HARVEST DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2020

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
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A growing tradition

Maiers Family Farm celebrates it
centennial plus one pg. 13



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Prairie PROducers holds first Hemp Field Day

By Dick Hagen RC Register

As you might expect lots of people, lots of talkers, great noon lunch, and interest and expectations running high at the Aug. 6 Field Day of Prairie Producers. Why? These are the enterprising, enthusiastic, and vigorous group launching the first hemp facility in Renville County, long noted as being the 'Corn Capital of Minnesota.'

Tim Seehusen, along with his brother Paul Seehusen, are co-founders of this newest agricultural endeavor for area farmers. And the 2020 hemp harvest season is about to begin. Tim shared a few thoughts on this 'home opener' for their potentially huge new agricultural industry for Minnesota:

"We're happy with the turnout, especially the cross section of farmers, both potential growers for 2021 season and some current hemp growers. Plus industry reps from Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the hemp business world, some media folks, our local banker and some local business friends.

"We had a father/son team from Sleepy Eye growing hemp for grain this year. They are looking for an outlet for their fiber after harvesting the grain. In the past they've just plowed it under, But rest assured, we can provide an added revenue source here at our new hemp facility."

All hemp fields of the 'first year' growers with Prairie Pro cut their hemp the first week of August with conventional sickle cutter bars. Hemp plants were ranging from 6' to 7' tall with 12 to 15-inch stalks supporting the freshly cut fiber. "So these fibers are lying in







Photo by Scott Tedrick

PrairiePROducers COO Paul Seehusen and brother, CEO, Tim, in front of Minnesota's first hemp processing facility.

the fields right now drying. Next step is to turn it to assist with field drying. Then they bale the fiber crop when it is at 12 to 14 percent moisture. We bale into square bales (2' squares and about 4' long) which will be hauled into our 'storage warehouse' here at our office facility. This will hold upwards of 350 bales plus we have access to other covered sheds for additional bale storage. "Our processing facility is being developed right now for our particular setup, John Lupien, Co-Founder of HempVentures and a speaker today, is talking about the processing equipment being put together for us. Called the 'decortication process', this is the removal of the outer layer of the hemp stalk separating the outer 'blast fiber' from the inner woody core called hurd.

"Next year we'll be setting up a larger building at the west end of our property here along Hwy 212. Intent is to minimize highway traffic of trucks hauling the baled product into our processing facility."

Tim, I recall you have 5 hemp varieties with 3 seeding dates and 3 seeding rates. You have already cut your early May plantings. What have you observed so far?

He responded, "The two Canadian seed

varieties which we made available to our first year growers were Joey and Canda, which we purchased through CERESEED. These are dual grade varieties, both for hemp fiber and hurd. They did very well, even exceeding the height we expected. And since producers are paid on a 'dollar per ton' pricing schedule, the bigger the total harvest per acre the bigger the payment. North Dakota State University data show these two varieties 54 to 63 inches tall....here this year we are pushing 84 inches tall!

"We planted May 4; again on May 18/22; also the first week of June. Early May plantings got off to a slow start...cold and

PrairiePROducers

Turn to page 4



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Prairie PROducers: First Hemp Field Day draws crowd of farmers and local and state leaders continued from pg. 3

dreary weather. The mid-May planting came up quickly reaching growth of the early-May planting. Now here in early August all three are about equal in plant height. With the early planting weeds quickly became a factor which may have challenged some germination. Our June plantings are shorter....perhaps because after June 21, day-length starts decreasing and apparently these later-planted hemps start thinking of putting on seed and getting ready for harvest. Soil temps of 55 degrees or warmer are preferred before planting. Hemp seeds germinate in 3 to 5 days so with warmer conditions they're soon off to the races."

So Tim, you guys are still neophytes in this crop. But was this a near perfect season?

Researchers and marketers never talk a 'perfect season' but Tim did venture, "Yes a good year but a few rains were excessive. However we're well tiled so we didn't have standing water, it's been a good first year for

And will there be buyers for your processed hemp products?

His eyes brighten with a smile, "I can't share names yet at this stage. But processors



Photo by Scott Tedrick

Prairie PROducers Field Supervisor Mike Marks speaks with Renville Mayor Janette Wertish and Renville County EDA Director Jordan Zeller.

are already calling us asking about our products. And that's key to a successful first year effort."

Commented Harold Stanislawski, Project Development Director, AURI, "I commend

the Seehusens for their ambition in developing a hemp industry right here in this innovative agricultural area of Minnesota. This crop, centuries old around the world, is rapidly gaining new attention as scientists, researchers, and creative thinkers keep tinkering with new ideas, new thoughts and new uses for one of the oldest plants on the earth's surface."

For 2020 about 8500 acres have been licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for hemp production. Last year Minnesota had about 7200 acres said Margaret Wiatrowski, Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator, MDA.Her cell: 651-587-6795.

Joe Dollerschell, Prairie Pro agronomist,

informs, "You must be an MDA licensed grower to get crop insurance coverage, Seed costs are about \$6 per pound; with a 40-lb. seeding rate that's \$240. However with a yield of 8,000 lbs, per acre and a 15-cents market you have a \$1200 gross revenue expectation. With \$800 per acre total production cost you have \$400 per acre net.'

Now let's hear from Paul Kubista, President of his newest seed firm, CERESEED, which specializes in hemp seed. Even his business card is printed on eco-friendly hemp stock. He explains, "We wanted a seed firm specific in hemp seed verities. My intent is to vet (connect) with hemp seed suppliers and producers already in this industry.

So far he's talked with European, Canadian and U.S. hemp developers to get the best possible seed for this newly emerging 'new crop' in America."

At this stage he's using only Canadian hemp seed sources but already has an Indiana source viable for 2021 seed. He also noted even 'organic options' coming to fruition. And why organic hemp? "Because there is a huge push from companies like Patagonia which markets a variety of hemp clothing for men and women, is now also wanting organic hemp. Currently sourcing from other countries see U.S. farm production as a valuable new hemp source.'

Kubista, 29 years in Pioneer Seeds marketing, is excited about his 'new future' because he's big on hemp's future in American agriculture. "The keys for the explosion of this new 'crop industry' are deregulations

> Prairie PROducers Turn to page 5

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Prairie PROducers: Seehusen brothers looking to carry innovative torch of the 'corn capital' continued from pg. 4

that open up the animal feed market and human consumption. Every day you are reading about new 'consumer' products with hemp ingredients."

He points out much hemp seed currently is 'Internet marketed' with prices at \$10 to \$12 a lb. "In the CBD world it's sold by the seed....typically 50 cents to \$1 a seed. In my world we're looking at wholesale costs to the farmer in the \$5 to \$7/lb. range. With new U.S. production that cost should come down."

Hemp seeds are small...24 thousand to 27 thousand per lb. Seeding rates are 25 lbs. to 45 lbs. per acre," said Kubista. Figure \$125 to \$135 per acre at this stage. Seed is delivered in 50-lb. bags. His ambitions are seed at \$3 to \$3.50 per lb. as U.S. seed production ramps up.

His take on hemp's future? "The demand is on the fiber side. I have a couple growers in northern Minnesota already into production contracts with clothing firms North Face and Patagonia. My goal is to provide seed to the Seehusens and help with connections to end users of their processed hemp products," summed up Kubista.

He said he has shirts, sweat shirts, even shorts made from hemp fabrics; his wife recently purchased shoes 100 percent hemp. "My hemp shirts are comfortable and durability is a plus."

Are consolidations going to continue? Smiling he replied, "I don't think we're ever at the end of that trend." He questions if 'brand name' loyalties are decreasing, "However these changes are opening farmer's minds to new crop alternatives and it looks to me like industrial hemp is definitely a new



Photos submitted

Doug Froke will serve as the 2020-2021 RCW interim superintendent and is excited for the new year.

option."

Kubista thinks this can be 'break even' year for corn farmers because high yields help offset depressed market prices. Plus his plug for CERESEED also, "I have supplied at least 14 Universities with hemp seed for their expanding research trials. University trials I think will be an important information source. I'll have some shareable data with you shortly," summed up Kubista.

Another observer at Prairie Producers first Field Day was banker Erik Petersen, President, F&M Bank, Olivia, Renville. He didn't hesitate, "Some banks and farmers are a bit nervous and understandably so. At our bank we take a long-term view. We're keenly aware of marketing cycles. Today you are hearing about Minnesota being in the top 5 in farm bankruptcy numbers. This huge crop coming on will temper this crunch somewhat plus timely marketing helps too."

So Erik, your thoughts on the ambitions of these Seehusen brothers?

