

HARVEST DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2018

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
TO THE GLENCOE ADVERTISER
& RENVILLE COUNTY SHOPPER



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The McLeod County Chronicle & Renville County Register

Tariffs Result Is Lower Prices

By Rich Glennie
Correspondent

As fast as the news can be cycled, things change in the world of international trade and tariffs. What was news one day has changed considerably several days later.

And to make matters more complicated, there is the instance in which tariffs on Mexican fruit can have two very different impacts on both ends of the United States.

In the Aug. 19 Star Tribune article on the impacts of the trade war with Mexico, Florida fruit growers, long angered over what they considered dumping of cheap fruits in the U.S. by Mexico, have sought the ability to legally halt that practice.

But if Mexico retaliates, fruit growers on the West Coast fear it will negatively impact their relationship with Mexican markets for their apples, pears, cherries and tomatoes. Mexico is the No. 1 market for West Coast fruit, the Star Tribune reported.

“There is no consensus among growers in the U.S. on this issue,” says Michael Camunez, CEO of Monarch Global Strategies and former assistant Commerce secretary, the Star Tribune reported.

Kent Beadle was pretty blunt, too: “Tariffs have resulted in lower prices (for producers). They harm farmers and ranchers and the rural economy.” Beadle, director of Risk Consulting Services, CHS Hedging, made his comments before a Farmfest audience in early August.

But, he added, the tough trade talk of President Donald Trump and his adminis-



Kent Beadle at Minnesota Farmfest 2018.

tration has forced trading partners back to the negotiating table in an effort to establish a fairer playing field on the world market for American goods, including those produced in Minnesota, especially agricultural goods.

Many in the agricultural community are staying the course with President Trump’s tough-minded strategy. That was the general sentiment at Farmfest, and several weeks later at places like the Iowa State Fair, where other Midwest farmers agreed.

Many in the farm community are will-

ing to take the short-term pain caused by foreign retaliatory tariffs for the long-term gain of a better, and fairer, trade policy.

For that to happen, however, those major American trading partners — the European Union, NAFTA partners Canada and Mexico, as well as China, the biggest purchaser of soybeans from the United States — need to renegotiate.

President Trump and his negotiators think slapping tariffs on foreign goods will get it accomplished, but it is a risky maneuver.

Farmfest

Beadle, the keynote speaker on the first day of the annual Farmfest gathering near Morgan, Minn. entitled his talk “World Trade and Its Impact on U.S. Supply and Demand.”

“I can easily say the most important market for U.S. products is the Chinese soybean market,” Beadle said. The current administration campaigned on the idea of renegotiating trade deals, he said, and after the election “it has done so.”

The trade war set off by the Trump administration’s 25 percent tariff on steel products, including automobiles, set off retaliatory tariffs on American goods overseas, including farm commodities like corn and soybeans. That, in turn, has put American farmers in a pinch.

Beadle said the European Union, while not our biggest trading partner, does import a lot of American products. The American steel tariffs were met with retaliatory tariffs of up to 25 percent on American exports in July.

The same with America’s partners in the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). “NAFTA is important because Canada is the biggest importer of U.S. agricultural products. Mexico is No. 3, especially pork,” Beadle said. Canada imports about \$28 billion in U.S. agricultural products and Mexico about \$18 billion. Both Canada and Mexico slapped retaliatory tariffs on American goods.

Tariffs

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Tariffs Continued from page 3

The Trump administration wants to renegotiate NAFTA, first with Mexico and then with Canada. NAFTA negotiations are ongoing, Beadle said.

As of late August, Rich Feltes of R. J. O'Brien said U.S. and Mexican officials are currently in the third week of negotiations. Feltes told the Linder Farm Network, recently, that hopefully something can get done on a new trade deal by the end of August. That could lead to renewed trade talks and would pressure Canada to get the Canadians to budge from their tough position on NAFTA.

But one of the stumbling blocks is the U.S. demand that the NAFTA be renegotiated every three years. "Our trading partners are against that," Beadle said.

The No. 2 importer of American agricultural products is China, Beadle said. They import about 60 percent of the U.S. soybeans each year.

But Trump slapped \$38 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods coming into the U.S., and China retaliated with \$38 billion in tariffs on American goods, especially on soybeans and other U.S. agricultural products.

Trump then "upped the ante," Beadle said, with a second round of tariffs on Chinese goods that total over \$200 billion. "The Chinese have threatened, and have since retaliated by imposing new tariffs on a similar amount of American products.

Feltes told the Linder Farm Network that low-level Chinese delegates have come to the U.S. to talk trade, or at least for a renewal of discussions. He said the

markets are hopeful, "it will lead to something." But Feltes predicted President Trump will remain tough in order to get the best possible deal.

But Feltes added the Chinese have \$60 billion in tariffs "waiting in the wings to slap on the United States."

Beadle said another major trade issue with the Chinese is over "intellectual properties" that the U.S. accuses the Chinese of stealing from American businesses and industries. "These are very difficult issues. They're negotiating, but it's very unclear. They're trying to head off a trade war; I hope they can get to that point."

U.S. corn and soybeans

U.S. corn exports have been trending lower and the last 10 years has averaged about 15 percent of the world's corn exports. Beadle said instead of exporting more corn, the U.S. is using more corn domestically, especially in the processing of ethanol.

The main beneficiary of the U.S. market share loss is Ukraine, which together with Russia have about one-third of the world's export market now. Brazil and Argentina are the other major exporters.

"Soybeans are a very important commodity," Beadle said. The U.S. has held about 50 percent of the market share for years. But Brazil, in particular, has been increasing its production and has the ability to open up more acreage. "Soybean exporting is a two-country game," Beadle said. "The United States and Brazil."

Argentina also is a major player in soybean exports, but is more involved in soybean oil and soybean meal. A drought last year in Argentina found the U.S. filling

that gap in supply, Beadle said.

China is Brazil's leading client for soybeans, too, Beadle added. "China is a huge market for us."

As to the wheat export market, Beadle said it is a competitive field of about eight countries: U.S. and Canada in North America; European Union and Russia in Europe; and Australia and Argentina in the southern hemisphere. Canada is the largest wheat producer.

Beadle said while the U.S. is growing less wheat, its export percentage remains high.

Impact of the tariffs

So what is the impact of the tariffs on U.S. agriculture?

Beadle said the U.S. has lost about 80 cents on corn futures since May, but has since recovered about half that loss. The same with soybeans.

"The biggest impact will be this year's soybean harvest," Beadle said. "If there is no deal with the Chinese, the impact will be huge." Currently, the West Coast soybean market is not good because of all the uncertainty. The new crop will soon be here, and the needed rail freight needs to be secured. If there is an agreement with China soon, it will still take time to get the soybeans to China by rail to the West Coast and on ships from there, he stressed.

If not done soon, the late September shipments could be lost and the October shipments could be in jeopardy, Beadle noted. Brazil could pick up more of the Chinese market.

But Beadle said if that happens, it will deplete Brazil's soybean supply. "It will take Brazil time to fill its pipeline." The U.S. could fill that gap temporarily.

In the long-term, Beadle predicted more stress on the ag economy. If the trade war drags on a long time, that could open up more production throughout the world.


Assistance for farmers

The Trump administration's announced plan for a \$12 billion assistance program for U.S. farmers to offset the losses due to tariffs has received mixed reviews.

Details of how the program will be handled "are difficult to come by," Beadle said, but the program will be a benefit to producers. Beadle said he would encourage everyone involved to find a solution to the trade war.

"All producers prefer free and open markets, but this (\$12 billion program) might help producers get over the short-term hump and short-term pain. American farmers are the best ag competitors in the world," Beadle said.





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Johnson Farms began with 160 acres south of Hector that Frank A. Johnson purchased in 1898. His two sons, Ellsworth and Roy, joined him in the farming operation and helped with the purchase of more land.

When Roy's son, Frank O. Johnson, wanted to be part of the farming business, Ellsworth moved to Hector and started Johnson Realty. Roy and Frank farmed together until 1951 when Frank purchased land north of Hector and started his own farm. In 1966, Frank's son, Larry, returned home to farm with him. In 1995, Larry's son, Deron, returned to the farm after graduating from the University of Minnesota.

Frank Johnson has been retired for 20 years. Larry and his wife, Kathy, are semi-retired and Deron and his wife, Sally, are continuing on with the family farm tradition.

Johnson Farms currently raises corn, soybeans, and sugar beets; it has a long history of growing sweet corn and peas. Johnson Farms has been blessed with many valuable employees over the years.

Besides farming, the Johnson family has been very involved in community events and organizations. Frank O. was a founding member of the Southern Minnesota Sugar Beet Cooperative, serving as President and Chairman in the 1970s. Larry also served in leadership of the cooperative. Johnson Farms is a member of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the MN Corn and Soybean Associations, Heartland Corn Products and Pro Ag of Renville County. They are members of the Corn & Soybean Growers Associations, Pro Ag of Renville



Photo by Dick Hagen

(l-r): Brooke, Sally, Deron, Frank, Carter and Larry Johnson.

