

2005 A
Subdistrict Creed Speaking CDE

1. In the fifth paragraph, you said "...that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life..." What are some of those traditions?
2. Describe some of the "achievements won by past generations of agriculturists", as stated in the first paragraph?
3. Why is the FFA Creed important to agriculture?

2005 A
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To Refer to a Committee
Business: To host a faculty breakfast during National FFA Week.

Ability: To Rise to a Point of Order
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.

2005 A
Subdistrict Extemporaneous Speaking CDE

2004-05 General Themes: a) agriscience and technology, b) agrimarketing and international agricultural relations, and c) food and fiber systems.

Select one of the following topics:

- a. What is the most significant new advancement in agricultural technology?

- b. What is the most important international issue currently facing American agriculture?

- c. What can the agriculture industry do to best ensure the safety of its food supply?

2005 A
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Purchase a GPS unit to map the chapter test plot.

Ability: To adjourn
Business: Raise money for the United Way

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Plant trees in the city park

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Present a Food for America program to third grade students

Ability: To take from the table
Business: Sponsor a high school ski trip to Colorado

Questions:

1. What are two advantages of referring items to a committee?
(p. 43, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure)

2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member who had voted on the losing side moved to reconsider?
(p. 64, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure)

3. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member moved to refer a matter to a committee, and the motion to refer received no second?
(p. 44, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure)

4. What is the advantage of the qualified motion to adjourn over the unqualified motion to adjourn for most business meetings?
(p. 26, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure)

5. As presiding officer, what would you do if a vote to table a motion resulted in a tie?
(p. 34, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure)

2002 G
Subdistrict Creed CDE

1. In the fourth paragraph you state "...and enough honest wealth to help make it so..."
What is an honest wealth?
2. What are two ways progressive agriculturists can market the products of their toil?
3. Why are you representing your chapter in the Creed Speaking Career Development Event?

2002 G
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

- Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.
- Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.

2002 G
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.

1. What is unfinished business? (22)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
2. What are the official colors of the FFA? (8)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
3. Which officer is stationed at the Rising Sun? (21)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
4. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name 7 of them. (12)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
5. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual

2002 G
Subdistrict Extemporaneous Speaking CDE

Are genetically altered agricultural products safe for human consumption?

What marketing strategies can Iowa grain producers use to be more profitable?

How does European agricultural and economic status affect Iowa?

2002 G
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To lay a motion on the table
Business: Plant trees in the city park

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Present the Food for America program to third grade students

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Donate \$500 to the Iowa FFA Foundation

Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: Sponsor a soup supper

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Visit the local meat processing plant

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to lay a motion on the table? (34)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to suspend only a certain rule? (61)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
3. As the presiding officer, what would you do if a member made remarks on a motion before it was seconded? (15)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
4. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member began to discuss a motion to take from the table? (68)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
5. What are some methods by which a countable vote can be taken? (21)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"

2002 H
Subdistrict Creed CDE

1. The National FFA Organization has decided to add a sixth paragraph to the FFA Creed and has asked you to write it. What would you write about and where would that paragraph go?
2. Is the Creed current with modern agriculture and youth?
3. Who wrote the FFA Creed and when was it adopted?

2002 H
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.

2002 H
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.

1. What are two types of committee reports that can be presented at chapter meetings? (22)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
2. What are the duties required of the Sentinel? (16)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
3. Which officer is stationed by the flag? (21)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
4. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14-15)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
5. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual

2002 H
Subdistrict Extemporaneous Speaking CDE

How can biotechnology be utilized to make sustainable agriculture more attractive?

In what ways can producers become profitable using forward contracting?

How does the European BSE (mad cow) issue affect the United State's Beef Industry?

2002 H
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Assist with community snow removal

Ability: To appeal from the decision of the chair
Business: Visit the local meat processing plant

Ability: To adjourn
Business: Organize a tractor pull

Ability: To receive a motion to reconsider
Business: Build a greenhouse

Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Invite a state officer to speak at a chapter meeting

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member moved to refer a matter to a committee, and the motion to refer received no second? (44)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
2. What is the advantage of the qualified motion to adjourn over the unqualified motion to adjourn for most business meetings? (26)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
3. As presiding officer, what would you do if a vote to table a motion resulted in a tie? (34)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
4. What are two types of committees? (43)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
5. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member appealed from your decision? (53)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"

2002 I
Subdistrict Creed CDE

1. What do you mean by "...less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining..." as you stated in the fourth paragraph?
2. What are two ways progressive agriculturists can market the products of their toil?
3. When was the FFA Creed revised?

2002 I
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.

2002 I
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.

Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.

1. What are the duties of the Treasurer? (16)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
2. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
3. What are the duties of the Advisor? (16)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
4. According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
5. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual

2002 I
Subdistrict Extemp Speaking CDE

How is precision farming beneficial to producers?

How can producers utilize "call" and "put" options to increase their profit margin?

Should the European Union accept genetically altered agricultural products from the U.S.?

2002 I
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To adjourn
Business: Plan a chapter trap shoot

Ability: To lay a motion on the table
Business: Organize a tractor pull

Ability: To appeal from the decision of the chair
Business: Donate \$500 to the Iowa FFA Foundation

Ability: To take from the table
Business: Present the Food for America program to third grade students

Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Assist with community snow removal

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to suspend only a certain rule? (61)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
2. As the presiding officer, what would you do if a member made remarks on a motion before it was seconded? (15)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
3. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member began to discuss a motion to take from the table? (68)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
4. What are some methods by which a countable vote can be taken? (21)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
5. What are some valid reasons for the presiding officer to turn the chair over to another person? (70)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"

2002 J
Subdistrict Creed CDE

1. How can you exert an influence in your home and community?
2. When was the FFA Creed adopted?
3. In the fifth paragraph you said "...American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life..." What are some of those traditions?

2002 J
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: Table a motion
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.

2002 J
Subdistrict Creed CDE

Ability: Table a motion
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.

1. What is unfinished business? (22)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
2. What are the three divisions of an FFA Chapter's Program of Activities? (18)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
3. Besides the officers identified in the Official Opening Ceremonies, what other officers might a chapter elect? (17)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
4. Which officer is stationed by the flag? (21)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
5. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual

2002 J
Subdistrict Extemp Speaking CDE

Do the availability of genetically modified crops hurt or help the family farmer?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a producer-owned cooperative?

How important or unimportant is a strong Asian economy to Iowa agriculture?

2002 J
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Donate \$500 to the Iowa FFA Foundation

Ability: To adjourn
Business: Host a Subdistrict basketball tournament

Ability: To lay a motion on the table
Business: Host a Subdistrict bowling tournament

Ability: Change the presiding officer
Business: Assist with community snow removal

Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: Assist with renovating the city park

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to lay a motion on the table? (34)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member moved to refer a matter to a committee, and the motion to refer received no second? (44)
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5. What are two types of committees? (43)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"

2002 K
Subdistrict Creed CDE

1. What are some achievements won by past and present generations of agriculturists, as stated in the first paragraph?
2. What can you do to provide leadership to others, as mentioned in the Creed?
3. Who wrote the FFA Creed?

2002 K
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

- Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.
- Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Purchase a handheld GPS unit.

2002 K
Subdistrict Conduct of Meetings CDE

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Purchase a handheld GPS unit.

1. What are two types of committee reports that can be presented at chapter meetings? (22)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
2. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
3. What officer is responsible for coordinating all committee work? (15)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
4. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name 7 of them. (12)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual
5. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
 - a. Answer--page number from 2000-2001 FFA Manual

2002 K
Subdistrict Extemp Speaking CDE

What are value-added products and how can Iowa's agriculturists benefit from value added products?

What effects do low grain prices, particularly corn and soybean prices, have on Iowa agriculture?

How does European agricultural and economic status affect Iowa?

2002 K
Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Ability: To appeal from the decision of the chair
Business: Send three member to the Washington Leadership Conference

Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Sponsor a soup supper

Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: Grow poinsettias in the chapter greenhouse

Ability: To take from the table
Business: Plant trees in the city park

Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Rent land for a demonstration plot

1. What are two advantages of referring items to a committee? (43)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member who had voted on the losing side moved to reconsider? (64)
 - a. Answer--page # from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure"
3. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to suspend only a certain rule? (61)
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2005 Iowa FFA Sub-District Ag Broadcasting Career Development Event

Monsanto Forms American Seeds, Inc.

"The pace of technological innovation has changed the seed industry and it's clear in conversations with some of our seed-company customers that the needs for capital and technology for growth have accelerated," says Carl Casale, executive vice president for Monsanto.

These investments will allow the operating companies of ASI to more directly connect their customers to significant innovations in genomics-based breeding and other new technologies while continuing to operate autonomously and locally, providing great service to their customers and building the value of their brands. ASI is a wholly owned subsidiary, reporting into Monsanto's U.S. Crop Production business along with the company's existing branded and licensing businesses.

Mandatory Price Reporting Extended

Compiled by staff

The U.S. House of Representatives approved passage of legislation to reauthorize Mandatory Price Reporting,

which expired September 30, 2004. The original legislation mandated by Congress in 1999 included a sunset provision, and this action extends that sunset provision for one year. The bill passed in the Senate last month.

Mandatory price reporting requires packers report to USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) daily price and volume information on negotiated and non-negotiated purchases of cattle and boxed beef sales. Packers also report exports and imports. The legislation directs the USDA to improve its retail price reports. Volume and quality information are also reported for packer-owned cattle.

Both the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) applauded the extension and called on members of Congress to take the lead in the rewriting the legislation in the next year.

Huge harvest returns crown to Iowa

The state is again the nation's king of corn and soybeans after this year's record yields.

This year's harvest is beyond bin-busting.

The nation's farmers will harvest a record 11.74 billion bushels of corn, up 16 percent from last year's record crop, the government reported Friday. Soybeans will total a record 3.15 billion bushels, up 28 percent.

In Iowa, the harvest is so large that the state

reclaimed its No. 1 national ranking in soybeans. The state lost the title in 2002 to Illinois, but this year the soybean crop is 45 percent bigger than a year ago. Iowa remains tops in corn, and this year's crop is nearly 20 percent larger than a year ago.

Markets

December corn futures prices rose $23/4$ cents, closing at \$2 per bushel, Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade. January soybean futures prices were up $51/4$ cents, closing at \$5.25.

In Iowa, cash market prices for corn were 2 to 5 cents higher, averaging \$1.64 per bushel. Soybean prices were 4 to 6 cents higher, averaging \$4.98.

