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Volume 53, No. 4

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March 28, 2021 • Section C

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You

The family of **Linda Dickmann** would like to express their sincere thanks to family and friends for the calls, flowers, and cards during her cancer journey and in her death. Thanks to Dr. Debranin and staff; Dr. McManara and staff; Pierz Villa; and Pastor Hendrickson. God bless you all.

In Memory

In loving memory of **Gary LeBlanc** 10/2/1944 - 3/25/2016. It's hard to believe it's already been 5 years since you left us. We still love and miss you every day. Your family and friends

Announcements

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Landscaping/Trees For Sale

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Miscellaneous Wanted

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Pets

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\$33/hr - \$40/hr depending on experience and ability to perform tasks assigned. Web: www.jimselectric.com



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MORRISON COUNTY Record

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service guide

Icons representing various services: house, car, tree, house, person, person, person, house.

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INFORMATION

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Submitted news: 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday
Display ads: 2:00 p.m. on Thursday
Classified ads: 4:30 p.m. on Thursday
Too late to classify ads: 10:00 a.m. on Friday
Insert/Outsert Scheduling: 10:00 a.m. on Monday

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Explore a career in agriculture

The agricultural industry provides a variety of opportunities to professionals interested in this often misunderstood field.

According to the employment resource AGCareers.com, more than 250 career profiles are available to people interested in a career in agriculture. And while jobs in agriculture may not be as prevalent as they were a few centuries ago, when 72 percent of the workforce was employed in farm occupations in the United States, agriculture remains a booming industry that greatly affects the nation's economy. Today, one in 12 Ameri-

can jobs is depends on agriculture, according to the career resource Payscale.

The following are some potential professions for those considering careers in agriculture.

- **Agricultural business manager:** This person oversees the business operations of a farm by providing organization and leadership during the production process. He or she contacts creditors, selects seeds, buys new equipment, and ensures the distribution of product.

- **Agricultural lawyer:** Attorneys who specialize in agriculture deal with water and

environmental issues, represent agricultural labor in disputes, ensure proper marketing techniques are followed, handle real estate and land use issues, and much more.

- **Animal control officer:** These officers enforce local and regional laws that pertain to the treatment and care of animals. They patrol for distressed animals and ensure cruelty-free practices are adhered to.

- **Grain buyer:** Grain buyers build relationships with producers so they can purchase grain for their particular companies. They negotiate purchase agreements, source

grain supplies and issue purchase orders.

- **Poultry hatchery manager:** Hatchery managers oversee all of the aspects involved in poultry hatching. These can include management of personnel, handling and sorting of eggs, maintenance of equipment, coordination of pick-ups and deliveries, and overseeing quality control.

- **Soil scientist:** Among the many tasks they might perform, scientists in the field of agriculture test soil samples for minerals and contaminants. By studying the soil, scientists can recommend which crops the land can support, how



much livestock can feed in an area and the implications of agriculture on the area as it pertains to managing natural resources.

A career in agriculture presents many exciting opportunities in a number of different applications. It's a vast industry that utilizes professionals with an array of skillsets.

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Full Time Night Shift Feed Delivery Driver:

- Local deliveries w/tractor-trailer auger
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Apply online or in person at: www.centrasota.com
Centra Sota Cooperative, 1121 Co. Rd. 10 • Albany, MN • 320-845-4086
An Equal Opportunity Employer

NOW HIRING!

ECM Printing, a division of ECM Publishers, Inc., in Princeton, MN is looking for new employees to meet the demands of our growing business.

Full-time & Part-time Postpress Helpers
1st, 2nd, 3rd & Weekend Shifts

Flexible Hours

The Postpress Helper-Operator assists in the set up and operation of machines that automatically perform one or more postpress operations such as folding, cutting, gathering, or inserting. Loads, unloads and moves materials. Uniforms are provided, we are also a drug free workplace and EOE employer. Employment is contingent on passing a pre-employment, postoffer drug screen.

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT ECM PRINTING
1201 14TH AVE S • PRINCETON, MN 55371
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 8 AM - 3 PM

ECM Printing, a division APG East Central Minnesota in Princeton, MN is looking for new employees to meet the demands of our growing business.

Positions Available:

ENTRY LEVEL PRINTING PRESS OPERATORS

ECM Publishers is looking for dedicated individuals that have experience in assisting or operating a web printing press. This is a full-time position that offers a competitive salary, benefits including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, short and long-term disability and paid time off. Uniforms are provided. We are a drug free workplace and EOE employer. Employment is contingent on passing a pre-employment, postoffer drug screen.

Please apply in person at ECM Printing
1201 14th Ave S; Princeton, MN 55371

Monday – Friday between the hours of 8 am & 3 pm.

NOW OFFERING SERVICE IN YOUR AREA!

