

# The Farmer's Share

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.6\* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend? According to the USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

**Bacon**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$5.63  
Farmer: \$0.66

**Top Sirloin Steak**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$8.99  
Farmer: \$1.90

**Bread**  
2 lbs.



Retail: \$2.99  
Farmer: \$0.11

**Carrots**  
5 lbs.



Retail: \$3.99  
Farmer: \$1.57

**Beer**  
6-pack cans



Retail: \$7.99  
Farmer: \$0.04

**Cereal**  
18 oz. box



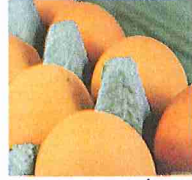
Retail: \$5.09  
Farmer: \$0.05

**Tomatoes**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$4.51  
Farmer: \$0.80

**Eggs**  
1 dozen



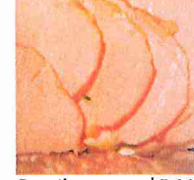
Retail: \$2.19  
Farmer: \$1.34

**Flour**  
King Arthur, 5 lbs.



Retail: \$5.29  
Farmer: \$0.38

**Boneless Ham**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$5.99  
Farmer: \$0.66

**Lettuce**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$2.79  
Farmer: \$0.31

**Milk**  
1 gallon, fat free



Retail: \$4.49  
Farmer: \$1.48

**Fresh Apples**  
1 lb.



Retail: \$2.79  
Farmer: \$0.40

**Fresh Potatoes**  
Russet, 5 lbs.



Retail: \$4.49  
Farmer: \$0.57

**Soda**  
2 liters



Retail: \$1.29  
Farmer: \$0.04

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2017 | Prices based on June 2017 data.  
Retail prices based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted. | \*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

January 31, 2018

# Nation

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## NATION BRIEFS

### County officials end fight against 10,000-hog farm

MUNCIE, Ind. — Officials in a central Indiana county are dropping their fight against a proposed 10,000-hog farm after threats of legal action since a state agency has approved the project.

The Delaware County commissioner had put a hold on building permits for the farm in the northern part of the county.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management recently approved plans for the confined animal feeding operation. That's despite concerns from residents over possible well water pollution and the farm field application of manure produced in the site's four barns.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# It's time to rebuild communities

The imposition of Chinese tariffs on American pork products is a wake-up call for all industrial hog producers.

Encouraged by large multinational corporations that they must "feed the world," these contract farmers fell for the corporate line and thus became dependent upon the export market.

Our family farm in southern Minnesota is surrounded by 11 swine factory farms,

and soon a 12th, in a 3-mile radius.

The industrial model, known as vertical integration, has forced thousands of independent farmers off the land, while allowing large corporate interests to control production from the producer to the consumer. The profit lands on the corporate balance sheet and does not circulate in local communities.

This is not farming. The top-down vertical integration model is responsible for hollowing out rural communities.

We are all bound together by care, compassion and community and must work together to rebuild our rural communities from the ground up.

Sonja Trom Eayrs  
Maple Grove

# OPINION

A4 THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

## YOUR VIEW

### It's time to rebuild rural communities

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**Sonja Trom Eayrs  
Dodge County Concerned Citizens**

# Austin Daily Herald

www.austindailyherald.com

Saturday, April 7, 2018

## Letter

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**Sonja Trom Eayrs  
On behalf of Dodge  
County Concerned  
Citizens**

OWATONNA  
**Peoples' Press**

**Opinion**

OWATONNA PEOPLE'S PRESS

Saturday, April 7-Sunday, April 8, 2018

**It's time to rebuild  
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**Sonja Trom Eays**

**Maple Grove**

**On behalf of Dodge  
County Concerned Citizens**

# Iowa CCI begins tour about factory farming

From staff reports

The Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement kicked off its statewide tour on factory farms last month in Iowa Falls to overwhelming community support.

The political education series continues this month, featuring David Osterberg, Iowa Policy Project's (IPP) lead environmental researcher and professor emeritus from the University of Iowa. Osterberg will reference a recent IPP report on factory farm water pollution, as well as highlight some of the main concerns surrounding the

factory farm industry today.

Central Iowans often bear the impact of water pollution from upstream polluters, the meetings will target the rural communities being impacted by a current building boom, as the factory farm industry expands across the state. The meetings will also discuss the tools available for moving towards a food and farm system that works for farmers, workers and the environment.

