

Farming Changes In The Last 100 Years



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The workhorses on the Hatcher farm.

By Sam Hatcher

The Year 1926

That was quite a year to remember...

Gasoline was a mere 21 cents per gallon.

A new car cost was \$600.00

Farm tractor manufacturers included International Harvester and its Farmall Regular, John Deere and its

G, Fordson Model F, as well as a couple of newcomers, Caterpillar and Cletrac.

However, on the farm, horses were still the dominant power, doing literally everything on the farm, including consuming part of the harvest of various crops.

The average farm size in 1926 was 145 acres, with an average cost per acre of \$52.00 and property taxes

were a whopping \$3.35 for an 80 acre farm in Ohio.

Farm foreclosures were on the rise, with roughly 17 out of every 1000 farms getting foreclosed upon.

This of course was due to the bottom falling out of the farm economy when World War I suddenly ended in November of 1918, and America shifted to an isolationist stance after the

Armistace.

The decade of the 1920's also saw the last decade that rural population was bigger than urban population, as the rural population was moving to the towns and cities for work.

In our part of Ohio, the farms in 1926 raised a little bit of everything, including

(Continued on Page 10)

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Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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March 11 - 17

*Up from the sea the wild
north wind is blowing
Under the sky's gray arch;
Smiling, I watch the shaken
elm-boughs, knowing
It is the wind of March.*

John Greenleaf Whittier

Phases of the Red-Winged Blackbird Moon And the Robin Chorus Moon

March 11: The Moon enters its final quarter.
March 18: The Robin Chorus Moon is new
March 25: The Moon enters its second quarter.
March 31: The Moon is full.

The Stars: Arch: Second Quarter

By ten o'clock tonight, the spring stars are taking over the sky. The fertile planting constellation of Cancer is almost overhead between Pollux and Regulus. Hydra follows at its heels. May's Virgo approaches along the southeast horizon. The Big Dipper swings deeper into the southern sky. When you get up before dawn to do your chores and check on the kids, you will see the sky the way it will be on a late evening in July. There will be no sign of winter's Orion. In his place, directly overhead, Hercules will be stretching out his mighty arms. Arcturus, the planting star, will lie in the western sky, and Cygnus the Swan - the Northern Cross - will dominate the east. On the horizon, autumn's Great Square will be on the rise.

The Weather in the Week Ahead

March's second quarter brings one more major pivot in the year's weather patterns. The rate of spring's advance quickens, and odds for milder weather increasing with every sunrise. Chances of an afternoon above 50 degrees rise to 40 percent by the end of the week. The third cold wave of the month arrives on the 9th or 10th, but it is typically one of the mildest so far in the year. Frost strikes the early garden 60 percent of all the nights, however, and there is still a five to ten percent chance each day this week for a high only in the 20s. Odds for rain or snow are about one in three most days of the period; the 10th is the wettest day with a 50 percent chance of precipitation. But the sun typically shines a little more than it did last week, with the 14th and the 17th often producing fewer clouds than any time since January 26th through 28th.

The Natural Calendar

in the coldest years, pussy willows squeeze out by the first week of March. They open well before the weedy henbit, partial to around a dozen thaw days, maybe five or six afternoons in the upper 40s, one or two near 60, and about three warm rains. The catkins generally reach their prime when crocuses bloom, and woolly bear caterpillars come out from winter hibernation.

Pussy willow time is the time that clover and wild violet leaves start to grow; horseradish stretches out to an inch or two, and red rhubarb unfolds in the sun. Honeysuckle buds are unraveling on the lowest branches. Bleeding hearts are pushing their heads from the ground as daylilies reach to the top of your boots, and white snow trillium blossoms appear in the bottomlands.

Earliest spring is over when the sleek pussy willow nubs flush with pollen, almost always a week or ten days after equinox, just after forsythia and box elders, spring beauties, violet cress, bloodroot, hepatica and twinleaf come into flower. Horseradish and comfrey shoots are two inches long, raspberry leaves the size of honeybees.

The catkins start to drop the first week in April, falling for a week and a half until redbuds and cherry trees blossom. Then come bright blue squills, delicate yellow jonquils, then the full-size daffodils, then purple grape hyacinths, then pale wood hyacinths.

Pussy willow branches finally leaf out when daisies and bleeding hearts have buds, when tulips are in early full bloom, between the first asparagus and the first rhubarb pie.

Key to the Nation's March Weather

The typical March temperature at average elevations along the 40th Parallel, the average of the high of 48 and the low of 29, is 39 degrees. Using the following chart based on weather statistics from around the country, one can calculate approximate temperatures in other locations close to the cities listed.

For example, with the base of 39 you can estimate normal temperatures in Minneapolis by subtracting 11 degrees from the base average. Or add 13 degrees to find out the likely conditions in Atlanta during the month.

Fairbanks	-25
Minneapolis	-11
Cheyenne	-6
Portland	-6
Des Moines	-3
Chicago	-3

Average Along The 40Th Parallel: 39

New York	+2
St. Louis	+4
Washington DC	+6
Atlanta	+13
New Orleans	+22
Miami	+32

In the Field and Garden

Complete the spraying of fruit trees between March 13 and new moon, March 27. Spray with dormant oil when the temperature is expected to stay above 40 for 24 hours. Do late pruning on colder afternoons. Spread fertilizer, too. Cut off tips of young black raspberry branches and remove old canes.

Flower and garden shows take place in middle March; try to make time to visit one.

Countdown to Spring

- One week to the first wave of blooming woodland wildflowers and the very first cabbage white butterflies
- Two weeks until golden forsythia blooms in town and skunk cabbage sends out its first leaves in the wetlands
- Three weeks until the blooming of Middle Spring wildflowers in the woods
- Four weeks until American toads sing their mating songs in the night.
- Five weeks until the Great Dandelion and Violet Bloom begin
- Six weeks until azaleas and snowball viburnums and dogwoods bloom
- Seven weeks until iris and poppies and daisies come into flower
- Eight weeks until the beginning of clover bloom in yards and pastures
- Nine weeks until the first orange day lily flowers
- Ten weeks until roses bloom in town and thistles bud in the fields

Beekeeper's Almanac For Spring:

An interview with

Ohio beekeeper Brian Sterns

Brian Sterns started to experiment with bees in 1990. "I had one hive of bees for pollinating my vegetables crops that I sold at farmers markets," he says. "Eventually that one hive turned into a few more and a few more.

Then one day I had a hundred hives, then a hundred and fifty!"

He was a full-time beekeeper for five summers, and although his business never was as profitable as he wanted it to be, he learned important lessons during those years about the relationship between vegetables and bees, and between pastures and bees.

He also developed a personal schedule for bee husbandry, and his description of that routine provides wise reference for homesteaders and hobbyists alike

"Late winter and early spring get me out into the tool shed," says Brian. "This is the time to repair, build and paint bee equipment that will be needed for the upcoming season. When weather only gives a short window to work in, having all the equipment I need is the best thing I can do for the bees and me. Having clean and proper equipment also makes beekeeping much more enjoyable!"

Another of Brian's activities during this period is the preparation of pollen-bearing plants.

"In the spring in the greenhouse," he says, "I will be making perennial plant divisions of sedums, obedient plant, rudbeckia, poppies, chives, oreganos, mallows and various mints to be used as transplants into the field later in the summer.

"I will also be taking cuttings of roses, Russian sage, forsythia, viburnum, pussy willow, lavender and other flowering shrubs for fall planting and future bloom. I also start seeds of anise hyssop, Mexican sunflower, cleome, cosmos, and zinnia for transplanting into the field

(Continued on Page 7)

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You Will Have Trouble Words of Inspiration By Pastor Bill Holsopple

*"I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace.*

*In this world, you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome
the world."*

John 16: 33

How are you doing?

We ask and get asked that ques-
tion many times.

We often respond with words
like 'good,' 'okay,' or 'you don't
want to know.'

However, Jesus, through John,
is telling us that in this world, you
will have trouble, problems, pain,
and suffering.

Jesus was giving his disciples
an open invitation to let him know
what was going on in their lives.

He stated that in this life you will
have troubles, but I am the solution
to your problems.

And it is Jesus' peace that he is
giving them amidst whatever they
will face.