County, and Heartland Corn Products. In 2014 & 2015, Deron attended and graduated from the Executive Program for Agricultural Producers (TEPAP) in Austin, Texas. His graduating class established a scholarship to attend this program after a classmate's death. Deron chairs the scholarship committee and to date three recipients have attended TEPAP. Deron also currently enjoys serving on the U of M Fan

Advisory Board recently created by Athletic Director Mark Coyle.

The Johnson's have also been an ac-

tive and financial participant in Relay for Life of Renville County in an effort to eradicate cancer.

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Photo by Luke Stadther

The "Protecting Minnesota Water Resources... Public Concern and Landowner Implications" panel at Farmfest. Pictured (l-r): Don Wick (moderator), Dennis Anderson (Star Tribune), Tom Landwehr (MN DNR), Bill Weber (MN State Senator, R-22), Warren Formo (MN Ag Water Resource Coalition), Thom Peterson (MN Farmers Union) and Amber Hanson-Glaeser (MN Farm Bureau).

Contemplating Minnesota's clean water future

By Luke Stadther
Sports Writer

Clean water has been an often discussed topic around the United States as people become more aware of the ways we are impacting our aquifers. Minnesota is no exception. The state government has made moves over the past few years which include the Buffer Law, signed into law in 2015. Another rule, this issued by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), is the Groundwater Protection Rule. The rule does not go into effect until 2020, but the initial response from the agricultural community was not pleasant. This year the government also appropriated \$211 million to water resource activities from the Clean Water Fund. The allocation of funds is included in Governor Mark Dayton's An Opportunity Agenda for a Better Minnesota. All of this activity brings with it a lot of questions and Farmfest was a place to get some answered by knowledgeable experts this month.

The round-table event at Farmfest had leaders from government agencies, the press and private entities all with a

vested interest in the water quantity and quality of our state. Don Wick was the moderator for the event and he was joined on stage by: Tom Landwehr, MN DNR commissioner, Warren Formo, executive director of the Minnesota Ag Water Resource Coalition, Bill Weber, State Senator for District 22, Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union Government relations director, Amber Hanson-Glaeser, Minnesota Farm Bureau director of public policy and Dennis Anderson, outdoor columnist from the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

While introducing the panel, Wick asked each of them a question tailored to their expertise. Landwehr was one of the first people introduced and he explained the role of agriculture in water quality.

He started by explaining how much of who we are as a state is centered around water. We are the Land of 10,000 Lakes and one of the country's leaders in agriculture. Many of our jobs and communities have ties to our water-ways. One of the biggest and most well-known of those water-ways is the Mississippi River which originates in the heart of the state. Landwehr explained how, since the Water Act of 1973, the Mississippi River has been cleaned up and has recovered from the dumping of toxic waste prevalent through that time.

As for agriculture's role, Landwehr said, "The majority of farmers care and

make decisions to conserve water. With talks now about getting our drinking water from the Missouri River in South Dakota everyone needs to do their part. I think it is untenable that we would be importing our drinking water."

Clean Water
Turn to page 8



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Clean water: variety of stakeholders coming together to protect, restore resource Continued from page 7

State Senator Bill Weber made opening comments about the role of the government in our water supply. He closed his statements with a stinging rebuke of the Buffer Law which he believes is unconstitutional.

"We don't solve our water quality issue in the last 50 feet. We solve it at the top of the hill. And we won't solve this by taking the land from the farmers; we will need to work with them," remarked Weber.

Hanson-Glaeser spoke about her work at Minnesota Farm Bureau where they are keeping up-to-date on all the issues on water. One such rule, The Clean Water Rule, issued in 2015 has been going through the courts, legislation and agencies. Keeping track of these rules and when they go into effect is important. Before that happens MN Farm Bureau actively tries to bring in stakeholders and states to help clarify the rules for an easy transition.

Dennis Anderson's perspective on the situation is there are three communities with a vested interest: farmers, environmentalists and sportsmen. He feels the water quality and quantity issue will play out politically but also will come from a place of desperation, and if you farm, it will affect you.

During the panel discussion both Weber and Landwehr helped explain some of the governmental side of the water issue. Weber walked the audience

through the role of the Clean Water Legacy Fund which goes into a variety of issues. The monies in the fund comes from a sales tax proposed by an amendment on the Clean Water Legacy Act of 2006.

Thirty-three percent of that tax is allocated to the Clean Water Fund. Those funds are specifically used to protect, enhance and restore water quality across Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams. The money is also used to help protect the groundwater from degradation.

Landwehr spoke at length about the different agencies involved with the state's water supply.

"Water is an important issue and they have spread administrative duties across many agencies," commented Landwehr.

Among those agencies, the DNR, which Landwehr is part of, focuses on water quantity. The MDA is focused on the quality of the groundwater while other agencies focus on surface water and water-way preservation.

After more discussion by the panel they opened up the forum to field questions from the audience. The first came asking for comments on the balance between regulation and best management practices.

Anderson began answering by stating that the idea farmers are the problem behind the water quality issues is wide spread even though it may not be the entire truth. He thinks farmers will need to

play the hand they are dealt though since there are more people populating the cities. Anderson thought that eventually the policy will come against farmers.

Weber added he felt the farming community was willing to work together with others to preserve our natural resources through CRP and other programs. The main issue with these programs, at least up to this point, he said, is the State of Minnesota is, more often than not, a lousy neighbor.

Landwehr finished the answer by saying, "With all ventures the goal is to change behavior. This process starts with education. Then the government tries to incentivize and lastly comes regulation. For the most part we know what is the right thing so it is better to do the right thing."

Another question from the audience was about working with the different agencies when trying to do best farming practices but the agencies themselves do not agree.

Thom Peterson said this is much of what his agency, the Minnesota Farmers Union does. They help farmers connect with the different agencies involved and get them headed down the right track.

Other questions from the audience included how to clean up the groundwater once it is contaminated, will it ever get to a point where we can be farmers and conservationists and how can trust between landowners and agencies be re-

stored?

Warren Formo said, "The good news is products farmers are using now rarely surpass the reference values we have set. These products are not showing up in either the surface water or the groundwater."

Landwehr added, "The important part is to make changes before we contaminate the groundwater because once we get polluted groundwater it is a bearcat to clean up."

As for restoring the trust, Landwehr said, "Any time there are unwanted regulations the public trust erodes, but there is not a lot of discretion in the laws on the books."

Landwehr encouraged people to use the court system whenever they feel their government is overstepping.

"The court system is intended to keep your government and its agencies in check," remarked Landwehr.

The discussion will continue on the topic of water quality and quantity over the coming years. Some of those decisions could have massive implications for the farming communities in Minnesota. The panel suggested people stay vigilant and watch how the money in the Clean Water Fund is spent. They also implored people to keep their eye on the things coming down the pipeline and to submit their comments to help guide the legislation.

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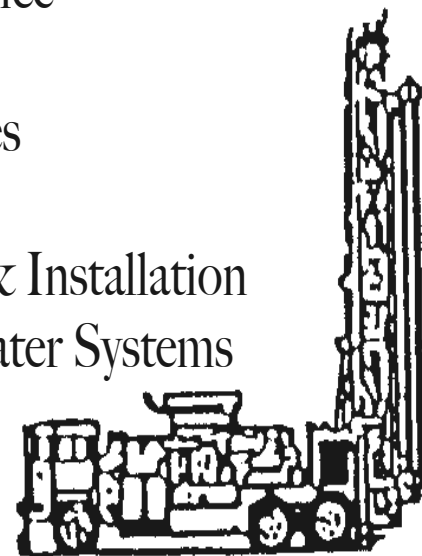


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THURS, AUG. 23, 2018, 10:00 A.M.

CLEAN FARM EQUIPMENT
 RETIREMENT AUCTION
 JOHN DEERE 4650 2WD, JOHN DEERE 4455 2WD & 4240 TRACTORS, JOHN DEERE 9500 COMBINE & HEADS, 2005 IHC SINGLE AXLE SEMI TRUCK AND MAUER SINGLE AXLE GRAIN TRAILER, ALLIED 595 LOADER, FARM & TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

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WEDS, AUG. 29, 2018, 10:00 A.M.

CLEAN FARM EQUIPMENT
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 CASE IH 8940, 8920 & 7230 MFWD TRACTORS, CASE IH 2166 2WD COMBINE & HEADS, GRAIN TRUCKS, GRAIN DRYER & GRAIN BINS, CLEAN FARM & TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

DENNIS & KAREN BARTA

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BELGRADE/PADUA, MN

THURS, AUG. 30, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

STEARNS CO. FARM LAND AUCTION
 153.97 ACRES OF PRIME STEARNS CO. FARM LAND LOCATED IN SECTIONS 20 & 21, RAYMOND TWP, T-125-N, R-35-W.

ERIC & STACY STALBOERGER

LAKE LILLIAN, MN

TUES, SEPT. 4, 2018, 10:30 A.M.

