

Saturday, October 26

Mantorville, MN



**\$25** 5K race  
9:00am

All registered participants receive a medal & long sleeve performance shirt

**\$10** 1 Mile  
10:00 am

All registered participants receive a medal

Register through October 18<sup>th</sup>: <https://raceroster.com/>

Search "Haunted Hustle"

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Early Childhood Education in Dodge County. After the race, stay and take part in the Mantorville Fall Festival activities!

Questions?

Call: (507) 635-6150

Email: [kristin.cerda@co.dodge.mn.us](mailto:kristin.cerda@co.dodge.mn.us)

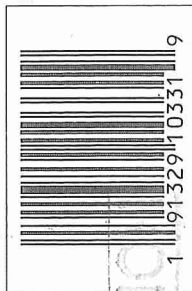


"LIKE FRESH AIR FOR THE SOUL"

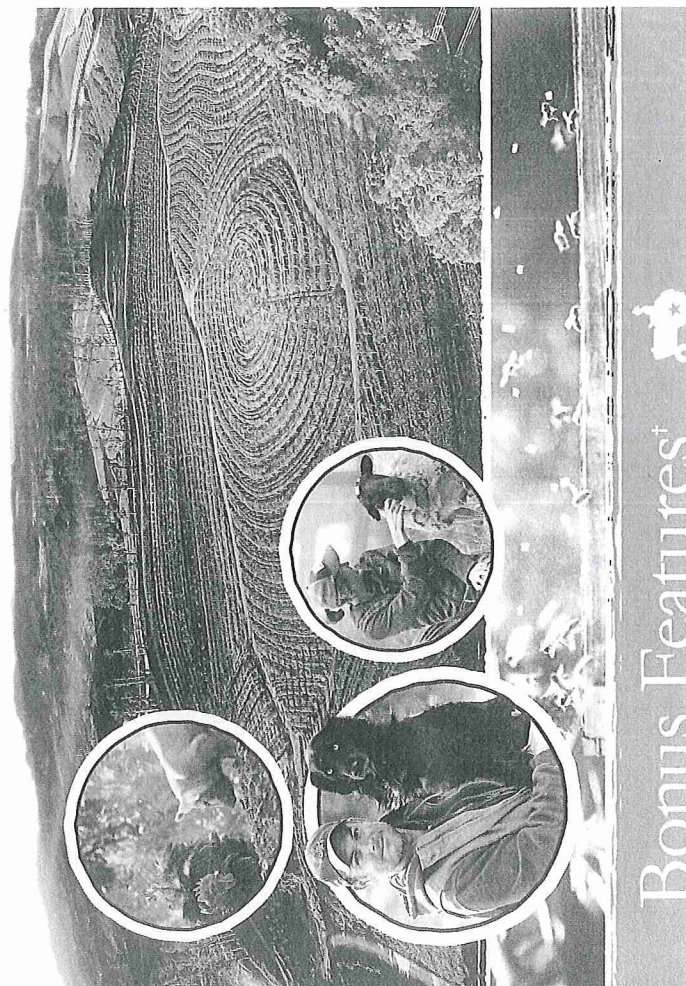
-Variety

The *Biggest Little Farm* chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chesters unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination.

Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's call, *The Biggest Little Farm* provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.



1 191329 10331 19



Bonus Features<sup>†</sup>

★ Meet Chris ★ Poodle Roo ★ The Guardians ★ Day in the Life – Outtakes

NEON PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH LD ENTERTAINMENT A FARMLORE FILMS PRODUCTION "THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM" IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIAMOND DOGS AND IMPACT PARTNERS & ARTISTS USING A FILM BY JOHN CHESTER WITH JEFF BEEB AND AMY OVERECKY WITH JOHN CHESTER AND MARK MONROE PRODUCED BY LAURIE DAVID AND ERICA MESSER

NEON

LD

21144

1 hr. 31 min.

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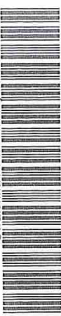
630-BI

# the Biggest little Farm



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## **Land Stewardship Project Executive Director Mark Schultz to Step Down**

### Search for Successor to Begin in October

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) announced today that Mark Schultz will be stepping down as executive director. Schultz will be working closely with LSP's board of directors in coming months to ensure a seamless and effective transition.

