

The MI Farm Brief #158

Friday August 7, 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)

Friday, August 7, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Steele County, MN

Today: High **79F**. Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms.

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

What this means for today: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between noon and 1pm, then showers and thunderstorms likely between 1pm and 2pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny. High near 79, with temperatures falling to around 75 in the afternoon. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

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	66F	1%	S 10 mph	Mostly Clear
5 AM	65F	2%	S 10 mph	Mostly Clear
6 AM	65F	2%	S 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
7 AM	66F	3%	S 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
8 AM	69F	3%	SSW 10 mph	Mostly Sunny
9 AM	72F	4%	SSW 10 mph	Partly Sunny
10 AM	74F	7%	SW 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
11 AM	75F	13%	SW 15 mph	Mostly Cloudy
12 PM	76F	20%	WSW 10 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
1 PM	77F	56%	SW 10 mph	Showers And Thunderstorms Likely
2 PM	76F	47%	WSW 10 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
3 PM	75F	31%	WSW 10 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
4 PM	75F	27%	W 10 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
5 PM	75F	19%	W 10 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
6 PM	75F	12%	W 10 mph	Partly Cloudy
7 PM	76F	4%	WNW 10 mph	Mostly Cloudy
8 PM	73F	2%	WNW 10 mph	Partly Cloudy
9 PM	69F	0%	WNW 10 mph	Mostly Clear

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
10 PM	67F	0%	WNW 10 mph	Mostly Clear
11 PM	65F	0%	WNW 5 mph	Mostly Clear
12 AM	63F	0%	NW 5 mph	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 9 mph right now, gusting 9 (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 \$4.6550/bu (+0.2650, +6.04%); soybeans Nov 2026 \$11.8275/bu (+0.2550, +2.20%). Chicago board, as of 2026 to 08 to 07.

Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.6550/bu +0.0350
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.8275/bu +0.0500
Live Cattle (CME)	\$231.23/cwt -1.3%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$95.50/cwt -1.1%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 4 cents; and beans added about 5 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. Cutting the other way, demand still reads firm per Tri-State Neighbor: Understand stress during corn reproductive stages. 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 0.2 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, yesterday's close

Dow Jones	53,885 to 0.9%
S&P; 500	7,710 to 0.2%
Nasdaq	26,348 to 0.1%
Russell 2000	3,002 to 0.6%

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

- Rain watch: through the workday the best rain chance is around 1 PM (56%). Time spray and field passes to the drier hours, and check the wind first.
- Market watch: corn up about 4 cents, beans up about 5 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Understand stress during corn reproductive stages (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. Understand stress during corn reproductive stages The Minnesota corn crop is about a week ahead of normal and currently has adequate moisture but limited precipitation or chances for precipitation means things are drying out. Fortunately, the temperature conditions are expected to be cooler. Ryan Miller, University of Minnesota Extension Educator for Crops; Jeff Coulter, University of Minnesota Extension Corn Agronomist; Brad Carlson, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Nutrient Management and Water Quality; and Dean Malvick, University of Minnesota Extension Pathologist, Field Crops; all contributed to the article. The noticeable switch from hot and humid weather to cool and drier weather, and back again, brought hope of rain as July melted into August in... [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Fri Aug 7, 2026 1:00 AM CT

2. Stalled farm bill spotlights ag woes and state budget strain Senate Agriculture Chairman John Boozman saw his farm bill collapse Thursday on a 10 to 11 party line vote, undone partly by the health absence of Sen. Mitch McConnell and a surprise no show by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, since committee rules bar proxy yes votes and treat ties as defeats. Boozman is holding the markup open and says McConnell, now home recovering, could return by mid September to break the deadlock, while the real fight is over a SNAP provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that forces states with 6 percent error rates to help pay benefits starting Oct. 1, 2027. Democrats led by Sen. Amy Klobuchar want a two year delay instead of the one year Republicans offered, arguing states like Minnesota need time and fairness, though both sides agree the bill holds wins like year round E15 ethanol sales. This matters because Boozman warns that without an updated farm bill and higher farmer loan limits, bankers expect 20 to 25 percent of farmers to be lost in the next two to three years amid the worst farm economy in decades, and the panel did advance bipartisan amendments including Sen. John Thune's push to restore country of origin labeling for beef. [Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Thu Aug 6, 2026 6:00 PM CT

3. Senate Farm Bill Stalls Over SNAP Dispute A one-vote margin, 10 to 11, sank the Senate Agriculture Committee's farm bill on Thursday, with the whole fight coming down to how fast states must start sharing SNAP costs, Democrats wanting a two-year delay and Republicans offering just one. Chairman John Boozman warned that the stalemate is "holding hostage our farm community," noting livestock is one of the poorest industries in America right now and that rural America pays the price. Even so, the committee did pass amendments to move Food for Peace permanently to USDA and to let SNAP buy hot rotisserie chicken. American Farm Bureau's Zippy Duvall and Farm Credit's Christy Seyfert are both urging senators back to the table, warning this may be the last shot this year at a five-year bill that would strengthen crop insurance, expand credit, and modernize FSA loans. [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Thu Aug 6, 2026 6:06 PM CT

4. Unique Outreach Brings New Faces to Conservation The challenge was to make sure farmers knew they existed. "I wanted people to recognize it no matter where they saw it," she said. That's been really exciting." Reilly even found a way to extend the life of the outreach plan after the billboards came down. The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE), created to

protect critical water resources and wildlife [...] [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Fri Aug 7, 2026 2:33 AM CT

5. Time to Start Thinking About Corn Silage Harvest Corn silage is one of our most important feeds for dairy and beef operations. The important point is to measure moisture rather than rely on appearance alone. There is also a safety risk after harvest. In either case, it's [...] [Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Fri Aug 7, 2026 2:18 AM CT

