

SUCCESSFUL FARMING EXCLUSIVE: TOP 40 U.S. PORK POWERHOUSES® 2019

| 2019 Ranking | Company / Headquarters | # Sows 2019 | # Sows 2018 |
|---|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Smithfield Foods/WH Group / Smithfield, VA/China | 930,000 | 950,000 |
| 2 | Seaboard Foods / Shawnee Mission, KS | 345,000 | 340,000 |
| 3 | Pipestone System / Pipestone, MN | 282,000 | 251,000 |
| 4 | Iowa Select Farms / Iowa Falls, IA | 242,500 | 235,000 |
| 5 | The Maschhoffs / Carlyle, IL (sold sows in NE to Pillen; bought sows in WY from Smithfield) | 195,000 | 204,000 |
| 6 | Prestage Farms / Clinton, NC (opened new pork packing plant in Iowa in March) | 185,000 | 182,300 |
| 7 | JBS / Greeley, CO/Brazil | 167,000 | 167,500 |
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| 9 | Christensen Farms / Sleepy Eye, MN (an owner of Triumph Foods) | 148,000 | 142,500 |
| 10 | AMVC Management Services / Audubon, IA | 145,200 | 135,500 |
| 11 | Clemens Food Group / Hatfield, PA (includes pending acquisition of 45,000 sows from Maxwell Foods) | 111,000 | 66,330 |
| 12 | Allied Producers' Cooperative / Westside, IA (an owner of Triumph Foods) | 102,500 | 102,500 |
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| 14 | Tyson Foods / Springdale, AR | 82,000 | 80,000 |
| 15 t | Holden Farms / Northfield, MN | 70,000 | 60,000 |
| 15 t | Pillen Family Farms / Columbus, NE (acquired 16,000 sows from The Maschhoffs) | 70,000 | 55,000 |
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| 31 t | Great Plains Management / Creston, IL | 32,000 | 45,500 |
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VISION FOR THE FUTURE

STEWARDSHIP • JUSTICE • DEMOCRACY • HEALTH • COMMUNITY

The Challenge and Opportunity of this Historic Moment

By JODY LENZ, LSP Board Chair & MARK SCHULTZ, LSP Executive Director

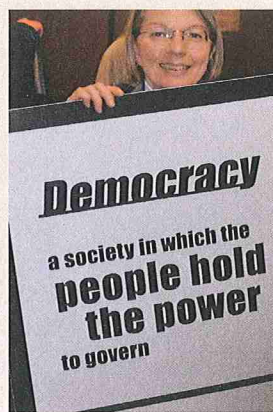
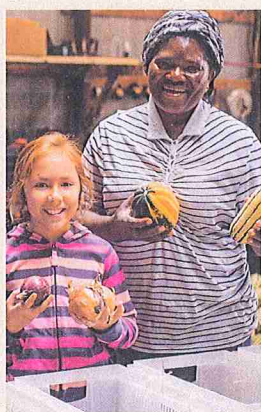
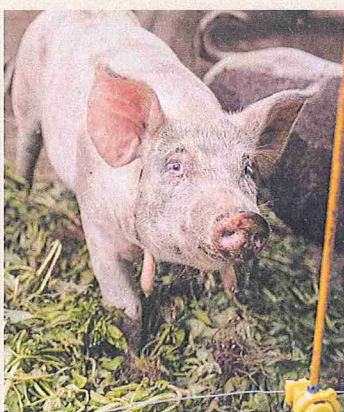
Dear LSP Members, Allies, & Friends,

We have created this five-year plan at a time of much hardship in our communities. Many of us have seen our neighbors lose their farms. Others of us have experienced this tragedy firsthand. For some, their farms — often having been worked for years, even generations — are at risk of disappearing forever. No one has escaped this crisis: farmers working in dairy, hogs, vegetables, row crops, and more. As the number of farmers declines, production of animals and acres is pushed to the max, consolidating more and more land in the hands of fewer and fewer people.

While this farm crisis is happening, it is compounded by an expanding climate crisis. We are all seeing increased flooding and other extreme weather events that threaten the stability of our food system and our communities. This state of crisis throughout society continues because of the effects of corporate power abuses on our systems of government, decision making, and human rights. This abuse is often encouraged by elected officials. These are the times we're in.

Despite these challenges, we are writing to say that as an organization, LSP is hopeful about the future. We know that it will take a lot of hard work — our members and staff are used to that. It will take good ideas too, organized into action. We have those ideas, and will develop more from the experience, wisdom, and vision of people directly impacted by the issues we face. And it will take all of you, our members and allies, working together for a better future. What we can't do alone, we can do together.

Please read ahead. You will see a vision for a brighter, healthier future for all, along with actions to get us there. Then, get back to us with how you can be part of this work with grit, determination, good food, and yes, joy. **Join us!**



5 YEAR PLAN
2019 – 2024



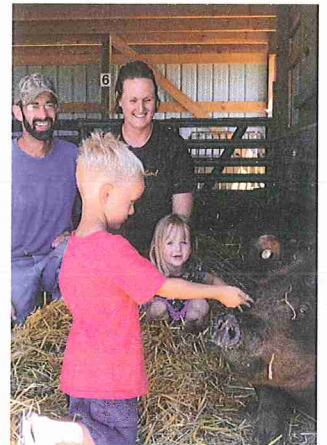
LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT

5 YEAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Our current work stems from our mission and core values, and we are going to stay at it. That includes winning healthcare for all, stopping the spread of factory farms and frac sand mines, and helping new farmers get a good start. We will focus our work across and through LSP's programs on the following initiatives.

Directly address the causes and effects of the economic crisis in agriculture by campaigning for structural changes in public policy, holding corporations and financial institutions accountable, working to assure adequate assistance to farmers in trouble, and advancing real long-term solutions to secure a just and sustainable food and farming system.

The economic crisis in agriculture impacts small- and mid-sized farms across a wide spectrum. The control of markets across the board — corn, soybeans, pork, beef, dairy, vegetables, credit, inputs, etc. — by a few major multinational corporations allows these corporations to exercise their plans for maximizing their own profits and economic power to the detriment of farmers, consumers, rural communities, and the land. The situation is urgent and calls for action now.



Greatly increase access to land and secure land tenure for small- and mid-sized farmers and people who want to start farming in the Upper Midwest.

More people farming and being stewards of the land is at the root of LSP's mission. Land access and secure land tenure are essential components for creating economic, racial and gender justice, in part because land ownership is a critical vehicle for securing and passing on wealth in our society. The taking of land from indigenous people and the historical denial of land access and tenure for people of color and women is central to the generations of economic, racial, and gender inequity in U.S. society.



Build the infrastructure needed by small- and mid-sized farms and by rural and urban communities to create functioning local and regional food systems that support regenerative farming and provide all people with the nourishing foods they want and need.

Corporate control of our farm and food system disconnects us from our natural world, creates scarcity, and threatens our health and our environment. It exports wealth from the land and our rural and urban communities while denying small- and mid-sized farmers adequate access to markets and fair prices. Structural racism also upholds this tiered and unjust food system, from immigration and labor laws to the price of food and access to land.