Schultz became executive director in 2017, taking over the reins from George Boody, who had occupied that position since 1993. Before becoming executive director, Schultz was the organization's Policy and Organizing Program director, as well as its associate director. He first joined LSP's staff in 1987, and with the exception of a period when he worked for other grassroots organizations in the late 1980s and early 1990s, has been an organizer and program director for the organization ever since.

"I have been honored and blessed to be associated with the Land Stewardship Project for the past three decades," said Schultz. "When I became executive director in 2017, I took the position knowing that it would be a transition to the next generation of LSP leadership. I will be leaving the Land Stewardship Project knowing that we're in an extremely strong position organizationally and financially to bring about positive changes for the land, people, and communities. I'm excited to see this work move forward under new leadership."



LSP board chair Jody Lenz thanked Schultz for his years of service to LSP, as well as grassroots, rural organizing in general. Lenz, who farms near Star Prairie in western Wisconsin, said Schultz has had a "deep and broad presence" both within LSP and the greater community, and his ability to inspire others to work for positive change has been particularly key.

"I have never worked with someone who has been such an excellent leader and who is so good at bringing out leadership skills in others," said Lenz. "I certainly experienced that firsthand."

During Schultz's tenure as executive director, LSP launched a major soil health program, established a 501(c)(4) political action arm called the Land Stewardship Action Fund, advanced



work on racial and gender justice, grew the organization's membership base, and developed strong relationships with allied groups locally, regionally, and nationally.

Lenz said the organization is in a particularly good position for a leadership transition as a result of a new "Vision for the Future" five-year plan that was released in early September. The plan, which was the result of input from hundreds of LSP members, lays out seven strategic initiatives the organization will advance in the next five years and beyond. These initiatives include: addressing the agricultural economic crisis; increasing land access for small- and mid-sized farmers; building a functional local and regional food system; advancing solutions to the climate crisis; expanding LSP's membership base; growing the organization's work on economic, racial, and gender justice; and increasing LSP's organizational effectiveness by upgrading its internal systems of operation.

"We believe that the Land Stewardship Project is up to the challenge of this historic moment," Lenz and Schultz wrote in the introduction to the five-year plan. "It is clear that far-reaching change is needed, and that LSP needs to be a part of making that happen."

Lenz, who, along with Schultz and other members of the long-range plan committee, helped develop the "Vision for the Future" document, said it provides a critical roadmap for the next executive director and the organization as a whole moving forward.

"We may be losing Mark, but in some ways, there couldn't be a better time for this transition," said Lenz. "The five-year plan, along with our phenomenal staff and highly motivated membership base, gives LSP the kind of depth needed to do the important work that needs to be done."

The Land Stewardship Project will begin an extensive search for a new executive director in October, according to Aleta Borrud, an LSP board member who chairs the executive director transition committee. She said the transition occurs at a time when the organization is in a good position to build on its current work while addressing evolving challenges like the farm financial crisis and racial injustice.

"We are looking for a strong candidate who is aware of the challenges facing our rural communities and farms," said Borrud, a retired physician from Rochester, Minn., "and who is also committed to leading an organization like LSP that's dedicated to utilizing people-centered power to create a positive future for everyone."



# CONSERVATION MINNESOTA

FALL  2019



**CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA**

Protect the Minnesota you love.®



# MINNESOTA INVESTS IN PROTECTING POLLINATORS

The state now has an official state bee and a program to help it and other pollinators thrive.

