

The MI Farm Brief #037

Thursday July 9, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

MI Farm AI

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

Thursday, July 9, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Owatonna, MN

Today: High **79F**. Areas Of Fog then Partly Sunny.

Tonight: Low **63F**. Patchy Fog.

What this means for today: Areas of fog before 9am. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. North 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	11%	0 mph	Patchy Fog
5 AM	65F	8%	NNW 5 mph	Patchy Fog
6 AM	63F	5%	N 5 mph	Areas Of Fog
7 AM	65F	9%	N 5 mph	Areas Of Fog
8 AM	66F	9%	N 5 mph	Patchy Fog
9 AM	68F	5%	N 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
10 AM	71F	4%	N 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
11 AM	73F	4%	N 5 mph	Partly Sunny
12 PM	75F	6%	N 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
1 PM	76F	1%	N 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
2 PM	77F	2%	N 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
3 PM	78F	2%	N 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
4 PM	79F	1%	N 5 mph	Sunny
5 PM	79F	0%	N 5 mph	Sunny
6 PM	79F	1%	N 5 mph	Mostly Clear
7 PM	77F	0%	N 5 mph	Partly Cloudy
8 PM	76F	0%	NNE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
9 PM	71F	0%	0 mph	Mostly Clear
10 PM	68F	0%	0 mph	Mostly Clear
11 PM	67F	0%	0 mph	Mostly Clear
12 AM	65F	0%	0 mph	Clear

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

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.3475/bu -0.0775
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.5125/bu -0.0500
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.9500/bu -0.0175
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.8875/bu -0.0350
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$5.9950/bu -0.0975
Live Cattle (CME)	\$237.62/cwt -0.3%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$94.50/cwt +1.1%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn slipped about 8 cents; beans slipped about 2 cents; and wheat slipped about 10 cents.

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 corn, beans, and wheat all slipped a little overnight. Honestly, today's headlines do not point to one clean grain cause, since no USDA report is due and the day's ag news runs to Michigan forest maps, screwworm updates, and the John Deere right to repair settlement. Our best read is this was routine profit taking and technical selling in a quiet market, with the two likeliest culprits being a lack of fresh demand news and general position squaring ahead of summer weather.

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	52,348 to 1.1%
S&P; 500	7,483 to 0.3%
Nasdaq	25,871 +0.2%
Russell 2000	2,956 to 0.9%

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 6 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 down about 8 cents, beans down about 2 cents going into the day. Wheat down about 10 cents. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: John Deere Settles FTC Antitrust Suit, Granting Farmers 10-year 'Right to Repair' (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. John Deere Settles FTC Antitrust Suit, Granting Farmers 10-year 'Right to Repair' John Deere just agreed to a major settlement with the Federal Trade Commission and five states, Michigan, Illinois, Arizona, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ending a January 2025 lawsuit that accused the company of trapping farmers in an overpriced repair monopoly. For the next 10 years, Deere must hand over the same diagnostic software, manuals, and hardware tools it gives its own dealers to farmers and independent mechanics on fair terms, and pay \$1 million toward state legal costs. The deal, still pending approval from Judge Iain Johnston in Rockford, Illinois, also bars dealers from retaliating against folks who fix their own machines and requires Deere to release any new tools to the public if more than half its dealers get them. This matters at planting and harvest time, when a locked up tractor once meant weeks of costly waiting on an authorized technician, so being able to grab a wrench and the right software yourself could save you real money and precious field days. [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 8, 2026 6:15 PM CT

2. John Deere settles with Minnesota, other states and FTC over 'right to repair' lawsuit John Deere has settled a right to repair lawsuit brought by Minnesota, several other states, and the FTC, agreeing to give farmers and independent shops the digital tools needed to diagnose and repair large ag equipment for 10 years. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison called it a win against illegal antitrust practices that drove up farmer costs and hurt small rural repair businesses. Within 30 days, Deere must mail owners and independent repair providers letters explaining their new access to repair resources, and the deal can be extended past 10 years if Deere breaks its terms. This comes on top of a separate \$99 million class action settlement Deere agreed to in April covering farmers who paid authorized dealers for repairs to big equipment going back to January 2018. [Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Wed Jul 8, 2026 4:16 PM CT