GARAGE DOOR STORE and TWIN CITY GARAGE DOOR are searching for customer focused, mechanically inclined individuals to **join our team as GARAGE DOOR INSTALLERS**

We repair and install residential and commercial garage doors and garage door openers. This includes specialty items like coiling fire doors, mall grilles, high speed doors. Excellent opportunity to learn a fast growing, ever changing industry.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A clean driving record, DOT check, ability to pass drug screening and background check
- Mechanical knowledge and skills using various hand and power tools
- Frequently climb and work from ladders, work overhead, and lift 50+ lbs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for checking in each morning to load the schedule for the day.
- Communicate with customers as to status of job

BENEFITS: Medical, Dental, Life Insurance, Long-Term Disability, 401K, ESOP.

PAY RANGE: Pay depends on your level of experience and education. No experience required – on the job training available!

Full Time Year Round

Apply at any location below or send your resume to hr@twincitygaragedoor.us and start your application process to join the team of Leaders at Twin City Garage Door and Garage Door Store
WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GDS GARAGE DOOR STORE
Garage Door Store
900 West Division St.
Waite Park, MN 56387

TCGD TWIN CITY GARAGE DOOR
Garage Door Store
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Nisswa, MN 56468

Twin City Garage Door
5601 Boone Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55428

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Excavating
RICE, MN

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GREAT COMPENSATION PACKAGE
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To Advertise Call:

1-800 955-6112



MinnesotaState.JOBS

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CUSTOM WASTE IRRIGATION, INC.
320-845-4629, 320-248-2611 OR 320-293-7130

Centra Sota Cooperative NOW HIRING!

- Spring Seasonal Positions
- Potential Full Time Opportunities

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Agronomy Applicator
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• Clean MVR, CDL or able to attain

Agronomy Driver
• Local Deliveries, must have Clean MVR & CDL, pref, not required

Agronomy Laborer
• Skid steer, forklift & general yard help

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Brainerd HRA

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

We are seeking a qualified candidate for a full time Maintenance Supervisor to supervise and coordinate staff and contractors to complete all building maintenance and repairs for HRA properties; Schedule and coordinate inspections; Work as part of a team to administer the Capital Fund Program, long range planning, needs assessment, progress inspections; Work with A/E, review designs, blueprints and bid documents; organize and record IFB and RFPs; organize bid openings, pre-bid and preconstruction meetings; Monitor progress of projects; Compliance with prevailing wage requirements and reporting; Ensure complete and audit-ready files; This is primarily an administrative position that requires computer/technology skills and knowledge.

Candidate should be reliable, detail oriented, have good communication skills and able to pass a criminal background check. Bachelor's degree plus two year's relevant experience preferably with supervisory responsibilities or six years combination required.

We offer a competitive wage and excellent benefit package. Application packet can be found at www.brainerdhra.org.

Submit application and supplemental questions to Kathy at address below or email Kathryn@brainerdhra.org. Position open until filled. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

324 East River Road, Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 828-3705

\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS
Some restrictions apply

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Bayer Built Woodworks, Inc., providing quality product and unparalleled service to 900 dealers throughout the Midwest, is looking to fill the following positions:
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BAYER BUILT WOODWORKS INC.
Competitive pay and benefits, a positive and clean work environment, and opportunities to advance your career with a local company that continues to grow.

Apply at: 24614 US Hwy 71, Belgrade, MN 56312
Email your resume to hiring@bayerbuilt.com

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED

NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS
is looking for truck drivers for April, May and June, making deliveries of fertilizer, chemical and seed in the Sauk Centre area. CDL Class A with tanker preferred, Class B or able to obtain seasonal ag permit. Hazmat a plus.
We are flexible on number of days worked per week.

Nutrien Ag Solutions Stop At The Office For Application or Contact Todd at 320-352-6564
801 Beltline Rd. Sauk Centre

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DAY SHIFT 7 AM
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Cold Spring, MN 56320
or online at www.Pilgrims.com/careers

For Applications Received from 3/1/2021 to 3/19/2021

Version 3, March 1, 2021

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*We are offering a substantial bonus determined by longevity when a contract is signed!

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KH25
MX Halviki 25 1,159.87 16.56 ▲ 1.45% 1,159.86 1,067.25

NASDAQ Capital Market Composite Index 1,231.21 1.19 ▲ 0.96%
IXIC
NASDAQ Composite 4,848.86 83.08 ▲ 1.74% 4,851.2 4,792.6
NQQM
NASDAQ Global Market Index 1,054.93 10.05 ▲ 1.05% 1,054.93
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NASDAQ Global 50 Index 1,054.93 10.05 ▲ 1.05% 1,054.93
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 Fort Ripley, general labor production workers. Basic woodworking skills helpful, full benefit package. Apply: colink@sfp-inc.com or Facebook: Stewart's Forest Products

Assembly Technician
 DJ Products, Inc., a local manufacturing company who manufactures the CartCaddy, is seeking an assembly technician. Full or part time positions are available. The duties will include 'hands on' assembly, electrical, mechanical, and the ability to solve problems are desired. Please send a resume, references and a desired compensation to - DJ Products Inc, 1009 4th Street NW, Little Falls Industrial Park, Little Falls, MN 56345. Full time positions include health insurance and 401K. Overtime is also available for full time positions. Job applications are available at the front desk.