## Background

In 1988, Minnesota voters approved the creation of the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, which is supported by 40% of the Minnesota State Lottery net proceeds. The other 60% are deposited in the state's general fund. **The Trust Fund is required by law to be used on activities that protect, conserve, preserve and enhance the state's air, land, fish, wildlife and other natural resources.**

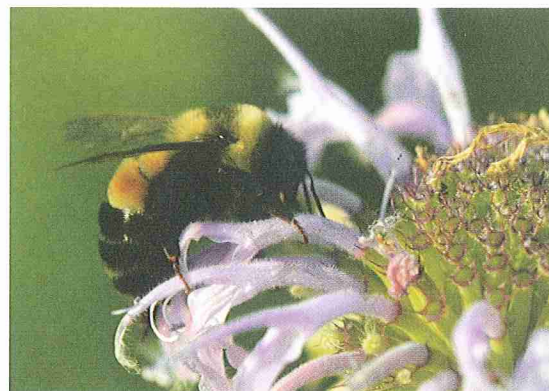
Projects that receive funding are recommended by the Legislator-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and approved by the Minnesota legislature and the Governor. During the past legislative session, the Minnesota legislature approved about \$64 million in funding for 65 projects.

## Lawn to Legumes

One of the projects approved for Trust Fund support during the 2019 legislative session is Lawns to Legumes—introduced as a bill by Rep. Kelly Morrison and administered by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). The goal is to help residential landowners **convert traditional turfgrass lawns to pollinator friendly lawns** composed of native grasses, forbs and legumes. BWSR will partner with local conservation organizations on projects starting in the spring and summer 2020. Learn more at: [bit.ly/LawnToLegumes](https://bit.ly/LawnToLegumes)

## Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Lawns to Legumes will help residents create new habitat for the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee whose **populations nationwide have dropped 87%** in the last 20 years. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that the Rusty Patched is present in just 0.1% of its historical range. In Minnesota, many of the areas where the Rusty Patched is likely to live are urban and suburban communities.

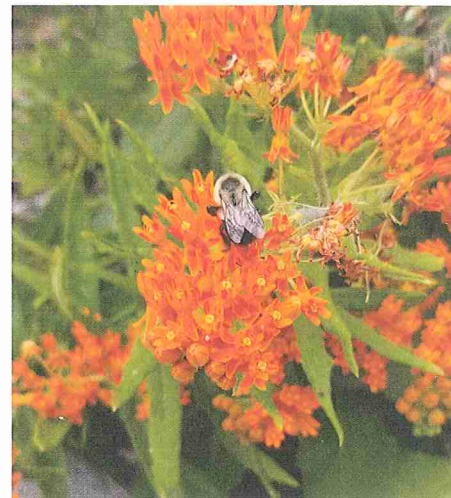


The Rusty Patched Bumblebee—  
the official MN state bee

## BEE-FRIENDLY THIS FALL

If you have even a tiny patch of lawn, you can convert it to a pollinator-friendly landscape and help the comeback of an endangered species.

Minnesota is one of a few states that still has a **Rusty Patched Bumblebee** population and can make a big impact in its recovery. These bees and other **pollinators need foraging and nesting areas** to break up the nation's 50 million acres of turfgrass and other inhospitable areas. They benefit from flowering lawns and taller native vegetation including wildflowers, shrubs and trees.



Coneflowers and butterfly milkweed attract pollinators mid-summer.

Use different plants to keep a steady stream of blooms through the growing season.

## ADOPT A STORM DRAIN

The opportunity to create cleaner waterways is just down the street—at your nearest storm drain.

### “Natural” Debris is Pollution

Storm drains are built to carry away excess water in times of heavy rain. They flow directly into local lakes, rivers, and wetlands. While everyone knows that trash is no good for lakes and rivers, many people aren't aware that **“natural” debris—leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste—are all pollution when they enter our water resources.** When washed into the drain system, this debris decays in our waterways, and releases nutrients that feed algae and weeds. It also carries with it road salt and fertilizers, which pollute our waters.





## FALL POLLINATOR PREP



### Fall Garden Clean Up

Don't be so tidy! Leave areas for nesting: **leaf "litter"** on the ground, **woodpiles**, and **12" to 18" of plant stems**, rather than cutting them down to the ground.

### Plant a Bee Lawn

The **best time to plant a bee lawn is in the fall** when soil temperatures are below 40°F. When the temps warm in the spring, the seed will germinate.

### Study Up

Learn more about the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and beneficial plants and practices from these organizations' websites:

**University of MN Bee Lab**

**University of MN Extension**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**



In areas dominated by turfgrass, pollinators make a beeline for flowering plants.