Lead in advancing solutions to the climate crisis by innovating and promoting resilient, soil-building farming systems and moving our society away from a reliance on fossil fuels.

LSP's commitment to stewardship of the planet and stewardship of future generations requires us to act. The good news is that agriculture has great potential to help stabilize the climate by transitioning to regenerative and sustainable farming practices — like cover cropping and managed rotational grazing of livestock — that take carbon out of the atmosphere and protect water quality while using fewer fossil fuels. LSP will fight the greatest threats to our climate by decreasing extreme energy extraction.

Greatly expand LSP's base of people — supporters, members, and leaders — to grow our power to advance positive change.

The source of LSP's power and creativity comes from organizing people who are directly affected by the issues it works on. LSP's ability to engage people in the development, advancement, and implementation of solutions facing farm and rural communities is a strength.

Grow and deepen LSP's understanding, relationships, and work to advance economic, racial, and gender justice.

Racism, patriarchy, and economic injustice are powerful structural barriers that stand in the way of LSP achieving its mission. Over the next five years, LSP will work to dismantle these forces in our organization and our society in order to achieve our mission.

Greatly increase the effectiveness of LSP by upgrading the performance of the organization's internal systems of operation.

To increase our impact, LSP will invest in our internal development over the next five years by improving and investing in technology, administrative, supervisory, and personnel systems, practices, benefits, and tools that meet the needs of LSP and its staff.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop healthy communities.

LSP's power to advance our mission comes from our members.

Over the years, LSP member-leaders have set goals while joining and leading in the work needed to attain them. Members serve on steering committees, volunteer their time, and participate in meetings, field days, and events at the local, state, and national level.

In addition, financial support that comes from individuals increases LSP's ability to seize opportunities and weather challenges, including launching new efforts when needed and reacting quickly to strategic issues as they arise in the course of the work. This engagement and financial support makes LSP tremendously effective.

With more than 4,400 member-households creatively working together for a just and sustainable food and farming system, LSP is changing the way people farm and eat from the ground up.

THANK YOU!



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

2018-19 LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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www.landstewardshipproject.org

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1. CSA green house, Litchfield, MN by Kristine Leuze, cover
2. Free range pig, Star Prairie, WI by Ilisa Ailt, cover
3. Packing CSA shares, Star Prairie, WI by Ilisa Ailt, cover
4. LSP members at the Capitol, Saint Paul, MN by Brian DeVore, cover
5. Jim and Alison Deutsch, by Brian DeVore, page 2
6. Anne & Peter Schwagerl, Browns Valley, MN by Brian DeVore, page 2
7. LSP members rally for a better Farm Bill, Ramsey MN, by Brian DeVore, page 3

To read the full-length plan, please visit the LSP website, give us a call, or email info@landstewardshipproject.org to request a hard copy. Thank you!





SRAP

Socially Responsible
Agricultural Project



"You guys were a huge, huge help during this. Thank God there are people out there like you."

Dear Friend,

It has been another year full of triumph and defeat, forward strides and setbacks in the fight against factory farms for the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP) and our partner communities. Through them all, sentiments like these remind us that our wins and losses are not so easily defined. Even as corporations expand into rural America and we fight corrupted support for industrial agricultural at our courthouses and capitals, the citizens we engage with are making all the difference. Whether CAFOs and processing plants in our communities are approved or denied, together we continue to grow this nation-wide movement of people standing up and speaking out for a system-wide change of our food system.

19

TEAM MEMBERS

39

NEW CASES IN 2019

165

TOTAL CASES

31

STATES

In the past year, our SRAP organizers have worked with numerous communities from Pennsylvania to Missouri to implement proactive resolutions and ordinances to protect them from factory farm pollution. We have engaged with citizens at their state regulatory agencies from New Mexico to Wisconsin for stronger regulation and public participation, all the while building people power from the ground up. And perhaps our most exciting work of the year has been the over 25 organized screenings of *Right To Harm*, a documentary that exposes the devastating public health impacts of factory farms throughout the United States.

From educational meetings to late nights around the kitchen table, from fact sheets and permit reviews to online training webinars, our team works tirelessly to ensure citizens have the tools and support they need to organize their neighbors free of charge. **We could not do this without the continued support of people like you!**

When you give to SRAP, you are not only providing for our organizing and educational work in the field, but you are also investing in the future of agriculture and the future of our food system. A future that rejects the exploitive model of factory farming and instead strengthens family farms and rural economies while protecting our natural resources and rebuilding our soils. **Will you please consider making a contribution to further our work alongside communities in their fights against factory farms?**

Together, we *can* loosen the grip of Big Ag on Rural America, one dollar, one voice, one community at a time.

Join us by making a tax-deductible donation online at www.sraproject.org/donate or by sending a check to: SRAP 1120 Washington Ave. Suite 200 Golden, CO 80401

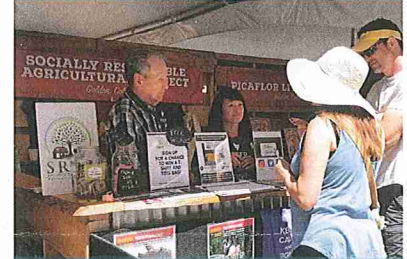
In solidarity,



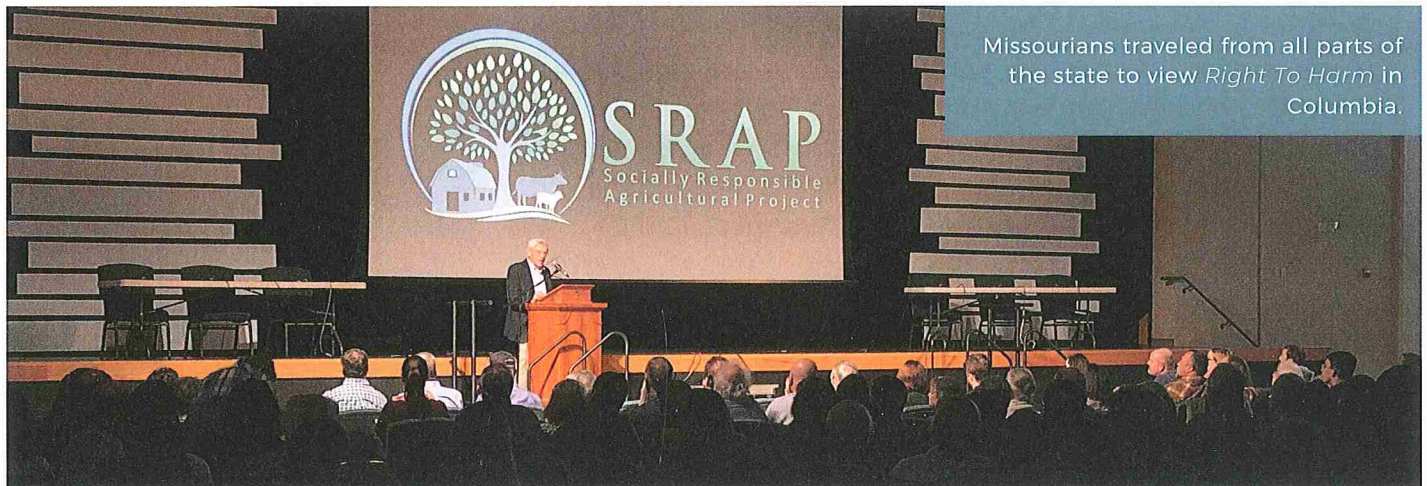
Terry Spence, Executive Director & the SRAP Team



SRAP's Karen Hudson joined Marshall County, IL residents for a group meeting.



