

The MI Farm Brief #156

Wednesday August 5, 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)

Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Steele County, MN

Today: High **74F**. Sunny.

Tonight: Low **55F**. Mostly Cloudy.

What this means for today: Sunny, with a high near 74. West northwest wind 0 to 5 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	55F	1%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy
5 AM	54F	1%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy
6 AM	53F	0%	0 mph	Mostly Sunny
7 AM	55F	0%	0 mph	Mostly Sunny
8 AM	59F	0%	0 mph	Sunny
9 AM	62F	0%	0 mph	Sunny
10 AM	66F	0%	NNW 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
11 AM	68F	0%	NNW 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
12 PM	70F	0%	NNW 5 mph	Mostly Sunny
1 PM	71F	0%	NW 5 mph	Sunny
2 PM	72F	0%	NW 5 mph	Sunny
3 PM	73F	0%	WNW 5 mph	Sunny
4 PM	74F	0%	WNW 5 mph	Sunny
5 PM	73F	0%	W 5 mph	Sunny
6 PM	73F	0%	W 5 mph	Clear
7 PM	72F	0%	WSW 5 mph	Clear
8 PM	69F	0%	0 mph	Clear
9 PM	66F	0%	0 mph	Clear
10 PM	63F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear
11 PM	61F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear
12 AM	60F	0%	S 5 mph	Mostly Clear

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 \$4.6150/bu (+0.1925, +4.35%); soybeans Nov 2026 \$11.7125/bu (+0.1625, +1.41%). Chicago board, as of 2026 to 08 to 05.

Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.6100/bu -0.0450
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.7100/bu -0.0675
Live Cattle (CME)	\$231.95/cwt +0.4%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$97.85/cwt +0.3%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn slipped about 4 cents; and beans slipped about 7 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 Tri-State Neighbor: Thresheree recreates what once was. 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	54,086 +1.7%
S&P; 500	7,737 +1.8%
Nasdaq	26,585 +2.6%
Russell 2000	3,037 +1.8%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Reminder, still on your list: Scout soybeans for aphids, the 250-per-plant treatment threshold drives the spray decision. Check corn ears for fill and tip-back.

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 4 cents, beans down about 7 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: At Farmfest, Rollins acknowledges struggling farm economy while touting wins on trade, ethanol (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. At Farmfest, Rollins acknowledges struggling farm economy while touting wins on trade, ethanol Secretary of Agriculture when she spoke at Farmfest Tuesday morning, Aug. 4, but she's no stranger to Minnesota farm country. Reach her at janelle.atyeo@lee.net. Email notifications are only sent once a day, and only if there are new matching items. [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Tue Aug 4, 2026 5:00 PM CT

2. Fischbach defends tariffs, USDA shakeup as challenger Osberg pushes back at Farmfest Pete Stauber, R-Hermantown, and DFL-endorsed challenger Trina Swanson answered for the 8th District, Democrat Doug Chapin for the 6th. Fischbach said Congress needs to "provide more stability and more clarity" and that farmers want strong markets, not payments. She said that negotiations with Mexico were going "very well." "We have the base of it, and we are taking a look at what's going on in the USMCA, what we can improve on, and there's obviously things we can improve on," Fischbach said. Fischbach won the GOP endorsement in April. [Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Tue Aug 4, 2026 9:23 PM CT

3. DNR Hunter Safety Education Week Begins Aug. 10 These classes, held at locations around the state, provide a convenient way to earn your hunter safety education certificate. Hunter safety education helps the next generation of hunters learn how to safely and responsibly enjoy hunting and understand the importance of wildlife management. "I am very humbled by this," Hendershot said. Join Brianne Haskell-Hanisich, M.D., Marshfield Clinic Dermatology Department, who will share sun safety strategies during the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network quarterly meeting, June 5, beginning at 1 [...] [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Tue Aug 4, 2026 9:22 PM CT