"People know the Seehusens. They're long-time fixtures in our community starting with their Dad who launched his own agribusiness venture very likely before his sons were born. Paul was a teacher here at Olivia when I was in high school. They're a great family. I respect the ambition, the optimism and their hard work.

"Anytime you put creative minds at work in creating new markets for our farm production it just opens new avenues, not just for our area farmers but for communities in general. So how will I relate to farmers intending to grow this new crop next year.? Lots of numbers being generated already this first year with the Seehusens and their 1st year growers. Plus we know our State Department of Agriculture and Harold Stanislawski with Ag Utilization Research Institute are gathering incredible amounts of information also. I've got lots of confidence in Tim, Paul and the outstanding farmers in Renville County. Sure a few mistakes now and then but for the most part these folks think diligently with positive ambitions."

I chide Erik about his conversations with other bankers when he sits in the 'economic power house' reputation of Renville County. "Yes, it's a different arena. We are so diversified with specialty crops like sugar beets, canning crops, edible beans, some super beef producers also plus our reputation as the Corn Capital of Minnesota so I do take a little static from my financial associates."

Petersen is optimistic some black ink will be working for most of his farmers this year. "It's been a turbulent year for livestock producers with processing plants shutting down. But most are pretty well positioned to do just fine." And he's positive on this new industry called hemp farming now ramping up in Renville County.





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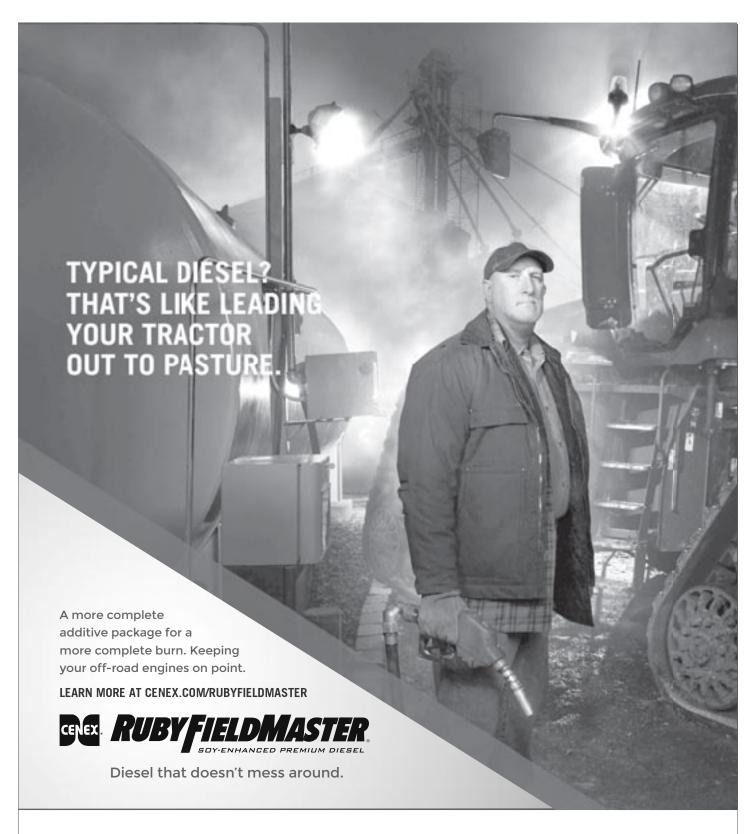
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COVID-19 leaves a mark on Ag economy

By Ashley Alsum RC Register

The future of agriculture markets is a complex web of interactions during a regular year. In the time of a global pandemic the ag economy is turned on its head. Producers must adapt as they ride the supply chain roller coaster. Panelists of the 2020 Farmfest "Current State of the Ag Economy" session advised farmers and ranchers to take advantage of current opportunities and focus on protecting the equity of the farm.

Farmfest went virtual this year to accommodate COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines. While attendees could not mingle in person, this did mean many more could attend the online sessions on the Farmfest website. The sessions are archived and can be viewed online.

Four panelists presented during the "Current State of the Ag Economy" session: Michael Nepveux, Economist, American Farm Bureau Federation; Jason Schwantz, Senior Vice President, Refined Fuels, CHS, Inc; Arlan Suderman, Chief Commodities Economist, Stone X; Mark Greenwood, Chief Diversified Markets Officer, Compeer Financial.

Nepveux got the informational session started with a brief overview of the sectors impacted by COVID-19. As we know, every aspect took a hit. Those which require people to be there physically, such as restaurants and clothing stores, fared much worse than others. Only now are we staring to see some recovery but in many cases the damage was too great and businesses have shuttered their doors.

The good news is the USDA has funds available for assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines due to the COVID-19 situation. Both row crops and livestock are applicable for CFAP payments.

The program is not perfect and there are some concerns in how the payments are calculated, but at this time, CFAP is where the relief dollar are coming from. So far, \$435 million in CFAP payments have been distributed in Minnesota alone. Most of the funding is clustered in the midwest down to Texas as they are the heavy agriculture states.

However, less than half of the money allocated to the CFAP program has been



paid out. Participation in the program has been much lower than anticipated and Nepveux encouraged producers to apply.

Schwantz spoke next giving insight to fuel trends. The lack of travel during the pandemic has also affected ethanol plants. With the demand for gasoline low, production has slowed and some ethanol plants have closed.

The demand for gasoline in urban areas dropped by 45 percent and by 20 percent in rural areas. Since March, this has leveled out to a 10 to 15 percent decline in demand. Diesel fuel dropped, though not as dramatically, but the demand for jet fuel is almost nothing compared to the 2 million barrels a day it normally garners. Jet fuel usually accounts for 10 percent of the U.S. fuel demand. Schwartz believes the demand for jet fuel will be the slowest to recover.

Because demand is down, refineries have slowed production to help cut expenses. This could lead to a potential shortage since we don't know when spikes in usage will come. The ag industry does know the need will pick up in the fall, especially for diesel fuel. The good news is the unused jet fuel can be converted to diesel. By fall Schwantz thinks supply will build to a normal level. But for now, he recommends stocking up while the prices are

down. Both gasoline and diesel are a dollar below average and producers can take advantage of at least one positive in this situation for fall harvest.

Suderman offered more good news with a crop outlook. Both corn and soybean progress points toward high yields across the midwest with Minnesota at the top of projections. We've had great weather, hot, but very few extreme heat days. The bad news is how the markets will react. Record yields don't reflect record prices, usually the opposite.

The 100 day corn supply around the world has also been slowly dropping. We're consuming more than we're producing even with the strong South American production.

"We're the tightest we've been in 19 years," Suderman said.

However, that by itself is not a reason to rally the market. Countries are using reserves at a higher rate and will be looking to purchase. The same is true of soybeans.

Suderman predicts these rising production estimates are offsetting China's new demand. He believes there will be strong shipments of U.S. grain to China in the last quarter of the year. His advice for marketing your commodities—don't try to make everything a home run, take those easy singles and doubles when looking to market your grain.

Commodity prices are down across the board with two exceptions. Class three milk (think cheese) has done quite well, and rice, though volatile has stayed positive. Hogs have dropped 50 percent since January; the largest fall of all commodities.

Greenwood elaborated on the livestock situation. Dairy was hit hard and processing cattle and hogs remain a million head behind. With processing plants shut down for a period, there was an interruption in the chain where suppliers had to decide what to do.

Many tried new diets for hogs so they would not gain weight, others cuthanized as they could not afford to feed the animals. Many more animals were actually given away. Greenwood said most producers felt more comfortable giving away hogs, so as not to waste them, than to cuthanize them.

Processing is up and running again, actually at a higher rate then before the shut down. Processing weight on animals are averaging higher, and plants are booked full.

There was a brief time where consumers jumped to the conclusion there would be a shortage of meat, and nearly caused an artifical shortage themselves. The animals are there, processing is underway with a large backlog, there was just a slight hiccup. Greenwood said it is important to keep consumers informed so they don't jump to conclusions like this in the future.

Greenwood warns producers to prepare for the coming years. Markets will continue to be volatile, Practice risk management using tools available provided by many agencies.

"It's not a function of size to be successful," Greenwood said. "It's a mind set, you have to understand your costs and you have to practice risk management."

Looking back over the years, farmers, ranchers and the whole industry have been through similar tough times. It wasn't caused by a pandemic, but recessions and other global events have always affected the market economy. Producers must adapt to the new situation, learn from it, and make prudent choices to move forward. Use programs available for assistance and plan for the future, COVID-19 will shape global systems for years to come and agriculture needs to be ready to face those changes bead on.





