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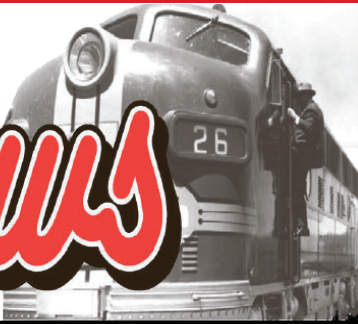
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Southern Illinois News



April 2025



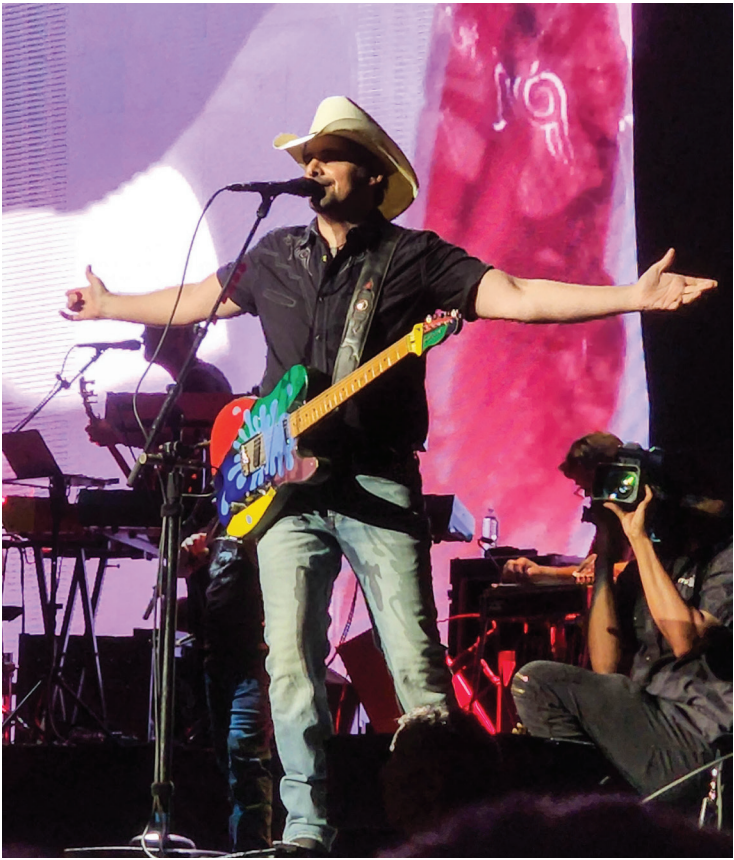
Global country superstar Brad Paisley to perform at Illinois State Fair on August 14th

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Returning to the Illinois State Fair for the first time since 2017, Brad Paisley will perform on the Illinois Lottery Grandstand Stage on Thursday, August 14.

With three GRAMMYs, two American Music Awards, 15 Academy of Country Music Awards, and 14 Country Music Association Awards, including a highly coveted Entertainer of the Year honor and recognition as the most successful CMA Award co-host in history, Brad Paisley has earned his place in country music history as one of the genre’s most talented and decorated male solo artists.

“Three-peat, Grandstand crowd favorite, Brad Paisley is always welcome at the Illinois State Fair,” said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. “His award-winning songwriting and showmanship are unmatched, and we’re honored to bring him back to our Grandstand.”

In addition to his superstar status, becoming the first artist to achieve 10 consecutive Billboard Country Airplay No. 1 singles with hits like Whiskey Lullaby, Paisley and his wife, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, are co-founders



of nonprofit organization The Store, a free-referral based grocery store, which aims to empower low-income individuals and families in the Nashville area.

“Brad Paisley’s music celebrates family, tradition, and good times — values that align perfectly with what the Fair is all about,” said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. “We’re excited to partner with someone who shares our passion for bringing people together, and we know it’s going to be a night to remember.”

Tickets for Brad Paisley

will go on sale Saturday, March 22 at 10 a.m. via Ticketmaster.

Tier 3 - \$55 / Tier 2 - \$60 / Tier 1 - \$70 / Track - \$70 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$125

*A \$30 Pre-Show Party ticket is offered as an additional upgrade for all paid concerts.

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, August 7 through August 17 in Springfield.

Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements from the Illinois State Fair by connecting with us via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

USDA announces availability of low-interest loans for producers for six counties

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of low-interest emergency physical loss loans for producers in six Illinois counties due to losses caused by severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides which occurred on February 14, 2025.

The six counties are Alexander, Gallatin, Hardin, Massac, Pope and Pulaski Counties.

“Extreme weather can cause extensive, expensive damage to Illinois farms,” said Jerry Costello II, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director. “Producers with storm damage in these six counties should contact their local USDA Service Center to confirm eligibility.”

Low-interest emergency physical loss loans through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help producers repair



or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay.

On farmers. gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help farmers determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

SALAD SEASON

- Egg Salad
- Cucumber Salad
- Broccoli Salad
- Strawberry Salad
- Taco Pasta Salad

Page 16



BIG JOHN



Tips for the gardening beginner

Gardening is a popular hobby all over the world. Ruby Home Luxury Real Estate estimates there are 71.5 million gardening households in the United States alone. That translates to around 185.9 million people engaged in some form of gardening, which places the U.S. among other countries where gardening is wildly popular, including Australia and China. A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started. These pointers can help anyone foster a newfound passion for gardening.

Choose the best location
Spend time in the yard and decide where to house a garden. A far-off corner may get the most sun, but will you forget about the garden if it is too far away? Ideally, the garden should be located where it will get at least six to eight hours of sun each day. There also should be a water source nearby. The spot also should be convenient so that it is easy to go and pick vegetables or prune flowers.

Start small
If you're new to gardening, begin with a small garden footprint so that you can get your feet wet. A raised garden bed can be a good starting point because it is contained and easy to maintain. As your experience (and garden) grows, you can add to the garden size the next time around.