The tour will stop April 10 in Iowa City; April 17 in Rockwell City; April 24 in Humeston and May 3 in Rockford.

A6 THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 AGRI NEWS • AgriNews.com

## Region

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# Ground level: Is Minnesota on the right track for clean water?

By KRISTI MAROHN  
Minnesota Public Radio News

David Engels spends a lot of time thinking about water.

He lives in Hubbard County in north-central Minnesota, just off one of the Crow Wing lakes. He volunteers to check how clear the water is and whether the lake has any invasive species. So far, it doesn't.

But Engels sees changes happening around the lake — cabins torn down and replaced with large homes, forests cleared to make way for potato fields.

His parents bought a resort here called Pleasant Ridge back in 1966. That year, they had their well water tested. It had no traceable nitrates, a contaminant often traced to fertilizers, animal waste or human sewage.

Last year, Engels had his well tested again. This time, the nitrate level was 20 milligrams per liter, double the state health limit. The test also detected nine different agricultural pesticides.

All of this worries Engels.

"I'd like to raise warning flags and yell at everybody in the state, 'Wake up, wake up!'" he said. "I'm not trying to be Chicken Little."

Engels thinks the state isn't doing enough to address water problems. But there's evidence to show that many Minnesotans think the state is making progress.

In MPR News' Ground Level survey last fall, an overwhelming majority of Minnesotans — 85 percent — said they think the state is on the right track when it comes to providing safe drinking water. The number was almost as high, 80 percent, when respondents were asked about protecting lakes and rivers.

That's higher than any other right track/wrong track topic MPR News surveyed, including health care, education and the economy.

Unlike other topics, the optimism cuts across political party lines. There were no significant differences among Republicans, Democrats or independents.

But what exactly does it mean to be on the right track?

"I think people just think it's one of those things that's taken care of," said Steve Morse, executive director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. "We've got all these programs. We've got this constitutional amendment. Everybody says they're working on it. It's working."

But Morse says there's a problem with that attitude.

"There's a mythology there that's being perpetuated," he said. "We know we have serious problems."

Since the Clean Water Act of the 1970s, Minnesota has made significant progress when it comes to water. A lot of pollution from factories and old sewer treatment plants has been cleaned up. The Legacy Amendment voters approved in 2008 has pumped millions of dollars into charting the condition of lakes, rivers and streams.

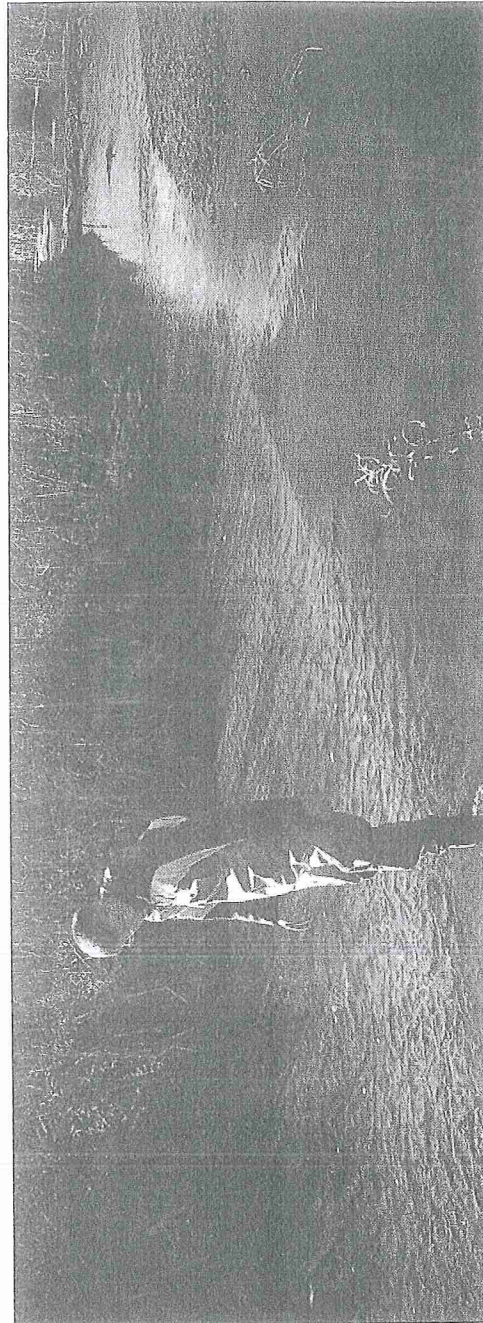
"I think that's one reason why people feel confident we're on the right track is we know what we know," said John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency commissioner. "I think people are confident we're on the right track because they know someone is paying attention to what's going on in our lakes, rivers and groundwater."

