

# Iowa FFA Ag Broadcasting CDE

## Sub-District Script – 2018

### **QUARTERLY SOYBEAN STOCKS UP 9%, CORN 1% HIGHER**

The USDA says corn and soybean stocks on December 1st, 2017 were larger than on December 1st, 2016. That follows record soybean production last year, along with a big corn crop, and slower than anticipated demand from some sectors, including the export market.

Corn came out at 12.516 billion bushels, up 1% on the year, with on farm stocks 2% higher at 7.739 billion and off farm supplies just a little bit larger at 4.777 billion. The indicated disappearance from September through November 2017 was 4.38 billion bushels, compared to 4.50 billion the previous year. Soybeans were pegged at 3.157 billion bushels, a 9% increase, with on farm stocks jumping 11% to 1.485 billion, off farm stocks 7% higher at 1.672 billion bushels, and a 4% decrease in the implied quarterly usage figure, down to 1.54 billion.

All wheat stocks were down 10% on the year at 1.874 billion bushels, mostly because of lower production. On farm stocks for wheat dropped 31% to 393.180 million and off farm supplies were 2% lower at 1.480 billion bushels, with a 16% drop in the implied quarterly usage estimate, to 393 million bushels.

The next set of quarterly numbers, covering December 2017 through February 2018, is out March 29th.

### **THATCHER: AGRICULTURE NEEDS TO PUSH FOR NAFTA**

Veteran American Farm Bureau Federation lobbyist Mary Kay Thatcher says agriculture needs to push the Trump administration harder for assurances about the North American Free Trade Agreement. Thatcher tells Brownfield President Trump didn't tell farmers what they wanted to hear about the 25-year-old trade deal.

"We would have loved if he'd have stood up and said, 'I'm not going to back out of NAFTA.' That would have put a lot of people's minds at ease," Thatcher told Brownfield Ag News, referring to the president's speech to the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention Monday. "He did not, and I think the Press has pushed him on 'will you say that?' and he wasn't quite willing to say it yet, so have a lot to do to continue to push that."

Thatcher says people in Washington have accused the farm community of being too loud about the trade issue, but Thatcher says they need to be even louder.

"If we're not really loud about NAFTA we'll have the same thing happen as him pulling out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership," said Thatcher. "Everybody else on that trade agreement went along and kept working at it except us, and trade is just too important to agriculture to not continue to really raise our voices."

Thatcher retires at the end of this month from her American Farm Bureau lobbying position after 31 years on the job.

### **DAIRY EXPORTS UP ON THE YEAR**

The U.S. Dairy Export Council says record shipments of whey products in November helped exports increase to their highest levels in more than a year.

November shipments increased six percent from 2016 and were the highest total since October 2016.

U.S. exports increased eight percent and were valued at \$474 million.

Total whey exports increased 10 percent on the year to a record-high 50,590 tons. Sales to Southeast Asia and China were the highest of the year.

November cheese exports increased 17 percent. Nonfat Dry Milk exports decreased one percent but were the highest since May. Butterfat exports increased 30 percent and were the highest in almost two years. Lactose exports were steady, fractionally lower than the previous year. Fluid milk and cream exports dropped 38 percent, with the greatest declines seen in sales to Canada.

## **SCIENTIST DISCUSSES WORKING ON FOOD EVOLUTION MOVIE**

A scientist involved in a movie about genetically modified food says many don't understand what GM is, let alone the benefits. Alison VanEenennaam says, "Really, it's a breeding method, and I think the public sector applications for things like disease resistance have very compelling societal benefits that I think most people can relate to. I don't think we want plants and animals getting sick, and if we can solve that problem genetically rather than using chemicals, I think people get that."

VanEenennaam is a geneticist at the University of California. She tells Brownfield there is a lot of unnecessary fear about eating genetically modified food. "The safety around GM (Genetically Modified) has been established and is, you know, agreed on by every major scientific society in the world and yet we've got the vast majority of consumers that don't believe that."

VanEenennaam says consumers are not very aware with how GM technology has benefited agriculture and world food supplies. "The dramatic drop for example in insecticide use globally due to insect-protected crops, and those types of benefits never seem to make it to the press. You only hear about the risks and not the amazing benefits."

She says many people skeptical of GM products talked to her after seeing Food Evolution. "I think what's been really encouraging to me as a science communicator is that they've come up to me after the movie and said, 'I love that movie. It made me think and I'm going to go home and do some more research.' And, that to me is like a win."