Looking to sell those unwanted items? Place an ad in the Morrison County Record Classifieds. Call 320-632-2345 or e-mail mcr@apgecm.com

Cosmetologist
 Fresh Hair Professionals is looking for an experienced cosmetologist. Must be creative, professional, passionate about people & beauty and want to join our team.

Apply in person
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 Little Falls, MN
 next to Walgreen's

Experienced tree climber,
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Men & Women

Monday - Friday

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Royalton, MN
 Please call 320-584-5140 or stop in for job application

Eagle Construction Company in Little Falls is seeking full-time/year round carpenters, concrete finishers & laborers. Would be performing a wide variety of industrial & commercial work. Majority of jobs located in Central MN. We offer competitive wages, 401 K plan, & health insurance. If interested apply online at www.eaglecc.net under the employment link or in person at 515 9th Ave. NW, Little Falls, MN.

To get your classified ad delivered to nearly 20,000 homes, place it in the Morrison County Record. Call 320-632-2345 or e-mail mcr@apgecm.com

FT/PT Manions Wholesale is hiring truck drivers. We deliver building materials to MN, ND, SD, and IA. Some routes home daily with overnight routes assigned as needed. Hourly pay depending on experience. Call Justin with questions at 320-266-8615 or apply in person at Manions Wholesale, 7705 305th St, St. Cloud MN 56303.

Mechanic, competitive pay w/benefits and 401K. **CDL Driver,** \$18/hr. Must have experience & valid license. Call 507-829-2284.

www.MinnesotaState.jobs

Holtz Tree Service and Firewood, Bowlus, MN. is seeking individual interested in full-time/part-time employment. Duties include working outdoors pertaining to firewood and tree work. Day shift work, Mon.-Fri., no weekends, paid weekly, wage based on performance. Will train. Must have valid driver's license. Call Dave or Jan, 320-584-5776



Falls Fabricating LLC is seeking **PRODUCTION WORKERS** for 1st & 2nd Shifts To apply email resume to: hr@fallsfab.com or stop in at 600 9th Ave. NW, Little Falls and fill out an application.

Record Classifieds can be placed through the mail by using the classified order form found in this issue.

Window installer looking for full-time help. Call or text Scott, 320-260-4793. \$20-\$25 based on experience.

Welding Fabricator
 DJ Products, Inc., a local manufacturing company who manufactures the CartCaddy, is seeking a welder/fabricator. We are looking for full time and/or part time positions. The duties could include welding everything from small parts to some of our bigger frames. Welding experience and the ability to read and work off prints are necessary. Please send a resume, references and a desired compensation to - DJ Products Inc, 1009 4th Street NW, Little Falls Industrial Park, Little Falls, MN 56345. Full time position includes health insurance, 401K benefits and OT is available if interested.

Visit us at
 www.MinnesotaState.jobs
 1-800-955-6112

Woodworkers Wanted
 Full Time 7:00am-3:30pm woodworker wanted to Manufacture Rustic Furniture. Job Duties include use of all Woodworking Equipment plus Assembly. We can train you! Competitive Wages with Benefits, Vacation, Health Insurance, Paid Holidays, Profit Sharing.

Viking Industries
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Call or email for details
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www.mcrecord.com



MORRISON COUNTY Office Support Specialist
 Morrison County Social Services
 This position is responsible for providing office support duties for Morrison County Social Services. The primary functions of this position are greeting and assisting individuals that contact our office by phone or in person, completing scanning and indexing duties within our electronic document management system, using the State of Minnesota software programs and other duties as assigned.

For other qualification, additional details and to apply visit our website:
<http://www.co.morrison.mn.us>
Click on Career Opportunities
 Applications accepted through April 5, 2021 at 12:00pm
 "Morrison County is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

WE ARE GROWING!
Diesel Technician

Currently seeking an entry level Diesel Technician for tractor/trailer maintenance. CDL is a plus, but not required.

A family owned and operated company since 1969. Offering competitive pay, uniforms, health insurance, 401K with company match. Flex plan, HSA, PTO and paid holidays. Life Insurance / Company Paid.

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Please apply to:

NOW HIRING
All Positions:

- Applicators
- Local Delivery Drivers
- General Laborers

Drivers must have clean MVR & CDL Must be able to pass background check

Stop in to pick up an application
 25698 Meadowlark Road
 Pierz, MN 56364

or contact us at
www.pierzcoop.com



Pine Country Bank
Pine Country Bank has two open positions at the Royalton Branch.

We are in search of a Full Time Receptionist/Teller.

This position is responsible for greeting and directing customers, providing assistance with a variety of banking transactions and various clerical work. Seeking an outgoing and friendly individual with excellent customer service skills, cash handling and general clerical skills. This position requires superior multi-tasking skills. Hours for this position will vary from 7:30 am through 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday with rotating Saturdays.

We are also in search of a Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and Electronic Banking Specialist.