As of Nov. 7, 87 percent of the nation's soybeans had been harvested, compared with a five-year average of 94 percent. Also by that date, just 76 percent of U.S. corn harvest was completed, compared with an average of 89 percent.

Bush announces Veneman resignation as Ag Secretary

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman was among the cabinet members that the White House on Monday announced is leaving the Bush Administration. Most of the other top political appointees at USDA are also expected to leave.

Farm groups praised Veneman's tenure. "We applaud Secretary Veneman's service to American agriculture," said Farm Bureau president Bob Stallman. National Farmers Union President Dave Fredrickson said, "Although we did not always agree with her on how best to resolve the challenges confronting rural America, we did find her to be professional, knowledgeable and friendly."

Veneman, who may have faced more crisis than any agriculture secretary in recent memory, was not popular with farmers, especially angering them with the Agriculture Department's handling of the 2002 Farm Bill, the response to the discovery of BSE in Canada and the US, and trade issues.

Weather

Temp:	45° F	Dew Pt:	37
Humid:	75%	Wind Dir:	South
Barom:	29.93	Wind Spd:	9 mph
Cond:	Cloudy	Heat Indx:	45°F
Sunrise:	07:15	Sunset:	04:46

As reported at Ames, IA at 4:14 PM

Monday Lo: 33 °F Hi: 41 °F

Tuesday Lo: 33 °F Hi: 37 °F

Wednesday Lo: 28 °F Hi: 39 °F

Thursday Lo: 21 °F Hi: 45 °F

Friday Lo: 23 °F Hi: 48 °F

WASHINGTON -- More than \$78 million is available to protect farm and ranch land in all 50 states and Puerto Rico through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture news release.

The funds will be used to purchase conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to nonagricultural uses, said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

USDA enters into agreements with nongovernmental organizations, states, federally recognized tribes and local governments to support their efforts to protect soils and historical and archaeological sites.

Weather

Tonight Mostly cloudy in the evening Then becoming partly cloudy. Low around 30. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph Becoming west after midnight.

Tuesday Partly cloudy in the morning Then becoming

mostly sunny. High in the lower 40s. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night Mostly clear and colder. Low around 20. North wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Mostly sunny. High in the mid 30s. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night Mostly clear. Low around 17. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Partly cloudy. High in the mid 30s.

Thursday night Partly cloudy and not as cold. A chance of light freezing rain Light snow And sleet. Low in the upper 20s. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday Partly cloudy with a chance of light rain. High in the lower 40s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Friday night Partly cloudy. Low around 20.

Saturday Mostly sunny. High in the upper 30s.

Saturday night Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s.

Sunday Mostly cloudy. High in the mid 30s.

Sunday night Cloudy with a chance of snow. Low in the lower 20s. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Science Center to open in May

The new Science Center of Iowa - one of the largest and most expensive projects under construction in Des Moines - will open to the public May 14, officials said today.

They also announced that John Deere Des Moines Works in Ankeny will donate \$1 million to the \$61.9 million center.

"It's not a project that's about a single vision. It's about a multitude of wants and needs that are coming to fruition," said Mary Sellers, executive director of the center.

A key goal of the \$61.9 million project is education. One wing will be known as the Iowa Learning Center, which will showcase information for students and teachers. A preschool will be part of the wing. Exhibits will correlate with Iowa school curriculums using demonstrations, movies and a walk-through planetarium, Sellers said.

Burglars take jewelry from Ozzy's home

LONDON (AP) -- Burglars broke into the English country mansion of rocker Ozzy Osbourne and his wife, Sharon, early Monday and stole a "large amount of jewelry," police said.

The burglary woke the Osbournes, police said, and "a man" grabbed one of the intruders before the burglar broke free and jumped from a 30-foot-high, second-floor window.

A "large amount of jewelry" was stolen, said police, who wouldn't say whether the man who struggled with the intruder was Ozzy.

One of the burglars wore a ski mask and used a ladder to climb into the second-floor room of the mansion

where a "large amount of jewelry" was stolen. Both burglars apparently escaped in a van, and the man who jumped was probably injured by the fall, police said. Jay Marose, the Osbourne family's spokesman in the United States, said that he spoke to Sharon Osbourne on the phone Monday night, and that neither had been hurt.

Corn Market Tracks Demand Numbers

As the 2004 harvest winds down, the markets will focus on the demand side, particularly exports.

"There is more uncertainty about the magnitude of exports than the magnitude of domestic use for the year," says **Darrel Good**, a University of Illinois Extension economist. "Also, weekly USDA export data is available for the market to digest."

The data comes from USDA's Export Inspections report, released on Monday mornings, USDA's weekly Export Sales report, released on Thursday mornings, and USDA's daily export reporting system that requires exporters to report sales of 100,000 tons or more to a single buyer.

Putting Cattle Through the Hoops

Researchers and farmers are discovering that hoop buildings aren't just for pigs anymore. Animal scientists at Iowa State University (ISU) are learning how to raise cattle, dairy, sheep, and even emus in these low-cost structures.

In Iowa, hoop barns are an increasingly common sight, since 2,500 of the structures are used to raise pigs throughout the state. That's what ISU experts call rapid adoption of technology, because in the late 1990s, a hoop barn for livestock was an unfamiliar concept from Canada. Now experts wonder how long it will take for the idea of cattle in hoops to catch on.

Western Bean Cutworms Spread to Midwest Fields

If the western bean cutworm invaded your corn crop this year, you're not alone. The pest is moving into the eastern Cornbelt, affecting both corn yields and grain quality.

"Unlike other cutworms, the western bean cutworm is a late-season pest of corn," notes **Kelly Cook** with the University of Illinois' Department of Crop Sciences. "It feeds primarily on corn ears, chewing and scarring kernels, predisposing the ear to fungal and mold infections."

Historically, the western bean cutworm has emerged in the western Cornbelt. Over the past several years, the pest has steadily moved from west to east, being discovered most recently in southeastern Iowa in 2004.

Biologist tells Iowans to be unafraid of mountain lions

A state wildlife biologist told a crowd of Hinton residents that they should not be afraid of mountain lions, which seem to be returning to Iowa after an

absence of more than 130 years.

Ron Andrews of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said he's received 500 reports of sightings, but only a few have been confirmed.

"We don't believe that every report we get is a mountain lion," he said.

Mountain lions, also known as cougars, pumas, panthers, painters and catamounts, were the first native animals to leave Iowa, Andrews said.

The DNR started acknowledging mountain lion sightings three years ago as the animals moved east, Andrews said. But he said many people are mistaking dogs, bobcats and coyotes for mountain lions.

Three mountain lions have been killed in Iowa since 2000. One was shot in Ireton in northwest Iowa, and a second was shot in south central Iowa near Chariton. A third was hit by a truck near Harlan, in western Iowa. Previously, the last documented shooting was in 1867.

Grain & Livestock Markets

Name	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg
Dow Jones Dec 04	10501	10499	10521	10445	10510	9
Corn Dec 04	1974	1980	1986	1974	1980	4
Corn Mar 05	2082	2082	2090	2076	2082	0
Corn May 05	2154	2154	2162	2150	2156	2
Corn Jul 05	2232	2234	2236	2224	2232	0
Corn Sep 05	2306	2312	2314	2306	2310	2
Corn Dec 05	2400	2406	2406	2394	2402	2
Corn Mar 06	2466	2464	2472	2462	2472	4
Soybeans Jan 05	5544	5590	5620	5534	5620	74
Soybeans Mar 05	5584	5630	5650	5570	5650	64
Soybeans May 05	5642	5680	5704	5634	5704	62
Soybeans Jul 05	5712	5740	5780	5710	5780	66
Soybeans Aug 05	5740	5760	5800	5750	5800	60

Soybeans	Sep 05	5720	5740	5754	5720	5750	30
Soybeans	Nov 05	5846	5884	5930	5864	5930	82
Soybeans	Jan 06	5880	5900	5940	5900	5940	60
Soybean Meal	Dec 04	1593	1603	1628	1601	1626	33
Soybean Meal	Jan 05	1606	1623	1640	1613	1639	33
Soybean Meal	Mar 05	1628	1650	1660	1634	1658	30
Soybean Meal	May 05	1654	1680	1688	1662	1686	32
Soybean Meal	Jul 05	1687	1705	1723	1695	1721	34
Feeder Cattle	Jan 05	99.525	99.400	101.150	99.400	99.725	0.200
Feeder Cattle	Mar 05	95.500	95.500	97.350	95.400	96.450	0.950
Feeder Cattle	Apr 05	94.300	94.400	96.500	94.400	95.350	1.050
Feeder Cattle	May 05	94.950	94.850	96.750	94.850	95.525	0.575
Feeder Cattle	Aug 05	97.800	98.000	99.000	98.000	98.800	1.000
Feeder Cattle	Sep 05	97.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	97.000	0.000
Lean Hogs	Dec 04	74.800	74.600	76.200	74.250	76.100	1.300
Lean Hogs	Feb 05	74.025	73.500	74.500	73.400	74.425	0.400
Lean Hogs	Apr 05	71.325	70.950	71.250	70.525	70.900	-0.425
Lean Hogs	May 05	70.650	70.500	70.750	70.000	70.650	0.000
Lean Hogs	Jun 05	74.450	74.150	74.300	73.600	74.225	-0.225
Live Cattle	Nov 04	84.000	85.000	85.000	85.000	85.000	1.000
Live Cattle	Dec 04	84.650	85.000	87.650	84.950	87.250	2.600
Live Cattle	Feb 05	85.950	85.950	88.600	85.950	87.850	1.900
Live Cattle	Apr 05	83.100	83.100	85.200	83.100	84.350	1.250
Live Cattle	Jun 05						

Estimated Weekly Meat Production Under Federal Inspection 11/19

Total red meat production under Federal inspection for the week ending Saturday, November 20, 2004 was estimated at 895 million lbs. according to the U.S.Department of Agriculture's Marketing Service. This was 2.6 percent higher than a week ago and 0.9 percent higher than a year ago. Cumulative meat production for the year to date was 3.5 percent lower compared to the previous year.