VanEenennaam says Hollywood doesn't have the best reputation with agriculture and science, naming Food Inc. and Jurassic Park as examples, but says the producers working on Food Evolution were using science and objective evidence for decision making, which she supports.

Food Evolution is being shown in theatres on a limited release and is also on Hulu, YouTube, and iTunes.

VanEenennaam talked to Brownfield before a screening of the movie held during a Professional Dairy Producers seminar in Wisconsin.

## **FARM BUREAU UPDATES DAIRY POLICY**

The American Farm Bureau has strengthened its dairy policy as farm bill discussions continue.

During this week's annual convention, delegates voted to support further development and availability of the new Dairy Revenue Protection insurance product and for it to be used in conjunction with the Dairy Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) program.

Members want to expand RMA risk management programs for dairy farmers and reclassify milk as a commodity for the proposed Dairy Revenue Program.

Michigan Farm Bureau President Carl Bednarski says the new language clarifies that any gross margin program should also include significant safety net enhancements to support dairy farmers.

## **SLOW EXPORT INSPECTIONS PACE CONTINUES**

The USDA reports grain and oilseed export inspections as of the week ending January 4th, 2018 remain behind what's needed to meet USDA projections for the 2017/18 marketing year.

Wheat came out at 234,418 tons, down 40,651 from the week ending December 28th, 2017 and 28,877 lower than the week ending January 5th, 2017. For the 2017/18 marketing year to date, wheat inspections are 14,765,190 tons, compared to 15,801,144 in 2016/17.

Corn was reported at 849,226 tons, 122,727 more than the previous week, but 30,740 less than this time last year. A little more than a third of the way through the marketing year, corn inspections are 11,428,938 tons, compared to 17,929,224 a year ago.

Soybeans were pegged at 1,183,089 tons, a decrease of 27,615 on the week and 286,743 on the year. So far this marketing year, soybean inspections are 29,577,235 tons, compared to 34,472,191 a year ago.

Sorghum inspections totaled 839 tons. That's a drop of 122,850 from the prior week and a decline of 191,382 from last year. 2017/18 sorghum inspections are 1,643,589 tons, compared to 1,980,235 in 2016/17.

## **BEEF TRENDS IN 2018**

An animal nutrition research director says the beef industry can't turn a deaf ear to consumer demands on food production.

"Food companies themselves—the McDonalds, the Wendy's, the Tysons, all of the packers—these are the people that are going to be dictating how and what is moving forward as far as food safety and environmental safety are concerned."

Dr. Elliot Block with Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition tells Brownfield the trend of raising livestock to meet consumer preferences, like with antibiotic-free meat, isn't going away anytime soon. "Meat—beef—is antibiotic-free by nature, but what they're talking about is not using antibiotics in routine growing as additives." He says research is starting to focus more on how prebiotics and probiotics can prepare an animal's immune system for stress rather than the use of preventative antibiotics.

Block says other trends on the horizon for the beef industry include reducing Clostridia bacteria in cattle and better marbling. He says nutritionists are also researching how essential fatty acids fed at weaning and during gestation can stimulate better marbled meat.

## **NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER FOCUSES ON FARM SAFETY FOR YOUTH**

An outreach specialist with the National Farm Medicine Center says the center is providing resources to help drastically lower the number of on-farm accidents involving children.

Melissa Ploeckelman says safety measures must be taken.

"Thirty-three youth per day are being injured on farms and every three days approximately one child dies on a farm," she says. "We really want to lower those numbers, even one child is too many."

She tells Brownfield age requirements are usually mentioned when discussing farm safety, but age doesn't tell the whole story.

"It's not always age," she says. "They grow at different rates and they mature at different rates. So let's look at what do these jobs really entail and when is a youth ready to do the job."

She says the center created ag youth work guidelines to determine when it's appropriate for a child to do a specific job.

"Do they know to where boots, do they know to have long pants on, but also, can they lift the units and are they tall enough to be able to reach without climbing on something," she says. "Are they mature enough to understand when an animal is unsafe to work with and they need to get an adult to help them."

She says the guidelines will still give an age recommendation, but it will take into consideration maturity, size and more.

