

The Mi Farm Brief #028

Thursday July 2, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

Mi Farm AI

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For internal review

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

Thursday, July 2, 2026. Filed by The Mi Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Owatonna, MN

Today: High **84F**. Patchy Fog.

Tonight: Low **69F**. Chance Showers And Thunderstorms.

What this means for today: Patchy fog and a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. South southwest wind 5 to 10 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
4 AM	69F	28%	SSW 5 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
5 AM	69F	27%	SW 5 mph	Patchy Fog
6 AM	69F	22%	SW 5 mph	Patchy Fog
7 AM	71F	13%	S 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
8 AM	74F	18%	S 5 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
9 AM	76F	13%	SSW 5 mph	Partly Sunny
10 AM	77F	10%	SSW 5 mph	Partly Sunny
11 AM	79F	6%	SSW 5 mph	Partly Sunny
12 PM	80F	5%	SW 5 mph	Partly Sunny
1 PM	82F	8%	SSW 5 mph	Partly Sunny
2 PM	82F	12%	SSW 10 mph	Partly Sunny
3 PM	84F	17%	SSW 10 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
4 PM	84F	25%	SSW 10 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
5 PM	84F	25%	SSW 10 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
6 PM	82F	14%	S 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
7 PM	81F	12%	S 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
8 PM	79F	10%	S 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
9 PM	77F	8%	S 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
10 PM	75F	6%	SSE 5 mph	Partly Cloudy
11 PM	73F	8%	SSE 5 mph	Partly Cloudy

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
12 AM	71F	16%	SSE 5 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms

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

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.2400/bu +0.0300
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.4350/bu +0.0125
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.3275/bu +0.0650
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.5450/bu +0.0525
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$5.9275/bu +0.0075
Live Cattle (CME)	\$241.82/cwt -6.3%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$93.35/cwt -1.0%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 3 cents; beans added about 6 cents; and wheat steady.

Recent trend, over the last 5 sessions, corn has firmed and beans have firmed. That is the backdrop your cash bid is moving against.

Here is our read on why beans and corn firmed a few cents overnight while wheat sat still. Honestly the facts do not point to one clean cause, so we would name the two likeliest. The Trump administration declining to renew USMCA, per Hoosier Ag Today, starts a 10 year countdown that could reshape ag trade and stir buying. Beyond that, this looks like quiet, headline light positioning, not a report driven move.

Stocks point lower into the open, S&P; futures off about 0.2 percent. A softer tape can tighten the credit and input-cost mood your lender watches, worth a glance, but it does not set your cash bid.

Cal

Wall Street, yesterday's close

Dow Jones	52,305 to 0.0%
S&P; 500	7,483 to 0.2%
Nasdaq	26,040 to 0.7%
Russell 2000	3,013 to 0.4%

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

Dow	52,689 to 0.1%
S&P; 500	7,539 to 0.2%
Nasdaq	29,990 to 0.6%

Russell 2000	3,037 +0.0%
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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 13 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: 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.
- 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.

What to Watch Today

- Field window: any rain risk eases by 6 AM, then the working day looks dry enough for field passes. Check the wind first.
- Market watch: corn up about 3 cents, beans up about 6 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Offerdahl Gift Accelerates Breakthrough Research in Sustainable Agriculture at NDSU (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. Offerdahl Gift Accelerates Breakthrough Research in Sustainable Agriculture at NDSU

Richard and Linda Offerdahl, with Richard a 1965 NDSU graduate, have pledged \$3 million to speed up crop research led by scientist Barney Geddes at North Dakota State University. The money funds work on biological nitrogen fixation, engineering plant and microbe partnerships so cereal crops like barley can pull nitrogen straight from the air instead of relying on synthetic fertilizer. Richard Offerdahl called atmospheric nitrogen fixation the holy grail, and this gift builds on the couple's earlier funding through a faculty fellowship that already produced real progress. If it works, farmers could see lower production costs and less dependence on bought fertilizer, though researchers caution it remains one of the hardest, longest challenges in agricultural science.

[Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Wed Jul 1, 2026 9:31 PM CT

2. Keep July 4 Cookouts Sweet with Fresh-picked Corn

University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein explains why fresh-picked sweet corn tastes so much better, since up to 50 percent of a kernel's sugar can turn to starch within 24 hours at room temperature. He traces the crop's roots back to the Iroquois, who grew a 1779 variety called Papoon in the classic Three Sisters system alongside beans and squash. Modern breeding has moved beyond the old su1 gene to sweeter, longer-holding types, including se1 sugary enhanced, sh2 super sweet that is three times sweeter with almost no sugar loss, and the newest synergistic hybrids that blend both for great flavor and shelf life. It matters at planting time too, because se1 and sh2 corn must be kept from cross-pollinating by staggering plantings at least 14 days apart or separating them by 250 feet or more.

[Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Wed Jul 1, 2026 9:28 PM CT

3. Trump Administration Declines to Renew USMCA, Triggering 10-Year Countdown That Could Reshape Ag Trade

The Trump administration on Wednesday chose not to renew the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement in its current form, a decision announced by Trade Representative Jamieson Greer that starts a 10 year countdown to the pact dissolving in 2036 unless the three nations strike new terms. Trump, who signed the original deal in his first term, said flatly on June 10 that he is not looking to renew it, pointing to a combined \$219 billion trade deficit with the two neighbors, including \$194.6 billion with Mexico and \$24.4 billion with Canada. This hits agriculture hard, since Canada and Mexico buy roughly a third of all U.S. farm exports worth nearly \$60 billion a year, with Mexico the top buyer of American corn and Canada the biggest market for U.S. ethanol. Corn and pork leaders are sounding the alarm, with the National Corn Growers Association calling USMCA the single most important trade deal for corn and pork producers noting the deal adds more than \$66 to every hog and supports over 155,000 jobs, so the lost certainty could upend your long term planting and marketing decisions.

[Read the full article.](#) Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 1, 2026 6:20 PM CT

4. Can Indiana's Crops Finish Strong?

Early-season flooding, ponding, and repeated heavy rains reduced stands in some fields, especially across central and eastern Indiana. But we have a lot of areas where the ponding was significant and we have wide swath areas that the plant didn't survive at all. You can think about some of those, let's say V4 saturated conditions, waterlogged a bushel or so, an acre a day kind of thing. I say v4-v5, those middle to late vegetative stages going to be bushel to bushel and a half on some of those for each day after that." Both Agronomists say the next two to three weeks of weather will be critical in determining whether Indiana produces an average crop or one that exceeds expectations.

[Read the full article.](#) Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 1, 2026 6:15 PM CT

5. Cattle

Live cattle markets sent mixed signals midweek, with August futures failing to lead the charge higher even though they sit at a steep discount to cash prices, a sign the bulls did not get the momentum they wanted. Austin Schroeder at Barchart.com reported that live cattle futures still finished 52 cents to \$1.32 higher on Wednesday, though open interest slipped by 1,801 contracts. Adding to the caution, the Hightower Report noted most traders expect this week to come in slightly lower than last, and screwworm cases have climbed to 29, with nearly all in Texas and a few now turning up in New Mexico. For anyone watching the cattle side of the operation, the mix of a firm close, softening trade expectations, and a spreading pest problem is worth keeping a close eye on.

[Read the full article.](#) Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Jul 1, 2026 4:40 PM CT

6. Lean Hogs

October lean hog futures spent most of Tuesday trading within the prior day's range, then slipped below that low late in the session to finish lower. Even with that dip, The Hightower Report believes the technical picture is slowly getting better and sees a real chance for further gains ahead. Cash hog prices early this week are running strong compared to last week, a sign of firmer underlying demand. With managed money holding a three year high in net short positions, the report says short covering could keep pushing this market higher into next week.