Hundreds visited the SRAP booth at Slow Food Nations Denver.



Missourians traveled from all parts of the state to view *Right To Harm* in Columbia.

2019 PORK POWERHOUSES



BY BETSY FREESE, Executive Editor

THE U.S. SWINE INDUSTRY IS STILL EXPANDING DESPITE TARIFFS, LABOR CHALLENGES, AND GLOBAL DISEASE RISKS.

The nation's largest pig producers added 69,000 sows in 2019, according to the annual exclusive Pork Powerhouses® Top 40 ranking by *Successful Farming* magazine. (See the table on page 53.) The total sow count for these largest producers, at 4.29 million, adds up to about two thirds of the sows in the U.S.

Breaking down the list, about half (19) of the companies added sows, nine decreased numbers, and 12 stayed the same. Of the companies adding sows this year, only a few did it by acquisition; the majority of the growth was new construction.

Smithfield Foods

The largest producer, Smithfield Foods, owned by the Hong Kong-based publicly traded company WH Group, reduced sows this year to 930,000 from 950,000 in 2018. Part of the reduction was the sale of about 13,000 sows in Wyoming to

The Maschhoffs in October 2019.

The biggest challenge to Smithfield's business today – and to the entire pork industry – is public perception, says Brady Stewart, executive vice president of U.S. hog production. "It's fueled by a vocal minority who spread falsehoods about our industry," he says. "They do not understand modern agriculture and intentionally ignore the important role it plays in feeding the world's growing population."

Smithfield works to correct the falsities "by proactively and transparently bringing people behind the scenes of our operations," says Stewart. "In doing so, we hope to change the misperceptions that cause damage to our business." That will also benefit other pork producers, he points out.

Disease Risks

Disease is always a challenge with swine production, with PRRS being the No. 1 health risk for the largest producers for most of the past three decades. "With PRRS, we know what to do when we get it, but it's hard to keep from getting it in our part of the state," says Dave Eichelberger, Wayland, Iowa. Any future sow growth for his family-owned company will probably be out of the PRRS belt in Iowa and in

surrounding states like Missouri and Illinois.

This year, the very real fear that deadly African swine fever (ASF), now spreading throughout Asia, could reach the U.S. is also top of mind for the largest producers. The risk is real for Smithfield, says Stewart. ASF has not been found on any Smithfield company-owned farm globally, but it has been reported in areas of Poland and Romania, where the firm has operations.

Smithfield is preparing for ASF by enforcing strict biosecurity policies and procedures on all farms, both company-owned and contract, says Stewart. "This policy applies to every step of the animal production process, including the movement of animals, personnel, equipment, and vehicles between farms."

All employees and visitors have to shower in and out of ▶



To read more and download the chart, scan this QR code using your smartphone's camera.

farms. All equipment and supplies delivered to farms are disinfected.

Veterinarian Gordon Spronk, with Pipestone System, Pipestone, Minnesota, has witnessed the damage from ASF. Pipestone has minority ownership and management for nearly 70,000 sows in China. Two of the company's sow farms and several contract growing farms broke with ASF. In one contract farm, 96% of a 2,400-head group died within 19 days. "Chinese authorities now recognize that movement of live, infected pigs may have contributed to the problem of moving the virus around the country," says Spronk.

Reports indicate that a significant portion of China's hog herd has been and will be lost due to ASF by 2020. Chinese hog prices continue to trend higher, while pork imports have intensified, and Smithfield anticipates that will increase in the months ahead, says Stewart. "However, the benefit to the U.S. pork industry is likely to be muted until there is improvement on the trade front."

Trade Issues

Trade is another issue top of mind for the Pork Powerhouses®. One quarter of the 150 million pigs slaughtered in the country each year is exported. Trade tensions between the U.S. and China have resulted in retaliatory tariffs, including pork, raising duties on pork exports for the past year. There is no clear time line for a bilateral trade agreement between the countries.

"For this reason, we support the vigorous pursuit of new trade agreements with export partners, the removal of retaliatory tariffs, and the reduction of current tariff and non-tariff barriers in order to increase exports," says Stewart.

Do these global challenges mean Smithfield will continue to cut back in production? Not necessarily, says Stewart. "We have set strategic growth goals to maintain our industry leadership position."

China backing away from U.S. pork has hurt the industry deeply, says Myrl Mortenson, president of The Hanor Company based in Enid, Oklahoma. "We were all hoping for a banner year and we didn't get it. We have a lot of meat we

have to do something with. If we can't get China to take a bunch of this meat out of this country, I don't know what will happen. However, if the Chinese trade deal really does happen, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Hanor is still moving ahead, despite the risks, says Mortenson. Life on farms must go on. "We spent \$30 million on putting all new wider farrowing crates in all our farms," he says. "Sows are bigger today, and the crates are 20-plus years old. We also switched a bunch of farms from stalls to pens. It cost more to retrofit these farms than when we built them brand new."

How does he like the pens? "At first, we didn't like them, but now our people are getting used to them and the pigs are getting used to them, and it's getting much better," says Mortenson.

Changing Hands

Several transfers of ownership took place this year. Maxwell Foods, based in Goldsboro, North Carolina, is selling 30,000 sows in North Carolina and 15,000 sows in Indiana to Clemens Food Group of Hatfield, Pennsylvania. The agreement is expected to close in late 2019. The sale includes the assets of Maxwell Farms of Indiana, Maxwell Milling of Indiana, as well as breeding stock in North Carolina that is dedicated to supplying pigs for grow-out in Indiana. Before the pending sale, Maxwell Foods had 99,000 sows, and Clemens Food Group had 66,000 sows.

The Maschhoffs, a family-owned hog production company based in Carlyle, Illinois, sold a group of 16,000 sows and related assets in eastern Nebraska earlier this year to Pillen Family Farms of Columbus, Nebraska. In October, Maschhoffs closed on buying sows in Wyoming from Smithfield Foods. The Illinois company ended up with 9,000 fewer sows than in 2018. 