Jesus and the scriptures repeat-
edly speak into our brokenness
with hope for each day.

In Isaiah, we read: *"He gives
strength to the weary and increases
the power of the weak.*

*Even youths grow tired and
weary, and young men stumble and
fall; but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and not grow*

*weary; they will walk and not be
faint."* Isaiah 40:29-31

*Let us seek to have renewed life
in Jesus today.*

The Psalmist tells us: *"Be still,
and know that I am God."* Psalm
46:10

Stopping and being in his pres-
ence is not a waste of time but an
awareness of his presence near to
our weary, broken hearts.

*"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble."*
Psalm 46:1

His presence is with us in all that
we face.

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack
nothing.*

*He makes me lie down in green
pastures, he leads me beside quiet
waters, he refreshes my soul. He
guides me along the right paths for*

his name's sake.

*Even though I walk through the
darkest valley, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me, your rod and
your staff, they comfort me."* Psalm
23:1-4

If Jesus is leading us, then there
is nothing to fear; even the shadow
of death is in his control.

Jesus spoke about weariness in
scripture: *"Come to me, all you
who are weary and burdened, and
I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you and
learn from me, for I am gentle
and humble in heart, and you will
find rest for your souls."* Matthew
11:28-29

We are called to come to Jesus
with our problems, and he will ex-
change them for peace and rest.

On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus

walked with his two disciples who
were deeply grieved, and he opened
the scriptures to them.

He revealed himself that day by
breaking the bread, and he will
reveal himself to you today if you
open your heart. Read Luke 24:13-
35

Peter, one of the twelve, offers
this passage: *"Cast all your anxiety
on him because he cares for you."*
1 Peter 5:7

Weariness and anxiety are when
we focus on our problems more
than we focus on Him.

We need to change our perspec-
tive and look up.

Thomas Watson states it this
way: If God be our God, He will
give us peace in trouble.

When there is a storm without,
He will make peace within.

The world can create trouble in
peace, but God can create peace in
trouble.

In our brokenness and moments
of weariness, may these scriptures
and words of Jesus bring us peace
and hope as we meditate on them.

Be still before God in prayer, and
allow God's peace to take root in
your being.

My prayer is that these scriptures
and the presence of God through
Jesus will bring you peace in all
that you face.

FN



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1500 Center Street
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Farm and Field Report

Ohio Soybean Checkoff funded research, now and in the future

By Dusty Sonnenberg, CCA, Field Leader, a project of the Ohio Soybean Council and Soybean Checkoff

The Soybean Checkoff was formed as a part of the 1990 Farm Bill, and the Ohio Soybean Council was founded in 1991 to manage soybean promotion and research projects. For 35 years, those checkoff dollars have been farmer-directed to fund research projects helping growers improve production practices and increase yields. Today, that research is overseen by Taylor Dill. Dill began her role as the OSC Director of Research in January.

"I'm really excited to be here and get started working with Ohio farmers," Dill said.

Ongoing research funded by the checkoff is exploring planting practices, the use of new technologies, weed control, and disease management.

"My Ph.D. research project was a checkoff-funded program," Dill said. "It is called Battle for the Belt, Corn versus Soybeans. Which crop should be planted first? We have three locations across Ohio. One is in

Wood County, one is in Wayne County, and the third is in Clark County. In the study, we plant corn and soybeans on the exact same dates. We selected five planting dates each year for the past three years. 2025 was our wrap-up season.

"The main research question we are asking with planting date priority is which crop should be the priority if planting is delayed? Which crop can handle that delay the best? Which crop is going to have the least yield reduction, and possibly miss more stressors during the season? It factors in all those interactions," Dill said.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has quickly become a part of daily life. It is also being investigated and applied to production agriculture.

"Dr. Scott Shearer is focusing on AI and using data sets to identify soybean crop stressors and look at cost-effective mitigation of that stress," Dill said. "He uses compilations of data to be able to accomplish that. I think it is really encouraging that they are building data sets that are applicable to us and that are useful to production agriculture."

New drone technologies

with aerial imagery are being used to provide input. This can help farmers answer one of the most difficult questions they face annually when making replant decisions.

"This is a project I know pretty intimately because I worked on it as a Ph.D. student," Dill said. "When we look at soybean replanting, we want to have uniformity. A newly emerged soybean population can be low, but if you have uniformity, then the farmer does not need to replant. Unfortunately, uniformity is not well defined. What is the perfect measurement between plants? These are questions we do not know the answer to. With the use of drones, the idea is to map out the field, analyze the population and plant spacing, and give a recommendation on replant decisions."

Developing those recommendations requires extensive field-level data and precise measurements.

"The researchers were literally on their hands and knees measuring the inches in between soybean plants to be able to feed the AI and tell it how to measure uniformity within the soybeans," Dill said. "It is amazing to consider all the

back-end computer work they need to do to look at all their pictures and make sure it is correctly identifying a soybean and that it is not identifying a weed. It is impressive, and a lot goes into it. The AI also must learn what the bean looks like."

The goal is to move that detailed research into practical, in-season tools for farmers.

"These images and models are important so that when a soybean plant is competing with a ragweed early in the season, and we fly a drone over it, the AI knows which is which," Dill said. "They are teaching what the soybean looks like. This is how far apart we want them to be. If they're not this far apart, then the farmer should consider replanting the field. I think it is an exciting and useful tool that they are going to develop with this research."

Soybean cyst nematode

remains one of the most significant yield-limiting pests for Ohio soybean growers.

"OSU Extension Soybean Pathologist and Nematologist, Dr. Horacio Lopez-Nicora, has a SCN mapping project he is currently working on," Dill said. "Thanks to funding from the Ohio Soybean Council through the soybean checkoff, Ohio soybean growers can get a free soybean cyst nematode sample. Dr. Lopez-Nicora's lab will analyze the sample for SCN and give you an egg count for your field. The locations are mapped so we can better understand the levels of soybean cyst nematode across the state and be able to mitigate their risk at the farm level. This research project gives us really valuable information and will help guide us on where we should put further research within soybean cyst nematodes."

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Almost as Good

Graybeard Outdoors

by ol' Graybeard

As a farm boy growing up in the 50's and 60's, it was no mean feat to start out across the countryside and shoot a pheasant or two.

The birds were plentiful because the agricultural practices of the day were conducive to maintaining a good population of native birds.

What was different then?

Well, farmers farmed fields that were about 20 acres each.

Most were separated by fence rows that grew up brushy and weedy.

The pheasants nested and loafed in these fence rows that bordered corn, beans and clover fields.

Naturally, they strolled out a couple of times every day and feasted upon the grain and seeds, then retreated to the fence rows for cover and safety.

The DDT nightmares of those decades wiped out most of the hawks and owls, there were no coyotes in northwestern Ohio and the many raccoon hunters kept the numbers of those predators way down.

Therefore a pheasant on the nest could feel reasonably safe.

back in the 50's and 60's, there were many stone roads.

How does that benefit pheasants you ask?

The birds picked up grit for their craws so they could grind and digest the food they had just gleaned.

Plus, there were not nearly as many people in those long-gone days.

Population experts estimate that there were only about 50% as many people in Ohio as there are now.

This is easy for me to believe.

Just take a look around then next time you drive through the countryside.

There are very few remaining fence rows, almost every woods has at least one house in it, and the stone roads are gone with the wind.

It's no wonder that the birds prefer South Dakota where the nearest neighbor might be 10 miles away.

I am definitely a cat lover, but I also realize that the population of feral cats has increased exponentially.

Combine that with the increase in coyotes into all 88 counties, the population explosion among raccoons [hardly anyone hunts them anymore], and you have greatly increased depredation on nesting hens and eggs.

The blizzards of 1977-78 may have put the finish to the pheasants and the quail, but the population of birds already was on a downward spiral.

So, what is an aspiring pheasant hunter to do?

This ol' farm boy made a few journeys out to South Dakota, shot quite a few pheasants

and had the time of my life.

At times, the weather wasn't bad, however, sometimes it was downright cold, snowy and windy.

But, since we had driven hundreds of miles, spent the cash for gas, food, shells, dog food and lodging – we went hunting anyway and about froze our aspirations off.

Regardless of what Mother Nature threw at us, we still had good times.