This position is responsible for completing a wide variety of tasks in regards to the Bank Secrecy Act, all business and consumer electronic services and business continuity and disaster recovery plans. Seeking a motivated and detail-oriented individual who is able to work independently with at least 3 years of banking experience.

For consideration for either position, please mail cover letter and resume to PO Box 25, Royalton, MN 56373, Attention: HR or go to our website at www.pinecountrybank.com under the "News" link at the top of the screen. More detailed job descriptions are located on our website.

EEO. Member FDIC.



Royalton Public Schools
Wanted: Bus Drivers!

We would love to pick you up! We will train the right candidate this summer to start in the fall.

Please contact:
Gaylene @ 320-584-4255

Or apply online at:
www.royaltonpublicschools.org/employment-opportunities



HELP WANTED:
 Seasonal garden center workers & sales weekdays/weekends, May and June

Mail in resume or apply in person, Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Call (320) 632-9246

Little Falls Greenhouse Inc.
 1700 Haven Rd,
 Little Falls, MN
 56345



Mid-State Education District
 Located in Little Falls, MN is actively seeking the following positions beginning 2021-2022 school year

- Assessment Specialist
- Special Education Teachers (EBD, SLD, ASD, ABS)
- School Psychologists
- Blind Visually Impaired Teacher
- Physically Impaired Teacher
- Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

For additional information and to apply, log on to www.midstate.k12.mn.us

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT UPDATES!

Production Operators

Proliant Dairy Ingredients is accepting applications for full-time **Production Operators (3PM-1AM or 4PM-2AM)** at our Melrose, MN facility.

Starting Wage is \$22.00/hr.
10 Hour Shifts/4 days/wk.
4 Days Off Every Other Weekend
Full Benefits After 60 Days of Employment

The successful candidate will possess general knowledge of production/manufacturing methods and have strong multi-tasking skills. Forklift experience a plus, but not mandatory. High school diploma or GED required.

Successful completion of pre-employment physical and drug test required.

To Apply, Visit Our Website At www.proliantdairy.com and click on the "Careers" link



Home Care Aide
 Little Falls, MN 56345 • Full-time

Central Minnesota Senior Care is seeking to hire caring and compassionate individuals to work at our assisted living site located in Little Falls, MN. No experience? We'll train!

CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS:
 Full-time Awake Overnights (11pm-7am). Position includes working every other weekend.

We offer competitive wages, based on experience and benefits for our full-time employees. If you're interested or would like more information please call, Laura Carlson at 320-441-7001 or apply online at www.centralmnseniorcare.com

Central Minnesota Senior Care is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Lubricants Delivery Drivers
MULTIPLE POSITIONS!

\$5000 SIGN ON BONUS!

Currently seeking several CDL, Class A delivery drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsement.

POSITION 1:
 Monday - Friday, generally overnight Monday & Wednesday night. Late model equipment, freightliner tractor and 48' van trailer.

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A family owned and operated company since 1969. Offering competitive pay, uniforms, health insurance, 401K with company match. Flex plan, HSA, PTO and paid holidays. Life Insurance / Company Paid.

Please apply to:
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 401 13th Ave NW
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kids fun page!

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ROYALTON 425 N. Hwy. 10 320.584.5522

Happy Easter!

Yay! Easter is almost here! There's so much to do that my cousin Harry the Hare is here to help me get ready.

What do you know about the Easter holiday? Easter is an important Christian holiday. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Easter is the celebration of his "new life after death." It is a time of great joy. Families spend a lot of time getting ready: cleaning, decorating, planning meals, and getting their best clothes ready for church. My crossword puzzle is about Easter and what families are doing. **Can you read the clues to fill it in?**

Easter Time:

1. the 40 days before Easter; for some people a time for prayer and fasting; many people "give up something," like desserts
2. many Easter services are held at this beginning of a new day
3. ring with joy
4. burn with bright light
5. Easter Bunny brings these, with treats in them...
6. with this kind of rabbit often in the middle
7. beautiful, white flower that stands for "new life after death"
8. soft, yellow baby animals also used as a symbol of new life
9. gentle animal sometimes used as a symbol of Jesus
10. dawning of a new day; can be a time for this

3 Cute Easter Eggs Families Are:

1. cleaning _____ and decorating
2. cleaning _____ and decorating _____
3. baking hot cross _____
4. dressing in their best _____
5. going to _____ services
6. visiting _____ and relatives
7. hunting for _____ eggs
8. enjoying delicious ham _____
9. sending _____ and buying flowers
10. marching in an Easter _____

"Double Take" of Easter Fun
Study the items below in the boxes.

• In the first box, find 2 chicks that are exactly alike and positioned the same way.
• In the second box, find 2 baskets that are the same.
• In the third box, find 2 bonnets and then 2 eggs that are exactly the same in the pile.