Other Large Farms that Fell Just Below the Top 40 Ranking

- Ernest Smith Farms, NC: 22,000 sows
- Heimerl Farms, OH: 21,000
- Belstra Milling, IN: 19,000
- Dykhuis Farms, MI: 19,000
- New Horizon Farm, MN: 16,500
- Hitch Pork Producers, OK: 16,000 sows 

Learn More

- Email: betsy.freese@meredith.com
 - Website: Agriculture.com/livestock/pork-powerhouses
- NOTE: You must register on the site to download the ranking.**



Betsy Freese, Executive Editor, has been writing for *Successful Farming* magazine for 35 years. Her exclusive Pork Powerhouses® ranking has been published annually since 1994. Email: betsy.freese@meredith.com



Smithfield Foods site in North Carolina



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Public health agency urges halt to expanding feedlot operations

The American Public Health Association (APHA) enacted a new policy statement advising federal, state, and local governments and public health agencies to impose a moratorium on all new and expanding concentrated feeding animal operations (CAFOs). The new policy recommends a complete halt until additional scientific data have been collected and any public health concerns associated with CAFOs are addressed.

The Precautionary Moratorium on New and Expanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations statement was developed by APHA members in collaboration with individual members from the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF). The statement outlines the urgent need for full compliance with the policy and provides twelve action steps that span from ending the routine use of medically important antibiotics in food animal production to providing a mechanism that requires large scale producers to report environmental emissions hazards.

"CAFOs are the dominant production model for food animals in the United States, but government oversight and policies designed to safeguard the health of individuals and the environment from these operations have been inadequate," says Bob Martin, director of the Food System Policy Program at the CLF. "This policy statement puts the public's health first and if observed, it has the potential to protect the health of some of our nation's most vulnerable communities."

"Since CLF's founding in 1996, a priority focus of our work has been to understand and address the public health implications of industrial food animal production. Our research and policy activities have linked this method of food production to a number of serious public health challenges," says Martin Bloem, MD, director of the CLF and the Robert

S. Lawrence Professor of Environmental Health with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of Environmental Health and Engineering. "We are pleased that the nation's leading public health organization has taken a stand on this critical public health issue. All public health professionals, advocates, and policymakers should keep this new APHA policy statement in mind as they work to protect health and improve our food system."

CAFOs confine large numbers of animals of the same species—such as beef and dairy cattle, swine, broilers (poultry raised for meat consumption) and laying hens—on a small area of land. The scale, density, and practices associated with these operations present a range of public health and ecological hazards, including large volumes of untreated animal waste, the release of environmental contaminants to air, water, and soil, and the generation and spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens. A growing body of evidence shows how CAFOs are directly associated with occupational and community health risks, as well as the social and economic decline of rural communities.

"Research has consistently found that living near CAFOs is associated with an array of negative health impacts, including respiratory disease, mental health problems, and certain types of infections," adds Keeve Nachman, PhD, director of the Food Production and Public Health Program with the CLF and an assistant professor with the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of Environmental Health and Engineering. "It's critical that we work diligently and swiftly to close the knowledge gaps related to the public health and environmental challenges associated with this method of food animal production."



...Agriculturally Speaking

EVENTS

It's time to consider organic.

Information, resources, connections to help you succeed:

MOSES
**ORGANIC
FARMING
CONFERENCE**



Feb. 27-29, 2020 in La Crosse, Wisconsin

mosesorganic.org/conference

THIS IS YOUR MEAT ON DRUGS

The agriculture industry revolutionized meat production decades ago when it discovered that adding antibiotics to animals' food and water made them grow plumper faster. Nowadays, farming operations burn through about 70 percent of the "medically important" antibiotics used in the US. This overuse has dangerous downsides:

- The Food and Drug Administration points to the meat industry's reliance on antibiotics as a major culprit in the development of drug-resistant bacteria, which now sicken 2 million Americans each year and kill 23,000.
- In 2015, a strain of *E. coli* was discovered in pigs and humans that had evolved to withstand colistin, the potent antibiotic that had been considered a "last line of defense" against multidrug-resistant pathogens.
- Pharmaceutical companies are reluctant to invest in the development of new antibiotics, the World Health Organization reports, because resistance now sets in too fast for them to make money off new drugs.

2020 MOSES event set Feb. 27-29 in LaCrosse

The 31st Annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference takes place Feb. 27-29, 2020, in La Crosse, Wis. The event brings together farmers, researchers, and agriculture professionals to learn the latest organic production practices and build a supportive community of resilient organic, sustainable, and regenerative farms.

The conference features 60 workshops over six sessions, 10 full-day classes, a two-floor trade show, organic meals, and round-table discussions.

The three-day event starts Thursday, Feb. 27 with in-depth Organic University classes running from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The 10 classes are: Conservation Programs to Support Organic Farms, Financial Impact of Organic Grain Transition, Healthy Small Ruminants, Highs and Lows of Growing CBD Hemp, Five Steps to a Fair Farm, Manage Your High Tunnels for Long-Term Success, Managed Grazing for Healthier Dairy and Beef Herds, Rotations for Reduced Tillage and Resilience, Start a Producer-Owned Cooperative, and Strategies for Successful Organic Tree-Fruit Production in the Midwest.

Leah Penniman, the author of *Farming While Black*, gives the keynote Feb. 28. She has been a soil steward and food sovereignty activist for more than 20 years. John Ikerd presents the keynote Feb. 29. He is a visionary economist, educator, and author, whose life work has focused on family-scale farms that protect the natural ecosystem, nurture rural communities, and provide livelihoods for farmers.

The trade show opens the evening of Feb. 27 and runs through Feb. 29. It features buyers, suppliers, and organizations offering services that support farmers.

To request a 20-page conference guide with a mail-in registration form, call 888-90-MOSES.

Full conference registration is \$210 through Jan. 7; on-site price is \$300. Discounts on single-day tickets also are available through Jan. 7.

For more information visit mosesorganic.org/conference. *

Solar farm moratorium takes effect in county

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

DCI COUNTY WRITER

A moratorium on construction of new solar farms 40Kw or more is now in effect in Dodge County. The county board approved the moratorium at its meeting last week. The commissioners also heard a presentation on the future of the intersection of CSAH 9 and U.S. 14 and a year-end wrap-up of activities of the Dodge County Fair Board.

The solar farm moratorium was approved in order to give officials time to look at a number of issues that have arisen regarding the farms including setbacks from roads and residences and the use of farmland. The moratorium will give the county time to look at making sure the farms comply with the

provisions of the recently approved Comprehensive Plan.

The board agreed that three solar farms that had completed their applications in November and were scheduled to be considered by the Planning Commission in January could move forward with their hearings. Other than those three applications, no applications will be accepted or continued until the moratorium is over.

The moratorium will expire in one year, or sooner on the vote of the county commissioners.

A committee of two county board members and two Planning Commission members will meet with staff to determine any changes to current rules for the farms.

County engineer Guy Kohnhofer and a representative of MnDOT explained that as various safety

options are considered along U.S. 14 the state is considering installation of a Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) at the crossing of CSAH 9.

The RCI would not permit the direct crossing of U.S. 14 by CSAH 9. Not allowing a direct crossing would reduce the occurrence of T-bone crashes, MnDOT officials say.

The other alternative, Kohnhofer said, would be an overpass, which would be considerably more expensive.

