

OVERALL, THE C-P-I WAS UP ONLY TWO-TENTHS OF A POINT IN APRIL...BUT ECONOMISTS PREDICT IT WILL SPIKE SIGNIFICANTLY IN MAY.

MACHINERY MINUTE

IN THIS WEEK'S MACHINERY MINUTE - DEMAND FOR NEW IRON REMAINS QUITE STRONG...

IN ITS MONTHLY SALES FLASH, THE ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS REPORTS COMBINE SALES ARE UP NEARLY SIXTEEN-PERCENT YEAR TO DATE...WHILE SALES OF FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTORS ARE UP SIX-PERCENT.

ONE MARKET LAGGING A BIT IS TWO-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTORS, WITH SALES DOWN ELEVEN-PERCENT COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO.

AEM-FARM BILL

ALONG WITH MONITORING SALES, A-E-M IS ALSO KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE FARM BILL DEBATE.

THE ASSOCIATION SAYS IT IS DISAPPOINTED THE CURRENT VERSION DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO REDUCE THE DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE FOR AG EQUIPMENT FROM SEVEN YEARS TO FIVE.

A-E-M SAYS THE FIVE-YEAR OPTION WOULD PUSH GROWERS TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT THAT'S MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

4-H ROPIN'

HOW MANY OF YOU WANTED TO BE A COWBOY WHEN YOU GREW UP??? FOR MANY - IT REMAINS A DREAM UNFULFILLED...BUT FOR SOME YOUNGSTERS IN TENNESSEE, LEARNING TO TOSS A LASSO WITH PRECISION IS NOW PART OF THEIR 4-H TRAINING.

IN THIS REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHUCK DENNEY SHOWS US HOW ROPING TAKES PRACTICE - AND PATIENCE.

CHUCK TELLS US ROPING IS PART OF THE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM...WE'LL POST A LINK ON OUR HOME PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

OUTDOORS

WELCOME BACK...TIME TO KICK OFF ANOTHER EDITION OF "OUTDOORS ON THE FARM". HOSTED BY PRO FARMER EDITOR CHIP FLORY, THIS ON-GOING SERIES SHOWS HOW FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAN USE THEIR LAND FOR MORE THAN GROWING CROPS OR RAISING LIVESTOCK.

IN THIS MORNING'S REPORT, CHIP TAKES US TO GUTHRIE COUNTY, IOWA WHERE A LOVE OF HORSES AND A MEDICAL BACKGROUND HELPED CREATE A PLACE OF HOPE AND HEALING.

THANKS CHIP...TO LEARN MORE, HEAD ONLINE TO TIMBERCREEK-THERAPIES-DOT-TRIPOD-DOT-COM...OR YOU CAN GIVE THEM A CALL AT 641-747-3225.

TRACTOR TALES

WE'RE OFF TO AN INDIANA FARM FOR THIS WEEK'S "TRACTOR TALES"...THE STORY OF AN OLD FORD...

COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE

ANOTHER TWO-FOR-ONE THIS MORNING ON COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE.

THE FIRST CHURCH IS ENON VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JUST EAST OF FINDLAY, OHIO. ACCORDING TO GRACE SHERMAN, WHO SENT US THE INFORMATION, THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH ON HIGHWAY 224 IS AN ACTIVE PART OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND UNDER PASTOR TOM EVERETT'S LEADERSHIP THEY CONTINUE THE TRADITIONS OF A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY OF BELIEVERS. THE CONGREGATION NUMBERS 67 ACTIVE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

OUR SECOND CHURCH IS THE HERSEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF REED CITY, MICHIGAN. ORGANIZED IN 1862 EARLY WORSHIPERS CARRIED LANTERNS WITH THEM TO BOTH LIGHT THE CHURCH AND TO FRIGHTEN THE WOLVES AS THEY WALKED THE MUDDY ROADS THROUGH THE TIMBERLAND. THE ORIGINAL LOG CHURCH WAS REPLACED AROUND 1870 AND HAS BEEN IMPROVED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE.

THE CHURCH HAS A SPECIAL SERVICE THIS WEEKEND TO COMMEMORATE THE PLACING OF A HISTORICAL MARKER TO REMIND ALL OF THEIR WONDERFUL HISTORICAL HERITAGE.

USFR MAILBAG

TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...

I NORMALLY DON'T READ THE COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS WE RECEIVE, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE MUCH APPRECIATED. IT JUST SEEMS A LITTLE SELF-SERVING. BUT THIS THOUGHTFUL E-MAIL I THOUGHT DESERVED SOME REPLY.

FROM PEG RUTHERFORD IN MICHIGAN THIS FASHION REVIEW:

"JUST WANTED TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE THE WARDROBES OF BOTH THE REGULARS AND THE GUESTS... IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT YOU COULD TELL A FARMER FROM OTHERS IN A HEARTBEAT.

NOW THE STOCKBROKER AND THE FARMER CAN STAND BESIDE EACH OTHER AND THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE."

GOSH, THANKS PEG. LIKE MOST FARMERS I SPEND SEVERAL SECONDS EVERY MORNING ASSEMBLING MY OUTFIT FOR THE DAY, AND IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEONE NOTICES.

OF COURSE HERE ON THE SHOW, I RESORT TO A MORE PROFESSIONAL SARTORIAL STRATEGY: THE INTERNET.

I HAVEN'T BEEN IN A CLOTHES STORE IN YEARS, I AM PROUD TO SAY. I ORDER MY TELEVISION CLOTHES FROM JOSEPH BANKS ONLINE.

I FIND ONE OF THOSE FROWNING MALE MODELS IN A SUIT THAT LOOKS OK, RUN IT BY JAN FOR APPROVAL, AND ORDER THE WHOLE DANG OUTFIT.

THIS METHOD PREVENTS THE TRAGIC SUIT-AND-TIE CHOICES WHICH USED TO BE MY HALLMARK.

NOW THAT I KNOW MY SIZES AND OUTSEAM LENGTH, IT'S A SNAP.

AND IF I DON'T LIKE IT, THEY PROVIDE SHIPPING TO RETURN IT WITHOUT HASSLE. I'LL POST THEIR WEBSITE.

I SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT ANOTHER KEY TO MY "LOOK" IS BEING MARRIED TO SOMEONE WHO MAY BE - ACCORDING TO MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES - THE LAST WIFE IN CAPTIVITY WHO IRONS.

REGARDLESS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.

U.S. FARM REPORT

The nation's longest running agricultural news program

Show #1815

Weekend of May 24, 2008

FARM BILL SNAFU

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE FARM BILL IS NOW FARM LAW, BUT IT TOOK SOME LAST MINUTE MANEUVERING TO GET THERE.

THE VERSION PRESIDENT BUSH VETOED -- AND WAS OVERRIDEN BY THE HOUSE -- WAS MISSING AN ENTIRE SECTION DEALING WITH TRADE.

SO, THE HOUSE HAD TO RE-SEND A SIMILAR VERSION.

MEANWHILE, THE SENATE VOTED TO OVERRIDE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VETO.

PRO FARMER WASHINGTON EDITOR ROGER BERNARD TALKED TO KEY AG LEADERS...PRIOR TO THE CLERICAL SNAFU...ABOUT THE LAW.

SOUTH KOREA BEEF

ALSO THIS WEEK, THE AG DEPARTMENT CONTINUES A BACK-AND-FORTH DEBATE WITH SOUTH KOREA OVER BEEF.

DESPITE STRIKING A DEAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW AMERICAN IMPORTS FROM CATTLE OF ANY AGE, IT IS RUMORED THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT MAY TRY TO BLOCK IMPORTS FROM CATTLE OVER 30-MONTHS OF AGE.

AG SECRETARY ED SCHAFFER SAYS THE RUMORS ARE UNFOUNDED, NOTING FULL RESTORATION OF BEEF TRADE MUST HAPPEN BEFORE A COMPREHENSIVE FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS CAN MOVE FORWARD.

PRIOR TO INSTITUTING THE BAN IN 2003, SOUTH KOREA WAS THE THIRD-LARGEST BUYER OF AMERICAN BEEF.

ROUNDTABLES

HELD AT INDY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

BETH LOWERY OF GENERAL MOTORS, BILL BECKER OF LIFELINE FOODS, AND LES MACTAGGART OF INDY RACING LEAGUE

JOHN'S WORLD

THE RAMP UP IN COMMODITY PRICES IS ABOUT 18 MONTHS OLD NOW, AND SOME DELAYED REACTIONS ARE BECOMING A LITTLE CLEARER. MANY OF OUR CUSTOMERS IN THE MEAT, DAIRY AND EGG INDUSTRY HAVE RUN OUT FEED BOUGHT AHEAD CHEAPLY, AND THOSE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS A TEMPORARY SPIKE HAVE GIVEN UP ON THAT THEORY.

THAT SAME AMOUNT OF TIME IS ALSO ENOUGH FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS - THE BIG WINNERS - TO ACCLIMATE TO NUMBERS LIKE 6 AND THIRTEEN. IN FACT, AS I STARTED PLANNING FOR 2009, I USED \$4 CORN AS MY WORSE-CASE SCENARIO AND THE COMPUTER PROJECTION WAS JUST A LITTLE HORRIFYING. IT MORE UPSETTING TO REALIZE THAT EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, \$4 WOULD HAVE HAD ME DANCING WITH JOY.

OUR BRAINS EVOLVED TO RESET OUR SATISFACTION SETPOINTS BOTH UP AND DOWN TO KEEP US FROM MAKING BAD JUDGMENTS UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS.

SO IF YOU SUDDENLY GET NAUSEOUS THINKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SIX DOLLAR CORN ENDING - OR CONTINUING - DON'T BE SURPRISED. PSYCHOLOGISTS SUGGEST WRITING DOWN ALL THE REASONS IT COULD HAPPEN AND THEN ALL THE REASONS WHY IT MIGHT NOT. KEEP THAT LIST WITH YOU, AND CHECK IT FROM TIME TO TIME.

ABOVE ALL, DON'T PANIC. OUR BRAINS ARE NOT STUPID. THEY ARE JUST VERY, VERY OLD.

FARM BILL UPDATE

WE BEGIN AGAIN IN WASHINGTON WHERE CONGRESS OVERRIDES A PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE NEW FARM BILL.

ALONG WITH GREATLY EXPANDING FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS, THE FIVE-YEAR PACKAGE INCLUDES STEPPED-UP FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES AND BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT.

THE TOTAL PRICE TAG...289-BILLION DOLLARS. IN HIS VETO MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, PRESIDENT BUSH SAID THE BILL LACKS QUOTE, "PROGRAM REFORM AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE."

MIGRANT WORKER BILL

A PLAN TO EASE A SHORTAGE OF AG LABOR HITS A SNAG ON CAPITOL HILL. THE IMMIGRANT WORKER REFORM AMENDMENT HAS BEEN PULLED FROM A SPENDING BILL NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.