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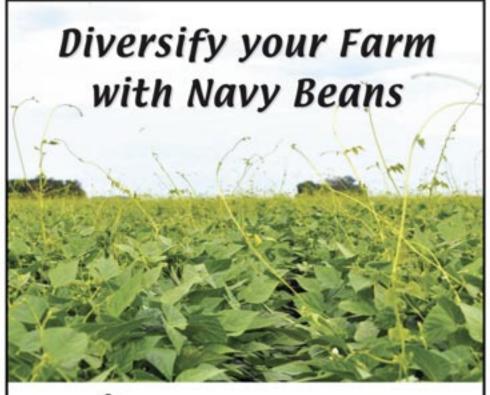


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LOVEN ONSITE & ONLINE KANDIYOHI CO. FARM LAND AUCTION

45.7 Acres of Kandiyohi Co. Farm Land located in Section 2, Fahlun Twp Kandiyohi Co. Rd 8 Tar Road Access,

Citizens Alliance Bank 451 Lakeview St, Lake Lillian, MN Thursday, Sept 17, 2020 11:00AM



JIM MCCRACKEN ESTATE RARE GAS ENGINE COLLECTION TIMED ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Rare Lifetime Gas Engine Collection Crawfordsville, OR 97327

Begins: Tue, Sept 8, 2020 12:00PM Ends: Tue, Sept 22, 2020 12:00PM



AMERICAN SURPLUS & MFG LARGE ANNUAL INVENTORY REDUCTION AUCTION

Live On-site Auction with Online Bidding 3134 EAST HIGHWAY 7, MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265 Sat, Sep 26, 2020 9:30AM



ONLINE ONLY PORTNER FAMILY FARM EQUIPMENT & COLLECTIBLE TRACTOR AUCTION

Clean Case IH Tractors, Combine, Farm & Tillage Equipment, Semi & Grain Trailer, Collectible Tractors, Parts and Supplies.

Online Bidding Only New Ulm/Mankato, MN

Begins: Fri, Sep 18, 2020 12:00PM Ends: Tue, Sep 29, 2020 6:00PM



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HWY 59 Erskine, MN 56535 Sat, Oct 3, 2020 9:30AM



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FARM EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR JOEL AHLBRECHT

Low Houred/Acres Farm Equipment Auction ASH AVE, BIRD ISLAND, MI

3 E ASH AVE, BIRD ISLAND, MN Tue, Nov 17, 2020 10:00AM



CLEAN CASE IH FARM EQUIPMENT FROM THE MIKE PALMER ESTATE

Large-Exceptionally Clean Case IH Tractors, Combine, Farm & Tillage Equipment, Semi's, Grain Trailers, Recreational Items, Shop Items and Much Morel

50114 State Hwy 19, Fairfax, MN Thu, Nov 19, 2020 9:30AM

MULTI PARCEL YELLOW MEDICINE CO. FARM LAND AND FARM SITE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

200 Acres and Large Building Site to be sold in 3 parcels for the Kenneth & Lenae Schmidt Estate.

1027 530th St. Wood Lake, MN Fri, Nov 20, 2020 11:00AM

CONRAD & BLENDA ALSTAD ESTATE PRIME MULTI PARCEL RENVILLE CO FARM LAND AUCTION

Approx 115 Acres located in Section 14 & 15, Wang Twp, Renville Co. 309 1st Ave Sacred Heart, MN

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 11:00AM



KENNETH & LENAE SCHMIDT ESTATE TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

Timed Online Equipment and Shop Tools Estate Auction- 1981 Chevy Regular Cab Pickup, Portable Taj Ma Hal Hunting Shack, Tools and Shop Supplies, Collectibles

1027 530th St., Wood Lake, MN Begins: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 10:00AM Ends: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 6:00PM



CLEAN CASE IH FARM EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR EGGERT FARMS, INC.

Case IH STX 325 4x4, Case IH 2166 Combine, Case IH 1020 25' Bean Platform, 1993 L9000 Ford Tractor, 2013 Mauer 28' Grain Trailer, Hand & Power Tools and More!!

10304 CSAH 1 Cosmos, MN 56228 Wed, Dec 2, 2020 9:30AM



O'NEILL FARMS RETIREMENT FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

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84317 Co Rd 14 Olivia, MN 56277 Fri, Dec 4, 2020 9:30AM

CURT & JUDY GROEN FARM EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION

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85849 220th St Renville, MN 56284 Tue, Mar 16, 2021 9:30AM



CLEAN LATE MODEL FARM EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR PAUL & KATHY SEROCKI

Clean Late Model, Low Houred, Farm Equipment Retirement Auction for Paul & Kathy Serocki

13307 467th Ave, Wilmot, SD 57279 Tue, Apr 6, 2021 10:30AM

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A growing tradition

Maiers Family Farm celebrates its centennial plus one

By Brianna Taggart Staff Writer

Henry Maiers bumped along in the railcar alone, but as the wind blew by outside, cattle and heifers kept him company as he made the trek from Hospers, Iowa, to Stewart in the early 1900s.

Henry's father sent the cows to help his brothers farm, and he caught a free ride with them as he was determined to help his family work the land.

Little did he know he would purchase his own piece of land that would still be in his family's name for just over a century later.

"He rode in the railcar, you know, with the smell and everything else," Tom Maiers said about his grandfather. "The fun part about that story is that he was only 12 or 13 years old and he rolled with cattle and these heifers to help the older brothers get started. Then, as a young man or a teenager, he helped his two brothers on a farm in southwestern Stewart."

Henry married Grace McGraw Jan. 9, 1917 and bought the 153-acre Maiers Family Farm in Stewart Sept. 9, 1919.

The farm still stands tall today and will be turning 101 years old this September. Tom owns it with his wife LaMae, and the farm was recognized as a 2020 Century Farm by the Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau last spring.

Changing times

Henry and Grace raised their 17 children on the farm. The first child was born in November 1917 and the last child was born in March 1941, leaving a 24-year difference between the two.

The couple owned the farm for 50 years until 1969. Their son and Tom' father Paul Maiers bought the farm and took it over that year with his wife Margaret Forcier.

Paul was one of the oldest of his siblings and was born in 1920. He owned his childhood farm with Margaret for 26 years.

Paul didn't spend his entire life on the farm leading up to that point, however. He left the responsibility of the farm to his younger brother Joe and took on World War II.

"Uncle Joe was the one at home at the time, but he was a year younger than my dad," Tom said about Paul. "Dad thought, being the oldest, he should be the one to enlist, so he went and enlisted and served our country for a while. The boys took over and then Dad bought the farm in '69."

Tom and LaMae married in 1973 and officially bought the farm from his parents in 1995. The couple has currently owned it for 24 years but they've been living on the farm for 46.

"It's pretty cool that we're the third generation," Tom said.

Stories of the past

Things have also come and gone on the farm over its 101 years of history. Horse-drawn equipment, buggies and a large garden dotted the land when Henry and Grace originally owned it. They raised corn, sugar beets, alfalfa, hay, small grain, wheat, oats,



Thomas and LaMae Maiers are the current owners of the Maiers Family Farm in Stewart, one of the 2020 Minnesota Century Farms. Thomas' grandparents, Henry and Grace Maiers, bought the farm Sept. 9, 1919.

They're hopeful the farm will stay in their family since one of their sons, Jonathan Maiers, has been operating the farm for the past year and plans to keep doing so.

chickens, hogs, dairy steers and they milked cows.

"I would say we're a progressive, contemporary cash grain farm now," Thomas said. "We raise corn and soybeans."

Tom and LaMae extended the farm by 99 acres after Thomas' uncle Joe passed away in 1991. Operations have also expanded beyond just their farm.

"What's still kind of cool about grandpa and grandma is that they raised their kids during the Great Depression, and they saw worse times than even LaMae and I and even my folks ever saw," Tom said.

That didn't stop the family from being close. Grace also came from a large family and had siblings in the cities, so the children would often have cousins over on the weekends. All these people at the house called for large amounts of food.

They would bake upwards of 40 loaves of bread, and Paul would butcher about six chickens with his brothers for Sunday dinners.

"Years ago, they were very self-sustaining," LaMae said. "They raised all their own food."

"If (the family) was running a little short on food, all grandma would have to say would be 'FHB,'" Tom said. "To the cousins that didn't mean anything but it stood for 'family hold back.' That's kind of a cute story, but when you look at the magnitude and size of the family, they had to have some kind of communication going on."

