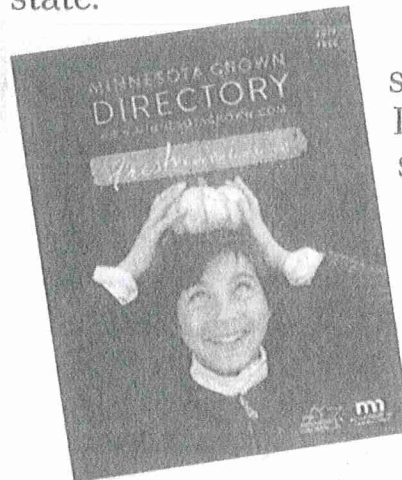


MIDWEST BRIEFS

New Minnesota Grown Directory available

ST. PAUL — The new Minnesota Grown Directory highlighting products and services available directly from Minnesota farmers and farmers markets is now available.

This year's publication features 1,023 members in all areas of the state.



The Minnesota Grown Directory is searchable by region, farm name, or product. It includes locally grown fruits and

vegetables, meats, dairy items, wineries, nurseries, Christmas trees, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations, and more.

Readers can search by new product categories, including on-farm dinners and tastings, hemp, microgreens, pick-your-own farm opportunities, certified organic farms and Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified farms.

For a free, printed copy of the Minnesota Grown Directory, visit the Minnesota Grown website, www.minnesotagrown.com, or call 888-TOURISM.

Midwest

Judge awards legal fees in Iowa ag-gag lawsuit

DES MOINES, Iowa — A federal judge has awarded more than \$181,000 in legal fees to seven lawyers who successfully fought a 2012 Iowa law that made it illegal to get a job at a livestock farm to conduct an animal cruelty undercover investigation.

Animal rights and civil rights organizations, including the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Iowa Citizens For Community Improvement, sued Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and others over the so-called ag gag law.

In January, U.S. District Court Judge James Gritzner concluded the law violated the constitutional right to free speech. The state has appealed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Earlier this month, Gritzner approved animal rights groups' attorney fees, which the state must pay. Additional costs are mounting for the appeal.

Midwest

Leaders want to know concerns of rural residents

From staff reports

CANNON FALLS, Minn. — Minnesota Farmers Union is holding a Rural Voices Discussions from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday at Artisan Plaza, 1223 Fourth St. S., Cannon Falls.

These discussions are set up for farmers and rural residents to relate their concerns to top state leaders. Rep. Angie Craig is expected to be at the Cannon Falls meeting, along with Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen.

Those attending the meeting may bring up any topic and the panelists are there to listen and take notes. At the end, the panelists will respond with reflections on what they heard and what they might be able to do with the information.

The discussion will be livestreamed on the Minnesota Farmers Union Facebook page.



Craig



Petersen

Pork Expo nixed over swine fever

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Concerns about the spread of Africa swine fever to the U.S. have led organizers to cancel the World Pork Expo scheduled for June at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

The National Pork Producers Council's board of directors announced its decision Wednesday. The annual June event brings about 20,000 visitors to Des Moines, including people and exhibitors from regions of the world where the disease has been diagnosed and is spreading.

The council says African swine fever affects only pigs and presents no human health or food safety risks. There is no vaccine to treat the swine disease.

There is a swine show during the event, but no pigs from other countries were expected to participate.

Council spokesman Jim Monroe says the risk isn't zero for U.S. producers. For example, he says, some foreign visitor could unwittingly bring the virus along if his or her shoes were splattered with blood or feces from an infected animal.

A3

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

AGRI NEWS

AgriNews.com

Manure tanks overflow in floodwater

DES MOINES — Spring flooding is causing problems for western Iowa animal feeding operations, with overflowing manure lagoons reported at eight northwest Iowa feedlots.

Eastern Iowa so far has been spared widespread major flooding, but state Department of Natural Resources officials say manure storage space is running out and the ground is still too wet to apply manure as a fertilizer.

"The conditions there (in western Iowa) are very extreme and we were on the verge of that," said Brian Jergenson, senior environmental specialist for the Iowa DNR's Manchester field office. "We realize how close we were to those conditions."