SPONSORED BY CALIFORNIA SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN, THE BILL WOULD HAVE CREATED A TEMPORARY VISA PROGRAM FOR WORKERS ALREADY HOLDING JOBS ON AMERICAN FARMS.

DOWNER CATTLE

AG SECRETARY SCHAFFER SAYS IT'S TIME TO DO AWAY WITH THE "DOWNER RULE" -- A POLICY CHANGE THAT STEMS FROM THE NATION'S LARGEST BEEF RECALL.

THE AG DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TUESDAY THAT IT WILL BEGIN WORKING ON A PROPOSED RULE TO PROHIBIT THE SLAUGHTER OF ALL DISABLED, NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE.

YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT "DOWNER CATTLE" WERE VIDEOTAPED BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY, WHICH LED TO A RECALL OF ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-THREE MILLION POUNDS OF BEEF.

SCHAFFER SAYS THE RULE CHANGE WILL IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

HE SAYS IF THERE ARE NO DOWNER CATTLE TO REVIEW, INSPECTORS CAN FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON HEALTHY CATTLE.

MACHINERY MINUTE

AS REBATE CHECKS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN HOMES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, A LESSER KNOWN PROVISION OF THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE COULD DRIVE THE SALE OF NEW FARM EQUIPMENT.

PASSED BY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY, THE PACKAGE INCLUDES A BONUS DEPRECIATION IN WHICH BUSINESSES - INCLUDING FARMERS - CAN DEDUCT 50-PERCENT OF THE COST OF NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASED AND PLACED INTO SERVICE THIS YEAR.

A SIMILAR PROVISION PASSED IN 2003 IS CREDITED WITH BOOSTING SPENDING BY AS MUCH AS FOUR PERCENT IN THE SIX MONTHS AFTER IT WENT INTO EFFECT.

CANADA SALES

LOTS OF NEW EQUIPMENT IS ALSO BEING PURCHASED NORTH OF THE BORDER. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST INDUSTRY FIGURES, TRACTOR SALES IN CANADA THROUGH APRIL WERE UP NEARLY 30-PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO...WITH MORE THAN 75-HUNDRED UNITS MOVING OFF THE LOT.

BUSINESS IS EVEN BETTER FOR COMBINES - WITH SALES UP 99-PERCENT FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

THE SMALL FARM COMMUNITY OF SHIPSHAWANA, INDIANA IS A POPULAR STOP FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN OLD-WORLD CRAFTS, FINE FURNITURE, OR JUST THE FLAVOR OF DAYS GONE BY.

AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL IS A MAN WHOSE HARD WORK AND VISION HELP DEFINE "THE SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND"...

SCOTT KINRADE HAS HIS STORY...

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEL'S OPERATION, HEAD ON-LINE TO "RIEGSECKER-DOT-COM"...WE'LL BE SURE TO POST A LINK ON OUR HOME PAGE FOR EASY ACCESS.

OUTDOORS ON THE FARM

HOW CAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS GET MORE OUT OF THEIR LAND? FOR SOME, THEY ALLOW THEIR PROPERTY TO BE USED FOR HUNTING.

IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TRY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT CAN BE UTILIZED TO ATTRACT GAME. PRO FARMER EDITOR CHIP FLORY JOINS US FROM GUTHRIE COUNTY, IOWA WITH PART TWO OF "OUTDOORS ON THE FARM."

TRACTOR TALES

"TRACTOR TALES" THIS WEEK COMES TO US FROM AN ANTIQUE AND TRACTOR SWAP MEET IN JONES, MICHIGAN...TAKE A LOOK AT THIS OLD FARMALL...

COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE

OUR COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE TRAVELS TO THE THUMB OF MICHIGAN AND THE TOWN OF DECKERVILLE TO HONOR THE EAST MARION BAPTIST CHURCH THIS WEEKEND.

DURING 1885, A FEW EARLY ORGANIZERS AND BY 1886 FITEEN MEMBERS INCORPORATED THE CONGREGATION UNDER THE GUIDNACE OF REV. H. H. ANDREWS. KNOWN AS THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART, IT WAS LOCATED ATOP A HILL OVERLOOKING BIG CREEK, WHERE TIMBER HARVESTED NEARBY WAS FLAOTED TOWARD A DAM AND WATER-POWERED SAWMILL. CONSEQUENTLY IT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE DAM CHURCH.

THE CHURCH IS NOW IS HOME TO 39 MEMBERS WITH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF 53. THE CHURCH SUPPORTS 8 MISSIONS AND A STRONG YOUTH PROGRAM, ALONG WITH A WEEKLY SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST LED BY PASTOR DAVID FROST.

USFR MAILBAG

TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...

THE TOPIC OF THE DAY IS MOST CERTAINLY GAS PRICES, AND HERE IS A TYPICAL EMAIL ON THE TOPIC FROM NANCY:

"EVERYONE IS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE PRICE OF GAS...IF WE COULD BUILD ENOUGH PLANTS AND PUT 10% ETHENOL IN EVERY GALLON OF GAS... WE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY REDUCE THE USE OF FOREIGN OIL BY THAT SAME 10% OR CLOSE TO IT. THE ONLY WAY FOR US TO HAVE CHEAPER FUEL IS FOR OUR COUNTRY TO PRODUCE IT."

THANKS FOR WRITING, NANCY. MANY FOLKS AGREE WITH YOUR THINKING. UNFORTUNATELY IS IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT. TO BEGIN WITH ETHANOL HAS AN ENERGY RETURN ON ENERGY INVESTED OF ABOUT 1.3. IN OTHER WORDS TO GET ONE GALLON OF ETHANOL YOU MUST BURN ABOUT 3/4 GALLONS OF FUELS.

THIS MEANS EVERY GALLON OF ETHANOL REPLACES ONLY ABOUT 1/4 GALLON OF OTHER FUELS. WE WILL SOON BE MAKING ENOUGH ETHANOL - ROUGHLY 15 BILLION GALLONS - TO BLEND ALL OUR TRANSPORTATION FUEL IN THE U-S. OUR CURRENT USE IS ABOUT 150 BILLION GALLONS PER YEAR.

AS TO REPLACING FOREIGN OIL, THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY WE CAN TARGET WHICH OIL WE REPLACE. REMEMBER THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR FOREIGN OIL COMES FROM CANADA, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA. MORE IMPORTANTLY WHEN OIL IS BOUGH OR SOLD, THERE IS NO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABEL ON IT - IT'S JUST OIL.

IN FACT, WHILE WE ARE MAKING MORE AND MORE ETHANOL, STATISTICS SHOW WE ARE BECOMING SLIGHTLY MORE DEPENDENT ON MIDEASTERN OIL AS MEXICAN PRODUCTION SLIPS.

PRODUCING MORE MAY NOT BE OUR ANSWER, I FEAR. LEARNING TO USE LESS COULD BE THE BETTER WAY.

U.S. FARM REPORT

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Show #1816

Weekend of May 31, 2008

CRP GRAZING

CITING THE DEMAND ON CORN AND HIGH FEED COSTS, THE AG DEPARTMENT SAYS IT WILL ALLOW CATTLEMEN TO USE C-R-P ACRES FOR FORAGE.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ED SCHAFER SAYS THE HIGH COMMODITY PRICES HAVE HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY.

SCHAFER SAYS 24 MILLION OF THE 34 MILLION ACRES CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE C-R-P CAN BE USED FOR GRAZING AND TO HARVEST HAY.

PRO FARMER WASHINGTON EDITOR ROGER BERNARD SAYS THERE'S ALSO AN ADDED BENEFIT FOR C-R-P CONTRACT HOLDERS.

ONLY C-R-P CONTRACT HOLDERS CAN TAKE PART IN THIS FEED-USE PROGRAM....SIGN-UP BEGINS MONDAY AT YOUR F-S-A OFFICE.

HOWEVER, THE LAND CANNOT BE USED UNTIL BIRD-NESTING IS COMPLETE...WHICH VARIES FROM REGION TO REGION.

ALSO, ALL FORAGE MUST BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER TENTH OF THIS YEAR.

CROP PROGRESS

GROWERS IN SEVERAL KEY CORN PRODUCING STATES ARE JUST ABOUT FINISHED WITH THEIR PLANTING, DESPITE A VERY WET SPRING.

FOR MANY OF THOSE SAME FARMERS, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE COOL TEMPERATURES THAT ARE LIMITING SEED GERMINATION.

AS OF LAST SUNDAY, EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE NATION'S CORN CROP WAS PLANTED.

IOWA FARMERS MADE HUGE GAINS WITH THEIR PLANTING WITH 93-PERCENT DONE.

NEBRASKA HAS 96-PERCENT PLANTED AS OF LAST SUNDAY.

MISSOURI GROWERS CONTINUE TO BE PLAGUED BY WET FIELDS, AS THEY HAVE ONLY 72-PERCENT OF THEIR CORN IN THE GROUND.

PORK EXPO

PORK PRODUCERS, LIKE ANY LIVESTOCK PRODUCER, ARE FACING BIG CHALLENGES RIGHT NOW.

YOU CAN BET RISING FEED COSTS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC THIS WEEK AT THE WORLD PORK EXPO IN DES MOINES.

WE TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL ABOUT THE ANNUAL EVENT.

MORE THAN THIRTY-THOUSAND VISITORS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE ARE EXPECTED AT THE EXPO WHICH BEGINS THURSDAY IN DES MOINES.

ANALYSIS

MIKE NORTH OF FIRST CAPITOL AG & ELAINE KUB OF DTN

JOHN'S WORLD

THE MOST POPULAR SEGMENT ON AGWEB IS THE CROP COMMENTS SECTION - I KNOW I VISIT IT DAILY TO SEE HOW MY COLLEAGUES ARE DOING AND TO MEASURE HOW BAD MY SITUATION IS OR ISN'T.

IT IS PATHETIC, I KNOW, BUT READING THE GRIM PROBLEMS FACING PRODUCERS WITH WAY TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE RAIN PUTS MY DELAYS INTO BETTER PERSPECTIVE.

IN TALKING ABOUT THE POSTS WITH THE AGWEB FOLKS, ONE ASKED WHY WE AREN'T GETTING MANY COMMENTS FROM SOME AREAS. MY GUESS IS THOSE PLACES ARE DOING OK, AND POSTING HOW GOOD THINGS LOOK IS LIKELY PERCEIVED AS UNHELPFUL TO SAY THE LEAST.

WHILE ALL PRODUCERS EXPERIENCE THEIR OWN CATASTROPHES UNIQUELY AND ALONE, THE POWER OF STORIES FROM OTHERS TO MAKE MY STOMACH QUEASY IS QUITE REAL. SINCERELY, I HOPE YOUR FARM DRIES UP OR GETS RAIN VERY SOON.

AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN REFRAINING FROM TALKING ABOUT YOUR GOOD FORTUNE, I THINK IT SHOWS A SENSITIVITY NOT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH OUR COMPETITIVE BUSINESS.

AFTER A POINT, HOWEVER, IT COULD BE THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD FACTS ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE ON YOUR FARMS WILL ACTUALLY BE MORE USEFUL THAN DISCRETE SILENCE.

FARMERS CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH, AND ONE DUTY OF A FRIEND IS TO HONOR THAT RESPONSIBILITY AS PROFESSIONALLY AS WE CAN. LET US KNOW HOW THINGS ARE WITH YOU.

USFR-2ND HALF

CLIMATE CHANGE

A NEW FEDERAL STUDY LOOKS TWENTY FIVE YEARS INTO THE FUTURE...AND IT OFFERS A GLOOMY PICTURE WHEN IT COMES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE.

THE REPORT PREDICTS WARMING TEMPERATURES WILL INCREASE THE RISK OF CROP FAILURE...AND WILL INCREASE ANIMAL MORTALITY DUE TO HOTTER SUMMERS.

THE REPORT WAS GENERATED BY THE CLIMATE-CHANGE SCIENCE PROGRAM...A GROUP OF THIRTEEN FEDERAL AGENCIES, LED BY THE AG DEPARTMENT.

WE'LL POST A LINK ON OUR HOMEPAGE FOR EASY ACCESS.

FARM BILL-NUTRITION

THERE'S A NEW FARM BILL IN PLACE - AND WHILE YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT, TWO-THIRDS OF THE PROGRAM WILL GO TOWARD NUTRITION.

INCLUDED IN THE NEW LEGISLATION IS A FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM -- WHICH IS FREE TO KIDS.

PRO FARMER WASHINGTON EDITOR ROGER BERNARD JOINS US FROM WASHINGTON WITH DETAILS...

HARKIN SAYS THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM WILL GET NINE-MILLION DOLLARS, BUT IT WILL RAMP-UP FROM THAT...EVENTUALLY REACHING ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY MILLION A YEAR.

MACHINERY MINUTE

IN THIS MORNING'S MACHINERY MINUTE...PAIN AT THE PUMP IS SHOWING NO SIGNS OF EASING.

ACCORDING TO THE ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, THE PRICE OF UNLEADED IS NOW AVERAGING 3-94 A GALLON NATIONWIDE...UP 15-CENTS FROM THE WEEK BEFORE AND 73-CENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

DIESEL IS NO BETTER...NOW AVERAGING 4-72 A GALLON...A BUMP OF NEARLY TWO-DOLLARS OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

DEERE INVESTMENT

A MAJOR FARM EQUIPMENT PLAYER SAYS IT WILL MAKE A BIG INVESTMENT TO KEEP UP WITH GLOBAL DEMAND.

DEERE SAYS THERE IS GROWING DEMAND FOR LARGE COMBINES, INCLUDING THEIR S-T-S SERIES.

THE COMPANY REPORTS IT WILL SPEND 35-MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO INCREASE MANUFACTURING CAPACITY AT ITS HARVESTER WORKS IN EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

ONCE A STAPLE OF THE AMERICAN COUNTRYSIDE, THE NATURE OF SMALL FAMILY FARMS IS EVOLVING.

AND WHILE MANY FARM KIDS LOOK FOR WORK OFF THE FARM AS THEY GROW OLDER, A DAIRY OPERATION IN OHIO HAS BECOME A SHOWCASE FOR TWO CONCEPTS... CONSERVATION AND FAMILY FARMING.

PROVIDED BY THE USDA, BOB ELLISON VISITS A FAMILY FILLED WITH "THE SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND."

BACK IN 2001, THE STOLLER'S RECEIVED THE "CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY AWARD"...RECOGNIZING THEIR DEDICATION TO CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES.

OUTDOORS ON THE FARM

FOR HUNTERS, THE OLD ADAGE "PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE" IS OFTEN PUT TO THE TEST...ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE GOING AFTER TURKEY.

IN THE THIRD AND FINAL PART OF "OUTDOORS ON THE FARM", PRO FARMER EDITORY CHIP FLORY IS BACK IN GUTHRIE COUNTY, IOWA WHERE HE IS REMINDED WHY IT'S CALLED HUNTING - NOT FINDING.

CHIP ASKED US TO SEND OUT A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLKS AT TIMBER CREEK THERAPIES - NOTABLY CINDY MC-CARTY - FOR ALL THEIR HELP DURING OUR VISIT TO THEIR OPERATION.

TRACTOR TALES

WELCOME BACK TO U-S FARM REPORT. OUR TRACTOR TALES THIS MORNING SHOWS US GOOD THINGS COME IN "SCALED-DOWN" PACKAGES.

WE HAVE A SCALE MODEL OF A CASE STEAM ENGINE CRAFTED IN 1965 WE CAUGHT UP WITH THE OWNER IN CONVERSE, INDIANA.

COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE

WE HAVE TWO WONDERFUL CHURCHES THIS WEEK ON COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE.

THE FIRST IS ST MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BRANDON, WISCONSIN. FOUNDED BY IRISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE LATE 1840'S, THE WOODEN CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN 1858.

THE CONGREGATION NUMBERS ABOUT 30 WITH SERVICES HELD EVERY OTHER SUNDAY DURING THE SUMMER.

ON JUNE 8TH THEY WILL CELEBRATE A 150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS. THANKS TO KAREN MADIGAN FOR THE INFORMATION.

OUR SECOND CHURCH CELEBRATED 120 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. THE MARENGO CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN MARENGO, INDIANA COMPRISES A CONGREGATION OF ABOUT 100 LED BY PASTOR BRUCE HAWKINS AND YOUTH MINISTER AARON SWEENEY.

THE CHURCH IS NOTED FOR ITS STRONG COMMITMENT TO MISSION AT HOME AND ABROAD. THANKS TO BOB RICHARDSON

USFR MAILBAG

TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...

OUR ROUNDTABLE FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 AND LAST WEEK'S E-MAIL ON ETHANOL TRIGGERED SEVERAL SPIRITED RESPONSES FROM ETHANOL SKEPTICS. SUCH AS THIS ONE FROM DAN JURIS IN MISSOURI:

"THIS IS JUST A LITTLE COMMENT ON AL PELL'S COMMERCIAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF ETHANOL WHICH YOU TITLED THE GREEN REPORT. IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE YOU GUYS ARE BEING PAID TO PROMOTE CORN GAS INSTEAD OF JUST REPORTING FACTS AS THEY ARE."

OR EVEN MORE POINTED THIS NOTE FROM CODY FITZWATER IN ARKANSAS:

"WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE IDEA OF TURNING A BADLY NEEDED FOOD PRODUCT INTO FUEL, I THOUGHT SURELY NOBODY IS DUMB ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THIS!"

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMMENTING. THIS DEBATE IS DEFINITELY HEATING UP FOR VERY SOUND ECONOMIC REASONS, AND BOTH SIDES ARE MARSHALLING EXPERTS TO DEFEND THEIR POSITIONS.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN CORN ETHANOL AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR OUR ENERGY NEEDS, BUT DO ACKNOWLEDGE IT HAS PROVEN TO BE A GREAT WAY TO RAISE COMMODITY PRICES.

BUT REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU STAND ON THIS ISSUE THE BEST WAY TO SORT THE RIGHT ANSWER OUT IS ALSO THE MOST EFFICIENT.

LET THE MARKET DECIDE WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH CORN. THE ETHANOL INDUSTRY CERTAINLY LOOKS ROBUST ENOUGH TO ME TO TAKE THE TRAINING WHEELS OFF, AND RECENT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THE EFFECT FOR FARMERS AND DISTILLERS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

INSTEAD OF HURLING ACCUSATIONS WE COULD LET INDIVIDUALS EXERCISE SOME THE RIGHT TO VOTE WITH THEIR DOLLARS. IT PROVEN TO WORK WELL FOR THE REST OF OUR ECONOMY.

U.S. FARM REPORT

The nation's longest running agricultural news program

Show #1817

Weekend of June 07, 2008

CME

STRONG COMMODITY PRICES CONTINUE TO DRIVE SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN THE PITS AT THE CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE.

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, TRADING VOLUME AVERAGED MORE THAN TEN-AND-A-HALF MILLION CONTRACTS PER DAY...A FOUR-PERCENT BUMP FROM THE YEAR BEFORE.

TOTAL VOLUME EXCEEDED 223-MILLION CONTRACTS FOR THE MONTH...AND OF THAT, 82-PERCENT WAS TRADED ELECTRONICALLY.

FOR THE YEAR, VOLUME IS AVERAGING MORE THAN 12-MILLION CONTRACTS A DAY...UP A ROBUST 26-PERCENT COMPARED TO THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 2007.

CFTC PLAN

ALSO THIS WEEK - THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION TAKES STEPS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE AG FUTURES MARKETS. ON TUESDAY, THE COMMISSION LAID OUT A SIX POINT PLAN TO ENSURE THE RISK-MANAGEMENT FUNCTION WORKS PROPERLY.

PRO FARMER WASHINGTON EDITOR ROGER BERNARD HAS DETAILS.

MONSANTO FUTURE

MONSANTO SETS A GOAL TO DOUBLE THE YIELDS IN THEIR CORE CROPS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DECADES...IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

C-E-O HUGH GRANT ANNOUNCED THE INITIATIVE ON WEDNESDAY.

GRANT SAYS BY 2030, MONSANTO PLANS TO REACH AN AVERAGE CORN YIELD OF TWO-HUNDRED-20 BUSHELS PER ACRE...THAT'S BASED ON A YEAR-2000 YIELD OF ONE-0H-NINE.

SOYBEANS WOULD RISE TO 79 BUSHELS AN ACRE.

AND COTTON YIELDS WOULD HIT TWO-POINT EIGHT BALES PER ACRE.

IN ADDITION TO HIGHER YIELDS, GRANT SAYS THEIR SEEDS WILL USE A THIRD-LESS RESOURCES, LIKE ENERGY, FERTILIZER AND WATER.

HURRICANE PREDICTION

A MAN KNOWN FOR HIS STORM FORECASTS MAKES HIS PREDICTION FOR THE 2008 HURRICANE SEASON.

WILLIAM GRAY AND HIS TEAM AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY IS CALLING FOR AS MANY AS FIFTEEN NAMED STORMS THIS YEAR...RIGHT IN LINE WITH WHAT GOVERNMENT FORECASTERS PREDICTED A COUPLE WEEKS BACK.

