practices.

The relatively low installation costs, long expected lifespan and minimum maintenance make the practice a low risk option to reach nutrient removal goals.

The coalition also contracted with the Department of Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to develop a decision support tool to identify sites that will likely provide cost-effective locations for saturated buffer installations in the Midwest.

This step-wise model revealed a conservative estimate of 46,920 miles of cumulative stream bank suitable for saturated buffers.

This study once again exhibited that saturated buffers are a cost-effective method in remov-

ing nitrogen.

The developed decision support tool exhibited, in a conservative manner, that saturated buffers could potentially be installed to treat nearly 9.5 million acres of tile-drained Midwest land and remove 5 to 10 percent of the tile contributed nitrate-N load (or 2 to 5 percent of the overall load) delivered to the Gulf of Mexico.

Enhancing a standard buffer with a saturated buffer where possible could remove approximately 13 times the annual amount of N, while making the practice six to 10 times more efficient in terms of cost per pound of N removed.

To view the full research report and find additional information and videos pertaining to saturated buffer systems, please visit www.saturatedbufferstrips.com.

GROW YOUR PROFITS THROUGH CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION & GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Rural Land Use/Building Permits
- Individual Septic Treatment System Permits
- Feedlot Permits
- Well-Sealing Cost Share
- State Cost Share for Agricultural Conservation Practices
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Ag Best Management Practices Loans
- Trees • Recycling
- Technical Assistance for Conservation Practices

Rock County Land Mgt./SWCD
311 W. Gabrielson Road, Luverne • 507-283-8862 • www.rockswcd.org

“Quality Auctions since 1988”

The most competitive, honest, quickest, fairest and fastest growing method in marketing.

Call today for a No Obligation Quotation.

Elbers Auction Service
“Quality Auctions Since 1988”
Your complete auction service • No sale too big or too small
PO Box 196 • Hills, MN 56138
office: 507-962-3433 • home: 507-962-3432 • cell: 507-920-6131
email: keith@realestateretrievers.com - www.elbersauction.com

AG FUELS ROCK COUNTY. WE FUEL AG.

Howes Oil Company has been delivering gas, diesel and diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) to farms in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota since 1938. When you need fuel or DEF this spring, please call us at

FUEL HOLLER 605-201-2391

‘Minnesota Corn Grows Minnesota’ shows impact of corn on state economy

By Lucas Peters
Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers Association

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) launched the “MN Corn Grows MN” initiative in 2017 to promote the importance of corn farming in our state with candidates for elected office and all Minnesotans.

The state’s corn growers took a comprehensive approach to accomplishing this goal, including farm visits and a larger campaign sharing the many ways our growers benefit the state we call home.

For Minnesota’s corn farmers, it was a fun story to tell.

To share a few examples, growers invest more than \$4 million annually through the corn check-off in research that shapes the future of agriculture and the way we use agricultural products. Fostering this innovation is vital to the economic development of our state.

Rock County alone produced more than \$82 million in corn crop value in 2017.

And the output by the state’s 24,000 corn farmers is a key contributor to the growth of rural communities statewide. Local co-ops grow with the health of their members, and Greater Minnesota’s \$2.1 billion ethanol industry requires a steady supply of corn bushels for long-term survival.

Rural city spending is buoyed by the economic contributions of corn-related taxes and sales. And people employed as part of our corn sector are vital contributors to Greater Minnesota businesses.

The state’s growers are also taking proactive efforts to become the most sustainable and environmentally responsible corn farmers in the nation.

Rock County alone produced more than \$82 million in corn crop value in 2017. And the output by the state’s 24,000 corn farmers is a key contributor to the growth of rural communities statewide. Local co-ops grow with the health of their members, and Greater Minnesota’s \$2.1 billion ethanol industry requires a steady supply of corn

Since 2014, Minnesota’s corn farmers have invested more than \$6 million of their own funds through the corn check-off in education and research that improves nitrogen management strategies to reduce nitrate loss in water.

To further fuel innovation, Minnesota Corn provides grants to farmers who would like to test an idea of their own. And the return on that investment has been phenomenal.

The state’s corn growers invested more than \$400,000 in farmer-led projects, including innovative fertilizer application techniques, novel approaches to planting cover crops and state-of-the-art irrigation.

Ahead of last November’s midterm elections, MN Corn Grows MN set out to increase awareness of these efforts with candidates for elected office.

Nearly 20 candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and the First Congressional District visited family corn farms for intimate conversation with a grower and their family.

By spending a couple of

hours on the farm, they were able to build relationships with candidates, who also gained a deeper understanding of the issues impacting rural communities.

MN Corn Grows MN also

reached the general public via MNCornGrowsMN.org. At the website, the importance of corn farming was shared with Minnesotans through blogposts, videos and infographics.