IH 1086, IH 986, WD 45, (2) SMALL FORD TRACTORS, NH 855 RD BALER, NH HAYBINE, FLATBED TRAILERS, FARM EQUIP., (2) TRAILER HOUSES TO BE MOVED OR DISMANTLED, BOATS, CAMPER, GUN SAFE, WOODWORKING & SHOP TOOLS, COLLECTIBLE FARM EQUIP., GROVE MACHINERY, SCRAP IRON, MUCH MORE

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LAKE LILLIAN, MN



WATKINS, MN

WEDS, SEPT. 5, 2018, 5:30 P.M.

14246 KRAMER RD, WATKINS, MN
 FARM SITE WITH OUTBUILDINGS
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THURS, SEPT. 6, 2018, 10:00 A.M.

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FRI, SEPT. 7, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

LARGE MULTI-PARCEL FARM LAND AND BUILDING SITE AUCTION
 668.58 ACRES OF PRIME CHIPPEWA CO. FARM LAND AND BUILDING SITE

ODELL SCHALLER ESTATE

GRANITE FALLS, MN

MON, SEPT. 10, 2018, 10:00 A.M.

COLLECTIBLE FARM EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, LAWN AND GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD

HAROLD DAHL ESTATE

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WILLMAR/KANDIYOHI, MN

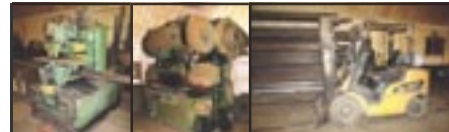
WEDS, SEPT. 12, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

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MON, SEPT. 17, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

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WILLMAR, MN

TUES, SEPT. 18, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

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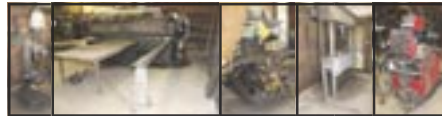
OPENS: FRI, SEPT. 7, 12:00 NOON

STARTS CLOSING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 10:00 A.M.

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WEDS, NOV. 28, 2018, 11:00 A.M.

KANDIYOHI CO. FARM LAND AUCTION
 138.71 ACRES IN SECTION 2, ST. JOHN'S TWP, T-119-N, R-36-W, KANDIYOHI COUNTY, GOOD HEAVY KANDIYOHI CO. SOILS.

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Luthens family named McLeod County Farm Family of the Year

The Luthens family of Hutchinson has been named McLeod County's "2018 Farm Family of the Year" by the University of Minnesota.

The Luthens' Skyview Dairy was started by Daryl Luthens in 1968 with seven cows. Over time the farm went through a series of expansions bringing the current milking herd to about 1,400 cows. The family farms 3,500 acres and feeds most of the grain they grow to their livestock. As the farm grew, so did the family and all family members became involved.

The farm is currently owned by Daryl and his sons, Shane, Brandon, Justin and Garrett. Justin and his fiancée, Megan, have a son, Milo. Justin heads up agronomy work on the farm and Megan helps in the office and with field work. Garrett and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Annabelle and Micah. Garrett manages farm operations and Melissa handles the finances.

Justin and Daryl Luthens are members of the McLeod County Fair Board. Garrett serves on the board of Minnesota Milk Producers Association and chairs the group's policy committee. Garrett is a member of the Hutchinson Joint Planning Board and helps with Cub Scout activities. Melissa serves on the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee and is a Girl Scout troop leader. Daryl is a veteran of the National Guard.

Skyview Dairy hosts tours with a goal of educating more people about dairy farming. The Luthens partner with the University of Minnesota Veterinary School in teaching and research programs. The dairy received the Vet School's 2018 Dairy Appreciation Award.



The families were officially recognized in a ceremony Thursday, August 9 at the annual Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Minn. Profiles of the 2018 honorees and information on the recognition event can be found on the University's farm family website, <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/>. The Luthens Family was

also recognized at the beginning of the McLeod County Fair - 4-H Livestock Auction on Friday, August 17.

Families receiving honors were selected by their local county Extension committees and have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agriculture production.

Along with Farmfest, University units sponsoring the recognition event include University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.



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United States, farmers looking for a fair deal

By Scott Tedrick
Editor

Much uncertainty has arisen in farm country as a result of actions by the Trump administration to level the playing field with regard to inequalities in the trade relationships between the United States and other countries. During Farmfest, CHS Hedging Branch Manager and Russel Consulting Associate Patti Uhrich spoke to individuals seeking to gain clarity over the administration's actions and what it might mean for the future of farm country.

Uhrich began by providing an overview of existing United States grain production and then spoke about how administrative tariffs are impacting these markets in certain key countries.

U.S. grain exports:

Corn: at one time the United States exported as much as 67 percent of its corn crop. With the onset of the ethanol industry, however, the amount of domestic corn crop exports has been reduced to 15 percent.

Soybeans: the United States exports approximately 50 percent of its soybean production. At one point the U.S. was the largest soybean exporter but that claim is now owned by Brazil. Of the 50 percent of United States soybean crop exported, 60 percent goes to China.

Wheat: like soybeans, the United States, again, exports approximately 50 percent of its crop. Across the world wheat production is down due to production issues in Russia, the Ukraine and Australia.

Tariffs and negotiations

According to Uhrich, the Trump administration campaigned heavily in 2016 with respect to renegotiating trade deals.

"They put tariffs on steel and other goods," Uhrich said. "The strategy appears to be to use the tariffs as a tool to get countries to come negotiate with us with a goal to negotiate fair treatment of everyone involved."

To date, the jury is still out over the effectiveness of these actions and just what exactly their impacts to U.S. markets will be.

Tariffs on European steel and automo-

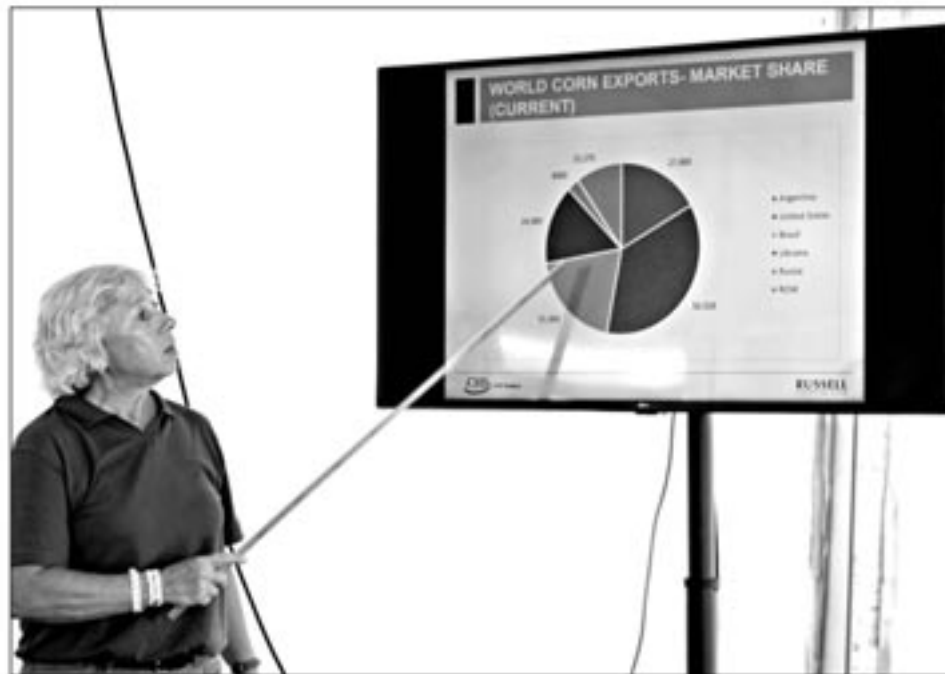


Photo by Scott Tedrick

Patti Uhrich, CHS Hedging Branch Manager Russel Consulting Associates explains the nuances of global politics as they relate to the domestic farm economy to Farmfest-goers earlier this month in Redwood Falls.

biles have resulted in a preliminary agreement between the United States and Europe. Europe, as a part of the deal, is supposed to agree to purchase some of the domestic production of soybeans.

Regarding NAFTA, Uhrich noted how the United States is presently in negotiations with Canada and Mexico. Canada is the number one importer of United States agricultural goods while Mexico, who Uhrich noted buys 90 percent of United States hams, checks in at number three. China sits at number two.

"The deal with Mexico is believed to be close. The administration is hopeful it will be penned and signed by end of August," said Uhrich. "With Canada negotiations there are few sticky points, one of those being the dairy industry. But things are being actively negotiated."

China

In China, the United States is working to come to terms with its second largest agricultural market and its strongest counterpart on the world stage. It sent a loud message when in mid-May it levied \$38 billion worth of tariffs Chinese imports.

China responded with tariffs on United State's goods, which invoked \$200 billion worth of tariffs by the Trump Administration on additional Chinese goods.

"That's when all of a sudden you saw our markets really lose ground," said Uhrich. "It's been kind of a tit-for-tat going back and forth, but things are actively being negotiated."