Week Ending	Meat Production (millions of pounds) (excludes condemned)					Totals (3)
	Beef	Calf/Veal	Pork (2)	Lamb/Mutton		
20-Nov-04	465.9	2.8	422.7	3.6		895.0
13-Nov-04	466.4	2.8	399.5	3.6		872.3
Change:	-0.1%	0.0%	5.8%	0.0%		2.6%
22-Nov-03	446.0	4.0	433.2	4.1		887.3
Change:	4.5%	-30.0%	-2.4%	-12.2%		0.9%
2004 YTD	21647.3	143.7	17944.7	164.1		39899.8
2003 YTD	23517.0	164.0	17476.7	170.3		41328.1
Change:	-8.0%	-12.4%	2.7%	-3.7%		-3.5%

(1) Previous week estimates may be revised. Year ago data are actuals.

(2) Excludes lard. (3) Totals may not add due to rounding.

2004 totals are subject to revision

Week Ending	Livestock Slaughter (head)			
	Cattle	Calves/Vealers	Hogs	Sheep/Lambs
20-Nov-04	607,000	14,000	2,114,000	52,000
13-Nov-04	605,000	14,000	2,004,000	53,000
Change:	0.3%	0.0%	5.5%	-1.9%

22-Nov-03	606,000	20,000	2,162,000	59,000
Change:	0.2%	-30.0%	-2.2%	-11.9%
2004 YTD	28,834,000	719,000	90,373,000	2,384,000
2003 YTD	31,699,000	863,000	88,410,000	2,511,000
Change:	-9.0%	-16.7%	2.2%	-5.0%

Week Ending Live:		Average Weights (lbs)			
		Cattle	Calves/Vealers	Hogs	Sheep/Lambs
20-Nov-04	Estimate	1269	332	269	137
13-Nov-04	Estimate	1269	329	268	136
22-Nov-03	Actual	1242	324	270	140
Dressed:					
20-Nov-04	Estimate	771	205	201	69
13-Nov-04	Estimate	775	203	200	68
22-Nov-03	Actual	739	200	201	70

Percentage of Total Cattle Slaughtered by Class					
Week Ending	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Bulls and Stags	
06-Nov-04	48.6%	31.9%	17.8%	1.7%	
08-Nov-03	45.4%	31.7%	20.7%	2.1%	

Percentage of Total Hogs Slaughtered by Class				
Week Ending	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	
06-Nov-04	96.7%	3.0%	0.3%	
08-Nov-03	96.9%	2.8%	0.2%	

GENERAL MARKET COMMENTS

The Iowa hog base closed \$2.06 lower at \$65-\$79.25. Weighted average is \$76.47. The cattle trade in the country was typically limited to inventory assessment. The new offering is generally larger with the biggest increases evident in Kansas and Texas. Corn contracts settled 1 1/2 to 2 cents lower thanks to fund selling and late harvest pressure. The stock market rallied late in the days as oil prices dropped: the Dow finished 32 points higher and the Nasdaq settled up 14.

The Meat of the Matter---Beef 11/19

By John A. Harrington

Between the BSE inconclusive test and great uncertainty surrounding feedlot cash (trade finally developed late Friday with short bought packers paying up to \$85 on a live basis, fully steady with last week), the November 1 on feed report almost got lost in the confusing shuffle. And now that the boring numbers have been officially released, many producers and traders are no doubt wondering why they even bothered keeping their eye on the ball. In short, all three categories came in very close to trade expectations. Oh, the marketing total

for October (1.798 million head, 3% below 2003) was a little larger than the average guess, and the October placement (2.7 million head, also 3% below the previous year) was somewhat larger than what the trade was looking for. But thrown into one big pot, the report stuck us as quite neutral and generally uninspiring in terms of future price direction.

The placement total represented the fifth consecutive month of feedlot in-movement below the levels of 2003. This is not surprising given decent pasture conditions (first summer and now fall/winter) and relatively tight replacement supplies thanks in part to the absence of Canadian imports. On the other hand, the weight breakdown of the placement effort struck us as unexpected: under 600# - 912,000 head, off 11%; 600-699# - 764,000 head, off 4%; 700-799 # - 529,000 head, up 4%; and 800# and up 496,000 head, up 9%. On one hand, were surprised that feedlot managers were able to find so many big cattle to place. Conversely, the big drop in light-weight feeders was probably tied to much improved wheat pasture prospects over 2003.

Although marketing totals seldom are perceived as market-movers, the October effort seems worthy of some respect, especially given the fact that last month contained two fewer business days than the previous year. In the past, market analysts have typically equated large carcass weights with uncurrent feedlot conditions. Clearly, this fall has represented the exception to that rule. While dressed weights continue to overshadow recent history, producers are still effectively using them in terms of tight ready supplies and formidable country leverage. Indeed, today's late developing cash market at steady money illustrates exactly that.

Conduct of Meetings
2005a

Ability & Item of Business:

1. Ability: To Amend a Motion
Business: Conduct a reading buddy program for elementary students.

2. Ability: Change the Presiding Officer
Business: Sponsor an Agriscience Fair for middle school students.

Conduct of Meetings 2005a

Ability & Item of Business:

1. Ability: To Amend a Motion
Business: Conduct a reading buddy program for elementary students.
2. Ability: Change the Presiding Officer
Business: Sponsor an Agriscience Fair for middle school students.

Questions: Answer: Official FFA Manual (page #)

1. **What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)**

“The Rising Sun”

2. **What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)**

Robert’s Rules of Order, Official FFA Manual, FFA Student Handbook

3. **Which officer is stationed at the Rising Sun? (21)**

The President

4. **What officer is responsible for coordinating all committee work? (15)**

The Vice President

5. **What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14-15)**

1. A genuine desire to be part of a leadership team. 2. A willingness to accept responsibility. 3. A sincere desire to work with all chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal, and chapter goals. 4. A commitment to lead by example. 5. A knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state, and national FFA constitutions, bylaws, and programs. 6. A working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. 7. An ability to memorize their parts in the official ceremonies.

Conduct of Meetings
2005b

Ability & Item of Business:

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Organize a tree-planting program for elementary students.

2. Ability: Table a motion
Business: Present a Food for America program to elementary students.

Conduct of Meetings 2005b

Ability & Item of Business:

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Organize a tree-planting program for elementary students.
2. Ability: Table a motion
Business: Present a Food for America program to elementary students.

Questions: Answer: Official FFA Manual (page #)

1. What are the three divisions of an FFA Chapter's Program of Activities? (18)

Chapter Development, Student Development, Community Development

2. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)

The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through Agricultural Education.

3. The use of parliamentary procedure ensures four things during a chapter meeting. Name them. (25)

Observing parliamentary procedure will ensure that: one item is addressed at a time; courtesy is extended to everyone; the majority rules; and, the rights of the minority are protected.

4. When would the presiding officer use three taps of the gavel? (23)

Three taps of the gavel is the signal for all members to stand in unison on the third tap.

5. What are three motions that require a 2/3 vote? (24)

Suspend The Rules, Previous Question Vote, Extend or Limit Debate, Call for Orders of the Day

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students through premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Creed Speaking
2005a

Questions:

1. What is the future of agriculture?
2. How can you exert an influence in your home and community?
3. What can you do to provide leadership to others?

Creed Speaking
2005b

Questions:

1. What is honest wealth?
2. Explain two ways progressive agriculturists can market the products of their toil?
3. Why are you representing your chapter in the Creed Speaking Career Development Event?

2005a

Extemporaneous Speaking CDE

2004-05 General Themes: a) agriscience and technology, b) agrimarketing and international agricultural relations, and c) food and fiber systems.

Select one of the following topics:

- a. How can agriculturalists utilize technology to decrease the negative impacts on agriculture on the environment?
- b. How might changes to the farm subsidy program affect Iowa's economy?
- c. How will food safety issues challenge American agriculture?

2005b
Extemporaneous Speaking CDE

2004-05 General Themes: a) agriscience and technology, b) agrimarketing and international agricultural relations, and c) food and fiber systems.

Select one of the following topics:

- a. How will advancements in biotechnology affect Iowa agriculture?

- b. How can U.S. foreign policy affect American agriculture?

- c. What marketing strategies can Iowa grain and livestock producers use to be more profitable?

Parliamentary Procedure 2005a

Item of Business & Ability:

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter trip to the World Food Prize symposium.
2. Ability: To appeal from the decision of the chair
Business: Sell pizzas to raise money for a local charity.
3. Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: Sponsor a chapter canoe trip.
4. Ability: To take from the table
Business: Start a high school recycling program.
5. Ability: Change the presiding officer
Business: Purchase a first aide supplies for the local fire department.

Questions:

1. **What is the advantage of the qualified motion to adjourn over the unqualified motion to adjourn for most business meetings?** (p. 27, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

The qualified motion to adjourn is the form most often used by smaller organizations because it specifies a time to adjourn and convene, whereas an unqualified motion to adjourn does not specify a time.

2. **Name three of the five classes of motions.** (p. 12, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

Main, Privileged, Subsidiary, Incidental, and Unclassified

3. **What are some valid reasons for the presiding officer to turn the Chair over to another person?** (p. 70, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Turning over the Chair to another presiding officer should be done only at the completion of an item of business. Exceptions are when the Chair wished to discuss a motion, or when it could be embarrassing to preside, or when the Chair must leave the meeting in a hurry.”

4. **As presiding officer, what would you do if an amendment that is offered receives no second?** (p. 16, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“If no one seconds the motion, the Chair states: ‘The motion dies for lack of second,’ raps the gavel once, and moves on to the next item of business.”

5. **As presiding officer, what would you do if a vote to table a motion resulted in a tie?** (p. 23, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

*“The presiding officer is not permitted to vote unless 1.) his/her vote will **break** a tie (to pass a motion, or 2.) his/her vote will **make** a tie (to defeat a motion).”*

Parliamentary Procedure 2005b

Item of Business & Ability:

1. Ability: To adjourn
Business: Purchase a first aide supplies for the local fire department.
2. Ability: To lay a motion on the table
Business: Donate fruit to the local nursing home.
3. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Request a state officer for a chapter visit.
4. Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: Raise \$5000 to donate to the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center.
5. Ability: To receive a motion to reconsider
Business: Sponsor a chapter BBQ to raise money for the United Way.