BASED ON AN UPDATED FORECAST MODEL, GRAY SAYS THERE'S NEARLY A 70-PERCENT CHANCE AT LEAST ONE MAJOR HURRICANE WILL HIT THE U-S COASTLINE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON RUNS FROM THE FIRST OF JUNE THROUGH THE END OF NOVEMBER.

ROUNDTABLE

ANDY SHISSLER FROM ROACH AG MARKETING & BRAD HARDING, ILLINOIS FARMER

JOHN'S WORLD

(SORRY, NO SCRIPT AVAILABLE)

KOREA BEEF

THE BATTLE OVER BEEF CONTINUES AS SOUTH KOREAN STEPS BACK FROM AN AGREEMENT REACHED JUST WEEKS AGO.

BASED ON WHAT IT CALLS GROWING PROTESTS FROM CONSUMERS, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT NOW SAYS IT WILL **NOT** IMPORT U-S BEEF FROM ANIMALS OVER 30-MONTHS OF AGE.

BACK IN APRIL, THE U-S AND SOUTH KOREA AGREED ON NEW QUARANTINE INSPECTION RULES MEANT TO RESTART BEEF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

U-S NEGOTIATORS SAY THERE'S NO SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION TO RENEGOTIATE THE DEAL.

EVEN SO, A NUMBER OF U-S MEAT-PACKERS HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO INCLUDE AGE LABELS ON THEIR SHIPMENTS.

TYSON LABELS

THE NATION'S NUMBER-ONE POULTRY PROCESSOR IS MAKING A LABEL CHANGE. TYSON FOODS NOTIFIED THE U-S-D-A THIS WEEK THAT IT'S DROPPING THE "RAISED WITHOUT ANTI-BIOTICS" LABEL FROM ITS CHICKEN PRODUCTS.

THE LABELS HAVE BEEN IN PLACE FOR JUST OVER A YEAR...AND WHILE THE COMPANY SAYS IT WILL CONTINUE TO MARKET CHICKEN RAISED WITHOUT ANTI-BIOTICS, IT SAYS THE CURRENT LABELS HAVE CREATED UNNECESSARY CONFUSION FOR SOME CONSUMERS.

THE NEW LABELS WILL START SHOWING UP WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS.

TYSON-AVIAN FLU

IN AN UNRELATED STORY, 15-THOUSAND BREEDER HENS WERE DESTROYED AT A TYSON FACILITY IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS THIS WEEK AFTER A LOW-PATHOGENIC STRAIN OF BIRD FLU WAS DISCOVERED.

AS A RESULT, BOTH RUSSIA AND JAPAN CUT OFF POULTRY IMPORTS FROM ARKANSAS. RUSSIA'S BAN IS IN PLACE FOR 90 DAYS, WHILE THE JAPANESE WINDOW IS MORE OPEN-ENDED.

PORK EXPO-ECONOMY

PRODUCERS AND LEADERS IN THE PORK INDUSTRY GATHERED THIS WEEK IN DES MOINES, IOWA TO DISCUSS THE BIG ISSUES THEY FACE RIGHT NOW...NAMELY RISING FEED COSTS.

THE NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL IS HOSTING THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL THE WORLD PORK EXPO.

ORGANIZERS WERE EXPECTING 30-THOUSAND ATTENDEES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE GLOBE.

LIKE ANY PRODUCER, FEED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CORN, CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE PORK INDUSTRY.

THE NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS IS UP TEN PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.

THE SHOW WRAPS UP TODAY.

SMOKEY BEAR

AFTER 64-YEARS OF BEING ON THE FRONT-LINE OF BIG FIRES...IT'S TIME FOR A FACE-LIFT.

THE SMOKEY BEAR CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN "RE-IGNITED" BY THE AD COUNCIL, U-S FOREST SERVICE AND STATE FORESTERS.

LAUNCHED IN 1944, IT'S ONE OF THE LONGEST RUNNING PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGNS IN THE U-S.

THE FOREST SERVICE SAYS NEARLY 90-PERCENT OF WILDFIRES IN FORESTS AND RANGELAND ARE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

IF YOU'VE WATCHED OUR PROGRAM VERY LONG, YOU PROBABLY KNOW OF MY LOVE OF MUSIC...AND AS A CHOIR DIRECTOR, I KNOW TALENT CAN COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES...AND AGES.

TODAY WE HEAD TO OKLAHOMA TO MEET A MAN WHO LOVES TO SING AND FISH...OFTEN AT THE SAME TIME. GALEN CULVER FROM AFFILIATE KFOR-TV IN OKLAHOMA CITY HAS HIS STORY.

MACHINERY MINUTE

BIODIESEL-TRACTOR PULL

IN THIS WEEK'S MACHINERY MINUTE - THE NATIONAL TRACTOR PULLERS ASSOCIATION LOOKS TO SOYBEANS TO POWER ITS MACHINES.

IN A DEAL ANNOUNCED BY THE UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD, THE SOY CHECK-OFF WILL SPONSOR AND SUPPLY SOY BIO-DIESEL TO POWER PULLING SLEDS AT SIX EVENTS THIS SUMMER.

ACCORDING TO THE U-S-B, THE USE OF SOY BIO-DIESEL IS ON THE RISE IN THE UNITED STATES - WITH NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF ALL SOYBEAN GROWERS NOW USING THE FUEL.

THE MOST POPULAR BLEND IS B-20...WHICH IS 80-PERCENT PETROLEUM DIESEL AND 20-PERCENT SOY BIO-DIESEL.

AGCO-IRON PLANET

AGCO IS LOOKING TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR BUYING USED EQUIPMENT. IN A PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK, THE FARM EQUIPMENT MAKER IS TEAMING UP WITH IRON PLANET TO DEVELOP ONLINE AUCTIONS.

ACCORDING TO A JOINT RELEASE, THE ONLINE PLATFORM WILL ALLOW AGCO'S 12-HUNDRED NORTH AMERICAN DEALERS TO MARKET USED EQUIPMENT DIRECT FROM THEIR LOCATION - CUTTING OUT TRANSPORTATION AND PREP COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRADITIONAL AUCTIONS.

COTTON MODULE

WE HEAD SOUTH NOW TO CHECK OUT A MASSIVE PIECE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD ONE DAY DRAMATICALLY IMPACT COTTON HARVEST.

IN THIS REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL, TRAN BOO-EE TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEW ON-BOARD MODULING SYSTEMS

ONE MORE NOTE ON THIS - LAST FALL DEERE ANNOUNCED THEY WERE DELAYING THE RELEASE OF THE SEVENTY-SEVEN-SIXTY. AT THIS TIME, THEY TELL US FIELD TESTING IS STILL UNDERWAY TO ENSURE THE SYSTEM MEETS THEIR STANDARDS...WITH NO RELEASE DATE ON THE CALENDAR.

TRACTOR TALES

TRACTOR TALES THIS WEEK IS THE FIRST OF A TWO-PARTER FEATURING A COUPLE JOHN DEERE MACHINES MANUFACTURED MORE THAN 70-YEARS AGO...AN INDIANA COLLECTOR PICKS UP THE STORY FROM HERE.

CHURCH SALUTE

TWO CHURCHES THIS MORNING ON COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE, SO LET'S GET STARTED. THE FIRST IS SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TAUNTON, MINNESOTA.

FOUNDED IN 1895 BY POLISH IMMIGRANTS THE CHURCH IS NAMED FOR FAMOUS SLAVIC SAINTS. THE CHURCH SERVED THE CROWING COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

IN A SIGN OF THE TIMES THE CHURCH WILL CLOSE ITS DOORS AT THE END OF JUNE DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF PRIESTS. NORMA TRAEN SET US THE INFORMATION.

OUR SECOND CHURCH IS NORSELAND' EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ST PETER, MINNESOTA. ONE OF THE FIRST CHURCHES IN THE AREA AFTER ITS FOUNDING IN 1858, THE WITNESS OF THE CONGREGATION WAS TO HELP FORM FIFTY OTHER CHURCHES.

HOME TO ONE OF THE FIRST PIPE ORGANS IN MINNESOTA, THE BUILDING HAS BEEN ENLARGED AND IMPROVED OVER ITS 150 YEAR HISTORY, WHICH THEY WILL HONOR THIS JUNE. OUR THANKS TO REV. CRAIG FERKENSTAD.

USFR MAILBAG

TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...

WE RECEIVED THIS NOTE FROM MARY ABOUT THE BROADCAST TV SWITCH COMING UP NEXT YEAR:

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY CONGRESS ALLOWED AMERICAN CITIZENS TO BE RAILROADED INTO PURCHASING DIGITAL CONVERTERS.

WE WEREN'T FORCED TO ACCEPT COLOR WHEN THAT CAME OUT, NOR CABLE OR SATELLITE. ARE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BEING ALLOWED TO BECOME MORE DICTATORIAL?"

MARY, DICTATORIAL IS A STRONG WORD, BUT YOU ARE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. BUT THIS COMMAND, IF YOU WILL IS NOT JUST IMPORTANT, IT IS CRITICAL TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS FUTURE.

OLDER TV SETS REQUIRE MORE OF THE FREQUENCY SPECTRUM - THE HIGHWAY FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC SIGNALS. AND THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH HIGHWAY FOR US TO USE. IT IS NOT FAIR FOR NEWER COMMUNICATIONS SIGNALS TO BE DENIED ACCESS BECAUSE OUR OLDER TECHNOLOGY WAS SO INEFFICIENT.

BY ADDING A CONVERTER BOX, NOT ONLY DO WE FREE UP MORE ROOM FOR NEW SIGNALS, YOU WILL IMPROVE YOUR RECEPTION SIGNIFICANTLY. BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT COUPONS AND STORES LIKE WALMART, THE COST IS VERY SMALL, AND THE INSTALLATION QUITE SIMPLE.

IS THIS GOVERNMENT INTRUSION INTO OUR LIVES? YES AND NO. THE AIRWAVES ARE A PUBLIC DOMAIN, NOT THE PROPERTY OF TODAY'S TELEVISION VIEWERS. AND JUST LIKE SPEED LIMITS OR ZONING LAWS, WE AS A PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED TO LET OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS REGULATE THESE PUBLIC GOODS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL.

IN THIS CASE, THE ENORMOUS INCREASE IN CAPACITY MADE POSSIBLE BY CONVERSION TO DIGITAL OUTWEIGHS THE INCONVENIENCE.

AS MR. SPOCK WOULD HAVE SAID, THE NEEDS OF THE MANY OUTWEIGH THE NEEDS OF THE FEW.

U.S. FARM REPORT

The nation's longest running agricultural news program

Show #1818

Weekend of June 14, 2008

CORN YIELD

A WET SPRING, AND RECORD FLOODING, IN KEY PARTS OF THE CORN BELT ALREADY HAVE THE GOVERNMENT SCALING BACK YIELDS...AND THE MARKET REACTING.