4. Rep. Brad Finstad and DFL challenger Jake Johnson split over farm policy at Farmfest Both spoke separately with Agweek afterward. That's just a fact." An amendment to allow year-round E15 sales was stripped from the House bill before passage and handled separately. "My grandfather sold his soybeans in 1973 for \$12.80 a bushel. "The time for us addressing this temporary, archaic system is now," he said. [Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Tue Aug 4, 2026 6:57 PM CT

5. Ahead of the Curve: Gregg Sauder's New Outlook on Autonomy During our recent visit to 360 headquarters in Morton, Ill., Sauder explained why he's changed his opinion on autonomy in recent years. You saw that in the drag line industry for manure drag lines. Get full access NOW to the most comprehensive, powerful and easy-to-use online resource for no-tillage practices. Provide expert analysis and decision support to increase productivity and profitability. [Read the full article](#). No-Till Farmer, Wed Aug 5, 2026 12:00 AM CT

6. Man armed with pistol arrested at Trump's Southern California golf course The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Jeanine John Taele, was spotted by plainclothes federal agents who observed odd behavior and subsequently contacted the Lomita Sheriff Department deputies. The department said the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the U.S. However, this case underscores the importance of vigilance, strong partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and the proactive steps taken to identify and investigate suspicious activity before it can escalate," the LACSD said. A jury found Routh guilty, and he was sentenced to life in prison. [Read the full article](#). Washington Examiner, Tue Aug 4, 2026 7:58 PM CT

7. Trump-endorsed Braun to face off against Perez in toss-up Washington House election Marie Glusenkamp Perez (D-Wash.), is projected to advance to a face-off with the Democratic congresswoman in November, according to Decision Desk HQ's (DDHQ) preliminary results. Army veteran and the owner of vehicle manufacturer Braun Northwest, defeated two... [Read the full article](#). The Hill, Tue Aug 4, 2026 10:19 PM CT

8. Thresherecree recreates what once was 1 was badly needed in southern Wisconsin some areas received almost 6 inches by some accounts but it threatened to wash out the 15th-annual Tilletown Threshing Club's Thresherecree. Paul Gero is a photographer and filmmaker based in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. After 18 years in Southern California, he returned to Wisconsin in 2018 to not far from where he grew up in Columbus where he and his wife, Nicki Gero, have raised their children, Kate and Matthew. Field corn is full of surprises, with ears and tas... [Read the full article.](#)
Tri-State Neighbor, Wed Aug 5, 2026 1:00 AM CT

9. Food Export's Branded Program Opens Applications for 2027 Program Year Food Export's Branded Program is now accepting applications from eligible small and medium-sized food and agriculture businesses. agricultural content by weight. Michigan joins California, Colorado, [...] LANSING, Mich. "This grant program is just one example of how MDARD improves quality of life for Michiganders by bolstering the food [...] [Read the full article.](#) Morning Ag Clips, Tue Aug 4, 2026 9:15 PM CT

10. Michigan Senate Democratic primary too close to call: 5 takeaways Abdul El-Sayed was leading Rep. Haley Stevens (D) by roughly 2 points as of 2 am EDT, according to Decision Desk HQ (DDHQ). The Michigan Senate race is perhaps this cycle's biggest front in the battle for... [Read the full article.](#) The Hill, Wed Aug 5, 2026 1:19 AM 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

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, First Iowa tractor 1892

In 1892, John Froelich of Clayton County, Iowa, built the first gasoline-powered tractor that could move both forward and backward and pull a thresher. He sold it to himself for the 1892 South Dakota harvest. The Froelich design became the Waterloo Boy, which Deere bought in 1918. Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Cal's Quiz

The 1825 Erie Canal cut the cost of moving Midwest wheat to New York by roughly how much?

- (a) One-half
- (b) One-third
- (c) One-fifth
- (d) One-tenth

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The co-op delivered fuel to the farm. The driver said, "How full?" The farmer said, "Full enough to not have to call you again for a while. Not so full that you have to come back tomorrow because I overflowed."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(d) About one-tenth (90% reduction vs. wagon). The canal opened October 26, 1825 connecting the Great Lakes to the Hudson and the Atlantic. It made New York the largest U.S. port and turned Ohio and Indiana into the first western wheat belt. Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History; National Park Service Erie Canalway archive.

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.