Questions:

1. **Why is it important that the Chair grant the floor to only one member at a time?** (p. 5, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)
“This ensures that all members hear what each member has to say. It also ensures that the organization’s business is not influenced or controlled by persons who are not members, or whose membership privileges are under suspension for violating rules, non-payment of dues, etc.”
2. **As the presiding officer, what would you do if you observe a member in violation of a rule?** (p. 8, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)
“The Chair calls for order at once and states the violation: ‘John, you are out of order. You did not receive recognition from the Chair.’ or ‘The speaker is out of order. You cannot discuss the motion until there is a second.’”
3. **As the presiding officer, what would you do if there were already two amendments on the floor when a member who has been recognized offers a third amendment to the original motion?** (p. 46, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)
The member should be called out of order. “A motion may not have more than two amendments on the floor at the same time.”
4. **Is the presiding officer allowed to vote to force a tie and defeat a motion?**
(p. 23, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)
*“The presiding officer is not permitted to vote unless 1.) his/her vote will **break** a tie (to pass a motion, or 2.) his/her vote will **make** a tie (to defeat a motion).”*
5. **What desirable amendment could be made to a qualified motion to adjourn?**
(p. 27, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)
“When the motion includes a specific time to adjourn or a specific time to convene the next meeting ... It is open to discussion and may be amended as to the time for adjourning/convening.”

2005 Iowa FFA District Ag Broadcasting Career Development Event

GPS technology explained at Wheat Show

WILLISTON, N.D. - GPS, or Global Positioning Systems, was a hot topic at the National Hard Spring Wheat Show, Feb. 7-9, at the Airport International Inn in Williston, N.D.

Vern Hofman, NDSU Extension agriculture engineer, explained how GPS works and how it is incorporated into agriculture.

GPS is a worldwide radio-navigation system formed from a pattern of 24 satellites orbiting the earth at a distance of approximately 12,000 miles. Each satellite can orbit the planet in 24 hours.

GPS uses the satellites as reference points to calculate positions on Earth. Positions are accurate to a matter of meters with more advanced forms of GPS accurate to the centimeter.

Hofman said at least four satellites are needed for an accurate location but most receivers respond from eight to nine satellites.

Certain errors are noticed with GPS, however, Hofman noted. The first, he said, is atmospheric interference. Depending on atmospheric conditions, the speed of the radio waves (which travel at the speed of light) can be altered, thus affecting its accuracy.

GPS signals can also be affected by something called multi-path error. This happens when signals "bounce off" objects such as buildings and trees before hitting the GPS receiver. There are also errors in timing and in the quality of the GPS receiver.

To reduce these errors, Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS) were created. Specific ground stations at a known, permanent position on the earth, correct the errors and sends to the receiver.

The U.S. government and several commercial companies provide differential correction GPS services.

Two U.S. government systems are the Coast Guard's beacon signal and the Federal Aviation Administration's Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS).

The most accurate type of differential GPS correction is known as RTK, or real-time kinematic GPS. This technology provides position accuracy to within one centimeter. RTK requires a separate base station located within approximately five miles of the mobile GPS units.

ARS technology could make steaks more tender, more often

Consistently tender steaks may be more readily available at restaurants and supermarkets in the future, thanks to technology developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Nebraska and used by beef processors.

At the ARS Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., animal physiologist Mohammad Koohmaraie is leading a group of researchers in determining how to make steaks more tender. Some of their discoveries are already being used by industry.

The scientists noticed meat is tender after slaughter, then toughens before starting to become tender again. Accordingly, the scientists believe steaks shouldn't be sold before they've aged for 14 days, to make sure the meat has undergone maximum tenderization. A majority of beef processors are already following this procedure.

They also discovered the enzyme μ -calpain and a variation of the protein called calpastatin, both of which have a major impact on meat tenderness. Calpastatin determines how much calpain is active and how tender the steak will be. Since calpain requires calcium for activity, the team has developed a process for injecting calcium into meat in order to make it tender.

The scientists are also studying cattle genetics. Under the leadership of chemist Tim Smith, they are comparing the sequences of genes that produce calpain in both tender and tough cattle. They have released a DNA test that accurately identifies which cattle will likely provide tender steaks, so producers can use those animals for breeding.

Three Hessian fly resistant spring wheat germplasm lines available

Three new spring wheat germplasm lines are now available for breeding commercial wheat varieties resistant to the Hessian

fly, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists report.

According to ARS geneticist Steven Xu, who is accepting seed requests, resistance in wheat is critical to stopping the fly, during its maggot stage, from feeding inside the plant, causing stems to buckle or stunting growth.

American farmers have been battling the eighth-inch-long, mosquito-like fly (*Mayetiola destructor*) since the Revolutionary War, when German auxiliary troops for the British, called "Hessians," purportedly brought the pest here in straw bedding.

Today, it is a major insect pest of wheat in most states where the crop is grown. Though sporadic, Hessian fly outbreaks are costly, inflicting multi-million dollar crop losses.

Adding to wheat growers' woes: The fly eventually overcomes the defenses of resistant varieties by evolving into new strains, or biotypes.

The new spring wheat lines, dubbed "Synthetic Hexaploid Wheat" 8, 34 and 39, all resist the Hessian fly Great Plains (GP) biotype. SW8 also resists the H13-virulent strain, according to Xu, who is in the ARS Cereal Crops Research Unit, Fargo, N.D.

Xu collaborated with entomologist Marion Harris and geneticist Xiwen Cai of North Dakota State University at Fargo to evaluate the spring wheats' resistance to the fly and to investigate the inheritance of that resistance.

The initial cross-breeding work was done in the 1980s by former ARS geneticist Leonard Joppa, notes Xu, who will register the germplasm lines in the journal *Crop Science*.

The germplasm lines, which ARS and NDSU jointly released, derive their Hessian fly resistance from goatgrass, *Aegilops tauschii*, a wild wheat species that Joppa crossed with the durum wheat cultivar Langdon.

Resistant varieties alone aren't enough to completely stop the fly. Wheat farmers also use delayed planting dates, biological control, crop rotation and other strategies, according to Xu.

Farmers Bitter About Sugar Tax

WASHINGTON -- The Bush administration's budget got major kudos from, of all people, enviros, for its proposals to limit farm subsidies and end "agriwelfare."

But proposing is one thing, passing something is quite another, and the powerful farm lobbies are gearing up.

As if that gambit weren't enough, the administration also floated a hit on another cherished program, the sugar quota, proposing a 1.2 percent fee or "marketing assessment" on all sugar processors. This is expected to bring in about \$43 million a year.

But while the administration speaks in terms of "fees" and assessments, Jack Roney, a staff economist for the American Sugar Alliance, did not flinch from using the dreaded T-word.

This is a "new tax on sugar farmers," Roney said, at a time when "our prices in 2004 were 11 percent down from a year ago. This is kicking sugar farmers when they're down."

The sugar program involves import quotas and marketing controls but no payments or subsidies from the government, Roney points out. So it's not as if a government expenditure is being cut.

That's true, one government official said. But the import quotas "jack up the domestic price" of sugar, he said, so consumers pay when they go to the grocery store. "In the president's budget, they (the sugar folks) are benefiting from the program so they should make a contribution."

Turns out there used to be such a tax in the 1990s as part of an effort to get rid of the federal deficit. But when the budget went into surplus, the sugar tax was peeled back. Putting it back on will not be easy. The sugar lobby has beet producers in 12 states, mostly in the Rocky Mountains and Upper Midwest, and the cane folks are big in Hawaii, Texas, Louisiana and Florida.

Mexican food fill the bill for spicy rewards

When you have a yearning for something a little spicy, you might turn to Mexican food. It makes your mouth water and your senses dance. Unfortunately, the Americanized versions we know and love often rely on fat for that extra flavor.

Some of the problem lies with the oils used for frying the tortillas. Deep-fat frying gives tortilla chips that great crunch, but it also adds saturated fats and extra calories. Toasting or baking tortillas leaves you with that satisfying crunch.

As for the flavor you lose, make that up with seasonings and

fresh ingredients. It may take some getting used to, but once your taste buds get used to the difference, you'll be able to revel in the delights of natural flavors.

Try one of the recipes below next time you get a hankering for something spicy. They'll satisfy your craving without adding to your waistline.

MEXICAN ROLL-UPS

6 whole wheat flour tortillas, 12 inch

1/2 cup red bell pepper, diced

1/2 cup yellow bell pepper, diced

2 Tbs. olive oil

3 Tbs. red wine vinegar

1 cup tomatoes, diced

1-1/4 lb. cooked roast beef, thinly sliced

6 large Romaine lettuce leaves

2 tsp. cumin

For each roll-up, tear off about a 15 inch piece of either waxed paper or aluminum foil. Place the tortilla flat on the paper or foil. Place a romaine lettuce leaf on top of the tortilla. Add 3 ounces beef on top of the lettuce. Divide the tomatoes, peppers, oil, vinegar and cumin over the beef for each roll-up. Begin rolling the paper or foil over the tortilla to encase the filling. Roll until the sandwich is completely rolled up. Fold the excess paper or foil over the top and bottom of the roll-up. To eat, peel back the paper or foil. Yield: 6 servings. Exchanges: 4 lean meat, .5 vegetable, 3.5 starch, 2.5 fat.

Weather

Today

Chance of snow in the morning...then rain and snow in the afternoon. Little or no snow accumulation. High around 40. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight

Rain and snow in the evening...then rain and light freezing rain

after midnight. Not as cold. Little or no snow accumulation. Low in the lower 30s. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday

Rain likely in the morning...then chance of rain in the afternoon. High around 40. East wind 5 to 15 mph shifting to the north 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of rain 70 percent.

Sunday Night

Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Low in the mid 20s. North wind 5 to 10 mph

Monday Night through Friday

Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s. High in the 30s.



34 °F / 1 °C

Light Rain

Windchill:	25 °F / -4 °C
Humidity:	87%
Dew Point:	30 °F / -1 °C
Wind:	12 mph / 18 km/h from the SE
Pressure:	30.17 in / 1022 hPa
Visibility:	7.0 miles / 11.3 kilometers
UV:	1 out of 16
Clouds (AGL):	Overcast 1700 ft / 518 m

American Agriculture Ensures

an Economical Food Supply: This weeks ag fact

It takes about 40 days for most Americans to earn enough disposable income to pay for their food consumed at home and away from home for the entire year.

It takes the average American more than 100 days to earn enough income to pay federal, state and local taxes each year.

AFBF: Death Tax a Deadly Thorn in Side of Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 17, 2005 - American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman today advocated for permanent repeal of the estate tax, saying that farmers and ranchers are particularly hard hit by the so-called death tax. Stallman spoke

at a press conference on Capitol Hill with Reps. Kenny Hulshof (R-Mo.) and Robert Cramer (D-Ala.), co-sponsors of bipartisan legislation that would make death tax repeal permanent.

"Death taxes are a deadly thorn in the side of farmers and ranchers," said Stallman. "This unfair tax can force the liquidation of farms that have been in families for generations. Farm families can be put out of work, farmland can be lost to development and businesses in rural communities can be damaged."