Eight northwest Iowa animal feeding operators reported flooding-related manure discharges from March 1 through March 21, according to Iowa DNR records. Three were in Lyon County, two in Sioux County and one each in Plymouth, O'Brien and Pocahontas counties.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Plan to clean Iowa water can't be voluntary

Devastating flooding in many areas of Iowa is causing widespread pollution from industrial agriculture and adds to our long-term problem with water quality.

We have over 750 waterways polluted with nitrates and phosphorus and subject to cyanobacteria blooms. Toxic blue-green algae thrive on the phosphorus and nitrate fertilizer run-off. As a result, Iowa is a major contributor to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, has many state beach closings and water supplies with dangerously high nitrate levels.

Our state's solution is

the "Voluntary" Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The plan contains practices that farmers and landowners can implement to cut down on run-off, soil loss and lessen the amount of nitrates and phosphorus entering state waters. However, the unfortunate truth is this strategy is not working because there is little participation. At present enrollment rate, it would take 100 years to clean up our waters using voluntary measures alone.

For all these reasons and more, we support the lawsuit filed by Iowa CCI and Food and Water Watch. Voluntary is not working,

and our Legislature has failed to act on our worsening water quality. Corporate ag and those who profit from it will want to say this is a fight between rural and urban, but the truth is everyone has a right to clean water.

We need a moratorium on large-scale livestock operations until a mandatory nutrient reduction plan is in place. This may be the only way we finally realize a clean-up that the state promises, but never delivers.

Rosemary and D.G. Partridge,
WALL LAKE, IOWA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop carrying water for factory farms in Iowa

The Iowa Legislature just showed its true colors by passing a new version of the ag-gag law. In spite of Iowa's courts ruling the ag-gag law unconstitutional, they feel the need to bend over backwards and kowtow to the factory farm industry.

Legislators down in Des Moines need to recognize that folks are sick and tired of the problems factory farms bring to our communities — polluted air and water, ruined roads, devalued property, and dying rural communities. But that's why

the Farm Bureau and factory farms want ag-gag, to try and keep us quiet.

It won't work. Thousands of Iowans are calling for a moratorium on factory farms. And in the meantime, legislators and Gov. Reynolds need to respect the court's decision and stop carrying water for their big campaign donors by passing bills like ag-gag.

Nick Schutt, ALDEN, IOWA

Plan just doesn't work according to county law

I read a really one-sided article in your March 28 Agri News about Daley Farms suing Winona County that looks like it was written by Daley Farm's attorney. It sure isn't fair.

Seems like, according to the Daleys, if one farm wants to get massively bigger, they shouldn't have to follow the rules like everyone else. The problem is that their plan to expand doesn't work according to county law. They don't just want a "variance," they want to bust the cap out of existence.

But since they don't have a leg to stand on where the law is concerned, their attorney is trying to bully the county and anyone in their community who's a member of Land Stewardship Project. Do the

Daleys think that the county law wouldn't apply if they just had more of their supporters serving on the Board of Adjustment? The law is still the same.

I'm a member of LSP because I share the same values of stewardship of farmland and supporting healthy, thriving rural farming communities. In the United States of America, you can be a member of lots of organizations with different ideas and values and still serve as a citizen on a county board.

The residents of Winona County should all be thankful that LSP does exist and wants to follow the laws that were set up to protect the environment. That means all of us!

Albert Butenhoff, RURAL WINONA COUNTY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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We need a moratorium on large-scale livestock operations until a mandatory nutrient reduction plan is in place. This may be the only way we finally realize a clean-up that the state promises, but never delivers.

Rosemary and D.G. Partridge,
WALL LAKE, IOWA

Daley Farms takes decision to court

BY BRIAN TODD
news@agrifnews.com

LEWISTON — Daley Farms filed suit against Winona County for the Feb. 21 denial of a variance request by the Winona County Board of Adjustments for the planned expansion of the Lewiston-based dairy.