The project is just in the concept stage and it will be several years before any changes are made.

Marilyn Lermom and Mike Brual of the Fair Board also were on hand to give an update on the fair financials for 2019.

SEE **SOLAR FARM**, A3

SOLAR FARM

FROM A2

"It was another year of rain," said Lermom, the board president. Four grandstand shows were rained out, although three of them were rescheduled for a later date. The Saturday morning storm, she said, required people to be moved to the hockey arena for safety.

Thursday and Friday were both

great days for attendance, she said.

All in all, she said, the fair was successful and the monetary losses because of the weather were not as great as they could have been.

Brual, the board treasurer, said the fair did show a net loss of \$18,284.11. That amount was made up by the cash reserves on hand so the fair is "not in a hole," he said.

Fairs are hard, he said, since they are events that are so weather

dependent, adding there was a lot of hail damage from the storms.

"We do appreciate all the work you do," said Commissioner David Kenworthy. "It's (the fair) an asset to the county."

The board also officially approved the 2020 budget resolution including a 6% levy increase from 2019. The total budget is for \$28,441,035 with a net tax levy of \$15,045,301.

Readers Write

FARMING

The farm crisis is worsening

The farm crisis should be of great concern to all of us. It affects our neighbors, our local economies and our most fundamental way of life. For the last six years, farmers have lost money on their crops and herds, the median farm income for 2018 was minus \$1,548, and Midwest farm bankruptcies are the highest in the country. Farmer suicides are also high.

This is a community issue. Corporate farm organizations are squeezing out small family farms, reducing their income. Our farmer cooperatives, created to help small farmers band together to secure better pricing in all aspects of their operations, now function to serve the biggest farms at the expense of the small farmer. My neighbors, both large family-farm operations of thousands of acres and small family-dairy operations of hundreds of acres, struggle with the cost of providing family health care, forcing all of them to have a spouse work off the farm to provide this critical service. This crisis is threatening the survivability of our rural community and businesses.

I support the Minnesota-based Land Stewardship Project's Farm Crisis statement and strategy. It demands actions that address the factors affecting the erosion of our farm-based values, lifestyles and economies, not just in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but supported at the federal level. I ask you to consider how important farmers are to our way of life.

Read the statement and act by signing the petition on the project's website.

BARRY DRAZKOWSKI, Fountain City, Wis.

Cargill invests in cultured meat company

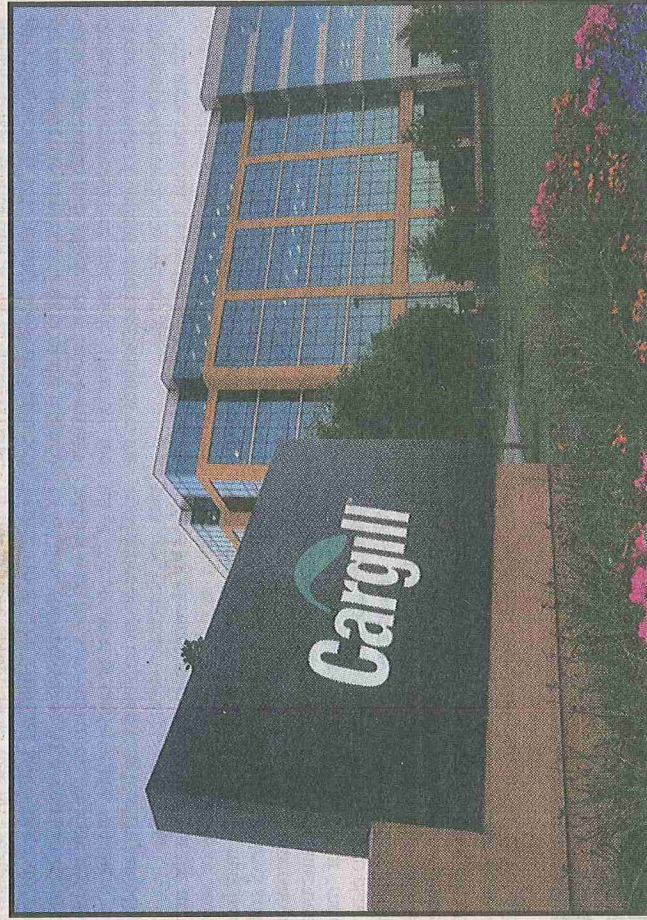
By PETER SCHARPE
Minnesota Farm Guide

MINNEAPOLIS — Cargill has taken steps this past year to meet the growing global demand for protein by investing in Aleph Farms, a company that produces culture grown meat. While cultured meats are a subject of controversy for many livestock producers, Cargill sees the two production methods as complementary and fulfilling to the world's demand for protein.

"Aleph's unique technology complements Cargill's broader investment in traditional and animal protein innovation," said Rob Stewart, managing director of growth ventures and strategic pricing, Cargill Protein North America. "Cargill is part of a group of companies investing in Aleph Farms' Series A funding round, which has totaled \$12 million."

The process Aleph uses to grow meat starts with collecting samples from cattle grown and harvested in the traditional manner. During the process, muscle cells, blood vessels, fat and support cells are generated in a lab, producing a steak equivalent in about 2-3 weeks, according to the Aleph Farms website.

"Aleph's approach relies on a natural process occurring in cattle. Just like humans, animals can regenerate and build muscle tissue," Stewart said. "Aleph Farms found a way to isolate the cells responsible for that



process. They then grows them in the same conditions naturally occurring in cattle to form the same muscle tissue, thus creating cultured meat."

The goal is to bring cultured meat into the market through a limited launch over the next 3-4 years. Aleph will begin by building "bio-farms."

"Aleph Farms will grow this cultured meat

in bio-farms, which can be compared to hydroponic fruit and vegetable farms — the same seed, same end-product, but with a different growing process," he said.

The process will be fully traceable, allowing consumers to know exactly where the protein was produced and how.

This type of protein production is just a small part of Cargill's portfolio. They have

invested \$1.5 billion into livestock and meat production over the last few years and will continue to grow and develop that market.

Bio-engineered protein is meant to supplement the protein market, not replace it.

"We share complementary missions and recognize that it will take traditional agriculture, as well as innovative technology, to feed the world's predicted 9 billion people in 2050 in a safe, responsible and sustainable way," he said.

Aleph Farms is not the first cultured protein company Cargill has worked with. In 2017, they invested in Memphis Meats, along with Bill Gates and Richard Branson, according to the Memphis Meats' website. Later, in 2018, Tyson invested.

Both companies boast a food revolution on their websites, with Aleph's website stating, "We're leading the slaughter-free meat revolution for a healthier world."

But Cargill says they do not share in the idea of a slaughter-free meat revolution, and according to Stewart, is not looking to replace animal-based protein, but rather add to a growing market.

