

The MI Farm Brief #160

Sunday August 9, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

MI Farm AI

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For internal review

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

Sunday, August 9, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Blue Earth County, MN

Today: High **81F**. Showers And Thunderstorms Likely then Mostly Cloudy.

Tonight: Low **63F**. Mostly Cloudy.

What this means for today: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 7am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 7am and 11am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Wind 0 to 11 mph through the day (see the hour by hour table below). Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

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	65F	42%	SSE 6 mph	Mostly Cloudy
5 AM	65F	64%	SSE 11 mph	Cloudy
6 AM	65F	64%	SSE 5 mph	Showers And Thunderstorms Likely
7 AM	65F	54%	SSE 5 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
8 AM	67F	40%	SE 5 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
9 AM	68F	34%	ESE 5 mph	Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
10 AM	71F	22%	SE 5 mph	Slight Chance Showers And Thunderstorms
11 AM	73F	12%	SE 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
12 PM	74F	10%	S 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
1 PM	76F	8%	ESE 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
2 PM	77F	7%	N 5 mph	Partly Sunny
3 PM	78F	6%	NNE 5 mph	Partly Sunny
4 PM	79F	5%	N 5 mph	Partly Sunny
5 PM	79F	4%	NNE 5 mph	Partly Sunny
6 PM	79F	4%	N 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
7 PM	79F	4%	N 5 mph	Mostly Cloudy
8 PM	76F	4%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy
9 PM	72F	3%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy
10 PM	70F	3%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
11 PM	69F	3%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy
12 AM	68F	3%	0 mph	Mostly Cloudy

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

Spray Window

Based on this morning's wind forecast, the spray window looks open 4 AM to 5 AM, then 6 AM to midnight (wind at or under 10 mph, the common label ceiling for glyphosate and fungicides; dicamba and 2,4-D allow up to 15). This is the day's plan locked in this morning, not a live reading. Always check your gusts, any ground level inversion, and your product's own wind limit before you start.

Wind this morning at your nearest weather station was about 6 mph.

Rain Window

We could not get a reading right on your field this morning. The nearest weather station (Mankato MN, about 11 miles northeast) recorded no rain in the past 24 hours. Your own ground may differ, so check your gauge.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Friday's close. Markets closed for the weekend. These are the most recent settled prices; the boards reopen the next trading day.

Futures board (front month): corn Dec 2026 \$4.6150/bu (+0.2250, +5.13%); soybeans Nov 2026 \$11.7625/bu (+0.1900, +1.64%). Chicago board, as of 2026 to 08 to 07.

Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.6150/bu +0.2250
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.7625/bu +0.1900
Live Cattle (CME)	\$225.27/cwt -2.6%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$82.22/cwt -13.9%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

At Friday's close, corn added about 22 cents; and beans added about 19 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: East Bench Grain provides market opportunities for local growers. 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 0.7 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	54,037 +0.3%
S&P; 500	7,758 +0.6%

Nasdaq	26,691 +1.3%
Russell 2000	3,034 +1.1%

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 (23 days) (\$50,000).
- New today: LOC at 80% drawn (\$1,200,000), reduce before spring inputs.
- 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, 3,574.89 acres (1,339 owned plus 2,236 rented), corn/soybean rotation, Crystal Valley cooperative (real intake on file).

What to Watch Today

- Rain watch: through the workday the best rain chance is around 6 AM (64%). Time spray and field passes to the drier hours, and check the wind first.
- Market watch: corn up about 22 cents, beans up about 19 cents going into the day. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: AgweekTV Full Show: Farmfest, Rollins in Minnesota, wheat and soybeans, soybean oil for roofing (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. AgweekTV Full Show: Farmfest, Rollins in Minnesota, wheat and soybeans, soybean oil for roofing This week's AgweekTV takes you to Redwood County for Minnesota Farmfest, where U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins made her first ever visit to the state. The show checks on how wheat and soybean crops are shaping up around the region and highlights a clever new use for soybeans, extending the life of roofing shingles. StormTRACKER meteorologist Lydia Blume warns that the rainfall deficit keeps growing, with drought concerns mounting and mostly dry, warm conditions expected to hold through the first half of August. If you farm corn or soybeans, this one is worth a watch for the crop updates, the weather outlook, and a fresh market for your beans. [Read the full article](#). AgWeek, Sat Aug 8, 2026 11:58 AM CT

2. East Bench Grain provides market opportunities for local growers Southwestern Montana has long been prized for its cow/calf and alfalfa production. In fact, the area is the state's leading producer in both commodities. Small grains are not an agriculture product that may be front of mind for the mountainous corner of the state known for its blue-ribbon trout fishing, but a small grain company based in Dillon proves that if you plant it, businesses will come. East Bench Grain in Dillon, Mont., provides market opportunities for local growers. [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Sun Aug 9, 2026 6:00 AM CT

3. Barn Boards and Baling Wire He says, 'The first day of trout season in May was a huge deal back in the 1960s, second only to Christmas and the Fourth of July. and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me. John Sumwalt is a retired pastor and the son of dairy farmers. Field corn is full of surprises, with ears and tas... [Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Sun Aug 9, 2026 1:00 AM CT