But clean water advocates say those successes mask real problems. About 40 percent of lakes, rivers and streams in Minnesota don't meet pollution standards.

And while most Minnesotans' drinking water is relatively safe because they get it from a public source like a city water system, it's a different story for people with private wells.

OWATONNA PEOPLE'S PRESS

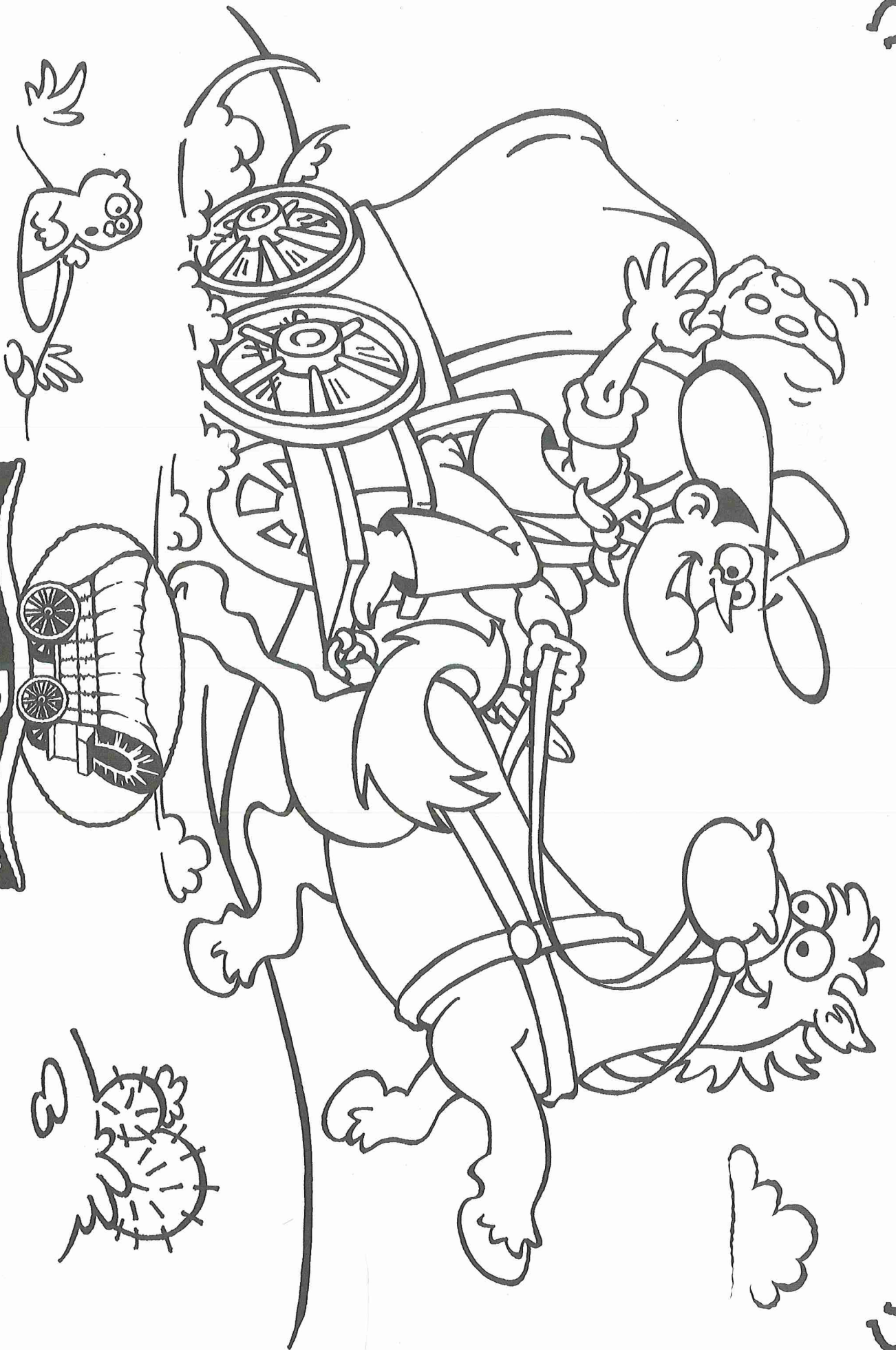
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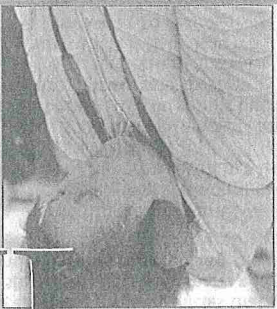