Being retired and on an STRS pension, frequent trips out west are not likely to happen anymore.

Plus, my old legs probably would give out long before my desire to hunt ever dimmed.

However, believe it or not, I've found a satisfactory alternative.

For the past 2 or 3 years I have been visiting some hunting "preserves" with a couple of friends.

A typical scenario looks like this.

Richard, who is a former Alaskan bush pilot and hunting guide calls either Jim or me with news that he has reserved a field for one morning or afternoon.

This gets my blood pumping.

On the appointed day, we load up shotguns, ammo, snacks, water, hunting gear, and most importantly...the dogs.

Most of the preserves we have hunted have been working farms which pen raise birds that they release on the day of the hunt.

So far we have hunted Mapleglen Farms near West Alexandria, Elkhorn Lake Hunt Club near Bucyrus, and Clay's Pheasant Ridge near Fostoria.

All of them offer top notch hunting opportunities at reasonable prices.

We arrive, release the dogs which hunt, locate and point to the birds.

They flush and we shoot them... perhaps I should say, we shoot at them.

No, these are not wild birds, but on the wing they exhibit every bit of the aerial maneu-

vers for which their breed is known.

It requires a quick and steady hand and eye coordination to bring them down.

When a good shot is made we congratulate each other.

When we miss, we make jokes and get ready for the next shot.

Easily half of the fun of the hunt is watching some good dogs at work.

Richard has a wonderful pair of Red Pointing Labs named Hoss and Slim.

I didn't even know that this breed existed until I began hunting with him.

Those boys are definitely fun to watch.

Like any well trained bird dogs, they quarter in front of us, don't get too far ahead, remain steady on the point and eagerly retrieve and deliver any downed birds.

Their antics give us plenty of opportunities for a chuckle or a laugh.

Our weapons?

If we hunt quail, Jim and I carry lightweight, short barreled 20 gauge over and under shotguns with #7 1/2 shot – Mine is an SKB imported by Ithaca and Jim's is made by Ruger.

Richard carries a light-

weight Franchi Instinct over/under in 28 gauge which he handles very well.

For pheasants we might switch to a 16 gauge or a 12.

Jim sticks with his 20 gauge o/u, but switches to a heavier shot.

These guns seem to be more than adequate for the upland hunting that we do.

No, this is not like the old days, but consider this.

We do not have to spend a couple of days in a truck traveling to South Dakota and our expenses are greatly reduced.

Plus, as renowned as the hunting is out west, there's always a chance of driving all the way out there and learning that some natural disaster has wiped out most of the birds.

If the weather forecast looks pretty dismal for our designated hunting day in Ohio, we just call in and reschedule.

It is not a hit or miss hunt.

We know the birds will be there.

Still there is a challenge since it is up to us to hit them when they flush.

No, it is not the same as the old days, but for this old broken down pheasant hunter, it's pretty doggone good.

John Bennett is an outdoor writer from Lima, Ohio. He's a retired educator and a historical re-enactor. Graybeard is his "camp name." In addition, he's a husband, father and grandfather, as well as a four-season outdoorsman. FN



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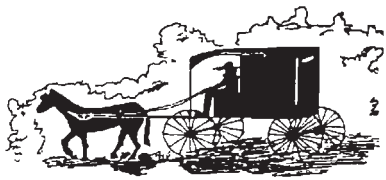
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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Heavy Hearts

I glanced around the circle of friends and family gathered inside the white fence.

There were many I knew, and many I did not.

We had all come on behalf of Uncle Marcus who, after two and a half years of battle with leukemia, went on to his home in heaven.

Our hearts were especially tender toward his sweet wife, their eight children, and eleven grandchildren.

The sun shone soothingly on that February afternoon in Pennsylvania.

As we sang that first song of heaven, I heard someone whisper, "There's an eagle!"

I glanced up into the brilliant blue sky and caught my breath — it was real.

Overhead, a large bald eagle circled around and around.

No other bird in the universe grips my attention like this majestic species.

In those rare opportunities of watching them, my heart is stirred to mount up, to rise above the storms of life and, like the eagle, keep soaring higher as predators flock in.

More songs of heaven were sung as family and friends tenderly covered the grave of a dear person whose quiet kindness had touched many lives.

At fourteen years old, I had visited their family in Haiti, where they served for five years — a trip that left a deep impression on my

young mind.

A number of years later, we asked Marcus to preach at our wedding.

Now I pondered how he is safe with our Maker, with perfect understanding of all the mysteries of Christ and the depth of His holiness.

There was a closing prayer and a final song.

I was touched as Marcus' grandchildren and some of the children placed white carnations, roses, and lilies onto the grave.

Marcus' youngest son especially touched deep chords in me, as he is close to my oldest son Austin's age. I felt for him from the bottom of my heart — and then I thought of how God has been a father to Austin in a very real way.

Yes, He would be that for all others who carry that missing space in their lives and trust in Him as their Father.

Afterward, I was chatting with Cousin Bethany, who had done all she could to research what might be done for her father's leukemia.

I loved listening to her and her sisters and in-laws as they shared bits of their journey through those final days and years.

I was all ears as Anita, the oldest daughter — who had a two-and-a-half-week-old baby — told the story of a song that had spoken to their hearts at the very beginning of her dad's cancer journey.

On those first trips to Pittsburgh to see the doctor, their driver would play

a CD with the song "*The Holy Hills of Heaven Call Me*."

She shared how much that song had meant to them, how they had wanted to learn it as a family, but had never been able to find a copy of the words.

Then today, a young minister rose to his feet to offer encouragement and share the good news of Jesus with the 675 people attending the funeral.

Imagine how the family felt when he proceeded to read aloud the words to that very song — not knowing how they had treasured it throughout their painful journey.

"And that third verse," Anita exclaimed softly, "it says, *I'll take my flight like a mighty eagle*."

Together we marveled. "The God who brought that song — and that eagle this afternoon — will take care of all of us," I said in awe.

Together we made our way back to the community building, where trays of food had been prepared.

As I was finishing my plate of scalloped potatoes, lettuce salad, cupcakes, and mixed fruit, I felt beyond blessed when a widow came and sat across the table from me.

The glory of the Lord shone from her countenance as she freely shared of the marvelous provision of her heavenly Father since her husband had passed.

My heart was encouraged anew — yes, God is good.

May we seek His face

Recipe Of The Week

Crispy Orange Chicken and Rice

1-1/2 cups uncooked rice-water and salt for rice, according to package directions
14-oz. frozen chicken nuggets, tenders or chunks
1-2 large oranges zested then juiced with pulp

2 tablespoons soy sauce
1/4 cup white or rice vinegar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 1 tablespoon water

Cook the rice and put the chicken nuggets in the oven, each according to their package directions.

In a medium saucepan, mix orange juice, orange zest, soy sauce, vinegar, brown sugar and garlic powder; bring to a boil over low heat, then lower temperature a bit.

Mix in cornstarch slurry; cook until sauce coats the back of a spoon.

Remove from heat; cover with lid until rice and chicken nuggets are ready; divide rice onto plates, top with sauce and chicken.

and open our hearts to Him, so He can fill us with more abundant life in Him!

Later, my brother Jeriah shared how he had watched that eagle as we sang the final song.

By then, most of us had long since lost sight of it — it had become the faintest speck in the sky, still climbing upward.

Friends, let us take the hardships that come against us as the current that will raise us up and up, ever closer to our Father who has provided a way for each one of us.

Hallelujah!

Classic Scalloped Potatoes

6 cups sliced potatoes (about 1/4-inch thick)
6 tablespoons butter
4 heaping tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
4 cups half and half (or 4 cups whole milk)

Tony Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning or paprika

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Coat a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray.

Slice potatoes and set aside.

In a large soup pot, melt butter on medium heat, then use a wire whisk to stir in flour.

Add salt and pepper, then slowly pour in half and half, still using wire whisk to ensure a smooth consistency with few lumps.

Allow sauce to heat up and gently simmer, then add the potatoes.

When sauce is just starting to boil, pour mixture into prepared pan.

Sprinkle top with either Tony Chachere's seasoning or paprika.

(The creole seasoning adds a nice sprinkling of flavor, though the paprika will still give it an appealing color.)