ON THURSDAY, CORN PRICES BLEW PAST THE HISTORIC SEVEN DOLLAR MARK.

IN AN UPDATED SUPPLY AND DEMAND REPORT RELEASED TUESDAY, THE AG DEPARTMENT SLICED ITS AVERAGE CORN YIELD PROJECTION TO 149-BUSHELS AN ACRE...DOWN FIVE FROM ITS EARLIER ESTIMATE. AS A RESULT, THE STOCKS-TO-USE RATIO FOR THE CURRENT CROP YEAR IS NOW JUST OVER FIVE-PERCENT...THE SMALLEST SINCE 1996.

ALSO OF INTEREST - WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION WAS BUMPED TO OVER ONE-POINT-EIGHT BILLION BUSHELS...UP 39-MILLION BUSHELS FROM A MONTH AGO.

WE'LL GET FULL REACTION FROM OUR ANALYSTS IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

WPX

THE 2008 WORLD PORK EXPO IS NOW IN THE BOOKS - AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT ONCE AGAIN DREW THOUSANDS TO DES MOINES, IOWA.

AND WHILE HOG PRICES HAVE IMPROVED A BIT IN RECENT WEEKS, MANY PRODUCERS ARE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW TO WEATHER THE STORM OF HIGHER INPUT COSTS.

REGIONAL REPORTER MICHELLE ROOK HAS OUR STORY.

ROUNDTABLES

JIM BOWER & BRIAN BASTING

JOHN'S WORLD

(SORRY NO VERBATIM AVAILABLE)

TOMATO SALMONELLA

WE BEGIN THIS MORNING WITH UNCERTAINTY IN YOUR GROCER'S PRODUCE SECTION.

IT'S BEEN ABOUT A WEEK SINCE THE F-D-A RECOMMENDED FOLKS NOT TO EAT THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RAW TOMATOES DUE TO A SALMONELLA OUTBREAK.

ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED-28 PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN SICK IN 23 STATES, DATING BACK TO MID-APRIL.

THE F-D-A IS STRUGGLING TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THE SALMONELLA, BUT IT HAS CLEARED TOMATOES FROM 28 STATES AS SAFE TO EAT.

STILL, SOME STATE AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONERS SAY THE DAMAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE TO THE TOMATO INDUSTRY.

THE FLORIDA DEPT OF AG SAYS EARLIER THIS WEEK SOME FLORIDA TOMATOES WERE TURNED AWAY AT STORES, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD JUST BEEN HARVESTED AND DID NOT EVEN EXIST WHEN THE OUTBREAK BEGAN.

FERTILIZER PRICES

A COALITION OF FARM STATE LAWMAKERS WANTS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE WHY FERTILIZER PRICES HAVE SHOT THROUGH THE ROOF.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT, SENATORS KENT CONRAD AND BYRON DORGAN WERE JOINED BY CONGRESSMAN EARL POMEROY - ALL REPRESENTING NORTH DAKOTA - IN REQUESTING A FORMAL INVESTIGATION BY THE U-S-D-A.

THE LAWMAKERS NOTE FERTILIZER PRICES HAVE CLIMBED NEARLY 70-PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. THEY SAY AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED TO ASSURE FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE NOT BEING OVER-CHARGED.

SOUTH KOREA PORK

A BATTLE OVER BEEF BETWEEN THE U-S AND SOUTH KOREA CONTINUES.

DUE TO CONSUMER BACKLASH, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO BACK OUT OF A DEAL TO ACCEPT AMERICAN BEEF OVER 30 MONTHS OF AGE. DURING A STOP AT THE WORLD PORK EXPO IN DES MOINES, DEPUTY AG SECRETARY CHUCK CONNER TOLD US THE U-S IS HOLDING STRONG ON ITS POSITION.

OVERALL, THE EXPORT PICTURE REMAINS BRIGHT FOR BOTH PORK AND BEEF.

ACCORDING TO THE U-S MEAT EXPORT FEDERATION, NEARLY 390-MILLION POUNDS OF PORK WAS SHIPPED OUT IN APRIL...BEATING THE PREVIOUS ONE-MONTH HIGH BY MORE THAN TWELVE PERCENT. FOR THE YEAR, PORK EXPORTS ARE UP MORE THAN 50-PERCENT FROM 2007.

BEEF EXPORTS ARE ALSO SURGING...UP 36-PERCENT FOR THE YEAR SO FAR.

WISC DAIRY PLANS

DESPITE THE PRESSURES OF CLIMBING INPUT COSTS, DAIRYMEN IN WISCONSIN ARE PLOWING AHEAD WITH GROWTH PLANS.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY OF 40 PRODUCERS IN THE DAIRY STATE, THEY PLAN TO INVEST MORE THAN 116-MILLION-DOLLARS INTO EXPANSION PROJECTS YET THIS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE WISCONSING MILK MARKETING BOARD, THE INDUSTRY ALREADY CONTRIBUTES 21-BILLION DOLLARS TO THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY ANNUALLY...GENERATING MORE THAN 160-THOUSAND JOBS.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

ALMOST EVERYONE LOVES CHEESE....YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD YOUR SHARE OF CHEDDAR, MOZZARELLA AND BLUE CHEESES.

BUT NOW "ARTISANAL" CHEESES ARE GAINING IN POPULARITY.

THAT'S BECAUSE CONSUMERS ARE DEMANDING CHEESE WITH UNIQUE FLAVORS MADE FROM CRAFTSMEN.

AGDAY REGIONAL REPORTER ERICA GOSS TAKES US TO LUBBOCK, TEXAS WHERE A SPECIAL BRAND OF CHEESE, MADE FROM GOATS MILK, IS REALLY GETTING ATTENTION.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HAUTE GOAT CREAMERY, VISIT THEIR WEB SITE. THERE, YOU CAN MEET THE INDIVIDUAL GOATS AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT PURCHASING THEIR PRODUCTS.

MACHINERY MINUTE

MICHELIN TIRE

WITH PRICES FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ON THE RISE, A LEADING AG TIRE MAKER SAYS IT MUST FOLLOW SUIT...

MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT IT WILL INCREASE PRICES UP TO 36-PERCENT ON ITS AG AND COMPACT LINE TIRES AND TUBES. THE PRICE HIKE IS GOOD IN BOTH THE U-S AND CANADA, AND WILL GO IN EFFECT JULY FIRST.

THE COMPANY SAYS THE PRICE HIKE IS DUE TO INCREASED COSTS FOR RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION.

GAS PRICES

DON'T EXPECT RELIEF AT THE PUMP ANY-TIME SOON. THIS WEEK, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROJECTED GAS WILL AVERAGE 3-78 A GALLON THIS YEAR...UP 25-CENTS FROM JUST LAST MONTH.

FEDERAL FORECASTERS PREDICT PRICES WILL PEAK IN AUGUST...AVERAGING 4-15 A GALLON.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009, NO SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT - THE GOVERNMENT NOW BELIEVES GAS WILL AVERAGE 3-92 A GALLON...UP 48-CENTS FROM ITS PREVIOUS PROJECTION.

WPX-ACCESS BOX

WE'RE OFF NOW TO THE WORLD PORK EXPO IN DES MOINES - AN ANNUAL EVENT WHERE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS ALWAYS ON DISPLAY.

THIS YEAR WE MET UP WITH A COMPANY FROM DENMARK THAT'S COME UP WITH A NEW FREE ACCESS BOX FOR HOGS. THE COMPANY SAYS THIS UNIQUE MECHANICAL SYSTEM ALLOWS ANIMALS TO MAKE CHOICES BASED ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

THE ACCESS BOX COSTS ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED DOLLARS A PIECE...AND CAN BE SHIPPED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. E-GA-BERG HAS OFFICES IN CANADA AND SERVICES A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA. WE'LL POST A LINK ON OUR HOME PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

TRACTOR TALES

TRACTOR TALES THIS WEEK TAKES US BACK TO BOB LYON'S FARM IN JAY COUNTY, INDIANA. THIS MORNING WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SECOND OF TWO TRACTORS COMING OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE TOGETHER.

COUNTRY CHURCH

OUR FIRST COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE THIS MORNING HONORS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY THIS JUNE OF ST STANISLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HOFA PARK, WISCONSIN.

AFTER ITS FOUNDING, THE INFLUX OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS PROMPTED THE BUILDING IN 1888 OF A CHURCH WHICH WAS FUNDED IN PART BY AN ANNUAL PICNIC, A TRADITION WHICH CONTINUES TODAY.

ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHURCH WAS A SMALL CONVENT WHOSE SISTERS RAN THE PARISH SCHOOL. AFTER A TRAGIC FIRE, THE PRESENT CHURCH WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1934. SERVICES WERE IN POLISH UNTIL 1946.

WE THANK MRS RAYMOND BRUSKY FOR THE INFORMATION.

OUR SECOND CHURCH IS ALSO MARKING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE: SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RUTH, MICHIGAN.

IN A SAD COINCIDENCE, THE FIRST CHURCH WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS ST STANISLAUS' AND REBUILT AS WELL IN 1933.

THE CHURCH IS KNOWN LOCALLY FOR ITS CHICKEN AND HAM DINNER HELD ANNUALLY THE SUNDAY BEFORE LABOR DAY FOR OVER 80 YEARS.

OUR THANKS TO MARILEEN GEIGER.

USFR MAILBAG

TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...

WE RECEIVED SEVERAL MESSAGES FROM VIEWERS WHOSE EXPERIENCE WITH DIGITAL TV HAS BEEN, WELL, LESS THAN OPTIMAL, LET'S SAY. FOR EXAMPLE, FROM BILL WHITTLE FROM LOUISVILLE:

"I HOPE [FARM FAMILIES] LIKE TO READ OR LISTEN TO THE RADIO BECAUSE NEXT FEBRUARY, THEY ARE GOING TO BE BACK IN THE '40S"

AND THIS FROM TOM COLVIN,

"WHEN IT IS GOOD IT IS BETTER THAN ANALOG, WHEN IT IS BAD, IT IS VERY, VERY BAD"

FAIR ENOUGH, FOLKS. JAN AND I HAVE BEEN LIVING WITH DIGITAL SATELLITE TV FOR OVER A DECADE, AND WE'VE HAD TO MAKE A FEW ADJUSTMENTS. IT'S TRUE - THE PRESENCE OF PRECIPITATION IN THE ATMOSPHERE WILL NOT JUST DEGRADE THE PICTURE, BUT PREVENT IT ALTOGETHER. IN FACT, IT'S HOW WE TELL WHEN SERIOUS WEATHER IS APPROACHING.

OBVIOUSLY NOT ALL ARE GETTING GOOD RESULTS, BUT THE VAST MAJORITY ARE. THE UNDERLYING ISSUE HERE IS BROADCAST TV IS GETTING CLOBBERED BY COMPETITION FROM CABLE. DIGITAL TV ALLOWS YOUR LOCAL STATION TO ADD MANY MORE CHANNELS, BUT EVEN THEN I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BE.