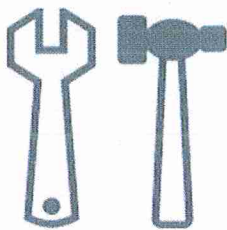
"Meeting the protein needs of a growing global population, sustainably, will take all of us working together — including both traditional and alternative protein producers," he said. "Cargill's strategy for both food and feed are based on helping customers and consumers thrive in a world where demand for protein is rising." *

WIND ENERGY DELIVERS FOR MOWER COUNTY

*Mower County ranks #1 for wind energy production in the state of Minnesota.
Since 2004, the county has received over \$19 million from wind tax revenue.*

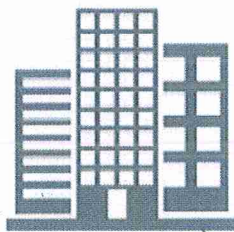
IN 2019, MOWER COUNTY USED WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX REVENUE FOR:

Public Works
(i.e. road construction)



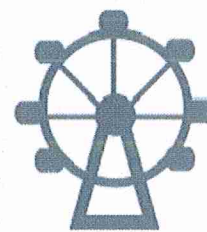
\$639,218

Building Fund
(i.e. renovations)



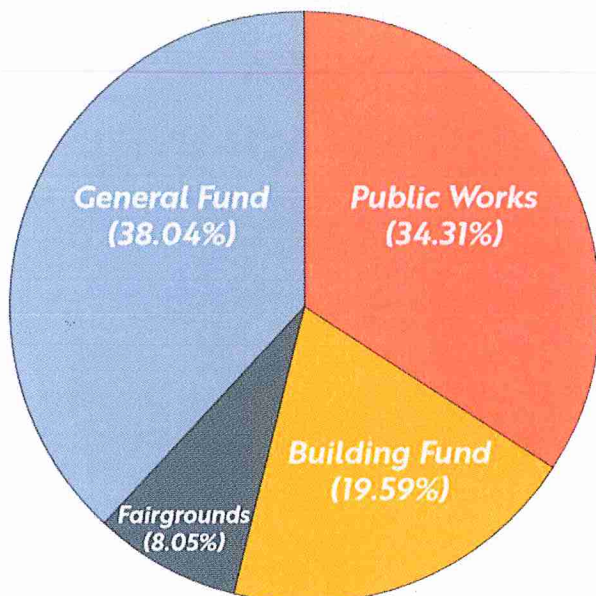
\$365,000

Fairgrounds



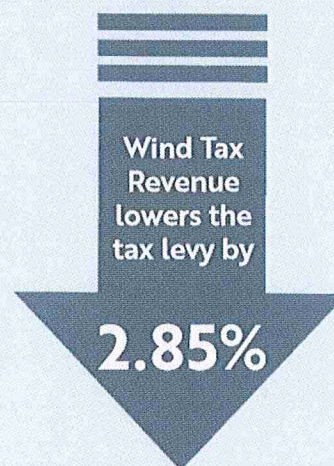
\$150,000

**\$2 million in Wind Energy
Production Tax Revenue in 2019**



WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX REVENUE BENEFITS MOWER COUNTY RESIDENTS!

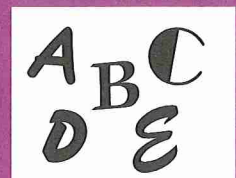
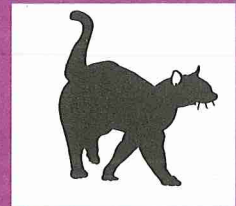
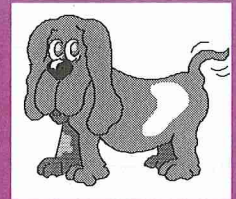
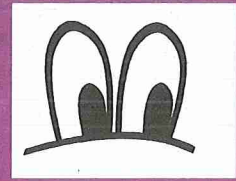
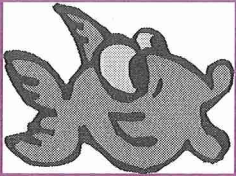
Wind tax revenue is split 80% (county) and 20% (towns). The remaining **\$708,611** goes to the general fund, which is used to buy down the tax levy. This helps keep more money in **YOUR** pocket!



Rev. 10/2019

This & That Trivia

Do You Know . . .



1. What is the longest one-syllable word in the English language?
2. What two animals that cannot walk backwards are on the Australian seal?
3. What is the only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter?
4. What is Donald Duck's middle name?
5. What is a pregnant goldfish called?
6. What star of two TV sitcoms was the narrator of "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"?
7. What is the longest English word that is typed only with the left hand?
8. How many vocal sounds do cats and dogs have?
9. What animal's eye is bigger than its brain?
10. What word has the most definitions in the English language?

Answers to "Do You Know . . ."

1. Screached 2. Emu and kangaroo 3. Uncopyrightable 4. Fauntleroy
5. Twit 6. John Larroquette 7. Stewardesses 8. Cats have over 100;
Dogs have about 10. 9. Ostrich 10. Set

FIVE WAYS TO PROTECT PETS THIS WINTER

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO KEEP ANIMALS SAFE AND COMFORTABLE IN THE COLD

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Make sure your four-footed family members stay safe and warm by following these simple guidelines.

KEEP PETS SHELTERED

Keep your pets inside with you and your family. Under no circumstances should pet cats be left outdoors. Dogs are happiest when taken out frequently for walks and exercise, but kept inside the rest of the time. Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops.

BUNDLE UP, WIPE DOWN

No matter what the temperature is, windchill can threaten a pet's life. Exposed skin on noses, ears and paw pads are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia during extreme cold snaps. For this reason, short-haired dogs often feel more comfortable wearing a sweater—even during short walks.

Rock salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe all paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.

REMOVE COMMON POISONS

Antifreeze is a deadly poison. Wipe up any antifreeze spills immediately and keep it, like all household chemicals, out of reach. Coolants and antifreeze made with propylene glycol are less toxic to pets, wildlife and family.

Dogs are at particular risk of salt poisoning in winter due to the rock salt used in many areas—often when licking it

from their paws after a walk. Store de-icing salt in a safe place and wipe your dog's paws, even after short walks. If your dog ingests rock salt, call a veterinarian immediately.

PROTECT OUTDOOR ANIMALS

If there are outdoor cats, either owned pets or community cats in your area, remember that they need protection from the elements as well as food and water. It's easy to give them a hand.

You can make your own cat shelter quickly and easily with a plastic tub.

Cars are one of many hazards to small animals—warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

HORSE CARE

Be sure your horses have access to a barn or a three-sided run-in so they can escape the wind and cold. While not all horses will need to be blanketed, blankets will help horses keep warm and dry, especially if there is any rain or snow. If you've body-clipped your horses, keep them blanketed throughout the winter.

Give your horses access to unfrozen water at all times. You can use heated buckets

or water heaters/de-icers to make sure the water doesn't freeze. Also, be sure to feed your horses more forage—unlimited amounts, if possible—during extreme cold. This will help your horses create heat and regulate their body temperatures.