## **BUTTER AND SPECIALTY CHEESE PRODUCTION UP**

The USDA says butter and specialty cheese production was up, but many other dairy products were down as of November. The National Ag Statistics Service report says total cheese output was 1.05 billion pounds, which was up from November 2016 but down from this past October.

Butter production was 146 million pounds, 1.8 percent above November 2016 and 1.6 percent above October 2017.

Nonfat dry milk production was up almost 10% at 140 million pounds, and there were also production gains in dry whey, whey protein concentrate, and lactose. Production dropped for ice cream, frozen yogurt, and sherbet, as well as many popular American and Italian style cheeses.

One big area of increased production in November was Gouda cheese, which was up more than 46% from a year ago, and up more than 56% from the previous month. Specialty Italian cheeses were also up more than 20% from October.

## **PORK INDUSTRY EXPANSION CONTINUES**

As expected, last week's hogs and pigs report showed continued expansion in the pork industry.

USDA livestock analyst Shayle Shagam says producers are feeling confident right now.

"There's a feeling of optimism on the part of producers that the demand will be there to accept these larger number of hogs, at reasonably good returns," Shagam says.

He says that optimism for more demand is being fueled, in part, by the two large processing plants—in Iowa and Michigan—that have come online since September, "which are still operating at either a shift, or slightly less than a full shift, and have intentions to expand to a second shift during 2018."

## **WHEAT EXPORTS HIT MARKETING YEAR LOW FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK**

The USDA reports wheat export sales for the week ending January 4th were a new marketing year low, the second consecutive week a new low has been established. Physical shipments of wheat, corn, and soybeans remain behind what's needed to meet USDA projections for the 2017/18 marketing year.

Wheat came out at 71,500 tons (2.6 million bushels), down 45% from the week ending December 28th and 86% lower than the four week average. Taiwan purchased 73,600 tons and Iraq bought 51,600 tons, while unknown destinations canceled on 66,000 tons. For the 2017/18 marketing year to date, wheat sales are 718.0 million bushels, compared to 784.1 million in 2016/17.

Corn was reported at 437,700 tons (17.2 million bushels), quite a bit more than the previous week's marketing year low, but 54% less than the four week average. Japan picked up 163,700 tons and Colombia purchased 86,400 tons, while unknown destinations canceled on 26,600 tons. Just over a third of the way through the marketing year, corn sales are 1.067 billion bushels, compared to 1.431 billion this time last year.

Sorghum sales were 170,700 tons (6.7 million bushels), larger than the marketing year low set the week before, but 40% smaller than the four week average. China bought 104,700 tons and unknown destinations picked up 66,000 tons. Sorghum sales this marketing year are 180.4 million bushels, compared to 120.0 million a year ago.

Soybeans were pegged at 607,400 tons (22.3 million bushels), 28% above the previous week, but 47% below the four week average. China purchased 616,500 tons and Germany bought 219,200 tons, but unknown destinations canceled on 493,400 tons. So far this marketing year, soybean sales are 1.523 billion bushels, compared to 1.776 billion last year. Sales of 9,000 tons (300,000 bushels) for 2018/19 delivery were to Japan.

Soybean meal came out at 209,300 tons, a jump of 92% on the week, but a decline of 19% from the four week average. Mexico picked up 68,100 tons and the Philippines bought 50,400 tons. Cumulative soybean meal sales are 6,320,700 tons, compared to 5,766,800 a year ago. Sales of 17,600 tons for 2018/19 delivery were to Mexico.

Soybean oil had a net reduction of 1,600 tons, with sales of 100 to 1,700 tons more than offset by a cancellation on 5,000 tons by South Korea. 2017/18 soybean oil sales are 322,500 tons, compared to 559,400 in a quarter into 2016/17.

Net beef sales totaled 14,700 tons. The reported buyers were Japan (6,600 tons), South Korea (3,600 tons), Taiwan (1,300 tons), and Mexico (1,200 tons). 38,200 tons in outstanding sales were carried over from 2017 to 2018. The USDA says 2017 beef exports were 760,700 tons, 11% more than the 82,500 tons in 2016.

Net pork sales totaled 12,600 tons. The listed purchasers were South Korea (5,400 tons), Japan (2,800 tons), Mexico (1,700 tons), Canada (500 tons). Outstanding sales of 84,700 tons were carried over from 2017 to 2018. The USDA says 2017 pork exports were 1,102,900 tons, an increase of 7% from the 1,029,800 tons in 2016.

