

The Mi Farm Brief #033

Monday July 6, 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)

Monday, July 6, 2026. Filed by The Mi Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Owatonna, MN

Today: High **85F**. Sunny.

Tonight: Low **63F**. Mostly Clear.

What this means for today: Sunny, with a high near 85. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

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	66F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
5 AM	65F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
6 AM	64F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Sunny
7 AM	66F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Sunny
8 AM	69F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
9 AM	72F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
10 AM	77F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
11 AM	79F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
12 PM	81F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
1 PM	83F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
2 PM	83F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
3 PM	84F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
4 PM	85F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
5 PM	84F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
6 PM	84F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear
7 PM	83F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear
8 PM	80F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear
9 PM	75F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
10 PM	73F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
11 PM	71F	0%	S 5 mph	Partly Cloudy
12 AM	70F	5%	S 5 mph	Partly Cloudy

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

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.3525/bu +0.1025
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.5275/bu +0.1125
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.6000/bu +0.2825
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.7650/bu +0.2875
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$5.9050/bu -0.0150
Live Cattle (CME)	\$239.23/cwt -1.1%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$93.85/cwt +0.5%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 10 cents; beans added about 28 cents; and wheat slipped about 2 cents.

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

Here is our read on why the board leaned green overnight, and it looks like soybeans led the way. Our best assessment ties the 28 cent bean gain to that tippahnews report on Chinese buying, with USDA data showing January through March exports up 57 percent under the new trade deal. Corn likely rode those coattails for its dime. We see no clean driver behind wheat slipping two cents, so we would call that quiet profit taking or spillover, nothing in today's news points squarely at it.

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, Thursday's close

Dow Jones	52,900 +1.1%
S&P; 500	7,483 +0.0%
Nasdaq	25,833 to 0.8%
Russell 2000	2,996 to 0.5%

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

Dow	53,252 +0.2%
S&P; 500	7,562 +0.3%
Nasdaq	29,850 +0.4%
Russell 2000	3,019 +0.4%

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 9 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: Hot, dry stretches raise spider-mite pressure on field edges. Scout the south and west borders of soybeans and corn. Verify in-field.
- Reminder, still on your list: 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 for this week: 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.

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

- 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 10 cents, beans up about 28 cents going into the day. Wheat down about 2 cents. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Hail to the 4th of July! (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. Hail to the 4th of July!

The columnist reflects on a July Fourth celebration she calls epic, marking 250 years of American independence and a week she felt was uplifting and unifying. Rather than describe it all in words, she shares photographs from her lake in New Hampshire as a gift to readers wherever they may be. The piece then drifts into a scrapbook of her other writings, including a tribute to her mother who once drove food along the hedgerow during fieldwork, a letter welcoming 2026 after a hard year she describes as being stuck "in the irons," and notes to her sons Tyler, Jacob, and Samuel telling them they are enough. She closes near a Father's Day list of lessons from her own dad, from baiting a hook to taking a fish off it, making this a warm, family centered read about gratitude and belonging.

[Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Mon Jul 6, 2026 1:00 AM CT

2. Jet fuel from food waste studied

Researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have figured out how to turn everyday food waste into jet-grade aviation fuel, a breakthrough detailed in a new paper in the journal Nature Sustainability. Scientists Sabrina Summers and Yuanhui Zhang led the lab work, holding up vials of the finished sustainable fuel made from scraps that would otherwise rot in a landfill. The reason this matters is that air travel produces a big share of the world's greenhouse gases, and cleaner fuel supplies have been held back by shaky, expensive supply chains. If this food waste method proves out on the numbers, it could open a whole new market for turning garbage into value, the kind of circular economy thinking that could eventually reach farm country too.

[Read the full article.](#) Tri-State Neighbor, Mon Jul 6, 2026 1:00 AM CT

3. Dairy Signal will Feature Calf Raising Strategies, Market Update

Professional Dairy Producers is running two episodes of The Dairy Signal this week to help dairy operators plan the back half of 2026. On Tuesday, July 7, veteran calf managers will share low cost ways to improve calf performance, covering colostrum timing by season, TMR audits, and lung ultrasounds. Then on Thursday, July 9, market analyst Ben Buckner returns with his read on ag markets and the trends set to hit dairy and farm income. Both sessions air live from noon to 1 PM Central, offer live Q&A, and count toward continuing education credits through Dairy Advan CE, so there is real reason to tune in.

[Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Sun Jul 5, 2026 10:37 PM CT

4. USDA Unveils \$500M SPUR Program to Protect Independent Beef Processors Amid Historic Cattle Shortage

The USDA just rolled out a \$500 million lifeline called the SPUR Program, announced by Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to keep independent and mid-sized American beef processors from getting crushed by the "Big Four" packers, Tyson, Cargill, National Beef, and foreign-owned JBS, who together control nearly 85 percent of the market. The money, pulled from the Commodity Credit Corporation, comes as the national cattle herd sits at a 75 year low, sparking fierce bidding wars that smaller plants cannot afford, and it deliberately shuts out any processor bigger than the nation's fourth largest. For ranchers this matters because when regional plants close, you lose the competitive bidding that keeps livestock prices fair and the local outlets for premium organic or grass fed beef. Still, Meat Institute chief Julie Anna Potts warns the cash treats a symptom and not the real problem, saying flatly, "We simply need more cattle," and that the herd will not grow until producers get enough certainty to hold back their heifers.