4. Senate passes bill to avert shutdown, delay hemp ban as midterms loom The Senate voted 90 to 6 in the pre dawn hours of Saturday to fund the government through Dec. 11, dodging a shutdown just before the Nov. 3 midterms. Tucked into that stopgap bill is a temporary delay of a federal ban on intoxicating hemp products like

gummies and beverages, a ban that was set to hit Nov. 12. For farmers, the bigger news is what did not happen, because a crowded election year calendar is stalling a wide ranging farm bill and a fresh round of aid for growers squeezed by high production costs. Senate Ag Chairman John Boozman plans to try again the week of Sept. 14 with his Farm Bill 2.0, which would open the door to year round E15 ethanol sales and restore mandatory country of origin labeling for beef. [Read the full article](#). Agri-Pulse, Sat Aug 8, 2026 2:50 PM CT

5. Two dead, including infant, after boat capsizes in New York Harbor; 12 rescued Check out what's clicking on FoxNews.com. An adult female and an infant were later located in the water by NYPD divers. Police said no arrests have been made in connection with the incident. Story tips can be sent to michael.sinkewicz@fox.com [Read the full article](#). Fox News, Sun Aug 9, 2026 4:11 AM CT

6. Watch: Toler, Wilson lead Ohio State Fair Beef Show Watch their interviews here. Judges: Jarrett Davis from Shawnee, Oklahoma and Blake Goss from Leedey, Oklahoma Grand Champion: Parker... [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Sat Aug 8, 2026 11:19 PM CT

7. Watch: Ashcraft, Shroyer round out show careers with Ohio State Fair Goat Show titles They're going out on top as Ashcraft was named Grand Champion and Shroyer was Reserve at the 2026 Ohio State Fair Market Wether Show. Watch their interviews here. Judges: Jarrett Davis from Shawnee, Oklahoma and Blake Goss from Leedey, Oklahoma Grand Champion: Parker... [Read the full article](#). Ohio Country Journal, Sat Aug 8, 2026 11:16 PM CT

8. Alice in Dairyland says the Wisconsin State Fair is bridging the gap between consumers and farmers Anastasia Poull says the fair food opens the door to education. "So when people come to the Wisconsin State Fair, I hope they get to see a little bit more of that behind the scenes." She tells Brownfield the Wisconsin State Fair has several exhibits that showcase the state's agriculture industry. "You can do some interactive educational exhibits. "There are some amazing agriculture exhibits and events going on in the Coliseum and youth exhibitors as well who are just starting off their journey in agriculture," she says. [Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Sat Aug 8, 2026 5:57 PM CT

9. Wisconsin teen gains valuable lessons through exhibiting livestock Cassidy Crooks says she's watched her siblings show for years, but now it's her turn. And then Wednesday, I will be showing two steers, one shorthorn and one crossbred." She tells Brownfield showing at the state fair is fun, but there are lessons learned, too. "The State Fair put a grant out and a lot of people won it, and I was one of those people," she says. The Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction is Wednesday, August 12th. [Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Sat Aug 8, 2026 5:26 PM CT

10. Facility upgrades highlight Iowa State Fair The 2026 Iowa State Fair is rolling out its "Fair Spirit" theme, blending longtime traditions with fresh celebrations. Organizers in Des Moines are putting facility upgrades front and center this year, so fairgoers can expect newly updated buildings and grounds. It is the kind of investment that keeps the fair comfortable and worth the trip for families coming in from across the state. Read the full article to see which facilities got the makeover before you plan your day at the grounds. [Read the full article](#). Iowa Farmer Today, Sat Aug 8, 2026 6:55 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

Most tractor rollover deaths happen on slopes and near ditches. Keep the rollover protective structure (ROPS) up and the seat belt buckled, together they prevent about 99 percent of rollover fatalities. Slow down on hillsides and keep loaded buckets low. Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

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.

Evelyn Rudenick, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Beadell, Quentin, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Kathryn 'Kathy' Byram, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Samuelson, Glen, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Fatis, Ph.D., Michael "Doc", Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Kimberly Rydeen, Mankato Free Press obituaries. [Read the full obituary.](#)

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Rural Electrification Act 1935

When the Rural Electrification Act was signed on May 11, 1935, only 11% of U.S. farms had electricity. By 1953, 90% did. The cooperative model still serves rural America, your local rural electric cooperative is a direct descendant. Source: USDA Rural Utilities Service historical record.

Cal's Quiz

The 1922 Capper-Volstead Act gave U.S. agricultural cooperatives the right to do what without antitrust prosecution?

- (a) Set retail food prices
- (b) Organize and bargain collectively
- (c) Buy out competitors
- (d) Issue federal currency

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

How long is winter in Iowa? Long enough that you forget what the lawn looks like, but short enough that the second week of April you remember why you live here.

The MI Farm AI Desk

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

Quiz Answer

(b) Organize and bargain collectively. Signed February 18, 1922, it is the framework under which every modern grain co-op (CHS, Land O'Lakes, Cenex, MaxYield, Heartland) operates today. Source: USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service legal 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.