Creeping thyme makes an aromatic bee lawn.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS FALL

Adopt-a-drain programs encourage volunteers to clear storm drains and document what they find.

**Adopt-a-drain.org** provides an interactive map so you can find and claim the storm drain closest to you. The organization will send you tips on how to clean up safely.

**Sweep up, rake up, pick up!**



photo courtesy of MN Pollution Control Agency



# NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE

When my son was a baby, I spent many nights trying to help him settle and sleep. On tough nights, I often walked around our neighborhood with a bundle in my arms. I don't know if it was the birds, the breeze, or something else. I do know that just being outside made a big difference.

Even though my kids are older, I still noticed it this summer. Playing outside and exploring nature is always the antidote to the crabbiness that seems to follow "screen time." In that moment of putting away the iPad, my daughter will predictably resist the idea of a hike. But she is the first one to get a bounce in her step and start collecting the flowers, leaves, rocks and worms that we come across in our adventures.



Just like getting kids outside brings my family together, **No Child Left Inside** was a piece of legislation that united Minnesotans inside and outside the Capitol last spring. Authored in the House by Representative Jamie Becker-Finn, the bill provides funding to the Minnesota DNR to help schools and community groups—particularly in areas with high percentages of kids living in apartments or urban environments—pay for field trips and opportunities for children to get outdoors.

The No Child Left Inside initiative is more important than ever. From plastics to pollinators, there are consequences to our growing disconnection from the natural environment. I look forward to more kids discovering the spring in their step that time in nature can provide.

Thank you for helping protect the Minnesota you love for future generations,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Austin".

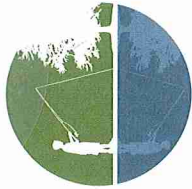
Paul Austin  
Executive Director

The work of Conservation Minnesota is guided by your values and priorities. We listen to Minnesotans and focus on solving the conservation problems that matter most to you.

**[conservationminnesota.org](http://conservationminnesota.org) | 612.767.2444**



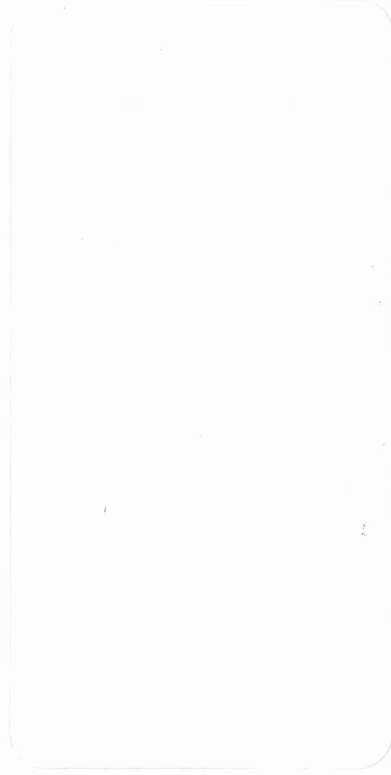




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DODGE COUNTY  
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# A FUNNY WOMAN

The timeless comedy of  
Peg Lynch



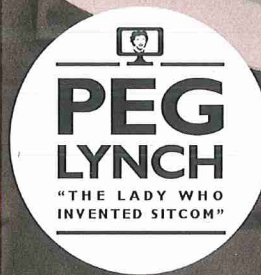
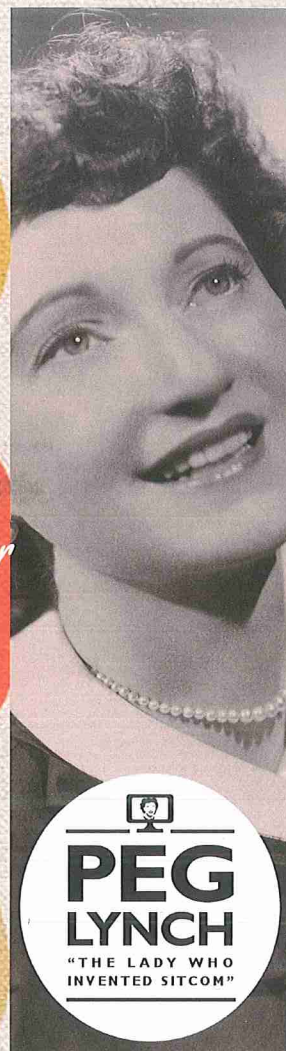
*Starring  
Writer  
& Performer*

