

The Mi Farm Brief #026

Tuesday June 30, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

Mi Farm AI

Prepared 2026-06-30 9:16 AM Central Time

Generated by Mark's Claude AI

For internal review

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For Mark Matuska, Milford, Iowa (Dickinson County)

Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Filed by The Mi Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Milford, IA

Today: High **91F**. Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms then Mostly Sunny.

Tonight: Low **69F**. Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers And Thunderstorms.

What this means for today: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Source: NOAA National Weather Service point forecast for Milford, IA, pulled this morning.

Hour by Hour, the day ahead

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
4 AM	68F	63%	W 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
5 AM	68F	52%	E 6 mph	Mostly Cloudy
6 AM	68F	37%	SE 9 mph	Mostly Clear
7 AM	72F	24%	SSE 7 mph	Clear
8 AM	74F	16%	S 10 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
9 AM	77F	8%	S 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
10 AM	80F	7%	SSW 15 mph	Mostly Sunny
11 AM	83F	7%	SSW 15 mph	Mostly Sunny
12 PM	85F	5%	SW 15 mph	Mostly Sunny
1 PM	87F	5%	SW 15 mph	Sunny
2 PM	88F	3%	SW 10 mph	Sunny
3 PM	89F	0%	WSW 10 mph	Sunny
4 PM	90F	0%	WSW 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
5 PM	90F	0%	WSW 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
6 PM	91F	0%	WSW 10 mph	Partly Cloudy
7 PM	90F	0%	WSW 5 mph	Mostly Clear
8 PM	87F	1%	SSW 5 mph	Mostly Clear
9 PM	82F	1%	SSW 5 mph	Mostly Clear
10 PM	78F	2%	SSW 5 mph	Partly Cloudy
11 PM	77F	4%	S 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
12 AM	75F	17%	SSE 5 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms

Source: NOAA National Weather Service hourly forecast and station observations, pulled this morning.

Rain & Spray Window

Your field has gotten 0.48 inches of rain so far today. The radar shows it is dry right now.

Rain outlook, what has fallen and what is expected:

Past 24 hours: 0.48 inches so far Next 24 hours: 0.17 inches expected Next 48 hours: 0.47 inches expected Next 72 hours: 0.90 inches expected

Source: NOAA National Weather Service forecast and the local rain gauge network, pulled this morning.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.0475/bu +0.0275
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.3050/bu +0.0050
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.0525/bu -0.0350
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.3300/bu -0.0600
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$5.6825/bu -0.0125
Live Cattle (CME)	\$243.02/cwt -5.6%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$98.90/cwt +5.4%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 3 cents; beans slipped about 4 cents; and wheat slipped about 1 cents.

Recent trend, over the last 3 sessions, corn has eased and beans have eased. That is the backdrop your cash bid is moving against.

Here is our read on why the board split this morning. Brownfield Ag Weather Today flags a dangerous heat wave baking the central and eastern U.S. through the week, putting reproductive summer crops under serious stress, and that worry likely pulled corn up about 3 cents. With no USDA report due, beans and wheat slipping 4 and 1 cents looks more like position shuffling than one clean driver. Our two best guesses there are profit taking and traders weighing that same heat against decent crop conditions.

Stocks point higher into the open, S&P; futures up about 0.3 percent. A firmer tape eases the borrowing and input-cost mood your lender watches, though it does not move your cash bid by itself.

Cal

Wall Street, yesterday's close

Dow Jones	52,263 +0.2%
S&P; 500	7,464 +0.3%
Nasdaq	26,012 +0.7%
Russell 2000	3,007 to 0.1%

Wall Street, today's futures (where the market is at going into the day)

Dow	52,574 +0.0%
S&P; 500	7,526 +0.3%

Nasdaq	30,352 +0.8%
Russell 2000	3,031 +0.0%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Paperwork: FSA crop acreage reporting is due July 15 for spring planted crops. That is in 15 days, so prep now, get your planted acres by field, planting dates, and any prevented planting ready for your county Farm Service Agency office now, a late certification can put your farm program payments and crop insurance at risk.
- Reminder for this week: Hot, dry stretches raise spider-mite pressure on field edges. Scout the south and west borders of soybeans and corn. Verify in-field.
- Standing reminder: Dig an 8-inch root cube on a few plants in continuous-corn fields to confirm your rootworm trait is holding, and rescout soybeans for early defoliators. Verify in-field.
- Reminder: Corn is moving through V5-V8 on seasonal normals, the rapid-growth, nitrogen-demand window. If you split-applied N, this is the sidedress window; confirm your stage with a field check.

What to Watch Today

- Rain watch: through the workday the best rain chance is around 6 AM (49%). Time spray and field passes to the drier hours, and check the wind first.
- Market watch: corn up about 3 cents, beans down about 4 cents going into the day. Wheat down about 1 cents. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Sunburn Risk This Week in Pennsylvania Orchards: Mitigation Strategies (see Cal's News Desk below).