3. Agriculture industry urges USTR to make exemptions to proposed forced labor tariffs At a Wednesday hearing, farm and food groups pressed the U.S. Trade Representative to reshape which products get spared from proposed Section 301 tariffs of 10% to 12.5% aimed at 60 nations accused of using forced labor. Jenna Stanton of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association argued the exemption for all bovine products should be scrapped, warning that Brazil has blacklisted at least 21 cattle operations for slavery like conditions, and that cheap Brazilian beef ends up shelved right next to beef from honest U.S. family farmers. She flagged Argentina as no safe alternative since Brazilian beef can be rerouted through it, all while the Trump administration has already opened the door to 80,000 metric tons of tariff free Argentine beef trimmings a year, citing record low domestic herds. Coffee interests joined in too, with the National Coffee Association noting unflavored instant coffee got left off the exemption list even though coffee cannot be grown here and adds more than \$343 billion to the economy each year. [Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Wed Jul 8, 2026 5:57 PM CT

4. Lean Hogs Hog futures broke sharply higher today, with the October contract posting its strongest single day rally since November as buyers rushed in right after the open. The Hightower Report credited the surge to managed money shorts finally covering their positions after October pushed through Monday's one month high and tripped a wave of buy stops that accelerated the climb. Front month contracts jumped anywhere from 50 cents to \$1.70, though the deferred months slipped 7 to 30 cents, leaving the board mixed, according to Austin Schroeder writing for Barchart. For anyone feeding hogs or watching protein markets, this is the first real technical spark in a while, and it may signal that the recent slide has run its course. [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Jul 8, 2026 5:13 PM CT

5. Cattle complex prices bounce back from morning lows Live cattle prices clawed their way off a rough start, with the August contract dipping to three month lows in the morning before buyers stepped in to close well above the day's bottom. According to The Hightower Report, technical selling has driven the market lower for the past couple of weeks and pressured prices again early on. The turning point came when stochastics hit their most oversold reading of all of 2026, which triggered short covering late in the session and lifted the complex. This bounce matters because it hints the recent slide may be running out of steam, a signal worth watching before you price your next load of cattle. [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Jul 8, 2026 4:56 PM CT

6. New Interactive Map Helps Tell Story of Michigan's Forest Legacy Program Michigan's Department of Natural Resources has released a new interactive story map showcasing all 10 of the state's Forest Legacy projects, which range from a modest 160 acres up to more than 147,000 acres across the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula. Kerry Heckman of the DNR's Forest Resources Division says the competitive federal program has helped acquire over 238,000 acres for public use through outright purchases or conservation easements, protecting scenic spots like the Pigeon River Country State Forest and the Keweenaw Peninsula. The newest addition, the Michigamme Highlands, locks in a 73,063 acre working forest easement in the Huron Mountains that includes Mount Arvon, the state's highest point, while still allowing sustainable logging, hunting access, and protected deer and moose habitat. What matters here is the money and the model, since the federal government covers up to 75 percent of project costs with the remaining 25 percent coming from private, state, or local partners, a cost sharing setup that keeps working forests both productive and open to the public forever. [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Wed Jul 8, 2026 9:24 PM CT

7. Updates on New World Screwworm Federal officials confirmed the first U.S. case of New World screwworm on June 3, 2026, in a Texas calf, and the flesh eating pest has since turned up in cattle, sheep, goats, and dogs across Texas and New Mexico, though none has reached Michigan yet. Because the larvae burrow into open wounds on any warm blooded animal and can be fatal, new import movement rules took effect June 17, 2026, tightening how animals travel from affected states and their neighbors. Michigan's agriculture department has launched its own information page at michigan.gov/screwworm, backed by the national dashboard at screwworm.gov and lab support from Michigan State University. Farmers are urged to inspect stock for draining wounds, the smell of decay, and creamy white eggs near wound edges, and to report any suspected case immediately at 800 to 292 to 3939 since this is an emergency reportable disease. [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Wed Jul 8, 2026 9:08 PM CT

