

The MI Farm Brief #147

Monday July 27, 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 Nate Meixell, Lake Crystal, Minnesota (Blue Earth County)

Monday, July 27, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Blue Earth County, MN

Today: High **94F**. Patchy Smoke.

Tonight: Low **70F**. Patchy Fog.

What this means for today: Patchy smoke after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Heat index values as high as 97. West northwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Source: NOAA National Weather Service via the MI Farm AI weather layer for Blue Earth County, MN, pulled this morning.

Hour by Hour, the day ahead

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
4 AM	79F	6%	SW 6 mph	Clear
5 AM	78F	4%	SW 5 mph	Patchy Fog
6 AM	77F	3%	WSW 5 mph	Sunny
7 AM	75F	1%	W 5 mph	Sunny
8 AM	77F	1%	W 10 mph	Sunny
9 AM	80F	0%	NW 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
10 AM	84F	0%	NW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
11 AM	87F	0%	NW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
12 PM	89F	0%	NW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
1 PM	91F	0%	NW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
2 PM	92F	0%	NW 15 mph	Patchy Smoke
3 PM	92F	0%	NNW 15 mph	Patchy Smoke
4 PM	93F	0%	NNW 15 mph	Patchy Smoke
5 PM	92F	0%	NNW 15 mph	Patchy Smoke
6 PM	91F	0%	NNW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
7 PM	90F	0%	NNW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
8 PM	86F	0%	NNW 10 mph	Patchy Smoke
9 PM	83F	0%	NNW 5 mph	Patchy Smoke
10 PM	80F	0%	NNW 5 mph	Patchy Smoke
11 PM	78F	0%	N 5 mph	Patchy Smoke
12 AM	77F	0%	NNE 5 mph	Patchy Smoke

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

Spray Window

Spray window is MARGINAL today. Wind at your nearest weather station is about 6 mph right now, gusting 6 (the hour-by-hour table above is the NWS forecast, which can read lower). If you go, check your product label first, keep the boom low and the speed down, and watch your gusts and any ground-level inversion.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Futures board (front month): corn Dec 2026 \$4.7375/bu (+0.0950, +2.05%); soybeans Nov 2026 \$12.1900/bu (-0.2900, -2.32%). Chicago board, as of 2026 to 07 to 27.

Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.7300/bu -0.1450
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$12.1750/bu -0.3600
Live Cattle (CME)	\$227.07/cwt +0.7%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$102.85/cwt +0.7%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn slipped about 14 cents; and beans slipped about 36 cents.

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

Here is our read on why. Cutting the other way, demand still reads firm per Hoosier Ag Today: USDA Announces Phased Reopening of Southern Cattle Ports Amid Strict New World Screwworm Safeguards. Honest truth, the tape does not hand us one clean reason today, so take this as our best read, not gospel.

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, Friday's close

Dow Jones	51,947 +0.5%
S&P; 500	7,412 +0.0%
Nasdaq	24,976 to 0.6%
Russell 2000	2,930 to 0.3%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- New today: EQIP application deadline, conservation funding, 2026 to 09 to 01 (36 days) (\$50,000).
- Fresh call: Price 15,000 bu soybeans via cash forward to ADM Mankato at \$11.91.
- Acting on today's read: Crop insurance: Acreage reporting deadline, 2026 to 06 to 30 (\$2,360,640).
- New today: LOC at 80% drawn (\$1,200,000), reduce before spring inputs.

Farm context: Meixell Farms, 3,574.89 acres (1,339 owned plus 2,236 rented), corn/soybean rotation, Crystal Valley cooperative (real intake on file).