From Cal's News Desk

The 10 stories that moved across the wires since yesterday's Brief, sourced, dated, and verifiable. Each one carries Cal's review, the same one the news page shows, with a link to read it straight from the source.

1. Sunburn Risk This Week in Pennsylvania Orchards: Mitigation Strategies

A dangerous heat dome is about to bake Pennsylvania's apple country this week, with the National Weather Service forecasting highs of 99F Wednesday, 102F Thursday, and 101F Friday plus heat index values pushing 100 to 110F across Adams County and the South Mountain Fruit Belt where most of the state's apples grow. The real danger is sunburn on the fruit itself, because apples cannot shed heat like leaves do, so on a calm sunny day the fruit surface can run 18 to 30F hotter than the air, meaning a 100F afternoon can cook exposed apples past 120F. Growers without costly netting or overhead cooling can still protect their crop by deep-irrigating now to recharge the root zone, switching to shorter daily sets during the heat, spraying protective films with thorough coverage on the south and west sides, and holding off on any pruning or thinning that suddenly exposes shaded fruit. It is a practical, hour-by-hour playbook for saving a high-value crop from a brutal stretch of weather, and the same heat-stress lessons about water timing and sun exposure apply to anyone trying to carry a crop through a punishing summer.

[Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:49 AM CT

2. Updated Publication Helps Beef Producers Develop Growth Implant Strategy

Iowa Beef Center has refreshed a free publication that helps cattle producers pick the right growth implants, one of the best return on investment tools in the business. Director Aimee Wertz-Lutz notes that as of spring 2026 there are more than 20 implant brands for growing and finishing cattle, and a smart strategy can boost daily gains by up to 20 percent, improve efficiency by up to 15 percent, and cut production costs by at least 10 percent. She stresses that the most important implant of all is the last one given just before the cattle are sold, and the guide breaks down brand names, active ingredients, placement, and re-implant options for drylot and confinement settings. The download, titled IBC 113, is available at no cost from the ISU Extension store, with Wertz-Lutz reachable at 515 294 1058 for

producers who want help building a program.

[Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:42 AM CT

3. Matthew Bormann, North Central Iowa CropWatch

In this week's North Central Iowa CropWatch, Matthew Bormann checks in from his farm near Algona in Kossuth County, where he raises corn and soybeans alongside his three kids, Reece, 15, Quinn, 12, and Greta, 9. A fifth-generation Iowa farmer who started in 1999, Bormann is president of Bormann Ag LTD and has served in several leadership roles on the Kossuth County Farm Bureau Board. The field report is short but telling, just 0.8 of an inch of rain for the week with a clear plea that more moisture is needed, even as the corn is really taking off and post spraying on the soybeans is wrapped up. It matters because his snapshot mirrors what many growers across the region are watching right now, the race between strong early crop progress and a dry stretch that could decide how the season turns out.

[Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:00 AM CT

4. Rider Jackson, Northwest Missouri CropWatch

Northwest Missouri farmer Rider Jackson works the land alongside his father, Fred, in Buchanan County. Together they raise mainly corn and soybeans while also growing some wheat and putting up hay each season. Jackson built his foundation by studying agriculture at Northwest Missouri State University before stepping into the family operation. He also sharpened his leadership skills through the Missouri Corn Growers Association's CornRoots academy, a program aimed at preparing young farmers for the future.

[Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:00 AM CT

5. Brownfield Ag Weather Today

A dangerous heat wave is set to bake most of the central and eastern U.S. through the week, putting reproductive summer crops under serious stress just when they are most vulnerable. Triple digit readings near 100F will stretch from the southern High Plains into the western Corn Belt today, while the mid Atlantic States see the most unusual heat by mid to late week, and most areas east of the southern Plains and upper Midwest will run daily highs of 90 to 100F. There is some relief in the picture, as cool, stormy weather over the northern Rockies and High Plains gives way to milder, drier air, and the West warms once Northwestern showers move out. For Iowa growers it matters because 1 to 2 inches of rain could fall from the northern Rockies and northern High Plains into the upper Great Lakes, while scattered showers run from western Texas into the upper Midwest and much of the rest of the country stays dry.

[Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Tue Jun 30, 2026 6:00 AM CT

6. Proactive herd management more important than ever in times of drought

A dry spring has pushed North Dakota into worsening drought, while neighbors Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota are battling pockets of extreme drought that are starving pastures right when forage matters most. With the national cattle herd already at decades low numbers, ranchers may have to sell off animals to spare overworked pasture, and NDSU Extension specialist Lacey Quail says good management records are the smart way to decide which cows earn their keep. Her tip is to favor the early calvers, since cattle that breed back fast wean heavier, more profitable calves, and to keep body condition strong through the demanding breeding and lactation season so cows still get pregnant. Quail also warns that as summer heat climbs, providing shade and clean, high quality water is key to fighting heat stress and protecting the herd you choose to keep.

[Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Tue Jun 30, 2026 5:30 AM CT

7. Sugar trade, smuggling and tariffs all pre-date the U.S.A.

The U.S. sugar industry says it has lost about \$3 billion in revenue over the past two years because weak tariff protection let cheap foreign sugar flood and oversupply the market. To fight back, the industry is pushing the

administration to fold sugar into its Section 301 trade actions, and 112 members of Congress, including 22 senators, signed a letter led by Sens. John Hoeven and Elissa Slotkin and Reps. Julie Fedorchak and Troy Carter backing higher tariffs. The piece notes that sugar smuggling and tariffs date all the way back to British rule before 1789, proving some fights never really change. It also flags a 2026 farm bill moving through Congress under Chairman Glenn Thompson and new EPA Fungicide rules tied to the Endangered Species Act that could change how farmers apply pesticides.

[Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Tue Jun 30, 2026 5:30 AM CT

8. Live updates: Supreme Court set to issue rulings on birthright citizenship, transgender athletes

The nation's highest court is wrapping up its term Tuesday morning with a batch of major decisions, including one on birthright citizenship. The justices are also expected to rule on whether transgender athletes can compete, along with a closely watched campaign finance case. On the world stage, senior U.S. figures Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are in Doha, Qatar, for high level discussions. Iran's foreign ministry, however, is publicly denying that any direct talks are taking place, leaving the diplomatic picture uncertain.

[Read the full article](#). The Hill, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:34 AM CT

9. Ford recalling more than 741,00 vehicles because of park system issue

Ford is calling back over 741,000 trucks and SUVs across the country after federal safety officials warned that a transmission glitch can quietly wreck the park system. The affected rigs include the popular F-150 along with the Ford Explorer, Expedition, Lincoln Aviator and Navigator from model years 2018 through 2021, and the trouble starts when the parking pawl briefly grabs while the vehicle is still rolling. Regulators say this damage can leave a vehicle unable to hold itself in park without the brake set, and Ford has already logged 24 property damage reports and nine claimed injuries, two of them emotional. Owners will get a letter telling them to visit a Ford or Lincoln dealer for a free software update and a transmission inspection, with questions handled at 1 866 436 7332.

[Read the full article](#). ABC News, Tue Jun 30, 2026 7:45 AM CT

10. The U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Darryl Nirenberg, highlighted the importance of the Black Sea for NATO, in the context of security tensions and drone incidents. He appreciated Romania's role in facilitating grain exports from Ukraine.

Romania has stepped into the spotlight as a key player in moving Ukrainian grain to world markets, and now Washington is taking notice. Darryl Nirenberg, the U.S. Ambassador to Romania, publicly praised the country for helping keep those grain exports flowing out of the war zone. He also stressed that the Black Sea region has become vital to NATO security, pointing to rising tensions and recent drone incidents in the area. For a farmer, this matters because Black Sea grain from Ukraine competes directly with American corn and soybeans on the global market. The remarks, reported by writer Lara Maior in a politics piece, signal that the U.S. wants Romania's export corridor to stay open and stable. Watch this story, because anything that shifts how much Ukrainian grain reaches buyers can move the prices you see back home in Iowa.

[Read the full article](#). Informat.ro (via world wire), Tue Jun 30, 2026 5:24 AM CT

Cal's Receipt

Cal's Receipt is the public ledger of every call this desk made for your farm, what was at stake, whether you followed it, and what it actually saved (or cost). HILT-Transparent. Append-only. Every dollar cites its source.

- [Open your Weekly Scorecard](#), refreshes every Sunday 4:00 PM CT
- [Open your Monthly Receipt](#), refreshes first Monday 7:00 AM CT

Today in Farm Safety

Out-of-condition grain forms crusts and bridges that collapse without warning. Never walk on top of stored grain to break a crust, you can drop through into a void. Break crusts from outside the bin with a pole, and run aeration to keep grain in condition. Source: Purdue Agricultural Safety and Health; OSHA grain handling standard.

Cal

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Tennessee Valley Authority 1933

On May 18, 1933, President Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act. TVA dams brought electricity and flood control to seven Southern states and indirectly proved out the rural-electrification model that came to Midwest farms two years later under the REA. Source: USDA Rural Utilities Service history; TVA archives.

Cal's Quiz

The 1937 Farm Security Administration also funded which famous photographers who produced the iconic Dust Bowl images?

- (a) Ansel Adams and Edward Weston
- (b) Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans
- (c) Margaret Bourke-White and Robert Capa
- (d) Matthew Brady and Timothy O'Sullivan

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

How can a farmer predict rain without a forecast? He washes his pickup. If it doesn't rain the next day, the pickup wasn't dirty enough.

The Mi Farm AI Desk

[[CAL-SIGNATURE]]

Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen, your AI Agronomist and Editor in Chief

Quiz Answer

(b) Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans. The FSA was created September 1, 1937 to help tenant farmers buy land; its photo archive is now in the Library of Congress. Today's USDA Farm Service Agency inherits the FSA name. Source: Library of Congress FSA-OWI photograph collection; USDA Farm Service Agency history.

Your data stays yours. We sell nothing you buy. Your farm data is never sold, shared, or used to train outside models. It lives on hardware we control, not the public cloud. Loyalty in writing.

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