The lawsuit, filed in Winona's Third Judicial District Court on Thursday, listed four main areas of legal contention, including the deprivation of the rights of Daley Farm owners, a violation of due process, factual and legal errors, and bias and prejudice.

The dairy was requesting a waiver of the county's 1,500-animal unit cap as part of an expansion project that would put nearly 6,000 animal units on their feedlot. The project was approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. However, the denial by the Winona County Board of Adjustments would, if upheld, put an end to the plans.

A date for a trial has not yet been set.

"This is about the next generation

"The fact that three members of the Board of Adjustment are members of a multi-million-dollar special interest group that has taken a strong stance in opposition to the Daley family's plans calls into question their credibility."

MATT BERGER, ATTORNEY AT LAW

of our family who has returned to the farm and want to continue being an integral part of the community and want to continue our family's legacy," said Ben Daley, one of the family members who owns the dairy that now is being worked by the sixth generation of Daleys over the past 160 years. "We must explore all options to make their dream a reality."

Part of the issues Daley Farm has with the decision is the three board members who were appointed and approved by a 3-2 vote of the Winona Count Board of Commissioners on

Jan. 8. Those three Board of Adjustments members are all members of the Land Stewardship Project, an organization that has filed its own lawsuits against the planned dairy expansion.

"The fact that three members of the Board of Adjustment are members of a multi-million-dollar special interest group that has taken a strong stance in opposition to the Daley family's plans calls into question their credibility," said Matt Berger with the law firm Gislason and Hunter, which represents Daley Farm in the case.

Berger said board members Cherie

Hales, Wendy Larson and Rachel Stoll are members of the Land Stewardship Project and each publicly expressed opposition to the project prior to considering the Daley's variance request. That prejudice should have required the trio to recuse themselves from debate, input and voting on the Daley's variance request.

"The public has the fundamental right to expect that variance requests will be decided by fair and impartial decision makers based on facts and science rather than the predetermined beliefs of handpicked activists," Berger said.

Ben Daley said the decision of the Board of Adjustments was apparent in January when the three urban-district members of the county board voted against the two rural district board members to install board member Marie Kovacs as president of the county board so she could choose the new members of the planning commission and direct the voting on the board of adjustment membership.

'No problem, I'll just stop eating pork'

One tried-and-true tool politicians use to deflect public criticism directed at them is as old as politics itself: beat up the press.

Someone in Secretary Sonny Perdue's U.S. Department of Agriculture thought it was time to do just that on April 8 as the "FSIS Office of Congressional and Public Affairs" — USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service — issued a blistering rebuttal to an April 3 Washington Post story on proposed changes in the federal safety inspection regime at hog slaughtering plants.

The story, by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, telegraphed its news in its first sentence: "The Trump administration plans to shift much of the power and responsibility for food safety inspections in hog plants to the pork industry... as early as May, cutting the number of federal inspectors by about 40 percent and replacing them with plant employees."

The USDA reply five days later was unlike like anything I've ever seen in nearly 40 years of ag journalism.

"The Washington Post says that democracy dies in darkness," began its anonymous writer. "If that's the case, then The Washington Post's story about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) is a solar eclipse."

Just in case that opening metaphor was too murky and inside-the-swamp for us country folk, it went on to moralize that food safety is a "responsibility and mission so important that every FSIS employee takes an Oath of Office. If only The Washington Post was held to the same standard."

The government-sponsored sarcasm was, as intended, noticed. Members of the Safe Food Coalition issued a statement the next day noting USDA's "unsigned" reply "merely con-



ALAN GUEBERT

American hog farmers don't sell eclipses; they sell trust, a trust built in large part on USDA meat inspection.

firms the truth of the Post's story" because of its use of "alternative facts"... to spin the news... using word play."

For example, "...USDA asserts... 'FSIS is not reducing the total number of federal inspectors by 40 percent'... However, USDA's proposed rule clearly envisions that 'the Agency would require 147 fewer... for swine slaughter inspection,' i.e. a 40 percent reduction in the relevant inspection workforce..."