A man walks near a limestone filter recently installed on a restored portion of the Clearwater River near Kimball, Minn., as part of a wetland restoration project. (Dave Schwarz/St. Cloud Times via AP file)



**Pizza Ranch**





**FEEDING PEOPLE**  
Caring for the earth. B1



**STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS**  
All critics, all the time  
**STEELE-DODGE: Business Section, B4/B5**

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

Kasson, Minnesota

# INDEPENDENT

## DODGE COUNTY

## Dodge County farm fined for truck wash violations

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

A complaint of an illegal truck wash on a farm in Dodge County has prompted a fine against the owner by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The MPCA leveled a \$2,000 penalty against the David Gosch farm on 720th Street near Hayfield after an investigation of an unpermitted truck wash began last fall. The fine has been paid, and Gosch is allowed to operate the truck wash in the future as long as it meets all local and state requirements, said Cathy Rotshus of the MPCA.

After the MPCA inspection, Gosch stopped using the truck wash and removed the illegal disposal system, according to Rotshus.

"He has performed all corrective actions and paid a \$2,000 penalty," she said.

Officials with the MPCA issued an administrative penalty order against Gosch for violations of Minnesota's environmental requirements in December. Gosch was required to take action within 30 days of receiving the order dated Dec. 11, 2017. In the order, he was required to complete the corrective actions, document his completion of the corrective actions to the MPCA and pay the \$2,000 fine.

In its order, the MPCA outlined four violations against Gosch, including prohibition against discharge into unsaturated zone. No sewage, industrial waste or other pollutants are allowed to be discharged to an unsaturated zone or deposited in such place, manner or quantity that the effluent or residue therefrom, upon reaching the water table, may actually or potentially preclude or limit the use of the underground waters as a potable water supply, the MPCA says.

The other three violations against Gosch involved permitting. The MPCA investigation found that Gosch did not have a proper permit required to discharge pollutants from a point source into the waters of the state.

On Sept. 13, 2017, MPCA staff documented that for 10 years Gosch discharged about 2,000 gallons per week of wastewater from a livestock truck wash to a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System consisting of a 2,000 gallon holding tank and drain field with perforated tile that allowed for infiltration to subsurface soil.

MPCA also documented that the drain field was day-lighted and ultimately discharged livestock truck wash wastewater to the waters of an unnamed creek to south fork of the Zumbro River in Dodge County. This activity required a permit, the MPCA said.

The initial penalty leveled against Gosch by the MPCA was \$4,000. However, after he took appropriate action to rectify the situation within 30 days, \$2,000 of the penalty was forgiven. Gosch paid the penalty on Jan. 9.

The MPCA issued a letter to Gosch on March 28 acknowledging that he had completed the correction actions outlined in the original order. In the most recent letter, the MPCA thanked Gosch for his attention into this matter and his cooperation in fulfillment of the requirements.

Besides operating a livestock trucking company which includes four semi tractor trailers, Gosch also runs a feedlot operation of swine and dairy. Records show the feedlot operation has been properly permitted through the MPCA. The most current permit was issued in 2017 after a public comment period.

In an interview with the Times, Gosch said there was "no manure" discharged into any watersheds through his truck wash bay. He said the trucks were all scraped and washed with the only possible pollutants being "gray water" disposed of in the watershed.

"There was no hazardous pollutants," Gosch said. "This is not a hog farm violation." Gosch said he has always been good to work with regarding the hog feedlots he operates.

"I've always been compliant," he said. As for the truck wash bay, Gosch said he had a septic company install it 10 years ago. He said the laws have changed since the original bay was put in.

"I didn't premeditate this," he said. "I didn't plan on doing something illegally."

Gosch said he is prepared to get all the proper permits and have everything up to code. As for the MPCA's investigation, Gosch said: "They were good to me because I was good to them. We try to do things right."

An avid fisherman, Gosch said the last thing he wants to do is pollute the waters in his world.