Unlike non-farm estates, farm and ranch estates face heavier, potentially more disruptive death tax burdens. Roughly twice the number of farm estates paid federal death taxes in the late 1990s compared to estates in general. The average farm death tax is larger than the tax paid by most other estates, Stallman said.

"Farmers pay more because they use more assets in their operations," said Stallman, citing land appreciation, larger farms and more mechanization, which have increased the worth of the average farm operation. "This means that farmers and ranchers typically have larger estates, not because they are rich, but because their businesses are capital intensive. That translates into a big enough tax bill to put many farm businesses at risk.

"Permanent repeal is the only way to end the problems that death taxes cause farmers and ranchers," said Stallman. "The uncertainty of current law, with its temporarily repeal, makes estate tax planning more complicated and costly and sometimes nearly impossible."

AG SECRETARY SPEAKS TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

(MILLER) THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION PROVIDES FARM AND FOOD RELATED NEWS WRAPS FOR RADIO STATIONS AND NETWORKS. I'M JOHNNA MILLER. OUR REPORT RUNS 1:10. HERE IS A SUGGESTED LEAD: THE NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SPOKE RECENTLY TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. JOHNNA MILLER REPORTS. ACTUALITIES COME FROM SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE MIKE JOHANNNS. WE HAVE TWO EXTRA ACTUALITIES FOLLOWING THE STORY. IN THE FIRST EXTRA ACTUALITY JOHANNNS SAYS MOST U.S. BEEF EXPORTS HAVE RESUMED SINCE THE CASE OF BSE WAS FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. IN THE SECOND EXTRA ACTUALITY JOHANNNS EXPLAINS THE REASONS FOR THE USDA POLICIES CONCERNING BEEF IMPORTS. STAND BY, THE STORY COMES FIRST IN 3-2-1.

(MILLER) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE MIKE JOHANNNS RECENTLY SPOKE TO HUNDREDS OF FARM BUREAU MEMBERS AND DEFENDED USDA POLICIES WHICH WILL OPEN THE BORDERS ON MARCH 7TH TO IMPORTS OF CANADIAN CATTLE UNDER 30 MONTHS OLD.

(JOHANNNS) TODAY CANADA IS OUR LARGEST TRADING PARTNER. MUCH OF WHAT YOU DO FINDS A MARKET IN CANADA. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT A FEW MILLION DOLLARS. I'M TALKING ABOUT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF TRADE.

(MILLER) BUT JOHANNNS ALSO EXPLAINED WHY HE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT USDA WOULD DELAY RESUMING IMPORTS OF MEAT FROM CATTLE 30 MONTHS AND OLDER.

(JOHANNNS) I BELIEVE IT WAS THE PRUDENT THING TO DO GIVEN THAT OUR INVESTIGATION IN CANADA IS NOT YET COMPLETE AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT ON ANIMALS LIVE ANIMALS OVER 30 MONTHS WE HADN'T THE DONE THE RISK ASSESSMENT YET.

(MILLER) JOHANNNS SAYS OPENING OUR BORDERS TO MINIMAL RISK COUNTRIES IS NECESSARY TO CONVINCING OTHER NATIONS TO OPEN THEIR BORDERS TO U.S. BEEF EXPORTS.

(JOHANNNS) TRADE SHOULD NOT CUT OFF OUR NOSE TO SPITE OUR FACE. WE MUST DEAL WITH OUR TRADING PARTNERS AS WE WANT THEM TO TREAT US. OUR ACTIONS NOW WILL SET PRECEDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME.

(JOHANNNS) THE MAJORITY OF BEEF TRADE HAS BEEN RESTORED WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE MAJORITY OF BEEF TRADE HAS BEEN RESTORED. NOW WE STILL HAVE IN THE VICINITY OF 40 PERCENT THAT HAS NOT BEEN RESTORED, BUT TWO COUNTRIES ACCOUNT FOR MOST OF THE VAST, VAST MAJORITY OF WHAT'S LEFT AND THOSE TWO COUNTRIES ARE JAPAN AND KOREA.

(JOHANNNS) IN ALL OF THIS SCIENCE MUST BE OUR GUIDE IN RESUMING NORMAL TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WORLDWIDE. SCIENCE MUST PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR POLICIES AND FOR OUR REGULATIONS.

Safe Hunting Year

Safety officials credit Iowa's long-running hunter education program and the recently arrived blazed orange requirement for upland game hunters as the primary reasons. "This has been a long time goal of the department," underscores Rod Slings, DNR recreation safety supervisor. "While one injury is too many; having a year with no fatalities is tremendous." A shooting death in December, next to a public hunting area in central Iowa

was initially treated as a hunting incident. However, investigation concluded it was a suicide.

Slings sees the safe hunting year as a culmination of Iowa's volunteer-driven hunter education program. "We have 1,800 dedicated volunteers who teach 12,000 students or more each year. (That) is probably the number one reason for the decline," says Slings. "Compare (2004) to 1966, before hunter education became mandatory. We had 144 personal injuries and 19 fatalities."

A review of the 2004 incidents underscores Slings observation that even one injury is too many. Incidents resulted in a lifelong disability to 'just' property damage. In Johnson County, a stray deer slug went through the siding of a house south of Solon, across a room and into the family's entertainment center. Investigators tracked the slug's path back into a nearby field. The December 18 incident is still under investigation.

Two weeks earlier, in Jackson County, Jared Determan was left with an ominous scar, but no doubt feeling lucky to be alive. The 19-year-old had just shot and missed a deer while hunting with his group near Canton. Behind and above him, 15-year-old Lucas Petty stepped forward to shoot; slid on the hillside of a creek bed, causing his firearm to discharge. The slug tore across Determan's scalp, leaving a six-inch scar. Remarkably, Determan was released after treatment.

While eight of the reported incidents involved deer hunting, other seasons were not immune. On the day after Christmas, in Woodbury County, 41-year-old Tony Bohlke of LeMars suffered severe eye injuries when struck by over 40 pellets as another hunter in his party of six swung on a flying pheasant and fired in his direction. Pheasant hunting was tied to five incidents. Another two came during turkey hunting; two more were connected to rabbit hunters. One was unknown. The final count of hunting incidents is 19, including two of property damage. They were scattered over 14 Iowa counties.

Swinging on game; flushing gamebirds, for example, or running deer is the leading cause of accidents. That is one reason that safety officials applaud the just enacted 'blaze orange' law for upland game hunters. For years, firearm deer hunters have been required wear blaze orange over their upper bodies. In 2004, the Iowa Legislature approved and Governor Tom Vilsack signed into effect a law requiring upland game (pheasants, quail, rabbits, etc.) to wear a hat, gloves, vest or jacket which is at least half blaze orange.

More than just the increased visibility, though, Slings points to the record low count as an indication that hunters overall are paying attention. "We now see hunting incidents become news because they are so few," Slings says. "We know that hunters are making the proper choices out there, as to when and when not to pull the trigger."

As hunters hear of a hunting incident now, he hopes they will be realize the progress made. "Hunting is part of our heritage and an important tradition," Sling stresses. "(It) is a safe activity and is getting safer."

Tight supplies keep plants closed

Cattle prices remain strong as tight supplies keep some packing plants closed.

Buyers remain active as plants continue to look for cattle, says Matt Diersen, Extension ag economist at South Dakota State University. He says feedlots in his state are reporting active bidding.

"The guys seem pleased with the prices and the bids they are getting. Those that paid quite a bit for calves last fall aren't as happy, but those that held on to their own cattle are doing well."

Although some may be tempted to feed out their own calves, Diersen says high demand for feeder cattle should keep up between pastures and feedlots.

"The calf supply is tight, and the prices you are likely to see are all the incentive you are going to need to let them go," he says.

Many cow/calf producers are holding back heifers as replacements for their breeding herd, further trimming the supply of feeder cattle. Diersen thinks the build-up of the herd will proceed slowly.

He says fed cattle prices should be decent through much of 2005, but prices will not come close to 2004 numbers.

"I don't think we will keep the pace we had last year."

"We have the potential for a bigger calf crop, and with all the corn, we are going to have heavier weights.

"I just don't think we'll have the supply crunch to keep prices up to the level we had last year."

Cow herd numbers on the rise

Cow herd numbers are increasing, and the sow herd may not be far behind. The USDA's Jan. 28 Cattle Inventory Report said what most expected – heifers are being retained, and the industry has moved into a growth cycle.

"We stopped reducing in 2004 and started growing," says Ron Plain, Extension livestock marketing economist at the University of Missouri.

There were a half-million fewer heifers in feedlots on Jan. 1, 2005, which will translate into a decreased beef supply, keeping cattle prices up, Plain says.

"It will take some time before the additional cattle start to show up, so that sets us up pretty well for 2005."

He says consumer demand was up 7.4 percent in 2004, which helped the industry sustain higher slaughter prices despite a shutdown of the export market as of Dec. 23, 2003, when BSE (mad-cow disease) was discovered in Washington state.

Plain says cash prices should remain near \$90 through the next several weeks as the market moves toward its seasonal high, around the last day of winter. Winter weather has hampered feedlot gains.

There is little statistical evidence to indicate the hog breeding herd is growing. But, Plain says gilt slaughter data from the first two weeks of the year indicates producers may be looking at expansion.

"The (USDA Hogs and Pigs) report in September and December said the breeding herd was down one percent, but we could be seeing some growth."

When growth occurs, Plain says it's generally the end result of high hog prices and empty buildings. But, he says because 2004 produced record slaughter numbers, most of the growth would have

to come through new facilities.

"Before, we could just fill up the existing buildings and get going. Most of this will have to come from new construction, and we just aren't hearing very much about that happening."

Last year was the most profitable year for hog producers since 1990, and Plain says 2005 is looking just as good.

The price outlook for corn and soybean meal is better this year.

Consumer demand was up 2.8 percent in 2004. Plain says the fourth quarter was the weakest in terms of consumer demand, causing some concern as the market moves into February 2005.

Daily National Grain Market Summary

Grain bids closed the week slightly higher for the exception of soybeans which posted slight declines for the day. Corn found support from the positive closing in the soybean futures and weather concerns in Brazil. Soybean bids lost the momentum from yesterday as basis drop due to increase producer selling. The grain exchanges will be closed Monday February 21st due to Presidents Day. Wheat was mostly steady to 5 cents higher. Corn was 1-2 cents higher. Sorghum was 1-2 cents higher. Soybeans were 1-6 cents lower except KC 1 cent higher.