Tony Corbo, senior lobbyist for Food & Water Watch, an independent, non-partisan group "that champions healthy food and clean water," sees USDA's sharp reply as another step in its emerging trend to attack consumer groups that question its Big Ag rulemaking agenda.

The proof, he says, is that "There's nothing in the USDA statement that responds to real problems USDA has had in implementing past changes to meat inspection rules. Instead, there's a lot of double-speak to

deflect Congress's and public attention from these new, even bigger changes."

Key U.S. pork importers are taking note, too, says Dr. Steve Suppan, senior policy analyst at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

When, for example, the U.S. begins new trade talks with Japan, Suppan forecasts in an email, "Japan will demand re-inspection and testing of fresh pork at the port of entry" if USDA implements what Japan sees as weakened pork slaughter inspection rules.

The reason is that if Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "agrees that USDA (inspection) standards are 'equivalent' to Japan's, not withstanding all contrary evidence, Abe's party will pay at the polls."

If that global worry spreads, the threat to the U.S. pork sector would be catastrophic because 26 percent of all (federally-inspected) American pork, valued at \$6.4 billion, was exported in 2018.

An even bigger market threat is brewing here, according to Post readers. Hundreds who read the pork inspection story posted remarks like "No problem, I'll just stop eating pork," or "Time to become vegan," and "Chick-fil-A: the other white meat."

Notably, many of the 814 reader comments wondered why USDA would cede federal power for food safety to corporate meatpackers. So far, USDA's single response hinges on a daft Orwellian reference to solar eclipses.

That's not good enough. American hog farmers don't sell eclipses; they sell trust, a trust built in large part on USDA meat inspection. Any debasement of that standard to save a few million federal dollars while adding a few million to corporate profits is a fool's trade.

Guebert is an agriculture journalist who lives in Delavan, Ill.

Midwest

"We still have time. I'm not overly concerned outside of that overland flooding area."

DAVE NICOLAI, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION CROPS EDUCATOR

FIELDS FLOODED NOW

But planting is still a month off

BY ADAM BELZ
Tribune News Service

WORTHINGTON, Minn. — Flooding in southern Minnesota and elsewhere in the Midwest is forcing farmers to keep an eye on the weather as spring planting draws near, hoping the soil will be ready for corn and soybeans.

Standing water in fields near rivers and lakes that have leapt their banks is the main concern, posing what could be the latest tribulation for farmers already struggling through a down cycle for grain prices.

"You're going to have a lot of ponding on the farmland for weeks here, a lot of water that's moving through the system," said Ted Winter, a farmer near Fulda, a few miles north of Worthington. "It puts more stress on people that are already really stressed."

The last week in April is generally the best time to plant corn, and most farmers plant soybeans right after corn, so fields have more than a month to drain and dry. A forecast for temperatures well above freezing over the next week bodes well, said Dave Nicolai, a crops educator for the University of Minnesota Extension.

"The thing we've got going for us now is the days are longer and we have a little more sunlight," Nicolai said. "We still have time. I'm not overly concerned outside of that overland flooding area."

Last year's planting was delayed by snow in April, but the ground wasn't as saturated then. The timing of planting in 2019 will depend on how much it rains and snows over



Contributed by Sonja Eayrs

Water from the Cedar River covers the fields and road leading to the Lowell and Evelyn Trom farm, 12451 700 St., Blooming Prairie, early last week. The water receded a few days later.

the next few weeks.

"What happens in April? Are we going to have excessive rains? Are we going to have another snow?" Nicolai asked.

Delayed planting is more than just a logistical headache for farmers. It affects the harvest.

"You'll have a loss of yield because you're just not able to get it in time," Winter said.

Swollen rivers to the south

already have had an effect on farmers, clogging shipping lanes and driving down the local price offered to farmers for their grain in some places as grain handlers struggle to move commodities down the Mississippi River. Farmers deal with uncertain spring conditions every year, though, and are increasingly able to plant crops quickly.

"Even with a very late snow last year, we still had enough opportuni-

ty to plant crops, even in early May," Nicolai said. "The bottom line is things can happen very quickly in the spring and often do."