Legacy lives on

Tom and LaMae are semi-retired now, but their middle son Jonathan is keeping the farm's legacy going. He only lives a couple miles away, so it's easy for him to operate



Henry and Grace Maiers first bought the farm in 1919, and it's where they raised their 17 children. They took a photo with them to commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary. (Third row, left to right): Stan Maiers, Allan Maiers, Loy Maiers, Paul Maiers, Brennan (Charlie) Maiers, Ray Maiers, Jack Maiers, Pat Maiers and Joe Maiers; (Second row, left to right) Therese Kuttner, Ginny Weis, Brenda (Grace Marie) Maiers, Sister Mary Jean (Mary Elvira) Maiers, Maureen Rubischko, Sister Gracemarie (Madonna) Maiers and Sister Gen (Genevieve) Maiers. (First row) Grace and Henry Maiers. Daniel Maiers is not pictured because he passed away at the age of 24 from a brain tumor.

the farm

"Jonathan is running it all and he's a good operator," Tom said. "He's a good welder, good mechanic and keeps everything flowing nicely. So we feel the operation's in good hands."

Tom and LaMae have three sons, a daughter, seven grandsons and one grand-daughter, so they're positive the farm will stay in family name for years to come.

"Our land will be passed on to our kids, so it will continue in the Maiers' name through our lifetime at least," LaMae said.

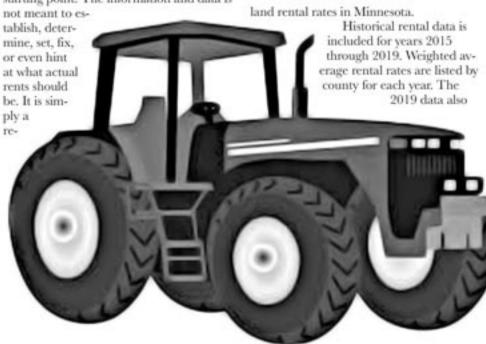
"Whether there's any grandchildren who would be interested is yet to be determined."

No matter what happens, the Maiers have created a good life for themselves on that farm.

"We've been a good team these last 47 years," Tom said. "It's been a good life."

Cropland rental rates for Minnesota counties

Average, Median, Ten Percent Lowest Average Rents and Ten Percent Highest Average Rents are listed by county in the recently released publication titled "Cropland Rental Rates for Minnesota Counties." The rental rates come from rents paid by farmers who participate in Adult Farm Management programs across Minnesota. This publication provides a historical perspective on rental rates paid by a group of Minnesota farmers and trends in those rental rates over the past five years. This information is meant as a guide and starting point. The information and data is



Percent Change in Land Rental Rates	2015-2019	2018-2019
Northwest	-0.2%	-0.2%
West Central	2.5%	-1.7%
Central	-8.4%	-2.3%
East Central	21.2%	6.3%
Southwest	-7.6%	-0.7%
South Central	-9.3%	-1.6%
Southeast	-8.4%	-2.1%
State	-7.5%	-0.4%

includes the median cash rent and the 10th and 90th percentile range, explained under "data results". There is really no way to statistically project future rental rates. Keep in mind the numbers listed are weighted averages. That means there are rents both above and below the numbers listed. Again, these numbers are merely a starting point.

Also included is the 2019 county rental data gathered by the USDA National Ag Statistical Service (NASS) in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The USDA/NASS data is collected by mail-out survey and the 2020 results should be available in September 2020. This document will be updated to include the new NASS numbers at that

The land rental data shown in the publication is extracted from FINBIN, a database of farm record summaries of over 2,000 Minnesota farms. The farmers par-

ticipate in the Minnesota State College Farm Business Management program as well the Southwestern Minnesota Farm Business Management Association. The rental rates are based on analysis of the financial records of participating farmers and represent the actual rents paid for the years listed.

To compile this report, rental rates are extracted for cash rented land. All row crop acres, small grain acres, canning crop acres, etc. are included in the data analysis. Not included in the analysis are acres allocated to pasture, aftermath grazing, hay and haylage acres, CRP acres, fallow, and prevented planted acres. Data is organized by county. Counties with a minimum of 10 farms with cash rented acreage are included. If a given county does not have rent data listed for 2015-2019, there were not enough farms reporting data.

The publication can be found at: https://www.cffm.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MN-Land-Rental-Rates-2019-final-7-15-20.pdf

Regional numbers are included in the publication and listed below indicate the total percentage change in land rental rates for the last five years from 2015 through 2019 and the last column is the change from 2018 to 2019. As shown in table, 2 of the 8 regions had increased in the last five years, and one region had increased from 2018 to 2019. Minnesota as a whole declined by 7.5 percent over five years and declined 0.4 percent from 2018 to 2019.



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Sugar beet harvest off to fast start....BUT

By Dick Hagen RC Register

Like all crops this season sugar beets also were off to a quick start. But that early August harvest start slowed considerably when mid-August temps ramped up beyond 90 degrees.

"Our growers are lifting beets and our factory is processing at our daily capacity of 16,000 tons per day. However we've had to slow down field harvest simply to limit accumulated tonnage at our various piling sites. Once temps reach 75-80 degrees we don't want beets on the ground more than 5 to 6 days," said Steve Dahm,

President/CEO of Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, The reason is obvious...these huge, vegetative root masses don't take kindly to just laying in a pile in hot weather.

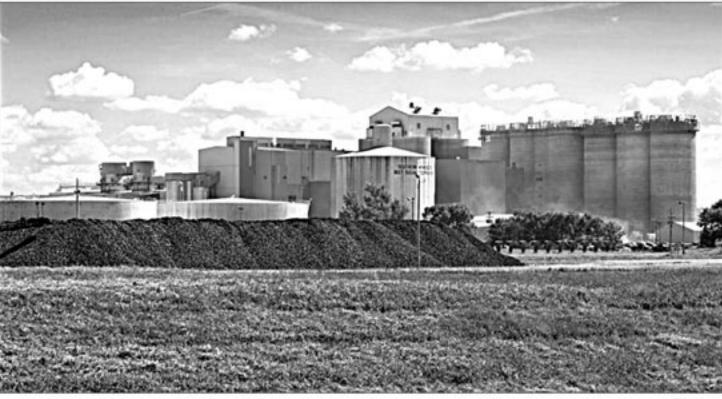
A record beet crop too just like 'coffee shop' talk is already predicting for Renville County corn and soybean producers.

Like most production/ management gurus, Dahm hesitates on final production for this 2020 season. "Our guys have done a phenomenal job keeping diseases, especially circospora, under control. We believe the fruits of our labor will be rewarded but we're still at Mother Nature's behest. She could still trigger some dirty tricks on us. Circospiroa is our #1 leaf disease every year. It burns the leaves taking sugar out of the beets. We're in the business of producing sugar so keeping a 'healthy top' on our sugarbeet plants is always a top priority."

Does this suggest 30-ton yields, maybe more? Well, no affirmative 'yes' from Dahm but his body posture (yes, this was a stand up interview) was leaning that direction! And he did say, "We'll have a good crop."

Lots of employment at this huge processing facility like 350+ full time and half again that many at the various piling sites. "We've been fortunate. We instituted some strict covid-19 guidelines and not yet a positive case. That's a testament to our employees. They pay attention. They understand why and they cooperate," said Dahm.

He also noted upwards of 150 contractor employees doing maintenance work this summer getting this huge plant ready for the 2020 startup campaign. "They bought into what we were doing. They wanted to stay healthy. They appreciated their job



File photo

The Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative located in Renville.

and everybody worked together to make it happen!"

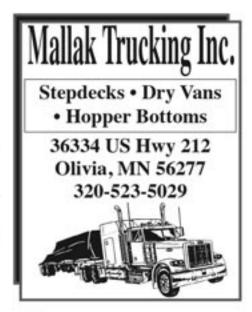
Come October everything at this incredibly busy complex cranks up 24/7. That hectic schedule continues until the processing campaign finally shuts down after slicing upwards of 3.6 million tons of beets!

"Normally you want harvesting wrapped by late October/early November. But some rain delays are inevitable and we know that hard freeze can come any time."

Labor challenges? So far so good according to Dahm, "Our HR department has been terrific...every job filled which is quite remarkable given the job market today."

Marketing also is not an issue. With corn and soybean producers; livestock guys too continually pressing for stronger export markets; better marketing agreements with the 'rest of the world', especially China; the sugar beet industry sort of just stays in 'cruise control'. There are no sugar exports, neither cane or beet sugar. Which says virtually every pound of U.S. sugar production is consumed domestically. We American's relish our quick, easy and tasty sodas; our delicious fast-food joints with sandwich choices galore and ice cream treats to match. Our bulging waist lines reveal our appetites rather vividly.

Dahm did indicate some sugar imports through trade deals agreed to in previous years. U.S. beet growers and cane growers are partners. "We both grow sugar and there is not a scientific test identifying any difference between refined beet sugar and refined cane sugar," summed up Dahm.