**ASTRID  
KING**

*Co-hosted by  
Humorist*

**JAMES  
LILEKS**

An **informal** evening  
of **chat**, anecdotes,  
**vintage video** and live  
**performance**



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# FOUR WAYS TO HELP ANIMALS

## ONE

### Purchase Cruelty-Free Cosmetic Products

Worldwide, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice and rats are routinely blinded, poisoned and even killed to test new cosmetic products and their ingredients. This torture is still legal in 80% of all countries, with China—where many cosmetics are produced—responsible for an estimated 300,000 animal deaths per year due to cosmetic testing alone.

The worst part is that there is absolutely no need for this cruelty to occur. There are more than 5,000 cruelty-free ingredients available to companies to make their products, and many effective ways to test cosmetic ingredients that do not involve harming animals.

For example, the artificial tissue testing method uses artificial human tissue grown in the lab, and has proved better than tests on rabbits in predicting skin irritation in people. A newly developed modern test tube method can also distinguish toxic from non-toxic cosmetic ingredients without cruel animal-poisoning experiments.

#### What You Can Do About It:

1. You can stand and take action against cruel cosmetic testing in the United States by signing your name in support of the Humane Cosmetics Act. Simply visit [humanesociety.org/becrueltyfree](http://humanesociety.org/becrueltyfree) for more details.
2. You can download your very own free shopping guide and pledge to buy products from one of the more than 500 companies that are recognized as cruelty-free. Visit [leapingbunny.org](http://leapingbunny.org) for a copy today, and make sure to review it before you buy new cosmetics.

## TWO

### Report Evidence of Puppy Mills or Animal Fighting Operations

#### Why it is important to take action against puppy mills and animal fighting:

Tragically, countless animals per year are subjected to extreme violence and even killed by inhumane conditions in puppy

mills and animal fighting rings.

By knowing what steps to take, you can become part of the solution to end animal violence and create better lives for animals.

#### How to report an illegal puppy mill or animal fighting operation:

If you have information about a potentially abusive puppy mill or illegal animal fighting operation, here are the steps to take:

- **Call your local police department or animal control agency.** Give them as many details as you can about the suspected animal fighting operation or illegal puppy mill situation. You do not need to give your name to law enforcement to report your information.
- **You can also call the Humane Society of the United States puppy mill tip line at 877-MILL-TIP** with information about a puppy mill in your area, or the animal fighting tip line at 877-TIP-HSUS with information about possible animal fighting activity.
- **Call the Humane Society of the United States for more information.** If you have questions or concerns, please call us at 202-452-1100.

## THREE

### Knowing When to Care for an Injured Baby Wild Animal

It's common to see baby wild animals outside during spring, as a new generation makes its way into the world. Baby wild animals might seem like they need our help, but unless the animal is truly orphaned or injured, there is no need to rescue him or her.

These tips can help you decide if a baby animal is orphaned, injured or perfectly fine—and what to do if it needs your help or needs you to take action.

Signs that a wild animal needs your help:

- Presented by a cat or dog
- Evidence of bleeding



- An apparent or obvious broken limb
- Featherless or nearly featherless and on the ground
- Shivering
- A dead parent nearby
- Crying and wandering all day long

If you see any of these signs, find help for the animal by calling a wildlife rehabilitator for assistance. If you're unable to locate a rehabilitator, try contacting an animal shelter, humane society, animal control agency, nature center, state wildlife agency or veterinarian.

#### **Capturing and transporting the animal:**

If necessary, you should consider safely capturing and transporting the animal to an appropriate place for treatment.

However, NEVER handle an adult animal without first consulting a wildlife professional. Even small animals can injure you.