MORRISON COUNTY

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Improving grazing lands through SFA program Tri-county corn and soybean yields 2020

By Sheila B eRGren
Staff Writer
sheila.bergren@apgecm.com

When spring arrives in Minnesota, it isn't unusual for farmers to turn their cattle out to pasture. Several months later when fall approaches, farmers pull the cattle back. In an effort to help farmers improve existing grazing lands and expand new, the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA), in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is offering its Technical Assistance for Grazing program at no cost to farmers.

"The program is designed to offer one-on-one boots on the ground training to farmers wanting to begin, improve upon or expand their grazing enterprise," said SFA Soil Health Lead Jared Luhman.

The program is offered to farmers in Becker, Benton, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahanomen, Marshall, Morrison, Normal, Ottertail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, Stearns, Todd and Wadena counties.

Luhman said the goal is to work with 20 farmers, who form a cohort, over a period of two years. Besides having three or four annual cohort meetings via Zoom and one or two field days per year to one of the farms, Luhman said it is a way for farmers to network with other farmers, who are seeking to improve their grazing system.

"It really changes how we are able to manage the land."

— Jared Luhman

"Some times people can have a hard time believing something will work until they see it coming together and see how the soil health principles are integrated. That's why we have the field days," he said.

During the program, participating farmers will receive a farm assessment of their operation by Luhman and other SFA staff, help developing a grazing plan, training on adaptive grazing as well as fencing techniques and equipment, stockmanship training, implementation of soil health principles and networking with other graziers.

Luhman said that when it comes to the farm assessment, he has found that it is better to meet with the farmer face-to-face and to walk the land rather than to fully rely on aerial photos or descriptions.

"There are so many variables that go into grazing an operation and goes into the context of the operation that has to be concise when making plans," he said.

Once an assessment of the farmland and the operation has been completed, a grazing plan is developed. SFA also considers what the land is used for and at that time of the year, what the advantages are of each enterprise and more. By looking at the entire operation and not just grazing, Luhman said they work toward developing a plan that is based on the context that is unique to each farmer that will hopefully result in a more profitable and soil health improving enterprise.

As part of the program, farmers will learn about adaptive grazing. Luhman said that it's quite common for farmers to just turn out their cattle in the spring and pull them off in the fall.



Submitted photo

Adaptive grazing allows farmers to adapt their management style to whatever the current situation may be.

"They have the whole farm to pick and choose from, which is not a good way to manage cattle, so what people have gone to doing is a rotational grazing system," he said.

Luhman said some farmers may already have a rotational grazing system in place. With the farm divided into eight to 12 different paddocks, the cattle may

be moved to each paddock every two to four days. While the system may be systematic and consistent, if it is done without taking other variables into consideration, some areas may be grazed too much or too little.

"You may have some farm fields that are close to the home farm that had gotten manure consistently back when it was a dairy farm and very productive. Maybe there's a field somewhere else that is hilly, was tilled and has lost a lot of fertility and isn't producing a lot of grass," he said.

In addition to increasing chances of improvement and success, it is important to consider the different times of the year and the growing season.

"We get 60% of our grass production in two months of the year, so we can't graze the same in May and June as we do in November," Luhman said.

Adaptive grazing refers to a system that is not specific to a place, but enables the farmer to adapt his or her management style to whatever the current situation may be.

SFA offers participating farmers training on fencing and equipment. While people may not always consider polywire and stepping fence to be a fairly advanced technology, in comparison to the alternative for farmers 150 years ago having wood posts and barbed wire that made it very difficult to manage adaptively, Luhman said simple fencing should not always be disregarded as effective. It's also not very expensive, Luhman said.

"We will be teaching and instructing on the different tools that are available with this whole management system, such as polywire and fence posts that really allow us to move a head of cattle with the precision like a zero-turn lawnmower. We can

fence exactly where we want the cattle to be and then roll that up and move them to a different place the next day or the next month. It really changes how we are able to manage the land," he said.

When working with his own cattle, Luhman said he prefers to do it in such a way that takes an animal's natural behaviors and instincts into consideration. As a result, he is able to work them in a low-stress environment.

As part of the program, farmers will be able to learn more about stockmanship.

"Working with their natural instincts you can manage and work cattle even more efficiently," he said.

Lastly, participating farmers will have the opportunity to learn more about implementing five soil health principles that are very beneficial. Not only because of the positive environmental impact they have, but also because of how they benefit wildlife.

Luhman said the five principles to achieve soil health include minimal disturbance, both chemically and mechanically, having a diversity of plant species on the landscape, keeping the soil covered as much as possible, keeping a live root

in the soil and green growing plants on the soil as long as possible for excellent carbon sequestration and livestock integration.

"In any sort of agricultural system, there are many ways to apply those soil health principles. The trick of the challenge is figuring out how specifically those soil health principles apply to a given farmer, context and at any given time," he said.

Luhman said SFA works with farmers to get a deeper understanding of the soil health principles, so it becomes like second nature to think about them during the daily managing of the farm.

"We want them to keep them in mind. How can I minimize disturbance today? How can I keep more green and growing plants on my land this fall? How can I implement livestock in a way I haven't otherwise?" he said are questions to think about.