## **MONSANTO AND CLIMATE CORPORATION ANNOUNCE INNOVATION PIPELINE**

The Climate Corporation says facial recognition technology will soon allow farmers to identify plant diseases from the field.

Chief Science Officer Sam Eathington says researchers are working to train computers to recognize crop diseases from photos. "We'll have algorithms that have got 20-30 million different parameters that are in them that are used to determine what pathogen is present." He says prototypes with nine different corn diagnoses are more than 90 percent accurate and will provide farmers with real-time feedback to manage their crops.

The technology has moved into the company's third phase of development and is part of 17 advancements moving through Climate's R & D pipeline to help farmers sustainably increase productivity. Other data science technologies will provide seed scripting and selection as well as fertility scripting tools for farmers.

The Climate Corporation and Monsanto Company announced their 2017 R & D pipeline to media during a conference call this week.

## **OCTOBER USDA INDICES MIXED**

The USDA says producers paid a little more but made less in October than in September.

The index of prices received was down 5.2% on the month, with a 0.7% loss in the livestock index and an 8.2% drop in crops as lower prices for broiler chickens, market eggs, apples, and potatoes canceled out increases in cattle, hay, sweet corn, and lettuce. Even with the month to month losses, both indices were above year ago levels, by 3.8% for crops and 14% for livestock, so while many producers are losing money because of higher inputs, it's to less of a degree than last year. The overall index of prices received for October 2017 was 87.3, 8.3% more than October 2016. Marketings during October were up for corn, soybeans, calves and cotton, down for wheat, cattle, broiler chickens, and milk.

The USDA's dairy index for October was up 0.6% from September and 7.2% above October 2017, because of an increase in the all milk price. The all milk price for October was \$17.90 per hundredweight, an increase of \$.10 on the month and \$1.20 on the year.

The index of prices paid was up 0.7% on the month and 4.6% on the year at 107.6 on higher prices for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, wages, and hay and forages against lower prices for feed grains, milk cows, gasoline, and other services.

## **LIVESTOCK AIR EMISSIONS DEADLINE LOOMS**

A spokesperson for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association says the U.S. Coastguard national response center could crash when the livestock industry files air emissions reports later this month.

Chief environmental counsel Scott Yager tells Brownfield more than 200,000 livestock producers will have 24-hours to call the Coastguard on January 22, to meet a new air emissions requirement. He says in mid-November, some farms decided to report early and caused substantial delays to actual emergencies.

"They went from 150 calls a day to over a 1,000 calls a day, and that was just based on those additional farm reports. It resulted in wait times of over two hours to phone calls that required an immediate emergency response."

Yager estimates more than 65,000 beef producers will be impacted by the DC Circuit Court ruling which overturned an EPA exemption for livestock operations that emit more than 100 pounds of ammonia or hydrogen sulfide per day to report emissions. "What it breaks down to is about 208 head of cattle based on Texas A & M's emission calculator. Under University of Nebraska's it's a little bit higher but in the same ballpark, and that is 330 head of cattle."

He says because the requirement has already been delayed twice through the court system, it will take an act of Congress to fix.

Yager says they are encouraging members not to report until the mandate issues and to contact their lawmakers to act on the ruling.

## **DATA ANALYSIS TO NAIL DOWN AGRONOMIC DECISIONS**

A company is expanding its ability to turn agronomic and weather data into higher producing farmland. Premier Crop Systems announced Wednesday an infusion of capital from Syngenta Ventures – the crop protection company's investing arm. Premier CEO Dan Frieberg tells Brownfield the partnership allows Premier to enhance its farm data analysis letting a grower client know what agronomic practices make a difference.

"They can set up trials and use the equipment they've already bought in the cab to do agronomic trials in their fields," Frieberg told Brownfield Ag News on the floor of the InfoAg farm technology show in St. Louis, where Wednesday's announcement was made.

For example, Frieberg says with enhanced data and a variable rate planter, growers can reallocate expensive seed so that it's planted where it does the most good.

"It's very easy," said Frieberg. "The technology exists, they've already invested in the technology, and they're looking for solutions for 'how do I best make that variable rate seeding decision.'"

## **LA NIÑA CONDITIONS COULD CONTINUE INTO PLANTING SEASON**

La Niña could impact farmers across the Corn Belt as they begin the 2018 planting season.