RURAL AMERICA AT LEAST HAS ONE OTHER CHOICE. IF YOUR RECEPTION IS UNACCEPTABLE CONSIDER SATELLITE TV. FOR JAN AND I DIRECTV HAS BEEN A GREAT ANSWER WITH OUR LOCAL CHANNELS AND HER GARDENING CHANNELS. IT DOES COST US 30 BUCKS A MONTH, BUT THAT INCLUDES A RECORDER. AND YES, U-S FARM REPORT IS ON DIRECTV.

IN SHORT, LIKE OTHER FORMERLY FREE SERVICES SUBSIDIZED BY URBAN RESIDENTS, TV IN RURAL AMERICA HAS TO PAY ITS OWN WAY.

U.S. FARM REPORT

The nation's longest running agricultural news program

Show #1819

Weekend of June 21, 2008

MISSISSIPPI FLOODING

AS THE MAIN SURGE OF THE MISSISSIPPI FLOODING ROLLS THROUGH MISSOURI THIS WEEKEND, FARMERS NORTH OF THERE ARE STILL GAUGING THE DAMAGE LEFT BY HISTORIC HIGH WATER.

THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA, IN THE BOTTOM LANDS OF THE WAPSIPINICON RIVER.

A WEEK AGO IT WAS COMPLETELY UNDERWATER.

IT'S JUST A SNAPSHOT OF THE NEARLY THREE MILLION ACRES OF IOWA FARMLAND IMPACTED BY THE FLOOD.

PAUL DIERICKX, A FARMER FROM LONG GROVE, IOWA SAYS FARMING THE RIVER BOTTOM LAND IS RISKY, BUT WITH CORN YIELDS OF ONE-HUNDRED-60 BUSHEL AN ACRE, MOST YEARS IT PAYS OFF.

USDA-FLOOD INFO

PRESIDENT BUSH AND AG SECRETARY ED SCHAFER TOURED IOWA ON THURSDAY, OFFERING ASSURANCE THAT FEDERAL HELP IS FORTHCOMING.

THE USDA COMPILED A LIST OF RESOURCES TO HELP FARMERS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DISASTER ASSISTANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND SO-ON.

CRP

MANY PRODUCERS ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON WASHINGTON TO SEE IF ANY POLICIES MAY CHANGE IN RESPONSE TO THE FLOODS AND WET SPRING.

GROWERS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WONDER IF THE USDA WILL ALLOW AN EARLY OUT OF C-R-P CONTRACTS.

THAT LAND COULD BE PUT BACK INTO PRODUCTION FOR SHORT-SEASON CROPS.

ALSO, IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNE 30TH ACREAGE REPORT, THE AG DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO RE-SURVEY GROWERS IN THE HARD HIT MIDWEST STATES.

THE ORIGINAL DATA WAS COLLECTED PRIOR TO THE FLOODING.

WHEAT HEAD SCAB

IN THE NATION'S LARGEST WHEAT-GROWING STATE, THE WET SPRING IS CAUSING FUNGUS PROBLEMS FOR KANSAS WHEAT GROWERS.

PRODUCERS ARE REPORTING ABOVE NORMAL LEVELS OF HEAD SCAB IN THEIR CROP.

RESEARCHERS AT KANSAS STATE SAY THE DISEASE IS MOST COMMON IN THE EASTERN THIRD OF THE STATE.

IT'S ALSO APPEARED IN NEBRASKA WHEAT FIELDS, PRIMARILY SOUTH-CENTRAL AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

RESEARCHERS SAY NOTHING CAN BE DONE AT THIS POINT TO PREVENT HEAD SCAB, BUT FARMERS SHOULD BE SCOUTING BECAUSE THE SYMPTOMS CAN INCREASE DRAMATICALLY IN THREE TO FIVE DAYS.

ROUNDTABLE

SUE MARTIN, AG & INVESTMENT SERVICES

CRAIG FLOSS, CEO-IOWA CORN GROWERS ASSOC

TIM RECKER, PRES-IOWA CORN GROWERS ASSOC

JOHN'S WORLD

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS YEAR MARKS THE RETURN OF MY SON AARON AND HIS FAMILY TO OUR FARM. WHILE I HAD IMAGINED WHAT THIS UNLOOKED FOR DAY WOULD BE LIKE, THE REALITY HAS BEEN MARKEDLY DIFFERENT.

FOR THOSE OF YOU ABOUT MY AGE WHO ARE PERHAPS GOING THROUGH A SIMILAR PROCESS, MAYBE THIS OBSERVATION WILL HELP.

BETWEEN COLLEGE AND HIS CAREER AS A MINING ENGINEER, AARON HAD BEEN GONE FROM THE FARM ABOUT 15 YEARS, BUT HE HAD BEEN GONE FROM MY MEMORY ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

SO THE MAN WHO RETURNED CONSTANTLY CONFLICTED IN MY EXPECTATIONS WITH THE BOY WHO LEFT. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK AND NASTY JOBS AND RESPONSIBILITY AND - YOU NAME IT - WAS TO MY SURPRISE - GROWN UP. IN FACT, I AM BEGINNING TO THINK I CLING TO THE IMAGE OF A BOY BECAUSE THOSE WERE PRETTY HAPPY DAYS FOR ME.

MY POINT IS TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ROOM FOR YOUR EVALUATION OF A RETURNING CHILD TO EXPAND TO MEET REALITY.

AARON HAS PATIENTLY ENDURED ME EXPLAINING THE OBVIOUS AND MY PERSISTENT SURPRISE AT HIS INITIATIVE AND FORWARD THINKING. BECAUSE I DID NOT GET TO WATCH HIM MANAGE A QUARRY OPERATION MUCH BIGGER THAN OUR FARM, I AM CONSTANTLY TAKEN ABACK BY HIS GRASP OF BUSINESS ISSUES AND HIS SOUND JUDGMENT.

IT TAKES ADJUSTMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PROCESS, OF COURSE. BUT IF YOU DADS OUT THERE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE DOING ALL THE CHANGING, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE FACTS. LIKE ALWAYS WE BOOMERS THINK IT'S ALL ABOUT US.

AND THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS FROM JOHN'S WORLD.

IOWA FLOODING

PRESIDENT BUSH VISITED FLOOD-RAVAGED IOWA ON THURSDAY OFFERING WORDS OF SUPPORT TO THE FAMILIES AND FARMERS HURT BY THE HISTORIC FLOODING.

ABOUT A WEEK AGO, THIS FARM LAND WAS COMPLETELY UNDERWATER -- A VICTIM OF THE IOWA RIVER FLOODING.

THE WATERS HAVE RECEDED AND ARE NOW HEADED DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

EARLIER THIS WEEK, AL TALKED TO FARMERS FROM CENTRAL IOWA ABOUT THE FAMILY CONNECTION TO THEIR FARMLAND...AND THE HISTORY OF HIGH WATER.

FLOOD WATERS ARE NOW DRAINING FROM IOWA INTO THE MISSISSIPPI - CAUSING MORE THAN 20 LEVEES TO BURST, FLOODING FARMLAND IN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

CROP PRODUCTION IMPACT

OFFICIALS SAYS IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY IF THE FLOODS WILL CAUSE A LARGE REDUCTION IN OVERALL ETHANOL PRODUCTION.

SEVERAL IOWA ETHANOL PLANTS HAVE HAD TO STOP PRODUCTION DUE TO WASHED OUT RAILROAD TRACKS.

THROW ON TOP OF THAT THE SPECULATION THAT OVERALL U-S CORN YIELDS WILL BE SMALLER THAN EXPECTED - DRIVING UP THE PRICE OF CORN - AND IT COULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ETHANOL PRODUCERS TO STAY PROFITABLE.

SEVERAL COMPANIES INCLUDING A-D-M AND VERASUN HAVE ANNOUNCED THE CLOSING OF PLANTS IN IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA.

THE IOWA RENEWABLE FUELS ASSOCIATION REPORTED AN ESTIMATED THREE-HUNDRED MILLION GALLONS OF THE STATE'S TWO POINT TWO BILLION GALLON ETHANOL INDUSTRY WAS OUT OF PRODUCTION AS A RESULT OF FLOODING.

DEERE DONATION

WITH SO MANY OF THEIR CUSTOMERS HURT BY THE FLOODING, THE PHILANTHROPIC WING OF DEERE AND COMPANY IS DONATING A SIZE-ABLE GIFT TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

THE DEERE FOUNDATION APPROVED A ONE MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO THE NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND.

THE FOUNDATION SAYS WITH SO MANY DEERE CUSTOMERS, EMPLOYEES AND DEALERS AFFECTED BY THIS NATURAL DISASTER, THEY FELT THE NEED TO HELP.

RED CROSS DONATION SHORTAGE

THE TIMING FOR THE DEERE GIFT COULDN'T BE BETTER, AS THE RED CROSS SAYS ITS RELIEF FUND IS NEARLY DEPLETED.

WITH ALL THE TORNADOES, WILDFIRES AND OF COURSE THE FLOODING THIS SPRING, THE NATIONAL RED CROSS DISASTER FUND HAS BEEN SEVERLY TAPPED.

YOU CAN ALSO HELP...MAKE A DONATION ONLINE AT RED-CROSS-DOT-ORG - OR GIVE THEM A CALL, THEIR NUMBER IS 800-RED-CROSS.

CALIF GRAPE CROPS ARE DRY

THE PROBLEM IS OF A MUCH DIFFERENT SORT IN CALIFORNIA WHERE TOO LITTLE RAIN IS CREATING PROBLEMS.

ACCORDING TO THE CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU, WINEGRAPE PRODUCTION COULD BE LOWER DUE TO AN APRIL FREEZE AND A SHORTAGE OF IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLIES.

FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ONLY HAVING A COUPLE INCHES OF WATER PER MONTH THROUGH THE END OF SUMMER, SOME GROWERS ARE GIVING VINES JUST ENOUGH WATER TO SURVIVE.

WHILE THIS WOULD PROTECT THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE PLANT, IT WOULD MEAN LITTLE IF ANY GRAPE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR.

SALMONELLA TOMATOES

THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNT OF PEOPLE MADE ILL BY SALMONELLA-TAINTED TOMATOES HAS JUMPED TO 383.

THAT'S A HUNDRED MORE CASES THAN WERE KNOWN EARLIER THIS WEEK.

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL SAYS THE OUTBREAK IS STILL FAR FROM OVER.

SO FAR, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HAS OKAYED TOMATOES FROM 39 STATES.

FOR GROWERS IN THOSE APPROVED STATES, THEY'RE STILL DEALING WITH CONSUMERS WHO ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE FRUIT.