Uhrich went on to say that the outcome of the U.S. - Chinese negotiations may be impacted by a variety of variables from the inability of Brazil to meet all of Chinese soybean needs to the administration's focus on the protection of technological trademarks and the rights of U.S. firms to operate in China.

Present and future

Since the tariffs were instituted corn lost 80 cents of value, but in the last couple weeks recovered by 40 cents. Soybeans, on the other hand, slid \$2.35 but have rebounded by 40 cents, according to Uhrich.

"It's been a huge impact not only on our producers but also on all the fingers of

agriculture out there going into our small towns," she said.

Uhrich commented that the activities of the next few weeks will be crucial for dictating what happens with U.S. farmer grain markets.

"China typically takes a huge amount of soybeans in October, November and December, which is our harvest time. If we don't have agreement by Sept. 1 we won't be able to get beans in place for export because of logistics," she said. "You have to get your train set up, your shuttle train, your ocean freight in place and its a lot of logistics to get this done."

Uhrich also said Chinese and Brazil trade may create a "decent market" for soybeans around the months of March and April. Additionally, tight world corn and wheat stocks-to-use ratios The Corn stocks-to-use ratio is the tightest its ever been since 1973 to 1974 while the wheat stocks-to-use ratio is the tightest its been since 2007 and 2008.

In summary, Uhrich said tariffs and retaliations have resulted in lower prices which are hurting our producers and the farm economy. Without a trade deal, strain will continue to be put on farmers and produces and the entire ag economy. Additionally, it may provide an avenue for global competition to make inroads on markets.

Said Uhrich, "CHS encourages congress and administration to find a fair and open market for everyone involved."

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Opposing Views on Ag

By Rich Glennie
Correspondent

There should be no doubt that 7th District Congressman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and his Republican challenger David Hughes have opposing views. At a Farmfest candidate forum in early August, the differences were on display for all to see.

The forum also featured federal and state candidates for the November general elections. Besides Peterson and Hughes, the three-days of Farmfest forums featured eight candidates for other congressional races, the five hopefuls for the two U.S. Senate races as well as the Minnesota governor's race.

So what were the differences between Peterson, a 27-year congressman, and Hughes of Karlstad, who is making his second run at Peterson's seat?

Here are a few:

On trade issues, Peterson, the top Democrat on House agriculture Committee, said Congress has historically ceded the trade negotiations to the executive branch and its experts. But the Trump administration "has gone out unilaterally and gone opposite of our negotiators." He said that has caused concern about how that will play out in the ag sector.

"I hope I'm wrong, but I don't see a positive outcome of what we're doing now," Peterson said.

Hughes disagreed and said the Trump approach is gaining short-term leverage with an eye on long-term results for a better trade deal. "I'm confident Trump knows what he's going. I'm super positive of his policies right now."

The U.S. Senate passed the \$500 billion Farm Bill version, but the House version got bogged down, in particular over work requirements for people who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The House version of the Farm Bill would require recipients, who are capable, to work for their assistance checks.

Peterson said he does not support the House version of the bill. He said a work provision has been in the legislation since 1996, but "the problem is, we have waivers" for people to bypass the work requirement. "Why support something that does not work?"

He said his aim is to work on a bipartisan bill.

Hughes said he supports the House bill that requires any able-bodied recipient between the ages of 18 and 59 to work. He accused Peterson of "walking away from



Collin Peterson (left) and David Hughes (right) at Minnesota Farmfest 2018.

the (Farm Bill) process," for weeks and added, "I would never walk away from the Farm Bill like this gentleman did."

As to the \$12 billion plan to help U.S. ag producers weather the loss from the ongoing tariff war, Hughes said he supports the idea, but admitted there are not a lot of details available yet. "The president expects it to be a one-time deal."

"I think it will be a situation that causes as many problems as it solves," Peterson said the \$12 billion proposal. He said Congress has worked for many years to reduce dependence on ad hoc disaster relief, "and now we're back to it."

As to raising the cap on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Peterson said that was his bill in the House. He proposed an 80 percent cap, and the program would pay for most of the seeding and cover for the land taken out of production. "I'd like to see the cap go up," he said in efforts to protect wildlife and conservation efforts.

Hughes did not support raising the CRP cap. He favored a more limited role of government.

As to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) waivers for "big oil" companies, Peterson said Congress is still trying to get the Trump administration "to live up to what they promised in 2016."

Hughes said he supports the waiver concept, and he suggested there be a collaboration between the oil and ethanol industries. He said he "is a big fan of ethanol."

As to guest workers visas to address shortages of labor in agriculture, Hughes favored creating a program aimed at helping farmers, and he favored Congress strengthening the current guest worker program. "Congress should take a major role." Hughes also said Congress is a co-equal branch of government, "and should assert itself."

Peterson said he has been working on the issue for quite awhile and signed on with the Ag Legal Workforce Act. He said he has been working with Republicans on the visa bill.

As to the need to fund rural infrastructure needs, including roads as well as expanded broadband service, Peterson said,

"The problem is resources. How do you raise money to fix roads, locks and dams and railroads?"

He said he would favor a rise in the federal gas tax "if the funds are dedicated to transportation."

"I support more funding for rural transportation," Hughes said, "but I'd never support a gas tax hike. The problem is not federal revenues, rather it's federal spending."

He pointed to the state level that spent \$150 million on light rail, that could have been better used to repair the state's bridges and roads.

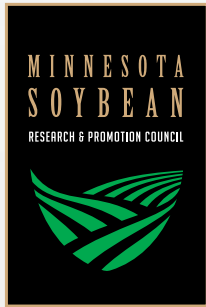
Other participants at the congressional candidates forum included: 6th District Congressman Tom Emmer, R-Minn., and his Democrat opponent Ian Todd; and 2nd District challenger Angie Craig, a Democrat. Incumbent Congressman Jason Lewis, R-Minn., could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. Also in attendance were 1st District Congressional District candidates Jim Hagedorn and state Sen. Carla Nelson, both Republicans, and Democrat Dan Feehan.

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With the initial curriculum complete, the **Waconia Ram Ag Team** will now participate in continuing education that extends their knowledge of everything important to **Minnesota** agriculture, as it happens in real time. Ongoing education, combined with what Specialists learned through the Ag Awareness curriculum, will allow this dealership to become an educated partner with area agriculture by proactively anticipating and meeting the changing demands of its family farm and ranch customers.

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Dieballs named Sibley County Farm Family of the Year



The Dieball Family of Green Isle has been named the 2018 Sibley County Farm Family of the Year. Dieball Dairy, which includes Karl and Rosemary Dieball and their children John and James and their families, produce milk and cash crops near Green Isle.

During World War II, the Dieball Family made their way across Europe as refugees and eventually came to the United States, starting Dieball Dairy when Karl was 6 years old. The current farm site was purchased in 1956 consisting of 125 acres and 6 dairy cows. The operation has grown over the years, and has been passed down to Karl and his brother in 1973, with Karl ultimately purchasing his brother's share in 1981. They currently milk 150 cows and raise 170 youngstock, in addition to growing corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

Karl and Rosemary's children, John and James, grew up working on the farm and have since gone to start families of their own. John lives on a farm south of the home place with his wife Jenny and 2 children, working off the farm in addition to a custom baling business. James lives and works on the farm with his wife Wendy and their 2 children and will continue running Dieball Dairy into future generations.

The Dieballs are quite involved in the community and dairy industry; holding membership in Minnesota Milk Producers Association, National Dairy Promotion Council, Minnesota Dairy Promotion Council, DHIA and Karl has served as a delegate for AgSource.

Representing agricultural achievement in diverse farming operations, over 80 families from throughout Minnesota are being honored as a 2018 Farm Family of the Year by the University of Minnesota.

The Dieball's were recognized Thursday, Aug. 9th, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest on the Gilfillan Estate near Redwood Falls. They were also recognized on Friday August 4th at the Sibley County Fair.

The annual Farm Family of the Year recipient is chosen locally by the Sibley County Extension Committee and is based on a candidate's demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and community involvement.

"The farm families receiving this year's honors exemplify what makes Minnesota agriculture strong. They bring innovation, science and hard work to farming. They care greatly about the land and animals and delivering quality products to consumers worldwide," said Bev Durgan, Dean of Extension. "The University of Minnesota takes great pride in honoring these families."