Jim Noel, a service coordination hydrologist with Ohio River Forecast Center, says farmers should prepare for cooler- and wetter- than normal conditions.

“Oftentimes La Niña springs can be some of the more challenging for crop yields and crop conditions,” he says. “This could be a little more challenging of a year than we’ve seen in recent years for corn and soybeans.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says there’s an 85 percent chance La Niña will continue until the spring.

Noel tells Brownfield farmers should expect warm and dry conditions this summer.

“The atmosphere lags the ocean water temperatures by three to six months, so even if La Niña comes to an end this spring, we could still see the effects on our weather and climate patterns until early summer.”

La Niña is expected to weaken in March.

La Niña is the cooling of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean waters off the coast of South America to south of Hawaii. Noel says this causes a shift in thunderstorm patterns in the Pacific Ocean that affect weather and climate patterns around the globe.

## **FARMER CONSERVES FOR BOTTOM LINE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Marc Bertness makes it his mission to use conservation farming. He’s not alone, and it is no big surprise to him that when he committed to using little or no tillage on his Northwest Iowa farm that he would save money.

“The first thing I noticed last fall was my fuel bill was considerably less,” Bertness told Brownfield Ag News.

Bertness, a cooperater in the National Corn Growers Association Soil Health Partnership, is among many farmers across the country implementing management practices that result in benefits that are environmental as well as economic. He is showing his Sioux Rapids, Iowa, farm August 16 during one of many Soil Health Partnership field day events.

Bertness is philosophical when telling Brownfield the reasons he farms the way he does, of the responsibility he feels that goes beyond nurturing seeds and gathering harvests.

“We who are privileged to work the land should remember,” he said, “that we are only stewards of it for a short while.”

## **BIPARTISAN BILL TO GIVE SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS FLEXIBILITY**

Indiana Senators Joe Donnelly and Todd Young have introduced a bill to help farmers plant specialty crops without a permanent penalty to commodity program eligibility.

The Fruit and Vegetable Planting Flexibility Act of 2017 would allow farmers to maintain commodity program eligibility for fruit and vegetable acres through the Farm Flex program in the Farm Bill.

Donnelly says he has been a supporter of the Farm Flex program since it was created, and the legislation will help farmers make the best planting decisions.

The planting of fruits, vegetables, and wild rice on program crop base acres wasn’t allowed until the 2008 Farm Bill.

The Farm Flex pilot program gave seven states the ability to waive federal subsidies on specialty crops like fruits and vegetables. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program so that all farmers have the ability to reduce payment acres to plant specialty crops.

## **THREAT TO FARM PAYMENT FUNDING AVERTED**

The immediate threat of losing farm program funding has been averted by Congress. Lawmakers on Thursday passed a Continuing Resolution to temporarily fund the federal government through January 19th, averting a government shutdown.

Included in the resolution is a provision waiving the so-called PAY-GO (pay as you go) rules that would have triggered cuts to mandatory spending because of the tax bill Congress passed this week which will add an estimated one-and-a-half Trillion dollars to the federal deficit.

Farm subsidies and programs like Medicare would have been affected by the PAY-GO rules.

## **HIGH OLEIC SOYBEANS ACHIEVE FINAL GLOBAL REGULATORY MILESTONE**

High oleic soybeans have crossed their final global regulatory hurdle.

The European Union recently approved DuPont Pioneer's Plenish high oleic stacked-trait soybean for import, marking the final regulatory approval for all major soybean importing countries. Regulatory approvals for Monsanto's Vistive Gold high oleic soybean were completed in 2017.

With those approvals, United Soybean Board chair and South Dakota farmer Lewis Bainbridge says the path is now clear for expansion of the high oleic soybean market. Bainbridge says their goal is to have 18 million acres planted to high oleic soybeans, which would make it the fourth-largest grain and oilseed crop in the U.S. Acreage totaled 625-thousand in 2017.

Bainbridge says in order for end users to convert to high oleic soybean oil, they need a reliable, consistent supply. High oleic beans produce a more stable oil for food industry use in restaurants and packaged goods. The oil also expands uses for non-food applications, such as synthetic motor oil and automotive lubricants.

## **NON-DAIRY MILK SALES SEE RAPID GROWTH**

New research shows non-dairy milk sales have increased by more than 60 percent in the past five years. The U.S. Dairy Milk Market Report by Mintel, a market intelligence agency, says non-dairy milk sales are expected to reach more than \$2.1 billion in 2017. More consumers however said they believe whole cow's milk is the healthiest choice.