Cover top with foil and bake for about 40 to 45 minutes, until potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork.

This is delicious with any kind of meat, or can even be prepared with diced ham for a complete meal.

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427.

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ALMANACK

(Continued From Page 2)

in early summer.”

After the weather moderates a little, it's time to get to work with the bees themselves.

“When the outside temperature reaches 55 degrees,” Brian says, “I open the hives for a quick inspection.

I first check to see how many frames the cluster occupies in the hive.

I then check for eggs in the cells. If I find eggs, I am pretty sure that the queen is alive.

“If the cluster is small or queenless, I may unite them with another hive for their survival.

If a dead or queenless colony is found, I consider ordering replacements from bee suppliers as soon as possible: those folks often sell out quickly in the spring.”

Throughout the late winter and early spring month, Brian keeps an eye on what is blooming.

“The early pollen and nectar plants I look for in our area of southwestern Ohio are maple trees, pussy willows, crocus, daffodils and chickweed.

All of them can bloom in an early warm spell, some years as early as February here.

This can help the bees get an early start but freezes and frosts can damage or kill this bloom, and I may need to step in and feed the bees.”

Journal

Early in my life I thought I was a great adventurer. As a young teenager, I wandered alone in the woods with a slingshot, later with a .22, hunting and exploring.

One day, though, I got lost in a familiar woodlot during a snowstorm; I panicked, suddenly learning the familiar could disappear in minutes, tracks could be covered, and shapes could be transformed.

Since then, I often find I like the worn paths better.

Every day, I walk the alley near my house, wondering what will be different and what will be the same.

I think about what changes I may be missing and

even what the purpose of my observations might be.

I assume there is something to resolve, some puzzle to solve.

There could be an ulterior purpose for these walks, I tell myself, either far off in heaven or deep in my fears or limbic ancestry.

I continue to walk and repeat my route and walk and repeat as though I knew, knowing that I do not know and may never uncover the answer.

Whatever my motivation, repetition is secure retreat, wise rest, cheering mantra, anchor in space and time.

Repetition is the way home, and I return to same places over and over, sometimes repeating the same words or prayers to myself, looking in the same corners for things that happened years ago, listening for the sounds that come back each season, watching the sun's identical movements in the shadows of the .

**ALMANACK
LITERATURE*****Shamefaced!*****By Luella Franck
St. Henry, OH**

I am in my 80s, and this happened in the 1930s when I was a young girl.

My mother was using an old black wood stove, and then she got this nice cream-colored wood stove trimmed in green with a warming oven on top. She was so proud of it.

And, as it was my night to do the dishes, the rest of the family left for the living room.

We had a big family, and there were lots of dishes.

I wasn't too happy.

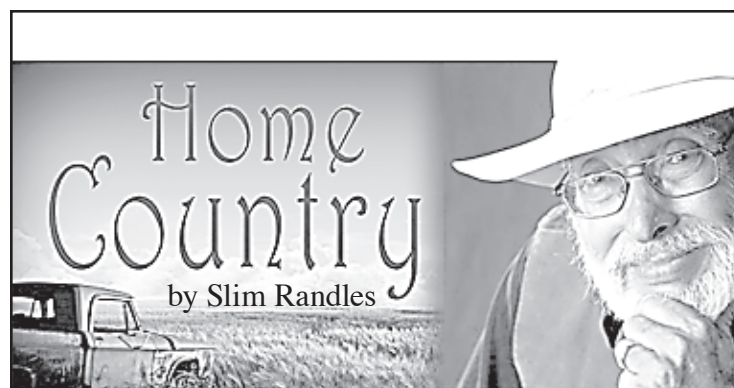
I stood in front of the oven door with my back up against it.

I kept raising and lowering the door, and then I slipped and broke the door off.

Being shamefaced, I took it and showed it to my mother and dad, expecting the worst.

But luckily, it was still under warranty.

Follow the month of March in Bill Felker's Day-took for the Year, available from Amazon. FN



We knew it was coming when Bert came into the Mule Barn truck stop the other day.

He took his usual stool at the philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank, where he reigns as Cutting Edge Technology Advisor to the board of directors.

It was that glint in his eye that gave it away.

“Hi Bert.”

“Hi Doc.”

Say, isn't this a beautiful day?

It's 32 out there.”

“Doesn't seem that cold,” said Steve, our resident cowboy, who tends to look at everything from the back of a horse.

“Oh, not 32 degrees, dear friend ...”

Dear friend?

We're in for it... but 32 inches of mercury in the barometer.

Winds are calm.

Sun is shining.

No chance of snow.”

“You have a barometer?”

“Oh yeah.

You can't always depend on the TV weather guy, you know.

You see, it's not just where the barometer is that tells you what the weather's like, but it's where it is now in relation to where it was before.

That's what they call the trend.”

“Heard that word before,” said Doc.

“It's scientific.

Got a book about it the other day.

Maizie picked it up at the library.

You see, to the layman, the world outside looks kinda nice, doesn't it?

Sunshine, no wind.

Looks like a beautiful

day.

But to the expert ... to the meteorologist ... that's just the start.

Oh yes.

He'll look outside at the beautiful weather, but he realizes it's simply a precursor to the weather we'll have tomorrow.

He'll know, you see, from how the mercury is responding in the glass ... we call the barometer a glass ... what kind of weather to expect tomorrow.

That's what sets us apart from other people.”

“Because you read a book?”

“... And I have my weather station ... yes.”

“So what kinda weather is coming tomorrow, Bert?”

“Oh ... 'bout like today.”

“So the barometer told you that?”

Bert looked a little sheepish.

“I didn't have time to figure it out.

Heard it on the news.”

Brought to you by “I Honked My Horse But The Tree Didn't Hear,” coming as soon as I can find the right publisher.

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Stryker FFA Members Visit Maple Farm



Stryker FFA members collecting maple sap - (Left to right) - Easton Price, Ayden Rodriguez, Camden Boggess, Maci Beck, Addalee Fulk, Morgan Beck, Peityn Crosser, Jaiden Palmer, Kynzie Drewes, Cooper Stuckey, Austin Werts, Joe Denison, Michael Damms, Hunter Lasley, and Dean Shindledecker



Students in the boiling room



Students learning about the evaporator

Stryker FFA Reporter

Seventeen Stryker FFA members enjoyed visiting Mike Fraley's maple farm in Montpelier on March 3, 2026. Students learned how trees are tapped and spiles are placed in trees to collect sap into collection bags.

Students helped collect sap bags from trees and then learned about the several filters that are used including a reverse osmosis system.

There must be 250 gallons of sap collected before Mr. Fraley's evaporator can be started.

The sap enters the evaporator where water is evaporated out of the sap at a speed of 60 gallons of water per hour.

The sap is boiled until it becomes syrup; students were amazed to learn that it takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.

Everyone had fun and enjoyed tasting fresh maple syrup with strawberries.

Thank you Mr. Fraley for having Stryker FFA come learn about how to make maple syrup and Mr. Arnos for taking us! FN



Hunter, Dean & Michael enjoy tasting maple syrup and strawberries

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Good News on the Supreme Court and Tariffs

"Some people like to look at white and call it black."
Vern Brown.

Good News In 2025

by Vern Brown

Recently there was a big hullabaloo in the press about a Supreme Court decision that struck down this administration's use of tariffs as a tool to influence trade negotiations and raise revenue.

The Main Stream Media just can't resist any opportunity possible to paint this administration as incompetent and constantly losing battles in its' attempts to reform the current economic world order.

This is a classic example of how completely twisted this whole narrative has become and how the truth quickly gets lost in media froth.

First point: These guys in the current administration are really really smart, amazingly so.

I have degrees in Law and International Economics so I am fairly well qualified to have an opinion.

And I am constantly struck by the incredibly sophisticated legal strategy that has been employed in the trade arena.

Make no mistake, the current administration is breaking all the rules of international trade that everyone previously assumed could never be broken.

I was educated that tariffs were bad and lead to bad economic consequences.

And everyone I went to school with learned the exact same thing.

I admit that I was very suspicious when this administration pursued this complex tariff strategy.

Their goal was simple

and straightforward:

Use tariffs to rebuild the industrial base of the US economy and also to collect huge amounts of revenue.

