

The Mi Farm Brief #026

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

Mi Farm AI

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Generated by Mark's Claude AI

For internal review

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For Sheridan Skala, Owatonna, Minnesota (Steele County, family farm heritage)

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

Weather, Owatonna, MN

Today: High **90F**. Chance Showers And Thunderstorms then Partly Sunny.

Tonight: Low **71F**. Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers And Thunderstorms.

What this means for today: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9am. Some of the storms could be severe. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. Heat index values as high as 101. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Source: NOAA National Weather Service point forecast for Owatonna, MN, pulled this morning.

Hour by Hour, the day ahead

Hour Temp Rain Wind Sky 7 AM 76F 52% W 10 mph Chance Showers And Thunderstorms 8 AM 78F 25% WSW 10 mph Chance Showers And Thunderstorms 9 AM 79F 4% SSW 15 mph Mostly Sunny 10 AM 81F 0% SSW 15 mph Mostly Sunny 11 AM 83F 0% SSW 15 mph Mostly Sunny 12 PM 84F 5% SSW 15 mph Mostly Sunny 1 PM 86F 7% SSW 15 mph Partly Sunny 2 PM 87F 6% SW 15 mph Partly Sunny 3 PM 88F 7% SW 15 mph Partly Sunny 4 PM 90F 10% SW 10 mph Partly Sunny 5 PM 90F 10% SW 10 mph Mostly Sunny 6 PM 88F 8% SW 10 mph Partly Cloudy 7 PM 85F 3% SW 10 mph Mostly Clear 8 PM 82F 1% SW 5 mph Mostly Clear 9 PM 80F 1% SSW 5 mph Partly Cloudy 10 PM 77F 0% SSW 5 mph Partly Cloudy 11 PM 76F 0% S 5 mph Mostly Cloudy 12 AM 75F 1% SSW 5 mph Mostly Cloudy

Source: NOAA National Weather Service hourly point forecast, pulled this morning.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.0400/bu +0.0200
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.3000/bu 0.0000
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.0525/bu -0.0350
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.3550/bu -0.0350
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$5.7175/bu +0.0225
Live Cattle (CME)	\$257.40/cwt -0.0%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$93.82/cwt +1.0%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 2 cents; beans slipped about 4 cents; and wheat added about 2 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 grain markets only nudged around overnight, with corn up about 2 cents, wheat up about 2 cents, and beans down about 4 cents. With no USDA report on the calendar, we figure this is mostly weather trade, as Brownfield Ag News warns a dangerous heat wave will bake the central and eastern U.S. and stress reproductive summer crops this week. That heat can underpin corn and wheat while beans give a little back, so our honest read is

two drivers, weather risk and plain position squaring, not one clean cause.

Stocks are steady going into the open, S&P; futures close to flat. A calm Wall Street is what your banker likes to see, it keeps the rate and input-cost backdrop behind your operating note quiet for another day.

Cal

Wall Street, yesterday's close

Dow Jones	52,183 +0.6%
S&P; 500	7,440 +1.2%
Nasdaq	25,820 +2.1%
Russell 2000	3,010 +0.0%

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

Dow	52,550 to 0.0%
S&P; 500	7,498 to 0.1%
Nasdaq	30,030 to 0.2%
Russell 2000	3,026 to 0.1%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Reminder, still on your list: Corn is approaching the canopy and tasseling weeks are ahead, now is the time to book your fungicide window if you plan a VT/R1 pass, before the applicator calendar fills. Confirm your stage.
- 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.

Farm context: Skala Farm, Steele County demo (synthetic data bed; family heritage acres are the reference point). Real intake replaces the synthetic figures the moment you send your farm shape, acreage by field, and bin inventory.

What to Watch Today

- Rain watch: through the workday the best rain chance is around 6 AM (60%). Time spray and field passes to the drier hours and check wind and delta-T first.
- Market watch: corn up about 2 cents, beans down about 4 cents going into the day. Wheat up about 2 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. Supreme Court ruling on deportation protections is 'bad news' for every TPS recipient

A new Supreme Court ruling has stripped deportation protections from Haitian and Syrian immigrants, and legal experts warn it is bad news for everyone holding temporary protected status, or TPS. That status has long been granted by past administrations to people from 17 countries judged too dangerous to send folks back to. The Trump administration has been steadily chipping away at TPS, and this decision hands it a powerful tool to do so far more broadly. Why it matters is that hundreds of thousands of workers across many industries could now face removal, so read the full article to see which countries and communities stand to be affected next.

[Read the full article](#). The Hill, Tue Jun 30, 2026 5:00 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, Ford Motor Company founded 1903

On June 16, 1903, the Ford Motor Company was incorporated in Detroit. The 1917 Fordson tractor, sold for \$750, brought mechanization to farms that could not afford a \$1,500 Waterloo Boy. By 1925, Ford had built three quarters of a million Fordsons. Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History; The Henry Ford archive.

Cal's Quiz

Within an eight-week stretch in 1862, Lincoln signed the USDA, the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land-Grant Act, and what fourth pillar of American agriculture?

- (a) The National Banking Act
- (b) The Pacific Railway Act
- (c) The Emancipation Proclamation
- (d) The Hatch Act

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The banker asked the farmer, "What's the weather going to do this week?" The farmer said, "It's either going to help me or hurt me. Either way, I'll still owe you the same money."

The Mi Farm AI Desk

[[CAL-SIGNATURE]]

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

Quiz Answer

(b) The Pacific Railway Act (July 1, 1862). The four signings happened May 15, May 20, July 1, and July 2, no eight-week period in U.S. history has done more to shape American agriculture. Source: U.S. National Archives; USDA history office.

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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