

The MI Farm Brief #150

Thursday July 30, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

MI Farm AI

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Generated by Mark's Claude AI

For internal review

The MI Farm AI Brief #150

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

Thursday, July 30, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Steele County, MN

Today: High **83F**. Partly Sunny.

Tonight: Low **66F**. Partly Cloudy.

What this means for today: Partly sunny, with a high near 83. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

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

Hour by Hour, the day ahead

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
4 AM	70F	0%	SSE 8 mph	Clear
5 AM	69F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Partly Cloudy
6 AM	69F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
7 AM	69F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
8 AM	72F	0%	S 5 mph	Partly Sunny
9 AM	75F	0%	S 10 mph	Partly Sunny
10 AM	78F	0%	S 10 mph	Partly Sunny
11 AM	80F	0%	S 15 mph	Mostly Sunny
12 PM	81F	0%	S 15 mph	Partly Sunny
1 PM	82F	0%	S 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
2 PM	83F	0%	S 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
3 PM	83F	1%	S 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
4 PM	83F	1%	S 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
5 PM	82F	3%	S 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
6 PM	81F	3%	S 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
7 PM	79F	4%	SSE 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
8 PM	78F	5%	SSE 10 mph	Cloudy
9 PM	75F	5%	SSE 10 mph	Cloudy
10 PM	73F	11%	SSE 10 mph	Cloudy
11 PM	72F	10%	SSE 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
12 AM	71F	16%	SSE 10 mph	Slight Chance Rain Showers

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 5 mph right now, gusting 5 (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 \$4.7475/bu (+0.2575, +5.73%); soybeans Nov 2026 \$11.9625/bu (+0.1825, +1.55%). Chicago board, as of 2026 to 07 to 30.

Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.7475/bu +0.0300
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.9550/bu +0.0275
Live Cattle (CME)	\$227.90/cwt +0.2%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$100.68/cwt -2.4%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 3 cents; and beans added about 3 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 Morning Ag Clips: Stowe Named UK Ag Equine Programs Director. Honest truth, the tape does not hand us one clean reason today, so take this as our best read, not gospel.

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	51,594 to 2.2%
S&P; 500	7,316 to 1.5%
Nasdaq	24,443 to 1.7%
Russell 2000	2,906 to 1.6%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Standing reminder: Watch for the corn VT/R1 tassel-silk window for fungicide, and scout soybeans entering R1-R3 for white mold risk in thick, wet canopies.

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 3 cents, beans up about 3 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Life in a Farmhouse Kitchen (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. Life in a Farmhouse Kitchen Ellie Kluetzman finds a gathering of hundreds of tiny, yellow and black garden spiders, freshly hatched. Timothy grass, *Phleum pratense*, is a popular pasture grass and widely used as a food source for animals. Ellie Kluetzman moved to a small farm almost 20 years ago; it changed her life. In addition to working with his... [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Thu Jul 30, 2026 1:00 AM CT

2. TFI's Agronomy Conference and Expo Returns to Indy Between tightening profit margins, fluctuating global supply chains, and evolving regulatory expectations, the pressure to deliver practical, data-backed guidance has never been higher. "The Fertilizer Institute represents a wide variety of companies," Rosenbusch explains. Rosenbusch points out that understanding how global disruptions impact local fields is a constant challenge for advisers who specialize in agronomy rather than economics. To turn complexity into clear, practical guidance your growers can use this season, visit [TFI.org/events](#) and use the promo code HOOSIER to secure your complimentary registration. [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 29, 2026 6:15 PM CT

3. Lean Hogs The extreme heat across the Midwest will finally move out, reducing animal stress," The Hightower Report said. "Commodity pressure continues today with crude oil still sinking, and that may result in additional (hog market) weakness this morning, but th... [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Jul 29, 2026 5:07 PM CT

4. No-Till Highlights: July 30, 2026 Here is our favorite content from the past week from across the web: After more than five decades in agriculture, Mississippi farmer and cotton industry leader Sledge Taylor is still asking questions, testing new ideas and changing the way he manages his farm. He rotates soybeans, wheat, corn and cotton on his 500-acre farm. Kendra Downing is the Summer 2026 Editorial Intern for Lessiter Media's Ag Division. Provide expert analysis and decision support to increase productivity and profitability. [Read the full article](#). No-Till Farmer, Wed Jul 29, 2026 11:00 PM CT

5. No-Till Cropping & Business Insights The 2025 No-Till Farmer Operational Benchmark Survey is being promoted here as a deep online resource for no-tillage practices, with the pitch that a single good idea can pay back a subscription many times over. The piece also spotlights an advanced XPR concave system that threshes all crops with one set, cuts rotor loss, and delivers cleaner grain samples and better grain quality. Titan International gets a strong plug too, described as one of the largest North American makers of wheels, tires, and undercarriage products for farm, construction, forestry, mining, and other off road equipment, backed by a worldwide dealer network. It matters because these tools and suppliers all point toward the same goal for your operation, namely better productivity and profitability through smarter no-till decisions and reliable equipment. [Read the full article](#). No-Till Farmer, Wed Jul 29, 2026 11:00 PM CT