[Read the full article.](#) Hoosier Ag Today, Sun Jul 5, 2026 7:20 PM CT

5. Sienna Alexander's Journey from Indiana FFA State Officer to Miss Morgan County Fair 2026

Now, the former Indiana FFA State Officer is adding another title to her resume 2026 Miss Morgan County Fair Queen and she's using the platform to shine a spotlight on Indiana agriculture. That rigorous training ground, she says, is precisely what prepared her to excel under the pageant lights. They just want to step back, do their work, and let someone else bask in the glory." Beyond the advocacy, Alexander remains a devotee of the county fair itself. Whether wearing the blue corduroy jacket of the FFA or the crown of a county queen, the mission is still to elevate the American farmer.

[Read the full article.](#) Hoosier Ag Today, Sun Jul 5, 2026 7:15 PM CT

6. Texas wants to speed up work on fly factory

Governor Greg Abbott sounded the alarm on June 5 over how long it will take Texas to fight back against the New World screwworm, a flesh eating pest that threatens cattle and livestock. His frustration centers on a new sterile fly breeding factory that is not expected to begin producing insects for more than a year. The sterile fly method works by releasing males that cannot reproduce, which collapses the pest population over time, so every month of delay leaves herds exposed. For anyone raising animals, this is a race against a screwworm threat creeping up from the south, and Texas is pushing to close that gap faster.

[Read the full article.](#) Iowa Farmer Today, Sun Jul 5, 2026 5:30 PM CT

7. Ohio Ag Net Podcast, Ep. 451, When Fungicide Pays and Combatting Fuel Costs

It's a decision that depends on several factors and agronomist Luke Schulte with Beck's Hybrids weighs in with recent Practical Farm Research results. Plus, for Ohio farmers who grow soybeans and other feedstocks for biodiesel, what does the expiration of the 40A blenders' tax credit actually mean day-to-day, and what is being done to reinstate it? Find out on this Ohio Ag Net Podcast, powered by Ohio Corn and Wheat.

[Read the full article.](#) Ohio Country Journal, Sun Jul 5, 2026 2:45 PM CT

8. Hay production strengthens and diversifies Triple D Ranch

Their Jackson County farm, now called Triple D Ranch, has been home to orchards, cattle, and row crops through the generations. "For the small square bale market, our market is Amish or local folks with equine," Dirk said. "It's kind of hard to get people to work in the hay fields. "If you're diversified, and you do hay and you do beef and you do some other things, that's how you make money when times are tough in different markets."

[Read the full article.](#) Ohio Country Journal, Sun Jul 5, 2026 2:30 PM CT

9. Standing up for family farmers

My family has been farming and raising pigs in central Iowa for more than 155 years. America celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. And if we've learned anything in the last 250 years, it's that America is really good at g...

[Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Sun Jul 5, 2026 12:14 PM CT

10. Democrat Mallory McMorrow exits Michigan Senate race, vows to back nominee

McMorrow announced her exit in a post on social media on Sunday, thanking supporters and outlining her political journey, but not giving an explicit reason for her dropping out. "So here's what we do next. Mallory McMorrow has been an important voice, both in this race and in the State Senate, for policies that benefit Michigan's children and families, and I look forward to working with her in the future to build a stronger Michigan for everyone," Stevens said. The latest polling has el Sayed in the lead by a significant amount, a lead establishment Democrats are hoping to eliminate by siphoning McMorrow's support to Stevens.

[Read the full article](#). Washington Examiner, Sun Jul 5, 2026 2:01 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

Match the pesticide label's personal protective equipment (PPE) to the job, every time. Chemical-resistant gloves go on before mixing, and you wash them off before taking them off. The label is the law, if it lists a respirator, do not spray without one. Source: EPA Worker Protection Standard; National Pesticide Information Center.

Cal

Local Obituaries

No local obituaries for your area in today's papers.

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Cotton gin patent 1793

On March 14, 1794, Eli Whitney received the patent for the cotton gin (filed October 28, 1793). Though Southern, the gin reshaped the entire U.S. farm economy by making short-staple cotton profitable, and indirectly drove the political pressure that produced the Homestead Act 68 years later. Source: U.S. Patent Office; Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Cal's Quiz

U.S. wheat acreage went from 45 million in 1916 to how many million in 1919 under WWI 'Food Will Win the War'?

- (a) 54 million
- (b) 64 million
- (c) 74 million
- (d) 94 million

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

How do you outsmart a raccoon that keeps tearing the silage bag? You don't. You just thank him for the inventory adjustment.

The Mi Farm AI Desk

[[CAL-SIGNATURE]]

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

Quiz Answer

(c) 74 million acres. The plow-up of marginal Great Plains land during WWI helped set up the Dust Bowl a decade later. Source: USDA history office; National Archives.

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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