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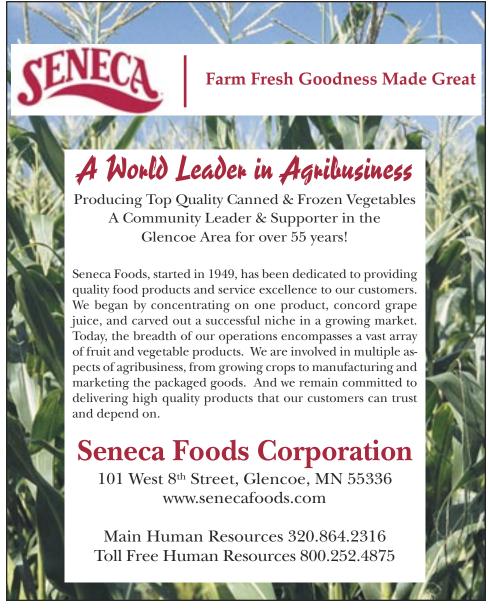


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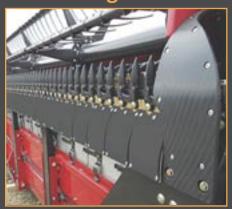


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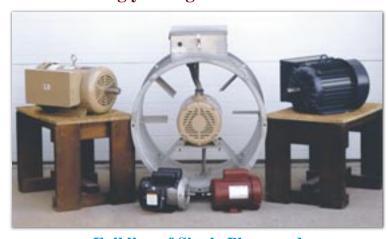


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	1st	45	5280 VT2P RIB	MNWC Summary	MN	232.1	
	1st	60	5280 CONV	Dexter	MN	246.9	
,	1st	72	5280 CONV	Lamberton	MN	240.7	
×	1st	45	5280 VT2P RIB	Kerkhoven	MN	237.8	
L	1st	60	5280 CONV	New Richland	MN	229.9	
	2nd	60	5280 VT2P RIB	Nerstrand	MN	260.6	
ı	2nd	45	5000 VT2P	Sedan	MN	255.6	
4	2nd	54	4580 VT2P RIB	Sedan	MN	248.7	
ı	2nd	60	4990 VT2P RIB	Eyota	MN	248.4	
ı	2nd	45	4580 VT2P RIB	Royalton	MN	232.7	
L	2nd	45	5280 VT2P RIB	Winthrop	MN	212.3	
ı	3rd	60	5280 VT2P RIB	MNSE Summary	MN	238.1	
	3rd	72	5280 CONV	MNSW Summary	MN	224.8	
L	3rd	72	4990 VT2P RIB	Easton	MN	229.3	
ı	4th	45	5280 VT2P RIB	Lester Prairie	MN	240.1	
ı	4th	45	5000 VT2P	Kerkhoven	MN	229.9	
	4th	72	4990 VT2P RIB	Jeffers	MN	218.4	
	4th	45	4990 VT2P RIB	Winthrop	MN	209.0	
L	4th	45	4880 VT2P RIB	Arlington	MN	196.1	
	5th	45	5000 VT2P	MNWC Summary	MN	222.1	
1	5th	60	5280 CONV	Cannon Falls	MN	261.1	
L	5th	45	4580 VT2P RIB	Taylor Falls	MN	226.1	
			Soy	ybean Plots			
	3rd	42	F2090N R2X	Kasson	MN	70.1	
	3rd	48	F2280N R2X	Kasson	MN	66.3	
	3rd	26	F1500N R2X	Brookings	MN	62.7	
	3rd	42	F2090N R2X	Jeffers	MN	60.0	
L	4th	81	F195N RR2Y	MNCE Summary	MN	47.5	
	5th	42	F1909N LLGT+	New Richland	MN	66.2	
	5th	48	F2190N R2X	Kasson	MN	65.5	
L	5th	81	F195N RR2Y	Winthrop	MN	44.6	

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Outstanding, nothing else to say. Upstairs carpet was initially installed in October 2019, and our remodel dragged out until end of May/June so when it came time to setup a time to get the rest of the 1st floor LVP and carpet installed I had expected at least a 6-8 week waiting period. That was not the case. Matt came out right away to get the ball rolling and in less than 3 weeks everything was installed to perfection. I couldn't be happier with the LVP and carpet, the transitions turned out much better than expected. Logan (our 8 month old) is crawling all over the house now which is a huge relief to have gotten the flooring in when you did. Kelcy and I really appreciate what you did for all of us. ~ Another Happy Customer, Dan and Kelcy Williams



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U of Minnesota Extension honors County Farm Families

By John Mueller Staff Writer

The University of Minnesota's Farm Family Recognition Program honors farm families throughout Minnesota for their contributions to the agriculture industry and their local communities. All of the honored farm families have made significant contributions to Minnesota agriculture and their communities.

The 2020 Minnesota Farm Families of the Year were recognized virtually Aug. 6. The farm family recognition program has existed for over two decades and has been sponsored and coordinated by the University of Minnesota Extension, the college of food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences and the college of veterinary medicine.

McLeod County: Reiner Farms

Steve Reiner is the third generation of the family since the mid-1940s to operate the family's farm in McLeod County. Reiner Farms, just south of Hutchinson, has grown to 2,600 acres of corn and soybean production.

In addition to the farm, the Reiners own and operate Reiner Enterprises, a trucking and municipal snow plowing business. They also run Hutchinson Countryside Retreat, a retreat center for small groups.

Steve Reiner stays very busy managing the farm, trucking and snow plowing operations. Kelli Reiner manages the retreat center. She also handles the bookkeeping for all the enterprises.

The Reiners have three children, all of whom help out on the farm. Kaitlyn is a nursing student at North Dakota State University. Mitchell recently graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural sciences and is taking a more active role in the farm. Tyler will be a junior in high school.

Steve has been a Hassan Valley Township supervisor since 2005 and has served on the McLeod County Corn and Soybean Growers board for nine years. Kelli is active in 4-H with their children and served as a club leader for five years.

The Reiners are members of Vineyard United Methodist Church, serving on many church committees.

Sibley County: Morrison family farm

The Morrisons' farm is a fifth-generation family farm located north of Belle Plaine in Sibley County's Faxon Township where the Morrisons first settled in 1856.

Morrison Farms was originally a row crop and dairy operation. In 1990, John Morrison Sr., along with his son, Terry, started buying shorthorn cattle and the Faxon Creek Cattle Company was born. In 2000, the dairy operation ended, and the shorthorn herd expanded.

Today, Faxon Creek Cattle consists of 100 shorthorn and shorthorn plus females. The family is very proud of its success with their current herd sires and AI program. Recent achievements include champion shorthorn female, 2019 Minnesota State Fair FFA Cattle Show; reserve champion, short-



The Reiner family of Hassan Valley Township is the University of Minnesota Extension Service's Sibley County

Farm Family of the Year. The family is Tyler, Mitchell, Steve, (front row, from let) Kelli and Kaitlyn.



The Morrison family of Faxon Township is the University of Minnesota Extension Service's Sibley County Farm

Family of the Year. The family includes (from left) Kelly, Terry, Erin, Michelle, and John.

horn bull, 2019 Minnesota State Fair; and reserve champion shorthorn female, 2019 Iowa State Fair.

Terry and Michelle Morrison are owners of Faxon Creek Cattle. Along with maintaining the day-to-day operations, Terry owns MPG Sales and MPG Travel Solutions. Michelle is the city clerk for Cologne. Their daughter, Erin, is very active in the family's row crop operation and in breeding decisions of the operation. She also works at Compeer Financial. Daughter Kelly and her fiancé, Dan Fox, work together on sale

and show cattle preparation. Kelly leads the operation's marketing plan. Dan and Kelly own Black Label Livestock, a show goat business. Terry and Michelle's son, John, will be a senior at South Dakota State University and works for several cattle breeders in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Terry currently serves on the Sibley County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Belle Plaine School Board. He is president of the Minnesota Shorthorn Association. Michelle serves on the board of Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op and is a member of the Minnesota Shorthorn Lassie Association. Erin, Kelly and John are involved in activities of the American and Minnesota Junior Shorthorn Association, as well as past 4-H and FFA members. The Morrisons are all supporters of the Belle Plaine FFA Alumni Chapter.

FarmFest provided virtual stage for House, Senate candidates

Minnesota Congressional contestants participated in the virtual candidates' forum hoping to convince potential voters they have the best interest of Minnesota's agricultural community at heart.

The virtual forum was held Aug. 4-5 and featured candidates for the U.S House of Representatives in Minnesota's Seventh District and for Minnesota's second Senate seat. Questions were an amalgamation of queries submitted online as well as questions from leaders in the agricultural field. They are archived on the event's website – www.ideaggroup.com/farmfest

Separate question-and-answer sessions were held for the two sets of endorsed, primary-winning candidates, Republican Michelle Fischbach and Democrat Rep. Collin Peterson for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Republican Jason Lewis and Sen. Tina Smith vying for the U.S. Senate post.