Amend the soil
It's possible but unlikely that the soil in the backyard is the perfect mix to grow healthy plants. It's more likely that the garden will need some soil modification. You can test the soil makeup with do-it-yourself kits or work with a garden center. A garden typically requires a mix of compost to add nutrients to the dirt; peat moss or coconut coir to help with water retention and to make the soil lighter; and vermiculite that helps to retain water. A compost bin set up at the same time as the garden allows gardeners to continually produce nutrient-rich food to add to the garden.

Plant starter guide
It's best to keep a few things in mind when planning the garden. Think about what will grow well

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see GARDENING,
page 3

2025 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School suited for all experience levels

Grazers will be given hands-on demonstrations to develop and improve sustainable livestock grazing systems.

By Jennifer Elwell and
Caroline Roper

RUSSELLVILLE, Ky.— The 2025 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School, a program of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and UK Cooperative Extension Service, will be held April 29-30 at the Logan County Extension Office in Russellville. The school’s goal is to help livestock producers increase their profitability through a combination of hands-on and classroom learning. “While this school targets beginning grazers, the topics and discussion will benefit producers along all segments of their grazing journey,” said Chris Teutsch, forage specialist in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Martin-Gatton CAFE and grazing school organizer. “This year’s event has been updated to put greater emphasis on soils, the foundation upon which sustainable grazing systems are built.” Topics on April 29 include an introduction to soils,

rotational grazing, meeting nutritional needs on pasture, grazing math concepts, portable and seasonal water systems, methods to access pasture production and determine stocking rates, and hands-on setup of electric fencing and watering systems. Participants will also travel to Double M Farms in Russellville, a large row crop and cow-calf operation, for a grazing systems planning exercise. Afternoon clinics include using temporary electric fencing to control grazing, using electrical offsets to enhance existing fencing, soil and hay sampling, pasture condition assessment, grazing management, and choosing forage species for a comprehensive grazing system. Topics for April 30 include soil test interpretation, meeting the nutritional needs of livestock on pasture, a local producer speaker, and a strategic approach to restoring pasture productivity. Students will also calibrate a grain drill and try a GPS unit designed for frost seeding pastures.



This year’s event has been updated to put greater emphasis on soils, the foundation upon which sustainable grazing systems are built. Photo provided by Caroline Roper.

The school will begin at 7:30 a.m. CDT at the Logan County Extension Office with refreshments and adjourn at 4 p.m. daily. Lunch will be provided. The course will include both field and classroom work, rain or shine, so participants are advised to dress appropriately. To register, visit Kentucky Beginning Grazing School Spring 2025 | Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

The cost is \$60 per participant. Registration is limited and will close on April 15. To register by mail, send a check made out to KFGC to Caroline Roper, UK Research and Education Center, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445. The Logan County Extension Office is located at 255 John Paul Rd., Russellville, KY 42276. Sponsors of the 2025 school include the Kentucky Forage and Grassland

Council, Kentucky Beef Network and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. ### The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment to provide research, education information and other services to individuals and institutions that provide equal

opportunities for qualified persons in all aspects of institutional operations and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, uniformed service, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information or social or economic status.

GARDENING,
from page 2

in your climate. Consider how big the garden will be and the size of mature plants. A small garden will not be able to accommodate corn, for example. Also, how would you like the space to look and what will be its function? Is this a purely aesthetic garden or one that will be food-bearing?

Start seeds inside
If you’ll be starting

a garden from seeds, it’s best to start indoors before your region’s frost-free date. This way the delicate plants will get the needed care and can establish before they go outdoors in the ground. Keep them humid by covering the seedlings in plastic wrap. You can start the seeds in different containers, even empty egg cartons. Transplant to larger containers after the seedlings grow a second set of

leaves. Once you’re free from overnight frost, you can place the established, strong seedlings in the ground. An automatic watering system, such as a timer hooked up to the sprinkler, can keep the garden well watered, which increases the chances of success. Then it will only be a matter of weeks before the garden can be enjoyed throughout the season.



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Spring is a special time for bees

**By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff**

This is the time of year that bees swarm or split in two separate colonies to help ensure their species will survive. Swarming is a natural process for honeybees to form a new colony. When a colony is bursting at the seams in their home with little room to grow, the bees will raise a new queen. The old queen will take off with as many as 10,000 or so bees from the home

colony and fly a short distance and cluster on a tree branch, shrub or other object to form a large ball or cone shaped mass. The queen is usually centered in the cluster and scout bees leave looking for a new home such as a hollow tree. The swarms can stay in their temporary location for several days as the scout bees do their job and find a new home. Please remember bees usually will not bother you if you don't bother them.

Two separate colonies have a better chance of survival than one larger colony, says Beekeeper Chris Naas. So, help these bees survive by calling a beekeeper for help. "These pollinators are very important to the food supply that we all eat, please do not spray or kill bees," said Chris Naas. If you see a swarm of bees in a temporary location that they can't stay, a local beekeeper will come and retrieve them.



Swarm of bees on a garage door.

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River to River Trail Society to host spring hikes



The River to River Trail Society announces its 8th public hike of the 2025 spring hiking season on April 19th. Hiking: Crest Trail (Saline County). This hike is free and open to the public. This hike will be of moderate difficulty over established trail. This will be a linear thru-hike, approximately four hours hiking time, requiring shuttling. The leader of this hike can be reached at 630-470-7692 for more information. Hikers should meet at 10:00 am at the Old Stone Face Trailhead off of Stone Face Lane. This hike is intended for people in good health who have done some hiking. Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. Hikers should bring their own water and snacks. No dogs please. Check the post on the River to River Trail Society website www.rivertorivertrail.net for more information including driving directions to the meeting area for this hike.

April 19th, 8th

Public Hike for the River to River Trail Society website and or Facebook.