To do this, the USA had to act like a bit of a bully.

Knowing that every country in the world wanted access to the lucrative US market (the USA buys about 25% of everything in the world), every country must PAY for the PRIVILEGE of selling their products in the USA.

So the administration immediately started slapping all kinds of tariffs on every country in the world to force these objectives.

If tariffs were too high for a company to sell their products in the USA, then the only alternative was to START MAKING THAT PRODUCT IN THE USA.

The tariffs forced all kinds of companies to switch production to the USA.

And switch they did.

In the past 12 months, foreign companies have announced over 6.1 TRILION DOLLARS in planned investments to produce their products in the USA.

That compares to \$160 billion in the previous year.

Point: The tariff strategy was wildly successful at rebuilding the USA industrial manufacturing base.

What about the second goal of collecting revenue?

Again, the tariffs are a big success.

Before the Supreme Court decision, somewhere around \$175 Billion dollars had been collected under the new tariffs.

Add to that the money collected under the other tariffs (around \$90 billion) and we see the USA collecting \$264 billion in tariffs in the past year or so.

So what about that Supreme Court decision that the press touted as such a huge loss for this administration?

It's actually just the opposite of what everyone is hearing in the media.

First, tariffs are collected under SEVERAL different legal authorities.

The three big ones are the IEEPA (International Emergency Economic Powers Act), Section 232, and Section 301.

The Supreme Court only struck down the tariffs collected under the IEEPA, but left untouched the tariffs collected under Section 232 and Section 301.

About 60% of the tariffs collected were IEEPA tariffs, the other 40% were under Section 232 and Section 301.

So to replace the tariffs lost under IEEPA, the administration could fall back on the other two tariff statutes and continue on with its long term goals.

Which of course it did, immediately.

This administration was clever.

They knew that collect-

ing tariffs under IEEPA was a roll of the dice.

No one had ever tried to use IEEPA in such a broad fashion.

And they expected it to be challenged in court.

And they knew that they stood a 50/50 chance of losing in court.

Which is exactly what happened.

They lost.

But they also knew that the tariff authority under Sections 232 and 301 had already been litigated extensively in the courts and it was well decided that the administration had the authority to impose tariffs under these laws.

The kicker was that they knew it would take at least a year for the law suits move through the courts and in the meantime, they could use the IEEPA tariffs to both negotiate trade deals with foreign countries and also collect a whole lot of

revenue.

The administration gambled that foreign countries would try to get their best deals negotiated and in place before this court decision.

And win or lose, these countries would want to KEEP those deals in place, rather than risk a worse deal under Sections 232 and 301.

This is exactly what happened.

IEEPA was struck down by the Supreme Court.

The administration immediately replaced the IEEPA tariffs with Section 232 and 301 tariffs. And all our trading partners lined up immediately to beg to keep the deals they already had negotiated in place.

And so, regarding the Supreme Court and tariffs, white is actually white, not black.

Vern Brown is a 6th generation farmer from Jonesville, Michigan. He resides on the family farm which was homesteaded by his family in 1835. His current projects are centered around export of live breeding cattle to Africa and Eastern Europe.

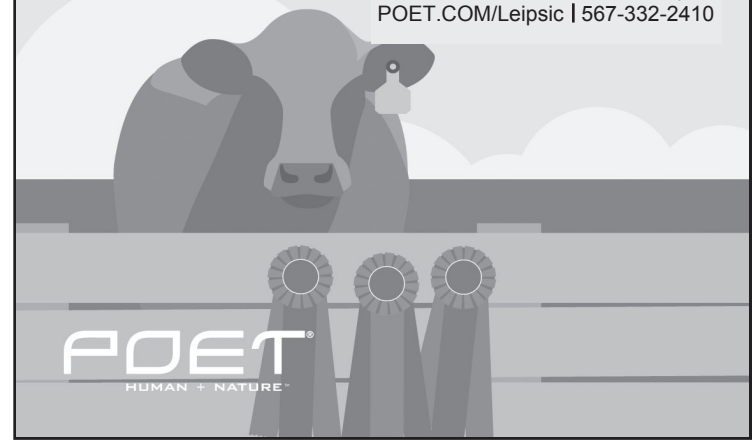
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Education for most farm boys ended at the 8th grade, as they went to work on the farm, while the girls stayed in school to earn a high school diploma.

There were no "safety net" programs for farms in 1926, one either made it living on the farm, or lost it.

Government was a true laissez-faire form of government, with the thinking being the less intervention, the better.

Farming in 1926 was hard work, literally almost everything was done by hand, from planting to harvest, working from sun up to sun down, then having to do livestock chores twice a day at some point before the sun came up and the sun went down.

There was no such thing as hybrid seed corn, or weed spray to get crops off to a good start, or a combine to harvest in the fall, or a semi to haul the grain from the field to the elevator.

Crop storage was on the farm, with corn cribs and bins holding the harvest.

Even something as simple as hay and straw storage was intensive hand labor.

The hay was piled loose in large mows in the barn using hay slings and a hay trolley system in the very peak of barns.

Straw was piled in huge



The International 2166 combine is headed to the field.

stacks just outside of the barns, where it could be utilized for animal bedding during the winter months.

Plowing, as in moldboard plowing, was the norm in 1926, with the plow often turning under the first crop of weeds to sprout in the spring.

Working down ground with literal horsepower was next, followed by a horse drawn planter, then a horse drawn cultivator and hand hoeing by the farmer and family all summer long

until the crop was ripe and ready for harvest.

The work year was broken up with some acres planted to wheat, oats and hay, due to those harvest times being the summer months.

Those who raised sugar beets, usually harvested before the corn was stacked into shocks in the fall.

Yields were often in just double digits, and prices were not much better.

(Continued on Page 11)

FARMING

(Continued From Page 1)

corn, wheat, oats, hay, potatoes and sugar beets.

Almost every farm raised livestock, including dairy cows, beef cattle, hogs and sheep, plus they had a flock

of chickens for eggs and meat.

Farm families also raised large vegetable gardens, canning and preserving the produce for the long winter months, and to stay away from "store boughten" produce.

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FARMING

(Continued From Page 10)

The main way a farmer would realize much, if any profit was by running the grain through livestock first, much like farming ancestors used to haul corn to market in a jug...

Things such as no-till, or Roundup, Liberty Link, Banvel, or commercial fertilizer were unheard of.

As were things such as:

- chisel plows
- air planters
- combines
- corn pickers
- semis
- grain trucks
- skid loaders
- air conditioned cabs

Even if these things were available, few could afford the cost of the items.

2026

Fast forward 100 years... 2026 sees gasoline at \$2.99 per gallon, diesel fuel close to the \$4.00 mark.

New cars are \$25,000 on up.

Farm tractor manufacturers are led by CNH and John Deere, with very few other companies nipping at

their heels.

Horses are something one bets on at the county fairs.

The average 2026 farm size in Ohio, with roughly 13.6 million tillable acres, is 180 acres, but as most sadly realize, that will not sufficiently provide a living for a family.

Even a 500 acre farm is barely enough to make it, unless dairy cows are involved, or the land is already paid for.

In this day and age, in order to afford to farm, farmers have second jobs.

Property taxes have gone from the \$3.35 for an entire 80 acre farm to \$4,400 for an annual tax.

This has turned some farmers heads to think they don't really "own" the land, they are just renting it from the government.

For the most part, crops raised in 2026 include soybeans, corn and wheat.

A few raise hay, even fewer raise oats, and livestock raising has been turned into large CAFO operations, with a lot less farmers for the most part, contract raising hogs, chickens, turkeys



An oldie but goodie can get the job done.



Another field is done, on to the next one.

to make a profit.

Backyard chicken flocks are a thing of the past, as are vegetable gardens, unless one counts a half dozen tomato plants planted beside the barn as a "garden".

Farming has certainly evolved on the labor front though, the days of manual labor from sun up to sun down are replaced by hands that never touch a pitchfork, or hoe.

However hands are used to touch a steering wheel and a push button, steering the tractor or sprayer, then pushing a button to spread fertilizer and kill weeds.

Huge, mammoth pieces of farm machinery now grace farm fields, from tractors on tracks, to 150 foot

wide sprayers, to combines with 12 row headers and grain heads so big they have to be placed on a trailer to be taken to the next field.