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 14 cents, beans down about 36 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: USDA Announces Phased Reopening of Southern Cattle Ports Amid Strict New World Screwworm Safeguards (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. USDA Announces Phased Reopening of Southern Cattle Ports Amid Strict New World Screwworm Safeguards Department of Agriculture has announced a coordinated, phased reopening of southern cattle ports of entry. While Agriculture Secretary Rollins previously resisted calls to rush open the border, mounting biosecurity milestones in specific northern Mexican states ultimately shifted the calculus. These ports will follow only after USDA evaluates the success of the initial Douglas opening, ongoing surveillance results, and potential risk shifts. For more details regarding the USDA's ongoing New World screwworm response and compliance guidelines, producers can visit the USDA APHIS Stop Screwworm Resource Page. [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Sun Jul 26, 2026 12:10 PM CT

2. U.S. growers face cost challenges corn growers are the most productive farmers in the world, but even extremely productive farms can lose ground globally when they are forced to compete from a more-costly position. The findings show that U.S. agriculture, rural economies and the long-term strength of U.S. Visit [ncga.com](#) for more information. [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Mon Jul 27, 2026 1:00 AM CT

3. Washington Week Ahead: U.S.-Brazil ties and farmer aid are in question A host of actions by the Trump administration are sure to keep trade in the forefront of discussions in the nation's capital. That pushes demand toward U.S. On Capitol Hill, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., faces renewed calls from President Donald Trump to scrap the filibuster, which effectively sets a 60-vote threshold for passing most legislation. 3 midterm elections, are a bill to allow voluntary, year-round access to higher ethanol-fuel blends, known as E15; a revamp of farm labor laws; and a new farm bill to address key ag policy, like USDA loan limits, that haven't been updated since 2018. [Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Sun Jul 26, 2026 6:52 PM CT

4. Calf adoption program opens 4-H opportunities Solo cups aren't just for summer barbecues. They're also something to look for in a cattle herd. [Read the full article](#). Iowa Farmer Today, Sun Jul 26, 2026 12:00 PM CT

5. Michigan Christmas Tree Growers Honored with 2026 MCTA Growers Hall of Fame Award The honor recognizes their decades of innovation, leadership, and dedication to the state's Christmas tree industry. John passed away at age 95, leaving behind his wife of decades, Viola, four children all proud MSU graduates and an enduring agricultural legacy. Lee has been a great example of how hard work, vision, and strong character can grow a successful business that can last for generations. Armed Forces participated in the event. [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Mon Jul 27, 2026 2:49 AM CT

6. Ohio Soybean Association Annual Hometown Tour Dates The Hometown Tour will follow OSA to farms and agricultural businesses across the state, where farmers can gather to learn about operating with tight margins, methods to grow your yields, and more. Reinhard Farms Bucyrus, OH Wednesday, August 13 Fayette County (partnership with Ohio Ag Net and Ohio's Country Journal's Crop Tour) 4:30 to 7:45 p.m. This in-depth class will better prepare participants for the [...] COLUMBUS, Ohio The Ohio AgriBusiness Association and Ohio State Extension will partner to hold the Farm Science Review Agronomy College on Sept. 2026 Dates and Locations: June 4 McComb High School, 328 Todd St., McComb, [...] [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Mon Jul 27, 2026 2:34 AM CT

7. Classic Beef Kabobs recipe Studios Shopping Shop Local Newsletters Mobile Apps Advertise with Us Ag Publications Ag Update Agri-View Cattle Seller Farm & Ranch Guide Farm & Ranch Network Illinois Farmer Today Iowa Farmer Today Livestock Roundup Midwest Marketer Midwest Messenger Midwest Messenger Kansas Missouri Farmer Today The Prairie Star Tri-State Neighbor Facebook Twitter 2026 Lee Enterprises Terms of Service | Privacy Policy Read Today's E-edition Log In Welcome, Guest My Subscription See Benefits Members Only, > Help Center My Account Dashboard Profile Saved items Logout North Dakota Iowa Illinois Missouri Nebraska Montana South Dakota Wisconsin 87 Fair Share This Facebook Twitter Bluesky WhatsApp SMS Email Classic Beef Kabobs recipe Share this Facebook Twitter Bluesky WhatsApp SMS Email Print Copy article link Save Javascript is required to use this website. Classic Beef Kabobs recipe Jul 26, 2026 37 mins ago Prefer us on Google AgUpdate as a preferred news source to see more of our stories on Google." data-html="true" data-toggle="source-popover" data-placement="top" role="button" data-trigger="focus" [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Sun Jul 26, 2026 11:09 PM CT