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The River to River Trail Society announces its 9th public hike of the 2025 spring hiking season on April 26th. Hiking: Ferne Clyffe (Johnson County). This hike is free and open to the public. This will be a moderate loop/backtrack hike for experienced hikers approximately 5.5 miles in length, 4 hours hiking time. The leader of this hike can be reached at 618-759-1924 for more information. Hikers should meet at 10:00 am at the Big Rocky Hollow/Hawk Cave Trailhead. This hike is intended for people in very good health who have done some hiking. Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. Hikers should bring their own water and snacks. No dogs please. There are some stairs, steep grades and slick rock; and these areas may become slippery if it has rained prior to hike. For a map to the meeting location at

the Big Rocky Hollow/Hawk Cave Trailhead click this blue link [Big Rocky Hollow/Hawk Cave Trailhead](#) and a map will open up, and then click the Directions button and a driving map will be created which will allow you to plan your driving directions to the meeting area. For those tracking the hike using the Avenza app., you can use the River to River Trail map 17 or the Goreville Quadrangle TOPO map. Prior to participating in any hikes, the River to River Trail Society requests that all hikers read the 2023 Trail Society Waiver which can be found on the River to River website at the following link [River to River Trail Society Information](#) and then sign off on this waiver prior to the beginning of the hike. A copy of the waiver will be at the Big Rocky Hollow/Hawk Cave Trailhead meeting area for your signature.

Sam Morales Board Member
River to River Trail Society
618-384-1321

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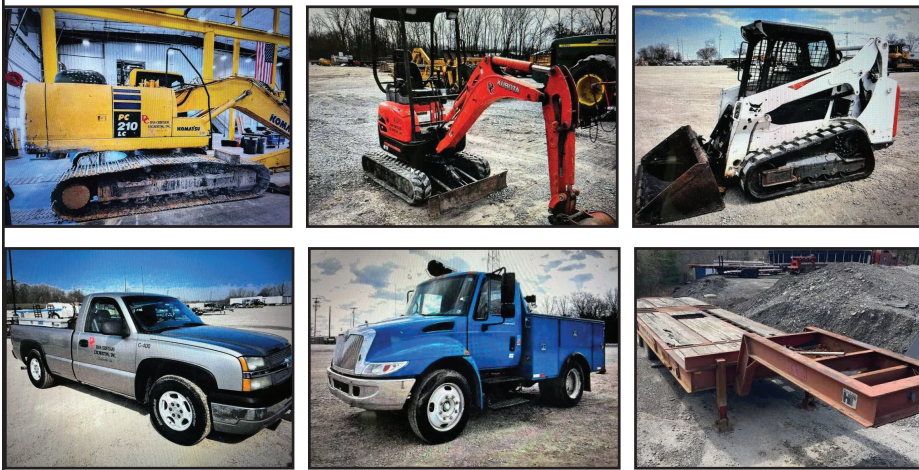
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EATING WELL

National Pecan Month

According to the National Pecan Shellers Association, April is National Pecan Month – a time to celebrate the “All American Nut” for its delicious taste and numerous health benefits. Pecans are the only tree nut indigenous to North America, and they have quite a history on this continent. On April 6, 2001, the goodness and wholesome of pecans was proclaimed in the U.S. Congressional Record, and National Pecan Month was established, which now takes place every April.



Butter Pecan Chicken

Ingredients:
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
Kosher salt for seasoning
pepper for seasoning
1 tablespoon oil
1 tablespoon butter
1/3 cup chopped pecans
1/3 cup butter
1/2 cup chicken broth
1/3 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
1/2 teaspoon dried parsley

Directions:

Preheat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season both sides of the chicken with kosher salt and pepper. Add 1 tablespoon oil (I use avocado) and 1 tablespoon butter to the

hot pan.
Place chicken in the pan and cook for about 10 min on each side (depending on thickness).
When the chicken is almost cooked through (about 150 degrees internal temp), remove the chicken from the pan, and add pecans, butter, chicken broth, brown sugar, honey, thyme leaves, and parsley. Whisk together over medium heat, then add the chicken back to pan.
Simmer gently for about 5-8 more minutes, spooning the sauce over the chicken. Serve over rice or mashed potatoes when the sauce is bubbly and thickened, and the chicken is cooked through to 165 degrees.

Sugar Coated Pecans



Ingredients:
1 egg
1 tablespoon water
1 pound pecans – halved
1 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Directions:
Preheat oven to 250 degrees. In a bowl whip the egg (white only) with the water until nice and frothy. In a separate large bowl mix together the sugar, salt, and cinnamon.

Next pour the pecans into the egg white mixture and coat each piece thoroughly. Dip the pecan pieces into the sugar mixture and coat. Place on baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour. You will want to stir and mix the pecans every 10-20 minutes to ensure all sides are evenly baked. Remove from oven and enjoy!

Deep Fried Pecan Pies

Ingredients:
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
½ cup light corn syrup
2 large eggs
5 tablespoons butter
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 (14.1-ounce) packages Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts
Vegetable oil for frying
Powdered sugar

Directions:
In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the sugar, corn syrup, eggs, butter and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat, reduce the heat to a

simmer and stir in the pecans. Simmer for about 8 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla. Bring the crusts to room temperature. Unroll one on a lightly floured surface and cut circles using a 4-inch circle cutter. Re-roll the dough and repeat until all of the dough has been used. You should end up with about 24 circles. Place a heaping tablespoon of the pecan filling mixture in the center of a pie crust circle. Lightly moisten the edges of the crust with water, then fold the crust over, crimping the edges with a dinner fork. Repeat the process until all of the pie crusts have been used. In a

large dutch oven, heat about 1 inch oil in the bottom to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Fry the pies in batches for about 1 to 2 minutes on each side – or

until golden brown. Drain on paper towels then lightly dust with powdered sugar. Serve warm.



Southern Pecan Pie

Ingredients:
1 cup Karo® Light OR Dark Corn Syrup
3 eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1–1/2 cups (6 ounces) coarsely chopped pecans
1 (9-inch) unbaked OR frozen deep-dish pie crust

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix Karo® Light Corn Syrup, eggs, sugar, butter and vanilla using a spoon or a rubber spatula. Stir in pecans. Pour the mixture into pie crust.
Bake on center rack of oven for 60 to 70 minutes. Cool for at least 2 hours on wire rack before serving.