U.S. House 7th District

Fischbach believes China has created problems for Minnesota producers by not following negotiated agreements. She said the Chinese government has been untrustworthy but the Trump administration was working to stabilize the U.S.'s relationship with China before the coronavirus pandemic began.

Peterson believes China should not enjoy the benefits of most favored nation status. Peterson contends he predicted the Chinese would destabilize trade in the agricultural sector.

With landowners sensitive to acreage being taken out of production for public purposes, Peterson said he opposes permanent easements for removing land for public purposes. He said wildlife groups that take land from production oftentimes can't manage it. Peterson added state law on the taking of land for public uses is more stringent than federal regulations.

Fischbach also opposes taking land from farmers and believes when land is taken, landowners should be compensated at a higher rate.

Enbridge pipeline

Environmentally, Peterson and Fischbach both support the proposed Enbridge Line 3 replacement plan as an environmentally safer way to transport energy across the state. They've noted the economic and jobs benefits. Supporting the project from the start, Peterson said state utility regulators have delayed the project and relief from lawmakers or the courts may be needed to advance the approval process.

Fischbach said the pipeline project has been inexcusably delayed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The project will relieve pressure on roadways and move energy to market faster and safer, she said.

Peterson and Fischbach also agreed a proposal for tougher cleaner air standards on diesel fuel is bad for farmers. The proposal is based on California clean air standards

Fischbach said the proposal, if enacted, would hurt farmers and the agricultural economy.

"California is a place with a lot of bad

ideas and this is one of them," Peterson said

Asked about aid to have livestock producers struggling under the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic Peterson believes the payments to livestock producers are too arbitrary. He wants payments to be more equitable. Peterson contends the provisions of aid in the HEROES Act will address that lack of equity. He supported the Democrat-controlled HEROES Act in the House earlier this spring. The GOP-led Senate has yet to take up the proposal.

Fischbach said the pandemic has shown rural Minnesota has not recovered from the pandemic. She lauded the stance President Trump took to reopen processing plants and said she would support the president's lead to protect small businesses.

Credit worthiness

A representative of the community banker's association asked about helping farmers face the challenges of farmers and their credit worthiness. Fischbach said she supports the Trump Administration's efforts to help farmers by rebuilding a robust economy. She supports the efforts of local bankers who choose to assist farmers.

Peterson said the payments farmers have received the past two-plus years have helped farmers minimize foreclosures. He said elements of the HEROES Act would help producers through direct payments.

Fischbach said the pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of the food supply system and indicated the need to develop new ways to help producers. She supports innovation to help farmers and processors move forward.

Peterson agreed with the notion the coronavirus pandemic exposed problems. He pointed to efforts to overcome problems during the avian pandemic and help turkey farmers and processors. He said the HE-ROES Act includes aid that will help today's farmers and processors renew their efforts.

Expanding broadband

On the need for broadband for smaller operators, Peterson and Fischbach agree it's an issue. Petersons said he has worked on bipartisan efforts to enhance broadband service for smaller users through the Universal Broadband Act.

Fischbach said she supported state efforts to improve broadband service to the state in 2017 when she was in the Minnesota Legislature. She supports U.S. Rep. Peter Stauber's proposal for grants to help businesses build the last mile between users and the last piece of company-funded infrastructure.

In closing, Peterson pointed to his years of service and his leadership as chairman of the House Agricultural Committee. He said the committee works in a bipartisan fashion to help farmers and processors.

In her closing remarks, Fischbach promised to work to support the district's agricultural community and its way of life. She supports a solid, reliable workforce, infrastructure improvements, better broadband service and education.

U.S. Senate

Candidates for the U.S. Senate seat had Sen. Tina Smith and former U.S. Rep. Jason Lewis seeking support via the virtual forum.

Smith is making her first re-election bid. Lewis served in the U.S. House before he was defeated.

Smith serves on the Senate Agricultural Committee, a group she says works together in a bipartisan fashion to help farmers through a trade deal or aid package. Lewis argued farmers are no better off today than they were before Tina Smith was elected to the Senate.

Lewis contends farmers have been hurt by lockdown of processing plants, shutdowns he blamed on Democrats. He called for ongoing support for farmers in the CARES Act an expansion of crop insurance to help livestock producers.

Asked about how the federal government can help farmers in the next aid bill, Smith noted the bill should also help livestock farmers. She was also critical of waivers President Trump OK'd for oil refineries at a time when ethanol producers are hurting.

Pandemic over-reaction

Lewis contends the shutdown of processing plant pushed hog farmers to euthanize animals has hurt grain farmers. He says Democrats have over-reacted to the pandemic, over-reaction that has hurt farmers.

Lewis supported the sale of E15 fuels during the summer when he served in the house. He also worked to promote grain sales to Canada via the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). He also supports the sale of more diesel fuel.

Smith said renewable energy is good for agriculture and jobs and that renewable energy is rural energy. It creates jobs in rural Minnesota. She supports assistance for energy producing farmers. She criticized the secret Trump refinery waivers as unfair to Minnesota agriculture. She wants USDA aid for bio-diesel and more lender funds to help producers.

Lewis said farmers rely on diesel fuel and putting additional taxes on diesel fuel and other energy hurts farmers. He also opposes carbon taxes and supports the Enbridge pipeline proposal.

Lewis and Smith were asked about climate change and what the federal government could do to address climate change.

Smith said farmers see climate change on a daily basis. She supports initiatives to support energy production via solar and wind production. She wants to add research and storage for wind and solar energy storage.

Polarization

When asked about building a bridge to reduce ideological differences separating Minnesota and the nation, Lewis said he opposes polarization of positions. He said ideas like defunding police, lockdowns, limits on religious liberties enhance polarization. He claims he worked with a liberal Democrat in the 115th Congress to pass juvenile justice legislation.

Smith stressed the importance of sitting down with people and finding common ground. She's worked with GOP lawmakers to address the issues of farm stress and prescription drug costs.

Looking for legislation that will promote new farmers with equipment and valueadded opportunity, Smith wants to seek help for new farmers to be able to succeed older farmers. The 2018 farm bill included provisions that were to help young farmers. She also supported value-added programs, like community supported agriculture (CSA), and help veterans get into farming.

Lewis said the economy must get rolling to help young farmers get started in farming. He supported the House version of the 2018 farm bill, which he felt was better than the Senate version of the farm bill. He also supported allowing high school students learning technical education they'll use on the farm while still in high school.

To help farmers make use of the supply chain, Smith supports transportation policy that helps farmers. He wants the Enbridge pipeline OK'd so transportation can improve infrastructure and move product from the farm to market.

Smith believes roads and bridges need to be safer for farmers and inland water and rail infrastructure improved to move products from farm to market. She wants to loosen hauling requirements for livestock haulers taking products to market.

Smith and Lewis were also asked about federal assistance for farmers selling directly to consumers.

Smith supports the farmers doing business with CSAs and farmer's markets. She also backs value-added programs like farm-to-school initiatives.

Lewis agreed with Smith. He promoted deregulation for farmers. Lewis wants to see regulations on farmers eased and markets reopened to help farmers.

Diversification

The pair was asked about diversifying the economy in smaller communities. Smith supports diversification and promotes ways the federal government can support business growth, have available capital for new businesses and have good hospitals to revitalize Main Street and a business sector that will bring growth.

Lewis said a good business climate. The state's high tax rate hurts business growth and the tax cut and jobs act.

Both Smith and Lewis oppose the Green New Deal, agreeing it is not good for agriculture. Lewis is not interested in meeting supporters of the Green New Deal halfway. Smith supports technology that helps with clean energy, allowing agriculture to diversify revenue streams. She also wants clean energy products made in United States instead of importing them.

Trade deals

When it comes to trade, regardless of whether President Trump is re-elected, Smith supports the USMCA trade agreement and supports removing unfair Canadian subsidies and opening markets to grain sales. She said farmers want to trade. Smith also wants to hold China to its promise to buy \$40 billion in grain.

FarmFest provided virtual stage for House, Senate candidates

Continues on Page 28

Hemp crop offers more for a variety of products

By John Mueller Staff Writer

ike her neighbors in Hutchinson Township, Bridgette Pinder is hoping for a successful harvest this year.

Pinder's neighbors will harvest corn, soybeans and alfalfa from their fields.

She grows hemp.

Pinder is growing the crop on six acres on farmland her great-grandfather owned and used to grow corn and soybeans. She's growing hemp for its health-improving and quality-of-life enhancing qualities. The hemp she grows contains CBD and CBG. CBD is cannabidiol, a chemical compound from the cannabid sativa plant. CBG is cannabigerol and is found in small amounts in hemp.