Luhman encourages farmers, regardless of size, to consider committing to the program. For more information, call Luhman at (507) 271-5968 or email jared@sfa-mn.org.

By Natha N DREWITZ
Minnesota Extension

The National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) released the crop yield estimates for various crops from 2020. I like to look at these statistics every year to give myself an idea of what the potential trends look like for yields in the area. NASS also has last year's estimated yields for a variety of other crops including barley and wheat if there is interest in those crops.

Last year looked good throughout the tri-county area. Early planting helped push yields higher throughout the region. Temperatures and rainfall seemed to be timely and appropriate throughout the season. We did see some issues with Sudden Death Syndrome and Soybean Cyst Nematodes in soybeans, and spider mites were reported throughout the southern sections of Stearns and Benton counties. However, despite these issues yields for both corn and soybeans were up across the board.

The 2020 estimated corn yields for Benton County were 187.1 bushels per acre which is up from 2019. Soybean yields in Benton County were 51.7 bushels

per acre, up from the last estimated value in 2018.

For Stearns County, corn yields were estimated at 187.3 bushels per acre and soybean yields were estimated at 50.3 bushels per acre in 2020. Both values are up from 2019 with estimated corn yields being the highest and estimated soybean yields being the second highest over the last 10 years.

Morrison County yields in 2020 were 178.1 bushels per acre for corn and 50.9 bushels per acre for soybeans, both which are up from 2019.

The statewide estimate corn yield was 192 bushels per acre and 49 bushels per acre for soybeans in 2020.

When looking at the yield data from the past 10 years, it is clear there is a lot of variation in yields from year to year for both crops. While weather is usually the most significant yield factor, the effect of best management practices cannot be excluded from this calculation. These practices include nutrient management, weed control, irrigation, improved drainage, tillage management, proper hybrid selection, among other practices that help get the most out of

(Continued on Page 10C)

Ag Day and every day, a time to reflect on importance of agriculture

By Da Na aDam S
Minnesota Extension

Did you know that March 23 was National Ag Day? It's a time when producers, universities, government agencies, and many others gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. National Ag day is time to observe what we routinely see available to us and ruminate on the significant impact agriculture has on our everyday lives.

I would like to encourage every American to reflect on agriculture's role in our daily lives. Today, I will focus on

just one category, livestock. Our daily lives are impacted by livestock in a variety of ways. The categories that immediately spring to my mind are the food that we eat and the clothes that we wear. Agriculture, and the farmers who make it all happen, bring that abundance to our front doors!

Livestock producers work hard to ensure that we have the ability to make a choice. We can have eggs and sausage for breakfast, a ham sandwich for lunch, and a delicious meatloaf for dinner (don't forget ice cream for dessert). This is

(Continued on Page 12C)

Don't just thank a farmer ...

Thank his wife for cooking, delivering meals, going for parts or moving fields all while taking care of her usual jobs.

Thank his hired man for working endless hours on sleepless nights to ensure the crop comes off.

And thank his children who are okay with seeing him if just for a brief moment while he eats his meals in the field. Farming is a family business and it takes a sacrifice from all.

So don't just thank a farmer ...
thank the family!



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AltEn: The mess gets even messier

On March 1, Nebraska's attorney general threw the book at AltEn, alleging the 24-million-gallon per year ethanol maker near Mead spent most of the last five years making an environmental mess of its biofuels plant and the surrounding rural community.

In a 97-page civil complaint, the state detailed 18 "causes of action" against AltEn ranging from "operating a solid waste management facility" — AltEn now is "storing" an estimated "84,000 tons of distiller's grain onsite" that contain "elevated concentrations of pesticides" — to "discharge of a pollutant into waters of the state without a permit."

As explained here last month, the allegations stem from AltEn's unique ethanol business: in a sales pitch to potential customers last summer it explained that it was "processing 600,000 to 900,000 pounds of treated seed into ethanol daily," according to the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star.

That ethanol feedstock — treated agricultural seed instead of the usual farm-raised corn — "created tens of thousands of tons of pesticide-contaminated byproduct" that the plant tried to rid itself of in, what the state now alleges, manners both legal and illegal.

The state's lengthy, date-filled complaint also serves a second, if unintended, function: it documents just how

Farm and Food File



by Alan Guebert

neglectful Nebraska regulatory officials were in their duty to protect citizens and natural resources from the type of calamity now hitting AltEn's rural neighbors.

For example, according to the complaint, on "Feb. 14, 2013, AltEn stated 'Grain (mainly corn) will continue to be the primary raw material and the facility will keep the ability to produce wet distiller's grain and solubles ... for animal feed.'"

Two paragraphs later, however, the state confesses it "discovered in 2015 that AltEn was using discarded seed corn that had been treated with pesticides as its feedstock ... however, [it] did not know until 2018 that the byproducts from AltEn's ethanol production could contain measurable residues of pesticides."