Pecan Facts

1. The name “pecan” is a Native American word that was used to describe nuts requiring a stone to crack.
2. The pecan capital of the world is Albany, Georgia, which boasts more than 600,000 pecan trees.
3. Pecan trees are native to North America and over 80% of the world’s pecan crop comes from the United States.
4. Pecan trees produce nuts on alternate bearing years – one year heavy, one year light.
5. The pecan pie was created by French people who had settled in New Orleans.
6. The pecan is heart healthy and contains antioxidants, 19 vitamins and minerals and healthy fat.
7. In 1995, Georgia pecan wood was selected by the Atlanta Committee to make the handles of the torches for the 1996 Olympic Games.
8. About 78 pecans are used in the average pecan pie.
9. Pecan trees can live to be over 200 years old.
10. One ounce of pecans provides 10% of the recommended daily fiber intake.

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How did Easter get its name?



Christians and even many non-Christians likely know that Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Less widely known may be the origins of the name of this significant holiday. Historians are not certain about the precise origins of the name “Easter.” Some believe the name can be traced to the English monk Bede, often referred to as “St. Bede the Venerable” or “The Venerable Bede.”

According to History.com, in his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Bede asserts that the English word “Easter” can be traced to “Eostre” or “Eostrae,” which is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Many historians past and present echo this sentiment and believe Eostre is the namesake of Easter. However, others believe “Easter” comes from the Latin phrase “in albis,” which is plural for “alba” (dawn).

That phrase became “eostarum” in Old High German, a language that historians have connected to Old English. Though which camp is correct may never be resolved, there’s no denying that the word “Easter” represents the same spirit of rebirth that Christians celebrate each spring.



History of the Easter Bunny

The hare is also an ancient symbol for the moon. The date of Easter depends on the moon. This may have helped the hare to be absorbed into Easter celebrations.

The hare or rabbit’s burrow helped the animal’s adoption as part of Easter celebrations. Believers saw the rabbit coming out of its underground home as a symbol for Jesus coming out of the tomb. Perhaps this was another case of taking a pre-existing symbol and giving it Christian meaning.

The Easter hare came to America with German immigrants, and the hare’s role passed to the common American rabbit. Originally children made nests for the rabbit in hats, bonnets, or fancy paper boxes, rather than the baskets of today. Once the children finished their nests, they put them in a secluded spot to keep from frightening the shy rabbit. The appealing nests full of colored eggs probably helped the customs to spread.

According to an old German story, a poor woman hid some brightly colored eggs in her garden as Easter treats for children. While the children were searching, a hare hopped past. The children thought that the hare had left the eggs. So every Easter, German children would make nests of leaves and branches in their gardens for the hare. This custom was brought to the United States when the Germans came. The hare became a rabbit because there were more rabbits in the United States. Today, it is called the Easter bunny.

Back in Southern Germany, the first pastry and candy Easter bunnies became popular at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This custom also crossed the Atlantic, and children still eat candy rabbits - particularly chocolate ones - at Easter.

The Easter Egg and its origins

Next to the Easter bunny, the most familiar symbol is the Easter egg. Like others, the egg has a long pre-Christian history. Again there’s no certainty as to why it became associated with Easter.

Many Ancient cultures viewed eggs as a symbol of life. Hindus, Egyptians, Persians, and Phoenicians believed the world begun with an enormous egg. The Persians, Greeks, and Chinese gave gifts of eggs during spring festivals in celebration of new life all around them. Other sources say people ate dyed eggs at spring festivals in Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome. In ancient Druid lore, the eggs of serpents were sacred and stood for life.

Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ’s resurrection. In addition, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent; therefore, they were a delicacy at Easter. Since many of the earlier customs were Eastern in origin, some speculate that early missionaries or knights of the Crusade may have been responsible for bringing the tradition to the West.

In the fourth century, people presented eggs in church to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. By the twelfth century, the Benedictio Ovorum had been introduced authorizing the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter. The timing of this blessing would uphold the idea that Crusaders may have brought the tradition back. Even though eggs had been used previously, the Crusaders may have made the custom more popular and widespread.

In 1290, Edward I of England recorded a purchase of 450 eggs to be colored or covered with gold leaf. He then gave the eggs to members of the royal household.

Once the custom became accepted, new traditions began to grow up around it. Eggs were dyed red for joy, and in memory of Christ’s blood. Egg rolling contests came to America from England, possibly as a reminder of the stone being rolled away.

What about the familiar Easter Egg hunt? One source suggested that it grew out of the tradition of German children searching for hidden pretzels during the Easter season. Since children were hiding nests for the Easter Bunny to fill with eggs at the same time they were hunting pretzels, it was only a small leap to begin hiding eggs instead.

As Christianity spread, more familiar traditions, symbols and celebrations of spring were associated with Easter - Christ coming back to life after death. One of the oldest spring symbols in the world is the egg. The oval shape of the egg was the same shape for a raindrop and a seed. These two were important life-giving elements. The egg itself promises new life as in spring, birds, and many other animals are hatched from eggs. In fact, the Persians, Hindus and Egyptians believed that the world began with a single egg. In ancient China, Rome and Greece, eggs were given as springtime gifts. In Polland and Russia, hours are spent on drawing intricate designs on Easter eggs. In England, members of the royal families gave each other gold-covered eggs as Easter gifts in the middle ages. The most famous Easter egg decorator was Peter Carl Faberge. He designed eggs from gold, silver and other precious gems for kings of Europe and czars of Russia. These eggs are priceless now and can only be found in museums and private collections. In early America, children decorated their eggs by using dyes made from natural materials like fruit and leave coloring.



VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Love runs deep

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

Things are made to break; to wear out; to go by the wayside and become history. But the Bible says three things will last forever. They will never wear out. They will never disappear from earth. They never fail to excite, encourage and motivate. They are faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:15 NLT).

I thought about Jesus saying, “Love one another; as I have loved you” (John 13:34), and I wondered how in the world do we do that? How can we love like Jesus loved? Even though we don’t deserve it, He gave His life that we might live. Have I ever loved like that? No, I haven’t. Or, maybe we can relate to: how did I love when it wasn’t easy to love?

I know, the love Jesus is talking about is love that comes only through Him. On our own, the best we can do is try to practice love and we don’t do that very well. According to AI, to practice love we must “focus on

acts of kindness, empathy, and compassion towards yourself and others, including forgiveness, active listening, and setting healthy boundaries, while also appreciating the good in people and situations (google.com)”.