SPEAK OUT

If you encounter an animal left in the cold, politely let the owner know you're concerned. Some people genuinely don't know the risk that cold weather poses to their pets or farm animals and will be quick to correct any problems you address. If someone you raise these concerns with responds poorly or you continue to be concerned about the well-being of their animals, contact your local animal control or law enforcement.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A PET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

It can be a crime to leave pets outside in extreme temperatures without food and shelter.

Cold weather can be deadly for pets. As the temperature plummets in many parts of the country, the Humane Society of the United States sees a marked increase in the number of complaints about dogs and cats who have been left outside with no food or shelter.

We encourage you to contact local law enforcement agencies because pets left outside in extreme temperatures, especially without food and shelter,

are at risk of hypothermia, frostbite and even death.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Report what you see: Take note of the date, time, exact location and the type of animal(s) involved and write down as many details as possible about the situation. Video and photographic documentation of the animal, the location, the surrounding area, etc. (including a cell phone photo) will help bolster your case.
- Contact your local animal control agency or county sheriff's office and present your complaint and evidence. Take detailed notes regarding whom you speak with and when. Respectfully follow up in a few days if the situation has not been remedied.
- If you have tried those channels and still need advice, call the Humane Society of the United States or email us at animalcruelty@humanesociety.org. Because we aren't a law-enforcement agency, we cannot take legal action, but we can provide expert advice.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
humanesociety.org



Carrot Cake with Fluffy Cream Cheese Frosting

free
bonus recipe

This luscious Carrot Cake has become a reader favorite – try it tonight!

1½ cups flour
¾ cup flaxseed meal
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
½ teaspoon baking soda
3 cups finely shredded carrots
(about 6 medium)

1 cup refrigerated or frozen egg product,
thawed, or 4 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup granulated sugar*
½ cup packed brown sugar*
½ cup canola oil
1 recipe Fluffy Cream Cheese
Frosting (on back)

Recipe on
back

Carrot Cake with Fluffy Cream Cheese Frosting

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and lightly flour two 8 × 1½- or 9 × 1½-inch round cake pans. Set aside.

2. In a large bowl, stir together flour, flaxseed meal, baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, and ¼ teaspoon salt; set aside. In another large bowl, combine carrots, eggs, sugars, and oil. Add egg mixture all at once to flour mixture. Stir until combined. Divide batter between pans.

3. Bake 25 to 30 minutes for 8-inch pans or 20 to 25 minutes for 9-inch pans or until a toothpick inserted near centers comes out clean. Cool cakes in pans on wire racks

10 minutes. Invert cakes onto racks. Cool completely.

4. Place one cake layer on a platter. Top with half of the Fluffy Cream Cheese Frosting. Place the second cake layer on top of the frosting, spread with the remaining frosting. If desired, garnish with additional shredded carrot. Makes 14 to 16 servings.

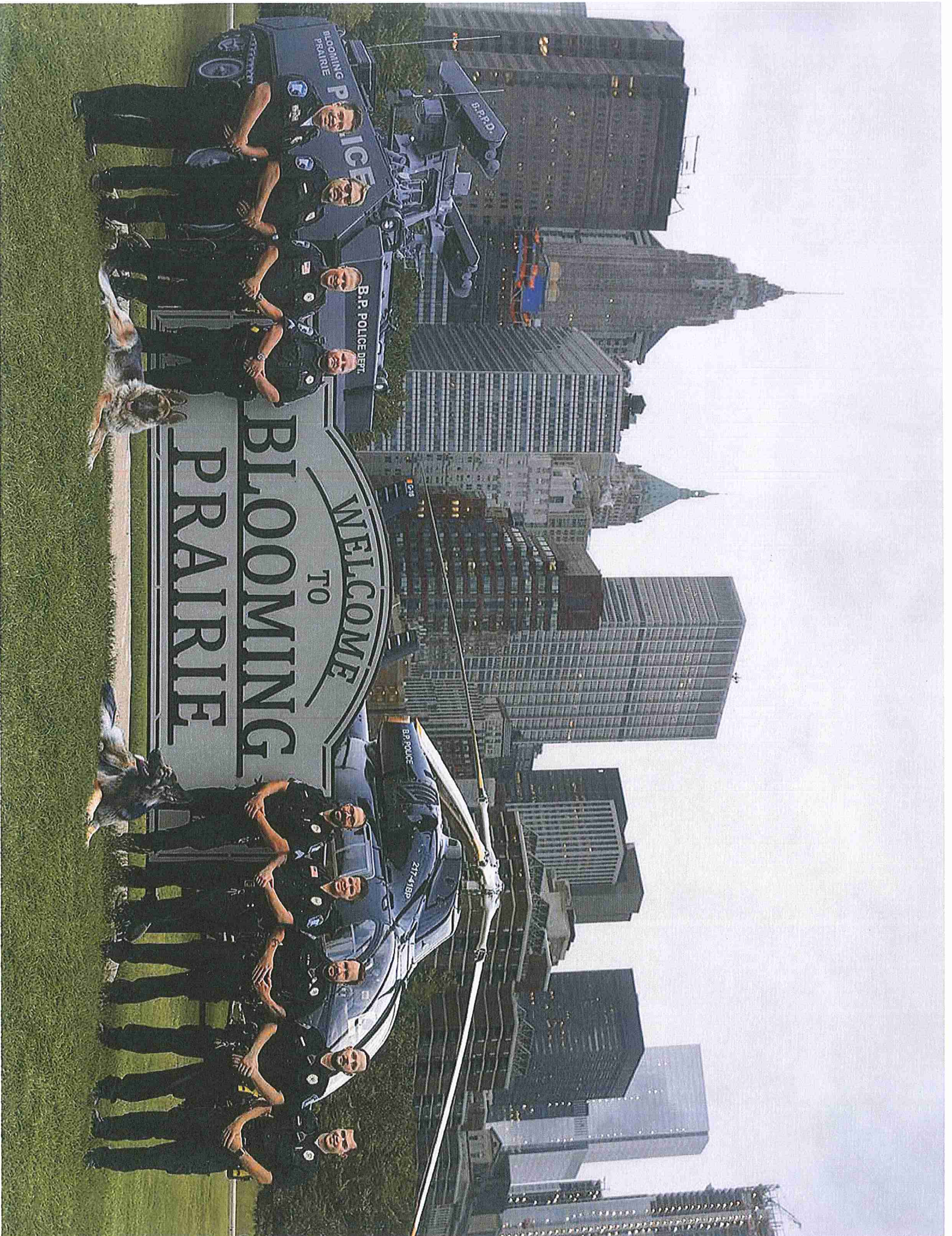
FLUFFY CREAM CHEESE FROSTING: Thaw 1½ cups frozen light whipped dessert topping. In a medium bowl, beat 2 ounces softened reduced-fat cream cheese (Neufchâtel) with an electric mixer on medium to high speed until smooth. Beat in ½ teaspoon vanilla. Gradually add ¼ cup powdered sugar, beating until smooth. Fold about ½