Winter, who farms corn and soybeans, said the larger problem for farmers is the overall state of the market for their crops. While wet soil is an "added pressure," it's nothing they haven't dealt with before.

"We've planted a lot of corn in May," Winter said.

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 www.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 www.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 HSUS's 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 www.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

Tips For Happy Cats

Keep Your Cat Safe and Happy – Indoors

It's a myth that going outside is a requirement for feline happiness. Playing regularly with a cat and providing her with entertaining toys can easily satisfy her stalking instinct, keep her stimulated and provide the exercise she needs to stay healthy and happy. It also keeps local wildlife safe!

Here are some tips for making the great indoors an interesting, feline-friendly environment that meets all of your cat's needs.

- **Start 'em Young:** Kittens who are kept indoors are usually happy to stay there as they grow up.
- **Good Fences = Happy Kitties:** Provide a screened porch for your cat to experience the outdoors safely. Consider building or purchasing a "catio" or similar enclosure to allow your cat to get a taste of the outside without the risks. A regular fence may not prevent other animals from entering your yard, so you should always be present when you allow your cat outside in your yard.
- **Walk This Way:** If you live in a peaceful neighborhood in which you can walk without encountering loose dogs, consider buying a harness and training your cat to walk on a leash. This training takes time and patience for both you and the cat and

it's easiest when your cat is young. Some cats can even be harnessed and tied to a stationary object to enjoy the outdoors while you are gardening nearby (but be sure to never leave your cat alone while she is tethered).

- **Hang Out:** Install a perch indoors near a sunny window; padded perches can be purchased at many pet supply stores or through catalog retailers. Another option is an enclosure that sits in a window frame (much like an air conditioning unit) and provides a secure space in which your kitty can hang out. Larger perches can attach to the side of a house or ground-floor apartment patio.
- **Tree's Company:** Buy a ready-made cat tree (often called a "kitty condo,") or make your own. A cat tree can be short or may stretch from floor to ceiling. It provides great climbing opportunities and, in multi-cat households, creates more play and rest areas by taking advantage of vertical space. If you can, locate the cat tree next to a window so your cat can watch the action outdoors.
- **Play Time:** Play with your cat each day. Try different types of toys that allow your cat to stalk, chase, pounce and kick. When you've tired out your cat, place toys that could harm him (such as toys with strings

attached) out of reach. When you can't be there to supervise, leave out "toys" such as paper bags (with the handles removed) or cardboard boxes. Be sure to switch the toys from time to time so that they seem "new" and more interesting to your cat.

- **Bring The Outdoors Inside:** Plant cat grass (available from pet supply stores) in indoor pots so your feline can graze.
- **Identification, Please:** Even indoor cats should still be outfitted with a collar and visible identification. The occasional open window (make sure your windows have secure screens) or door offers a tempting opportunity for your cat to escape to the outdoor. And your cat may become frightened and make her way outside if strangers come to work on your house or if there is a fire or similar disaster. The collar and visible ID could help someone get your pet back to you.
- **Chip In For Safety:** Consider having your cat microchipped and keep your cat contact information with the microchip registry up-to-date. If you do lose your cat, contact your local animal shelter immediately to file a report. Shelter workers can give you tips on getting your pet back home safely.

Why You Should Adopt A Rescue Animal

Did you know that local shelters and rescue agencies—large and small—always have a great selection of animals looking for loving, forever homes?

You can find cats and dogs, birds, small animals and sometimes even horses and livestock!

In fact, any animal available for sale at a pet store or from a breeder is probably waiting for adoption in a nearby shelter or rescue.

Here are the facts:

- Each year, 6 to 8 million pets end up in shelters; half of those will probably not be adopted.
- Most pets end up homeless through no fault of their own—"moving" and "landlord issues" are the top reasons people give for relinquishing their pets, meaning shelters and rescue groups are full of wonderful, family-ready pets.
- Pets adopted from shelters and rescue groups typically cost less than pets purchased or even acquired for free. Once you add in the cost of vaccinations, spay/

neuter surgery, microchipping, deworming and other "extras" included in your adoption fee, you'll probably be surprised what a bargain an adopted pet really is!