That’s a good definition, but to practice anything, we must do it repeatedly until we become good at it. I’m not so sure I’m good at putting all my focus and efforts into kindness, compassion, listening, or even seeing good in people all the time. I do sometimes. I try, but to be honest sometimes I’m selfish and I want my comfort, not just someone else’s.

The Bible says, “Love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8), and there have been times when I wasn’t keen on doing that. It’s easier to ignore than to face and cover.

Love is so important to God that He gave us “a love thermometer” so we’d know where we are spiritually. John, who knew Jesus better than anyone said, “By this shall all men know you are my disciples; if you have love one to another” (John 13:35).

Is love work? Yes, it is. Love, in any form, is a lot of work. And no matter how much we work at it; we are just not good at it. It takes God for us to truly love. If I could sum up Joshua 24, I think he’s telling the people, “I know you’re not always going to do the right thing so incline your heart toward God. That’s the only way you’ll be able to serve God.” For sure, it’s the only way to love like God wants us to.

Tara-Leigh Cobble (The Bible Recap), said, “The human

heart does not respond to laws. It responds to love”.

I think that’s so true. If we want to change things or make a difference, we are going to have to practice loving because the human heart responds to love, not laws.

Writer’s note: Because we are currently in the middle of Easter season, I have started a series on Love Runs Deep. This is the first week of the series so be sure to pick up a copy of the newspaper for the remaining series. - Praying God’s best to all of you.

The Water-walker

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

The golden sun hid behind the hills as dusk descended upon an incredible day of miracles. The disciples were still short of breath after the feeding of the five thousand, exhausted from the massive crowds they helped feed, and from their hearts racing with wonder. Hopes were high. The crowds were ecstatic. Jesus and His disciples were gaining unstoppable momentum.

Then Jesus gave them a perplexing command, undoubtedly producing glances of bewilderment: “Get into the boat and go on without Me. I’ll meet you on the other side” (cf. Mark 6:45-46). Jesus had sent them to preach, heal, and

cast demons, but He had never sent them away. Strange as it was, they obeyed because they trusted Him, and then they rowed away after one final look at Him. And unbeknownst to them, a storm was brewing nearby—and they were headed right for it.

The wind whistled. The waves of the deep arose, slamming against their vessel. And it was too late to turn back—they were four miles away from the shore where they last saw their Lord (John 6:19). But to their surprise, they saw Him again—smack-dab in the middle of this tempest—and not rowing after them in a boat, but walking on the raging sea. Terrified, they mistook Him for a ghost, which only amplified their



paralyzing fear. And then they heard a voice that calmed their anxious hearts while the storm raged on: “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matt. 14:27b).

That the Creator could walk effortlessly on the water which He fashioned is astounding, but not astonishing.

What is staggering is that Jesus sent the disciples to the sea knowing that they would be met by a violent storm. And He did so in order for them to experience His unmatched power and the peace of His presence in the midst of turmoil. Without the life-threatening storm, they would have never known the fear-dissolving authority of His word nor the sustaining comfort of His nearness. Jesus was all they needed, but they only learned that lesson when Jesus was all they had.

The Lord still allows storms to come our way and sometimes sends us directly to them for the same reason:

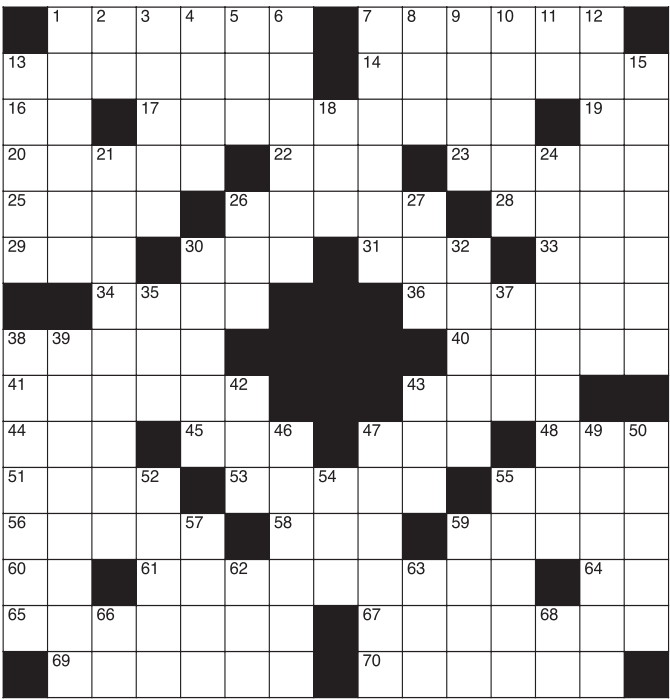
to show us that He is enough. As Charles Spurgeon once said, “I have learned to kiss the wave that slams me against the Rock of Ages.” Thankfully, Jesus is never miles away during life’s tempests—He is in the boat with us. Even more, He walks on the waves which threaten to overwhelm us, bringing with Him the grace and mercy we require to endure. Let the Lord’s reassuring promise of His presence bring you calm in the midst of chaos: “It is I; do not be afraid” (John 6:20b).

This column is from 40 Days with Jesus, my 40-day devotional on Christ’s life, teachings, and miracles, available for purchase on Amazon.