EXPORT SALES:

PURCHASER	COMMODITY	TONNAGE	DELIVERY DATE
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Nothing new to report.

THESE MAY NOT BE THE ONLY EXPORT SALES THAT HAVE TRANSPIRED, BUT THEY ARE THE ONLY SALES THAT COULD BE CONFIRMED BY USDA GRAIN MARKET NEWS.

Wheat:	Kansas City (HRW ORD)	3.31	up 2	3.82
	Minneapolis (DNS)	3.85	dn 1/2	4.31 3/4
	Portland (SWW)	3.91-3.92	unch	4.07-4.12
	St. Louis (SRW)	3.43	up 5	3.85

Corn, US No 2 Yellow:

	Kansas City	1.80-1.82	up 1	2.77-2.78
	Minneapolis	1.77	up 3/4	2.70 3/4
	So. Iowa	1.93 1/2-1.99	dn 1/2-up 2	2.78
	Omaha	1.79-1.81	up 1	2.69-2.70

Soybeans, US No 1 Yellow:

	Kansas City	5.53	up 1	8.86
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Minneapolis	No Bid	N/A	No Bid
So. Iowa	5.49	dn 1	8.77-8.92
Cent. Il Processor	5.55 1/2-5.62 1/2	dn 4 1/2	8.98-9.10

FUTURES:

Kansas City	(Mar)Wheat	3.30 1/2	up 1 3/4	3.82 1/4
	(May)Wheat	3.16 3/4	dn 1/2	
Minneapolis	(Mar)Wheat	3.33 1/2	dn 1/4	4.23
	(May)Wheat	3.30	dn 1/2	
Chicago	(Mar)Wheat	2.96	up 1/2	3.71 1/2
	(May)Wheat	3.04	up 3/4	
Chicago	(Mar)Corn	2.00	up 3/4	2.84 3/4
Chicago	(Mar)Soybeans	5.52 1/2	up 1/2	8.83 1/2

EXPORT BIDS: Barge bids out of the Port of New Orleans, or Rail out of the North Texas Gulf. Bids per bushel, except sorghum per cwt.

US 1 HRW Wheat, Ord Protein:

Rail	3.99 1/2-4.15 1/2	up 1 3/4	4.35 1/4-4.37 1/4
US 2 Soft Red Winter Wheat:			
Barge	3.81	up 1/2	4.12 1/2-4.14 1/2
2 Yellow Corn			
Barge	2.43-2.44	up 1 3/4-2 3/4	3.12 3/4
US 2 Sorghum			
Rail	4.25	up 2-1	5.67-5.73
Barge	4.32-4.36	up 1-2	5.75
US 2 Yellow Soybeans			
Barge	6.03 1/2-6.05 1/2	dn 5 1/2-6 1/2	9.27-9.30

New BSE case raises questions

A second discovery of a BSE (mad-cow disease) case in Canada in the past month could have U.S. officials thinking twice about lifting the import ban on live Canadian cattle.

The USDA has reaffirmed it plans to open the border March 7, but the agency is taking a second look at the situation, says Ron Plain, University of Missouri Extension livestock marketing economist.

"USDA is sending a team up to Canada to look into the situation, but I have no idea if they will reconsider their decision," he says.

"What's significant about this is that the cow was born after the feed ban, and that means Canada didn't do that good of a job of enforcing the policy."

The ban on feed containing ruminant material was issued in 1997 in Canada. The infected cow was born in March 1998.

Plain says officials in U.S. and Canada had hoped as the number of cows born in 1997 or earlier was reduced, it would greatly reduce the chances for additional cases.

"It's significant because it means it may take longer than we thought to eliminate BSE in North America," he says.

Based on preliminary information, feed produced before the introduction of the 1997 feed ban in Canada remains the likely source of infection in this animal.

Meanwhile, cattle prices moved higher last week as fed cattle averaged more than \$90 per hundredweight for the week.

Feeder cattle prices continue to be strong as well. He says feeders look at the futures market and see slaughter prices in the \$80s.

"Take that and corn that's \$2 per bushel, and I think that will be an active market throughout 2005," he says.

Consumer demand for beef and pork are strong, despite higher retail prices. Pork exports were up in 2004 for the 13th consecutive year, Plain says.

"That's always your biggest risk, that demand will soften. Right now in January, it looks pretty strong for 2005."

The U.S. exported twice as much pork as it imported for several months in 2004, and high hog prices should continue through most of 2005, he adds.

"2004 was our most profitable year since 1990, so I expect we will see some expansion. Things look pretty good for this year, too," Plain says.

South American harvest affects markets

Grain markets were treading water before some USDA reports last week and will continue to be under pressure.

Garrett Toay, a broker with C.D.T. Commodities in Champaign, Ill., says the largest pressure in the soybean market will come from South America.

As of Feb. 7, it was estimated, the soybean harvest in northern Brazil was at 15-20 percent complete and the entire harvest was at 5 percent complete. Normally, Brazilian soybean harvest is 10 percent by the end of February, he says.

The average trade estimate of the South American soybean production was 64.5 million metric tons in Brazil and 39 million metric tons in Argentina. Heading into harvest, South American farmers have not sold as much crop as usual.

Toay estimates 35 percent of the crop is sold. Typically, 50-60 percent of the soybean crop is sold starting at harvest.

Heading to the USDA reports, traders were expecting the USDA to adjust the soybean ending stocks to 438 million bushels.

The adjustment in soybean ending stocks is a bookkeeping issue and will not likely affect the markets, Toay notes.

Overall, he predicts the markets will look lower into the \$4.75 range.

Farmers wanting to take an LDP, might want to wait because the payments likely will increase, Toay adds.

The news is not much better for corn.

Toay says the grain trade was expecting the U.S. ending stocks for corn to be 2.069 billion bushels in the USDA report issued this past week. That is a 69 million bu. increase from January's report.

Most of the increase in ending stocks is from the USDA updating the conversion rate for corn into ethanol. The agency used 2.6 gallons of ethanol produced per bu. of corn. It now uses 2.64 gal./bu.

"That will result in a cut in corn consumption," Toay says.

The cut in corn consumption likely will have the USDA increase ending stock supplies by 50 million bu., he notes.

The remaining increase in corn-ending stocks will come from a

cut in exports. The USDA estimated a 3 percent increase in corn exports in 2005. But, corn exports are lagging behind that figure.

Toay expects some pressure as a result of the record short positions the funds hold in the corn market.

Corn will likely trade between \$1.95-\$2 next month as a result of the short positions, he predicts.

War Affecting The Farm Markets

Stock markets have been choppy at best in response to the war in Iraq. But those aren't the only markets that have been effected by the war. Ag markets have been hit most notably by the rise in diesel and fertilizer costs. But even more of an impact is possible, experts say, if the confrontation goes longer than expected. "All our markets will be slightly on edge and subject to reactions to negative news," says Cargill Producer Merchant Ray Jenkins. "The grain markets are not immune to reaction to negative news that may not pertain to the supply and demand fundamentals." Jenkins suggests buyers to be patient and still participate in the market if they are not totally uncovered on fuel or fertilizer needs.

Daily Markets

Corn

Mar '05 (CH5)	200-0s	+0-6	+0.38%
May '05 (CK5)	207-6s	+0-6	+0.36%
Jul '05 (CN5)	214-6s	+0-6	+0.35%

Wheat

Mar '05 (WH5)	296-0s	+0-4	+0.17%
May '05 (WK5)	304-0s	+0-6	+0.25%
Jul '05 (WN5)	311-0s	unch	unch

Soybeans

Mar '05 (SH5)	552-4s	+0-4	+0.09%
May '05 (SK5)	555-6s	+2-6	+0.50%
Jul '05 (SN5)	559-2s	+3-0	+0.54%

KCBT Wheat

Mar '05 (KWH5)	330-4s	+1-6	+0.53%
May '05 (KWK5)	316-6s	-0-4	-0.16%
Jul '05 (KWN5)	308-0s	+0-2	+0.08%

Spring Wheat

<u>Mar '05 (MWH5)</u>	333-4s	-0-2	-0.07%
<u>May '05 (MWK5)</u>	330-0s	-0-4	-0.15%
<u>Jul '05 (MWN5)</u>	329-6s	-0-6	-0.23%

LEAN HOGS

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
<u>Apr 'J5 (LHJ5)</u>	72.88s	-0.97	73.85	74.10	72.50	73.85	16:24
<u>May 'K5 (LHK5)</u>	75.13s	-0.47	75.35	75.50	74.50	75.60	16:24
<u>Jun 'M5 (LHM5)</u>	77.47s	-0.62	78.05	78.10	76.95	78.10	16:24
<u>Jul 'N5 (LHN5)</u>	74.03s	-0.65	74.70	74.83	73.70	74.68	16:24
<u>Aug 'O5 (LHQ5)</u>	70.70s	-0.40	71.00	71.10	70.20	71.10	16:24
<u>Oct 'V5 (LHV5)</u>	62.83s	-0.02	62.80	62.85	62.50	62.85	16:24
<u>Dec 'Z5 (LHZ5)</u>	59.80s	-0.10	59.75	59.90	59.60	59.90	16:24
<u>Feb 'G6 (LHG6)</u>	59.45s	+0.10	59.30	59.45	58.90	59.35	16:24
<u>Apr 'J6 (LHJ6)</u>	58.60s	-0.30	58.60	58.60	58.60	58.90	16:24

LIVE CATTLE

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
<u>Feb 'G5 (LCG5)</u>	88.95s	-1.55	89.90	89.90	88.75	90.50	16:24
<u>Mar 'H5 (LCH5)</u>	89.80s	-0.80	90.50	90.50	89.80	90.60	16:24
<u>Apr 'J5 (LCJ5)</u>	85.45s	-1.85	86.78	86.80	85.35	87.30	16:24
<u>Jun 'M5 (LCM5)</u>	81.05s	-1.60	82.15	82.15	80.80	82.65	16:24
<u>Aug 'O5 (LCQ5)</u>	78.93s	-1.02	79.63	79.63	78.75	79.95	16:24
<u>Oct 'V5 (LCV5)</u>	81.00s	-0.97	81.15	81.50	80.65	81.97	16:24
<u>Dec 'Z5 (LCZ5)</u>	82.10s	-0.82	82.45	82.63	82.03	82.93	16:24