Even after what turned out to be a deadly, three-year lag to connect the environmental dots, the state still

didn't act until May 2019, when the state's Department of Agriculture, reported the Journal Star, ordered AltEn to "cease applying the solid byproduct" of the treated seed as "a soil conditioner."

Simultaneously, the state "issued the company a notice of violation that it was operating a solid waste management facility" — by storing the now-unusable ethanol byproduct — "without a permit."

And yet the plant continued to operate even, according to the complaint, as AltEn officials did little to comply to state demands

that it address growing problems with nearly every system in the Mead facility — growing piles of tainted byproducts, excessive wastewater drainage, leaking lagoons, and incomplete records.

Equally remarkable, the complaint doesn't explain who AltEn is and, therefore, whom the state of Nebraska is charging with 18 different "causes of action." It does note that "Defendant AltEn, LLC, is a Kansas limited liability company" and

"is registered as a foreign limited liability company in Nebraska."

Also, while the complaint lists the amount of civil fines (many are \$10,000 per day) AltEn could be liable for, it doesn't explain how the fines might be assessed or when they begin.

Equally important to many in the surrounding community is who will pay cleanup costs if the owners of AltEn declare bankruptcy and walk away from the troubled plant and its dirty past.

Al Davis, a rancher, former Nebraska state senator, and now a lobbyist for the Sierra Club hears that question whenever the name AltEn comes up in conversation.

"It's absolutely criminal what's happened in Mead," he relates in a March 22 telephone interview. "People have been complaining about the plant since 2017 and nothing was done."

The state confirms that fact, too: almost half of the 80 or so AltEn visits by state environmental inspectors since 2015 occurred in January and February 2021.

All of which seem to point to a growing, implied understanding between

"If we rarely check to see if the cows are still in the barn, don't worry about fixing the bar door."

EASTER EGG Coloring CONTEST. MARCH 28TH – APRIL 11TH, 2021. Voting APRIL 12TH – APRIL 25TH, 2021. Includes a grid of prizes for various locations and categories like Springers, Milk, Fat, and Breeding Bulls.

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Table with columns for category (e.g., 3-19-2021 Dairy Sale, Slaughter), location (e.g., Lake Park, Maple Lake), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., Open, Fat), location (e.g., Belgrade, S Centre), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., Springers, Milk), location (e.g., Melrose, L Falls), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., Fat, Breeding Bulls), location (e.g., S Centre, Swarville), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., Fat, Breeding Bulls), location (e.g., Melrose, Swarville), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., Fat, Breeding Bulls), location (e.g., Melrose, Swarville), and price per unit.

Table with columns for category (e.g., 3-23-2021 Market Report, Slaughter, Sheep), location (e.g., Princeton, Gilman), and price per unit.

For an on the farm estimate or current market info. 320-732-2255. Please consign your cattle as early as possible and fill out the dock ticket with your COMPLETE ADDRESS. - Thank you! We appreciate your business!!!

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Tri-county corn and soybean yields 2020

(Continued from Page 8C)
improved crop genetics.

It is also important to remember that while higher yields usually mean greater returns; keep yield expectations realistic. As always, consider what inputs your money is going toward and the probability of seeing a good return on investment.

All the yield data can be found by doing an Internet search for "Minnesota

Ag Statistics County Estimates" and looking for the link to the NASS website. If you have questions on the above information, feel free to email me at ndrewitz@umn.edu, or call at (608) 515-4414.

To receive future events, educational programming and agronomic updates by email, sign up at z.umn.edu/tricountysignup.

Nathan Drewitz is an Extension educator for crops.

BENTON CORN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Grain Ac. Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 53,800 | 39,000 | 109.1 | 4,256,000 |
| *2012 | 63,500 | 58,600 | 153.2 | 8,975,000 |
| *2013 | 62,500 | 52,900 | 94.7 | 5,009,000 |
| *2014 | 70,100 | 39,400 | 90.3 | 3,559,000 |
| *2015 | 59,700 | 48,100 | 167.3 | 8,047,000 |
| ~2016 | 58,800 | 51,400 | 169.3 | 8,702,000 |
| ~2017 | 53,400 | 44,100 | 153.9 | 6,788,000 |
| ~2018 | 53,900 | 41,800 | 183.0 | 7,650,000 |
| ~2019 | 48,400 | 44,700 | 154.6 | 6,911,000 |
| ~2020 | 52,400 | 43,900 | 187.1 | 8,214,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 61,920 | 47,600 | 122.9 | 5,969,200 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 53,380 | 45,180 | 169.6 | 7,653,000 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 57,650 | 46,390 | 146.3 | 6,811,100 |