Happy Easter

Christ’s empty grave is proof that no matter how bad things may seem, there is always hope for a new day. May God revive all your dreams and hopes this Easter. Rejoice in Easter and His resurrection.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Island nation

7. Platforms

13. Project plan

14. French fishing port

16. South Dakota

17. Oakland's baseball team

19. Military policeman

20. Ornamental stone

22. Garland

23. Process that produces ammonia

25. Mousses

26. Music notation “dal _”

28. Fail to win

29. Peyton's little brother

30. Not near

31. Some cars still need it

33. Lizard genus

34. An idiot (Brit.)

36. Postponed

38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly

41. In a way, traveled

43. Ukraine’s capital

44. Appropriate

45. Dash

47. Twitch

48. Swiss river

51. Data file with computer animations

53. City in S. Korea

55. Particular region

56. They have eyes and noses

58. Tear

59. Large Madagascan lemur

60. Not out

61. Ornamental saddle covering

64. A driver's license is one

65. Latin term for charity

67. Rechristens

69. Objects from an earlier time

70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

1. Used as a weapon

2. Yukon Territory

3. Makes a map of

4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion

5. Unnilhexium

6. Merchant

7. Playing the field

8. Folk singer DiFranco

9. Something to scratch

10. Mexican agave

11. Equal to one quintillion bytes

12. Session

13. North American people

15. Ranches

18. Electroencephalograph

21. A type of compound

24. Avenue

26. High schoolers’ test

27. A type of meal

30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code

35. Popular pickup truck

37. Buzzing insect

38. Deal illegally

39. Lying in the same plane

42. Obstruct

43. Related

46. Challenge aggressively

47. Nocturnal hoofed animals

49. Bird’s nests

50. Forays

52. __ B. de Mille, filmmaker

54. Title of respect

55. One-time name of Vietnam

57. Self-immolation by fire ritual

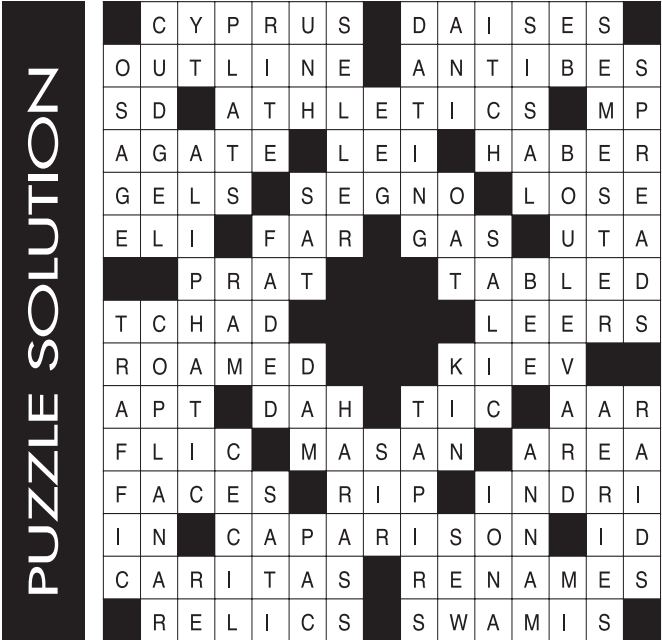
59. Private school in New York

62. Political action committee

63. A way to fashion

66. Email reply

68. “The Great Lake State”



Coloring Fun!

HAPPY EASTER!!



ON THE FARM WORD SEARCH

I T B O D A D A G R E V O Y R R A C N A
E Y M M S G G R M F M K B A L E A B B D
N B G E B M A R R E D R O B E S P B E T
K M N D Y I N D I A S A M A P T T I I O L
N S I S N B B O G C G E Y M L U T Y R L
B K K S O Y P R P R U K E B N P F G S T
I Y C O S S G H O I R L T D A N A G T F
O G U E V S T S E R V E I T E I N Y R S D
D G B V C C R N H N H R U I N U D O V
Y T L C Y O I S A F U O V C R L G B P M
N H O C L G V B Y G P B O O F A U R M M
A V L O A D R G U O U L K U I S L O O R
M E G T N F N U N S L D A K E O B A C N
I Y I A B I D I A N H I E N L E C D K C
C O T L M M C M S F P E E Y D I K C M F
N E R R L S N F T I D C L E S Y D A M E
S A A V V M N O I T A V I T L U C I S Y A
L F C V L C A L V E S D I L G A P T E R
G B I R U B P H U E D I C I T S E P F K
P V V A E R I A L U S B Y P C H L U F P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACRE
- AERIAL
- AEROPONICS
- AGRICULTURAL
- AGROECOLOGY
- BALE
- BIODYNAMIC
- BORDER
- BROADCAST
- BUCKING
- BUSHEL
- CALVES
- CARRYOVER
- COMPOST
- CULTIVATION
- CYCLE
- FARMING
- FIELDS
- GRAINS
- IRRIGATION
- LAND
- ORGANIC
- PESTICIDE
- SEEDING

Word Search Answers

B R U R J K S P R E A D N R Y D I O R F
Y H P H Y N M U D N O O O A C D J V C F
H N K J O J N E P F I V V V R V N S A
T H C L E G B L I T V V P D E K L L B F
P E U D E P B L N K L Y F V R S E H P E
E B T T I I P E A L A V E D O T U M D E
S R B E H A V S N C D F U L I M M J S R
N I U D H E G R T P K A Y S H F N A E O
O E L Y R C C N K I H L A C T M E D F B
P R L P N B O N O V F R E O K S F L N A
S G S C S G N R O S A F R G I R A S H V
E N E H J P G D I P T E N D G G C K G
R H Y A A U S I N P D I E E R E C T D J
L Y E I R Y S F E O S M C B S B D R I R
G J N S E N E B G S Y A P R C S K N A M
C L A B E J N S H L D A L Y B I T E B N
G K V R D F L R H S Y M P T O M S S U M
U C H J G J L A Y S B I K P I J H O S T
R I O S T N I O J Y V C N E G O H T A P
N T Y F E G T I N F E C T I O N C A B K E

Guess Who?



I am an actress born on April 13, 1980, in Georgia. I studied theater at the University of Evansville in Indiana. I am best known for my role on the soap opera “All My Children” and for playing a detective on “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.”

Answer: Kelli Giddish

Foraging Purple Dead Nettle

By Teresa Pearson
KPI Staff

Purple Dead Nettle is a wild, edible green that comes up in the early Spring. It is usually considered a common lawn weed, but it is so much more than a weed.

I am sure you are seeing tons of it in your yard or vacant lots around you. Although it is in the mint family it does not have a minty taste. Taste is more like Kale in my opinion. It can be used in salads, soups, blended into

smoothies or dried and made into a tea. Generally, you can use it just like you would lettuce or spinach, or other herbs.

The easiest way to get the maximum out of it, in nutritional benefits, is to toss a bunch into a spring salad. Just wash it well. You can also dry it and use in tea blends or throw some in your soup, fresh or dried. Purple Dead Nettle is highly nutritious and is packed with powerful antioxidants.