THAT FRUSTRATES FARMERS WHO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE PLANTS IN THE GROUND WHEN THE OUTBREAK BEGAN IN APRIL.

THE C-D-C SAYS THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE GOT SICK WEEKS AGO BUT JUST HADN'T BEEN COUNTED YET.

PART OF THE SURGE IS BETTER TESTING BY STATES, AND PART IS AN END TO A BACKLOG OF TEST RESULTS IN LABORATORIES.

SPIRIT OF THE HEARTLAND

IF YOU LIKE CORNBREAD, WE'VE GOT A GOOD REASON FOR YOU TO PLAN A TRIP TO TENNESSEE NEXT SPRING. EVERY APRIL, A SMALL TOWN IN THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE STATE HOSTS A FESTIVAL WHERE CORNBREAD OF ALL KINDS IS CELEBRATED.

IN THIS REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHUCK DENNEY SHOWS US HOW GOOD FOOD KNOW NO AGE LIMITS WHEN IT COMES TO BAKING.

TAG

CHUCK TELLS US YOU CAN LEARN LOTS MORE ABOUT THIS ANNUAL EVENT - AND EVEN GET SOME GREAT RECIPES - BY HEADING ONLINE TO "NATIONAL-CORN-BREAD-DOT-COM."

MACHINERY MINUTE

WHILE SALES OF SMALLER TRACTORS CONTINUE TO DIP, IT'S THE OPPOSITE FOR BIGGER UNITS.

ACCORDING TO THE ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS, TWO-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR SALES WERE DOWN MORE THAN FOUR-AND-A-HALF PERCENT LAST MONTH...AND FOR THE YEAR, SALES ARE OFF MORE THAN NINE-PERCENT.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR SALES IN MAY CLIMBED MORE THAN EIGHT PERCENT FOR THE MONTH...AND ARE UP MORE THAN SIX-PERCENT FOR THE YEAR.

COMBINE SALES ARE ALSO UP - WITH MORE THAN 500 UNITS SOLD LAST MONTH. ACCORDING TO A-E-M, FARM EQUIPMENT SALES TEND TO TREND HIGHER INTO JUNE, AND THEN TAPER OFF FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

MACHINERY MINUTE-DUAL CHANGER

FARMERS CAN UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGE ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGING DUALS ON THEIR TRACTOR.

THIS MORNING WE HEAD BACK TO THE WORLD PORK EXPO WHICH WAS RECENTLY HELD IN DES MOINES, IOWA.

WE MET THE INVENTOR OF THE DUAL CHANGER FROM MARCUS, IOWA.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT - INCLUDING PRICING, HEAD ONLINE TO "DUAL-CHANGER-DOT-COM".

TRACTOR TALES

JUST BEFORE THE STATE OF IOWA WAS HIT WITH DEVASTATING FLOODS, WE MET UP WITH AN ANTIQUE COLLECTOR WITH A PASSION FOR CLASSIC TRACTORS. TODAY, HE SHARES HIS STORY ABOUT AN OLD MASSEY MACHINE...

CHURCH SALUTE

IN THIS MORNING'S CHURCH SALUTE...THE SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ST. PETER, MINNESOTA IS CELEBRATING ITS 150-TH ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND.

FOUNDED IN 1858 BY SWEDISH SETTLERS, THE FIRST CHURCH WAS BUILT THREE YEARS LATER AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A NEWER BUILDING IN 1888.

DURING THAT TIME, THEY WITNESSED A WAR BETWEEN SETTLERS AND INDIANS, ALONG WITH FACING SMALLPOX AND DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMICS.

THE CONGREGATION MOVED INTO ITS CURRENT CHURCH IN 1979, AFTER ITS PREVIOUS CHURCH BURNED.

OUR THANKS TO DOUG SCHULTZ FOR SENDING US THE HISTORY AND PHOTOS.

OUR SECOND CHURCH IS FROM WISCONSIN...THE BIG ELK CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ALSO CELEBRATING 150 YEARS THIS WEEKEND.

IT WAS BUILT BY NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO SETTLED IN THE AREA IN 1857. THE FIRST CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1875, BUT IT WAS DESTROYED IN 1914 WHEN IT WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. THE CONGREGATION REBUILT THEIR CHURCH FOR 92-HUNDRED DOLLARS...AND IT REMAINS STANDING TODAY.

OUR THANKS TO PATRICIA DE-MOE FOR THE PHOTO.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH CHURCHES.

MAILBAG

TIME TO HEAR FROM YOU VIA THE FARM REPORT MAILBAG:

AN INTERESTING QUESTION FROM CHERYL FOSTER:

"WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNMENT QUALIFYING AS A SMALL FARM?"

CHERYL, THANKS FOR WATCHING AND FOR A QUESTION THAT IS TRICKIER THAN IT SEEMS. TO BEGIN WITH THE USDA DOES NOT ACTUALLY DEFINE FARM CATEGORIES. WHAT IT DOES DO IS DEFINE A "FARM" AS ANY OPERATION WITH \$1000 IN GROSS SALES.

SO IF YOU SOLD A HORSE OR TWO, OR HAD A MODEST ROADSIDE VEGETABLE STAND OR EVEN A DAY LILY GARDEN PRODUCTION OPERATION, YOU WOULD BE COUNTED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S 2-PLUS MILLION FARMERS.

FOR ANALYSIS PURPOSES, THE GOVERNMENT DIVIDES FARMS AGAIN BY GROSS SALES INTO BROAD CATEGORIES. THE TOP CATEGORY IS USUALLY OVER \$500,000 IN SALES, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES THEY USE ONE MILLION. THE NEXT CATEGORY IS \$250,000 AND THEN VARIOUS LEVELS OF \$100,000 AND \$10,000.

WHILE SOME GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED FOR SMALL, AND ESPECIALLY BEGINNING FARMERS, EACH SEPARATE PROGRAM HAS ITS OWN CRITERIA. THESE QUALIFICATIONS VARY WITH THE INTENT OF THE PROGRAM, FOR INSTANCE COMBINING AGE WITH SIZE OR INCOME.

FOR THE MOST PART, OUR FARM PROGRAMS TREAT FARMERS AS FARMERS, AND USUALLY SEND THE MOST MONEY TO THE LARGEST FARMS, BASED ON PRODUCTION OR ACRES.

THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS I THINK WITH LUMPING ALL FARMERS TOGETHER LIKE THIS, BUT THE POLITICAL PRESSURE TO PREVENT LIMITATIONS ON PAYMENTS IS IMMENSE, AND WAS DEMONSTRATED IN THE RECENT FARM BILL WHERE ONLY MODEST RESTRAINTS WERE PLACED ON SUBSIDIES.

FOR THE MOST PART, SMALL FARMERS - HOWEVER THEY ARE DEFINED - ARE NOT A PRIORITY OF THE USDA BUDGET.

I'M JOHN PHIPPS...AND THAT'S IT FOR THIS WEEK'S MAILBAG.

U.S. FARM REPORT

The nation's longest running agricultural news program

Show #1820

Weekend of June 28, 2008

CROP REPORT PREVIEW: THANKS JOHN AND GOOD MORNING EVERYONE...FOLLOWING A SPRING OF DEVASTATING FLOODING, THE U-S-D-A DECIDES TO GO BACK AND RE-SURVEY GROWERS IN SIX STATES. 1. ILLINOIS 2. INDIANA 3. IOWA 4. MINNESOTA 5. MISSOURI 6. WISCONSIN AG DEPARTMENT ANALYSTS INTERVIEWED GROWERS IN ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI AND WISCONSIN THIS WEEK TO BETTER GAUGE THE IMPACT HIGH WATERS ARE HAVING IN FARM COUNTRY. THE UPDATED DATA WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE ACREAGE REPORT SET TO BE RELEASED MONDAY MORNING. THE ORIGINAL SURVEY WAS COMPLETED IN EARLY JUNE - PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF THE FLOODING THAT HIT A LARGE PORTION OF THE CORNBELT. FROM ITS PERSPECTIVE, INFORMA ECONOMICS HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF PLANTED ACREAGE THAN THE U-S-D-A. EVEN WITH ALL THE FLOODING, INFORMA SAYS JUST UNDER EIGHTY-SEVEN-POINT-FOUR MILLION ACRES OF CORN IS IN THE GROUND, A MILLION MORE THAN THE AG DEPARTMENT'S MARCH REPORT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRIVATE CROP ANALYST REVISED ITS SOYBEAN ACREAGE ESTIMATE DOWNWARD.

CROP CONDITIONS: IN ITS WEEKLY UPDATE, THE AG DEPARTMENT RATED 59-PERCENT OF THE NATION'S CORN CROP GOOD-TO-EXCELLENT...A 14-POINT-DIP FROM THIS TIME A YEAR AGO. SOYBEANS WERE RATED 57-PERCENT GOOD TO EXCELLENT, NINE POINTS BELOW A YEAR AGO. AS FOR WINTER WHEAT, THE AG DEPARTMENT REPORTS 22-PERCENT OF THE CROP HAS BEEN HARVESTED...10-POINTS BEHIND THE TYPICAL PACE. CROP WATCHERS NOTE HARVEST HAS REALLY JUST BEGUN IN KANSAS - THE NATION'S NUMBER-ONE WHEAT STATE.

DAKOTA CRP: HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR DROUGHT-STRICKEN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS IN NORTH DAKOTA. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE STATE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO OPEN C-R-P ACREAGE TO RANCHERS STRUGGLING TO FEED THEIR HERDS. ON WEDNESDAY, THE AG DEPARTMENT GRANTED THAT REQUEST...COVERING 26 OF NORTH DAKOTA'S 53 COUNTIES. THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE HAS BEEN HIT HARDEST BY DROUGHT...OVERALL, RANGE CONDITIONS STATE-WIDE ARE RATED 64-PERCENT POOR TO VERY POOR.

NPPC ETHANOL: IN OTHER NEWS THIS WEEK, THE NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL IS CALLING FOR A CUTBACK IN CORN-BASED ETHANOL PRODUCTION. IN A LETTER SENT TO THE E-P-A THIS WEEK, THE N-P-P-C REQUESTED THE FEDERALLY-MANDATED PRODUCTION TARGET TO BE CUT IN HALF THIS YEAR...DOWN TO FOUR-AND-A-HALF BILLION GALLONS. IN MAKING THE REQUEST, THE COUNCIL NOTED PORK PRODUCERS ARE GETTING POUNDED BY SPIKING FEED COSTS, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 70-PERCENT OF THE COST OF RAISING A HOG.

COOL UPDATE: ALSO IN WASHINGTON - AN UPDATE ON "COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING". AG SECRETARY ED SCHAFER NOW SAYS THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE FIRST OF OCTOBER. THE POLICY REQUIRES COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR BEEF, PORK AND LAMB.