Once you've contacted someone who can help, describe the animal and his physical condition as accurately as possible.

Unless you are told otherwise, here's how you can make an animal more comfortable for transport while you're waiting for help to arrive:

1. Put the animal in a safe container. For most songbirds, a brown paper bag is fine for transport. For larger birds or other animals, use a cardboard box or similar container. First, punch holes for air (not while the animal is in the box!) from the inside out and line the box with an old T-shirt or other soft cloth. Then put the animal in the box.
2. Put on thick gloves and cover the animal with a towel or pillowcase as you scoop him up gently and place him in the container.
3. Do not give the animal food or water. It could be the wrong food and cause him to choke, trigger serious digestive problems or cause aspiration pneumonia. Many injured animals are in shock, and force-feeding can kill them.
4. Place the container in a warm, dark, quiet place—away from pets, children

and all noise (including the TV and the radio)—until you can transport the animal. Keep the container away from direct sunlight, air conditioning or heat.

5. Transport the animal as soon as possible. Leave the radio off and keep talking to a minimum. Because wild animals aren't accustomed to our voices, they can become very stressed by our noises. If they're injured or orphaned, they're already in a compromised condition. Keep their world dark and quiet to lower their stress level and help keep them alive.

### **FOUR**

#### **Advocate for Animals in Your Community**

##### **How You Can Help by Writing Letters to Your Local Paper's Editor**

From time to time, you may come across an article in your community's newspaper about animal welfare—particularly about how to manage local wild animals like deer, beavers or coyotes. Writing a letter to the editor is a great opportunity to share your opinion, spread information about animal issues, call out inhumane policies and help change public opinion.

When you write your letter, remember these helpful tips to ensure you are writing the most effective advocacy letter possible:

- Write and submit your letter as quickly as possible, preferably the same day that the article runs. Submit letters by email whenever possible.
- Keep your letter as short as possible by focusing on one, or at most two, major points. Support your position with facts, statistics, citations or other evidence—all of which are readily available at [humanesociety.org/issues](http://humanesociety.org/issues). Aim for no more than 250 words, and be sure to stay under the paper's word limit.
- Close with the thought you'd like readers to remember. Instead of focusing your attention on a reporter, editor or expert who got it wrong, consider the central point you want people reading the letter to take away.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)



# Report Animal Cruelty

## What can you do to help stop animal abuse:

Every state has laws prohibiting animal cruelty, and all of them contain felony provisions in some circumstances. However, a law is only as good as its enforcement, and that's why animals rely on you to protect them by reporting animal abuse.

### DEFINING CRUELTY

Most reported animal cruelty comes in the form of neglect, with direct violence occurring less frequently. Oftentimes, it can be difficult to gauge whether or not you've witnessed animal cruelty—the following examples may help you categorize suspected cruelty and report it to authorities.

### NEGLECT

Neglect, or a failure to provide an animal's basic needs, can be found in every community. Neglect takes the form of a lack of clean food or water, lack of adequate shelter or veterinary care, tethering and abandonment, as well as other forms of abuse.

### DIRECT ABUSE

It can be very upsetting to see someone beating or physically attacking an animal, but it's important not to turn away. It's crucial to involve law enforcement quickly so that you can help to save that animal's life, prevent future abuse and to hold abusers accountable. Violence toward animals is often part of a larger pattern of violence that can include people as well.

### REPORTING ABUSE

If you witness suspected cruelty to animals, dial 911.

If your area lacks the proper animal welfare agency, and your local authorities are not equipped to deal with animal cruelty cases, you can also email or call the Humane Society of the United States and ask to speak with one of our experts about the suspected abuse.

Be sure to document the case as well as you can, with dates, times, specific details and,

if possible, footage and photographs from a cell phone. All of these things can help appropriate agencies during any investigation they may do of the suspected cruelty.

### SEVERE NEGLECT

Severe neglect may take the form of housing more animals than a person is able to adequately take care of. Contact your local animal control agency if you find out about severe neglect cases. Some situations can be more difficult than others to solve.