8. A Tale of Two Regions: Indiana's Split Planting Season Leaves Farmers Hoping for a Strong Finish This Fall Indiana's corn and soybean crop has split into two very different seasons this year, with C.J. Fleenor in southwestern Orange County finishing all his planting by about April 28th, a personal world record, while Don Wyss near Fort Wayne sat stuck in barns as rain, frost, and cold kept his ground too wet to plant. Statewide the USDA rates 62 percent of corn and 64 percent of soybeans good to excellent, but that average hides a fractured reality, since southern fields fought too much rain, drought, heat, and frost that forced some farmers to replant seed two or three times. Now an early July heatwave has flipped the fortunes, baking the humid south into a greenhouse that threatens tar spot and southern rust outbreaks just as tight margins make growers question spending on fungicide, while that same heat rescued the north by finally pushing its late crops toward pollination. The takeaway is that both regions are betting on a strong fall finish, with well timed August rains able to save the delayed northern crop and disease control needed to protect the early southern one, a reminder of how local weather now decides who wins the yield race. [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 8, 2026 6:20 PM CT

9. Live cattle lower waiting on direct business Cattle traders sat on their hands Wednesday as August live cattle slipped \$.80 to \$237.62 and direct cash bids stayed scarce, with Nebraska sellers asking \$400 dressed and real volume not expected until Thursday or Friday. Feeder cattle bucked the trend at the CME, closing higher on cheaper corn, but the OKC West auction told a different story with steers and calves running \$5 to \$20 lower on plain to average quality. Boxed beef took a hard hit, with Choice dropping \$4.57 to \$381.20 and slaughter running more than 10,000 head behind last year, a sign demand is softening at the meat case. Meanwhile hogs were the day's winner as August lean hogs jumped \$2.72 to \$99.65 on aggressive processor buying, and with grilling season hot and pork priced cheap at retail, that could keep the momentum going. [Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Wed Jul 8,

2026 4:09 PM CT

10. Senate farm bill draft keeps SNAP cuts Nearly two months after the House passed its own version, the Senate Agriculture Committee has finally put out its first draft of the big omnibus farm bill that sets the rules on everything from crop insurance to food aid. The draft holds onto the cuts to SNAP, the nutrition assistance program, that have been a sticking point in the debate. In a separate development out of West Branch, Iowa, two Iowa farming groups have signed onto a nationwide lawsuit against the federal government over the sudden revocation of certain funds. This all matters because the farm bill shapes your safety net for years to come, and Iowa producers are clearly willing to go to court when Washington yanks promised support. [Read the full article](#). Iowa Farmer Today, Wed Jul 8, 2026 4:00 PM CT

Cal's Receipt

Cal's Receipt is the running 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). Append-only, and every dollar cites its source. You will find it on your farm Dashboard, on the Farm Services desk. Open the Dashboard from the button at the bottom of this Brief.

Today in Farm Safety

Farmers have one of the highest skin cancer rates of any job from years of sun. Wear a wide-brim hat, long sleeves when you can, and sunscreen on the neck, ears, and forearms. A yearly skin check catches the early ones. Source: National Ag Safety Database; Marshfield Clinic agricultural medicine.

Cal

Local Obituaries

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

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Deere buys Waterloo Boy 1918

On March 14, 1918, John Deere & Company paid \$2.35 million for the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company, maker of the Waterloo Boy tractor (built on John Froelich's 1892 design). The purchase put Deere in the tractor business; today Deere is the largest farm-equipment maker in the world. Source: Deere & Company corporate archive; Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Cal's Quiz

In the 1921 farm depression, by how much did U.S. corn prices fall in a single year?

- (a) 24%
- (b) 44%
- (c) 64%
- (d) 84%

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The Hesston cut hay all day. The clouds built west. The farmer raked the windrows. The first drop hit the rake. He told his wife, "Tie game." She said, "Who wins?" He said, "The rake. By eleven minutes."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(c) 64% (wheat fell 53%). European farms came back online after WWI and the farm depression lasted through the 1920s, hiding inside the urban Roaring Twenties. Midwest foreclosures hit levels not seen again until the 1980s farm crisis. Source: USDA Economic Research Service; Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis historical bulletin.

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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