Pinder wanted to grow products organically. She quickly learned growing corn and beans was too expensive an undertaking without inheriting equipment and a large tract of land.

The crop Pinder and a team of volunteers planted was put into the ground in three different plantings – May and the first two weeks of June.

But before the crop was planted, Pinder spent years studying the plant, its effects and the state's regulation of it. She has made trips to other states where hemp is permitted. Pinder and a sister have made several trips to Colorado, for example.

"You listen to people and learn all you can," she said.

Four years ago, in 2016, she invested about \$3,000 in a small grow project. Her investment gained her 10 plants, nutrients, additional seeds and equipment. The seeds for annual hemp plants containing run about \$1 each. The CBG hemp cost about \$1.50 to \$2 each.

One of the lessons Pinder learned is working with a well-established seed dealer. Seeds she purchased and planted this year were male plants, plants containing known seeds, only pollen sacks to pollenate female seeds.

Moving forward, Pinder expects to plant about 1,000 plants, 60 percent of which will be female

A local effort

The oil from hemp plants is processed locally. The oil will be extracted after the plants dry. It will be used in a wide variety



Bridgette Pinder grows hemp on land in Hutchinson Township her family owns and farmed for generations. She chose hemp as a crop because it is less expensive than traditional row crops, like corn and soybeans, and its products can be used in many different items, many of which are sold at Grounded Gardens in downtown Silver Lake.

of products Pinder sells in her shop, Ground Gardens, in downtown Silver Lake. Everything she grows but can't sell in Silver Lake is sold through retail businesses in the Twin Cities.

"I wanted to help people in a healthy way," she said.

The products include bath and lip balms, infused rosin and butter, neck wrap, edibles, hand sanitizer, teas, dog treats, honey, oil tinctures, CBD salve and more.

CBD has been touted for a wide variety of health issues, but the strongest scientific evidence is for its effectiveness in treating some of the cruelest childhood epilepsy syndromes, such as Dravet syndrome and Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS), which typically don't respond to antiseizure medications. CBD is commonly used to address anxiety, and for patients who suffer through the misery of insomnia, studies suggest that CBD may help with both falling asleep and

staying asleep.

CBD may offer an option for treating different types of chronic pain. A study from the European Journal of Pain showed, using an animal model, CBD applied on the skin could help lower pain and inflammation due to arthritis, according to Peter Grinspoon, M.D., a contributing writer with Harvard Medical Publishing. Another study demonstrated the mechanism by which CBD inhibits inflammatory and neuropathic pain, two of the most difficult types of chronic pain to treat. More study in humans is needed in this area to substantiate the claims of CBD proponents about pain control. CBD may prove to be an option for managing anxiety, insomnia, and chronic pain, Grinspoon wrote.

CBG may be able to improve symptoms associated with inflammatory bowel disease, glaucoma, bladder dysfunctions, Huntington's disease, bacterial infections,

controlling the growth in some forms of cancer and appetite loss, according to Healthline, an online health information site. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture closely regulates the crop Pinder and other hemp farmers grow. The hemp plants' THC – tetrahydrocannabinol - content can't contain more than .3 percent of THC, the chemical that provides a 'high' feeling. If the THC content is too high, the plants must be destroyed.

"We are very closely regulated," Pinder

In five years, Pinder hopes her operation is both larger and profitable. She'd like to be able to invest in equipment and a green-

"We hope this works out. So far, we're learning as we go," she said. "It's going well"

FarmFest provided virtual stage for House, Senate candidates continued from Page 27

Lewis supports President Trump's tough negotiating to get a good trade deal, like the accord with China. He criticized Democrats for delaying approval of the USMCA trade deal

On health care, Lewis opposes a singlepayer system and the Affordable Care Act and claims it will hurt small hospitals in rural areas. He wants to undo price restrictions to bring down costs.

Smith is concerned about skyrocketing costs and said she has been working on leg-

islation to control the costs of prescription medications.

Looking ahead, Smith and Lewis were asked how they would protect farmers in future farm bills. Smith supports expanding crop insurance to keep money coming to smaller farmers. She also backs value-added programs, like CSAs and farmers markets that help farmers. She also supports diversification of opportunities for farmers.

Lewis opposes reductions in direct payments to farmers, supports extension of crop

insurance and said he would work for a better health care system than in the Affordable Care Act. He also supports guest workers programs that keep people on the farm longer.

Labor supply

Asked about migrant workers and an ample supply of labor for farms and processing plants, Lewis supports incentives for encouraging more people to work. He supports people here on work visas but believes

illegal immigration must be curtailed.

Smith supports making it easier for people to come here and work legally. Allowing more workers, she contends, help growth.

In conclusion, Lewis contends he'll work to improve the economy, reduce regulation and improvements that will help farmers. He supports lower taxes and the USMCA that Democrats delayed.

Smith promised to work across party lines to help farmers. She vowed to work for better health care for farmers and their families.



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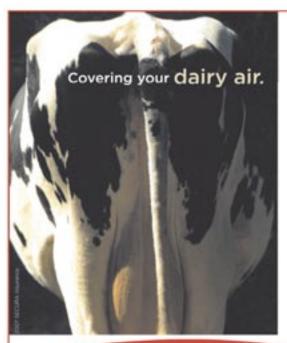
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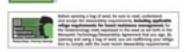


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Another slow year for aphids?

By Dick Hagen RC Register

Is that question being asked again this year? Including Bruce Potter, plant pathologist, U of MN, who in an Aug. 20, 2019 visit at his South West Research & Outreach Center office, Lamberton said, "So far it's been a slow year for aphids." This year much the same with Potter again suggesting, "Give some credit to Nature. Again we've had lots of rain. Aphids don't thrive in saturated soils. However, lots of defoliators out there... Painted Ladies, Sweet Clover Worms, that sort of thing. So its going good for soybeans, not so good for aphids."

But plant pathologists don't like to prognosticate. He's not predicting an explosion of aphids still to happen. His July 16 newsletter carried this info: Soil moisture is only one of the factors that can influence early season soybean aphid populations. Areas with early-planted soybeans, soils testing lower in potassium and nearby buckthorn often see aphids first. Fields with hail damage or drown-outs may see aphid populations late in the season if soybean maturity is delayed or soybeans planted late.

Rich Sigurdson, Olivia aerial applicator, had in past seasons employed up to five Piper Air Tractors waging war on aphids. This season the battle against circospira leaf blight on area sugar beets has been intensive. "Yes, for a few days we had four planes spraying. During the warm, humid conditions of late June/early July we were respraying some fields every 4 to 5 days. The blight was exploding very rapidly."

Wednesday, July 15, I was standing in his 'refill hanger' as he stepped out of his Piper Air Tractor for a brief interview I'm much aware time is money for these aerial app guys. He didn't even stop the engine of that big 750 hp turbine engine. His 3-man



Photo by Dick Hagen

Richard Sigurdson departs the Olivia Airport and prepares to aerial spray are fields for aphids.

ground crew quickly reloaded the 400-gallon tank on his plane; one climbed onto the wing for a quick spray cleaning of the windshield of his plane; also his rig got a quick refueling too, Eight minutes later I asked my last question and Sig was back into the seat of his Air Tractor and just like that his Piper was cranking down the runway off to the next field,

These aerial app guys are great monitors of how your crops look. Said Sigurdson, "A slow spring but once the rains started, our business really cranked up... especially on sugar beet fields getting hit by circospora blight. Ground rigs couldn't go but beet growers know very well the incredible damage potential so they were quickly on their phones. That's why I had to call some other pilots where beets aren't a major crop. We pretty much got the blight under control but still lots of damage I'm told."

Todd Geselius at Southern MN Beet Sugar Cooperative commented, "Yes always a challenge but not more intense. Our growers work diligently to keep it under control and so far are doing a fantastic job. But it remains a threat the duration of our growing season. Warm, humid weather brings it on and this late June, early July those days were abundant."

Circospora isn't easily controlled. "Aerial applications were a necessity because of our frequent showers this spring. This

Aphids Turn to page 34

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Aphids: Aerial Spraying continues to evolve and advance, requires many hands continued from page 33

meant several applications to keep this blight under control.

Because our beet crop got off to an early start, we pushed for earlier spraying. Get an early start and we can delay infections and slow down the progress of the disease," said Geselius.

Sigurdson said crops are mostly looking good although that July 11 hail storm blasting through Kandiyohi, Renville and the northern edge of Sibley County ripped up lots of beet fields, "Some serious leaf stripping on corn fields too. On soybean aphids, I'm sure we'll have them again, maybe even earlier than normal because of earlier plantings around here. More like the tail end of July, early August we'll be getting calls on aphids. If fields are dry growers can use ground rigs to get the job done. But if both temps are up aphids literally explode. And that's when we crank our rigs up again."