Education

Agriculture Education

(Continued on Page 12)



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FARMING

(Continued From Page 11)

has really changed in a 100 years, as high school diplomas are the norm now, and a 4 year Ag-Business degree is the way to get back to the family farm... along with connections made at the university level to line up potential investors in farmland to have some land

to farm as opposed to buying it.

The quickest way for someone to get involved in farming today is to simply "marry the farmer's daughter", and hope the old farmer gives you the land and machinery "scot free".

Land prices are simply off the grid, as anything that can be purchased for under \$10,000 an acre means you

stole it, and anything above that means your pencil, or equity in other land, better be pretty sharp to make cash flow.

Grain yields and prices are better in 2026 than 1926, yields are measured in triple digits now, and prices a bit better, the last couple of years however have seen a return to running corn through livestock to make a decent profit, especially with feeder steers now.

Even the government has stepped in, providing a "safety net" for farmers to ensure that they at least break even, as opposed to going under financially.

Even farmers who used to raise hay and straw, have watched the invention of small square balers get replaced with round balers and large square balers, as nobody wants to stack small squares on a wagon anymore, or God forbid, go up into a haymow in the barn and sweat a little bit...

Moldboard plowing and working ground is almost a thing of the past,

It has been replaced by

(Continued on Page 13)



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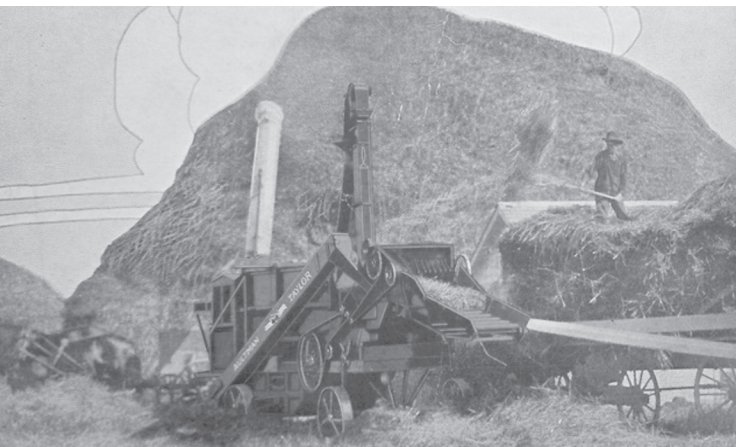


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Planting some tomatoes on the George Freytag farm in Napoleon in the early 1940's



Threshing wheat with an Aultmann Taylor Thresher.



Cousins standing by newly threshed wheat straw pile 1940's L-R:
Richard Brandt
Mary (Shibler) Grime
Helen (Shibler) Newcomer
Mildred (Brandt) Fry



Horses are hitched-ready for field work on the George Freytag farm.



Albert Brandt, planting in the spring with 2 horse power in the the 1930's.

FARMING

(Continued From Page 12)

a 3 step (or 4) farming process of:

- 1) Spray
- 2) Plant
- 3) Harvest
- 4) Sometimes a 4th step called FLORIDA thrown in for good measure.

Hybrid seed has evolved

from seed labs, and commercial fertilizer and herbicides have taken the yields to those 3 digit yield numbers now, eliminating the cultivator and the hoe.

Farming in the last 100 years has done an almost complete 180 degree turn around, even farm heirs can't wait to get their greedy, grubby hands on farmland

in order to turn it into money.

Thomas Jefferson envisioned a nation of small farmers 250 years ago, but at the current pace now, it looks like the "Walmarting" of American agriculture is running the little farmer guy out of business.

Sam Hatcher is a freelance writer who grew up on a farm south of Napoleon and still farms there with his brother. He now lives near Cecil and has retired from teaching at Paulding High School. FN



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Memories of Butchering Days

By Lori Wachtman

It's February and in the late 1800's and early 1900's it was the time when most German immigrant families in Northwest Ohio would begin their butchering days, preparing and preserving meat for the year ahead.

Some of the meat would be smoked, some cured, some layered in crocks, some canned and in later years frozen.

Some would be made into:

- "Mettwurst" (summer sausage)
- "Bratwurst" (brats)
- "Bregenwurst" (brain sausage)
- "Blutwurst" (blood pudding)
- "Sulze" (souse or head-cheese)
- "Schweinswurst" (pork sausage)
- "Liverwurst" (liver sausage)

Hams and bacon would be smoked and cured, as well as dried beef made, all these goodies that were looked forward to in those early months of the new year when the temperatures were just right for "Butchering Days".

In the week leading up to butchering time, the steer would be killed and hung in the barn to keep the meat cold at least 4 to 5 days before.



Butchering knives and the "Famous 3-Tine Fork" ... aNecessity.

fore.

This would stretch the muscle fibers out to make the meat tender.

A pan would be put under the steer to catch the blood to be used for making blood pudding.

(Nowadays most families take the steer and hog to the slaughterhouse to be killed and skinned until they are ready to prepare the meat.)

The hogs would be killed a day or two before they

were ready to be processed and also were hung in the barn in the cold.

As our forefathers would say in regards to the hogs "...everything is used but the squeal".

Once the meat had hung for the allotted time it was then taken down and usually moved to the summer kitchen of the homestead to be cut and prepared.

Before electricity, hand saws were used to cut the quarters apart and even today hand saws still play an

important part in separating the primal cuts of the animals.

With electricity came the use of meat saws to saw the

quarters into steaks, roasts, briskets and other wonderful cuts.

The hams and the pork butts were removed from the hogs to be cured and smoked, as was the rib sections for bacon.

A lot of times, with the steers the eye of round would be saved to be cured and smoked then dried and thinly sliced for dried beef.

Cuts of meats were reserved to make the many different types of sausages the families enjoyed, as well as meat to be ground for hamburger and pork sausage.

Liver was kept for either liver sausage or to be eaten later...nothing was wasted.

Once the meat was cut off of each quarter of the animal, the bones and some organs were saved to be cooked in large kettles to make prettles on the final day of butchering time.

"Butchering Saturday" is

(Continued on Page 15)



A dying art - twisting the bratwurst into links.



The old fashioned lard press.

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Hand held hog scrapers, another necessity.



Prettles, perfectly crisp and ready to eat.



The fires are lit under the large butchering kettles, all set to go

MEMORIES

(Continued From Page 14)

the final day of the 2 or 3 days of butchering time.

Time for the final preparations, for the making of prettles and sausages, of rendering lard and other wonderful delights to be stored for the upcoming months.

Come Saturday morning, in the quiet of the early morning, before the sun

peeks over the eastern horizon, the men of the family would arise to begin filling the large kettles with water and lighting the fires under the large butchering kettles before 6 am..

Most kettles will hold between 80 to 100 gals of water, some will hold 50 gallons, and most families' kettles are between 100 and 150 years old if you are still fortunate to have them.

Some kettles have jackets

around them with the fires underneath. however some were suspended from a 3 pole tripod by a chain with the fire underneath.

Prettles in Northwest Ohio are well loved by most with a German heritage background.

They are similar to Scrapple and Pon hoss of the Pennsylvania Dutch or Goetta, but where one might have liver in it and thickening using flour and cornmeal etc. - prettles do not.

Prettles consist of the beef and pork cooked off of the bones in large kettles outside over an open fire.

The meat is then picked off the bones once it has cooled down, and run thru a grinder.

Pin oats that have been cooked in the broth from the kettles and salt and pepper are mixed into the meat.

Some families prefer to use allspice as an added seasoning.

Once all has been mixed together it is then packed into pans to let set.

Once the pans are set, the prettles are put into portions and frozen to be enjoyed at a later day.

Prettles are fried slowly to almost a crisp when prepared to be eaten.

Some families eat them for breakfast, some for lunch or dinner time.

Other families eat them as a side, some enjoy them with bread, butter and molasses and some with bread and apple butter with the prettles on top of the sandwich, each family has their own preference.

Summer sausage would be made to each family's favorite ratio of beef and pork then stuffed into beef cas-

ings (nowadays some use artificial casings), closed with a nail, then tied with a string, poked with a 3 tine fork, and then hung from boards to be smoked in the smokehouse (or nowadays some use liquid smoke).