8. Ohio Ag Net Podcast, Ep. 454, Expanding Support for Ohio State Fair youth On this Ohio Ag Net Podcast, powered by Ohio Corn and Wheat, learn why this type of investment is important for Farm Credit Mid-America, livestock exhibitors and Ohio agriculture as a whole from Bob Siegel, FCMA Regional Vice President of Agricultural Lending Plus, high-oleic soybeans are becoming more popular for use in dairy rations. Dairy nutritionist Corwin Holtz talks about the science behind the use of HO beans to feed dairy cows. [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Sun Jul 26, 2026 2:45 PM CT

9. Op-ed: The investments of imAGine Ag From the seeds we plant in early spring for a fall harvest to the long-term planning of who will take over the farm or business after us, there is always a focus on tomorrow. Visitors will experience what it takes to grow a crop through changing seasons, discover how precision technology helps farmers protect their fields, learn how weather influences decisions made on the farm, and gain a better understanding of the care and time farmers give our animals and natural resources everyday. In addition to imAGine Ag, the Ohio Agriculture Center will include the Taste of Ohio Cafe, Ohio Proud Showcase, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association Animal Life & Learning Center, and horticulture exhibits and competitions. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Ohio's Country Journal or Ohio Ag Net or its staff. [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Sun Jul 26, 2026 2:43 PM CT

10. Indiana Among Nation's Deadliest States for Farm Confined Space Accidents, Purdue Report Warns According to the newly released 2025 Summary of U.S. "OSHA Regions 5 and 7 continue to account for approximately 67.7% of all documented agricultural confined space-related incidents," Field notes. "We are not able to identify all cases that potentially occur due to lack of reporting requirements and dependency on local media reports." Beyond the devastating emotional toll on rural communities, the financial and legal consequences for agricultural employers failing to secure workplaces are skyrocketing. We need all the help we can get." [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Sun Jul 26, 2026 12:20 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

In cold, wet field work, watch for frostbite on fingers, ears, and nose and for the early shivering of hypothermia. Dress in layers you can shed, keep a dry change in the cab, and warm up before judgment and grip start to fade. Source: OSHA cold stress guidance; National Ag Safety Database.

Cal

Local Obituaries

We note the passing of neighbors across your area, gathered from the local papers this morning. Our thoughts are with their families.

Fraser, Edward, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Robert "Bob" Schneiderhan, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Natvig, George Lee, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Barbara Simpson, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Adam Johnson, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Dauk, Robert "Bob", Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Eli Whitney interchangeable parts 1798

In 1798, Eli Whitney won a U.S. government contract for 10,000 muskets built with interchangeable parts. The principle, identical parts made by machine, assembled by less-skilled labor, became the foundation of the McCormick reaper factory (1847), the Deere plow works (1855), and every farm-equipment factory since. Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History; U.S. Patent Office.

Cal's Quiz

The 1935 Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation eventually became which two modern federal programs?

- (a) NRCS and EQIP
- (b) School lunch and SNAP
- (c) CRP and EQIP
- (d) USDA and FDA

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The father-in-law gave gardening advice to the farmer's wife. She listened politely. Later she told the farmer, "He grew tomatoes for fifty years. I'll listen." The farmer said, "That's smarter than how I listen to him."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(b) School lunch (1946) and SNAP. Started October 4, 1935, it bought surplus farm products and donated them to school lunch and relief programs, the original federal food-aid line. Farm price support and child nutrition have been linked ever since. Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service history.

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.