Almond milk makes up the largest segment of the non-dairy milk category with 64 percent of the market share, followed by soy and coconut milk. The report says other non-dairy milks like pecan, quinoa, hazelnut and flax are also expected to see increased sales for 2018.

Flavored milk is the fastest growing segment of the dairy milk category with sales increasing 18 percent since 2012.

The report says whole milk sales have increased eight percent in the past five years, while skim and low-fat dairy milk have declined 28 percent. Total dairy milk sales are down 15 percent.

## **TRADE TURNS ATTENTION TO SOUTH AMERICAN CROP DEVELOPMENT**

With the major January crop reports out of the way, AgriVisor market analyst Dale Durchholz says the trade will now focus on South American crop development.

Durchholz says much of the attention will be on the planting and development of safrinha corn in Brazil. That's Brazil's double-crop of corn that follows soybeans, normally planted in late January or early February.

"There's one thing to keep an eye on. We're starting to see, in central and northern Brazil, talk about maybe starting to move into a bit drier pattern at the end of January," Durchholz says.

If that signals the beginning of the change from the wet season into the dry season, Durchholz says, it could impact the size of the safrinha crop.

"It will create additional uncertainty going forward about what kind of second-crop corn will Brazil have—and what does that mean for U.S. corn exports as we go through the rest of the winter. But also, and more importantly, into spring and summer."

According to some analysts, an estimated 70 percent of Brazil's total corn production in 2017/18 will be safrinha production.

## **SMITHFIELD REACHES A SOW GROUP HOUSING GOAL**

Smithfield Foods says it has achieved its sow group housing goals at all its company-owned farms in the U.S. The company says it has invested \$360-Million dollars to do that, over 10 years, being the first company to commit to group housing systems in 2007.

Smithfield says it "recommends" all of its contract sow growers in the U.S. transition to group housing by the end of 2022. Outside the U.S., Smithfield says conversions have already taken place at its operations in Poland and Romania and its joint ventures in Mexico are working toward group housing systems toward that 2022 goal.

A 360-degree video [is online](#) to view one of those operations. In standard group housing, the video shows pregnant sows are in group housing with individual feeding stations 23 weeks a year.

## **LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY CONTINUES PUSH FOR FMD VACCINE BANK**

As farm bill discussions intensify in 2018, the livestock industry will push Congress to include funding for a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) president Craig Uden says the cost of establishing a robust FMD vaccine bank would be 150 million dollars annually. While that is not an insignificant number, Uden says, it pales in comparison to the projected economic consequences of an FMD outbreak.

"We're looking at an issue that could cost the agricultural industry of the United States somewhere around 200 billion dollars in ten years," Uden says. "So it is a fairly small ask for what we're trying to protect."

Uden says an outbreak of FMD would immediately close all export markets.

He says the beef industry cannot afford to be locked out of valuable foreign markets as it was after the BSE scare in 2003.

## **NMPF'S MULHERN APPLAUDS DISASTER LEGISLATION**

The disaster aid legislation passed by the House of Representatives Thursday also includes something dairy farmers can use. National Milk Producers Federation President Jim Mulhern issued a statement saying the package eliminates the existing 20-million dollar cap on the Livestock Gross Margin program, which allows more farmers to participate in the risk management option.

Mulhern says dairy farmers still need changes to the Margin Protection Program, which he calls ineffective. National Milk is urging the Senate to include MPP changes in the final Supplemental Spending Bill. Mulhern says fixing these issues now will pave the way for making safety net repairs in the next farm bill.

## **MORE HOLSTEIN SLAUGHTER NEEDED**

An ag economist says more Holstein slaughter capacity is needed to keep pace with expanding dairy production in the Upper Midwest.

Jim Hilker with Michigan State University tells Brownfield when the U.S. cattle herd was smaller it wasn't an issue for Holsteins to be slaughtered at the same plants as beef cattle, but as the beef herd continues to expand, plants are running out of carcass space. "Holsteins are a bigger animal so if it's not the right type of rail, they're harder to slaughter and it's more expensive."

He says Holstein beef is an extremely good product but Angus branding can make marketing the meat difficult. "The ribeye of Holsteins might not be as good but the rest of the meat is indistinguishable and probably as much or more consistent given the genetics."