### LACK OF VETERINARY CARE

Untreated wounds are a red flag that demand immediate attention; emaciation, scabs and hair loss can also be a sign of untreated diseases. If you can, alert the owner to the animal's condition and alert local authorities of suspected neglect as soon as possible.

### INADEQUATE SHELTER

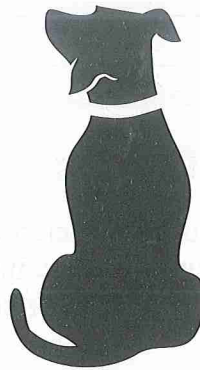
In extreme heat or cold temperatures can be deadly. It can seem daunting or unnecessary to report neglect for inadequate sheltering, but conditions can change quickly, causing suffering or even death of the animal. Contact a local animal control agency immediately if you see an animal in inadequate shelter and document the incident with a cell phone camera if possible.

### CHAINED DOGS

Dogs who are tethered continuously suffer tremendously, both from social isolation and exposure to predators and the elements.

### ABANDONMENT

A startling number of animals die every year when people move out of their residences and simply leave the animals behind.



Sometimes, an abandoned dog's barking or cat's howling can alert the neighbors, but it's wise to keep an eye on a recently vacated home, especially if the former residents moved suddenly. Companion animals kept in cages or tanks are often overlooked upon a residents' sudden passing, and may suffer neglect as well. If you find or know of abandoned animals, contact your local animal control agency immediately.

### PETS LEFT IN CARS

Time is of the essence when reporting pets left in parked cars. Even if the outside temperature seems cool, these animals could be minutes away from death or irreversible organ damage. If you cannot locate the owner immediately, don't be afraid to call local authorities, detailing your location and the make, model and license plate number of the vehicle the animal is inside.

### BEATING AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

If you witness direct physical violence to an animal, report the incident immediately to authorities. If you decide to intervene in any way, use your best judgement and do not become physically involved in the situation; remember, even well-intentioned actions could compromise the process of investigation into suspected abuse.

### ANIMAL FIGHTING AND ORGANIZED CRUELTY

Organized cruelty, such as dogfighting and cockfighting, is illegal in all 50 states, and is linked to other criminal activities such as human violence, gambling and drug distribution. If you hear about or witness events like these, immediately report them to the local authorities and the Humane Society of the United States. These are just common examples of animal cruelty. Even if a case doesn't fit neatly into these categories, take action if something feels off. In many cases, you may be the only chance an animal has at escaping cruelty or neglect.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)







# LUTEFISK DINNER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

Lutefisk and Lefse  
Swedish Meatballs  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Buttered Corn  
Cranberry Salad  
Norwegian Pastries  
Coffee and Milk

Adults - \$18.00  
Children (ages 5-12) - \$6.00  
Children under 5 are free

## NOON - Walk-Ins

Serving from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tickets sold all morning

## ADVANCE SALE ONLY

5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.  
and 7:30 p.m.

**CARRYOUT IS RESERVATIONS ONLY!! - \$18.00**

There will also be a Used-A-Bit Shop, a Youth Bake Sale,  
and a General Store, which will feature crafts and quilts

Phone: Danielle Hein (Administrative Secretary)

at First Lutheran, 507-583-6621

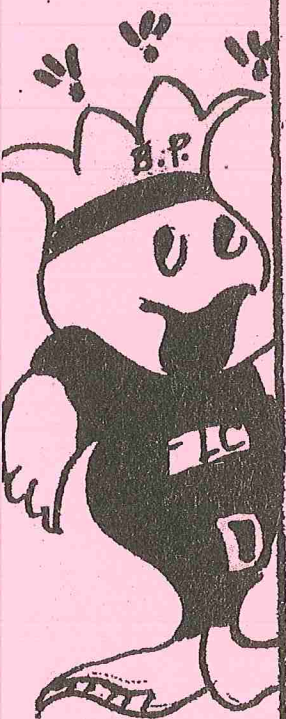
8:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday – Thursday

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Friday

**TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE ON September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEVOLENCE**

♥ I Love ♥  
**Lutefisk**







## HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR **FARMWORKERS**

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES



# Opinion

## Sanders proposes fundamental changes in ag, rural policies

BY HARWOOD D. SCHAFER  
AND DARYL E. RAY

In an era of low agricultural commodity prices, plus the history of the Democratic Party and the approach to agricultural policy that it developed during the Great Depression, it should come as no surprise that two of the leading candidates for the Democratic nomination for president have come out in favor of supply management programs for agriculture.