Each highlighted the impact of farmers in promoting rural development, building relationships abroad, investing in conservation-minded research and much more.

The message of how MN Corn Grows MN has helped promote the impact of corn farming in our state with newly elected officials and beyond.

The state’s corn growers will continue to build on these efforts and share how we are building a more sustainable future for families in Rock County and for all Minnesotans.



HENDEL

Landscaping & Seeding

SPRING IS THE BEST TIME FOR SEEDING YOUR LAWNS, ACREAGES AND GROVES.

- Complete Landscaping and Seeding
- Commercial or Residential Services
- Hydro Seeding • Sodding • Over Seeding
- Retaining Walls • Paver Patios • Ponds • Custom Tilling

Jason Hendel, owner (507) 920-5153 Adrian, MN 56110



Year-end tax planning can *save you dollars!*

PLAN AHEAD!

Call today for an appointment.

Luverne 507-283-4055 Pipestone 507-825-4288

Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co., PLLP

Certified Public Accountants
P.O. Box 685, 109 S. Freeman, Luverne, MN 56156
P.O. Box 707, 216 E. Main, Pipestone, MN 56164

EXPERIENCED TAX PREPARERS WITH OFFICES IN PIPESTONE, LUVERNE, TYLER, LAKE WILSON AND MARSHALL

New Clients Welcome!

- Tax planning & preparation
- Electronic tax filing available
- Agri-plan™ - pretax medical deductions
- Accounting, Payroll & Bookkeeping services

MAKE AN IMPACT

with **ADS** in the **STAR HERALD**

Advertise today
283-2333

W&N Construction

TOM WALKER 507-283-3999
BRYCE NIESSINK

- Demolition
- Road Grading
- Dirt & Gravel, Rock
- Excavation
- Dozer Work
- Trucking



Free Estimates



Web - w-and-n-construction.com
email - wnconst@hotmail.com
1275 101st St. Luverne, MN 5156



100 YEARS

Minnesota Farm Bureau

Farmers • Families • Food

1919 - 2019

fbmn.org

info@fbmn.org

651-768-2100







How To Cut Up a Chicken

Grandma knows best when it comes to getting the most from your grocery dollar and having knife skills. Today convenient precut chicken can be handy, but it makes more sense to learn to cut your own. It's easier than you think, and you save money!

- Pat dry chicken with paper towel. Place chicken breast-side-up and first remove the whole legs (drumsticks with thighs attached). Make a slit just behind the drumstick separating the drumstick and the breast, just cutting through the skin to expose the meat underneath. Pull leg away from the chicken and pop hip bone out of it's socket just below the breast. Cut with a knife just past the joint, getting as much meat as possible including small meaty "oyster" section next to the tail.
- To separate drum from thigh, cut along the fat line and you should cut right between the joints - if you feel resistance, shift your knife around until it slides through fairly easily.
- Place breast side up with wings away from you. To remove the wings: feel for the joint then cut through the skin and through the joint (not the bone) - shift knife around slightly if you get resistance until it goes through easily. Pull wing up away from chicken for greater control while cutting.
- To remove the chicken breast: Turn chicken on it's side and cut along fat line on the side of chicken carcass with kitchen shears, snipping right through the ribcage.
- To debone chicken breast, cut through center of the skin over the chicken breast - locate the breastbone and cut the chicken away from the bone with long strokes (not a sawing motion) and cut all the way down which should completely debone the chicken breast.

Herbed Slow-Cooker Chicken

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 whole or quartered frozen chicken
- 1 cup chicken broth or 7-up

In a small bowl, combine the first eight ingredients; rub over chicken. Place in a crockpot; add broth. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or until chicken is tender.

Freeze option: Freeze extra chicken in freezer containers. To use, warm up in your microwave or use in other chicken recipes.

What do the labels mean?

Natural

Though not clearly defined, the guiding principle says it shouldn't contain anything artificial or synthetic.

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Hormone Free

Every living thing contains hormones. The added use of hormones or growth promotants in pork and poultry production is illegal.

Source: Best Food Facts

Antibiotic Free

Is your food still safe if it doesn't contain this

label? Yes. All food is tested safe before it goes to the grocery store. Meat and milk go through withdrawal times after an animal has been given antibiotics for an illness. Meaning, it is free from ALL antibiotics of concern.

Source: The American Meat Science Association

Non-GMO

The are only 11 genetically modified crops commercially available today: sweet and field corn, soybeans, cotton, canola, alfalfa, sugar beets, papaya,

potatoes, squash, arctic apples,* innate potato* and aquabounty salmon*.

*Indicates it is approved, but not yet available to consumers.