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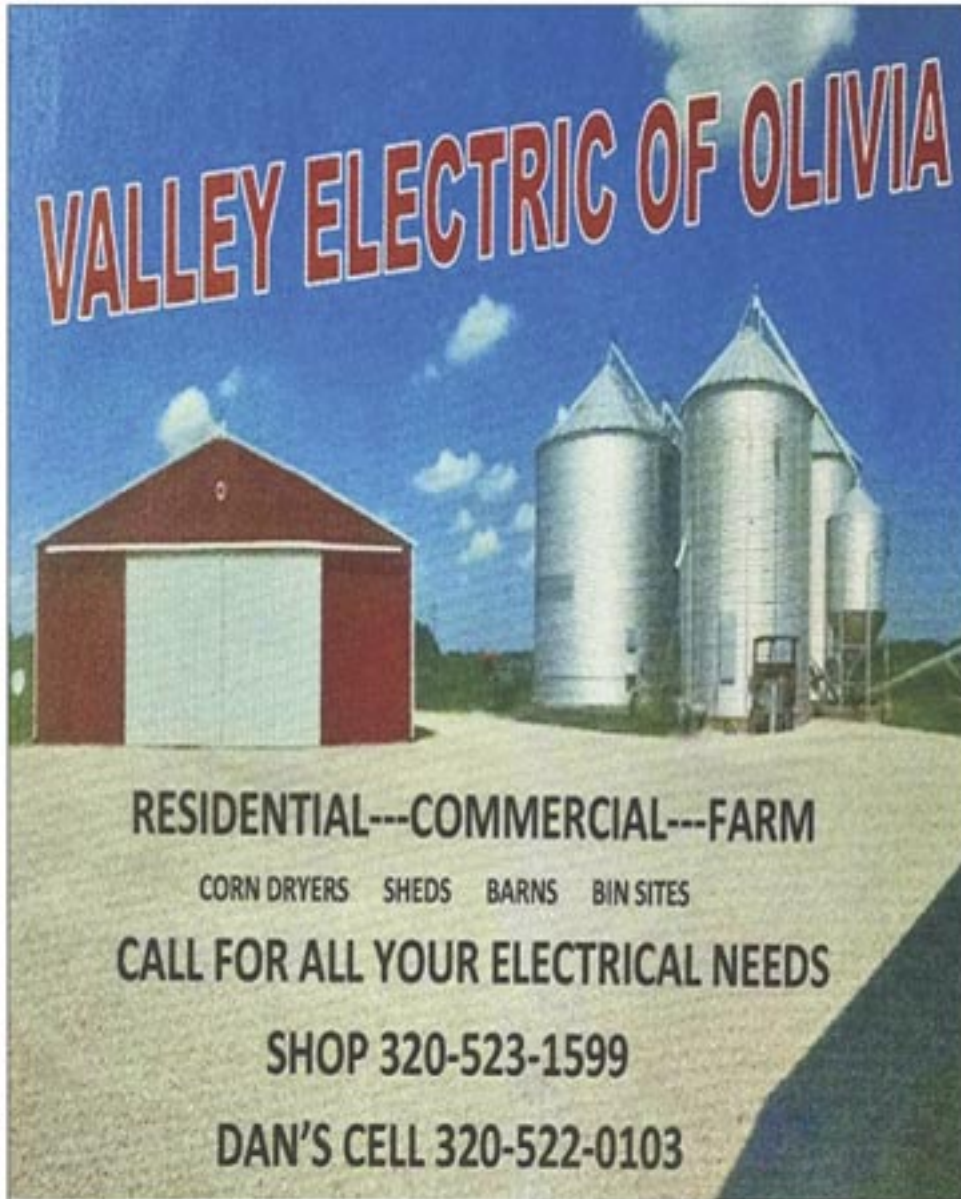
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Resources are available for farm families

By Ashley Alsum
Staff Writer

Low prices and rising expenses are leading to another down period for farmers all across the state. Stress levels are through the roof trying to manage a business, a family and pay back debts. With creditors looking to grab their share of profits, industry experts say now is the time we need to work together more than ever to support one another.

The third morning of the 2018 Farmfest was host to a panel full of resources for farm families struggling through tough times. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, U of M Extension, Rural Finance Agency, USDA FSA and Farmer-Lender Mediation Program were represented on the stage. All presenters were in agreement – times are tough right now but there are ways to work through it.

“There are a lot of resources out there for you,” said David Bau, U of M Extension Educator.

Yields will always vary so the panelists recommended farmers focus on marketing. Most of marketing is risk management. You may not always “win” but you can aim to break even. The last three years have seen better than normal yields but this year is looking to be lower than average. With the price volatility farmers have been burned either locking in prices two years ago or waiting until later this year. Bau said there was a short window available to lock in break even prices.

A major problem with the discrepancy in commodity prices has become cash flowing the farm operation. Assets are no good if they can't be used to pay the bills.

In an example from Mary Nell Preisler, State Director of the Farmer-Lender Mediation Program, she cited a case where a farm had a net worth of \$6.7 million, but they couldn't pay the local veterinarian. “They can't buy a cup of coffee, but they're worth \$6.7 million,” said Preisler.

In this case, the operation was not a candidate for bankruptcy due to their high net worth. Preisler said this is becoming a common occurrence. She's seen everything from hobby farms to large operations hit the wall. “And when a large one goes down, it takes a lot of others with them,” Preisler said, referring to local seed companies, veterinarians and other ancillary services.

Preisler cautioned a lack of cash flow



Photo by Ashley Alsum

Pictured (l-r): Moderator Kent Thiesse, Joe Martin, Ryan Roles, Mary Nell Preisler, David Bau, David Hesse and Megan Moynihan at a Thursday morning Farmfest panel called “Resources for Farm Families in Challenging Times.”

was not the only reason farmers end up using mediation programs. Divorce, a death in the family, a serious injury, car accident, cancer or any number of life occurrences can be enough to shift the dynamic of a farming operation. “We've never seen so many divorces due to stress come through the office,” Preisler said.

“We need to do a better job of helping each other,” said Megan Moynihan, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Program Coordinator. “We're all going through these things.”

Moynihan herself went through a crisis and ended up running an organic dairy farm on her own. The uncertainty of markets, finding workers and keeping the farm afloat brought her to the edge.

“It was an uphill battle. I went through a lot of extreme stress until it turned around,” Moynihan said.

Bringing that experience back to the Department of Ag, she urged others to use services available. Moynihan offered the Minnesota Farm & Rural Help Line (833-600-2670 x1) available 24/7 as a free and confidential way for farm families to talk through their stress. She also recommended Ted Matthews, a Rural Mental Health Counselor who works with farmers across the state. Matthews is funded through the legislature so his services come with no paperwork and no cost to those he helps. We Minnesota farmers are a proud bunch who often try to carry a burden on our shoulders which weighs more than we can carry. There is no shame in seeking assistance or advice. Matthews can be contacted at 320-266-2390.

To help alleviate some of the financial

burden, farm loans are available from places other than your local bank. The USDA Farm Service Agency provides both guaranteed and direct loans to farmers.

“Talking about finances is the most personal thing a farmer can do. We avoid it at all costs. That's not a good idea,” said Joe Martin, USDA FSA State Director.

Martin said it's never too early to start talking with someone about your finances. A good cash flow is still needed to offer loans and difficult decisions may need to be made about selling some assets to get the balance sheet back into the black.

The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program from the Department of Agriculture is another program where both parties are working together for the good of the farmer. Getting new farmers off to a positive start is crucial in the industry. Incen-

tives and tax credits are one way to overcome the hurdle of debt farmers face.

Many farmers in the area also could qualify for the Disaster Loan Recovery Program from the Rural Finance Agency. Due to the flood disaster being declared in the county, zero percent principal loans are available to assist with items not covered by insurance such as tile, field approaches, feed and fences.

These resources are some of many available through the USDA, Department of Agriculture and the U of M Extension Program. Programs and resources such as cash flow calculators, land rent guides and more can be found on the organization's websites or by calling for more information.



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Wind As An Energy Option

As both businesses and private citizens continue to look for alternative sources of energy to help the environment, wind continues to generate a back and forth discussion as to its efficacy as an energy solution. While there are pros and cons to wind, it's also important to note there are certain myths and misconceptions about wind that can cloud the discussion.

Before discussing the advantages and disadvantages of wind, it's helpful to examine certain elements of the argument that might be more rooted in myth than fact.

Myths About Wind

One of the more commonly cited issues surrounding the use of wind turbines to generate energy is their potentially harmful effects on avian life. In reality, wind turbines are much less harmful to birds than felines. According to HealthLink, a nonprofit organization dedicated to informing individuals about environmental risks to human health, studies have shown that wind turbines may be responsible for 1.5 to 2 deaths per year in most areas. Cats, on the other hand, are responsible for 8 to 10 bird deaths a year in most areas.

Another myth with regard to wind power is the safety risk of wind turbines should weather turn severe. While this was once a genuine concern, as wind turbine technology has evolved the safety risk has decreased significantly. Today's wind turbines are designed to prevent them from being active in severe weather, meaning there is essentially no turbinated-related risk to surrounding residents should a storm occur.

In addition to safety concerns, some homeowners are worried that wind turbines will increase their property taxes. This concern is rooted in fact, but not necessarily costly to homeowners. Wind turbines often do increase property value because they represent a means for homeowners to produce long-term income. However, the majority of land-lease agreements include provisions stating that the wind developer will cover any additional property taxes that result from the installation of a wind turbine.



Benefits of Wind Turbines

Arguably the greatest benefit of wind turbines is their environmental impact. Once the turbine has been constructed, its environmental impact is minimal. Wind turbines produce zero emissions, meaning there will be no CO₂, sulfur, particulates, or nitrogen oxide entering the atmosphere from wind turbines. And because environmental conditions have been linked to a host of medical maladies, it's safe to say wind turbines could help improve human health.