This policy design was first developed by Henry Agard Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to respond to the long period of low prices that farmers faced between the end of World War I and the early years of the Great Depression.

By the time FDR was inaugurated in early 1933, farmers were desperate. In response to unrest in farm areas, Wallace and his colleagues developed the basic structure of the supply management program that was at the heart of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 and is enshrined in the agricultural legislation referred to as "permanent law."

Sen. Bernie Sanders places himself squarely in this tradition with a policy paper called "Revitalizing Rural America." Sanders writes, "Fundamental change in America's agricultural and rural policies is no longer just an option; it's an absolute necessity. With the right support and policies, we can have rural communities that are thriving economically and ecologically."

Sanders says he will "enact supply management programs to prevent shortages and surpluses to ensure farmers make a living wage and ensure consumers receive a high-quality, stable and secure supply of agricultural goods."

He calls for "setting price floors and matching supply with demand so farmers are guaranteed the cost of production and family living expenses." He also calls for addressing farm bankruptcies, a growing problem as we go into the sixth year of falling farm prices and income.

He sees "food security as a national security issue."

"We need trade policies that safeguard food security at home and around the globe," he writes. "Over 800 million people worldwide are affected by undernourishment or food deprivation, including millions of small farmers threatened by climate change, volatile prices, and unfair trade practices."

Sanders goes on to link food insecurity in East Africa, South Sudan and Yemen with the armed conflicts going on in those countries.

Sanders' policy proposal addresses a complaint that we have heard from farmers who want to be able to repair or modify their own equipment, by advocating for a change in law that would give farmers "full rights over the machinery they buy."

In the years since the change in Medicare reimbursement rules under Reagan, rural health care facilities have been under increasing financial pressure and their numbers have significantly declined. Sanders proposes to "provide funding to rebuild and expand rural health care infrastructure, including hospitals, maternity wards, mental health clinics, dental clinics, dialysis centers, home care services, ambulance services and emergency departments in rural areas."

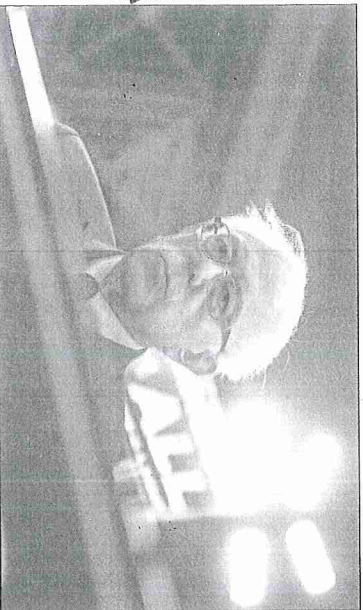
As we wrote last year, "as of 2009, 15% of U.S. counties were without a single hospital or a surgeon. Another 15% had a hospital, but no surgeon. Since 2010, 80 rural hospitals have closed. In addition, 54% of rural counties are without hospital-based obstetric services."

He also addresses "distressed rural communities that have high levels of poverty."

"When we are in White House, we will take Rep. Jim Clyburn's 10-20-30 approach to federal investments," he writes. "Under this plan, at least 10% of funding for any program would need to go to counties where at least 20% of the population has lived below the federal poverty level for at least 30 years. These nearly 500 counties span the rural and racial divide, including majority black counties in the deep South, predominantly Hispanic counties in the Southwest, Native American communities in the West, and largely white counties in Appalachia. As much as 80% of the counties targeted by the policy can be defined as rural."

Compared to the perception that rural areas are "flyover country," Sanders' approach to rural and agricultural policy are refreshingly comprehensive.

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Bloomberg photo by Anna Moneymaker  
Sen. Bernie Sanders, a candidate for the 2020 Democratic presidential