STEARNS CORN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Grain Ac. Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 222,000 | 177,900 | 136.4 | 24,536,000 |
| *2012 | 238,000 | 197,000 | 166.6 | 32,816,000 |
| *2013 | 240,500 | 195,000 | 133.5 | 26,033,000 |
| *2014 | 208,000 | 156,500 | 133.9 | 20,948,000 |
| *2015 | 217,500 | 159,800 | 171.9 | 27,466,000 |
| ~2016 | 215,000 | 172,200 | 186.0 | 32,031,000 |
| ~2017 | 207,500 | 176,700 | 177.7 | 31,405,000 |
| ~2018 | 214,500 | 183,200 | 183.6 | 33,636,000 |
| ~2019 | 216,500 | 175,700 | 170.2 | 29,904,000 |
| ~2020 | 222,000 | 181,100 | 187.3 | 33,920,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 225,200 | 177,240 | 148.5 | 26,359,800 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 215,100 | 177,780 | 181.0 | 32,179,200 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 220,150 | 177,510 | 164.7 | 29,269,500 |

MORRISON CORN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Grain Ac. Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 94,000 | 70,200 | 141.5 | 9,933,000 |
| *2012 | 108,000 | 89,400 | 147.6 | 13,193,000 |
| *2013 | 102,000 | 67,800 | 87.4 | 5,926,000 |
| *2014 | 97,500 | 61,300 | 117.3 | 7,191,000 |
| *2015 | 102,500 | 83,900 | 171.8 | 14,418,000 |
| ~2016 | 102,500 | 89,000 | 163.0 | 14,510,000 |
| ~2017 | 96,500 | 78,800 | 167.3 | 13,180,000 |
| ~2018 | 97,000 | 65,600 | 179.7 | 11,788,000 |
| ~2019 | 93,500 | 75,400 | 141.3 | 10,654,000 |
| ~2020 | 99,000 | 71,500 | 178.1 | 12,734,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 100,800 | 74,520 | 133.1 | 10,132,200 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 97,700 | 76,060 | 165.9 | 12,573,200 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 99,250 | 75,290 | 149.5 | 11,352,700 |

BENTON SOYBEAN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Acres Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 34,100 | 33,900 | 33.7 | 1,142,000 |
| *2012 | 31,200 | 31,000 | 40.6 | 1,259,000 |
| *2013 | 26,800 | 26,400 | 25.5 | 673,000 |
| *2014 | 19,900 | 19,800 | 27.0 | 535,000 |
| *2015 | 33,100 | 32,900 | 47.3 | 1,557,000 |
| ~2016 | 34,700 | 33,400 | 49.4 | 1,650,000 |
| ~2017 | 36,100 | 35,900 | 40.6 | 1,458,000 |
| ~2018 | 37,600 | 36,600 | 45.6 | 1,669,000 |
| ~2019 | | | | |
| ~2020 | 36,600 | 36,300 | 51.7 | 1,877,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 29,020 | 28,800 | 34.8 | 1,033,200 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 36,250 | 35,550 | 46.8 | 1,663,500 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 32,233 | 31,800 | 40.2 | 1,313,333 |

STEARNS SOYBEAN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Acres Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 94,200 | 93,100 | 36.9 | 3,440,000 |
| *2012 | 91,400 | 90,800 | 42.8 | 3,839,000 |
| *2013 | 83,800 | 82,900 | 31.9 | 2,644,000 |
| *2014 | 87,900 | 85,500 | 35.7 | 3,087,000 |
| *2015 | 95,100 | 94,600 | 52.4 | 4,959,000 |
| ~2016 | 96,600 | 95,800 | 54.6 | 5,231,000 |
| ~2017 | 108,500 | 107,800 | 49.1 | 5,292,980 |
| ~2018 | 117,500 | 116,300 | 50.8 | 5,908,000 |
| ~2019 | 98,900 | 98,000 | 44.4 | 4,351,000 |
| ~2020 | 103,000 | 102,100 | 50.3 | 5,136,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 90,480 | 89,380 | 39.9 | 3,593,800 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 104,900 | 104,000 | 49.8 | 5,183,796 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 97,690 | 96,690 | 44.9 | 4,388,798 |

MORRISON SOYBEAN YIELDS - MN Ag Statistics

| Year | Acres Planted | Acres Harvested | Bushel Yield | Bushel Production |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| *2011 | 27,800 | 27,600 | 37.1 | 1,025,000 |
| *2012 | 28,800 | 28,600 | 38.7 | 1,092,000 |
| *2013 | 26,700 | 25,900 | 21.1 | 546,000 |
| *2014 | 24,600 | 24,100 | 35.8 | 863,000 |
| *2015 | 29,400 | 29,200 | 51.0 | 1,488,000 |
| ~2016 | 33,600 | 33,300 | 50.4 | 1,678,000 |
| ~2017 | 39,300 | 39,000 | 40.3 | 1,572,000 |
| ~2018 | 39,000 | 37,600 | 44.6 | 1,677,000 |
| ~2019 | 32,900 | 31,900 | 40.5 | 1,292,000 |
| ~2020 | 33,900 | 33,600 | 50.9 | 1,710,000 |
| *1st 5 Yr Ave | 27,460 | 27,080 | 36.7 | 1,002,800 |
| *2nd 5 Yr Ave | 35,740 | 35,080 | 45.3 | 1,585,800 |
| 10 Yr Ave | 31,600 | 31,080 | 41.0 | 1,294,300 |

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