Bratwurst is mixed together using the family's favorite ratio of pork and beef and then stuffed into hog casings.

Some bratwurst links are kept fresh and are frozen, some are canned to be eaten with eggs and pancakes.

Brain sausage is made, using a mixture of beef and

pork, pin oats, pork brains that have been cleaned, onions and salt and pepper then stuffed into hog casings to be tied with baler twine and cooked for exactly 12 minutes in the large kettles of broth, before being removed to lay on paper to cool.

In the coming months those who love it will enjoy eating it with a meal of sauerkraut and mashed potatoes.

Whole hog sausage is stuffed in to hog casing to

(Continued on Page 16)

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“Kettles with jackets” ... now days the kettles are used for flower pots or scrpped.

MEMORIES

(Continued From Page 15)

be smoked and later to enjoy.

The fat that has been trimmed off of the hogs is either finely cut up or run thru the grinder to be cooked down and run thru a “lard press” to separate the cracklins’ from the liquid.

The liquid is then either put into containers to be frozen or canned and used in such wonderful goodies as sugar cookies, fried

cakes, pie crusts, and German style coffeecake (kaf-feekuchen).

In the “olden days” especially on Saturday’s butchering time, noon meals were a big affair for all the people helping.

My husband and his siblings remember gathering at his grandparents’ home and his grandma would have such dishes as roast and mashed potatoes, vegetables, and other wonderful delectable goodies, however she always ended the meal



The old fashioned cast iron sausage stuffer.

with PIE!!!!

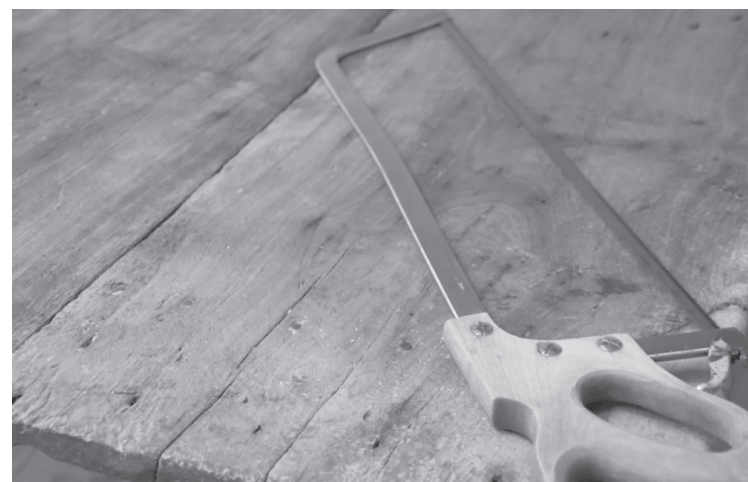
Snacks enjoyed during butchering time included fried cakes (donuts), German style coffeecake, and his Grandma’s well-loved sugar cookies all made with lard that was rendered from the previous year’s butchering.

During butchering days, there is much reminiscing of years past, remembering those that are no longer with them as well as much laughter could be heard.

As in my husband’s family and mine too, there was almost always 4 generations of extended family members gathered to help over the course of the 3 days along with some close neighbors.

As families grew larger and more younger members moved away, less and less butchering was done on the farm.

Some still do it the old fashioned way with a few modern tweaks, today oth-



The hand held meat saw on the old wood butchering table with many knife marks.If tables could talk what wonderful memories of days gone by could be shared.

ers still make summer sausage, bratwurst and dried beef, but to some it’s just the memories remaining of growing up and going to Grandpa and Grandma’s home for the annual butchering days.

I would like to share some vintage farm recipes.

Grandma Freytag’s Sugar Cookies

A Butchering Day Favorite

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup lard, melted
- 2 eggs, beaten

(Continued on Page 17)

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Delicious German coffeecake (KaffeeKuchen)

MEMORIES

(Continued From Page 16)

1 cup sour milk or buttermilk
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder (or a little more)
4 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix sugar and lard together.
Add eggs and vanilla, beat well.

Add sour milk and baking soda, mix well.

Add salt, baking powder and flour, mix well.

Chill overnight in refrigerator.

Roll out on floured board, cut into shapes.

Put on lightly greased baking sheet, sprinkle with white sugar on top before baking.

Bake in 450 degree oven until toothpick in center comes clean. (May take 5 to 6 minutes).

+++++

Farmer Cookies

1 cup shortening
1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar

2 eggs
2 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups oatmeal (uncooked)
2 cups corn flakes or rice krispies cereal
1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts

Melt shortening, pour over sugars and mix well.

Add eggs and vanilla and mix well.

Stir dry ingredients together and add to sugar mixture; mix lightly

Add oatmeal, cereal, coconut, chocolate chips, and nuts and mix well.

Drop by tablespoon on greased cookie sheet. (Can use cookie scoop.)

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes

+++++

Hungry Mans Lard Cake

From Farm Journal's Timesaving Country Cookbook (1961)

"A big cake to carry in a pan to a picnic or lunch in the field."

1-1/4 cups lard
2-1/2 cups sugar
6 eggs
5-1/2 cups flour
8 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons salt
1-1/2 cups milk

(Continued on Page 18)



A favorite of many generations...Grandma Selma Freytag's sugar cookies.

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MEMORIES

(Continued From Page 17)

1 tablespoon vanilla

Cream lard 1 minute, add sugar, cream until light and fluffy.

Beat in eggs, one at a time beating well after each addition.

Sift together dry ingredient and add to creamed mixture alternately with milk and vanilla, beat until well mixed.

Pour into greased and floured pan 10" by 14".

Bake in moderate oven (375 degrees) about 35 minutes.

When cool frost with caramel or chocolate fudge frosting.

+++++

Vintage Farmhouse Chowder

21-oz. Cream of Celery soup or 2 cans (10.5 oz) undiluted

2 cups ham cooked and diced

10-oz frozen corn – thawed

1 large baking potato cut into 1/2" pieces

1 med red bell pepper – diced

1 small onion – diced

1 celery stalk – small slices

1/2 teaspoon dried

Thyme

2 cups broccoli finely chopped

2 cups milk

Combine all ingredients except broccoli and milk in slow cooker.

Mix well.

Cover and cook on low 6 to 8 hours or high 3 to 4 hours

Stir in broccoli and milk.

Cover cook on high 15 minutes or until broccoli is crisp tender.

+++++

Farmer's Casserole

3 cups frozen hash brown potatoes (thawed)

1 cup diced cooked ham or use 1 cup browned ground breakfast sausage or pork sausage

1/2 cup chopped green onions

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (or a mix of cheddar and mozzarella)

4 large eggs

12-oz can evaporated milk or 1-1/2 cups whole milk/cream

12 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Layer ingredients: spread potatoes evenly in a greased 9x13 baking dish.

Sprinkle ham (or browned sausage), onions, and cheese over the top.

Mix eggs and milk: - in a med. Bowl whisk together eggs, milk, salt and pepper until smooth.

Pour over casserole: – slowly pour the egg mixture evenly over the potato mix-

ture.

Bake uncovered for 40 to 45 minutes (until the center is set and top is golden)

Cool and serve: – let it rest 5 minutes before cutting.

Garnish with extra green onions if desired.

Tip – This casserole can be made ahead of time.

Simply assemble, cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake in the morning for a quick meal.

+++++

Farm Style Casserole

1-lb ground beef

2 cups diced potatoes

1 cup chopped onions

1 cup diced bell peppers

1 cup corn

1 can Cream of Mushroom soup

1 cup shredded cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a skillet brown ground beef with onions and bell peppers.

Drain excess fat.

Stir in corn and diced potatoes, salt and pepper to taste.

Add Cream of Mushroom soup and mix well.

Transfer to a greased baking dish and spread evenly.

Sprinkle shredded cheese on top.

Bake 45 minutes until potatoes are tender and cheese is melted.

Serve warm and comforting.

Tips: Add extra veggies (carrots, peas, green beans)

Great way to use leftover cooked meat

Lori Wachtman has joined the Farmland News team, selling advertising and helping with editorial department.