JOHN'S WORLD: THE METEORIC RISE IN COMMODITY PRICES, LED BY, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LIMITED TO, OIL AND GRAINS THREATENS TO DERAIL INDEFINITELY THE STRONG GLOBAL GROWTH THAT HAS PRODUCED RISING LIVING STANDARDS FOR BILLIONS AROUND THE GLOBE. YOU'D THINK AFTER ALL THE DIRE WARNING ABOUT SCARCE RESOURCES WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, BUT I SUPPOSE IT TAKES \$4 GAS FOR A MONTH OR SO TO MAKE IT SEEM OTHER THAN A TEMPORARY SPIKE. IN THIS COST SQUEEZE, PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE TURNING TO THEIR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: POLITICAL PRESSURE. COMPLAINING TO ELECTED OFFICIALS IS OUR FIRST LINE OF ACTION FOR ALL KINDS OF ECONOMIC AND EVEN PERSONAL PROBLEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK WE HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE POWER OF GOVERNMENTS TO COUNTER THE REAL PROBLEM: WE HAVE ENORMOUS DEMAND FOR DIMINISHING RESOURCES. NOT EVEN A DICTATOR CAN REPEAL THE LAWS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. HERE IN THE U-S, THE MIGHTY FEDERAL RESERVE IS STUCK

BETWEEN A HARD GROWTH PLACE AND AN INFLATIONARY ROCK. WE MAY BE FACED WITH THE LAST OUTCOME WE HAD EXPECTED: THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF OUR EARLIER CHOICES. OUR ABILITY TO PASS OFF HARD DECISIONS TO THE FUTURE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH US, I THINK. WHILE CONCERNED VOICES HAVE WARNED FOR YEARS THAT CITIZENS IN THE FUTURE WOULD HAVE TO CASH THE CHECKS WE HAVE BEEN WRITING, I THINK MOST OF US JUST ASSUMED THOSE POOR SAPS WOULD BE FOLKS OTHER THAN OURSELVES.

CROP DAMAGE: 2008 IS SHAPING UP TO BE A NOT-SO-GREAT YEAR ON FARMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU, WEATHER-RELATED CROP DAMAGE HAS ALREADY EXCEEDED THE EIGHT-BILLION-DOLLAR PLATEAU. MORE THAN HALF OF THE LOSSES CAN BE FOUND IN IOWA - WHERE MASSIVE FLOODING HAS SWALLOWED UP FIELDS AND DEVASTATED LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS. OTHER STATES WITH SEVERE LOSSES TIED TO HIGH WATERS INCLUDE ILLINOIS, MISSOURI, INDIANA AND NEBRASKA. ON THE WEST COAST, TOO LITTLE RAIN HAS BEEN THE PROBLEM. IN ALL, CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE HAS SUFFERED 500-MILLION IN DROUGHT-RELATED LOSSES.

KOREA BEEF: YET ANOTHER DEAL IS IN PLACE TO ALLOW THE IMPORT OF U-S BEEF INTO SOUTH KOREA. ACCORDING TO PRO FARMER WASHINGTON CONSULTANT JIM WIESEMAYER, THE BEEF MUST COME FROM CATTLE THIRTY-MONTHS OR YOUNGER. THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT SIGNED IN APRIL INCLUDED NO AGE RESTRICTIONS.

SALMONELLA/MEXICO: THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES INTO A SALMONELLA OUTBREAK THAT HAS SICKENED MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE. THE BIG QUESTION - WHERE DID THE BAD TOMATOES COME FROM? AT THIS POINT INVESTIGATORS ARE FOCUSING THEIR EFFORTS IN MEXICO...ALONG WITH FIELDS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA. A TEAM OF AMERICAN INSPECTORS ARE IN MEXICO TO VISIT FARMS, DISTRIBUTION CENTERS AND TRANSPORTATION METHODS IN THREE MEXICAN STATES. THE OUTBREAK HAS ALL BUT HALTED MEXICAN TOMATO EXPORTS TO THE U-S. MOVING FORWARD, HEALTH HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY MICHAEL LEAVITT SAYS THE U-S IS LOOKING TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN LATIN AMERICA TO BETTER MONITOR FOOD SAFETY ISSUES.

AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY: HERE IN THE U-S, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IS LOOKING TO EXPAND A HIGH-LEVEL LAB TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BIO AND AGRICULTURAL TERRORISM. THE PROPOSED FACILITY WOULD BE USED TO RESEARCH FOREIGN ANIMAL OR PLANT DISEASES THAT COULD THREATEN AMERICA'S LIVESTOCK AND FOOD INDUSTRIES. THE CURRENT SITE IS LOCATED AT THE PLUM ISLAND ANIMAL DISEASE CENTER IN NEW YORK...D-H-S SAYS THE FACILITY IS TOO SMALL TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND.

CALIFORNIA SHEEP DAIRY: EACH WEEK DURING THIS PART OF THE SHOW, WE WORK TO SHOWCASE THE INCREDIBLE VARIETY FOUND IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. THIS MORNING, WE TAKE YOU TO A FAMILY FARM IN THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY THAT IS MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF BY PRODUCING AN AWARD-WINNING PRODUCT. IN THIS REPORT PROVIDED BY THE CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU, TRACEY SELLERS TAKES US TO BELLWETHER FARMS FOR A VISIT.

CASE SURCHARGE: THE HIGH COST OF DOING BUSINESS IS FORCING A LEADING FARM EQUIPMENT MAKER TO INCREASE PRICES. C-N-H ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT IT WILL ATTACH A FIVE-PERCENT SURCHARGE TO ALL OF ITS AG AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. THE COMPANY SAYS SHARP AND SUSTAINED INCREASES IN THE COST OF STEEL, ENERGY, COMMODITIES AND TRANSPORTATION IS BEHIND THE MOVE. THIS YEAR ALONE, STEEL PRICES HAVE SOARED AS MUCH AS 50-PERCENT...AND COULD CLIMB HIGHER AS GLOBAL DEMAND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF EASING. THIS MOVE BY C-N-H FOLLOWS PRICE INCREASES ALREADY INTRODUCED BY A NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS WORLD-WIDE.

GAS & TRUCKS: THE HIGH PRICE OF GAS IS FORCING THE NATION'S AUTO-MAKERS TO ALTER PRODUCTION PLANS. FARM JOURNAL MACHINERY SPECIALIST MARGY FISCHER REPORTS FORD WILL DELAY THE LAUNCH OF ITS 2009 F-150 TO LATE FALL...TWO MONTHS LATER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. THE REASON - DEMAND FOR TRUCKS AND SUV'S CONTINUES TO DIP IN THE FACE OF RECORD-HIGH FUEL PRICES. WHILE CHRYSLER HAS YET TO ANNOUNCE ANY CHANGES TO THE RELEASE DATE OF THE NEW 2009 DODGE RAM, MARGY NOTES GENERAL MOTORS HAS ALREADY SAID IT WILL CUT PRODUCTION OF PICK-UPS AND SUV'S.

CONNECTICUT DAIRY FARM: WE HEAD IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION NOW AS WE VISIT A CONNECTICUT DAIRY FARM WITH AN EYE ON PRESERVING THE PAST - AND MARKETING FOR THE

FUTURE. IN THIS REPORT FROM THE U-S-D-A, BOB ELLISON SHOWS US HOW "THE FARMER'S COW" CAME ABOUT.

TRACTOR TALES: EACH WEEK ON TRACTOR TALES WE FEATURE CLASSIC MACHINES FROM DAYS GONE BY...FROM DEERE TO CASE TO OLIVER, WE'VE HAD 'EM ALL. THIS MORNING, A NEW NAME IS ADDED TO THE LIST AS WE MEET A MICHIGAN COLLECTOR WHO REALLY LOVES HIS TRACTOR.

COUNTRY CHURCH SALUTE: TODAY WE SALUTE THE LONGMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN LONGMONT, COLORADO. WE ALSO SALUTE A FELLOW METHODIST CHURCH IN STEELE, NORTH DAKOTA. THE STEELE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE THEIR 125TH BIRTHDAY. LIKE MANY SMALL RURAL CHURCHES IT HAS LONG BEEN A PARTNER WITH AS MANY AS TEN CHURCHES IN A PARIS SHARING A MINISTER. THE CONGREGATION INCLUDES SOME FIFTH GENERATION MEMBERS LINKING THEM TO THEIR HERITAGE WITH LIVING MEMORY. THE CHURCH IS VERY MISSION ORIENTED AND HAS SENT A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ONTO THE MISSION FIELD AND THE MINISTRY. THE CURRENT PASTOR IS REV. PERRY SCHNABLE GLEN AND VERLA DECRAY SHARED THE PICTURE AND HISTORY.

USFR MAILBAG: TIME NOW FOR OUR WEEKLY LOOK INSIDE THE FARM REPORT MAIL BAG...I RECEIVED THIS ASTONISHING NOTE FROM ROGER EK IN LEE, MAINE, WHO EDUCATED ME ON ONE PLACE WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS LOSING OUT TO FORESTS. "IN 1940 MAINE HAD 6.25 MILLION ACRES OF CULTIVATED LAND. TODAY WE HAVE JUST OVER A MILLION...THE FORESTS ARE TAKING OVER" ROGER, THANK YOU FOR WATCHING AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION. I VISITED THE WEBSITES YOU SENT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REALIZED EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT MAINE COULD BE WRITTEN ON A BUSINESS CARD. MY FIRST REACTION WAS RELIEF TO KNOW THAT THERE STILL IS A PLACE WHERE NATURE IS NOT UNDER SIEGE HERE IN THE U-S. BUT AS YOU POINTED OUT, IF THE TREES ARE EXPANDING IT MEANS THE PEOPLE ARE OCCUPYING LESS OF THE GEOGRAPHY. ACTUALLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS OBSERVERS FROM REALTORS TO ECONOMISTS ARE CONCLUDING THE CONVERSION OF FARMS AND FORESTS TO HOUSES MAY HAVE PEAKED. AS GAS PRICES SOAR, AMERICANS HAVE SOBERED UP TO THE TOTAL COSTS OF A COMMUTING LIFESTYLE. AS ONE SUBURBANITE PUT IT, "I KNEW I WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH OF MY LIFE IN MY CAR, BUT NOW I SPENDING TOO MUCH OF MY MONEY AS WELL." AS A RESULT, THOSE MONTER HOUSES IN THE FRINGE SUBURBS ARE PLUMMETING IN VALUE, WHILE INNER CITY, WALK-TO-WORK RESIDENCES ARE HOLDING UP MUCH BETTER. THIS TOO IS MIXED NEWS, BUT PERHAPS WE ARE FINDING A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN SPACE AND CONSUMPTION. ALLOWING THE MARKET TO REFLECT ACTUAL COSTS HELPS ALL OF US MAKE BETTER CHOICES.