Hilker adds most feedlots in Michigan have Holstein cattle because dairy is the state's largest ag sector and more processing anywhere near Michigan would provide a boost for farmers.

Beef production in the USDA's latest slaughter report was up two percent on the year, following four consecutive year over year increases, while the U.S. dairy herd has also steadily increased over that same period.

## **IOWA'S GOVERNOR TELLS ROSS: FARMERS WON'T 'STAND DOWN' ON NAFTA**

Iowa governor Kim Reynolds says she told top officials in the Trump Administration "it would be devastating" for Midwest farmers and the ag economy if the North American Free Trade Agreement is abandoned.

"It was a healthy discussion," Reynolds. "We continued to talk about the opportunities for modernizing, but not pulling out."

Reynolds was in Washington last week to meet with Vice President Mike Pence, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. Ross recently suggested farm groups and agribusinesses were exaggerating the impact of ending NAFTA. Reynolds says she directly addressed Ross and made the case on behalf of farmers. "There's a lot of angst out there. Their incomes have been diminished. They're struggling," Reynolds said. "I just indicated to him that they're feeling the pressure and they're concerned and if you think they're going to stand down and just let this be a negotiating tactic, they're not. You're going to hear from me and you're going to hear from Iowa farmers about the impact that this would have on the ag economy not only in Iowa but in the Midwest and across this country and it's serious and so I don't think we can say that enough."

Three other Republican governors, including Michigan's Rick Snyder, were also part of the meeting.

The next round of NAFTA talks is set to begin in Toronto in late January.