PORK BELLIES

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
<u>Feb 'G5 (PBG5)</u>	87.13s	-0.47	86.70	87.30	86.60	87.60	16:26
<u>Mar 'H5 (PBH5)</u>	84.97s	-1.00	85.63	86.05	84.60	85.97	16:26
<u>May 'K5 (PBK5)</u>	87.13s	-0.57	87.90	88.05	87.00	87.70	16:26
<u>Jul 'N5 (PBN5)</u>	88.93s	-0.37	89.40	89.40	88.93	89.30	16:26
<u>Aug 'O5 (PBQ5)</u>	90.00s	-0.80		90.00	90.00	90.80	16:26

CRUDE OIL

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
<u>Mar 'H5 (CLH5)</u>	48.35s	+0.81	47.60	48.50	47.52	47.54	17:21
<u>Apr 'J5 (CLJ5)</u>	49.01s	+0.79	48.30	49.25	48.25	48.22	17:22
<u>May 'K5 (CLK5)</u>	49.39s	+0.83	48.68	49.50	48.58	48.56	17:20
<u>Jun 'M5 (CLM5)</u>	49.43s	+0.84	48.70	49.50	48.63	48.59	17:19
<u>Jul 'N5 (CLN5)</u>	49.18s	+0.82	48.30	49.20	48.30	48.36	17:25
<u>Aug 'Q5 (CLQ5)</u>	48.82s	+0.80	48.07	48.60	48.07	48.02	17:26
<u>Sep 'U5 (CLU5)</u>	48.43s	+0.78	47.71	48.30	47.71	47.65	17:23
<u>Oct 'V5 (CLV5)</u>	48.03s	+0.77	47.34	47.45	47.34	47.26	17:31

Monsanto To Acquire Emergent Genetics

Monsanto Company has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Emergent Genetics Inc. for \$300 million.

The addition of the Emergent Genetics brands completes a strategic cotton germplasm and traits platform modeled on the company's leading corn and soybean strategy, according to Hugh Grant, chairman, president and CEO of Monsanto.

"We have a strong base business built on seeds and traits, and the addition of Emergent is expected to give us a complementary cotton platform that, with the planned acquisition of Seminis, we believe will allow us to accelerate our growth," said Grant. "This is our second major strategic acquisition recently and now we believe we have the elements we need to achieve our goals. Over the next year we'll focus on three areas: execution of our business plans, assimilation of these new businesses, and replenishing our balance sheet."

Through its Stoneville and NexGen brands, Emergent Genetics is the third largest cotton seed company in the United States, holding approximately 12 percent of the U.S. cotton seed market.

"Just as our DEKALB and Asgrow brands do in corn and soybeans, we believe the Stoneville and NexGen brands will provide a powerful showcase of our breeding advances and biotechnology traits in the U.S. cotton seed market," said Grant. "Coupled with the germplasm development and licensing in our Cotton States business, our cotton business can mirror the successful model we've established through branded and licensed channels in corn and soybeans."

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals, and is expected to close as soon as practical. The deal does not include Emergent Vegetable A/S, which is based in Denmark.

The Andersons Considers Michigan Site for Ethanol Facility

The Andersons Inc. has announced that it is considering its Albion, Mich., grain facility as a possible location for the construction of an ethanol production facility.

The 77-acre site, located in rural Sheridan Township in Calhoun County, is one of several locations currently under consideration for a 50 million gallon-per-year production facility. The Andersons' project team is working closely with township officials, and with federal, state and local agencies to determine the Albion site's suitability. The company expects to announce its decision in 2005.

According to Mike Anderson, President and CEO of The Andersons, corn-based fuel ethanol is the fastest growing demand segment for domestic corn. "The demand for ethanol is expected to increase from the 2002 level of 1.8 billion gallons to five billion gallons by 2012. That type of growth would have a positive impact on area corn producers and the local economy," said Anderson. In addition to creating new jobs, the construction project is expected to bring significant dollars into the community where it is located.

Sports

THE WASHINGTON AND MID-PRAIRIE BOYS MET LAST NIGHT FOR A FRIENDLY RIVALRY GAME IN WELLMAN. THE GOLDEN HAWKS HUNG WITH THE DEMONS FOR PART OF A FAST PACED, LOW SCORING FIRST HALF. THE DEMONS PREVAILED 57-39 AFTER LEADING 25-21 AT THE HALF. NICK SPENCER AND TYLER RUSSELL GOT THINGS ROLLING IN THE 3RD QUARTER WITH 12 POINTS, SIX EACH, BEFORE MID-PRAIRIE COULD GET ON THE BOARD. THE 21 POINT THIRD QUARTER LIFTED THE DEMONS TO THE WIN AND GAVE THEM BRAGGING RIGHTS THIS YEAR. SPENCER FINISHED WITH 22 AND RUSSELL HAD 14 POINTS. TRAVIS KERN FINISHED WITH 13 POINTS FOR THE GOLDEN HAWKS.

THE MID PRAIRIE GIRLS WILL HOST COLUMBUS JUNCTION IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE GIRLS TWO A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT TONIGHT. MID PRAIRIE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK IN THE EASTERN IOWA HAWKEYE CONFERENCE AT 9-12.

The [Predicament Magazine](#) is without a doubt the one and only authority on high school wrestling in the state of Iowa. The magazine's prep rankings are widely considered to be the most reliable rankings available.

This represents the last rankings before the sectional and district tournaments begin. Only Class 1A and 2A have been ranked, the 3A rankings will be released next week.

Top 10 State Tournament Teams (# of ranked wrestlers):

1. Emmetsburg (6)
2. Centerville (5)
3. MFL Mar Mac (5)
4. Glenwood (5)
5. Winterset (4)
6. Waterloo Columbus (4)
7. Independence (3)
8. Union, LaPorte City (4)
9. Humboldt (3)
10. LeGrand, East Marshall (3)

Sports: Brooke Gordon Asks for divorce

Brooke Gordon has officially filed for divorce from NASCAR Winston Cup driver Jeff Gordon in a Florida court.

According to reports, Mrs. Gordon cited the seven-year marriage as "irretrievably broken as a result of the husband's marital misconduct."

The four-time Winston Cup champion has released the following statement - "As you are probably well aware, Brooke has filed for divorce. Being a personal matter, I hope that everybody will respect our privacy as we work through this difficult time.

"I also hope everybody will understand that it would be improper for me to discuss or comment on this matter publicly.

"I appreciate the support I've received from my family, friends and those in the racing community."

Health News

Consult with Your Physician

Before starting an exercise program, it is important to consult with a physician to obtain a thorough medical examination. Your doctor can recommend an exercise program that fits your individual health needs.

If you have diabetes, your physician, diabetes educator, or pharmacist may recommend a different meal plan or insulin dose based on your activity level and timing of exercise. If you take insulin, you should avoid injecting at sites too close to muscles involved in the exercise because the insulin may be absorbed too fast. For example, avoid injecting into your leg if you are going jogging. Before beginning to exercise, you should:

- Always test your blood glucose levels
- Eat a carbohydrate snack if your blood glucose is less than 100mg/dL
- Do not exercise if your blood glucose is greater than 250mg/dL and you have ketones in your urine
- Test your blood sugar again if exercising over 1 hour and have another carbohydrate snack if your blood glucose is less than 100mg/dL

Benefits of Exercise

Physical activity is important for all people and especially those people with diabetes or those who are at risk for diabetes.

It impacts health by reducing the risk of:

- Heart disease
- High blood pressure
- Colon cancer
- Bone, muscle, and joint disease
- Arthritis
- Depression and anxiety
- Obesity
- Stress

People who have been diagnosed with diabetes or those who are at risk for diabetes can significantly improve their health or decrease their risk with regular physical activity.

Synchronized breeding of beef cows

Synchronized breeding of beef cows, when all cows are inseminated on the same day, reduces the time needed in the breeding season. But Dr. Dave Patterson, University Of Missouri, said there are a few factors that he thinks have limited the use of artificial insemination (A.I.) in the United States cow herd.

"One of the biggest factors that I think has limited the use of A.I. in the U.S. is the fact that producers often don't have time to detect a cow that's in heat. And the results from the survey conducted several years ago by the National Animal Health Monitoring Service indicated that time and labor were the biggest factors why producers did not utilize some of the technologies," Patterson said.

The opportunity for producers to use A.I. without having to go through the effort of heat detection creates a significant opportunity for producers to begin utilizing it in situations now where they haven't been able to in the past.

"Because we have more precise control of the estrus cycles in cows to where it is feasible from a results standpoint from pregnancies," Patterson said.

Another advantage of using A.I. is for genetics. Producers have the opportunity to get the best of the best when they use A.I. and to tap into some markets where they can actually be awarded for quality.

"The opportunity to use high accuracy genetically superiors, proven sires is there. And I think the technology to facilitate that in terms of it's use is also there now," Patterson said.

Patterson would like to stress that the tools are not in place yet for heifers versus what they are getting for cows in some of the time programs. Also producers need to pay attention to groups of cows that they are thinking of synchronizing relative to their health programs, the body condition scores of those cows and when the cows begin treatments relative to when they calve.

Bush budget cuts raises concern in ag sector

President Bush's proposed 2006 fiscal budget, which was released on Feb. 7, contains some deep cuts in agricultural spending that

have been met with criticism from farm organizations and farm state politicians.

Under Bush's plan, farm program producer payments would be cut by five percent during the next 10 years, resulting in a \$587 million decrease in 2006 and \$5.7 billion over the 10-year period. His plan would also lower the payment limit cap for individuals to \$250,000 for commodity payments, base marketing loans on historic production, and minimize spending in the dairy price support program. It would also require a sugar marketing assessment of 1.2 percent on all processed sugar.

Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D- N.D., questioned the wisdom of the cuts in ag spending. "In particular, the massive cuts to farm programs contained in this budget are completely unacceptable and will face strong bipartisan opposition as the proposal moves through Congress," Pomeroy said.

He continued by saying that cutting the farm payments "breaks the promise of the farm bill. The farm bill is a five-year package. People depend on it, plan on it. This isn't going to be a partisan issue. This is going to cut right across the face of agriculture."

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, estimates the proposed farm program budget cuts could cost North Dakota producers \$17 million a year and calls the assessment of the sugar processor tax a backdoor approach of putting a \$40 million tax on the industry.