Purple Dead Nettle



offers a host of medicinal benefits including anti-inflammatory. It also

has antibacterial, and antifungal properties as well as diuretic, astringent,

diaphoretic, and purgative effects.

One of my favorite things to do with



Purple Dead Nettle is making pesto with it. So here is a recipe for it.

Purple Dead Nettle can be mistaken for Henbit; However, both are edible and closely related. Dead Nettle has a pointed shaped leaf, and Henbit has a rounded leaf. Dead Nettle is said to have a little more nutritious and medicinal value and has bigger leaves.

For more on foraging and other homestead information check out Stringfield Ridge Farm on Facebook and YouTube.



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Shaver Post Driver, Skidsteer Hookup, Hyd Driven, Hyd Tilt & Angle
NH 236 Disc Mower, 540 PTO, 7' Cut, S/N Y6ZSE0018, 4 Wheel Running Gear
JD 950 Tractor, Diesel (Does Not Run)
Ford 3000 Tractor (Does Not Run)
Farmall 140 Tractor, w/Cultivator (Does Not Run)
Ford Red Belly Tractor (Does Not Run)
Farmall 140 Tractor (Does Not Run)
AC D-15 Tractor Series II, w/Cult. (Does Not Run)
A-Way Equipment Stump Grinder, 3 Pt., 540 PTO
NH Workmaster 75 Tractor, MFWD, Hrs Unknown, 11.2-24 Front Tires, 16.9-30 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 8 Speed, S/N 1262886
Woods BW12 Rotary Cutter, 540 PTO, S/N 1331150
NH Workmaster 75 Tractor, MFWD, 1394 Hrs, 11.2-24 Front Tires, 16.9-30 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, NH Loader W/Bucket, 8 Speed, S/N NH1273618 (Has Electrical Issues)
Case TV380 Skidsteer, Cab, 3rd Function Hookup, Pilot Controls, Tracks, Bucket, S/N JAFV380VFM405834 (Does Not Run)
1955 AC ED45 Tractor *Running Condition*
1953 IH Super A Tractor *Running Condition*
1942 IH B Tractor *Running Condition*
1949 IH C Tractor *Running Condition*
IH Farmall H Tractor *Running Condition*
1939 IH Farmall M Tractor *Running Condition*
1951 Farmall M-D Tractor *Running Condition*
JD 5200 Tractor, 2-WD, 13.6-28 Rear Tires, Open Station, PTO, 1702 Hrs Showing, S/N LV5200D220909
Gravity Feed Wagon, w/Scales
Grain-O-Vator Feed Wagon, w/Scales
10' Aerator
14' Wagon w/Sides, JD Running Gear, w/Dump
Wingfield Pasture Drag
AC 12' Disk

JD FB-B Drill, 15 Hole, 7" Spacing
1973 Chevrolet C60 Truck, 15' Grain Bed, 4 Speed w/Hi/Low, Miles Unknown, 350 Engine
(26) 12' Gates
2 Ton Creep Feeder
4 Ton Creep Feeder
Tumblebug
2020 Kubota BV4160SS Silage Special, 540 PTO
Case IH 1666 Combine, 4-WD, 3831 Eng Hrs, 30.5-32 Front Tires, 18.4-26 Rear Tires, Spreader, Cummins Engine, S/N JJC0106036
Case IH 1020 Platform, 20', S/N JJC0224126
J&M HT874 Header Wagon, 30'
7.5'x5' Utility Trailer
7'x4' Utility Trailer
16'x8.5' Tri Axle Trailer
48" Pallet Forks For JD 500 Series
Bale Spear - 3 Pt., w/Hitch Ball
7' Crimper
7' Driveway Grader Blade
6' Crimper
JD 1850 Drill, 30', No Till, w/JD 1900 Commodity Cart, 190 Bu, S/N H01850X672028, S/N H01900T675649
Spra-Coupe 4660 Sprayer, 2100 Hrs, 5 Section Control, Auto Steer, Perkins Engine, Allison Auto Trans, 80' Booms, S/N AGCS4660VDN8A2089
JD 750 Drill, 15', 7.5" Spacing
Sprayer Trailer, 18'x12', Pintle Hitch, w/Spray Tote Holder, Dual Tandem
1998 Timpfle Hopper Bottom Trailer, 42', Roll Tarp, 72" Sides, Aluminum Outter Wheels, Stainless Front & Rear End Caps, Spring Suspension, Air Assist, VIN: 1TDH42225J8069810, w/Title
Bale Squeeze For Tow Motor
IH 490 Disk, 28', 7.5" Spacing, w/Rear Hitch
Trioliet SM8 Tub Grinder, w/Scales, 540 PTO, S/N 02327
Hay Spear - Skidsteer Hookup
2009 Case IH 7120 Combine, 2-WD, 4365/2984 Hrs, Chopper, Spreader, Lateral Tilt, 520/42 Duals, 540/30 Rears, AFS Pro 600 Monitor, S/N