Another benefit of wind turbines is the potential financial benefits to homeowners who agree to lease their land to wind developers. While the amount a homeowner can earn depends on the size of the wind turbine and how productive it is, projects in Minnesota and Iowa saw landowners earn between 2 and 4 percent of the turbine's annual gross revenue. For a turbine that earns \$200,000 per year in gross revenue,

that's an annual payment of \$2,000 to landowners, a hefty windfall for homeowners, particularly in today's economy.

Reduced energy loss is another potential benefit of wind turbines. Energy is often lost via transfer through energy lines, with some estimates suggesting as much as 50 percent of all total energy is being lost to energy line transfers. Locally produced power, however, is much more efficient.

Disadvantages To Wind Turbines

One of the more widely cited disadvantages to wind turbines is the noise they create. Large-scale wind turbines, at the peak of their production, can be very noisy. However, today's turbines are much less noisy than those of yesteryear, often being compared to the noise generated from a modern refrigerator. In fact, the wind generated from today's turbines often drowns out the noise generated from the turbine itself.

The cost of wind turbines is commonly

considered the greatest disadvantage. This isn't a great concern for homeowners, as most wind turbines are owned by investors who then lease lands once the turbine has been built. However, the tenuous nature of the economy has led many investors to more closely examine where their money is going, and some investors might question if wind turbines are the best way to invest their money.

Safety also must be considered when considering the installation of a wind turbine. Large turbines could pose risks in areas with frequent air traffic. That's a genuine concern in rural areas, where small personal aircrafts are often employed for farming purposes.

To learn more about wind power, visit the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov.

Wind turbines can be an environmentally and financially beneficial resource to landowners.

Thank You Area Farmers!



Photo by Dick Hagen

Olivia farmer Jacob Mehlhouse.

First Jacob LG field day: Prognostications are for a 'wild harvest'

By Dick Hagen
Register Correspondent

Sounding much like a grizzled veteran of the seed corn world, Jacob Mehlhouse at his Aug. 16, LG seeds 'Dealer Day' commented, "We'll see everything this harvest. For what it's worth I think a lot of corn will get booked in the combine."

Tremendous diversity, even within the same field, is evidence Mother Nature was in a rainfall mode this spring. Every farmer in Renville County, perhaps across the nation, battled challenging rains before planting and continuing on through mid-June.

However Mehlhouse, age 22, also thinks a lot of guys won't book until December/January. "They want to see their harvest before they make decisions. We'll be seeing yield variations within the same field yield from 220 bu. plus to zero bushels. It's going to be a wild harvest."

Reflecting on his first 'dealer day' Mehlhouse said, "It was exciting. Lots of things to do. I'm just a beginner. Renville County is Minnesota's biggest corn production county so lots of competition and lots of smart and aggressive farmers too."

His show plot two miles south of Olivia adjacent to Hwy 71, has 15 LV varieties planted in 22-inch rows, 34,500 population. Twenty six people got the LG Seeds story plus a great lunch of grilled burgers and brats, baked beans, cucumber salad, potato chips, sweet corn, watermelon and Special K Bars. Lots of food talents in that Mehlhouse clan plus a helpful neighbor.

Said Jacob, "I'm thinking half the

Field Day

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Field Day: LG Seed and DJI Phantom drone showcased during Aug. field day event Continued from page 27

fun of this business is working with your neighbors and friends already in the business. Sure, competition is the nature of this business. Farmers can choose from several seed sources these days. Lots of good genetics out there regardless the brand name. But good service and friendship is the key. And I know there's room for the LG brand too!"

So how did LG and JM (Jacob Mehlhouse) get together?

He reflected, "It all started with an Email from a college professor at NDSU (Jacob graduates this Winter). Dr. Kurt Kyle sent me an email, perhaps to 50 other kids too. Basically it described this Internship opportunity with LG Seeds. I had thought I should do an internship but my main goal was to come home and farm. This internship lets me do both."

"So far It's been great. I spend about half my time at home and half with LG. The booking season has kicked into gear. Some dealers are hitting August pretty hard," summed up Mehlhouse. Yes, he's booking some sales before heading back to NDSU for his final semester. He reminded LG offers 'early order' discounts too. His phone: 320-522-2190. Or go: www.lgseeds.com.

Adding to the interest of the Mehlhouse Dealer Day event was a DJI Phantom drone 'piloted' by

Jacob's NDSU buddy Macius Schroeder. This is quite the bird. With a battery providing nearly a 30-minute flight time and with its own 'guidance' monitor, you actually see what the drone is scanning. Cost is about \$1,500 said Schroeder but benefits are immediate, like quickly spotting 'drowned out' spots. "From a roadside view the entire field may look good but let this drone do the scanning and you see problem spots in a field you likely would never see. Now you can decide what to do. Instant scanning is a tremendous asset," said Schroeder explaining he pops out the SD card (recording device in the miniature camera); then plugs the card into his TV and it brings up a bright, clear image. All this in just a matter of a few minutes and that's why drones will keep getting bigger in agriculture predicts Schroeder. The previous day he scanned six fields totaling 280 acres with just one battery charge.

Schroeder was a December 2017 NDSU graduate with an Agronomy degree plus minors in soils and ag business. He farms with his dad south of Danube and is considering two job opportunities currently. He said most anyone can quickly learn to fly a drone. This Phantom even has sensors which keep it from flying into a building!



Photo by Dick Hagen

Macius Schroeder holds up a DJI Phantom drone.



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Quantix hybrid drone

Securing bigger yields by using "Hybrid" drones?

By Dick Hagen
Register Correspondent

Does 10 acres per minute get your attention? It certainly did at the Farmfest exhibit of AeroVironment, a California outfit that was displaying and talking about their Quantix Hybrid Drone. Matt Strein, Director of Business Development, shared these comments about his company which invented the 'hand launched' drone about 30 years ago. Since that time:

- 30 years of development of drones for military use.
- Transitioned into commercially available drones.
- Studied what everybody wanted in a commercial drone.
- Took about three years learning exactly what the user wanted.
- This Quantix™ Hybrid is the answer because it incorporates the advantages of a multi-copter drone while launching and landing vertically thus protecting the sen-

sor with fixed wing range, speed and efficiency.

"The challenge with other drones is their short endurance. They can only fly for about 18-19 minutes and cover only about 40 acres. To us these drones are mostly a toy. However the disadvantage of other fixed wing drones is that they 'skid land' and you have to hand launch them. That's not good for the on-board camera. Those sensors are very sensitive. And that's what separates the Quantix," said Strein.

So why this Ag Hybrid Drone? More from Strein.

- The Quantix launches vertically, straight up to 150'
- It then automatically transitions to horizontal flight.
- It cover 400 acres in about 40 minutes (equivalent of 10 acres/minute).

Drone
Turn to page 30



Photo by Dick Hagen

Matt Strein displays the Quantix Hybrid Drone.

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Drone: new tech, better yields *Continued from 29*

- Two on-board 18MP cameras provide high resolution images at 1-inch ground sampling distance (equivalent to leaf level detail).

- As it lands it provides a Quick-Look image of the field which you can access immediately from the control panel when the Quantix lands.

- You can then make those informed decisions field by field specific to areas within each field.

- Then you can upload the aerial imaging data to AeroVironment's Decision Support System, a web based data analytic server.

- You are gathering historical data on each field giving you resolution at 1-inch ground sampling accuracy (equivalent to 1-inch pixel).

Yes, you spend some money to get into this 'Hybrid' technology. The Quantix™ costs \$16,500 which is a 'full eco' system according to Strein. Any individual who uses a smartphone with a technology curve concept can operate this bird. And the 'full ecosystem' includes the drone, integrated camera with sensors, the analytics and customer service package.

"Everything comes from one house. We think our advanced analytics is the special bonus of this package," said Strein. "Our drone brings to the grower verifying application sensings. And with every grower getting into nutrient management programs verifying every input of a particular crop this more precise data bank becomes significant. We can readily verify the results in season of each particular pesticide application. And that is valuable info."

How does that happen? To verify results of a particular pesticide application would mean a field scanning before; then rescan that field 10-14 days after application. You see directly the response, or lack thereof. And remember, this Quantix flies those 400 acres in about 40 minutes!

"We're not the scout in the sky. Our system pin points the exact area where the farmer needs to go to correct what the Quantix scanning recorded. We're helping with timing and efficiency and most importantly giving him exact location of those problem spots within a 400-acre field," summed up Strein.

Drone
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Photo submitted

Above, the vertical launching capabilities of the Quantix Drone are on display.



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Drone: user friendly Continued from page 30

AeroVironment provides a 1-year warranty which covers about 50,000 acres of flight time with a Quantix. Plus this firm offers a money back guarantee. "Within 30 days and a couple of flights if you are not satisfied you can send it back and we'll give your money back," said Strein.