Thank you Lori for sharing this story about family butchering days.
FN

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E-mail: sales@yoderandfreyfarm.com

Stateline Gun Show

February 21-22, 2026

Saturday 9-4 • Sunday 9-3

NEW LOCATION:

18864 Co. Rd. 13, Pioneer, Ohio

Buy-Sell-Trade Public Invited

Admission \$5.00 (under 10 free)

419-630-6289

www.statelinegunshow.com

AUCTION ACTION

LARGE 2 RING AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 @ 10a.m.

Held at: Whalen Auction Bldg.

8020 Manore Rd., Neapolis, OH (GPS Grand Rapids 43522)

**Ring 1-300+ John Deere Farm Toys & Memorabilia:
From Late Craig Holmes owner of F.I.C. Dealership.**

Live w/online bidding starting @ 10am.!

Original 140's NIB, Slik 4430's, Bullet Pencils, snow bibs +
jacket, Dealer Editions, many from 1970's-2,000's & more!

Ring 2: Farm Equipment, Trailers, Tools & More.

Starting @ 10am w/several wagon loads of unlotted

tools! 12noon Starting Farm equipment

Live w/online bidding on select items.

**White 2-105 Field Boss w/loader; 1998 Case 580 Super
L 4x4 backhoe; Big Tex deck over 24' gooseneck trailer;
M-F 1085 Sharp!, receipts of engine work; 2013 Progressive
10' finish batwing mower; Clymer Clark 3point applicator;
1989 White American 80 MFWD Bobcat X331 mini
excavator; Farmall M w/3 point; Farmall H; Case 580 CK
backhoe; 2001 IH 4400 grain truck; Kongskilde Supra
Vac 2000; 2015 Big Tex 20' + 5' tandem dual tag trailer;
Hiniker 1700 flail mower; Rhino 2160 boom mower; Kill
Bros 38; several hay wagons + gears; several 3 point
implement, auger, finish mower; 16' implement trailer;
(2) 2 point hay rakes; New Idea 12A spreader; J.D. 330
round baler; New Holland 492 hay bine; (2) New Holland
273 hay balers; MacLander deck over 20' + 5'; Haulmark
14' enclosed trailer; plus landscape equipment & more!**

**Tools, Shop & Industrial Equipment: Live only starting
@ 10am.** Several wagon loads!! **Milwaukee** M18 & M12,
drills, impact drivers, saws; **Rigid** pipe threader model 535
series and cordless tools; fuel tanks; Coats tire changer &
tire balancer; truck toolboxes; pipe fitters, tools &
hardware; shop items; shelving; plus more!

Terms: No Buyer's premium to live onsite bidders! Cash
or check w/I.D., 3% convenience fee on credit cards.
Lunch by Sandy's. Separate terms apply for online
bidding! **Open:** Week of auction from 8am-3pm.

See whalenauction.com or follow us on FB @ [whalenauction](https://www.facebook.com/whalenauction).



Scan For Farm
Equipment online
Bidding

Scan For
Toys online
Bidding



WHALEN
REALTY & AUCTION, LTD.

419-875-6317

AUCTIONEERS: John & Jason Whalen,

Landyn Butler, Mike Murry, George Bly

Information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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ONLINE ONLY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

****START TO CLOSE 6:00 P.M.****

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Yoder Equipment, 14551 State Rt. 109, Lyons, OH

(Approx. 20 Miles West of Toledo, Just North of Rt. 20 on Rt. 109 OR Approx. 17 Miles South of Adrian, MI)

*** VIEW EQUIPMENT: Saturday, March 21, 2026 ~ 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. ***

FARMER I

JD TRACTOR & COMBINE

2014 JD 9560 RT, 36-in. Tracks, 5275 hrs., *Sharp*; 2013 JD 8360R MFWD, 180xR50 Duals, only 3022 hrs., *Sharp*;
1995 JD 8400 MFWD, 18x46 Duals, 8200 hrs. *Very Nice*; 2013 JD S680 Combine, RWA, 650xR38 duals, 3700 hrs,
Engine Rebuilt, *Nice*; 2013 JD 640 FD 40-ft. Draper; UM AW542 Header Cart.

EQUIPMENT

2015 JD DB60 Planter 72x8-in Twin Row, 60-ft. Bar Intergrated Fert. Tank, *Loaded, Very Nice*; 2013 JD 1770 WT16x30
No-til, Liquid Fert, *Sharp*; JD 7000 4x30 w/3x Splitter; UM 3750 Seed Tender, 3 Axle, Remote; P&H 15X 28%, 1600 gal.,
18x38, Pull, Ground Drive; 2020 JD 2660 VT Vertical Till 30-ft., *Sharp*; Krause-Kuhn 4400 34-ft. Packer; Parker Seed
Wagon, Auger, Gas Eng.; (4) Killbros 350 & McCurdy Gravity Boxes; Degelman 12-ft. Front Blade; Precision HyReach
Tree Shear.

TRUCKS - TRAILERS

2006 Timpfe 42-ft Hopper Bottom, Air Ride; 1997 Timpfe 34-ft. Hopper Bottom; PJ LowPro 16-ft Dump Trailer; 2005 Int.
4300 Tandem, Day Cab, Cat Engine, 13-sp.; 1997 Freightliner Tandem, Day Cab, Cummins Eng, 10-sp.; 2006 Ford
F350 King Ranch, V-10, 4WD, Only 38,000 miles; Western 8-ft. Snow Plow.

Excellent Line of Equipment; Retiring After 50+ Years Farming - Jasper, Michigan

FARMER II

1990 JD 4955 MFWD, PS Trans, 480x42 Duals, Only 3891 hrs., *Sharp*; 2004 JD 9560 Combine, 18x38 Duals, 2160
Sep hrs., *Nice*; 2015 Kinze 3660 No-till 16x32 Planter, *Sharp*; 2010 JD 1770 NT 16x30 Planter, Precision Liq. Fert.,
Sharp; JD 935 G.H.; 2013 Drago Series II 8x30 C.H.; UM 35-ft Header Cart; Dalton 16X Anhydrous Applicator; 1993
Volvo Tandem semi, Cat Eng, 13-sp.

Retirement After 50+ Years - Delta, Ohio

TRACTORS

1974 JD 4430 C.A. Quad Trans, 18x38 Duals, 6500 hrs., *Sharp*; Int. A w/Blade.

TRUCKS - TRAILERS

1999 Int. 9200 Tandem Day Cab; 1992 KW T600 Tender Truck, 2 Bin Box, Det. Eng.; 2013 Case 3020 Spreader Truck,
3024 Box, Ag Force Ag Leader Controls, Allison Trans.; 2014 Hudson 42-ft. Drop Deck, 25 Ton w/3200 Gal and 1000 Gal
Tanks and J&M 251 2 Box Seed Tender, *Excellent*; 2005 Fruhauf 34-ft. Tandem, Aluminum Dump Trailer.

EQUIPMENT

JD 7200 No-Till 8x30 Front Fold Liq. Fert, *Sharp*; Krause Dominator 11x Shank; Brent CPC 5x Deep Ripper; (2) Glencoe
11x Soil Savers; JM TF212 33-ft Rolling Harrow, *Sharp*; CIH 4800 25-ft. F.C.; JD 960 21-ft F.C.; JD 456 Round Baler,
Sharp; NH 7450 Disc Bine; JD 700 24-ft Hay Rake; Morra 3-Pt Rotary Rake, *Like New*; JD 400 20-ft Rotary Hoe;
Century 300-Gal 3-Pt, 60-Ft Boom Sprayer; Kuhn Flat Bar 25-Ft Rolling Baskets; *NEW* Soil Max Tandem Axle Pull Tile
Plow, Power Feed; JD 3000 Starfire Globe Receiver; JD 925 G.H.; JD 643 Oil Bath C.H., Rebuilt;

PARTIAL LIST : New Tires, Duals, And Much More Not Listed.

Partial listing, more items being added daily! All Items Local Farmers!
To view Sale, lot by lot, with terms, photos, descriptions and more,
please visit dcauction.hibid.com

Contact: Darrel D. Yoder, 419-467-7073 or Dalton Collins, 419-591-8297
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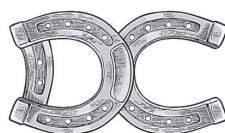
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