Grains				Livestock				Energies			
Sym	Last	Chg	Time	Sym	Last	Chg	Time	Sym	Last	Chg	Time
<b>Corn</b>				<b>Live Cattle</b>				<b>Crude Oil</b>			
Dec'17	342-2	-2-4	09:37	Dec'17	117.300	+0.075	09:39	Jan'18	57.56	-0.80	09:39
Mar'18	356-4	-2-2	09:39	Feb'18	121.925	-0.050	09:39	Feb'18	57.58	-0.80	09:39
May'18	364-6	-1-6	09:39	Apr'18	123.225	+0.200	09:39	Mar'18	57.51	-0.80	09:39
Jul'18	372-4	-2-0	09:39	Jun'18	115.900	+0.125	09:39	Apr'18	57.40	-0.77	09:39
Sep'18	379-4	-2-0	09:38	Aug'18	112.950	+0.300	09:39	May'18	57.20	-0.75	09:36
<b>Soybeans</b>				<b>Feeder Cattle</b>				<b>Heating Oil</b>			
Jan'18	1003-2	+9-0	09:39	Jan'18	150.650	+0.325	09:39	Jan'18	1.9018	-0.0395	09:39
Mar'18	1015-0	+9-0	09:39	Mar'18	148.325	+0.300	09:38	Feb'18	1.9034	-0.0383	09:39
May'18	1025-4	+8-4	09:39	Apr'18	148.575	+0.425	09:39	Mar'18	1.8966	-0.0373	09:39
Jul'18	1034-0	+8-2	09:39	May'18	147.925	+0.500	09:39	Apr'18	1.8828	-0.0355	09:39
Aug'18	1034-2	+7-6	09:36	Aug'18	149.550	+0.250	09:39	May'18	1.8732	-0.0330	09:37
<b>Soybean Meal</b>				<b>Lean Hogs</b>				<b>Gasoline RBOB</b>			
Dec'17	335.1	+6.9	09:39	Dec'17	64.875	-0.400	09:38	Jan'18	1.7035	-0.0381	09:39
Jan'18	337.3	+7.1	09:39	Feb'18	70.300	-0.425	09:39	Feb'18	1.7202	-0.0356	09:39
Mar'18	340.4	+6.9	09:39	Apr'18	74.125	-0.325	09:39	Mar'18	1.7401	-0.0339	09:39
May'18	342.6	+6.5	09:39	May'18	79.100	-0.425	09:19	Apr'18	1.9144	-0.0308	09:39
Jul'18	344.3	+6.2	09:38	Jun'18	83.200	-0.175	09:39	May'18	1.9164	-0.0308	09:37
<b>Soybean Oil</b>				<b>Class III Milk</b>				<b>Natural Gas</b>			
Dec'17	33.44	-0.16	09:38	Dec'17	15.32	unch	09:22	Jan'18	3.015	-0.046	09:39
Jan'18	33.55	-0.14	09:39	Jan'18	14.37	-0.12	09:33	Feb'18	3.013	-0.050	09:39
Mar'18	33.76	-0.15	09:39	Feb'18	14.44	-0.12	09:28	Mar'18	2.978	-0.047	09:39
May'18	33.97	-0.14	09:38	Mar'18	14.53	-0.10	09:38	Apr'18	2.832	-0.046	09:38
Jul'18	34.17	-0.12	09:38	Apr'18	14.79	-0.06	09:38	May'18	2.822	-0.047	09:35
<b>Wheat</b>				<b>Softs</b>				<b>Ethanol</b>			
Dec'17	416-2	+1-6	08:53	<b>CME Cotton</b>				Dec'17	1.350s	+0.007	12/01/17
Mar'18	439-4	+1-0	09:39	Mar'18	0.7328s	+0.0047	12/01/17	Jan'18	1.355	-0.009	09:31
May'18	452-0	+1-0	09:39	May'18	0.7377s	+0.0029	12/01/17	Feb'18	1.380	unch	09:28
Jul'18	464-2	unch	09:35	Jul'18	0.7405s	+0.0022	12/01/17	Mar'18	1.400s	+0.004	12/01/17
Sep'18	478-2	+0-2	09:37	Oct'18	0.7184s	+0.0015	12/01/17	Apr'18	1.424s	+0.004	12/01/17
<b>K.C. Wheat</b>				<b>CME Sugar</b>				<b>Indices</b>			
Dec'17	420-4	unch	09:22	Mar'18	0.1498s	-0.0010	12/01/17	<b>Dow Jones</b>			
Mar'18	437-4	unch	09:39	May'18	0.1494s	-0.0009	12/01/17	Dec'17	24521	+283	09:39
May'18	450-2	+0-4	09:39	Jul'18	0.1493s	-0.0010	12/01/17	<b>S&amp;P 500</b>			
Jul'18	467-0	+0-4	09:38	Oct'18	0.1512s	-0.0009	12/01/17	Dec'17	2661.25	+17.25	09:39
Sep'18	482-4	-1-2	09:31	Mar'19	0.1559s	-0.0008	12/01/17	<b>Nasdaq 100</b>			
<b>Minn. Wheat</b>				<b>CME Coffee</b>				<b>CRB CCI Index</b>			
Dec'17	611-6	+1-2	08:30	Mar'18	1.2955s	+0.0105	12/01/17	0	N/A		
Mar'18	630-0	-1-4	09:39	May'18	1.3170s	+0.0105	12/01/17				
May'18	636-4	-1-4	09:37	Jul'18	1.3395s	+0.0105	12/01/17				
Jul'18	637-0	-2-6	09:37	Sep'18	1.3620s	+0.0110	12/01/17				
Sep'18	628-6	-2-4	09:29	Dec'18	1.3955s	+0.0110	12/01/17				

Current conditions at

## Ankeny Regional Airport (KIKV)

Lat: 41.69°N Lon: 93.57°W Elev: 886ft.



Overcast  
**32°F**  
0°C

**Humidity** 60%  
**Wind Speed** SW 6 mph  
**Barometer** 30.01 in  
**Dewpoint** 19°F (-7°C)  
**Visibility** 10.00 mi  
**Wind Chill** 26°F (-3°C)  
**Last update** 5 Dec 9:35 pm CST

### Extended Forecast for Ankeny IA

Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night
Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Low: 26 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 32 °F	Low: 21 °F

### Detailed Forecast

**Tonight** A slight chance of snow before 11pm, then a chance of flurries between 11pm and midnight. Cloudy, then becoming partly cloudy toward daybreak, with a low around 26. West northwest wind 5 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Wednesday** Partly sunny, with a high near 34. Breezy, with a west northwest wind 13 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph.

**Wednesday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. Wind chill values as low as 5. Northwest wind 13 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday** Mostly sunny, with a high near 27. Wind chill values as low as zero. North northwest wind 8 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.

**Thursday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. West wind around 7 mph.

**Friday** Partly sunny, with a high near 33.

**Friday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18.

**Saturday** Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.

**Saturday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

**Sunday** Sunny, with a high near 42.

**Sunday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Monday** Partly sunny, with a high near 41.

**Monday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

**Tuesday** A chance of rain and snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. Chance of precipitation is 30%.