Comments Bruce Potter, Plant Pathologist, SWRES, Lamberton, "I start paying attention once I find more than 50 percent of the plants are infested with at least one aphid. It's not threshold yet but aphids per plant can increase more rapidly once most of the plants have been colonized. Cooler weather late June/early July may have temporarily stalled some aphid populations. But late July heat and moisture has certainly triggered lots more activity. So my advice to growers...be out there and doing your counts."

Fortunately these Piper Air Tractors are productive machines and that may be necessary. However get this: These Air Tractors can do 200 acres per hour flying 130

to 140 MPH while laying down a 64' swath, 10' above the crop canopy! Yes, just like GPS guidance keeps farm tractor and combines on track, the same accuracy for aerial rigs too.

In fact for aerial applicators GPS virtually kicks in even before leaving the air field! During that brief 6 to 8 minute refill the Pilot plugs in the coordinate location of his next field, cranks up his Piper Air Power and GPS guides him directly to that field. This system even activates the spraying precisely when the plane reaches the leading edge of the field; instantly turns it off as the pilot gets to th end of the field, makes his climbing turn to get redirected 180 degrees the other direction and again the system ignites the spraying precisely as needed.

Farmers invest upwards of a million dollars for their key tractors and combines. But note that list price on a new Piper Air Tractor is right at \$1.4 million. "Plus we've got a few dollars in water tanks and product storage tanks plus my three-man 'quick load' crew which pre-mixes exactly what I need for my next refill. Siera, our office lady, takes phone calls from area farmers everywhere including precise locations of their fields, what crops to spray, and their 'preferred' time frame for the spraying. She relays this info to the 'ground mix' crew and away we go. Not saying we can match up with their requests but we do our best."

Yes, 7 a.m. crank up times are common for Sig and his other pilots. "That spray plane is often the wake-up for some of us sleepy heads," chuckles Jim Zenk, recently retired farmer now living in Olivia who

makes 'morning coffee' at the Chatterbox Café his usual daily agenda. The café is virtually adjacent to Olivia airport....so Sigurdson air planes are like daily reminders for the Chatterbox coffee crew

Application costs are \$8.07 per acre this year for Sigurdson Aerial App services, He comments, "Aerial work comes with a price. Accuracy and timeliness is how we survive in the business...just as it does in farming. Sure, we know farmers spend lots of money on every crop acre. We understand precision is always their goal, and it most certainly is our goal too.'

With continual maintenance, good hangars and a ground crew that helps keep each plane clean these Piper Air Tractors are good for 10-plus years. No more than a 6-month working time frame is a typical season for most spray planes, "But take good care of them and you've got a working machine for years. Engines need attention, but do regular maintenance and they'll give you lots of time."

Sigurdson started into crop spraying in 1984...and just 19 years old., How much longer? He chuckled, "I don't know. It's been a good business. Sometimes I think maybe this should be my last day. But the next day, especially with sun shine and gentle breezes, I'm ready to go again!

He gives credit where credit is due. "My ground crew doing the right thing at the right time is what makes this business work. Sometimes they're doing 4, even 5 different products in the tank mix. Today I'm doing fungicide apps on oats at 3-gallon per acre rates. With beets we're at the 5 gallon rate. Every crop; every fungicide is different. Our office lady makes out the 'prescription' for our loading crew. They then do the mixing of each ingredient. And I do the arithmetic to determine the correct application rate of that total mix on each acre. Sounds complicated but my crew is a whiz at these tasks," summed up

Siera Weis, secretary, is key. "Farmers call in; tell me what crop needs spraying

and what product they prefer. I give that info to my ground crew guys, plus coordinates of the field to be sprayed, I love the work. Interacting with farmers is always special. Plus I like mapping fields, the billing process which I mail out to our customers, even the variety of activity right here at the Olivia airport. We get quite a few business pilots flying in who work with area Ag businesses in this Renville County area. And some pilots flying in just to refuel and grab a bite to eat at the Chatterbox Cafe. They often tell me how attractive the Ólivia airfield is and how good the daily bakery items are at the Chatterbox too."

Sam Mark is number one load specialist. Most of his day is in the unique 60' by 80' refill hanger, he coordinates the 'ingredient mix' going into the next Piper Air Tractor. This fall he starts his final year of the 2-year aviation program at University of Minnesota, Duluth. This education moves him through 'beginner' stage to private license to instrument to commercial multi-engine and CFI license (Certified Flight Instructor). To get a commercial rating requires 250 hours flight time.

So why at Sigurdson Aerial Applicators?

Said Sam, "I really enjoy the job. Yes, this aerial application is a strict business. You've got to learn a bunch. For us, the exact ingredients of different products for each refill and to some extent even the handling characteristics of these high-powered, tail-dragging airplanes when empty and when fully loaded. Lots of power and with a 500-gallon capacity these Air Tractors carry a heavy load. My goal is to soon be an ag pilot. We're not crop dusters... we're applying liquid chemicals and that demands precision work."

Just as technology keeps upgrading farm equipment much the same for aerial applicators. Very demanding attention is the constant reminder for both professions and this 'ground crew' at Sigurdson Aerial Applicators, Olivia, is a great example.



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Renville County 2020 Farm Family of the Year

Nachreiner family of Fairfax receives this year's honor

University of Minnesota Extension

The Tim and Janet Nachreiner family of Fairfax has been named Renville County's "2020 Farm Family of the Year" by the University of Minnesota. In 1987, Tim and Janet Nachreiner purchased and started operating the Nachreiner Dairy farm. This purchase of Tim's childhood family farm started a new generation of dairy farmers with the help of their four children. During the first 10 years, the Nachreiners grew their herd to milk 80 cows in a 20-cow stanchion barn. Tim and Janet knew they wanted to grow their herd even more and in 1997 a new free-stall and double 10 parlor facility was built. The new building helped spur a desire by two of the Nachreiner children, Chris and Curt, to start careers on the farm. They joined the operation full-time learning the inner workings from their father Tim before he passed away a short five years later. Today, Nachreiner Dairy is owned by Janet, Chris and Curt who all share in the operation and decision-making of the farm, They milk 300 cows, in addition to raising out all their youngstock along with finishing out steers with outside help and facilities, 1,400 acres are used to grow corn, soybeans, oats, spring wheat, alfalfa and winter rye. Janet's main responsibilities include milking, calf feeding and record keeping. Chris and Curt tend to the daily chores of the farm which involve cow care and tending to the crops, in addition to maintaining the farm buildings and equipment. The Nachreiners have one full-time employee who assists with daily barn chores and TMR mixes for the herd. Nachreiner Dairy also has part-time employees who assist with the milking and barn cleaning duties. When it comes time to harvesting silage crops, they round up helpful neighbors to assist. The Nachreiners do as much of their business as possible in the local community. Janet worked alongside her husband and now her two sons over the last 33 years. Chris, his wife, Tina, and their children, Ella and Sofia, along with Curt, his wife, Lisa, and their children Madalynn, Lydia, Kellen and Sylvia have enjoyed raising their families on the farm just as they were and inspiring the next generation.



Photo submitted

The Nachreiner Dairy Farm is located in Fairfax. It has been oeprating as a family affair since 1987.

Though COVID-19 has forced cancellation of the annual Minnesota Farmfest, where the awards are presented each August, this year's honorees will be celebrated in an online video tribute. The recognition, led by University of Minnesota President Joan Gabel, is available for viewing atv mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu.

Honored families are chosen, one per county, by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on their demonstrated commitment to their communities and to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

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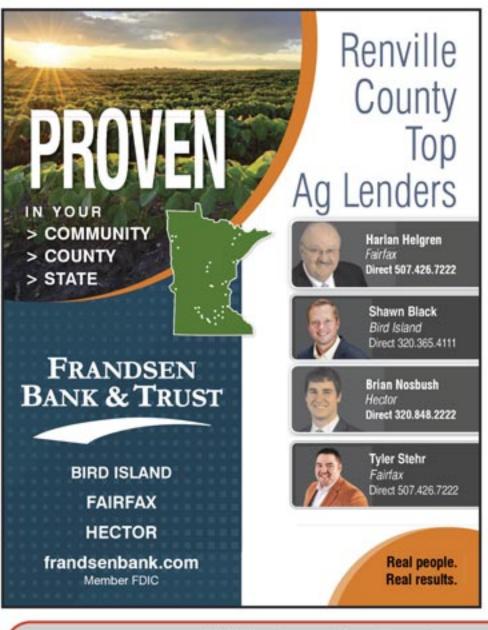
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