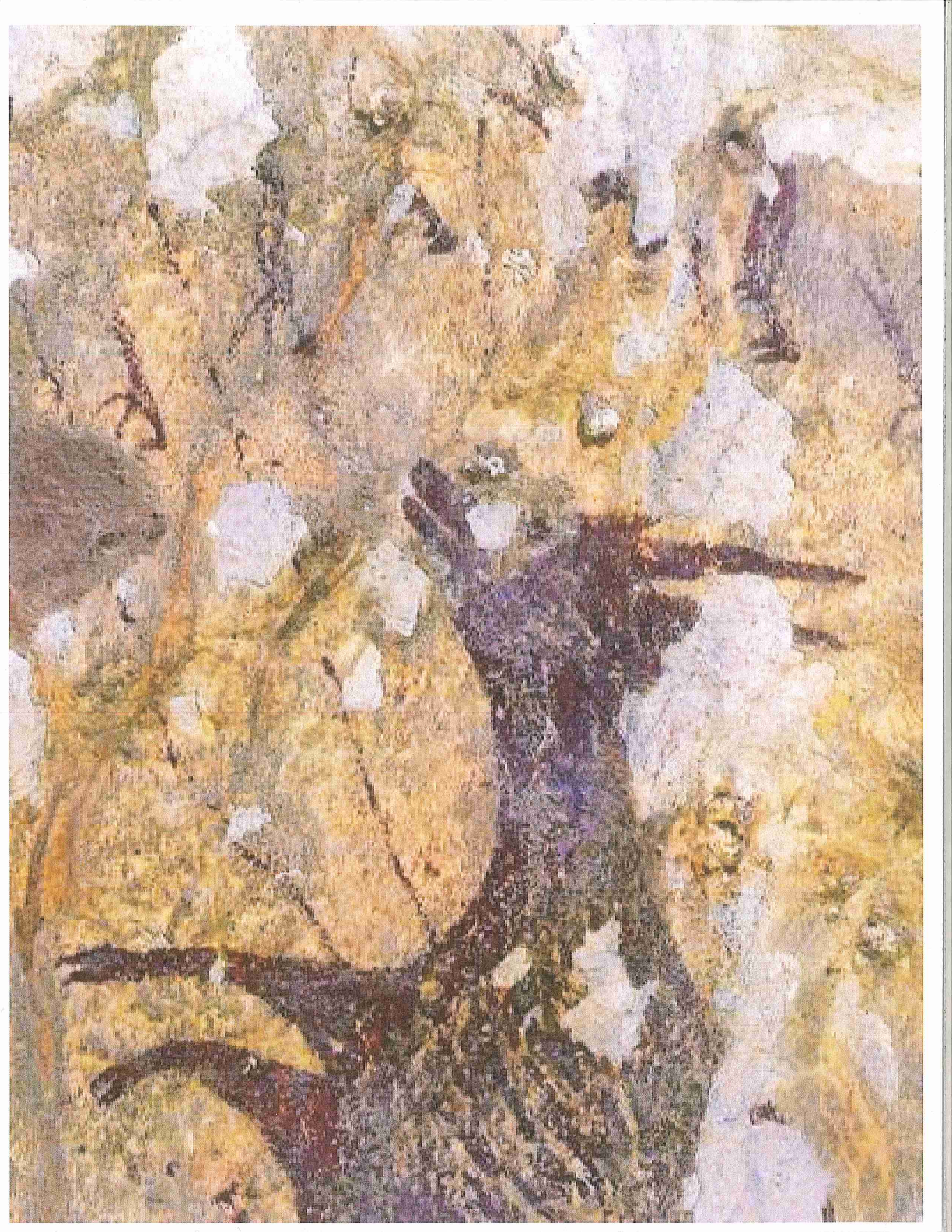
cup of the thawed topping into the cream cheese mixture. Fold in remaining whipped topping. Makes about 1¾ cups.

***SUGAR SUBSTITUTES:** Choose Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking to substitute for the granulated sugar and Splenda Brown Sugar Blend to substitute for the brown sugar.

PER SERVING: 254 cal., 11 g total fat (2 g sat. fat), 3 mg chol., 188 mg sodium, 34 g carb., 3 g fiber, 5 g pro. Exchanges: 2 carb, 2 fat. Carb choices: 2.

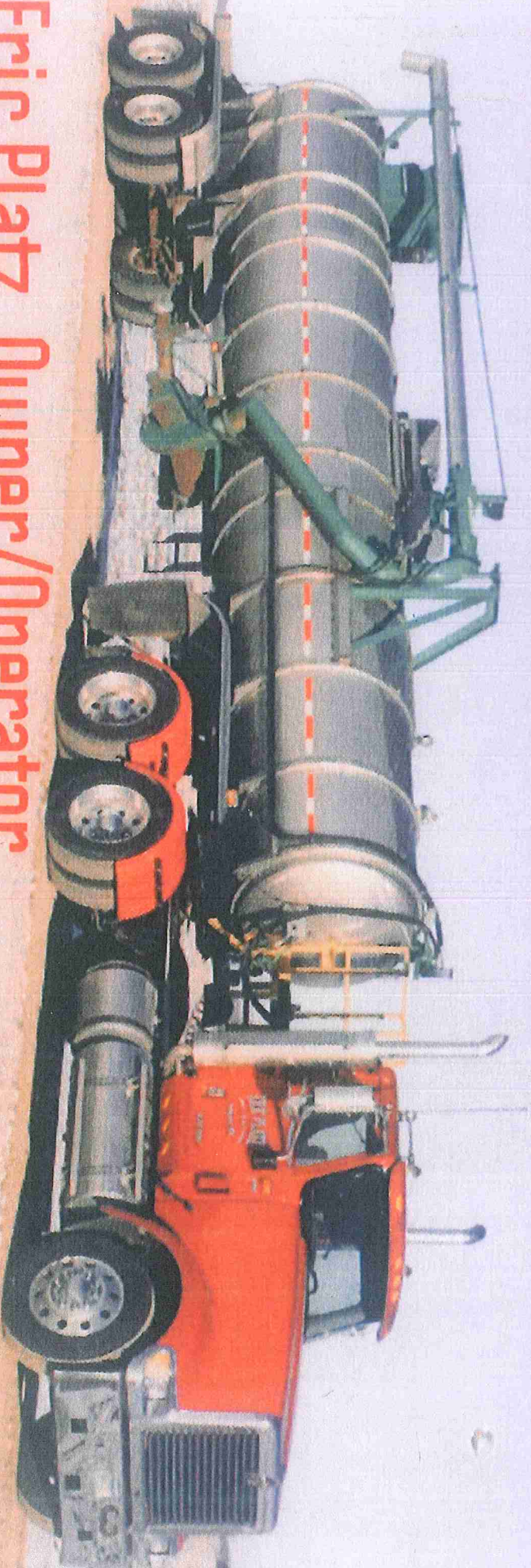
PER SERVING WITH SUBSTITUTES: Same above, except 231 cal., 25 g carb., 186 mg sodium. Exchanges: 1.5 carb. Carb choices: 1.5.





THE SHIT SHOW, LLC

Liquid & Dry Manure Transfer



Eric Platz, Owner/Operator
507-381-7576