6. Senate panel delays critical vote to advance Blanche attorney general nomination A spokesperson for the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is led by Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA), suggested Wednesday's vote was pushed back because Blanche lacks the support necessary to advance his nomination. "Senators Cornyn and Tillis want written assurances from the Department of Justice regarding the Trump-IRS settlement. Cornyn said he and his staff provided the DOJ with a "red-line strikeout" outlining potential changes. "He's just being realistic about planning a markup." Cornyn is pressing the DOJ to spell out how broadly the settlement's audit-immunity provision would apply, including whether it would shield recipients from enforcement by agencies beyond the IRS and Treasury Department. [Read the full article](#). Washington Examiner, Wed Jul 29, 2026 8:53 PM CT

7. Stowe Named UK Ag Equine Programs Director Stowe returns to the role a decade after leading the program from 2013 to 2016. "UK Ag Equine Programs is a hallmark of our college's land-grant mission, bringing together

teaching, research and Extension to serve Kentucky's signature industry," said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of Martin-Gatton CAFE. NAEAA Executive Officers: Sara Mastellar, Ph.D., Ohio State ATI, Chair Grey Parks, M.S., Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Vice-Chair [...] LEXINGTON, Ky. Participants commit to attend two training sessions. [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Thu Jul 30, 2026 2:39 AM CT

8. MDARD Releases Updated Business Guide for Michigan Wholesale Food Processors This resource supports new manufactured food businesses as they move through each step required to operate legally and safely in Michigan as well as existing food businesses that want to expand their current food processing operations. This guide is available as an e-book for added convenience to search, translate, and navigate, including from a mobile device. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced a cooperative agreement with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) under the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) investing \$8 million in competitive grant funding. Last week, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Tim Boring traveled to the Upper Peninsula (UP) to recognize the Marquette Farmers Market, attend the UP State Fair, celebrate the 125th anniversary of the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, and convene a community roundtable at Partridge Creek Farms. [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Thu Jul 30, 2026 2:26 AM CT

9. Watch: Nahrup, Courtright champion Ohio State Fair Market Lamb Show Watch their video interviews here as Ohio Ag Net is feeding you the results first, thanks to Formula of Champions, fueled by Kalmbach Feeds. The latest in the agronomic video series has Beck's Field Agronomist Mike Hannewald asking if... [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Wed Jul 29, 2026 10:58 PM CT

10. From Biofuels to Data Centers: Hoosier Farmers Tackle Energy Challenges at Ag Policy Summit Hosted by the Indiana Corn Growers Association and the Indiana Soybean Alliance's Membership and Policy Committee, this year's summit focused heavily on the intersection of agriculture, state energy demands, utility regulation, and biofuels expansion. Kendell Culp, along with federal perspective from Dr. I think there's some real possibilities there if it's done right." Biofuels were another major focal point of the day. Be on the lookout for more coverage from the Indiana Ag Policy Summit, including a new Indiana Ag Policy Podcast, in the coming days. [Read the full article](#). Hoosier Ag Today, Wed Jul 29, 2026 9:36 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

Carry a charged fire extinguisher in the combine and the tractor during harvest. Dry crop residue and a hot bearing or exhaust start most field fires. Blow chaff off the engine and exhaust daily, and keep a phone and water on board. Source: National Ag Safety Database; Iowa State University Extension.

Cal

Local Obituaries

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

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Mendel publishes pea genetics 1866

In 1866, Gregor Mendel published his pea-plant inheritance experiments. Ignored for 34 years, his work was rediscovered in 1900 and became the genetic foundation of hybrid corn. Every Pioneer, DEKALB, and Channel seed bag on your farm traces back to Mendel's monastery garden. Source: American Society of Agronomy; Smithsonian Institution.

Cal's Quiz

What was the average U.S. dairy cow's annual milk yield in 1936, the year the Dairy Herd Improvement program was adopted?

- (a) 4,300 lb
- (b) 8,600 lb
- (c) 12,000 lb
- (d) 24,000 lb

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

Pea-sized hail hit the corn for ten minutes. The farmer said, "Could have been worse." His wife said, "Could have been better." He said, "On this farm we don't grade weather. We just survive it."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(a) 4,300 lb per year. Today's average is over 24,000 lb, a 5x gain driven by Robert Bakewell's 18th-century methods (line breeding, performance recording, progeny testing) formalized in the 1936 program. Source: USDA NASS dairy historical series.

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.