[Read the full article.](#) Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Jul 1, 2026 4:37 PM CT

7. Ohio Ag Weather and Forecast, July 2, 2026

After one last brutally hot day, temperatures ease slightly, but sticky humidity hangs on through the weekend as rain chances climb. Scattered showers and storms hit western Ohio tomorrow afternoon at about 40% coverage, then spread statewide Saturday and Sunday near 65%, with lighter 30% chances lingering into Monday and Tuesday. Over the five days ending next Tuesday evening, expect .25 to 1.25 inches of rain across 80% of the area, keeping the rest of next week warm, humid, and prone to pop up storms. The bigger takeaway for growers is that as the following weekend nears, the pattern to the west turns drier, moisture runs short, and a real dry down looks likely heading into mid month.

[Read the full article.](#) Ohio Country Journal, Wed Jul 1, 2026 4:29 PM CT

8. Trump administration declines USMCA renewal; dairy industry weighs in

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer announced Wednesday that the administration will not renew the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement in its current form, though the deal stays in place for up to another decade, with yearly negotiations running until July 1, 2036, until it is renewed. The move opens the door to pressing Canada over its dairy pricing and its failure to grant promised access for US milk, cheese, cream and yogurt, with any tariff quota changes requiring approval from Congress. Reactions split, as Nebraska Republican Adrian Smith backed tougher enforcement while Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley warned it would be a big, big mistake not to extend the pact, and dairy trade official Shawna Morris said the choice was no surprise. This matters because Mexico and Canada are the top two US trading partners, and a Purdue study found tariffs could climb an average of 7.4% within ten years if the agreement were scrapped.

[Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Wed Jul 1, 2026 4:12 PM CT

9. Sen. Grassley lauds USDA response to New World screwworm

Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley told Brownfield on Wednesday that the New World screwworm has not spread far north and that federal efforts are keeping the pest boxed into a very limited area. He credited Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins for staying on top of the outbreak, calling the USDA's response pretty controlling, while also urging the administration to explore medical treatments to fight the flesh eating pest. According to USDA's Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, there have been 29 screwworm cases in the country as of Wednesday, with all but one turning up in Texas. The only case outside Texas was found in far southeastern New Mexico on June 7, and for cattle producers this early containment is the difference between a minor scare and a costly threat to the herd.

[Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Wed Jul 1, 2026 3:51 PM CT

10. SW Minnesota agronomist gives crops an 'A'

Southwest Minnesota agronomist Foley is handing this year's crop an A grade, pointing to a strong mix of excess heat and mostly adequate moisture that only recently caught up in a few dry spots. On travels through Iowa and Illinois, he saw a different story, with too much rain leaving those crops short on nitrogen that leached out or denitrified. Foley says southern Minnesota got lucky with how the weather progressed and is sitting in a good spot heading into the rest of the season. He sees big yield potential in this crop and is urging growers to take steps now to protect it, which is exactly the kind of margin MI Farm AI likes to help you defend.

[Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Wed Jul 1, 2026 3:46 PM 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

Make your equipment seen on the road. A clean slow-moving-vehicle (SMV) emblem, working flashers, and reflective tape cut rear-end collisions. Most farm road crashes are a car hitting equipment from behind in low light, dawn and dusk are the worst. Source: National Ag Safety Database; ASABE SMV emblem standard.

Cal

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Iowa farm size 1900

In 1900, the average Iowa farm was 151 acres, worked by 2.1 family members, and produced corn at 35 bushels per acre using horse-drawn equipment. By 2022, the average Iowa farm was 360 acres and produced corn at over 200 bushels per acre. Same dirt; different toolkit. Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture historical series (1900 and 2022).

Cal's Quiz

After the 1929 stock-market crash, what happened to corn that brought \$0.80/bu in 1929?

- (a) It stayed at \$0.80
- (b) It dropped to \$0.55 by 1932
- (c) It dropped to \$0.31 by 1932
- (d) It rose to \$1.20 by 1932

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

Why does a freshly worked field in April smell so good? Because the soil has been holding her breath since November and she's exhaling for the first time. The smell is relief.

The Mi Farm AI Desk

[[CAL-SIGNATURE]]

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

Quiz Answer

(c) It dropped to \$0.31 by 1932, a price floor that triggered the AAA in 1933. Farm prices fell another 50% after Black Tuesday (October 29, 1929) on top of post-WWI weakness. Source: USDA Economic Research Service historical price series; Federal Reserve historical record.

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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