Y9G206930
IH 274 Tractor, Diesel Engine, w/Cults., 3 Pt., 540 PTO, 4 Speed, 5.50-16 SL Front Tires, 12.4-24 Rear Tires, S/N 2130008J010114 *Crack In Block*
JD 6110 Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 2771 Hrs, 14.9-24 Front Tires, 18.4-34 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 16 Speed, LHR, S/N L06110V283038
2015 McCormick X7.680 Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 1560 Hrs, 420/30 Front Tires, 480/46 Duals, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24F Trans, Trimble Guidance w/Auto Steer, S/N 7VSCA27028
Agco RT150 Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 6756 Hrs, 380/85R30 Front Tires, 480/80R42 Rear Tires, 6.7 Cummins Engine, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO
Donahue 28'x7' Implement Carrier Trailer
Killbros 590 Grain Cart, Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO, 24.5-32 Tires
Unverferth 25' Header Wagon
E-Z Trail 680 Header Wagon, 30'
E-Z Trail 672 Header Wagon, 30'
NH 617 Disc Mower, 9'
2009 John Deere 8330 Tractor, MFWD, 7010 Hrs, 480/46 Rear Duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, AutoTrac Ready, S/N RW8330P047376
2012 John Deere 7130 Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 3682 Hrs, 16.9-28 Front Tires, 420/80R46 Rear Tires, JD 740 Loader w/Bucket, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 Speed PowrQuad, S/N RW7130H031212
2016 John Deere 5055E Tractor, MFWD, ROPS w/Canopy, 456 Hrs, 9.5-24 Front Tires, 16.9-28 Rear Tires, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 Speed, LHR, S/N 1PY5055EHGG1009162013
Case IH Magnum 260 Tractor, MFWD, 2517 Hrs, 460/85R34 Front Tires, 480/80R50 Rear Duals, Suspended Front Axle, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, Quick Hitch, AFS Pro 700 Monitor, S/N ZCRD09209
2016 John Deere 6110R Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 4160 Hrs, JD 640R Loader w/Bucket, 340/24 Front Tires, 460/34 Rear Tires, 16 Speed, LHR, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, S/N 1L06110RAGH849542
McCormick X5.35 Tractor, MFWD, C/H/A, 330 Hrs, McCormick L-31 Loader w/Bucket, 3 SCV, 540 PTO,

48 Speed, LHR, S/N ZNZ1E36C0L0008027
2022 John Deere 5075E Tractor, 2-WD, C/H/A, 351 Hrs, 16.9-28 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 Speed, LHR, S/N 1PY5075EEN420128 *Warranty Till 09/2027
2009 John Deere 8230 Tractor, 7588 Hrs, Rear Duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, Quick Hitch, 16 Speed Powershift, S/N RW8230P049966
2014 John Deere S670 Combine, 4-WD, Chopper, 2126/1455 Hrs, 520/85R42 Duals, Contour Master, Power Fold Bin Extensions, S/N 1H0S670SPE0765701
2019 John Deere 708C Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hyd Deck Plates, Header Height Sensors, Yetter Stalk Devastator Kit, S/N 1H00708CHKX805085
2018 Case IH 4408 Corn Head, 8 Row, 30" Spacing, S/N YHH632699
2013 Case IH 3408 Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hyd Deck Plates, S/N YHH632696
2020 John Deere 708C Corn Head, Knife Rolls, Hydraulic Deck Plates, Header Height Sensors, Row Sense, S/N 1H00708CLX810095
2015 John Deere 640FD Flex Draper Platform, Flip Over Reel, S/N 1H0640FDT0775684
2018 Case IH 3020 Platform, 30', S/N YJH231903
2023 John Deere 630F Platform, S/N 1CQ0630AKP0145573
(3) Unverferth H125 Header Wagon
Killbros 30' Header Wagon
Ag Star 30' Header Wagon
J&M 1151 Grain Cart, 1000 PTO, Roll Tarp, 68x50.00-32 Tires, S/N 6072
J&M 1051 Grain Cart, Roll Tarp, 1000 PTO, Hyd Chute On Auger, w/Scales, S/N 1502303
Unverferth 230 Gravity Wagon, w/Auger, Roll Tarp, Honda Engine, S/N 24430
John Deere 1890 CCS Drill, 36', 7.5" Spacing, S/N A01890C725751, w/JD 1910 Air Cart, 195 Bu, Rebuilt 2 Years Ago
Great Plains 2220 Air Drill w/GP NTA 3010, 30', 7.5"

Spacing, No Till
JD 4630 Sprayer, 2671 Hrs, 80' Booms, 3 Way Nozzle Bodies, 15" Spacing, 5 Section Cut Off, Hydraulic Tread Adjust, 380/38 Tires, Starfire 3000, JD 2630 Display, S/N 1N04630JC0023545
John Deere FC20R Rotary Cutter, 1000 PTO Sitrax 10 Wheel Hay Rake Supreme 16' Gooseneck Stock Trailer, VIN: 126555
1979 Timpfle 40' Hopper Bottom Trailer, 60" Sides, Roll Tarp, Steel Wheels, w/Title, VIN: 4646120
JD 6000 Hi Cycle Sprayer, Diesel Engine, S/N N0600X015085, 932 Mi
Ford E350 Passenger Bus, 102,005 Miles, Diesel Engine, Power Stroke, VIN: 1FDKE30F4VHB36684
JD 8530 Tractor, MFWD, 3260 Hrs, ILS, IVT Trans. JD 6150M Tractor, MFWD, 8610 Hrs, Self Leveling Loader, 1L06150MKEH02496
JD 6700 Sprayer, 2-WD, 4595 Hrs, 60' Booms, 3 Section Cut Off, 400 Gal Tank, Brown Box Rate Controller, Raven Light Bar, S/N N06700X004289
Case IH Farmall 70A Tractor, 2-WD, 247 Hrs, ROPS, 7.50-16 Front Tires, 14.9-28 Rear Tires, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 8 Speed, LHR, S/N FR5609505
Kinze 3600 12-23 Row Planter, No Till, Row Cleaners, Spike Closing Wheels On 12, Vacuum, Bulk Fill, w/Liquid Fertilizer, John Blue Pump, w/ Monitor & Fold Box, S/N 103289
Unverferth Zone Builder 9 Shank Ripper, NT Coulters, Spring Reset, S/N A60170472
Case IH 2500 Ecolo-Till 7 Shank Ripper, NT Coulters, Spring Reset, S/N YMD091026
Case IH 2500 Ecolo-Till 7 Shank Ripper, NT Coulters, Spring Reset, S/N YMD090918
2014 JD 612C Corn Head, S/N 1H00612CTEX765603
2008 JD 635F Platform, S/N H00635F726883
JD 4830 Sprayer, 3422 Hrs, 100' Booms, 1000 Gal Stainless Tank
JD 1770NT Planter, 16R/30", Martin Floating Row Cleaners, 2 By 2 Fertilizer, In Row Starter Fertilizer Vacuum, Hydraulic Drive, Pneumatic Down Force
2007 Chevrolet 3500 Duramax, Allison Trans., 4-WD, Side Tool Boxes, Fuel Tank, 88,600 Mi

UPCOMING 2025 AUCTIONS: Jul. 25th • Dec. 19th

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