

The MI Farm Brief #139

Sunday July 19, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

MI Farm AI

Prepared 2026-07-19 5:02 AM Central Time

Generated by Mark's Claude AI

For internal review

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For Nate Meixell, Lake Crystal, Minnesota (Blue Earth County)

Sunday, July 19, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather

The NOAA National Weather Service forecast was unavailable this morning (source down at 5:01 AM after three tries), so today's high and low are not shown. We never print a guessed temperature. The rest of your Brief is unaffected.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Cal's Grain Call: Book about a third of your old crop corn today above your \$4.11 breakeven, and put a floor under the rest. You are never a forced seller below your cost.

Source: Hold/Sell CMBS + 2-round Devil's Advocate: 10 analysts, then an adversarial re-examination that corrected the call, as of 2026 to 07 to 06.

Live futures feed temporarily unavailable. Back in the next Brief.

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Fresh call: Crop insurance: Acreage reporting deadline, 2026 to 06 to 30 (\$2,360,640).
- Acting on today's read: EQIP application deadline, conservation funding, 2026 to 09 to 01 (44 days) (\$50,000).
- New today: LOC at 80% drawn (\$1,200,000), reduce before spring inputs.
- Standing reminder: Scout soybeans for aphids, the 250-per-plant treatment threshold drives the spray decision. Check corn ears for fill and tip-back.

Farm context: Meixell Farms, 3,700 acres (1,600 owned + 2,100 rented), corn/soybean rotation, Crystal Valley cooperative (real intake on file)..

From Cal's News Desk

News desk feed temporarily unavailable. The news page and this desk read the same source, [mi-farm-ai/static/farm-brief/news_v2.json](#), refreshed through the day.

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

Stay out of a cow's blind spot directly behind her, and never turn your back on a bull. Most livestock-handling injuries are crushing and kicks in tight spaces. Move calmly, give yourself an exit, and respect a protective mother around newborns. Source: National Ag Safety Database; University of Minnesota Extension.

Cal

Local Obituaries

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

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Second Morrill Act 1890

On August 30, 1890, the Second Morrill Act extended land-grant funding to historically Black colleges and universities. Seventeen 1890 institutions, Tuskegee, Alabama A&M, Tennessee State, and others, still operate under this funding line, and their extension and ag-research programs serve farmers today. Source: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture; 1890 Land-Grant Universities historical record.

Cal's Quiz

Within roughly ten years of his 1837 first plow, John Deere's Grand Detour shop was making about how many plows per year?

- (a) 100
- (b) 1,000
- (c) 10,000
- (d) 100,000

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The farmer noticed the first tassel of the year. He took a picture. He sent it to his grandson. The grandson sent back a thumbs up. The farmer told his wife, "That's twenty years of conversation in one emoji."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(b) 1,000 plows a year by the late 1840s. The self-scouring steel plow, polished from a broken saw blade, was the breakthrough tool for cutting sticky prairie sod. By 1855 his Moline works hit 10,000 a year. Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History; Deere & Company 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.

The MI Farm Brief is the independent daily farm intelligence brief that earns zero when you buy inputs. Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen is the editorial persona of the MI Farm AI desk, the AI-orchestrated production team that produces this Brief every working morning. The Monthly Receipt is signed by the Founder, MI Farm AI. Honest. Independent. Loyal. Transparent. The HILT Covenant.