"A direct blow to North Dakota agriculture," was N.D. Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson's reaction to the Bush budget proposal. He cited the following points in the budget that would impact farmers not only in the state, but nationwide:

- Cuts discretionary spending on agricultural programs by \$2.6 billion for the next fiscal year, a reduction of more than 10 percent.
- Reduces spending on crop insurance programs by \$140 million per year which, according to Johnson, would almost certainly result in higher premiums for producers.
- Ties loan deficiency payments to historic production at a time when many North Dakota producers have undergone poor harvests due to weather and disease.
- Significantly reduces funding for agricultural research.
- Substantially weakens the farm safety net.

- Significantly reduces loan rates and LDPs.
- Substantially alters the planning horizon for producers promised in the 2002 Farm Bill.

But, Johnson does agree with one part of the budget proposal - the payment cap of \$250,000 for large producers and the proposed elimination of the loophole that allows big producers to divide their holdings into multiple corporate entities, which can result in collecting larger payments.

"This is something that our congressional delegation and I have argued for for many years," Johnson said. "We must be cautious about this promise, however, since the strongest opposition to it will come from southern lawmakers, many of whom are well placed on the agriculture and appropriations committees."

Newly elected Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., also supports the cap on payments, saying it's long overdue. "I think having a hard cap on government payments does direct farm support spending more toward small and medium sized farmers-family farmers, many of which we have in the upper plains," he said.

The National Farmers Union is urging Congress to reject Bush's proposed budget cuts. NFU President Dave Fredrickson claims it's "wrong to try and balance the budget on the backs of rural Americans."

Some of our overseas competitors, on the other hand, have been quick to praise the news of possible budget cuts for U.S. agriculture.

"This is very welcome news and we obviously support the proposal of the Bush administration to significantly limit the level of subsidy to farm production in the United States," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said.

Vaile went on to say the planned subsidy cuts would result in "a significant cut in overproduction of agricultural products in the United States."

The head of the Australian National Farmers Federation, Peter Corish, said many Australian crops would benefit from the slash in U.S. ag supports. "Particularly cotton, wheat, barley, corn, soya beans, for example will all benefit. It will certainly add to our competitiveness longer term."

Vaile also claimed, in an interview with the Australian Broadcast Company, that his nation's negotiations during the

recent free trade talks played a role in bringing about the cuts in aid to U.S. farmers.

"As a result of negotiations, (there is) a commitment to reduce the level of subsidy and so either way, it's very very positive news for the Australian farming community," Vaile said.

Pork industry keeps eyes on beef checkoff fate

DES MOINES -- What happens with the beef checkoff challenge before the U.S. Supreme Court will have a similar effect on the pork industry.

Ogden producer Craig Christensen, past president of the National Pork Board, hopes the court will rule in favor of the beef producers. The case was heard in December.

"Within the next couple of months, we will know what happens with our checkoff," he said during the Iowa Pork Producers Association annual meeting here Jan. 25.

"If it does stay in place, there is still going to probably be a referendum following the decision, so we have some time before it's completely resolved."

In the meantime, Christensen said it's business as usual for the Pork Board.

He said 2005 should see a change in the Pork Board advertising campaign, moving from the 18-year-old "Pork, The Other White Meat" advertising.

"That campaign is the fifth most recognized campaign in history, and 87 percent of consumers recognize it," Christensen said.

"But, it's 18-years-old, and there's more we can do. We're still the third protein, and we want to be at the top of the line. We want consumers to put us on their plate."

He said the new campaign should be unveiled soon.

"I think you're really going to like it."

Christensen said the new campaign should boost consumer demand, which helped keep prices high in 2004 despite record slaughter numbers.

"We had many weeks when we slaughtered 2 million head a week, and in the past, that would have been a train wreck. We have grown domestic demand, and we need to continue that."

Despite profits, Iowa loses more hog farms

The trend towards fewer and larger hog farms continued in 2004 even though pork producers enjoyed the most profitable year in more than a decade.

In its annual survey of hog operations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that the number of hog farms declined in 2004 for the 24th consecutive year.

The USDA says the number of U.S. hog operations totaled 69,420 farms in 2004, down 6 percent from 2003 and down 9 percent from 2002.

However, University of Missouri economist Ron Plain notes that the percentage decline in hog farm numbers was much smaller in 2004 than the average for the previous decade of 10.2 percent.

Iowa leads the nation in the number of hog operations with 9,900 farms in 2004, down 700 farms from 2003. Since the hog market crash of 1998, Iowa has lost 7,600 hog farms, according to USDA statistics.

The only other state that experienced such a large drop in hog farms last year was Minnesota, which also lost 700 farms and ended up with 5,000 hog operations in 2004.

U.S. hog farms also grew larger in 2004. The USDA said the number of U.S. hog operations with fewer than 2,000 head totaled 61,997 farms in 2004, down 4,587 farms from 2003.

Meanwhile, the number of hog operations with more than 2,000 hogs reached 7,423 in 2004, up 287 farms from last year.

U.S. hog operations with fewer than 2,000 head accounted for 89.3 percent of all hog farms, but 21 percent of the hog inventory, the USDA said.

In contrast, hog operations with more than 2,000 head accounted for 10.7 percent of hog farms, but 79 percent of the hog inventory.

"Since the number of hogs remains fairly steady year to year, fewer farms raising hogs means the average size of U.S. hog operations keeps growing," said Plain in a Feb. 7 swine economics report.

"In 2004, the average swine herd contained 871 hogs, up 6.3 percent from the year before and nine times the average inventory of 1980."

Thanks to strong consumer demand for pork, Iowa farrow-to-finish hog producers made an average profit of \$22.55 per head in 2004, the largest profits since 1990, according to an Iowa State University analysis.

The Market Continues Upward

Concerns over the possibility of yield reduction and dry weather in Brazil and Argentina has supported this bounce in the market. Just what producers needed to sell any old crop still in the bins.

Looking to Tuesday, if rain is forecasted for southern Brazil, the market could begin to move lower, otherwise it could resume the uptrend as the market may need to absorb any further possibility of lost yields.

Even with the loss of a few million tons in production, the world stocks situation looks to be far from tight, however, the uncertainties of weather and short-covering are short-term bullish forces.

As for corn, well, it followed soybeans higher and if the weather turns normal in Brazil next week, corn could be the leader on the downside.

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Powerful quake shakes Indonesia's Sulawesi island, triggers panic among residents

JAKARTA, Indonesia Another undersea earthquake has rocked parts of eastern Indonesia, panicking residents on the nearest land, about 40 miles away.

But there are no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of between six-point-five and six-point-nine. The U-S Geological Survey says it wasn't related to the December quake that triggered a devastating tsunami.

An official of the local meteorological agency says the depth of the quake was about 23 miles under the sea of Flores, 40 miles west of the town of Bau Bau.

Jakarta's El-Shinta radio reported residents there ran from their homes. Officials told the station the quake didn't generate a tsunami.

Inmate released by mistake arranges own ride back

CANTON, Ohio Imagine an inmate who was released by mistake returning voluntarily, on his own dime -- and even calling to say he was on his way.

It really happened to Ricky Lee Claycomb, who was freed in Canton, Ohio, after being acquitted of rape. He told his jailers he was supposed to return to Colorado to serve the remaining two years of a robbery sentence. But officials apparently never saw the paperwork, and Claycomb's mother says they told him he was done in Canton and it was "his problem" to get back.

Claycomb's mother sent money for a bus ticket and he visited her in Colorado before his brother drove him back to prison.

A spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Corrections says she thinks Claycomb feared he would be shot, but it wasn't his fault Ohio let him go.

FB Supports Cuba Trade Facilitation Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 9, 2005 - The American Farm Bureau Federation today said it supports a bill introduced in the Senate to facilitate and increase U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba.

The Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005, introduced today by Sens. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Max Baucus (D-Mont.),

Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and others, would authorize Cuba to make payments directly to U.S. banks, clarify that Cuba's payments do not have to be received before exports leave U.S. shores, make it easier for U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba to market agricultural products and expedite temporary visas for Cuban nationals to visit the United States to inspect goods before they are shipped.

"We applaud these changes, which would clarify Congress' intent when it enacted trade sanctions reforms in 2000 and streamline the procedure that allows U.S. farmers and ranchers to export their products to Cuba," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "Congress clearly meant to open the Cuban market for farm exports, and this bill is a positive next step."

Exports to Cuba more than doubled last year, and Cuba is now a top market for U.S. agricultural exports. It is currently the No. 4 market for U.S. rice exports. Other important markets include those for wheat, corn, soybeans and soybean products, poultry, livestock, apples and dairy products.

"Enactment of this new legislation would result in even more trade with Cuba," Stallman said. "It would simplify the license process that farmers use to sell goods to Cuba and it would reduce transaction costs for those sales. It would help maintain the United States as a reliable supplier of food and farm products to Cuba."

U.S. farmers have sold about \$800 million worth of agricultural products to Cuba since 2001.

"Cuba has become an important new, growth market for U.S. farm exports, and farmers need that growth to continue," Stallman added. "Farm Bureau commends the senators who are cosponsoring this bill to remove obstacles to our export growth."

Ice Fishing Shelters Must be Removed by Feb. 20

DES MOINES - The Feb. 20 deadline to remove permanent ice fishing shelters from state owned land and water is rapidly approaching and anglers are encouraged to not wait until the last minute to get them off the ice.

Failing to remove the permanent shelter is subject to a misdemeanor fine. If the shelter falls through the ice, the owner is responsible for removing it and subject to an additional littering fine.

More Than 3 Million Tree and Shrub Seedlings Available

AMES - With the spring 2005 planting season approaching, the State Forest Nursery has more than 3 million tree and shrub seedlings available for purchase by landowners for wildlife habitat plantings, riparian buffers to protect waterways, shelterbelts and other conservation plantings.

"The state forest nursery inventory includes large numbers of native oaks such as bur, red, pin, swamp white and white; black walnut for nut and lumber production, silver maple, willow and poplar for along streams, and spruces and cedar for shelterbelts," said Roger Jacob, manager of the nursery. "These species can be used for several conservation reserve practices. Supplies of native shrubs such as high bush cranberry, ninebark, wild plum and various dogwoods are also in good supply."

The nursery also has specialty packets available for smaller planting. The songbird packet has 20 plants and four different wildlife packets have 200 plants each.

Landowners can easily order from the State Forest Nursery in time for spring planting by calling the toll free number (800) 865-2477 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or order online at www.iowadnr.com/forestry/. Nursery stock prices range from \$25 to \$45 per hundred depending on species and size. There is a minimum order of 500 plants except for songbird (\$20) and wildlife packets (\$90).

Help restore some of Iowa's wildlife habitat and forests this spring by planting trees and shrubs on your property.