To adopt a rescue animal, you should follow these three steps:

1. Determine what kind of pet would be the best fit for your household:

When looking to adopt a shelter pet, it is important to sit down as a family and consider these questions:

- Do you have enough time to devote to the daily needs of a dog?
- Is there someone in your household who is allergic to cats or dogs or another animal you may be considering?
- Have you considered a non-traditional pet such as a guinea pig or another small animal?

By having an open and honest discussion about your lifestyle and abilities to care for an animal, you can decide together as a family what type of pet is best for you.

2. Visit your local shelter:

Once you've decided on what type of pet you want to adopt, check the website of your local shelter and then visit your local shelter in person. Sometimes all it takes to find your perfect match is to look directly into a pet's eyes and fall in love!

3. Spread the word to others:

Once you've found your rescue pet, make sure that you spread the word to your family and loved ones how rewarding the adoption experience has been.

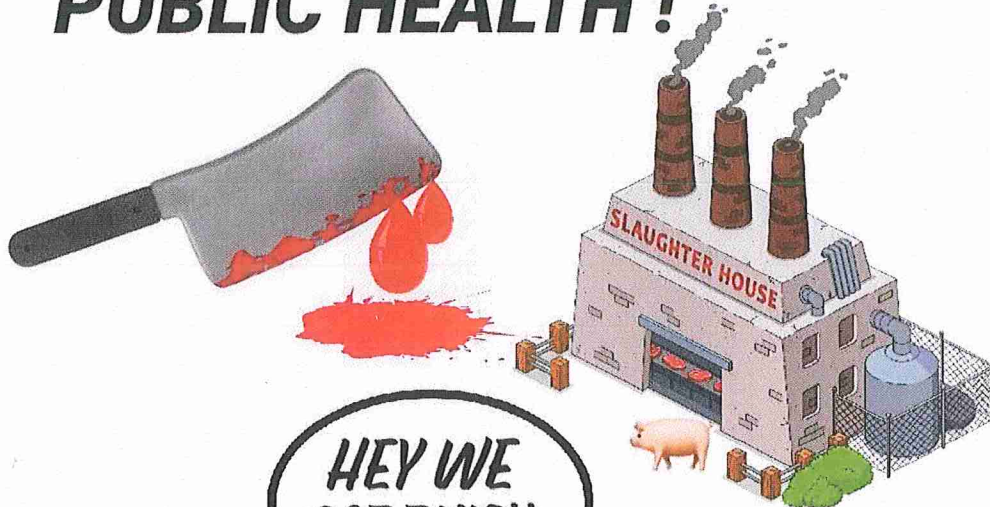
If they hear from a trusted friend that a rescue pet is just as—if not more—loving than a store-bought pet, they'll be more likely to adopt too!

And the more people who adopt, the fewer rescue pets there are in shelters!



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**
humanesociety.org

TRUMP'S NEW SLAUGHTERHOUSE RULES "BUTCHER" PUBLIC HEALTH !



**HEY WE
GOT THIS!!**



- **CORPORATE SELF INSPECTION**
- **UNLIMITED LINE SPEEDS**
- **FEDERAL INSPECTORS
SLASHED 40 %**
- **NO MANDATORY E.COLI TESTING**
- **PATHOGEN TESTING
BY EMPLOYEES**

(Th)ink

BY
KEEF
KNIGHT

NEWS ITEM: A RECENT
STUDY CLAIMS THAT TRAINED DOGS
CAN SNIFF OUT CANCER WITH 97%
ACCURACY...

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MADE IN THE USA



PHOTO BY HEMTO



JOHN MCKINNEY, 1956

“Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people.”

—Spencer Johnson

Truth

A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.

EDGAR J. MOHN

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Truth will ultimately prevail where pains is taken to bring it to light.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

The hardest tumble a man can take is to fall off his own bluff.

AMBROSE BIERCE

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:18 (KJV)

Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Three things cannot be hidden: The sun, the moon, and the truth.

BUDDHA

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

MARK TWAIN

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

'Tis strange—but true; for truth is always strange; stranger than fiction.