6. Floating farm sinks under bureaucracy The floating farm is home to 28 Meuse Rhine Issel cows that are in the process of being sold. They cite "ridiculous outdated demands" from the local environmental department as one of the main reasons forcing its closure. He grew up on the family dairy farm in the heart of Northern Ireland and is based on the country's east coast. UKRAINE With the lack of ships able to call at Ukraine's Black Sea ports, farmers there fear this year's harvest could be dumped on the dome... [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Fri Aug 7, 2026 1:00 AM CT

7. Not Every Spot Is the Same: Identifying Corn Leaf Diseases Accurate corn disease identification drives smart fungicide decisions, since foliar diseases cut yield and silage quality by robbing leaves of photosynthesis, inviting stalk rot and lodging, and killing plants early. Penn State scouts warn that gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight thrive in wet, humid weather, hitting no till and continuous corn hardest, while emerging threats like southern rust and bacterial leaf streak are easy to mistake for other problems. The guide walks through telltale signs, tar spot shows shiny black stromata you cannot rub off, northern corn leaf blight makes cigar shaped lesions up to six inches long, gray leaf spot forms rectangular gray lesions along the veins, and southern rust packs bright orange pustules only on the upper leaf surface. Getting the diagnosis right matters because look alikes such as common rust versus southern rust call for very different management, and disease pressure often climbs during grain fill just as your last fungicide starts wearing off. [Read the full article](#). No-Till Farmer, Thu Aug 6, 2026 11:00 PM CT

8. Conservation Ag Champions: Unrewarded Heroes of Sustainable Farming in Developing Countries Farmers who quietly abandon the plow and stop burning their residue may be the most overlooked leaders in global agriculture, especially across fragile, drought-prone regions like Iran. The article calls them Conservation Agriculture Champions, and it lays out three core principles they live by, minimal soil disturbance through no-till, permanent soil cover from crop residue, and diverse crop rotations. It walks through six big payoffs, protecting soil, saving water and easing pressure on aquifers, ending residue burning that fouls the air and releases carbon, building resilience to wild weather, proving that ditching tillage can hold or even raise yields while cutting fuel and labor costs, and spreading know-how farmer to farmer. The reason it matters is trust, because in these communities neighbors believe a fellow farmer's field far more than any scientist or government agent, so these champions turn their own acres into open-air classrooms that convince skeptics to change. [Read the full article](#). No-Till Farmer, Thu Aug 6, 2026 11:00 PM CT

9. Trump signs executive orders to curb birthright citizenship and 'birth tourism' Trump signed two executive orders Thursday at the White House aimed at restricting birthright citizenship and what he called "birth tourism," claiming hundreds of thousands of people were "buying their way in" to gain citizenship for their children. The orders would deny automatic citizenship to children of some foreign diplomats, alien enemies including declared terrorist group members, and mothers who deceptively enter the country to give birth, while also targeting surrogacy used for that purpose. Deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller said the administration was leveraging the Supreme Court's June ruling to expand who is ineligible under section 215A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, insisting nothing in the orders conflicts with the court. Legal experts expect the orders to face challenges under the 14th Amendment, which guarantees citizenship to nearly every child born in America, especially over the provisions covering U.S. territories, where only Congress can change citizenship rules. [Read the full article](#). Washington Examiner, Thu Aug 6, 2026 4:28 PM CT

10. Opinion: How one state's poultry lawsuit became a warrant-free search of another state's farms Back in 2005, Oklahoma sued six large poultry companies, including Tyson, over pollution in the Illinois River Watershed, essentially using the lawsuit to control Arkansas farmers it could not regulate directly. After sitting idle for 20 years, a district court in late 2025 handed down a sweeping ruling that appointed a "special master" with power until 2055 to search land, take soil samples, cut contracts, and refer noncompliant farmers for prosecution. Facing that threat, the poultry firms began cancelling contracts with their small "contract growers," many of whom depend on chicken litter

as fertilizer, raising fears of an economic and public health crisis across Arkansas farm country. The companies eventually settled by swapping the special master for a seven year "auditor" doing nearly the same job, but their fine ballooned from a few hundred thousand dollars to a staggering \$40 million. [Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Thu Aug 6, 2026 4:34 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

Falls from bins, wagons, and equipment are among the most common serious farm injuries. Keep three points of contact climbing on and off the tractor, face the steps, and clean mud off your boots first. Most of these falls happen on the way down, in a hurry. Source: National Ag Safety Database; NIOSH agricultural injury surveillance.

Cal

Local Obituaries

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

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Federal Farm Loan Act 1916

On July 17, 1916, the Federal Farm Loan Act created the Federal Land Bank system, the original federal-credit pipeline to farmers. The 12 land banks lent against farmland at lower rates than the local town bank could match. The modern Farm Credit System (Compeer Financial, Farm Credit Mid-America) is its direct descendant. Source: USDA Economic Research Service farm credit history.

Cal's Quiz

The July 2, 1862 Morrill Act created which lasting backbone of American agricultural research?

- (a) County fairs
- (b) The land-grant university system
- (c) The Federal Reserve
- (d) The Bureau of Agriculture

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The neighbor's propane tank ran dry on the coldest night of the year. He called the farmer. The farmer said, "I can spare a tank for tonight." The neighbor said, "How will I pay you back?" The farmer said, "By telling the story honestly. Not embellished, not minimized. That's the price."

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(b) The land-grant university system. Every state got federal land to fund a public college teaching agriculture and the mechanical arts. Iowa State (1858, designated land-grant 1864) was one of the first. The land-grant network is the backbone of every modern Extension Service office. Source: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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.