The unit is designed and built by engineers of AeroVironment located at 900 Innovators Way, Simi Valley, CA. For more info contact: strein@avinc.com. Or call 805-501-1563. Or go: www.NASDAQ:AVAV, avinc.com. Units will be UPS shipped direct to your farm if you do not have a local dealer. Current stock price is in the \$70s; a year ago in the \$30s according to Strein.

Minnesota Quantix User

Early adopter of this Quantix Hybrid Drone was Doug Albin, Yellow Medicine county and board member, Minnesota Corn Growers. Doug's intro was virtually cost-free! He won the bird at 2018 Commodity Classic!

He chuckled, "But I would not have put it into the top five things that I would like to update regarding our corn operation. However now after having flown it, I'm thinking it would make it into the top three. I see this as a quick and convenient tool to gather information on how the crop is doing and what I need to change to improve yield or cut costs where we can. Crop scouts like our local elevator are already finding it tremendously useful.

"This bird is not a toy like some drones.

You outline your fields with the mapping program included on the I-Pad they provide. The program maps the flight plan and goes through a check list with the bird even asking if you are ready to fly. I was ready and I flew a 109-acre field this afternoon (Aug 11). It took 12 minutes! It has two cameras; one an 18 mp regular camera, the other an 18 mp multi-spectrum camera. The pictures are amazing and the program they provide is very easy to navigate.

"The company has been very responsive to our request for changes. Thanks to this challenging spring we had a request. We now have a measurement tool so I can measure drowned out areas! Also they e-mail or text message to tell you when your finished maps are ready. I download raw data to the cloud and they return pictures that are stitched and cleaned up."

Albin's likes about his bird:

- User friendly,
- Responsive dealer and tech support.
- Company addresses the needs of farmers which will be different in different areas.
- Updates can be done over the internet instead of sending the unit in (At no charge).
- Stitched maps are returned in less than 24 hours so decisions can be made in a timely manner.

"But I also found out the hard way that you need a clear area of 10 ft. to land the bird. The tall grass took out one of the motors. It costs money to go to school. But its an amazing drone," summed up Albin.



Photo submitted

Former Minnesota Corn Growers Assoc. President Doug Albin.

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Dairy evolution offers many health benefits

Did you know that humans are the only adult animal species that continues to consume “milk” through dairy products. While most animals wean off of their mother’s milk after infancy, humans across the globe have been consuming products produced by cow, sheep or goat milk for thousands of years. And the benefits can be numerous.

Human body grows to accept milk

Although dairy doubters are quick to mention that it is not “natural” for humans to consume milk products into adulthood and that the body is not designed to digest the sugars and proteins in dairy, others are saying that centuries of farming have led to the evolution of human genes so that dairy products can be included in the diet.

According to an archaeological study published in 2013 in the journal *Nature*, archaeologist Peter Bogucki was excavating a Stone Age site in the fertile plains of central Poland in the 1970s when he came across various artifacts. One seemed to be an early pottery strainer used in cheese-making. The pottery was studied and milk proteins were found on it.

As farming replaced hunting and gathering in many areas of the world, it’s surmised that the human body slowly evolved to tolerate milk into adulthood, especially if it was fermented, such as in cheese or yogurt. Several thousand years later, it’s believed that a genetic mutation spread through Europe that gave people the ability to produce lactase — the enzyme necessary to digest the lactose sugar in dairy — and drink milk. Many people who retain the ability to digest milk can trace their ancestry to Europe, according a group of scientists brought together to work on a multidisciplinary project called LeCHE (Lactase Persistence in the early Cultural History of Europe). There are other dairy pockets from West Africa, the Middle East and south Asia.

Dairy’s present-day benefits

Today we know that dairy is an important source of nutrients at all ages and stages of growth. The Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. says that dairy is a great source of protein, calcium, carbohydrates, phosphorus, potassium, and vitamins A, D, B12, riboflavin, and niacin.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that the calcium in dairy products is used for building bones and teeth and in maintaining bone mass. Diets with sufficient potassium may help to maintain healthy blood pressure. Additionally, vitamin D functions in the body to maintain ideal levels of calcium and phosphorus so that bones are built and maintained.

The Australian Dietary Guidelines say that consumption of milk, cheese and yogurt is linked to a reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and colorectal cancer.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans encourage children and adults to enjoy three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk, cheese or yogurt each day. The Canada Food Guide recommends between three and four servings for children in the pre-teen and teenage years, and two to three servings for adults.

Dairy can be a nutritious part of a healthy diet, and history suggests it has been for quite some time.

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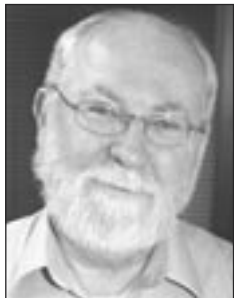
Cheese takes up about 1/10 the volume of the milk it was made from

A giant wheel of Cheddar cheese was given to Queen Victoria (1837-1901) for a wedding gift. It weighed over 1,000 pounds. A normal Cheddar wheel weighs 60-75 pounds.



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First Timer For Farmfest



Rich Glennie

I'll admit right off the top: My knowledge about farming is minimal. Much of what I have garnered about farming comes from talking to old farmers at the local coffee shop.

The problem is the farmers of old and the current generation of farmers are light years apart. The "good old days" are long gone, not to return. Today's farmers are tech savvy; the old timers are being left in the dust with their "Johnny Putt-Putts."

So who do they ask to go to the recent Farmfest, that large gathering of farmers from throughout the Upper Midwest, near the small community of Morgan, near Redwood Falls? Well, me, the guy who grew up

along the Canadian border among the tall pines and large granite rocks.

The only farming I recall from my youth involved hay and some dairy. We grew big, wild rocks up that way. Why else would they put a fence around a field of rocks?

I recall the dairy because we had a small creamery in downtown International Falls that was a popular site for elementary school tours. They even had glass milk bottles back in the 1950s.

My first trek to Farmfest required a tour guide. So I picked my coffee buddy, the Swede (Lowell "Oscar" Anderson), who actually was a farmer in a former life. He knew which end of the cow to milk, so I dubbed him my farm expert.

Actually I agreed to go to Farmfest for the other thing it is noted for ... politics and politicians. That was more in my comfort zone.

The Swede was more interested in the farm equipment, but he was forced to sit through the often mind-numbing political speeches because there was a steady rain that first morning of Farmfest.

As we sat on the hard wooden benches (speaking of numbing) in the main arena area listening to state and federal candidates make their cases about their undying sup-

port for Minnesota agriculture and its farmers, we noticed two things: There were a lot of colorful rain slickers (glorified garbage bags with head holes and a hood) and the big bags people were carrying loaded with "freebies" from the numerous vendor stands.

During a break from the politics, and after the all-morning rain stopped, the Swede and I wandered through the vendor areas in search of something free. We found nothing. Never did find where the garbage bag raincoats were coming from nor where the many freebies were located.

We did, however, manage to get a free Schwan's ice cream sandwich when the Linder Farm Network held its noon radio show. Could have had as many as we wanted, but the second one required us to get off our hard benches and go get it. Neither the Swede nor I had that much ambition left, at that point, let alone feeling in our backsides.

The Linder Farm Network had interviews with Congressmen Collin Peterson and Tim Waltz. Peterson's area aide, Bob Ness, tried to get in touch with me by cellphone to alert me that Peterson would be on the air, but he forgot I don't own a cellphone. Really!

Instead, he called my wife, who happened to be in Glencoe.

"Is Rich there?" he asked.

"No, he's at Farmfest in Redwood Falls," she replied.

"Oh, so am I," he replied. Then it dawned on him I was phone-less.

Despite the lack of communication utensils, I still managed to get in on some of the Peterson-Walz radio show after our foray to find "freebies" proved fruitless.

What I did find out about my first trip to Farmfest was a better appreciation for farmers and the farming community. It is amazing how complicated farming has become.

Those who think their food supply just shows up in the local grocery stores might need a trip to Farmfest to comprehend how the system works.

Also, Farmfest is not only the place where politicians come to court the farm vote, it also is a great opportunity to people-watch. Believe me, there are some interesting people inhabiting rural Minnesota, too.



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by Kent Thiesse
Farm Management Analyst and
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USDA PROJECTS RECORD U.S. CORN YIELD IN AUGUST 10th REPORT

There was a lot of anticipation leading into August 10 USDA Crop Report, due to numerous weather-related crop situations that existed in many of the primary corn and soybean production areas in the United States. Most of the Eastern Corn Belt, as well as portions of the Western Corn Belt have benefitted from almost ideal crop conditions during much of the 2018 growing season. However, excessive rainfall and very saturated soils through much of June and early July in a large portion of southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa have resulted in lower 2018 yield expectations in some areas. In recent weeks, there has also been concerns with a growing drought area in Missouri and southern Iowa, as well as portions of Eastern Kansas and Nebraska. The most recent USDA Crop Report was based on crop conditions across the U.S. on August 1st.