LORD BYRON

Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.

PROVERBS 12:22 (KJV)

I am afraid we must make the world honest before we can honestly say to our children that honesty is the best policy.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

The truth is more important than the facts.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

There's one way to find out if a man is honest—ask him. If he says, “Yes,” you know he is a crook.

GROUCHO MARX

No legacy is so rich as honesty.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

ROBERT BURNS

In the spider-web of facts, many a truth is strangled.

PAUL ELDRIDGE

The least initial deviation from the truth is multiplied later a thousandfold.

ARISTOTLE

You own everything that happened to you. Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should've behaved better.

ANNE LAMOTT

Outlook in swine market is murky

BY NOAH FISH
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Talk about being struck between a rock and a hard place. Some hog farmers saw a healthy profit margin last year while other lost money.

According to USDA numbers from January to July of last year, U.S. pork exports to Mexico, the top market for U.S. pork, increased about 5 percent.

In the first few months of 2018, U.S. pork exports were boosted by increased shipments to Mexico, South Korea, Central America and Caribbean nations.

But the pipeline to China was nearly closed to U.S. farmers, cutting into their profits.

"I get it, it was not a good year at all in 2018," said Bill Moore, a vice president at Compeer Financial.

Moore was one of the speakers at the cooperative's third part in a four-part series talking about the outlook for the swine industry.

He said profitability ranged last year from farmers losing up to \$15 a head, and others profiting as much. The difference comes from things like risk management and sales techniques, said Moore.

But Moore said that production in the U.S. remains to be solid.

"If you're talking about live production and cost of production of pigs, there are only a few places in the world that can compete with us," said Moore.

Meetings took place in Worthington, Mankato, Rochester and Edwards, Ill. General topics like supply and demand, trade agreements and interest rates were discussed, as well the impact that the African swine fever outbreak in China is having on U.S. producers.

One of the speakers during the meeting was Compeer Financial's swine team leader Kent Bang sees China's swine-fever ravaged hog herds as an opportunity for U.S. farmers to profit more this year than they did last year.

He also believes the months-long efforts between China and the U.S. to reach a trade agreement will eventually lead to a deal.

"The need (from China) is

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going to be so vast for pork, that I think that's going to outweigh this tariff issue that we have," said Bang.

The Chinese government reports that the country had a 17 percent reduction of its hog herds last year, but Bang believes the percentage to be even higher.

China is the world's largest hog producer and pork consumer, but has watched its hog market crumble because the deadly African swine fever outbreak. Since August, the outbreak has spread to more than 28 provinces and regions across China.

According to March data from the USDA, China recently purchased more U.S. pork than it had in nearly two years.

Pork exports to China currently carry about a 65 percent tariff, said Bang, which he thinks will push the Chinese government into re-examine a more mutually beneficial trade agreement.

Listening to the March 20 presentation in Rochester was Alex Mensink, 30, who with his wife and parents, raises hogs and cattle and grows crops near Preston. He said their operation finishes about 50,000 hogs each year.

The market for U.S. swine has been rocky for long enough now that Mensink said most producers have accepted the uncertainty of it. He found the meeting and the data that was presented at it to confirm this.

"A high percentage of our product is exported," said Mensink. "That presents us with more opportunities, but also more risk."

What doesn't make sense to Mensink is that with more hogs being finished in the U.S. than ever before, and production and efficiency rates on a steady rise, why aren't hog farmers making more money? Even meat consumption in the U.S. continues to grow each year.

The uptick across the board for swine producers makes Mensink think the market could be nearing a profitability breakthrough.

But there's something hog farmers fear more than tariffs or low profit margins: disease.

If African swine fever would get into the U.S. herd, it would be cripple many hog producers, Mensink said.

A major outbreak could bring restrictions on shipments crossing state borders, hampering many farmers who deal with neighboring states.

He said many pigs are farrowed in areas with low pig density and then brought to be finished in a different state.

"What happens if this disease comes (to the U.S.), and you can't move pigs from Sioux Falls, S.D., to Worthington," Mensink asked.

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