Source: Best Food Facts

Organic

Those who sell their product as "certified organic" meet specific criteria and keep records to comply with organic regulations that are developed by an advisory board and the public. "Certified Organic" and "Natural" are not interchangeable labels.



The Impact Of Agriculture

From our nation's earliest days, Agriculture has played a major role in the United States economy. **America's Farmers and Ranchers cultivate the soil, plant the crops and raise the livestock necessary for our nation's food supply.**

Today more than 21 million American workers produce, process and sell the nation's food and fiber. As an Ag Bank, we consider it a privilege to be involved in financing agriculture. If we can be of help to you, come see us.



State Bank of Lismore

www.statebankoflismore.com



Member FDIC



ADD VALUE TO THE TOP

Contact Pat at 605-212-9700 for a free estimate or to schedule an appointment!

Providing exceptional insulation services for residential, commercial and agricultural projects.



FOURWAYINSULATION.com

www.fourwayinsulation.com
903 Walnut Ave. Luverne
866-752-3865
507-449-0315



Spring planting is just around the corner... drive safely.

Minnesota farmers CARE ... about animals and their care

- Ethical animal care is a top priority for Minnesota farmers and ranchers. It's the right thing to do, and it keeps the animals safe, healthy and disease-free.
- Healthy animals are essential to producing safe, high-quality food.
- We have zero tolerance for willful acts of neglect or abuse of animals.
- Farmers and ranchers continually explore and adopt improved animal care methods.

... about the environment

- As farmers who live on or near the land that our families farm, we understand the importance of protecting our natural resources.
- Through today's conservation and tillage practices, farmers and ranchers are reducing the loss of soil, therefore protecting lakes and rivers.
- Farmers work with government agencies and researchers to develop new technologies to conserve natural resources and protect the environment.
- Farmers provide habitat for 75 percent of the nation's wildlife.
- America's farmers and ranchers take their commitment to the land stewardship very seriously.

... about food production, safety

- Farmers are committed to providing a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.
- Farmers have done a good job, and we will continue to look for opportunities to improve food quality and food safety.
- More than 21 million American workers, 15 percent of the total workforce, produce, process and sell the nation's food and fiber.
- As farmers, our job is to provide consumers with the highest quality, health food possible. Growing and raising wholesome, safe food is our top goal.

... about today's families

- Today's American farmer feeds about 154 people worldwide. In 1960, the number was 46.
- Individuals, family partnerships or family corporations farm 97 percent of U.S. farms.
- More than 3 million people farm or ranch in the United States.

Farming is a tradition that has been passed down for generations. Today's farmers are committed to preserving and enhancing this tradition for generations to come.

Hurry to get yours!

New Twin Homes



Two Twin Homes Still Available in Round Wind Estates - Going Fast!

From new homes, garages, fellowship halls, offices, pole buildings, farm shops, cattle barns, remodels, twin homes (or whatever our clients want built, we have the crew to get it done.

Cleveringa Construction is also transitioning to the next generation as current employees Adam Uithoven and Derek Sandbulte prepare to take over the business from founders Merlin and Carol Cleveringa.

All the full- and part-time employees of Cleveringa Construction are very dedicated to their jobs. Their work is above and beyond what customers expect, assuring them a successfully completed project.

"As the business transition takes place, we want to thank all of our first-time and repeat customers and extend a hand to new customers as Cleveringa Construction moves forward.

"The Good Lord has blessed us very well. Remember to give thanks for all you have." - Merlin and Carol Cleveringa

Residential



Agricultural



- Renovations
- Remodels
- New Construction
- Computer Assisted Design
- Shops
- Cattle Buildings



CLEVERINGA

CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Merlin Cleveringa, *owner*
Luverne, MN
mccleveringa@gmail.com
507-920-5631

Adam Uithoven
507-227-1770

Derek Sandbulte
507-227-1065

cleveringaconstruction.com | Lic. #BC-690592

SUPPORTING A STRONG FARM ECONOMY



The Luverne Farm Store is a proud supporter of all our local swine producers. We continue to focus our efforts toward bringing new technology in Feed Premixes, Animal Health Products, Advancing Barn Efficiencies, and Livestock Marketing to our local producers. The Luverne Farm Store applauds the efforts of all area farmers in utilizing local livestock manure as an innovative method of fertilization. We look forward to providing more value-added services to local farmers, as we all work to protect our environment and strengthen our local farming economy.

A Feed for any need!



70 years of providing many quality products with outstanding customer service.

**Thank
You!**

We thank all of our customers for their business & support. It will be our pleasure to again work with all of you in the months ahead. We look forward to serving you during this upcoming spring season.



**S. Highway 75 • Luverne, MN
507-283-9555 • 1-800-956-9556**

www.luvernefarmstore.com