The August 10 USDA Crop Report estimated the 2018 total U.S. corn production at nearly 4.6 billion bushels, which would be a decrease of less than 1 percent from the 2017 production level. The 2018 projected U.S. corn production compares to the record U.S. corn production of 15.2 billion bushels in 2016, 14.2 billion bushels in 2014, and 13.9 billion bushels in 2013. USDA is estimating 2018 total harvested corn acreage in the U.S. at 81.8 million acres, which is unchanged from July USDA estimates, but is down 1 percent from 82.7 million acres in 2017 and is well below the 86.7 million harvested corn acres in 2016.

The latest Crop Report projects a new record national average corn yield in 2018 at 178.4 bushels per acre. If achieved, this would be the third year in a row for a new record U.S. average corn yield, surpassing the 2017 record yield of 176.6 bushels per acre, and the previous record yield of 174.6 bushels per acre in 2016. Other recent U.S. average corn yields are 168.4 bushels per acre in 2015 and 171.0 bushels per acre in 2014. The USDA projected average corn yield for 2018 was about 2 bushels per acre higher than the average yield estimates by the private grain marketing analysts.

USDA is estimating Minnesota's 2018 average corn yield at 191 bushels per acre, which is 3 bushels below the record State average corn yield of 194 bushels per acre in 2017. Other recent State average corn yields are 193 bushels per acre in 2016, 188 bushels per acre in 2015, and 158 bushels per acre in 2014. USDA is now projecting Iowa's 2018 average corn yield



at 202 bushels per acre, which would be the same as the final 2017 corn yield level and would be just below the record State average corn yield of 203 bushels per acre in 2016. Other recent average corn yields in Iowa are 192 bushels per acre in 2015 and 178 bushels per acre in 2014.

The 2018 USDA corn yield estimates for the other major corn producing States are Illinois at 207 bushels per acre, compared to 201 bushels per acre in 2017; Indiana at 186 bushels per acre, compared to 180 bushels per acre in 2017; and Nebraska at 196 bushels per acre, compared to 181 bushels per acre in 2017. South Dakota's corn yield is estimated at 170 bushels per acre, compared to 145 bushels per acre in 2017, with North Dakota at 148 bushels per acre, compared to 139 bushels per acre in 2017.

The USDA Report on August 10 estimated total 2017 U.S. soybean production at a record level of nearly 4.59 billion bushels, which is an increase of 4 percent from a year ago. The projected 2018 production level surpasses the previous record U.S. soybean production of 4.39 billion bushels in 2017, as well as 4.3 billion bushels in 2016. USDA is now estimating total 2018 harvested soybean acreage at 88.9 million acres, which is slightly below the record level of 89.5 million acres in 2017.

USDA projected the 2018 U.S. average soybean yield at 51.6 bushels per acre, which surprised the grain trading experts, and exceeded even the highest private yield estimate. The 2018 estimated U.S. soybean yield compares to 49.1 bushels per acre in 2017; however, this still trails the record national average soybean yield of 52.1 bushels per acre in 2016. Other recent national soybean yields are 48.0 bushels per acre in 2015 and 47.5 bushels per acre in 2014. Minnesota's 2018 average soybean yield is estimated at 49 bushels per acre, which compares to 47

bushels per acre in 2017 and the record State soybean yield of 52.5 bushels per acre in 2016. Iowa is projected to have a soybean yield of 59 bushels per acre in 2018, compared to 56.5 bushels per acre in 2017 and the State record of 60.5 bushels per acre in 2016.

Other projected 2018 yields in major soybean producing States include Illinois at 64 bushels per acre, compared to 58 bushels per acre in 2017; Indiana at 58 bushels per acre, compared to 54 bushels per acre in 2017; and Nebraska at 61 bushels per acre, compared to 57.5 bushels per acre in 2017. South Dakota is projected to have a 2018 soybean yield of 49 bushels per acre, compared to 43 bushels per acre in 2017, and the 2018 North Dakota soybean yield is estimated at 38 bushels per acre, compared to 34 bushels per acre in 2017. North and South Dakota combined are estimated to have 12.2 million acres of soybeans harvested in 2018, which compares to 7.7 million acres in Minnesota and 9.8 million acres in Iowa.

AUGUST 10 WASDE REPORT

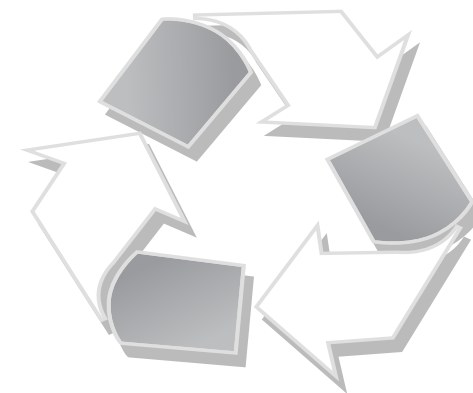
The updated USDA World Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) were also released on August 10. This report included the 2018 estimated U.S. corn production of 14.59 billion bushels and showed a slight increase in the 2018-19 corn ending stocks, compared to the July estimate. The Report showed a slight increase in expected corn usage for feed and exports in 2018-19, which resulted in projected corn ending stocks of 1.68 billion bushels. This would be a 17 percent reduction from the estimated 2017-18 corn ending stocks of 2.03 billion bushels and would be at the lowest level in several years.

USDA is projecting an average on-farm corn price for the 2018-19 marketing year, which runs from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019, in a range of \$3.10 to \$4.10 per bushel, with an average expected price of \$3.60 per bushel. The

August estimated average corn price is down 20 cents from the July price estimates. The 2017-18 national average corn price, which will be finalized on September 30, 2018, is now estimated at \$3.40 per bushel, which compares to national average prices of \$3.36 per bushel for 2016-17, \$3.61 per bushel for 2015-15, and \$3.70 per bushel for 2014-15.

The recent WASDE estimates are projecting a large U.S. soybean production of nearly 4.59 billion bushels in 2018, as well as some small increases in the expected soybean crush and export levels in the coming year. This would result in estimated 2018-19 soybean ending stocks at 785 million bushels, which would be at one of the highest levels ever. USDA is estimating 2017-18 soybean ending stocks at 430 million bushels, which compares to the 2016-17 ending stocks of 302 million bushels.

USDA is now projecting an average on-farm soybean price for the 2018-19 marketing year in a range of \$7.65 to \$10.15 per bushel, with an average expected price of \$8.90 per bushel. The August estimated 2017-18 soybean price was lowered by \$.35 per bushel from the July estimate. The 2017-18 final national average soybean price is estimated at \$9.35 per bushel, which compares to 12-month national average prices of \$9.47 per bushel in 2016-17, \$8.95 per bushel in 2015-16, and \$10.10 per bushel in 2014-15.



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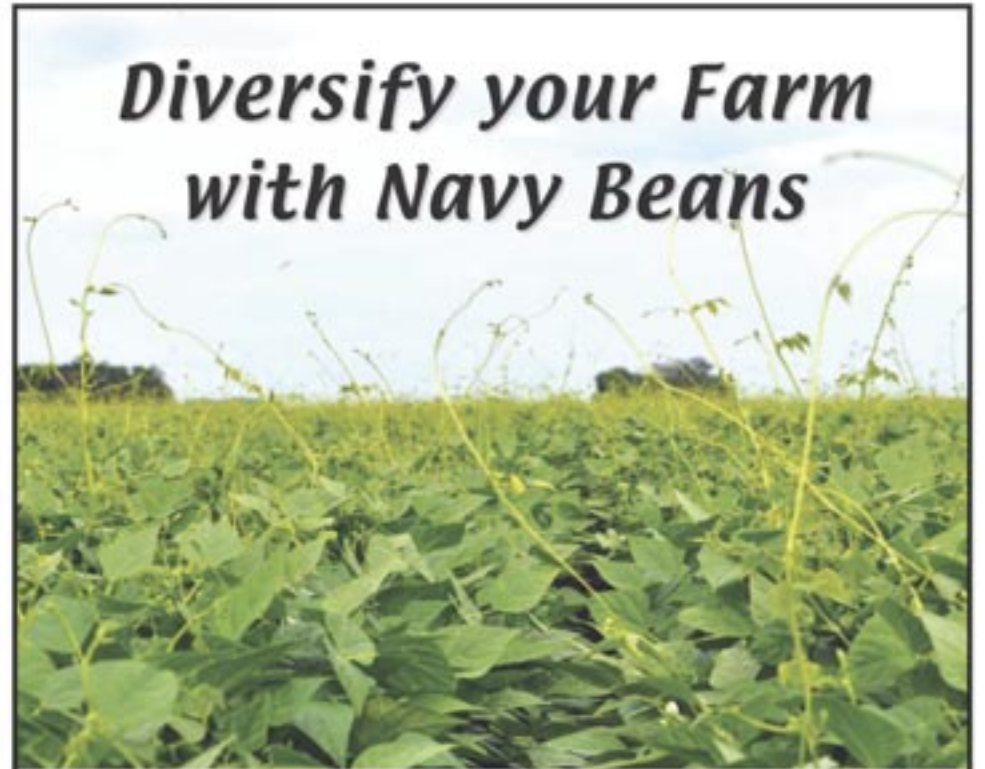
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